

The Progress

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Dith thertainly a thilly thought, thay neighbors

By Judy Cregan

Finding a name for a cul-de-sac in the new Park Grove subdivision off Morrisville Parkway has been a challenge for the home builder as well as the buyers.

The original name of Aspen Court was printed on maps and the street sign was being made, says developer Mack McKinney, when Wake County planners informed him that it could not be used. There already was an Aspen Court in Wake County.

McKinney, vice president of Bill Clark Construction Co., relates how difficult it has become to think up new names for streets. "It's the worst part of developing a new subdivision. I hate it," he

says. "Sometimes I literally make up words."

That explains McKinney's second choice, Dith Court, a lisp-like name which obviously emerged from desperation, or better yet, "dethperation." Unfortunately for McKinney, Dith "wath" an idea that didn't get very far.

When Lisa Zambito, a researcher for DuPont, went to her home closing and found out she would be moving to Dith Court instead of Aspen Court, she couldn't believe it. Zambito recalls, "I didn't want to close on my house when I heard the name. I wanted it changed immediately."

Cynthia Brinkley, who plans to buy a house on the six-lot cul-de-sac, took things one step further

and suggested petitioning the county to have the name changed. She and her husband, Paul, agreed Dith wasn't acceptable.

Brinkley explains, "Because I don't own my property yet, I could not actually file the petition."

That didn't stop her from finding another Dith-grunted neighbor, Scott Canty, who was happy to file for the change under his name.

Canty volunteered to head the petition effort because, as he puts it, he didn't want his "yet unborn children" to grow up having people believe they had speech impediments. A guidance counselor at Durham's Hillandale Elementary School, Canty jokes,

"We didn't want people trying to put our kids into special programs where they didn't belong."

Once, trying to order a pizza over the telephone, Canty had to repeat Dith several times before finally spelling it. Canty says he realized then that Dith was a name he couldn't tolerate.

Developer McKinney, who left it up to the home buyers to select a new name, points out the difficulty involved in naming streets because "the planning board doesn't want anything that looks or sounds like anything else in Wake County." He realizes, however, that such a policy makes emergency calls less confusing.

Dith could have caused chaos

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Hindu society plans to expand Morrisville temple

By BETH LANDI

A site plan for a \$1.2 million expansion project was recently approved for an organization based in Morrisville. That may not sound like big news in an area where growth and construction have become constants.

But this project involves a Hindu temple.

Morrisville seems an unlikely site for such a structure, but the North Carolina Hindu Society has called a six-acre site on Aviation Parkway home since 1986.

But now the 7,000-square-foot temple there is too small to accommodate a burgeoning membership and the myriad activities that keep the building occupied nearly every day of the week.

When the Society began in 1976, its 40 members were content to meet in each other's homes or to rent facilities for their various services, study groups and festivals.

But as the Indian population grew in the Triangle, so did the need for a permanent meeting place.

In 1980, the Society bought a house on Ashe Street in Raleigh. Six years later, the group had amassed the resources to erect an authentic temple. The Society chose the Morrisville site because it is accessible to I-40 and to the Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh areas where an estimated 2,000 Indian families now reside.

(The Triangle has the largest Hindu population in the state. There is also a temple located in Charlotte.)

Now the Society boasts 700 families and that number is expected to reach 1,000 by the turn of the century.

"As the membership has grown so has the demand on the temple," Arvind Shah said last week.

Shah, president of the Society, noted that the Society conducts about 400 activities throughout the year at the temple.

The present temple includes a stage, the temple area and an activities hall. Each area can be sectioned off with curtains to accommodate multiple activities.

"When the groups were small, we could have several activities going on at the same time in the temple," Shah said. "But now the groups are big and the sanctity of the temple is being affected."

The building, which also includes a kitchen and library, is open every morning and every evening so members can worship at their convenience, he explained. A trailer behind the temple is used for extra classroom space.

"The people are asking for more services," Shah said, "especially for the children and the senior citizens. And they want the temple to be a member of the community at large."

To that end, the Society sponsors day camps, youth trips, a Meals on Wheels type program, and classes in four Indian languages, dancing, vegetarian cooking and music.

Earlier this year, the Society sponsored a health fair featuring 20 medical doctors providing various tests and screenings free of charge.

And the temple has hosted major Hindu leaders, events that draw people from all over the state to Morrisville.

"The Hindus are a highly educated community," Shah said, explaining that while many Indian wives stay at home, most have double college degrees. "They demand more of the temple. So we bring in very, very talented priests to explain things in depth about the religion, not on the surface."

The Hindu religion is very democratic, Shah explained, and takes into consideration the needs of the individual.

He noted that there are many icons involved in the religion, but they each represent a different aspect of God.

People are constantly learning and growing in their beliefs, he said. "The religion caters to these different stages of life."

Proceeds from these recent events featuring Hindu leaders, which attracted several hundred people to the temple, will be used for the expansion project, Shah said.

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AT HOME ON THE FARM—Ralph Watkins knows what's going on in his community. He sits on Morrisville's Planning and Zoning

Board and lives within walking distance of some major projects the board has taken up.

Growth surrounds Morrisville native's island

By SUZETTE RODRIGUEZ

Ralph Watkins lives on an island. His 50-acre farm sits amid a sea of manicured office parks and tracts dotted by realtor signs announcing new office complexes along Airport Boulevard.

While the garden behind his home turns out Silver Queen corn and Homestead tomatoes, his neighbors out back are producing new truck terminals.

Watkins grew up on a farm a little ways down the boulevard. Back then it was a dirt road.

It was so seldom traveled that the mailman's daily arrival brought folks out of their homes to greet him.

Nowadays, the street carries thousands of workers to offices nearby, making it hard during weekdays for Watkins to pull out of his driveway.

But the changing landscape of the community in which Watkins has lived all his 70 years, doesn't seem to bother him.

Property joining his farm on the north has been sold and will soon be graded for a 60-acre Air Park Business Park. The frame house where he and his 10 brothers and sisters grew up was bulldozed about a month ago to make way for the new project.

To the south, the neighboring property owner is cutting away timber and plans to sell his acreage for commercial development.

Behind him, the new truck terminals are an addition to a company already established there and growing.

"With those buildings going up, I'm going to be tied up in here. I won't be a country boy no more," he said.

But Watkins, who has been a member of Morrisville's Planning



COMMERCIAL CLOSE BY—A new office park is going up where Ralph Watkins grew on Airport Boulevard. But the changing landscape brought on by Morrisville's growth doesn't worry Watkins.

and Zoning Board for the past six years, welcomes the new growth he sees.

Watkins has had inquiries about selling his land. "But when I tell them the price, they back off," he said.

And he doesn't mind the noise the airplanes make as they fly over his home every few minutes or so

from RDU.

When a nearby community filed suit against the airport because their homes were in its flight patterns, Watkins turned down an opportunity to sign on.

"That airport was there before those people. Besides, there's more important things to do and that airport means a lot to this county and

this state," he said.

Watkins remembers the time before an airport, industry or any commercial growth came to Morrisville.

As a boy he swept the floors and picked up around Ms. Ethel Taylor's store on Saturday afternoons down at the corner for a Pepsi.

He also helped out Hewy George, whose general store was across the street, and would get a piece of cheese for pay.

"I'm telling you, that was a treat," he said.

He remembers riding on the mule and wagon to R.S. Dodd's farm supply store on what is now N.C. 54. His father would buy a Coke and split it with him. Sometimes he got a piece of penny candy—it made his day.

He remembers the Morrisville community as having a lot of loving people. When his mother got sick, the neighbors would bring over food.

Everyone knew everyone. No one had any money.

Among his neighbors were the Lumleys. He knew former Mayor Ernest Lumley's father quite well.

Watkin's father, who lived to be 94, made his living trapping mink, raccoon, and other fur-bearing animals. He had more than 200 traps set in three counties—Wake, Franklin and Durham—and would sometimes stay away from home three days at a time.

A state wildlife magazine once featured him as the "Trapper of the Year."

Watkins' mother also lived a long life. Up until a few months before she died at age 101, she worked out in the fields, picking vegetables.

"If she saw us sitting down even

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Stars send few regrets when invited to Jimmy V Classic

By Judy Cregan

What does it take to get the big-name stars to play in the Jimmy V Celebrity Golf Classic Aug. 27 at Prestonwood?

Nicole Valvano, one of the late Jim Valvano's three daughters, says that drawing the celebrities is not as difficult as it may sound.

"Dad touched so many people in basketball and broadcasting," says Valvano, who heads up the celebrity and sponsor management portion of the classic. "I'm amazed at the amount of people who knew him or know of him."

Landing basketball stars such as Charles Barkley of the Phoenix Suns, David Robinson of the San Antonio Spurs and Christian Lactner of the Minnesota Timberwolves is usually just a matter of making a phone call for the 26-

year-old Valvano. She adds that most of the celebrities enjoy playing golf and are glad to come out for a good cause.

Valvano explains that the world of basketball is a tight-knit community. "All coaches and players are eager to get involved and spread the word of our cause," she says.

It was Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski who was responsible in large part for landing Kevin Costner for this year's classic, explains Valvano. Costner is a big basketball fan and when Krzyzewski, who is on the board of the Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research, ran into the actor at the NCAA Final Four in Seattle this year, he initiated some recruiting of a different kind.

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