

On The Restoration Of Academy Hill Cemetery

BY FRED PROFFITT
The cemetery on Academy Street, three blocks distant from the public square, which had come to be known as Academy Hill Cemetery and is now officially so named, is probably the oldest cemetery in or near the town of Burnsville—public or private. A deed by the late S.W. Carter and wife Laura conveying the now enclosed tract of approximately 1 1/4 acres (enclosed, that is, on three sides by a fence but on its south side by an imaginary line between it and a newer addition) to a group of five local citizens for use as a public cemetery, bears a date in the 1890's; but there are well marked graves in the northeast corner of the enclosure dating back to the 1830s as well as some that were originally well marked but by stones that have become damaged by erosion and discoloration to such an extent that their dates are no longer distinguishable.

TRUSTESHIP
So far as is known, or any record can be found, the persons named in the Carter deed as trustees for the administration of the trust thereby created, were never organized as a board of trustees for such purpose, or ever did assume responsibility for the care and maintenance of the property as a cemetery. And if they did not, then it must have been because they understood that burial space within the enclosure was to be free to anyone who might want to lay claim to a family or an individual plot. It is in fact generally believed that all occupied space therein was acquired without cost to the deceased, their families or their estates—excepting of course the Carters and those who would have inherited the property had it not been so disposed of.

There was in fact little need of any organized trusteeship for any other form of direction of maintenance of the property as a cemetery during the first forty years or so following the naming of the trustees. New graves were, during that time, being added at a rate that resulted in there being at all times an interested group of surviving relatives who could be depended on to see to it that the property was kept looking "like a cemetery should look."

Nevertheless, it was unfortunate that the trusteeship should have been allowed to expire. This became apparent when, at about this time, a public cemetery of a different kind appeared in the community—one in which no burial plots were free, but were obtained under title

which carried with it a guarantee of permanent care and maintenance. Since then no burials have occurred in Academy Hill Cemetery, other than in already established family plots; and graves of at least three persons, previously buried therein, have been moved—two of them to this new local cemetery, the other outside the county—all of course to cemeteries in which such care and maintenance is assured. In consequence of these developments, the cemetery had become increasingly neglected by late last year, it was in a very sorry state indeed.

DESCENDANTS MEET
But it was then that some of the "remnant" of the aforesaid groups, together with some second and third generation descendants of persons buried therein, decided that something must be done to restore the cemetery to some semblance of what it once was—an attractive, well kept small cemetery—and provide for its future care and maintenance on a permanent basis. A letter was accordingly drafted outlining these developments and giving notice of a planned group meeting of concerned person, to be held January 9th for consideration of ways and means that might lead to the attainment of these objectives. The letter was signed by 18 members of the group, a hundred copies were prepared and one was mailed to each of more than fifty persons known (or presumed) to be interested in the future of the cemetery.

Woman's Volleyball

The Yancey County Recreation Commission will sponsor a woman's volleyball league. Interested persons should begin forming teams now and turn in the team name to Charlie Hensley, Board of Education office.

There will be an organizational meeting on Thursday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the courthouse, room 3.

Anyone having questions should contact Gordon Banks at 682-2243.

Revco Celebrates

[Cont'd. from page 1] fellow employees will blow out the 20 candles on the cake as their part of the celebration.

From a two-store start in Detroit, Michigan, Revco has become the nation's largest retail drug store chain based on the number of stores. A pioneer in everyday low discount prices, Revco has grown by merging with White Cross drug stores, and by purchasing the Parkview-Gem stores, as well as opening stores in attractive locations.

Come by Wednesday, September 22, and help celebrate with cake and refreshments.



JIMMY LEE WILSON

Jimmy Lee Wilson, 29, of the Swiss Community died Saturday afternoon in Wilkes County. A native of Yancey County he was employed by Glen Raven Mills of Burnsville for the past four years.

Surviving are the wife, Mary Jane Garland Wilson and two sons, Russell and Richard Allen Wilson of the home; the parents, Wayne and Minnie Jane Willis Wilson of Route 3, Burnsville; a sister, Mrs. Herman Carroll and a brother, David Wilson of Burnsville; the paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Wilson of Burnsville and the maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Willis of Burnsville.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in the First Presbyterian Church of Burnsville. Revs. Pat Hardy and Howard Buchanan officiated and burial was in the Ferguson Cemetery at Swiss.

And now, following this first meeting, a second on April 23 and a third on May 14, all objectives have been attained—the cemetery restored to a status equalling, if not surpassing, any that it had ever known, with provision made for its future care and maintenance on a permanent basis. A detailed account of how this has been brought about would, I fear, be too long to make our local paper's news columns. But it is hoped that this abridged account will be able to do so and that the many non-resident contributors to its trust funds and the clean-up job since establishment of the permanent trust may be thus informed as to what has been accomplished.

FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN
At the January 9 meeting, following a unanimous agreement that no plan for a cleanup job could be worth considering unless and until assurance could be had that the cemetery could thereafter be self-supporting—with at least future care and maintenance assured—it was decided that a fund-raising campaign should be organized for the purpose of raising funds necessary for both purposes—with the provision that, if the amount raised within ninety days from that date was not sufficient to establish a permanent trust fund in at least the sum of \$5,000.00 the undertaking would be adjudged a failure and all contributions returned to their respective contributors.

At the April 23 meeting, following a report by the Association's Treasurer that almost \$6,000 was in hand or pledged, it was ordered that \$5,500 be set aside for investment as the permanent trust in a certificate of deposit in The Northwestern Bank, bearing interest payable quarterly at the rate of 7 1/2% for a period of six years, and at the expiration of that time and each succeeding sixth year thereafter, be renewed at the then prevailing highest interest rate allowed by law. And it having been agreed that a non-profit corporation of unlimited duration would provide a better means of insuring the perpetuity of the trust than would a simple trusteeship, articles of Incorporation, which had been prepared for consideration in the event of such a decision were presented, considered and approved; and it was ordered that application be made to the State for a Charter based thereon, to be issued to Academy Hill Cemetery, Inc.

INCORPORATION
At the May 14 meeting (final for the Association formed at the January meeting) officers and a Board of Directors, as provided for in Articles of Incorporation, were duly elected and assumed their respective positions. The Board of Directors was called into session and, among other acts, appointed an Executive Committee, composed of three corporation

members, which will, under delegated authority, administer the cemetery's affairs, including income from the permanent trust fund and from all other sources; and will be responsible for the care and maintenance of the cemetery.

Following this meeting, the Association's treasurer turned over to the Corporation's newly elected treasurer (Mrs. Elizabeth E. Stamey of RFD-1 Burnsville) contributions amounting to \$6,265 (from which nothing had been withdrawn for any purpose) and the additional sum of \$32.05 interest earned on his passbook savings account during the fund-raising campaign. And she has obviously received some additional contributions since it is known that the Executive Committee have spent close to a thousand dollars during this period on restoration and maintenance. And this does not include the surface removal of a considerable growth of young hardwood timber, wild grape vines, etc. which had taken over a large part of the cemetery—had in fact encroached on and obscured some well marked graves. This was done by the Town free of charge, but was a cleanup job that saved the Association several hundred dollars.

SPACE IS AVAILABLE
In this process of restoration, which has involved the use of a power saw, massive dirt removing machinery and heavy duty trucks, a considerable area of quite attractive burial space was uncovered in the original 1 1/4 acre tract. And burial plots therein will be—as they have always been—available free of charge to any and all persons who may desire to claim them.

The cemetery can and will be self supporting under funding arrangements that have been provided for it—to the extent, that is, that nominal maintenance can remain constant. But much needs to be done before the entire tract can be sown to grass on a desirably smooth surface; and there are and will continue to be other improvements that should be made so long as there is any vacant space left within its boundaries. And so the Corporation will continue to solicit additions to its membership from among those persons who now have close relatives buried therein, and have so far made no contribution to its future care and maintenance, as well as from those who may hereafter seek space for such purpose.

MEMBERS OF CORP.
Since there are of course no share holders in this type of corporation, members of this one will be those who have made a contribution, regardless of the amount, to the cemetery's trust funds; and each member will be entitled, in person or by proxy, to one vote in the election of its officers or other matters that may come before its annual, or called, sessions.

ARMY STORES

Season Opening Sale FOR HUNTERS

HUNTING EQUIPMENT HEADQUARTERS

Marlin
GLENFIELD-MOD. 60
22-SEMI-AUTO
RIFLE
\$39⁸⁸

Remington
22 LONG RIFLE
SHELLS
BOX OF 100
\$1⁶⁶

SPECIAL GROUP
MEN'S LEATHER
INSULATED
BOOTS
\$19⁸⁸ PAIR

SPECIAL GROUP
MEN'S
HUNTING COATS
\$12⁸⁸

Savage 94-C
SINGLE SHOT
SHOT GUN
\$39⁸⁸

Remington
Shur Shot
12-16-20 e.a.
SHOT GUN
\$2⁹⁹ BOX

SPECIAL GROUP
MEN'S
HUNTING VEST
\$5⁸⁸

Remington
Shur Shot
12-16-20 e.a.
SHOT GUN
\$2⁹⁹ BOX

BE A 3 SEASON HUNTER.....

BOW SEASON OPENS-SEPT. 17-OCT. 13

MUZZEL LOADER SEASON OPENS-OCT. 14-16

RIFLE SEASON OPENS-NOV. 22-DEC. 11

WE SUPPLY YOUR NEEDS FOR ALL 3.....

ARCHERY HEADQUARTERS

FOR: • BEAR
• BEN PEARSON
• BROWNING

THOMPSON/CENTER

The **HAWKEN**

PERCUSSION RIFLE

JUST ARRIVED \$205⁰⁰

BURNSVILLE ARMY STORE

BURNSVILLE PLAZA

Cystic Fibrosis Campaign

Newdale, Micaville and Windom Communities will conduct the Cystic Fibrosis "Kiss Your Baby" Campaign September 12 to October 1. Every mother of a youngster is requested to kiss her baby with special attention to the taste of the skin.

A major sign of cystic fibrosis is a high salt content in the perspiration. The local chairperson emphasized that the two-fold campaign is designed to alert parents to the symptoms of CF and other lung-damaging diseases of children and to collect funds in support of medical-scientific programs at the 116 care, teaching and research centers in the United States. Many of the 150,000 North Carolina youngsters who suffer with one or more lung diseases are treated at the Duke CF Center which is supported by campaign funds.

Please make generous contributions through the use of the canisters placed for this purpose in the following community businesses: Newdale Grocery, Howell Grocery, Robinson's Texaco, Robinson's Gen. Mdse., Dellinger & Silver Gro., Pine Hill Grill, Kates Mustang Station, Ed Gouge's, Laurel Mountain Crafts and Jay Styles Gen. Mdse.

Authorized **ZENITH** RCA, G.E.,
Admiral, Sylvania, Philco,
& Motorola Factory Service

Specialist For
Color TV, Stereos,
& Antennas

GUARANTEED REPAIRS
Honest Dependable Service

Home Service or Carry In

682-7349

Open 9:00-5:00 Mon thru Fri.

Mountainview TV Service

Across From Mtn. View Motel