

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN



From ALMAR FARM In Transylvania BY CAL CARPENTER

In the southern part of Mitchell County, not far from the bridge over the North Toe River on N.C. 80, there's a little community called Rebel's Creek. There's a Rebel's Creek Baptist Church and Rebel's Creek Cemetery.

It is to the cemetery that my wife, my mother-in-law, and I go every fourth Sunday in July. We go for Decoration Day—a Decoration Day that is not National, not Confederate, not area-wide: simply a Sunday set aside there many years ago when the summer flowers were in bloom in the farmyard and could be cut and taken in remembrance to the graves of loved ones in the church cemetery.

I have gone to the Rebel's Creek Cemetery a number of times; on Decoration Day, Sunday visits, and other, less happy occasions.

I have visited it in the spring, when the virgin, new-green grass among the headstones had not had the first of its summer trimmings.

I have visited it in the autumn, when the great oak trees at the gates were in full, golden leaf; the hills, crowding the little knoll on which it stands, in the fulfilled promise of their fall beauty.

I have gone there in summer, to admire the well kept grounds and marvel at the beauty of the verdant hills and the blue-black ramparts of Mt. Mitchell and the Black Brothers, looming in the near distance.

I have gone there in winter, when the nearby woods were bare and cold, and blue snowflakes spat among the gravestones before a better wind.

I have gone there in sorrow for the stark, final reality of a cemetery's purpose. It's a purpose that is often carried out at Rebel's Creek with snow and ice making the steep, graveled road up to the knoll almost impassable for the hearse; when the mourners walk and the pall bearers carry their burden a long, last half-mile.

I have gone there in the carefree happiness of a sunny Sunday afternoon, just visiting and enjoying the colorful plastic flowers on the graves, so realistic you can hardly tell the difference; remembering the first artificial flowers I knew—the crepe paper roses of the 1930's.

Rebel's Creek Cemetery is my wife's family cemetery and my family cemetery in-law. It is the burial place of her father, her grandmother and grandfather; uncles and aunts; and great-grand relatives, most of whom lived and died in this border area between Yaney and Mitchell

counties. Great Grandmother Banks is there. Grandfather, country doctor John Baron Ewing, and Lydia Banks Ewing are there; as is her father, Walter Edward Boone. I was there for Grandmother Ewing's burial in November, 1968, and Ed Boones's last rites just two weeks to the day later.

I was there for Uncle Billie Ewing's burial, but could not be there for Uncle John Ewing's nor Aunt Kathleen Barclay's. Great-grandmother Banks and Dr. John Ewing were placed there before I became an in-law member of the family.

Because of my family attachment, I have asked around to learn the history of the Rebel's Creek Cemetery and the Rebel's Creek Baptist Church. I mention the two separately because, although there are plots for church-member families and probably most of those buried there were members of the church, membership as such does not seem to be a requirement for burial space. Country generosity prevails over sectarianism.

Rebel's Creek Cemetery was begun on land donated by Mrs. Murdock who, as I understand it, was a member of the family of "Rebel" John Willis, for whom the community was named.

As best I can determine from a cursory inquiry, the land was donated around the turn of the century. Older gravestones, dated in the first decade of the 1900's, confirm burials in that period.

Rebel's Creek Church now stands close beside State Highway 80, some 10 miles from Burnsville and an equal distance from Bakersville. This is the road that also leads to the storied post office of Bandana and passes near the once-active but now gone, railway settlement of Booneford.

Years ago, I am told, church services were first held in a school house not far from the present site. Later, a church was built and it kept the name of a community taken, we assume, from a fiery Confederate of the Civil War days, "Rebel" John Willis.

The cemetery is some two or three hundred feet high on a rounded promontory, perhaps a mile up-creek from the church. It looks down the narrow valley with the mighty bulks of the Blue Ridges seemingly close in the southwest and lower, but still formidable foothills, close on all sides. It is, perhaps, three thousand feet itself; yet seems to be sheltered by the much loftier

NOTICE

North Carolina Transylvania County

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust executed by Walter A. Fordyce and wife, Margaret S. Fordyce, to Jerry H. Jerome, Trustee, dated the 22 day of September, 1973, and recorded in Book 95, page 673, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Transylvania County; and under and by virtue of the authority vested in the undersigned as substituted trustee by an instrument of writing dated the 25 day of July, 1974, and recorded in Book 208, page 328, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Transylvania County, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and the said deed of trust being by the terms thereof subject to foreclosure, and the holder of the indebtedness thereby secured having demanded a foreclosure thereof for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, the undersigned substituted trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in Brevard, North Carolina, at twelve o'clock, noon, on the 26 day of August, 1974, the land conveyed in said deed of trust, the same lying and being in Dunn's Rock Township, Transylvania County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

Being all of Lot No. of Unit 1 of Connettee Falls Development as shown by plat thereof recorded in Plat Book 4, pages 44-44N, Records of Plats for Transylvania County, North Carolina. This 26 day of July, 1974.

Cecil J. Hill Substituted Trustee 8-1-4tc

NOTICE

Walter A. Fordyce and wife, Margaret S. Fordyce have sold the above described property to Shaw E. Pender and wife, who assumed payment of the note secured by the above deed of trust. Walter A. Fordyce and wife have no interest in this foreclosure. 8-1-4tc

mountains so close around it.

It is a place of peace, of quiet, of beauty—even with the leaden clouds and bitter wind and blue snow as I have seen it. It is a place of rest in any season, any weather. It makes me think of Ingersoll's famous words so appropriate to those buried there:

"They sleep beneath the shadows of the clouds, heedless alike of sunshine or storm."

Rebel's Creek Cemetery doesn't have a Latin prayer above the gate as some cemeteries do, but it might very well have.

"Requiescat in pace," would have a real meaning there.

TRY THE TIMES CLASSIFIED ADS

Daycare Swim Meet To Be Held At Franklin Park

August 16th marks the conclusion of the School Age Daycare Program which has been operated jointly this summer by Transylvania 4-C and Western Carolina Community Action in cooperation with the County Department of Recreation and Social Services.

On August 14th there will be a swim meet at the city pool in Franklin Park at 12:30 with the

following events:

Level One - Comic Book Race, Pick Up Race, Backward Egg and Spoon Race, Life Jacket Race.

Level Two - Back Float Comic Book Race, Underwater Pick-up, Burlap Bag Hop, Full Dress Swim.

Level Three - Free Style,

Breast Stroke, Back Stroke, Underwater Swim.

For nine weeks the children in our school age daycare program have been receiving swimming instructions from qualified instructors, three days a week. Parents of the children are especially invited to attend and watch their youngsters demonstrate their skills in the water.

If it rains on the 14th at mid day, the swim meet will be postponed to the 15th at the same time.

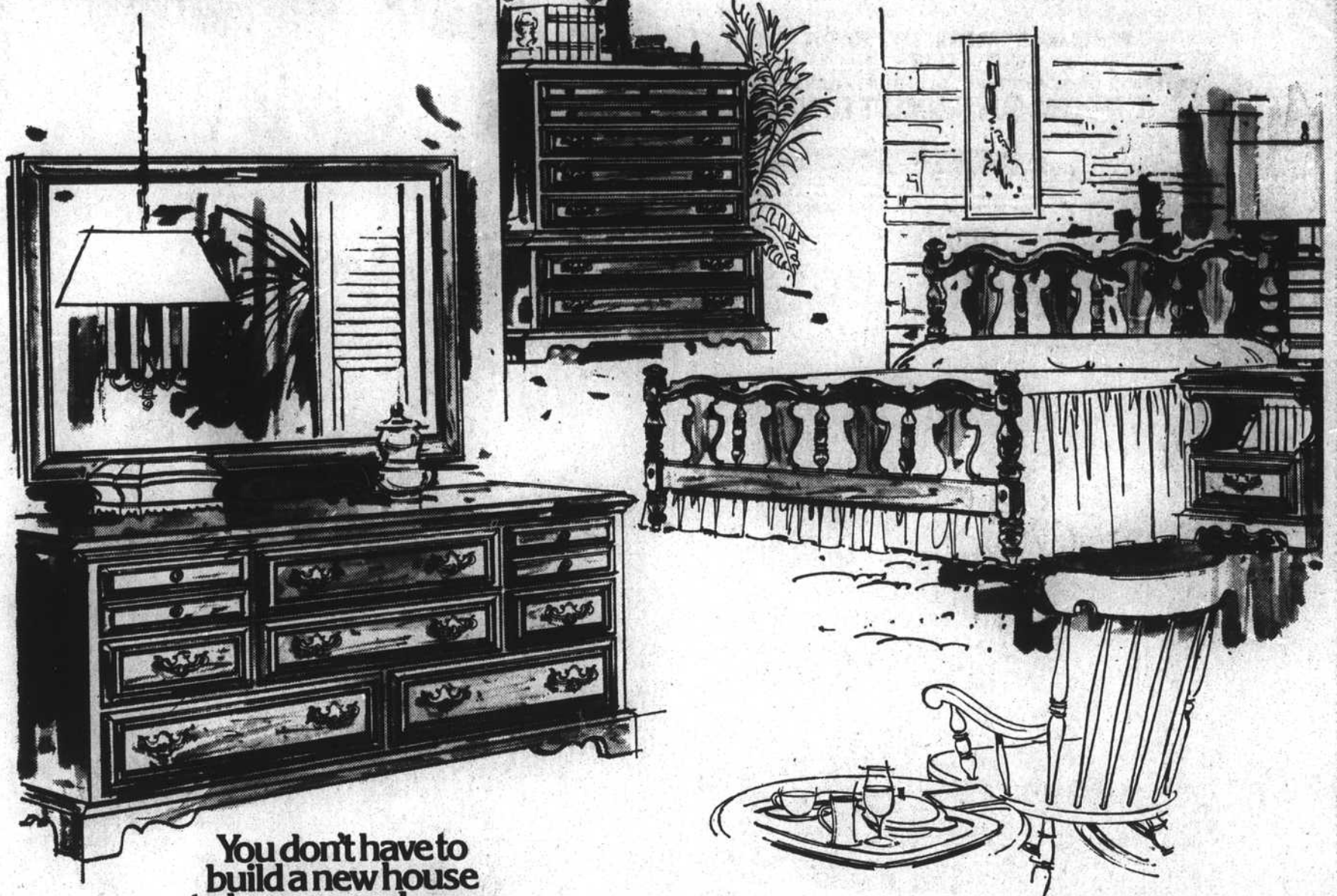
MOST POPULAR

A recent survey of 2,600 homemakers showed that the most universally liked vegetables were white potatoes and corn. Tomatoes, lettuce and green beans followed next.

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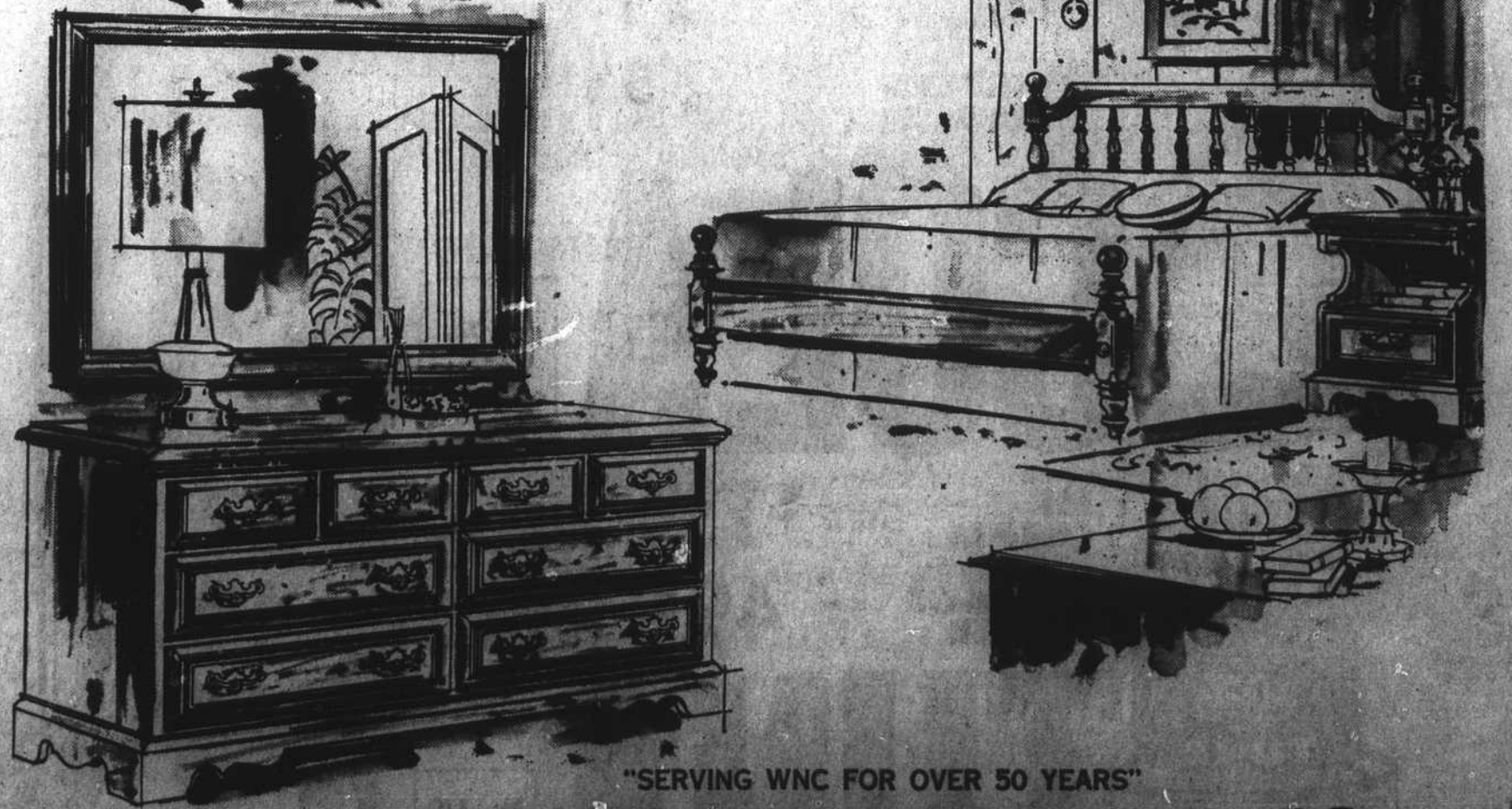
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