

Mooresville Tribune

"Although I Disagree With Everything You Say I Will Defend Unto Death Your Right To Say It"

VOL. LVII 25c Mooresville, N.C. (28115) Wednesday, May 15, 1991 25c No. 14

Len Sullivan's

Shucks

Go for the down

Descending through 20,000 feet, the sky is Carolina blue and the earth is as orderly as it is inviting. The captain is speaking:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we're passing over Mooresville/South Iredell, one of the most scenic, friendliest and fastest-growing areas of Piedmont North Carolina. That Rorschach test of blue is 34,000-acre Lake Norman, the region's recreational crown jewel shared by four counties."

Had to be one of those USAir guys. They're crazy about this place. Woods hereabouts, especially lakeshore woods, is full of 'em. Whoever, he got it right.

But there's trouble in paradise, as, indeed, there always is in every earthly paradise. Change is the only constant, and change is troublesome. No omelets without broken eggs. Our growth mode has shielded us from some of the economic slowdown. But we read the papers. We know all is not well. Our state government is in trouble big time. Its \$1 billion-and-counting projected budget shortfall is sending shockwaves through all local governments and school systems.

Mooresville has no idea what to expect in the way of state funds that, in the past, have been as dependable as sunrise. Local budget makers are scrambling to build in local-money hedges against worst-case support from Raleigh.

So, is this a time for this municipality to think about taking on new financial burdens?

You bet. Town government should do whatever is necessary to put itself into position to accept \$1.9 million the Lowrance Hospital Trust Fund Advisory Committee wants to invest in a multipurpose community center. This is a one-time opportunity that must not be lost. Instead of offering excuses why it can't, municipal government should be concentrating on why it must.

Granted, we're not ready for metro. True, municipal taxpayers should not be required to pay for regional services without expectation of some return. For example, county government must accept some financial responsibility for recreational services offered in town, since most of the people who use them live in rural Iredell. But, bottom line, the town's infrastructure — its social, civic, commercial and, yes, government interests — must look beyond its borders if it is to expand its horizons and attract the paying customers it wants and needs. People who play here, worship here, socialize here tend to buy here.

Last year, 1,155 home-building permits were issued in Iredell County. Of these, 269 were for Davidson Township, and 142 for Coddle Creek. Davidson, in fact, has led the 16 townships in home building since 1984, and Coddle Creek has placed second every year but two.

The people are coming! The people are coming! To win the hearts and minds and buying power of these people, the town must be in a position to win.

What more of a magnet than a civic center that would be in perfect harmony with Mooresville's Master Plan for Recreation, adopted in April 1987? That plan became the War Memorial, the municipal swimming pool, the parks, tennis courts, ballfields and the rest.

When you scan this 43-year-old dream you are struck by its vision. It's the same foresight that produced Lowrance Hospital. What could be more appropriate than for the legacy of one (proceeds from the sale of the hospital) to become the realization of a dream for the other?

If we miss this opportunity, we forfeit a gift of a fuller, richer community life offered by everyone who ever made sacrifices in leadership, resources and dedication to Lowrance Hospital.

Some of your elected leadership believe accepting this gift would not be prudent use of your resources at this time, and that acceptance would put town government at financial risk in view of state budget uncertainties.

If you believe this community should not lose this opportunity, your elected representatives know you are willing to accept the risks and take the lead.



Cooper, left, Tharpe with Bishop Kulah

Locals Take Part In District Mission Fair

Lynette Cooper led a Mooresville delegation to the recent Mission Fair conducted by the Statesville District of the United Methodist Church. The three-hour program was held at the First United Methodist Church in Conover.

Cooper, a member of Rocky Mount UMC, is chair of the district's Committee on Missions/Outreach, the fair's lead organization. The Statesville UMC District serves 94 churches in Iredell, Caldwell and Catawba counties.

The educational event offered seminars on the denomination's domestic and international mission field, guest speakers and exhibits on various church services. Exhibitors included the Rev. Rev. Steve Martin, pastor of Triplett UMC, and the Rev. Chris Fitzgerald, pastor of Rocky Mount UMC.

Martin discussed the organization of and community response

to the children's day care his church established last year. Fitzgerald, who is an orthotist, spoke on "Ministries with Handicapped." He gives his skills to fit children with braces, artificial limbs and other supportive devices.

Guest speakers were Nina Tharpe of Ronda and Bishop Arthur Kulah of Liberia.

Tharpe is vice president of the Western North Carolina United Methodist Conference. She was a member of a study team to Bolivia last year, and she talked about missions needs in that country.

Kulah, a leader in the Liberia UMC Annual Conference, gave a report on the denomination's work in his country.

During the meeting, an offering was taken for UMC mission work in Bolivia and Liberia. Cooper, who introduced Tharpe, summarized recently activities of the Missions/Outreach Committee.

Chamber Update

By Dr. Jane Carrigan, President

The Regional Conference held at Mooresville Junior High School on May 3 was a great success. Ninety participants heard from an outstanding array of speakers from the Urban Institute, state and local government and chambers of commerce. The message was clear: we live in a growing community and must take an active part in planning for our future if we are to maintain the very elements of living that are causing us to grow. The chamber will be studying the next steps that need to be taken in dealing with the concept of regionalism. Many thanks to Harriet Smith and Dick Brolin of the chamber and Cheryl Roberts of the Urban Institute for an informative and timely conference.

Lake Norman Days are upon us. Have you asked all of your friends and family to come to downtown Mooresville? May 18 will be filled with all kinds of events, displays and performances for everyone to enjoy. Don't miss seeing your friends and joining in on the fun.

The Highway Committee of the chamber and town officials made a presentation at the Department

of Transportation hearing in Gastonia last week. The committee emphasized the need to complete the widening of Highway 150 and address other road needs that have been identified by our town government.

Notification has been received from the All American City Application that Mooresville's application did not make the final cut. An evaluation form will be forthcoming which will give a critique of the application. We will continue to build our case for the next application. If any town deserves the All America designation, Mooresville does. Thanks to Darrell Gettys and his committee for an outstanding application. Everyone here still thinks we had a winner.

The Big Brothers and Big Sisters committee, under the direction of Mike Tucker enjoyed a delightful cookout and games at Edgemore Park on May 10. The "Bigs" and "Littles" turned out in large numbers for an end-of-year get together. Thank you Mike and all you Big Brothers and Big Sisters for taking time to make a "little brother or sister" feel very special.

Interesting Insights Into Iredell Character Are Carved In Stone

Time Is, Time Was: Gravestone Art, Burial Customs and History, Iredell County, North Carolina, by Mildred J. Miller and Pat M. Crooks.

By O.C. STONESTREET 3RD

"Time is, time was, time shall be no more..." So begins the epitaph of one William Fleming, born 1827, died 1907. Certified genealogist Mildred Miller and co-author Pat Crooks thought this to be an appropriate title for a book on gravestone art, legend and lore of Iredell County.

Both ladies have a long association with the county's active genealogical association as well as with the Iredell Historic Properties Commission. Both are veteran writers in the too-often neglected field of local history.

Mrs. Miller, who lives in the northern end of the county, is perhaps best known for her historic maps and her association with the late Homer Keever, author of *Iredell — Piedmont County*. Pat Crooks, who lives in the old Rufus Reid house in Mount Mourne, is

very knowledgeable about the history of the southern end of our county.

While one doesn't immediately associate cemeteries with art galleries, Mesdames Miller and Crooks make a strong case for doing just that in this newest publication of the Genealogical Society of Iredell County.

Indeed, they would argue, doesn't what we put on gravestones, or choose to leave off, tell much about ourselves and our culture? They write that "everything from occupation, personal characteristics and attitudes as to cause of death can be uncovered."

My favorite chapter is on use of these very artistic designs found on various stones in Iredell: the lamb to denote the graves of children, the cross and crown design, the hand with the index finger pointing to heaven. Then, too, there are the familiar Bibles, doves, angels, and a host of other figures serving to instruct us while decorating otherwise

bland, cold pieces of stone.

With 145 illustrations to assist the reader, the authors suggest some possible interpretations of the striking symbolic carvings. Another particularly interesting chapter deals with burial customs and superstitions.

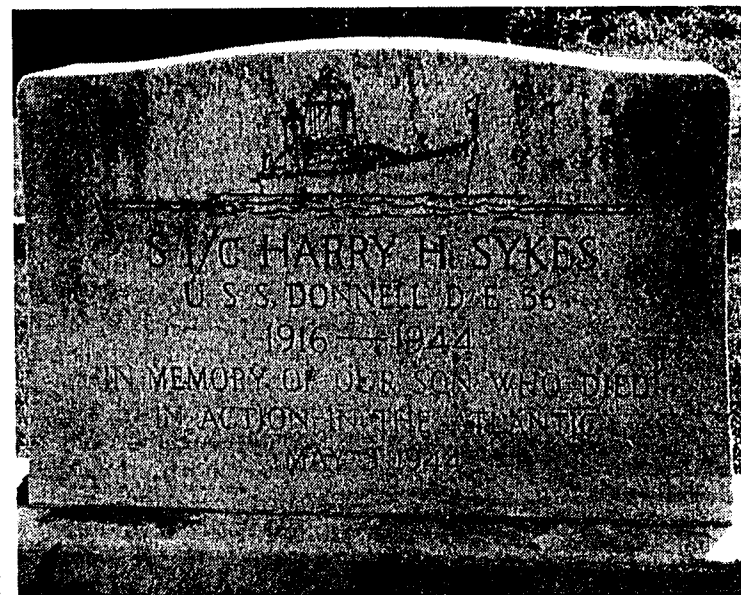
Did you know that some of our ancestors felt it was bad luck to plant cedar trees? As the story goes, the person who plants one will die when the lower limbs of the tree reach the length of his coffin.

The 197-page volume also includes a useful short history of the settlement of the county. The authors show great consideration in providing a helpful index, a short review of state protective legislation, and a brief guide to grave preservation and maintenance, a topic that is of vital concern due to the increase of atmospheric pollution, natural decay and the continuing senseless vandalism of our cemeteries.

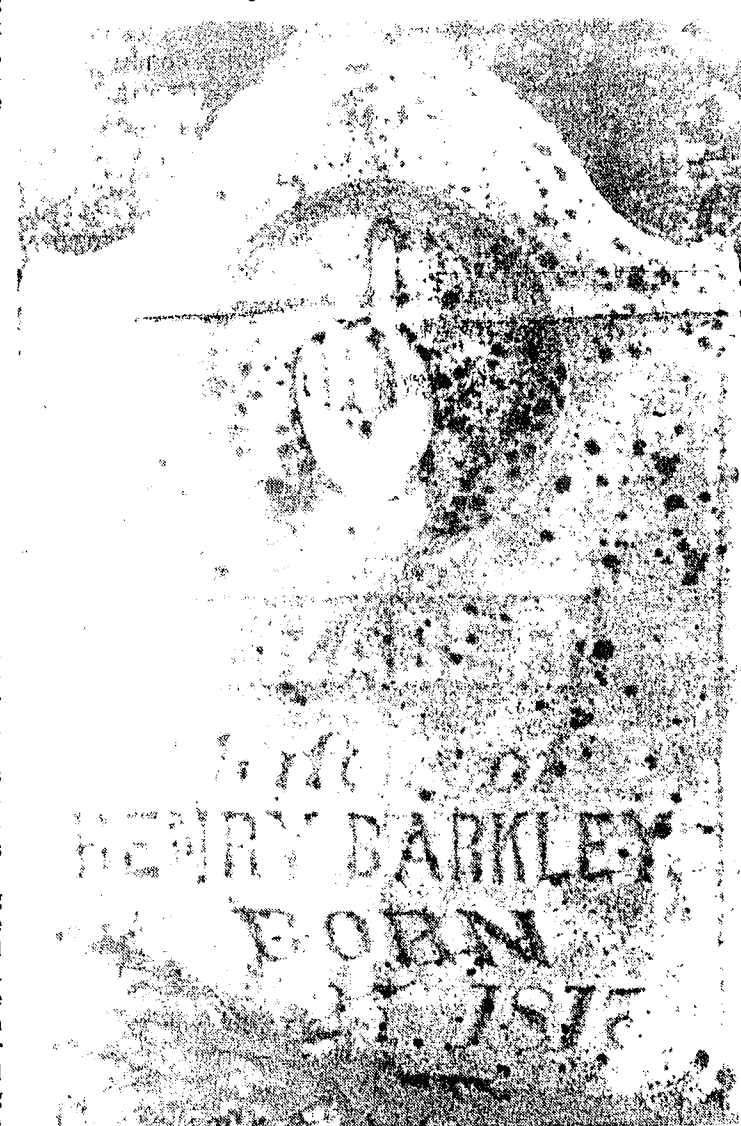
One reading of this highly interesting and informative book might forever alter the way you feel about graveyards.

Copies of *Time Is, Time Was* may be obtained from the Genealogical Society of Iredell County, Post Office Box 948, Statesville.

Reviewer Stonestreet teaches history at Brawley Middle School.



Seaman Sykes, ship sail through the ages



Pointing the way to eternal resting place



G. Espey McLean
Woodman of the (next) World

Photos by
O.C. Stonestreet 3rd

VCR
CLEANING
REPAIRING
MOST MODELS
— ALSO —
TV's & Microwaves
CALL
CAROLINA ELECTRONICS
DYSON SQUARE
664-1581



548-C North Main Street—Mooresville
664-9292

(In The Back Of Side Door Deli)
**THE NEWEST WAY TO
BEAT FAT FAST!!**



Class Size
Is Limited

The Reebok™ step puts little or no strain on your legs, knees or ankles, but still gives you an exhilarating aerobic workout.

Sign Up Today!!



Portrait Special

You get a beautiful portrait package of 1 8x10, 2 5x7s, 8 wallets

ALL FOR ONLY **\$16⁹⁵**

Date: May 16, 17, 18, 1991

Time: THURS-FRI. 11-6
SAT. 11-5

SouthLake Shopping Center
1-77/Exit 28
Cornelius, NC
(704) 896-0205



We're Adorable & Affordable