

There will be a decoration at the Dry Pond Cemetery the 4th Sunday in this month, May 27. All fingers invited.

**O-HAPPY DAY THAT FIXED MY CHOICE**

When Rev. Robert Lowry added the words and music of a "Chorus" to Mrs. Annie Hawks' poem "I need thee every hour," he improved her hymn immeasurably, as did William Bradbury when he composed the musical setting for "He leadeth me, O blessed thought." But when Lowry did the same thing for Isaac Watts' "Come we that love the Lord" and transformed the stately hymn into the lilting strains of "We're marching to Zion," he detracted from the majesty and dignity of Watts' heroic stanzas which had been sung to the cadences of the tune "St. Thomas" for over a hundred years. Later R. E. Hudson did a similar thing with Watts' "Alas and did my Saviour bleed," in composing the gospel song known as "At the cross."

The hymns of Philip Doddridge (1702-1761) were subjected to a like fate and, to this day, it is a matter of conjecture and debate whether the addition of a "Chorus" has added to or taken from their effectiveness. The hymn that illustrates this fact is his most popular one, "O happy day that fixed my choice, On thee, My Saviour and my God; Well may this glowing heart rejoice, And tell its raptures all abroad." The stanzas first appeared in Mr. Orton's posthumous edition of the poet-preacher's "Hymns," brought out in 1755, four years after Doddridge's death in Lisbon, Portugal, where he had gone in search for a better climate to alleviate the sufferings of tuberculosis. Published under the title, "Rejoicing in our covenant engagements to God," the hymn was based upon II Chronicles 15:5: "And all Judaea rejoiced at the oath; for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them; and the Lord gave them rest round about." Sung to any standard Long Meter tune (one composed for a poem written in four lines with eight syllables in each line), it was quickly picked up by the English people and recognized as one of the author's noblest hymns. Queen Victoria's husband held it in such high regard that he had it sung at the confirmation of their children, a fitting tribute to the poet, who himself had been the twentieth child of a successful London merchant father and a staunch and devout Bohemian Lutheran mother.

For the next century, "O Happy Day" appeared in the major hymnals of the Churches and was sung to the dignified Long Meter tunes which were dear to the hearts of the people.

Meanwhile, a distinguished English composer, Edward Francis Rimbault (1816-1876) had made a name for himself not only as a brilliant organist but also as a composer, author and lecturer. His fame had spread to the United States, where Harvard University conferred upon him the honorary LL.D. degree and offered him the Professorship of Music. He accepted the degree but declined the offer. The third edition of Baker's "Biographical Dictionary of Musicians," awarded him a full page (two columns), which attests to his ability and accomplishments. Of his numerous and voluminous works, one simple song, "Happy Land" caught the public's fancy, and, after his books, cantatas, anthems and miscellaneous works were forgotten the people were still singing the lilting refrain, "Happy land, Happy land! Whate'er my fate in life, I'll be contented with it."

In the United States, the evangelistic fervor of the pioneer preachers had established the Camp Meeting as a religious and social life. Already, the Americans were creating their own distinctive type of religious music, and adapting the hymns of other years to their spiritual needs. Such early American melodies as "Amazing Grace," "Contract" (How tedious and tasteless the Sabbath) and "The City of the Valley" were increasingly popular. It was about this time, during the middle of the nineteenth century, that a member of the First Conference of the Methodist Church, Rev. Mr. McDonald, published a book entitled "The Western Sacred Harp," Salem, Mass., 1837. In its pages was found an adaptation of Dr. Rimbault's popular "Happy Land" for the stanzas of Doddridge's hymn "O Happy Day" with a chorus written in the good measure. It was not long before the revivalists were singing, "Happy day, Happy day, When Jesus washed my sins away," attributed to Doddridge who had never said any such thing. But the new music, while detracting

from the effectiveness of the stanzas in some circles, certainly made them better known in others. However, a tune that can be taken from a song and made into a hymn can just as easily become a song again, and that was the final step in the "degradation" of "Happy Land."

When my brother was Minister of Music in a Baptist Church in New England, it was the custom of the pastor to tell the children a story during the first part of the morning service. At the close of his narrative, the organist would play a tune that fitted the moral of the story, while the children left the sanctuary for an extended session in their classrooms. One Sunday, the minister told of the days when the earth was cursed with an extended drought. He pictured the animals and people searching for water as the sun dried up the wells and creeks and rivers, and he vividly portrayed the way some of them died of thirst on the dusty plains and on the hot sands of the deserts. Finally, God sent the gift of rain, for which every one was glad and rejoiced. The moral was, of course, "Thank God for the gift of rain." Brother wondered what piece of music would be appropriate as the children marched out that morning, since he wouldn't dare play the popular songs "Rain" or "I get the blues when it rains." After thinking seriously about the matter, he said to himself, "I have it. Rain washes and cleanses. So I'll play that hymn that says 'When Jesus washed my sins away.' As the children left the auditorium that morning he began to play the hymn "O Happy Day," to the consternation of the congregation, many of whom later accused him of playing, "Nobody knows how dry I am!"

Fortunately Rimbault was spared the shock of knowing that the convivial imbibers had taken "O Happy Day" from "Happy Land" and made it the final shame of the dismal drunk! Whether the tune will live on as "Happy Day" or "Nobody Knows" remains to be seen. But of Rev. Philip Doddridge's more than four-hundred hymns, "Awake my soul, stretch every nerve," "Great God we sing thy mighty hand," "How Pleasant God's commands," "See Israel's gentle shepherd stand," "My gracious Lord, I own thy night," "Let Zion's watchmen all awake," and "The King of heaven his table spreads" are all in common usage today, not one has been as badly treated or is as well known as "O Happy Day."

Fort Hood, Tex. — Pvt. Ross H. Ramsey, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Ramsey, Walnut, is receiving advanced infantry training in the 4th Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas.

The division, reactivated in June 1954, is now undergoing a comprehensive training program. The unit won fame in Normandy and Bastogne in World War II.

A 1954 graduate of Walnut School he entered the Army last February. Ramsey is a member of the 51st Armored Infantry Battalion's Company C.

I Corps, Korea — Pfc. Robert L. Huff, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Huff, Route 1, Leicester, recently was graduated from the I Corps Non-Commissioned Officer Academy's artillery survey course in Korea.

Huff, a member of the 96th Field Artillery Battalion's Battery A, entered the Army in May 1955 and arrived in the Far East the following November. He was last stationed at Fort Sill, Okla.

Huff was graduated in 1951 from Leicester High School.

Fort Knox, Ky. — Pvt. Eddie F. Ramsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ramsey, Mars Hill, recently completed ten weeks of advanced individual training under the packet platoon system at the Army's Armor Training Center, Fort Knox, Ky.

Ramsey was trained to drive the Army's medium tank. He passed the .30 and .50 caliber machine gun proficiency tests and qualified as a gunner in the firing of the 90 mm. tank gun.

Under the packet platoon system of training, each trainee becomes a permanent member of a tank crew.

Ramsey entered the Army last December and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

4th Div., Germany — Pfc. John M. Rector, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rector, Route 2, Marshall, is a member of the 4th Infantry Division in Germany.

Training received by the "Ivy" division, part of the U. S. Seventh Army, includes intensive maneuvers and realistic field problems.

A driver in Company D of the division's 23d Regiment, Rector entered the Army in November, 1954 and completed basic training at Fort Gordon, Ga. He was stationed at Fort Jackson, S. C., before arriving in Europe in April 1955.

The nineteen-year-old soldier was graduated from Marshall High School in 1954.

Sgt. and Mrs. Glen Reese were visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hardie Reese, last week.

Mr. Nick Sexton of Asheville called on his brother, Mr. McKinley Sexton, Sunday.

Pfc. J. D. Suttles of Fort Jackson, S. C., was visiting friends over the weekend.

Miss Glenna Mae West was visiting her parents last week.

Mr. J. M. Foster called on Wilson Payne Sunday.

Mr. Sebo Green and Jim Shelton called on Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Payne Sunday.

Margaret Lou Plemmons has measles at this writing. We hope she is feeling better.

Mrs. Dallas Lowe called on Mrs. David Kimberly Saturday; also Mrs. Reese Holt visited her Saturday.

Mrs. Caney Smith and daughter, Judy Ann, spent Saturday afternoon with Mrs. Wilson Payne.

Mrs. Dallas Lowe and kids called on Mrs. Bonnie Reese Monday.

Mrs. Dorothy Pangle and Miss Cecil Rollins called on Mrs. Wilson Payne Tuesday.

Master Minnie Shetley of Hot Springs spent Saturday night with Jip and Ron Shetley.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Waldroup of Spring Creek called on Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shetley Sunday.

Mrs. Dorothy Pangle and son David, Mrs. Wilson Payne and son, Tommy, Lewis Shetley and Wade Gardin called on Mrs. David Kimberly Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Billy Ebbs, Spencer Allison, Lewis Shetley and Wilson Payne made a business trip to Marshall Thursday.

Mr. Bill Shetley and son, Lewis and Dud, called on Mr. Willie Plemmons Tuesday.

Master Johnnie and Dennie Payne and Bobby Allison called on Jip and Ron Shetley Tuesday.

Mr. Lewis Shetley and Spencer Allison were visiting friends in Waynesville Monday.

**LAST RAIL RUN HUMILIATING**

Dupo, Ill. — It was the last trip of eleven steam locomotives in service on the Missouri Pacific Railroad and it ended in a humiliating fashion. The locomotives were unable to make it under their own power. One of them developed a "hot cylinder" and one exhausted its water supply. A gall was sent out for a Diesel locomotive and it pulled the eleven weary steamers to a junk yard.

Soap's water will clean up your feet — but they won't clean up your **ATHLETES' FOOT!** Make this easy test. Get instant-drying T-T-L at any drug store. This powerful fungicide will give relief in ONE HOUR or your 40c back. Today at Moore's Pharmacy.

THE NEWS RECORD

Your vote and support for my re-election, subject to the Democratic primary, will be sincerely appreciated.



**L. Y. "Stag" Ballentine**  
for  
**Commissioner of Agriculture**

**Annual Homecoming And Decoration At Piney Grove June 3**

Piney Grove Baptist Church, located on Sandy Mush, is having its annual Homecoming and Decoration service on Sunday, June 3, with an all day service.

All speakers and singers are cordially invited.

**Hot Springs High School Student Gets Reader's Digest Award**

Madelon Henderson, valedictorian of the graduating class at Hot Springs High School, has been given the annual Award of The Reader's Digest Association for students who by their successful school work give promise of attaining leadership in the community, it was announced this week by Mr. H. W. Cook, principal.

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In addition to offering the best in DRY CLEANING SERVICE We Can

**CLEAN & RE-BLOCK HATS — HAVE YOUR RUGS CLEANED — SHOWER PROOF ALMOST ANYTHING — MOTH PROOF — LAUNDER YOUR QUILTS AND BLANKETS — CLEAN SLIP COVERS AND DRAPES — CLEAN TIES — PUT IN NEW POCKETS, NEW ZIPPERS — MEND AND DO MOST ANY ALTERATION WE WILL BE HAPPY TO SERVE YOU FOR PICK-UP AND DELIVERY**

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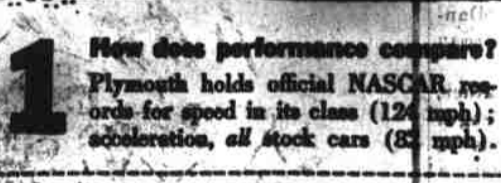

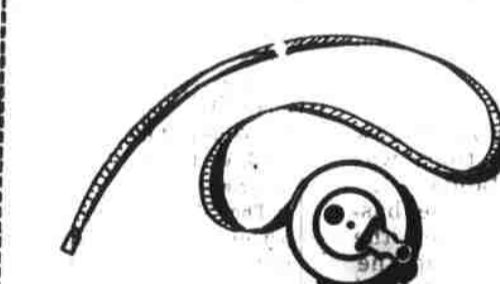



**Edwards Cleaners**

MARSHALL, N. C.

SERVICE IN HOT SPRINGS TO TENN. STATE LINE MONDAY — THURSDAY — SATURDAY

**Ask yourself these 6 questions before buying a low-price car—and you'll switch to Plymouth!**

(There's a 118% increase in the number of people who are switching to Plymouth from other makes!)

- 1 How does performance compare?** Plymouth holds official NASCAR records for speed in its class (124 mph); acceleration, all stock cars (87 mph).
- 2 Which low-price car is biggest?** Plymouth wins again, inside and outside. Roomier, longer, heavier. More trunk space. More everything.
- 3 Which is the only low-price car with positive mechanical features?** Touch a button. Or you go.
- 4 And how about styling?** No contest here either. Plymouth's really new, while other low-price cars look about the same as last year.
- 5 Which leads in safety features?** More than ever—Plymouth. New seat belts, door latches, headlights. Plus many exclusive, like Safety-Rim wheels.
- 6 What about top price?** Add up the cost of the car you need. The one you can't live without. Then look at the Plymouth. Trading now may save you.

Home of the 725 winners in Plymouth's \$150,000 Lucky Motor Number Sweepstakes are on display now at your Plymouth dealer.

**Plymouth costs less**