

The Foothills View

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.

SINGLE COPY 15 CENTS

High Ground Close To Home

There was a time when, even in death, a family member was apt to be kept very close to home. It was a tradition among early settlers, says Lloyd Hamrick, of Shelby, an expert on local cemeteries.

"Back when they owned a lot of land, they'd find a kind of a high knoll and put their family cemetery on it," says Hamrick, who knows where a lot of the old burying grounds are, even though few signs are left to mark some of them.

"There's an old Graham graveyard down 226, below Patterson Springs; there's one off 74, before Kings Mountain - there's Goforths buried there, one that died in 1780. There's one in the back of some people's yard, on Peach Street, and one behind Ingle's, off 74, and one behind the fairgrounds . . .

"There's graveyards everywhere," Hamrick says, but so wasted and overgrown are a lot of them that, he adds, "somebody's got to be with you who knows where you're going, or you're wasting your time."

As communities grew, home burials declined. Although, there is no law, except those in some municipalities, that prevents being buried on one's own land. Jim Neal of Lutz-Austell Funderal Home recalls a recent burial in a family plot of about a dozen graves in New House. And another in a less formal locale: "Back a couple of years ago we buried an old gentleman down by his fishpond," Neal says. "That's where he wanted to be."

There is not even a law that a body must be embalmed, unless it is carried across a



The sun is setting in many church cemeteries on the practice of fencing family plots, like this one in Popular Springs Churchyard, because of upkeep problems. But some hold firm to old traditions.

state line, or the person died of certain communicable diseases. Thus the possibility re-

mains for the deceased to be dressed by friends, put in a homemade casket and — once

a proper death certificate is completed — buried under the

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Hopeful Tilling



Charles Jones is out with the early bird, tilling the strawberry patch in front of the new home, almost invisible back up in the woods, that he's building on Camp Creek Church Road. May neither the early bird - nor the worm - get to those berries, when they ripen, before the plowman and his friends.

Lattimore Tuning Up

A parade of proven favorites in the fields of bluegrass and traditional old-time music will appear Saturday, March 31 at Lattimore's sixth annual Foothills Folk Festival.

Native John S. Blanton Jr. will return from Raleigh to act as master of ceremonies for the event, which will raise money for a public tennis court for the town. The Youth Development Committee of Lattimore Church is sponsoring the festival. Proceeds from earlier shows have gone to provide recreation facilities, including a fully-equipped ball field, for area youth.

Featured on the program will be Phil and Gaye Johnson, a versatile pair well-known to wide-spread country music audiences for their songs and guitar and mandolin playing; ballad singer Maggie Lauterer; the Magnum Cloggers, of Maggie Valley; the Blue Ridge Mountain Cloggers, from Candler; the Car-

olina Cut-Ups Band, from Weaverville; the Lincoln County Partners bluegrass band; the Leonard McSwain Band, of Lattimore and another local bluegrass band, "Kentucky Grass."

Phil and Gaye Johnson, of Green Creek, were named the

best performing group at the Mountain Dance and Folk Festival in Charlotte and have reached thousands on radio and television. Their most recent performance abroad took them to Singapore, with a repertory of folk, blues, blue-

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The Carolina Cut-Ups will play at Lattimore's Festival.