

"Letters"

(Cont. from A2)

on the car. God had certainly gone before us every step of the way and we can only give Him praise.

Sincerely,
George and Jody Wiese
Ellenwood, Georgia

Dear Editor,

I realize this is a very lengthy letter. But I would appreciate it if you would print it in its entirety. I want to try to clarify any confusion or misunderstanding concerning the Negro Creek Cemetery Trust Fund and the Negro Creek General Fund.

First of all, I want everyone to know that my intention for writing this letter is not to cause hurt feelings or to lay any blame on anyone. I just feel that anyone who has family buried at the cemetery should know about the two cemetery funds and how the money is being used.

As anyone who has family members buried in the Negro Creek Cemetery probably already knows, my daddy, Lloyd Brock, became the caretaker of the cemetery many, many years ago when no one else seemed to be concerned with the condition it was in. Over the years, with no upkeep, the cemetery had become run down and overgrown with bushes, etc. Pappy (Lloyd Brock) took it upon himself to see that the cemetery was cleaned up. Since that time, each year on the first Sunday in June, there has been a Decoration Day with church services. Each year, during these services, a hat was passed around to take an offering for upkeep of the cemetery.

Upkeep of the cemetery included buying lawn mowers, trimmers, straightening tombstones that were leaning or had fallen over, filling graves that had sunk in, keeping the fence in good repair and keeping the fence row trimmed from overhanging tree branches and whatever else needed done at the cemetery. Pappy began doing the work at the cemetery for free. Sometimes, he took a nominal fee for all his hard work. He worked many long hours every year, making sure the cemetery was mowed and well trimmed -- not only for Decoration day -- but also during the entire year. Pappy was very interested in the cemetery. He had a wife and many other family members buried there and he didn't want their graves overgrown and neglected.

After Pappy became unable to take care of the cemetery, my husband (Carnel Blanton) became the caretaker. Carnel did most of the work at the cemetery and I was trea-

sure of the account. Both our names were on the account at the Brodhead Bank until Carnel's eyesight began to fail him. Now one of my son's and his wife are on the account with me. However, I am still treasurer of the Negro Creek General Fund account at Brodhead. We too have many family members buried at the Negro Creek Cemetery and we wanted to make sure the cemetery did not become run down again as it once was. Over the years, our children, in-laws and grandchildren helped take care of the cemetery.

In 1987, Louis Bowling decided that since most of the "old folks" who were really interested in the cemetery, were either in poor health or had already passed away, that something needed to be done to ensure that the cemetery was well cared for when "all" of them were gone. He decided that a trust fund would be the solution to this problem. When Lewis talked with my husband about it, Carnel agreed it was a good thing. They both agreed that once the fund reached \$10,000, this would be enough to take care of the cemetery should there not be anyone here who would see that it was mowed, etc.

They agreed we would continue to take up money for the General fund each year and those funds would be used for yearly upkeep and the Trust Fund would be placed in a bank at Somerset. As long as the General Fund had enough money in it to take care of the cemetery, the money from the Trust Fund would not be touched. However, should the General Fund run low and we needed money from the Trust Fund, he and the trustees could authorize the bank to send interest from the account to Brodhead Bank for the General Fund. If the interest wasn't needed for the General Fund, it would be added back to the principal and incur more interest. As of June, 2002, the Trust Fund has more than doubled the original goal of \$10,000 and no money had been taken out for the cemetery until 2002.

Since the setting up of the Trust Fund, Louis and Carnel have both passed away. Now there are some new members on the Board of Directors of the Trust fund. All of the present trustees are from out-of-state. No one local has been appointed as a trustee to the fund. Many individuals, who are regular contributors and have been for many many years to the cemetery, are very confused. Many of these individuals thought they were giving to the General Fund at Citizens Bank in Brodhead. However, if the money was given to Delbert Bowling at the cemetery gate each year, it went to the Trust Fund at the Monticello Banking Company

in Somerset.

At the present time, the amount in the General Fund at Citizens Bank is very low. In fact, the account is the lowest it has been in several years. The offerings have been small (in fact, no offering was taken in 2002) for the General Fund because everyone was under the impression that the interest from the Trust fund was to be used for the upkeep of the cemetery. I have been asked by various individuals who have family members buried at the Negro Creek Cemetery, why has none of the interest money from the Trust Fund been transferred to Citizens Bank. That is a question I cannot answer. Since there is no one here locally that is on the Board of Trustees for the Trust fund, and no one here (even though I have been treasurer for many, many years) has a copy of the original trust fund agreement, I don't know for sure the wording of the document. When the Somerset bank was asked about a copy of the trust document, the reply was that the bank had no authority to give anyone a copy of the agreement.

The present caretaker (who has been in this position for the past few years) recently received a letter from one of the trustees (David Bowling, 5362 Augsturger Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45011). The letter she received informed her that since the interest

rate for the trust fund was very low this year, there would only be enough money available from the Trust to mow the cemetery eleven (11) times this year. That is an average of twice a month, which isn't always enough mowing to keep the cemetery looking nice all year. Each time the cemetery is mowed, she fills out a bank voucher. This voucher is sent to the Monticello Banking Company and, in turn, the bank sends her a check for \$90 from the interest money from the Trust fund. This amount does not take into consideration the cost of the equipment, gas and oil for equipment, or any other unforeseen upkeep that may need to be done at the cemetery, such as filling in sunken graves, straightening leaning tombstones, fence repair, etc. In the past, the equipment was purchased out of the General Fund and the cemetery owned the equipment.

I understand that some individuals have taken it upon themselves to mow their family member's graves because they are unhappy with the way the cemetery is being mowed this year. I just want everyone to understand that the number of times or dates for the cemetery to be mowed this year was not determined by me. In the past, I have always tried to see that the cemetery was well cared for year-round with the first mowing and trimming being in April and the last

in October or early November.

Should anyone wish to make donations to the General Fund at Citizens Bank at Brodhead so the cemetery can be mowed and trimmed more often, please send your contributions to me. Or, if you choose to give an offering at the cemetery on Decoration Day, June 1, 2003, make sure that it is understood that the money is to go to the General Fund at Brodhead, Ky.

Thank you very much for allowing this letter to be printed in the Mt. Vernon Signal.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carnel (Doxie) Blanton
Treasurer
Negro Creek Cemetery
Route 1, Box 1076
Brodhead, Ky. 40409

Dear Editor,

On February 15, 2003, our family lost everything in a house fire. My husband and I watched as 18 years of memories were gone within minutes. It was the most hopeless feeling we had ever experienced. But, what happened the night after the fire gave us strength and hope for tomorrow.

Our family, friends and neighbors brought us bags of clothes, food, money, toys for our children, household items, and, for weeks, people

just kept giving. Chris and I wondered why everyone was being so good to us. Then, one day, we received a card and inside that card was the most special gift of all, a verse written from the Bible, Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Chris and I would like to thank everyone for all the love and kindness shown to us in our time of need. We would also like to thank the Mt. Vernon and Brodhead firefighters. These men risk their lives everytime they fight a fire and Rockcastle County is very blessed to have these brave men.

A special thank you to: Rockcastle Middle School, students, teachers and RCMS Y-Club; First Church of Jesus Christ; Letter Box Baptist Church (Jackson County); Mareburg Baptist; Bible Baptist; First Baptist; Brindle Ridge Baptist; Copper Creek Missionary Baptist; Faith Harvest Fellowship and Brodhead Baptist.

People like you are a wonderful reflection of God's Special Love! God bless you all today and always.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!
Chris, Janice, Jerrika, Mason and Jamison Poynter and all our families!

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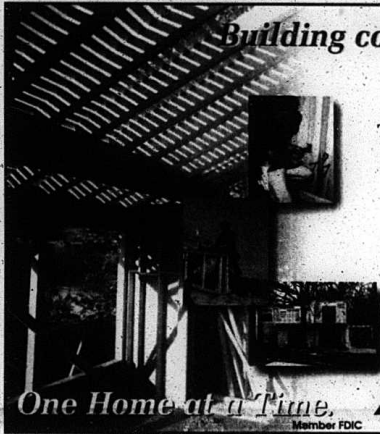
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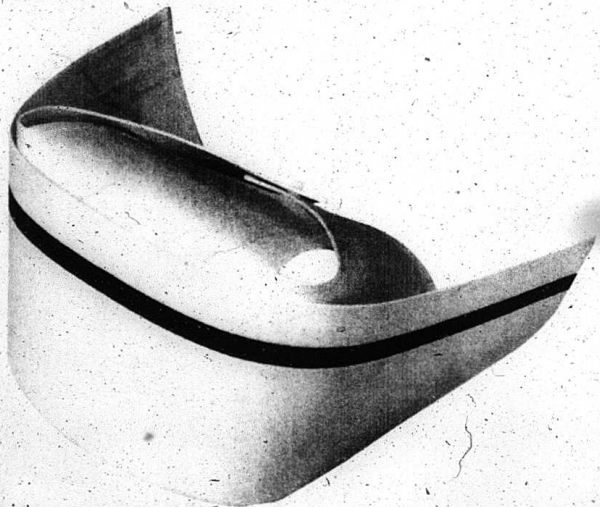
Our nurses play a vital role in meeting the community's healthcare needs. They know that nursing is more than providing the high quality care that you've come to expect. It's also a kind word, the right touch and a compassionate manner.

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