

Couple Stands Watch By Son's Deathbed

By LEWIS GREEN
Citizen-Times Staff Writer

He lays gaunt and wasted, thin as a shadow, wider and wider for him now.

His parents stand, a proud young mountain couple, trying to beat back the assaults of darkness from their boy.

Gary Worley, 15, of Spring Creek in Madison County, waits in the Haywood County Hospital for the rest of his life to crumble away.

And his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vestie Worley of Hot Springs Rt. 1, bravely stand the long watch for death to come and take . . .

Gary, their son, with the indomitable spirit of a prairie fighter, fights back at the frightening shadow. But the spirit grows weaker, the heartbeat more feeble, the breath in his ravaged lungs more shallow. Cancer has spread through him like a tree.

Gary, the athlete, the hunter, the 11 herman, the young farmer, the oldest son with his proud mountain heritage. Only last year he was a basketball star at his high school.

His parents have kept the vigil at his bedside in the hospital for 44 days, raising their spirits to his, as if in this condition of courage they could hold back the stealthy dark encroachment.

For the past several weeks Gary has spent his time in a reclining chair. His father sleeps on Gary's hospital bed. His mother keeps on a couch in the waiting room.

The ordeal drags on and on. They were told weeks ago that the boy would not endure the night. All the family can do is make the same prediction each day. The only time the parents leave the hospital is in the early morning, when they go to a nearby restaurant for breakfast. They take their other meals at the hospital.

Vestie Worley is a humble mountain farmer. If he has a good year he is fortunate to clear \$3,000 annually.

Why does not Gary, the boy who has a mountain look, a boy who is a third of the size of his father, the stubbly, 1945 year-old boy, only 15 years old, be so ill? With this handicap, he drove his father's tractor last fall and plowed as best he could with the help of a small herd of cattle, "old mares," and some young ones.

Gary has flaming red hair and eyes that sparkle with laughter like flint on steel. But the eyes are duller now, waxy and watchful, as if something is stacking him and he does not know what.

The future was open to him until last August. Then a kind "about the size of a walnut" appeared on his left hip.

"He said it never hurt him," his mother said, "and he didn't complain."

But his father took him to the family doctor in Warsaw, N. C. The doctor told them it was cancer. The boy was taken to the Haywood County Hospital. The tumor was removed at the shoulder, but it was the sinister kind of cancer, one that is fatal.

Gary would have died last fall if he had not been taken to the hospital. He had always been vigorous about smoking and I told him one day he could have anything he wants, he can have it.

The doctor told us he had a rare type of cancer. That cancer, once in a while, can be cured. Gary's life, quivering out in brief, bright flame. Yet, another



Keep The Long Watch

A Madison County couple, Mr. and Mrs. Vestie Worley of Hot Springs Rt. 1, keep the long watch at the Haywood County Hospital. Their oldest son, Gary, 15, lays sliding over the far edge of his life into the shadows. For over a month the Worleys have expected him to die.

(Cut courtesy Asheville Citizen-Times)

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He managed it. He taught himself how to shoot his rifle and shotgun with one arm when the hunting season opened. His bag was good. He killed more than 100 squirrels and two grouse. Life went on. A man can make it, Gary told me. Some people are worse off. That then in the winter the family moved into the labyrinth of streets and despair. Life grew even sadder. Some X-rays of the chest area were suspicious. Gary opened his chest up and looked inside. Then very thoughtfully they closed the wound up and took their heads. He had smoked four cigarettes in his life," Worley said, "and he had a rare type of cancer. That cancer, once in a while, can be cured. Gary's life, quivering out in brief, bright flame. Yet, another

The long watch, stretching into painful haunting nights. He has a 13-year-old sister and two brothers, eight and 10. They came to see their big brother a couple of weeks ago. Nobody has told Gary that he must die, but he knows something. Before his brothers and sister left that time, he hugged and kissed them, and they knew this was for goodbye. It torments them, Worley said. The kids will not come again to this great grim hall of sadness. They know the next time they see him, he will come to them in a long dark horse, walking slowly over the twisting mountain roads where he spent this fragment of a life. Gary's life, quivering out in brief, bright flame. Yet, another

Miss Manila Hooker Passes Sunday; Was Native Of Madison

Miss Manila Aileen Hooker, 65, of Rt. 1, Alexander, died Sunday, April 3, 1966 in an Asheville hospital after a lengthy illness.

She was a native of Madison County and had lived most of her life in Buncombe County.

Surviving are the mother, Mrs. Edna Allman Hooker of Marshall, a brother, O. C. Hooker of Weaverville and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 10:30 a. m., Tuesday in Grandview Baptist Church, of which he was a member.

The Rev. Charles Sprinkle and the Rev. David Roberts officiated and burial was in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were cousins.

Boyman Funeral Home was in charge.

story evolves. The majesty of his parents, their immovable faith and spirit. They stand plucky, fighting against the assault of life. They are reconciled. Life will continue.

The fire of the free and independent biases in Worley's eyes. Somehow he will make out.

It is a spirited family with the old pioneer attitudes of self-sufficiency. Worley completed only the fourth grade of school — but his wife is a proud high school graduate.

She was in her senior year when she married Worley several years ago, and after the wedding she dropped out. Three years ago, when she was 33 years old, she returned to high school and completed the requirements for a diploma.

Neighbors have sowed fire to her mind. But he has no other planting done. The faithful watch at his son's bed keeps him from his farm which is deep in the Madison County mountains.

His financial resources are now exhausted. That stubborn, indomitable pride of the mountainer kept them from asking for help. But then, it was offered in a spirit of neighborliness.

"I don't take no welfare, not if I won't," Worley said. "If you get too bad I guess I'll have to take it."

"I've always been able to work. I don't look no welfare if I can't do no work. If a man is down and out, it's not that he can't take welfare, but when he's back on his feet he ought to put it up," he said.

But if any compassionate people wanted to send something a few dollars, come clothing, then he would take it, but only after it was explained to him that some people believe in helping a man when a man is down and fighting time and death and has haunting inner doubts.

And if anybody wanted to help they could make no change to Asheville, Worley said. He had no money.

"He has kept the long watch on Gary, his oldest son, since the doctor found it. The kids to help."

Vestie Worley and her wife stand over their husband, Gary, 65, trying desperately to hold back the night.

HAMBURGER STEAK
Served with French Fries, Cole Slaw, Hot Biscuits, Delicious Coffee or Tea 85c

COUNTRY HAM SANDWICH
Served with Red Eye Gravy, Rice or French Fries 75c

OPEN ON SUNDAY

HANCOCK'S RESTAURANT
Air Conditioned
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ASHEVILLE, N. C.

Marshall High School Baseball Schedule 1966

APRIL

7 — Rosman — Home
8 — Clyde — There
12 — Spring Creek — There *
15 — Mars Hill — There * X
19 — East Yancey — Home X
22 — Cane River — Home X
26 — Laurel — There (J.V.)
29 — Laurel — Home (J.V.)

MAY

7 — Rosman — There
6 — Cane River — There X
10 — Mars Hill — Home * X
13 — Spring Creek — Home *
17 — East Yancey — There X
20 — Laurel — Home *
24 — Clyde — Home
27 — Open
* County game
X Conference game

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We have recently installed the most modern pieces of Equipment for Coin-Op-Use

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Revival At Locust Grove Church To Start Monday

The Rev. Clet Fisher, pastor of Locust Grove Baptist Church, announces that revival services will start at this church Monday night, April 11, at 7:30 o'clock.

The Rev. Henry Colvard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hunt-Tennessee, will be the visiting speaker.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Called to date . . . 374
Called to date last year . . . 339

OK USED CARS

1964 MERCURY COMET 404; V-8 engine; Radio, Heater; Straight Drive; Extra Clean.

1964 CHEVROLET 4-door Biscayne; 6-cylinder engine; Straight Drive; Extra Clean; One Owner

1963 CHEVROLET 4-door Station Wagon; V-8 engine; Straight Drive; Solid White

1963 IMPALA 4-door Sedan; V-8 engine; Powerglide Transmission; White with Red Interior

1962 CHEVROLET Belaire 4-door; 6 cylinders; straight drive; one owner; 28,000 miles.

1960 CHEVROLET 4-door Hardtop; V-8 engine; Powerglide Transmission; Radio, Heater; White with Red Interior

1960 CHEVROLET Bel Aire; 4-door; V-8 engine; Powerglide Transmission; Power Steering; Power Brakes; Radio, Heater

1959 FORD 4-door Sedan; V-8 engine; Straight Drive.

1959 CHEVROLET 4-door; 6-cylinder; powerglide; good average.

1959 CHEVROLET Bel Aire 2-door; V-8; Straight Drive; Radio, Heater

1958 CHEVROLET 4-door Sedan; V-8 engine; automatic transmission.

1958 MERCURY 2-door; V-8; Straight Drive; Rough.

1957 CHEVROLET Station Wagon; V-8 engine; Powerglide Transmission

1955 CHEVROLET Bel Air Sport Coupe; V-8 engine; Powerglide.

1955 PLYMOUTH 4-door; V-8 engine; Automatic Transmission.

1955 FORD 2-door; V-8; Straight Drive. Rough.

Trucks

1963 INTERNATIONAL 2-ton Truck; V-8 engine; 5-speed Transmission; 2-speed rear axle. One Local Owner.

1962 CHEVROLET 2-ton Truck; 6-cylinder; 4-speed transmission; 2-speed axle. One Local Owner.

1962 CHEVROLET Suburban Carry All; V-8 engine; Radio, Heater; Good for Camping or Carrying Passengers to and from work.

1959 DODGE Truck; Step Van Type; 101 uses

1958 DODGE 1/2-ton Truck; V-8 engine; Heater; Cattle Rack and Flat Bed

1957 GMC 1/2-ton Truck; 6 Cylinders

1954 CHEVROLET 1/2-ton Pickup; looks good; runs good.

See Bruce Murray or Jim Cody

FRENCH BROAD CHEVROLET COMPANY, INC.

MARSHALL, N. C. Dealer Franchise No. 2450

EASTER GREETINGS TO ALL

It is a pleasure to take this opportunity to extend to our many friends best wishes for a safe and happy Easter

May the risen Saviour bless you on this Holy Easter Day.

May a steadfast faith sustain you as you travel on life's way.

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HOT SPRINGS, N. C.