

The Foothills View

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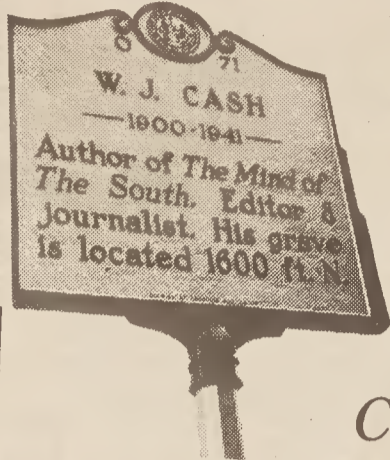
"We See It Your Way"

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A Man, The Mind, And A Monument

Cash Marker

Russell "Rusty" Davis never met W.J. Cash. Cash, a Boiling Springs resident and noted author, had been dead 11 years when Davis was born in 1952.

But, like Cash, Rusty Davis grew up in Cleveland County with a liking for history and literature, and last month Davis succeeded in memorializing the author he never met: at Davis' prompting, the state erected a marker May 12 near Cash's grave in Shelby honoring him as a newspaper editor and author of *The Mind of the South*.

"I had read Cash's book and come to appreciate him through the history and American literature courses I had taken in college," said Davis, now 30 and living in Charlotte. Davis wrote the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh in 1979 suggesting the marker, and he provided the documentation necessary for its authorization in 1980. Low funds had delayed the marker's being set until last month.

Cash's marker at 400 West Marion Street directs the reader to his grave 1600 feet away in Sunset Cemetery. Nearby is another sign honoring a second Cleveland County writer, the Rev. Thomas Dixon, Jr.

"There's some irony in that," said a state archivist in Raleigh.

The Mind of the South was sharply critical of the South, and Cash was never a popular writer. Dixon's novels, notably *The Clansman*, glorified the traditional South, and the Reverend was lionized in his lifetime.

The reader who follows directions to Cash's grave will find a stone marker recalling: "A great mind, and a sweet nature, a scholar, author, and editor. He loved the South with intensity, and was to all a friend."

Cash's body was cremated following his suicide in Mexico City on July 1, 1941. His ashes lie next to his parents, John William and Nannie Hamrick Cash of Boiling Springs. Two of his sisters who died in childhood, Mable Ruth and Elizabeth Lucenia Cash, are buried in the Boiling Springs First Baptist Cemetery.

Cash had received a Guggenheim Fellowship following the publication of *The Mind of the South*, and was in Mexico preparing another book when he took his life.

In death Cash has a respectability that would have amused him in life. He lies less than two man-lengths away from the grave of Clyde R. Hoey, a former district attorney, governor, and senator ("Well done, thy good and faithful servant" reads his stone), whom Cash often lambasted while both were alive.

"Mr. Hoey was the epitome of all that Cash distrusted," wrote Cash's biographer Joseph Morrison, "a prohibitionist, a Bible-class teacher, a joiner..."

Davis was unaware of the sign's arrival until phoned Tuesday morning by the View.

"I'm glad it's finally put there," he said.

Editor's Column

The Charlotte reporter hung up the phone. Why, he wondered, was no one answering his calls at state government offices? It was, after all, a working day, Monday, May 10.

And it was also, he was reminded, a day to honor the dead, Confederate Memorial Day.

Memorial Days, both the regional holiday on May 10 and the national date last Monday, have become, like the reporter's unanswered phone call, an interruption to our temporal business. We do not like to think of the dead, and for that it is we who are to be pitied, not those in the grave.

The days should remind us, particularly at churchyards, that there are always two congregations, the living and the dead, and that the connections between them do not end with a funeral.

We thought of that one day in April as we watched 78-year old Clifford Hamrick waiting as a patient grandson by his grandfather's grave for the spring rains to clear. The younger Hamrick had recovered a lost gravestone detailing his grandfather's service in the Confederate Army. Now in 1982 the grandson intended to set it aright.

Rusty Davis' efforts in the story at left to raise a marker for W.J. Cash, a man Davis never met, and to honor him for writing *The Mind of the South* is another example of continuity between living and dead.

We thought of Davis' work, and of Cash, when we visited the author's grave in Shelby for the first time this Monday on national Memorial Day. A mockingbird, startled by the company, flew off Cash's tombstone and into the direction of the Palmer family, buried a few yards away. That sweet mocker, so quintessentially Southern, carried on its wings so much meaning; but we lose that meaning, and our own lives are therefore diminished, unless we had remembered Cash and not forcibly forgot him as one of inert "the dead."

Memories of the dead and the living should not be artificially separated, for each gives to the other greater meaning. Both are part of what a fine novelist, Michael Shaara in *The Killer Angels*, said men fought and died for at the Civil War battle of Gettysburg: together, Shaara said, the living and dead create "the mystic dust of home."

At The Crossroads



intermediate swimmers. Classes are scheduled each hour of each two-week session. Children must be 40 inches in height and four years old to take the lessons. The total cost is \$15 per child and \$20 per adult, ages 15 and above.

The schedule of swimming classes at Gardner-Webb College has been announced by Dr. Robert Blackburn, swimming program director.

Lessons will be held for one hour each day Monday through Friday for two-week periods beginning June 1 through June 30. Adult evening classes will be held 8 to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The purpose of the swimming program is to allow each person to progress in swimming skills and to help each person in and around the water. Each class has groups from beginner to

Dr. Eugene Poston, former president of Gardner-Webb College, spoke at a wedding two Sundays ago: his own. Dr. Poston's marriage to the former Nancy Anthony of Boiling Springs is on the inside pages of today's View.

The couple married May 23 at a Charlotte church, where Dr. Poston, who is pastor there, spoke briefly on the husband and wife relationship.

"There Must Be A Place" is the title of Rev. Linnens' moving poem reprinted today on page three. Rev. Linnens read this poem recently at the graveside services for a Boiling Springs resident, Mrs. Ernestine Beam.

"Bare Bones" B-S Budget

Councilman Max Hamrick introduced Tuesday night what he called a "bare bones" town budget that keeps Boiling Springs taxes at their present level while increasing water and sewer fees by a dollar and a half for residents.

The budget that council is considering increases spending six to seven percent above last year, and pays these appropriations from a total budget for next year of \$391,671, counting revenue sharing funds. The increase in spending includes a general five percent salary increase for town employees.

Appropriations for a new police car are also in the budget, as well as \$7,000 in capital outlays for the city fire department.

The town will receive about \$23,089 in revenue sharing funds, Hamrick said, but even with those funds the rate increase would keep the town's water and sewer system "barely operational." The councilman noted that any

sewer or water costs increased by annexation in the coming year would be paid out of the town's reserve fund.

"We can't go on spending these kinds of funds annually and exist," he said.

Council will hear considerations on the budget until June 29, when it will be voted on for adoption.

In other action, the council:

approved two auxiliary patrolmen for the town, Calvin Hoyle and John Wayne Greene. The two are unpaid volunteers.

went into closed session to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

In other town news, Boiling Springs police report a woman was struck by a car and seriously injured Sunday night on West Homestead Road about 9:10 p.m.

According to police, the pedestrian stepped in front of a car and was knocked into a ditch, breaking the woman's shoulder, pelvis, and femur.

Where's GOAL? At Orientation

Gardner-Webb College will hold orientation meetings for its Greater Opportunities for Adult Learners (GOAL) program Monday, June 7, from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 708 on the Cleveland Technical College campus.

Gardner-Webb currently provides baccalaureate degrees (Bachelors of Science) through its GOAL program in business administration, management, criminal justice, early childhood education (K-3), human services, in-

termediate education (4-9), and management information.

The GOAL degrees are designed for students who have earned an associate degree or its equivalent of 64 semester hours with a grade average of at least a C in the above majors.

Anyone unable to attend either of the June 7 meetings can contact the Office of Continuing Education and Summer School at the college at 434-2361, extension 376.

The toll-free number is 1-800-222-2312.

Pastures Hurting

Most beef breeders are concerned because pastures have not gone through the lush growing season associated with spring, say state and county agricultural agents. Reports of low grass hay yields are common from all sections of the county.

According to Dr. Jim Green, forage specialist at N.C. State, pastures are showing the effects of the early April cold spell, and the late April-early May dry spell.

"Pastures turned green and started to grow in March," Green said, "but since we had the freeze in

April, pastures have gone down hill. Most hay cut has been very stemmy."

Rain in the last two weeks has helped to stimulate grass production, and if moisture levels stay above normal, grazing will be available until the fescue goes dormant in July, according to county personnel.

Because of the short growing season left, and because fertilizer applied in early spring may not have been utilized, county agents do not recommend an additional application of fertilizer now.

Growers may want to apply 50-70 units of nitrogen in late August to boost fall growth, county agents say.