

A Walk Through Wildwood

Wildwood Alumni Reminisce about Their Experience on the Wildwood Campus

Information compiled by Patty Stapleton by interviewing several

Wildwood Alumni in the Spring of 2015.

Edited by Dona Paulin in the Spring of 2017.

This is a collection of personal stories to be shared on a tour of the Wildwood Campus, enhancing the history and experiences of the people who lived here. Some are still here. The events were drawn from memories, some from long ago, so the details may not be in perfect order to a reader or listener who recalls the same event with different details!



Steve & Alberta
(Birge) Cook

Steve Cook worked on **Grounds** with Brother Callahan. He recalls reaming out a pipe with a ramming devise that would pull out the dirt. But it wasn't long before he was doing "nursing" in the newly opened **Hospital/Reconditioning Center** where he worked for about a year. His next work experience took him to the **Commissary**. The procedure to dispense groceries was that a worker would submit his grocery list including his fresh produce needs to the Commissary department. One of the workers would take your list and put the supplies in a box (or boxes) and you would come to collect the food and the Commissary worker would collect your money. In the early 1970's, the Wildwood currency had not yet been introduced.



Commissary



Fred & Bessie
Callahan

Bessie was the "boss" as well as Don Maddy, who assisted her. He "floated" between the Commissary duties and the Bakery responsibilities. He was a good baker. The **Bakery** was located at the foot of **Deakin's Cemetery** hill, a community cemetery (alternately called Resurrection Hill or Maranatha Hill). The **Country Store** is currently located where this **Bakery** once stood. They sold the fresh bread to our restaurant outreach in Chattanooga named Foods for Life. Carmen Birge, now 95 years old (2015) was an energetic, fairly recent convert that had found her way to Wildwood. She worked with Ruth Suzuki at the restaurant which also sold health foods. Dr. Roby



Don & Ruth Maddy



Carmen Birge

Ann Sherman's step-father, Joe Risch, managed this health food store/restaurant in a busy section of East Ridge, part of Chattanooga.

As in any other building located in the South, there is an on-going battle with roaches and ants and mice and more. The **Bakery** with its marvelous bread aromas and abundance of whole grain flours invited the appetite of the large 4 legged, gnawing critters called rats. One had taken up residence in the



Ruth Suzuki & Kathy Vital



Joe, Roby Risch & Roby Ann Hirst

bakery leaving his signature around the cleanly premises. This sly creature eluded discovery until one day Steve opened a cupboard door and their eyes met. Mr. Rat and Brother Steve glared at each other ominously. Use your imagination to complete the rest of the story!

Elder J.H.N. Tindall has a personal story to fill a book in the pursuing of God for his life and the providences after God got him. An ambitious young man, John became infected with the “gold fever” that took him to California in the hopes of finding enough of that metal to live comfortably or perhaps pay his way to law school. His plans were waylaid as God intercepted and converted his heart. God’s providences took him to Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists where he was trained in the short-lived gospel medical missionary training program outlined in the Spirit of Prophecy.



Ethel & John Tindall

It was Bill Frazee, also a student in the same course, who tutored John in some chemistry exercises. Later, John Tindall invited Bill Frazee to join his traveling evangelistic team. He recognized in young Bill the perceptive spiritual interests and other qualities needed to help in the challenges of city outreach work. I think young Bill Frazee knew how to work, so the Lord sent along Elder Tindall to mentor this budding gospel evangelist and his energy.



Bill Frazee

In his retiring years Elder Tindall and his wife, Ethel, lived at Wildwood in a small cottage next to Mission Manor which is named after **Tyndale**, the Reformation reformer who translated the King James Bible into English and smuggled it into England. Elder Tindall shared his wealth of spiritual understanding and experience with whoever welcomed the thoughts. A worker told the story of Ethel Tindall singing to her as she met the Tindalls walking one day. The song was “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” but especially the words “prone to wander”, she remembered Ethel singing. In His mercy, the Lord quietly laid Elder Tindall, age 92, to rest in his small cottage home. (Comment: Steve observed that Elder Tindall had a notable, flourishing way to highlight his books.)

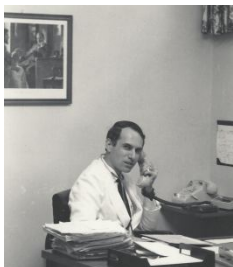
Steve Cook reminisced that he helped to dig Dad Frazee’s grave up on **Deakin’s Hill** now called **Resurrection Hill or Maranatha Hill**.

In 1970 Alberta Birge arrived as a new student and according to one family, she probably wouldn't "make it" since they thought she was a "hippie". But to their delightful surprise she became a faithful worker in the new clinic lab (when it opened later) working as a skilled phlebotomist among other technical responsibilities. She had a Wildwood courtship, married Steve Cook and learned to be an evangelist and pastor's wife. In her early days at Wildwood, Alberta worked in the original Sanitarium (now **Mission Manor**), helping Grace Olsen give hydrotherapy treatments there. When it was time to make the big move from the older homelike wood frame Sanitarium to the newly built **Wildwood**



Mission Manor

Sanitarium & Hospital, Alberta helped with the packing and moving of equipment. She enjoyed the privilege of giving the first hydro treatment in the new Women's Hydro Department. The new facility opened September 2, 1971 and Steve Cook (Alberta's future husband arrived the next day, September 3, 1971!) But God's timing moves at the proper rate and they did not come to each other's serious attention until several years later.



Dr Richard Hansen

In the sweltering humidity of the Georgia summers everyone who could afford it had a fan running most all the time. You could take a shower and dry off only to feel sweaty as you put your clothes on. There was no AC "back in the day".... well, there was an AC unit at Dr. Richard Hansen's house. That was 1971, recalls the worker who lived there with the doctor's family in



Whippoorwill Ridge

Whippoorwill Ridge. Doc, as he was affectionately called by those close to him, was the Medical Director for a number of years and President, as well, at least one of those years. Ulla, his wife, was a dynamic partner, homeschooling their three girls, caring for her horse, and building a small red barn for its comfort. (The little red barn today is the cozy living quarters for a single lady.)

Ulla had a heart for midwifery and conducted natural childbirth classes and delivered many babies. Often these deliveries were in our Hospital parking lot as some couples timed the contractions to "force" the midwife to have to "catch the baby" outside of any "hospital constraints." The usual protocol was that babies were delivered at a hospital in town in accordance with the state legalities. But some folks were just "out of the box"



1st Delivery
in OB Wing

and preferred their "natural method." Finally, as the midwife delivery schedule was so pressing, Ulla drew up a set of plans for an **Obstetrics Wing** to be added to the new Hospital. As time, technicalities, lack of resources, and workers loom over your project, you may have to initiate the first steps in the birthing process. So one day Ulla went to the proposed site of the OB wing and began digging. Eventually all the building supplies and workers came together, the wing was completed and the long trips to the local hospital for baby deliveries was over.



OB Wing Construction

The **new Sanitarium and Hospital** was built in 1970-1971. It was begun with \$10,000 in the bank and when completed it had invested in it \$400,000, as well as hundreds of volunteer worker hours, prayers and miracles. God was the building supervisor and the glory goes to Him. Our long- time resident physical therapist, Earl Qualls,



Sanitarium & Hospital
Construction

shared that the hefty sitz baths (2) were moved to the new hydro department. In the old sanitarium, the



Sanitarium &
Hospital Construction

ladies hydro was on the second floor and the men's hydro was located in the basement. Either way you had to do a little exercise to get there. The



Earl Qualls in new
Hydro Department

Qualls shared that their son, David, was born in the women's hydrotherapy room in the old sanitarium, delivered by Dr. Marjorie Baldwin.

Reflecting on another story about the **Old Sanitarium** activities, an older married woman recently told me (May 2015) about her family's early days here at Wildwood. It seems that all the homes were not supplied with washing



Dr. Marjorie
Baldwin

machines, much less dryers. The arrangement for those who desired the speed and efficiency of modern equipment was to bring your laundry in a mesh bag. For the young reader, that means a bag with small holes in it, or better yet, a bag that looks like a fishing net sewn together to hold clothes, etc. You would carry that over to **Pilgrim** (a building near Mission Manor). Here the laundry duties were carried (literally!) out for the Old Sanitarium. Brother Clarence Moxley, at the time of this lady's visit, was well suited for the lifting and movement of all the dirty and wet and cleaned linens as he was a large, strong man. He would throw your laundry bag into a washing machine, all intact, nothing removed, and wash your items en masse (French for "all together"). It was dried in the bag as well and when you retrieved it, nothing was supposed to be missing!

Alan Harmer M.D., served as Wildwood's first Medical Director. He and his wife, Betty R.N., worked together as a team. People loved Dr. Harmer. Often he offered his services free of charge. Consequently, he had too many patients and all of the patient care wore him down and he contracted Tuberculosis. To build up his immunity, his family would travel to Mexico (while there, they set up a clinic) at times to re-condition the doctor. He eventually recovered completely from Tuberculosis and later worked at Eden Valley Institute in Colorado. He died at Eden Valley in October 1971 from bone cancer, and is buried in the Eden Valley Cemetery.



Alan & Betty
Harmer

Another worker in the **New Sanitarium** that faithfully performed a needed task was Grandpa Charlie McGee. You would find him daily, faithfully washing the dishes for the lifestyle guests, doing his work uncomplainingly. He lived at **Sunnyside** in a basement apartment and seemed rather content with his humble dwelling. He loved to study prophecy and to share his knowledge. He used his barber skills as a "pulpit" so that any worker or student would not only get a real



Young Charlie
McGee

haircut (not styling) for 25 cents (in the basement barber shop) but also, a discourse or lecture on Daniel and Revelation. He had another talent of drawing “educationally humorous” cartoons. One pictured a long-necked water bird with a frog’s head in his mouth, lunch. But the frog’s body is still outside, the frog’s “hands and feet” are plastered up against the devouring bird’s neck and body, desperately trying to extract its head out of the bird’s mouth. The caption is: “Never give up.” The picture, graphically portraying determination, hangs on a wall in Ladies’ Hydro.

Workers came (and still do) with many varied skills and gifts from which we benefit. One young man who came in the 1970’s had a passion for orchids. Brooks Fuller built 2 **small green houses** in



One of three current Greenhouses

back of the hospital down on the grassy field below. They housed beautiful, exotic orchids. Here lifestyle guests that were interested experienced another healing remedy as they participated in the care of these flowering treasures. Tenderly caring for the flowers took your mind off of your own cares, producing beneficial hormones



Brooks Fuller inside a greenhouse

for the sick body.



Evangelid

Near the old san was a large three story home, **Evangelid**. It had a hip roof (not a slang word here, but one describing a certain shape of roof affording more head space to the attic rooms). This was one of the original houses on the property when it was leased to the Wildwood Sanitarium, Inc by the Institute of Health and Healing (a ministry founded by Dr. Otis J. Hayward on February 27, 1936). It housed many workers through the years and in the late 1970’s it burned to the ground. One story claims that an electrical problem is what caused the tragedy one morning, as many of us stood from afar and

watched it burn down. No one was hurt in the flames, but many personal belongings were lost, in fact, most everything inside was consumed. The family living in Evangelid was also homeheading four or five female students who were living in the large upstairs rooms. This family had generously shared various things with other families who needed

household items. Many of these things came back to the destitute family in their great need. And there was a rallying around the girl students who had only the clothes they were wearing. One lady took them to town and let each young lady choose a pair of Sabbath shoes which the sympathetic lady purchased.



Evangelid Fire



Chapel in construction

Many marriages, vespers services, and classes were conducted in the **Chapel** built in 1968. One of Elder Frazee’s favorite topics or passionate desires was for people to understand the Sanctuary which God commanded Moses to build. The Chapel was designed to display a scale model of the

sanctuary that Elder Frazee would use on occasion to illustrate lessons from the Sanctuary service. There was a background painting behind the Sanctuary model that depicted the encampment of the Israelites around God's dwelling place. This had been painted by the well-known Adventist artist, Clyde Provonsha. The Sanctuary model had been built by the Frazee Company Evangelistic team of workers in the 1930's while they were working in Salt Lake City, Utah. One of their converts painted the beautiful veils of blue and purple and scarlet with many angels, every angel a separate design! These veils now being over 80 years old are beginning to crumble. The Sanctuary model has been retired to the Heritage Department where you may see it now. Just don't touch the veils!



Sanctuary Model

Much industrial building occurred in the 1970's. The old vehicle repair shop, called **Supply Shop**, was replaced with the larger building now titled the **Auto Shop**. The students and workers labored together in erecting these structures. The inexperienced learning from the experienced workers who, themselves learned patience and many other character lessons; so much more was being built in the process. A young man, Arnie Fisher, drove the large "cat" to level out the ground for the foundation of this new shop. John Jensen, a welding expert, designed and built many of the homes and other buildings on campus. His work is still seen in a metal archway over the road, as you drive up the hill past **Hyder**. There, arched over the road, is the name Wildwood Medical Missionary Institute strung out in metal letters, each individually welded to a metal pipe overhead, the pipe forming an archway anchored in the ground, welcoming you to a practical Christian education.



Auto Shop

The **Supply Building**, located near the railroad tracks, perhaps just wore out, but its turn came for replacement with the long building now housing the Wood Shop, the Campus Maintenance headquarters, and married student housing. There were always practical men around, and the heart of the work is to be self-sufficient so no matter what your expertise, there are always opportunities to learn something new or to teach someone something new. It was the late 1970's.



There had been a Print Shop near **Hillside home**, located on that small hill (above the current



George McClure in his printing shop

auto shop). George McClure ran the operation, printing tracts and booklets for free distribution. It was in the 1960's that the Print Shop burned to the ground. A few years later George and Marie McClure moved from Wildwood to Uchee Pines where they spent the rest of



their retirement years encouraging the new fledgling institution being started by Doctors Calvin and Agatha Thrash. George McClure had been a teacher at Madison College when he accepted

an invitation from W.D. Frazee to join him in establishing Wildwood. The three incorporators of Wildwood were W.D. Frazee, Neil Martin and George McClure.

Before the new multi-purpose industrial building housed married students, a new modern to a Print Shop was setup by Neil Mitzner. Later Bill Best served as the printer. He did layout for the precursor to the Journal of Health and Healing. It was called the Wildwood Echoes which actually carried more newsworthy campus articles and some health information. If you needed your passport picture taken someone was ready with the camera.

Alas, as workers move on to other locations or opportunities, then dormant areas await something to use their space. Eventually this print shop was transformed into a much needed improved location for our Campus Commissary. With Jannette Atwood as manager, this new improved spot invited more off-campus customers to take advantage of the good prices.

Some mention must be made of the **Woodworking Shop** that found a location in this newly built Industrial Building. Ken Carpenter, an excellent workman in wood and the use of tools, equipped the shop and applied his skills.



Ken Carpenter, Dr. Richard Hansen and another worker on a construction project behind the hospital

A seasoned worker now, one man, describes his work experience as a new arrival to the Wildwood Medical Missionary Training Program in the 1970's. He began working in the maintenance department, then he gathered food supplies for workers in the Commissary. To continue rounding out his training, he learned skills as a nurses' aide in the new hospital. Adding to his work resume, he helped in the **Print shop (or Press)** with layout and later served in some capacity as editor of the Journal of Health and Healing. Elder Frazee mentored him in pastoral and evangelistic skills which he used in the mission field in Mexico. Upon returning to the States, he and his wife did evangelism out west as a Conference evangelist. God's curriculum is varied to each student's needs and interests, and if there is no interest in a given work assignment then God probably is building character and creating His desires in us.

Haskell Hall, along with other buildings, was financed by Takoma Sanitarium and Hospital in order to provide better facilities for training nurses. It was an administrative building for campus business as well as providing classrooms upstairs for the training program. The Friday night vespers and Sabbath services were also held upstairs with the characteristic train whistle noised in the background of the

speaker. Mom Frazee would make the recordings of Elder Frazee's sermons. What began on the reel-to-reel tape recording machines capturing the Spirit-filled messages, eventually mushroomed into a department of its own, called **Wildwood Recordings**, as the Spirit moved to extend His influence through these practical discourses that touched the heart. For a monthly donation you



Haskell Hall being built behind Elder Frazee and Helen

could receive the “Tape of the Month” which was usually one of Frazee’s sermons on cassette tape. Wildwood Recordings, where this cassette tape ministry was busied, was located in a small white building called **White Cottage**. Old buildings at Wildwood usually are not torn down; they become renovated into some other use. It depicts some of our lives; the Lord desires to use us in whatever age and condition we are. If we are willing, He renovates or re-creates us for service. So today White Cottage is a home for a small family.



Sylvia Harner on the porch of White Cottage

The medical missionary work being carried on at Wildwood grew in interest. After W.D. Frazee tape recordings had been circling the globe for a couple decades, Warren Wilson grew into leadership at Wildwood and he began visiting and nurturing budding medical missionaries around the world, and organizing self-supporting conventions across North America. The administrative offices in Haskell Hall became the hub of a world-wide net-working organization eventually organized as a new corporation called Outpost Centers, Inc.(OCI).

After the passing of Warren Wilon, the beloved father-in-Israel and founder of OCI, Harold Lance took up the leadership of OCI and moved its headquarters to Stonecave Institute near Dunlap, Tennessee, about 40 miles from Wildwood.

After the retirement of Harold Lance, Kim Busl was elected president of OCI and moved its headquarters to the Collegedale area where it has continued to grow and develop. OCI now stands for Outpost Centers International) .

Activities quieted down at Haskell Hall, but some of the offices became home to all of the W.D. Frazee materials: the reel recording equipment, and the original tapes, his files and published books. In 1985 Wildwood Recordings were turned over to Pioneers Memorial, Elder Frazee’s own retirement ministry for the distribution of his 1,663 recorded sermons and a few books.



Elder Frazee’s audio messages & books

By 1995 a young man had an interest awakened in him to help promote



Jesse Ravencroft editing Elder Frazee’s audio messages

the messages in the WDF sermons. Jesse Ravencroft became a full-time volunteer at Wildwood focusing on pushing forward the monumental work of updating the means of sharing these materials. A ministry that began with reel-to-reel recordings had successfully switched to cassette tapes in the early 1970’s. It was a much bigger job to digitize the hundreds of sermons, which John Laswell from Indiana volunteered tirelessly for a couple years to accomplish. Next, Jesse came along to establish a website and webstore, to sound edit all 1,663 sermons in mp3 format, to update and reprint valuable books, publish new books, and oversee the huge work of transcribing and editing the sermons so they can be available to read as well as for listening.



The Heritage Department



Louise Jensen in Pinehaven

In addition to the main buildings of activity highlighted so far, there were other busy areas. A **Sawmill** was erected near the former **Pinehaven** and **Beechdale** homes in the Wildwood Hollow. The Sawmill later served also as a place to do mechanical repairs and vehicle paint jobs. It has succumbed to the vicissitudes of time and is currently used as a private storage area.

Today there is a functioning **Sawmill** near the railroad tracks and Pastor Herschel Hendley's home, **Grasshopper** (shown later).

If you were to have visited Wildwood back in the 1940's and 50's, you would have noticed on your early morning walk, about 6:00am, some activity at the large red barn in the hollow, near the **Elmshaven** home. Nellie Boykin tells the story of her and Bill being newlyweds and living near that barn. Her husband would arise at 5am and head to the barn to milk and care for the cows. Their products fed the families on campus, being distributed to those who desired it. One woman currently living here (2015) said that as a student here years ago she remembers drinking the creamy rich milk and gaining a desired 10 pounds! She said it was delicious.



Nellie & Bill Boykin

As more knowledge, public awareness, and alternative products (whoever thought you would be able to buy almond milk at Walmart?!) proliferated, one day the cows were gone. Now it's a barn for blueberry plants.

You would think this next job would not be required "back in the day", but at some point it was decided that we needed a watchman or policeman. Different men would take turns at night going about campus locking the gates that closed off the main roads. They would check and lock the doors at the Lifestyle Center and just drive around as a final check that things were well closed for the night. One man in particular especially took an interest in this task. Bob Whited actually carried a gun in a holster and was deputized by the local sheriff. He would police at night and one story has it that he actually chased an unwanted man off the campus. Did he arrest him?



Wildwood Chapel

If we were taking a tour of the campus, let's now focus on the residential dwellings. Some have been mentioned. Some have little to share by way of recalled memories of people now living here. But we shall begin with what we have. As a visitor drives in the lovely garden entrance and past the **Chapel**, we will take the first driveway to the left, up the hill. The old Sanitarium, remodeled, looks a bit more like it was originally in front. In back of Mission Manor is a small white building that most recently housed an older worker. It was

named **Melody Corner**. I think it's because you could "well hear" the birds singing their morning songs outside the windows. Other workers, with no recall of that melodious name being given to this place, say that this same building was called "**Nine and Ten**" and was used as patient rooms.

If you were to walk from **Nine & Ten**, alas it has been somewhat demolished now, but still in use is another white building next to it, called **Buskie**. Inside were two apartments, if someone were to describe which one he lived in, it was either Buskie Up or Buskie Down. Nellie Boykin tells this story: One of our patients that Bill took care of was a man by the name of Buskie. His children lived on Lookout Mountain and were among the wealthy there. When they brought him to Wildwood he was very sick. Mr. Buskie, Jr. saw the room where his father was going to stay and said, "If my father should wake up and see this room he would be very unhappy that I had brought him here but I believe he will get good care. I would like to build a very nice cottage for him to be in while he is here."

So plans were made to build a nice cottage with a basement right next to the sanitarium so Mr. Buskie could be transferred there as soon as possible but alas the poor man did not wake up but died after only a few days.

"Shall we abandon the plans for the new building," Mr. Buskie, Jr was asked. "No," he replied, "we will still build it in honor of my father." And so Buskie Building was built and even to this day is a blessing to the institution.

In December, 1959, on Christmas Eve a group from Wildwood went up to Lookout Mountain and sang Christmas carols. We had a good time. While there we sang at the home of the Buskies. They invited us in and seemed so sweet and sincere. We really enjoyed our visit with them.

In the 1970's Rita Vital the Director of Communications claimed Buskie Up for her office work. Notifying the local newspapers of upcoming health events or lectures or outreaches, she created an awareness of Wildwood's ministries. Wildwood garnered attention from Prevention magazine and the local TV station who captured a bit of the social action at a Wildwood vegetarian Thanksgiving dinner. This gala occasion was held in the local community center for the campus and guests in the 1970's. The segment was later shown on the Chattanooga evening news.



Rita Vital and other Wildwood Staff



Tyndale, Huss and Jerome

Coming up from Buskie to the sidewalk running in front of Mission Manor, there are 3 cottages sitting in a row: **Tyndale**, then **Huss and Jerome** cottage, originally two apartments, side-by-side, with separate entrances. It was built for sanitarium guests who needed medical treatment but could care for themselves. Now it has been remodeled into a single worker's dwelling. Lastly, located along the sidewalk is **White Cottage** (mentioned earlier). If we move into the parking area and look to the west, there is a over-grown area of bushes that once provided a cozy spot for a small trailer called **Bethel**. Here lived Dr. Roby Sherman as a teenager, with her mother, a widower. Bill Sherman recalls the story of that trailer burning with all its contents when Roby was 13 years old. .. a traumatic experience.

The large home in this area is called **Hyder** (mentioned earlier). It is named after Miss Inez Hyder who donated the funds to build it. It has an interesting lay-out, built in the shape of a squared off U with a courtyard in the center. It once functioned as a student home because of its

size but now it is a single family dwelling almost. One wing has been remodeled into a single lady's apartment and the large basement was creatively remodeled to accommodate an apartment for a worker. Space is well utilized.

To the west of Hyder's lovely, large front yard is a "cute" cottage with hip-style barn roof. It's is not a large home but there is a wheel chair accessible-entrance to the second floor sleeping quarters from the ground level. This is named **Gracehaven**. When Larry and Patty Stapleton's first experience at homeheading was in 1979 in Hyder, several, maybe four girls lived in the home with them, and two or three young men lived in Gracehaven. They all ate together, students and workers preparing meals together in the Hyder kitchen. They learned and practiced gardening together in the Hyder garden, family-style. Precious lessons to be learned in a practical home-style setting.

There are many trails and trials at Wildwood. It seems that the trials are managed better after one takes a walk on a trail, where God can speak through nature giving wisdom to the troubled heart. Trails afford a place for reflection and de-stressing as one makes their way through the woods and weeds and over roots, noticing wild flowers or forest creatures scurrying around. Often things are put into perspective and peace is recovered.



One of these trails, once passed by Gracehaven, the source of it being at the foot of the hill below Hyder. As Lifestyle workers bee-lined home from work down the main hospital road, walking, they usually took the steep trail up the hill, with a straight shot, when no one was looking...through Hyder's front yard and the homes around. It was a great cardiac workout. You could pick up this particular trail by Gracehaven, as it meandered through the woods, opening into a small neighborhood of mobile homes. **Quiethaven** was the "period" ending the string of



Morningside 1966

homes along the lane. Sister Gladys Hadley lived in one called **Bethel**, the Callahans were rumored to have had a trailer there, with trailers on either side of them. Qualls in one, also. Dr. Jack Wheeler lived in **Morningside** at one time, in stories told to the author, and **Pleasantview** was home to the Drs. Marjorie and Bernell Baldwin. **Bethesda** was a small trailer housing Irvin and Julie Wells and their daughter. Later

as the dwelling aged, Roger Stone converted it into a "bachelor pad", acceptable to his liking. There was another mobile residence called **Edgewood** located in this mini-trailer park. Today, a double-wide trailer, **Whispering Pines**, takes up 2 spaces, brought there by the older couple, Dr. George and Verna Hamm, both of whom had the privilege of quietly passing away at home under the attentive care of people who



Drs. Marjorie & Bernell Baldwin
Wedding Christmas day 1960



Dr. George & Verna Hamm

loved them. During the earlier days of Wildwood, the Hamms

had re-trained in preventative medicine here at Wildwood Sanitarium and had joined several other missionary –minded physicians and their families to do dark county work in Kentucky. The Hamms’ journey took many turns until it turned back to Wildwood.

Across the lane from these mobile homes are currently three other mobile homes. Sharing the large yard and field with **Pleasant View** and **Sunlit** is Merna March’s well-kept mobile resident called **Skyview**. Merna had eight children back in the day and still has energy at age 90 or so, to steadfastly continue her work at our Country Store. Of course, it is just the right amount of work to keep her moving in a healthy way. As of April, 2017, Merna has since passed away, and is resting on Resurrection Hill. The mobile home next to Merna’s is one named **Mockingbird**. And next to Mockingbird is a small mobile residence called **Peachtree**. I believe Sr. Doris Moxley and her family brought that one here for Sr. Moxley to live in after her husband passed away. **Cozy Nook**, another trailer, found a spot near Sunnyside. Mabel Hartenstein may have been the original owner who moved it here.



Dr. Giglia Parker

Later, a young Ob-Gyn specialist, Dr. Gigi Parker, moved in. She delivered a number of babies in the new OB wing. When she left, it seemed that God wanted to keep the labor and delivery room open, and Dr. Marsha Franklin offered her services to the community. She also had a great interest in gardening and promoted a

concept called double- digging which the author has implemented on many occasions.



Dr. Marsha Franklin & Staff

Another mobile home in this neighborhood, closer to Hyder is called **Contentment**. Perhaps it arrived in the 1990’s. Marianos have surrounded it with productive fruit and vegetable gardens. If one continues to walk past Hyder up the road lined with shading trees, one older tree in its productive years would drop ripe persimmons. If you tasted them when they were very soft, like jam they would satisfy your sweet tooth. Some folks would collect large bagfuls during the harvest season when they would drop in abundance for a week or more. As with watermelon, there are the seeds to spit out. Wildwood is home to a shrinking number of productive wild persimmon trees. On the road next to Hyder’s field/garden is a newer house built by Herman and Doris in the late 90’s perhaps. Br. Lucas would grow a large, productive garden in the back area. He recently passed away and is quietly awaiting the resurrection on Resurrection Hill. Bill and Dr. Roby have lived in Sunlit after the Lucas’s moved closer to their children.



Herman & Doris
Lucas

Sunnyside is the large two story home full of stories of the scores of students and workers who “familied” together. At one time there were five bedrooms upstairs and at least one or two downstairs, plus Grandpa McGee’s former basement apartment.

Paul Anderson and Bill Boykin met in the army during the Korean war. While other soldiers mocked Bill for reading his Bible, Paul, who was dabbling into spiritualism, asked Bill some

genuine, searching questions about God. So Bill cultivated their friendship and endeavored to give sound Bible teaching to this seeker. When they got out of the army both of them eventually ended up coming to Wildwood. Bill's friendship and Bible work paid off. They both lived at Sunnyside and would share their homegrown garden peas with the ladies in Hillside Home.

During this era, about 1958, Nellie Miller Boykin as a single worker, was homeheading at **Hillside**. It had its challenges which would send her to her knees asking the Lord for wisdom to work with these other young ladies. Later, a 30 year old single mom, her little girl and baby boy moved in with the ladies. Nellie, single, really struggled to know how to help this young mother going through a recent divorce. At this time there was also an older lady that needed a place to live so everyone "moved over" in Hillside to give room to this older woman's need. Hopefully she had insight to offer to the distraught mother's needs.

Twin Cabin, located next to Hillside was built from materials that were collected from an abandoned "work camp" for the workers involved in building the Ocoee Dam located on the Ocoee River. Wildwood teachers and students dis-assembled the wooden buildings and hauled the materials back to Wildwood for building supplies. This was in the early 1940's in the World War II years when building supplies of any kind were in short supply. In 1973 when I came as a student, Twin Cabin was housing a single father and his little girl.



Twin Cabin 1966



Locust & Grasshopper 1966

A current male worker tells a story about arriving at Wildwood and moving into **Locust**, a home just a "breath away from the railroad tracks." The Atwoods were homeheading this standard-sized home; this is to contrast it with the smaller dwelling right next door, called **Grasshopper** which housed single people. This new student was ushered to the attic room where the only place to stand up straight was the center of the floor. When you are about six feet tall you probably meet with as many challenges as if you were a "shorty".

Later our adaptable student was moved into the Grasshopper, next door. This cottage also had its challenges as it was described as "rough and primitive." He had a tall, single male roommate, Jim Davidson. Today, our dear associate pastor, Herschel Hendley, has renovated and enlarged Grasshopper into a comfortable, attractive little dwelling. He has tuned out the sound of the train. As far as Locust history, it burned down.

Lake Edna is home to a variety of wildlife, from beavers and a large snapping turtle to Canada geese, water snakes, and a great blue heron who periodically comes to visit. It is a man-made lake fed by a stream and a dam barrier holding in the abundant stock of fish, etc. This earthen wall has a recently black-topped road running over it leading to Lakeview and other homes on "that side". John Jensen was the "earth-moving architect" who carved out the shape and depth of Lake Edna. It been the source of great



summer refreshing. There was a cement walk-way into the water or to a dock which was popularly visited by scenery-viewers. Eventually weather and age wore out the dock pillars and for several years the dock became a floating raft that many enjoyed sitting on, or diving off of into the dark waters. We had a rope swing that many a brave boy or

girl would grab hold of and sail out over the lake dropping into the wet below. Some just swung back to the shore and dropped off. Of course, there were the few accidents of rope burns and head concussions from hitting trees. So the days of the rope swing are over. But the canoe and kayak are there for a more relaxed experience on the water. The lake was named after Edna Schuster who gave the funds needed to build the dam.

Above the lake, on the hill, there used to be a residence called appropriately, **Lake Heights**. It was two mobile homes framed in between them to create a larger home. Rita Qualls recalls living there and hosting the Sunnyside home in a large picnic out on the front lawn with long tables. I'm sure there was much fresh garden produce for her husband, Earl Qualls is a master gardener with more than a green thumb. His wife as well. They have always had a large garden near to whatever campus home they have lived in. When it came time to remove this Lake Heights dwelling, it became the tuition-paying project for a group of young women and their mothers taking the Spanish-course work scholarship program. They looked like they were motivated as I saw them out there tearing down the drywall and posts, etc. with crow-bars and hammers, in their work skirts and smiles. It was impressive to see these ladies work with such determination.



1953 Mom Edna Schuster May

The neighbor to Lake Heights, up the lane a piece, is another small dwelling aptly named **Beehive**. It feels about that size if you are living there with several people. Larry Stapleton arrived in 1976 from Air Force service where everything was documented and detailed. When he arrived, the one person who knew that he was coming, was himself, gone on vacation. So there was a test of faith for Larry as someone scrambled to find him living quarters. Beehive was chosen since it had two rooms: one large room contained a single couple and that left the other large room for Larry, with a bathroom to share. So Larry drove his VW van with all his earthly possessions packed inside, over to Beehive and his van remained stuffed for two weeks. Larry lived in the one room and a young couple, Mack and Andrea Powell, lived in the room in the other half. Today an Indonesian family with two daughters have somehow “expanded” this dwelling, using creative remodeling skills in updating the bathroom and redesigning the kitchen and dining room. It was a good family project.

Right next door is **Orchard View** with a long history of many family and student residents. Larry eventually lived here with Bill and Roby Sherman. Roby was the Director of Nurses then, as well as running this student home.

The lane that runs to **Orchard View** stopped there, until in 2007, there began an aggressive building season. Fernando Ferreira discovered a potential spot for needed housing back in the woods beyond Orchard View. Two dwellings have been tucked away in the woods here. A duplex called **Forest View**, as the forest surrounds the dwelling, was completed first. Eva Peppel moved in, adding beautiful, lush flower gardens. A tornado swept through several years later with the only physical damage on campus being a large tree which fell across her flower beds and her two vehicles. Sadness. A second home was built, nestled into the woods near **Forest View** but can hardly be seen for the trees. The Jubea family have made this home setting conducive for raising their two girls. It has the non-descript name of “the Tennessee home” as it is situated just across the Georgia state line in Tennessee.



Orchard View

Heading back to Orchard View, one sees **Lighthouse** to the east. A former friend of Wildwood, Carolyn Bushnell built this house which has a modest Southern look to it in the white pillars framing the porch. She lived here and her daughter, Sally, was a student before that. Neighboring Lighthouse is **Bethel**, a cabin for single students or one couple. In the large yard shared by the Atwoods, along with the pastor's lovely gardens, there is a farm field. If one looks closely, he can discern some fruit trees holding their own in a section of the farm field near the woods. One or two trees have a unique fruit called jujubes which look like dates. They have a sweet taste. Next to the jujubes are one or two pear trees. Across the way, is a large home named **Treetop**, its bottom level named **Treetrunk**. Larry, who began his Wildwood experience in Beehive, did eventually move into Treetop when the Boykins were homeheads. Larry and Patty Stapleton were married in the front yard of Treetop when the apple orchard was still full and active and the family garden had flowers blooming. Nice setting for an August afternoon wedding outside.

If you like to walk the trails, especially ones that may not be kept up, there are two trails from the **Treetop** yard. One is easy to see and walk on and leads down a hill, opening up to the grassy area behind the hospital with a winding road meandering by. It leads to several residences in The Village. The second trail from Treetop has its origin in the woods on the opposite side of the home garden. This second obscure trail leads to the back yard of a residence called **Lookout View**. This was once a large home, usually for male students. Back in the 70's the Cliff and Donna Corbitt, with their two children and numerous young men as adopted boys, lived together. They probably canned scores of jars of summer foods in the kitchen during the muggy summer days. Later, Katie Carpenter, as a widow, moved into a remodeled apartment section attached to the house, facing the hospital. She added on a generous addition.



Dental Clinic

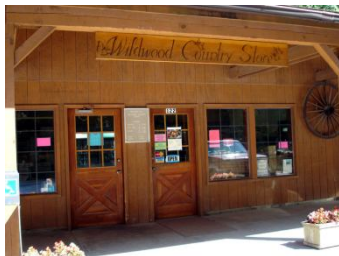
Below Lookout View is the former **Dental Clinic**, kindly built by Dr. J.C. Trivett. The workers really appreciated his services. I recall Dr. Edgar Reth being the second dentist to take Dr. Trivett's practice after he retired.

Currently this building houses a guest apartment and the **Herb Shop**.



Herb Shop/Book Store

Not far from the Herb Shop is one of the favorite places on campus,

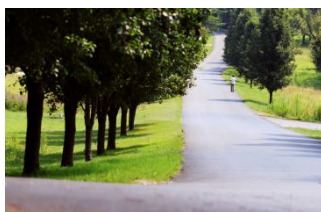


the **Country Store**. It originally began in a humble structure called **Supply**, located near the railroad tracks. As the campus population grew and businesses prospered, the commissary grew as well. Now it fills the current large building which serves customers, some who drive long distances to get the "good deals." Jeannette Atwood tells a wonderful story of the growth, development, and providences surrounding the commissary development and her 17+ years of service. She was not "schooled" in business but with her common sense know-how and God's blessing the two of them (God and Jannette) developed this into a million dollar business.

As one drives up Cardiac Hill (an informal name for the road to the Lifestyle Center, bestowed on it by lifestyle guests perhaps, or maybe



Wilbur & Jeanette
Atwood



by Dr. Baldwin describing the energy output and its benefits, you see the farm greenhouses on both sides of the road and the farm fields in the distance. As you crest the top of the hill, you see the long brick building on the left...the hub of campus activity. Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital. Sr. Ruth Moyer, an RN, worker, chaplain, and storyteller, recounts the wonderful providences, miracles, and prayers that built this structure. It is inspiring to hear. There were additional small structures built around the



larger one to meet various needs. There is the spa with the Jacuzzi (jet-spray bath), sauna, and two apartments called **Gardenview Apts.** All of these under one roof. The laundry is located underneath the spa. Kudos to the laundry team. While most facilities send their laundry out, ours' is home-washed and hand-folded and when you think about *all* the towels used in the two hydrotherapy departments plus the daily lifestyle needs... that's a lot of laundry to keep cycling through the "system". We praise God for faithful workers.



Ruth Moyer, RN

"Re-cycling". That's a popular word used today and it describes many various situations and commodities. At Wildwood we can use it to describe building usage, with a stretched definition. To illustrate, let's look at the small "cottage" behind the hospital. Currently named **Chipmunk**, it began as a storage for maintenance and grounds. Charles Hightower and Jerry Walker took on the re-cycling or remodeling project of turning it into an Herb Shop. They cleaned out the mold, dirt, and junk and rebuilt the whole thing. The herbs, for patient use, were kept in the hospital basement. They found a better home in this renovated location. This building has since been remodeled into the office for promotions or health emphasis weekends, advancement, seminars, and medical affairs. Now it's the office for three people doing a variety of tasks. Each group of workers adds its touch of décor.

Dr. Bernell, with his longing desire to conduct research and teach science, decided to design a structure to facilitate all these activities. Today it is called the "**Education Building**", originally called the Health Science Building. A unique, three and a half floor building, with skylights and many large windows catching sunrays and heat, has served multitudinous purposes and re-designing. If you enjoy tearing down walls, and building new ones, this is the place to display your skill. It has been a "rooms on the move" place. It is home to most of the administrative and education department offices, plus accounting, the Journal of Health and Healing, and the vital function of



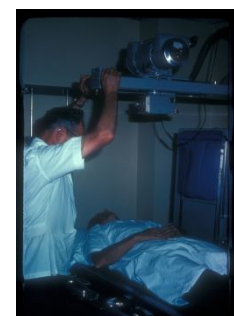
Education building

feeding people- the student cafeteria, which by the way, was located on the second floor. We kept students in shape hauling all the supplies up those stairs to the cafeteria. Even now, with the cafeteria on the first floor, there is a cold storage spot and pantry still on the second floor. We had to keep the exercise tradition built in, plus we ran out of space downstairs. If you enjoy interaction and activity, especially with young people, this is the place.

A brief mention of a dwelling now gone, is **Overlind**, the trailer where Cloyd Oxley and his wife, Dorothy, lived. She was a faithful nurse and he faithfully worked in the lab. They had a 2 sons, Dennis and (we can't remember the other's name)



Dorothy Oxley



Cloyd Oxley

and two daughters, Sharon and Frieda who married David Blood (he was part American Indian). Later their trailer housed the nice-sized (four children) family of Dr. Michael Olivier and eventually the name was changed to **Trailside**. Betty from Brazil lived there. She was energetic and applied her hands to planting a welcome sculpture of yellow flowers at the entrance to Wildwood up on the hill to the left. A large eye-catching “Welcome” in floral display, but flowers need watering, weeding, tending to and when the “birth mother” of a project leaves then sometimes the project suffers demise. So those flowers are gone. Other arrangements have appeared as our landscape artist, William O’Grady designs and plants them around campus. As time and age take their toll, the trailer, Overlind, or Trailside, did as well and was laid to rest in a dumpster



LIGHT Building

A German pastor was inspired with the idea of every church member being trained as a medical missionary. Others, as well, contributed to making the vision a reality and, voila, the LIGHT ministry was born and with it the needed housing or offices. Under James Hartley’s direction the building site was carved out of the knoll next to the Lifestyle Center and a simple, attractive, and modest sized building was erected. The Lord blessed with Mark Findley and Ed Wright, the Georgia-Cumberland president, here for the dedication of the LIGHT building. Even though there are

just a handful of administrators working inside, the results of their organizing are that thousands of people are receiving the basics in natural remedies and Christian living, these essentials that Jesus gave his disciples to share.

Neighbor to the LIGHT building is the **Log Cabin** It was built by Garwin McNeilus for the care of his father, Linden McNeilus who wanted to be close to the Wildwood Hospital and doctors in his declining years. Linden and his sweet wife, Camille, enjoyed four years in the Log Cabin before Linden was laid to rest. Later the Baldwin's lived in this log house for a number of years until Dr. Marjorie passed away.

If you follow the lane from the Log Cabin it bears to the left, or west, and you will see Whippoorwill Ridge and Shiloh. This one lane road dead-ends at the three duplexes. From left to right, facing them, they are named Sunset, Serenity, and Sunrise. The only original resident, out of the possible six residences, is our faithful Lilya Gabor, who immigrated here from Azerbaijan. Perhaps, after traveling all those miles and experiences, she is grateful to sit quietly in Sunrise with her two dogs for company. She expends loads of energy, expertise, and love to her patients that receive her treatments in women’s hydro. These three duplexes comprise a community of mostly single people.



Whippoorwill Ridge

As you leave this cul-de-sac, the winding lane returns to the Log Cabin but right before you reach their driveway, you can turn left and drive or walk past the RV park. It has often been filled to capacity. Directly before us is the men’s dormitory, Castleview. A simple but attractive, frame structure with six dorm rooms, a large living room, noticeably no kitchen for the students, and a dean’s apartment.

Years before the dorm, this was the site of another mobile home brought in by Dr. LeRoy and Ruby Coolidge, founders of Takoma Hospital in Greeneville, Tennessee. They chose Wildwood as the place they wished to spend their last retirement years. Starting on April 14, 1947

Wildwood and Takoma Hospital worked very closely together, sharing in the training of R.N.'s and L.P.N.'s. Nellie Boykin is one of those graduates of the joint partnership.

After the Coolidges had both passed away, Bill and Dr. Roby Sherman moved in. Their cozy place faced Lookout Mountain to the north and they could see the "Castle in the Clouds" on top. This large impressive castle was once an impressive hotel, now a part of Covenant College. It describes the view for our residences and thus their name. Hopefully the dwellers are thinking about their "mansion" in heaven!

If one follows the trail from Castlevue through the woods near the highway, you will discover the one Wildwood home that has its access from Highway 11, **Valleyview**. One resident stated that it should be named "No View" as the trees limit your vision of anything around; it's just leaves in your face! Numbers of families and students have dwelt here. There is an apartment downstairs. Dr. Albert Patt and his energetic wife, Donna, the originator and motivator of the Veg-a-Way weight loss program, lived here in the 1970's as they conducted their Veg-a-Way program for lifestyle guests.

An area on this side of the campus that is tucked away behind the **Education building**, is discovered along the winding lane from behind the Lifestyle Center. It curves past the lush growth of vegetation, taking a dip down into this area, and meanders past a modestly large **Quadrplex**, sometimes called the **Quad**, to the left, sitting prominently on a hill. Its official name is **Tranquility**, which is much more appealing than Quad but has so many more syllables for people in a hurry. We are all very thankful that the road paving project included their pot-hole rutted, third world drive-way. Now it's a delight to cruise up the driveway to the place. There are four apartments, each with two bedrooms. During some medical seminars, one resident has moved out to allow seminar guests to use her apartment. This is an international residence with a Russian mother and daughter, a newlywed (2015) couple blending the U.S. and Latvian cultures, a Korean family, and a Panamanian single woman.

A glance to the right of the lane reveals a village of new "cabins" and homes, all eight named after birds. The three cabins, **Hummingbird** (first), **Wren** (middle), **Finch** (third) were the first to be built as single workers' homes. Of the four larger houses blocked together, two of the families are busy caring for relatively new babies. In **Bluebird**, the house on the upper right corner, the Ukrainian grandmother is happy to assist Helen, her daughter, and America son-in-law, Jason, in the care of the almost year old now (2015), daughter. Next door to them is the Espinal family bursting with the energy of three boys. Their home is named **Dove**. In front of and situated below their house is the house named **Cardinal**, home to a couple that came as single students, became workers, became interested in each other which lead to a courtship, marriage, and a new home to live their new life together. Next door to them is the house called **Robin** and the Brazilian family, Godinho, live here. Ivanda's mother is here because a baby boy was born in June 2015. His older sister, Talitha, is fourteen years old and baby brother is her delight and for her parents, a surprise. As one walks back toward Tranquility, you will see the larger home at the entrance to this village, called **Meadowlark**. Currently, at this time, it is vacant.

If you turn to the right and follow the lane mostly up and around, you will come to a fork in the road. The loved and hospitable Chuljian family had much in-put into the building of this special home and the development of the blueberry patch with its abundant berries, the kiwis, large vegetable garden area, and a small family business that propagated and sold blueberry plants. At one time there were even goats and maybe chickens. When Chuljians moved to Butler Creek, the

Brazilian Santos family took on the thriving activities but they are now responding to God's call to do something for Him in their homeland. The best thing to do with what you have learned is to share it. And God knows where we need to be with what He has blessed us with. This home is appropriately called **Happy Haven**.

If you head away from the house, down their driveway and meet the other arm of the "y" in the lane, follow it to the Sparrows' small "homestead". The large storage or work buildings in the area are the "expertise" of John Jensen whose years of maintenance activity, frugality, and creative invention lead to saving many supplies, tools, and equipment that he stored here. The house is one that he helped to construct or supervise, in his late 80's. Currently our president, Vaughan Sparrow, a South African farmer at heart, is living here, keeping his thumb green, the students instructed in creative gardening methods, and his administrative responsibilities "rolling". Magda, his wife, must de-stress in the garden activity as she oversees elderly care. Our dear Jean Atherton, wife of Herb Atherton, who played key administrative roles here at Wildwood and other institutions, lives under the watch care of Sparrows in her 90 plus years of life. She still likes to drive on campus to visit friends. Sparrows' home is called **Tranquil Lane House**.

The Tennessee Side of Campus or "The Hollow"

As we cross the railroad tracks and hasten through the tunnel, the story is told that the tunnel has not always been here of course. So the interstate that runs over the tunnel was once mostly wooded forest like the landscape around it. And "back in the day" there was a structure called **Pine Cabin** quietly resting where the freeway is currently. As one steps out of the tunnel, to the right is a small hill covered in a growth of trees and bushes, and hidden in here is an ascending series of railroad tie steps that ease the climb up the steep hill if you choose that route. At top of the steps there used to be a wire fence with a stile built over it. A stile is a set of steps or ladder built over something to enable walkers to climb up and over to the other side of a fence or wall. If you follow the right path through the woods, you will come into the clearing of the little dark red **Wildwood Rural School**. As well as schooling the children in the rooms upstairs there is an apartment downstairs. It used to be the home of the resident teacher. Today it is called **Hickory** and is the cozy apartment for a single lady worker. May Hills has developed the challenging backyard area into a lovely garden spot with an outdoor lunch spot.

In the 1970's, the elementary school was a bustling hive of learning and energy as about 40 children, in school desk rows, with their teacher aides, carried out a Bible-based curriculum, the brain-child of Ethel Wood. She was a scholar herself and



Wildwood Rural School

was inspired to put every subject into a Bible format. She wrote and printed all her text books into spiral-bound format. Each child would study at his own pace through each subject. There was also an elementary school garden which was accessed by a downhill path opening up into a nice cleared field affording sunlight for the plants. The leaf mold was gathered out of the woods and sifted to make a rich soil-builder for each child's garden. As one takes a look around, you realize that you are in what Southerners call the "Holler" (or Hollow). The other way to get to this area of campus is to follow the road from the tunnel and runs parallel to the interstate.

Along the elementary school road, as one leaves, there use to be a mobile home tucked in the woods. You can probably see the remnant of building there. This was called **Sunburst**. That means nothing to most people on campus now, but to the folks who remember when Sunburst was inhabited, then its location resurrects all the families and stories that lived, laughed, and cried within its walls. One family who lived there was Pearl Taylor and her husband, Dean. He was a practical industrial man. He went on a mission trip to New York City to help with the remodeling efforts for the new vegetarian restaurant opening there. Pearl said that when he came home he acted differently having been influenced by the city atmosphere. But given time he returned to his more genuine self. Just an interesting observation of what beholding does to us!



Cedarhaven

As one follows the road into the Hollow, the first home straight ahead on the curve is **Cedarhaven**. Earl and Rita Qualls have been the most recent residents. As like other families, they have lived in a variety of homes on campus: Shadybrook, Lake Heights, over by Quiet Haven in a mobile home, and Cedarhaven. Earl was one of the two physical therapists at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga for a brief time. Earl said that he worked on the floor doing exercises with the patients and the other therapist was the guy in charge. I imagine

this was preparing Earl for working at Wildwood. They returned to Wildwood where he has faithfully worked as our men's physical therapist, hydrotherapist, master gardener and herbalist, lay pastor, and self-studied theologian. He is now retired but still keeping active. Rita, his wife, has stood by his side, working in the nursing department, at the hospital back in the day, and carrying on as an industrious homemaker and gardener.

The lane that diverges off to the right, past Cedarhaven, is called Birdfoot Lane. It passes a spot of ground on the left, next to the former elementary school garden (now Qualls garden area), and there sat another one of those small mobile homes, called Happy Hollow. It's really not the size of the dwelling but the mindset or attitude of its occupants that makes it a "Heaven on earth".

Gordon Jura tells the story of the two ladies, Dorothy Johnson and her sister Frances Duman (later marrying Desmond Doss) who were moving out of Happy Hollow the day that Gordon and Rhonda Jura were moving in. Talk about logistics. Now Juras live off campus in another larger mobile home called **Pine Nook**. They are blessed with a good sized yard that allows for a good sized garden. They grew so many butternut squash in 2014 that Gordon drove around campus with his car trunk loaded with squash, generously sharing with different families on campus.

His wife, Rhonda, came into the Adventist message as a young girl through the visitations and local evangelistic outreach of the New England Church and Bill Dull. She has served in self-supporting work in Colorado, Central America, and again at Wildwood Institute. We never know where or how God's path will lead us.

If we follow Birdfoot Lane to its end we rest in the driveway of **Linda Vista**. Hilda King built this home for her retirement years. She is resting on Resurrection Hill and the home she provided has blessed many families since. It took some remodeling/ renovating just recently. Once isn't enough. Just as with our bodies, there is always need of continual maintenance and upkeep. It always requires time and sometimes money but it is always worth it. Currently Ruben and Tania Olm from Brazil are living there. Ruben is serving as Administrator and Tania as Herb Shop Manager.

Back to the main road in the Hollow, we can see Earl's large garden on the right side of the road. As you round the bend in this road coming into the hollow, on the left, is a narrow spot of field

where, you guessed it, there used to be a mobile home, appropriately named **Fieldshaven**. Pop Fields lived here with his dear wife. The home is now gone with the residents and their stories. There is another story though attached to this spot. Dorothy Johnson, who was moving out of Happy Hollow the day that Juras were moving in, operated a book binding ministry out of an old school bus on this very spot. I had some books and a Bible rebound by them and was very pleased with the work.

Moving along to the large field next to Pop's place, there was a mobile home, **Glenhaven**, positioned so that the front door faced the field and not the road. May Steensma and her young daughter, Nancy, lived there in the early 1970's, then Wilbur and Jannette Atwood lived there when I came in 1973. Later it was removed and the field became a junk yard or grave yard for anything with four wheels. Thankfully Fernando Ferreira took on the project of making sure everything got hauled away, much to our delighted eyes.

Just as you are about to walk or drive up the steep hill in front of you, to your left is another open grassy spot that once housed a mobile home residence called **Shadybrook**. There is the railroad track running up above on a hill right near the residence. Darrell Atwood told about a fire that broke out on that hill one day, perhaps ignited by the train wheels throwing sparks into the dry brush. It took some team work to extinguish it.

Let's follow the road around the curve to the right. Instead of going up the hill, bear to the right and you see the large grassy area managed largely by Charles Hightower who lives there with his wife, Jennifer and daughter, Johanna. This house is named **Elmshaven**. The original farm house here burned down in the 1960's and the current dwelling was built in its place. More recently, in the last 10 years a tree fell on the garage and destroyed the roof which was promptly repaired.

Warren Wilson and Loretta lived here for many years when he was the president of Wildwood. There is a modest-sized barn near Elmshaven that was home to the dairy cows back in the 40's and 50's, maybe into the 60's but the **desire** for cow's milk waned as more information was published about it's undesirable effects on the human body. Today (2015) the barn shelters a thousand small blueberry plants in pots.



Beachdale

As you continue up this dirt road past Elmshaven and the large garden next to the road, you will see to the right a white ranch-style home nestled in some trees on a small hill. This is **Beechdale**. It must be the kind of trees that give its shade and its name. When Larry Stapleton was beginning his courtship with Patty, he lived at Beechdale, and the homeheads, wanting to make their first "date" enjoyable, set up two comfortable living room chairs in front of a crackling fire, creating a comfortable atmosphere. It must have helped as they eventually got

married. If you follow the small dirt lane past Beechdale you pass the former saw mill on the right. It now sits quietly retired from all the action of past days.

Follow the narrow winding dirt lane farther and it opens up to a clearing where once stood **Pinehaven**, formerly a large student home. It was designed and built by John Jensen. The center focus of the home was the large living room, with large dining area and kitchen all surrounded by large windows opening the view to the forest around it. This was an ideal layout for a lot of activity involving people, food



Louise Jensen in
Pinehaven

preparation, canning, as well as sewing and other projects requiring space to spread out. From this area of the house you found the stairs leading up to the second floor bedroom. There was also a bathroom on the first floor. So, extending from this central “hub” on the first floor were two wings extending out like the letter V. The student and worker bedrooms each had their own outside door, so it looked like a motel. Some may recall that there was a large bell stationed at Pinehaven that was used to call residents for meals.

As the years rolled on, the needs changed and these bedrooms were remodeled into two apartments where smaller and larger families have lived. Alas, one day the house burned down. Thankfully no people were physically there, but the possessions were, and two families suffered some great loss. The campus tried to meet some of the needs. As we turn from the scene we realize that someday all of our earthly goods are going to be burned up. Hopefully we are now laying up treasure in heaven.

Following the dirt road from Pinehaven and past Beechdale, we intersect with the road leading



Oak Cabin

on up to **Oak Cabin** and its neighboring structure, across the road, called **Acorn**. Oak Cabin was one of the original buildings existing on the property when Dr. Hayward leased it to the Frazee Company for a missionary training outpost on January 15, 1942. The cabin was built in a cross shape and has fared well the weathering of time.

Nellie Miller (Boykin) lived there with the Frazees in the 50's.

Acorn, across the road, was originally built to house chickens but if your resources are limited and the needs are great, you use what is

available, and the chicken coup was converted into a people residence. Nellie shares this excerpt about Acorn in her biography:

“Bill lived there with my brother, Danny Miller, for a short time after Bill came back from the Army. He arrived back in December 1956 and moved to Acorn in the early part of 1957. Danny and Norma lived there in 1966. They added a room on the place at that time and they homeheaded two young men for a while. Later they took a mentally ill patient instead but that didn't work out too well. They only lived there a little less than a year.”

Bill and Roby Ann Sherman lived there in the 1970's. Bill recalled that a single mother and her young toddler son needed a place and their great need touched Shermans' hearts so they decided that they could make space in the already small living quarters to accommodate this single parent. In these cramped settings God has an opportunity to enlarge our hearts if we allow Him to expand our minds through His grace. This was not a long “experiment.”

Lew and Darlene Keith also once lived in Acorn. Lew remembers when snow knocked out the electric power the first year they were here, 1996, living in the kudzu patch around Acorn. Earl Qualls recalls the event also. There were leaves on the trees, he said. It was March 14 and for at least five days they were without power. The Keiths knew that the Qualls did not have any other source of heat than electric so Lew invited them to stay at Acorn where they had a wood stove. With all their warm bodies in one small location surely they'd stay warm! So Qualls must have been cold enough because they took Keiths up in the offer and they all lived together for one week. Lew said it was a blessing to get to know them.

That “electrically powerless” Sabbath in the hollow, inspired the Boykins to have a power-filled church service in Linda Vista where they were living at the time. This is practical Christianity.

If you look closely at the road at Oak Cabin and Acorn, it seems to disappear into the kudzu. You will find that it winds its way up the steep hill to the very top. This dirt road was the only one that folks used to drive up to the top until in the 1990's. Around this time, Elder Frazee and Dona (Steensma) Paulin engaged a good neighbor and friend, W.B. Chambers, to cut another road, more easily navigated, from the bottom of the hill. This is the "bottom of the hill" where you would have found **Shadybrook** trailer on the left, nestled in the clearing with the railroad tracks running on the hill just above the trailer. The trailer is gone now. But this juncture, at the bottom of the hill, is on the main hollow road and splits in two directions. You can head up the hill on W.B. Chambers road work or you can follow around to the right and head to Oak Cabin. You can see the more popular road is clear and kept up. The kudzu patch around Acorn has largely swallowed up the Oak Cabin road.

Elder Frazee and Helen, his wife, used to hike up a steep trail near Oak Cabin to the very top where there was a good spot to camp. There was a small rustic cabin there which they later gradually improved and added onto, until it was a cozy home for two. They had appropriately named this house **Forest**, to be pronounced "For Rest". Paul and Louise Eirich enjoyed the living there soon after their marriage in 1964. Elder Frazee and Helen lived in Crestview (see next paragraph).

Across the road from Forest stood a 2-story home named **Crestview**, built in the early 1960's.



Crestview in
background

The Frazees were the first homeheads at Crestview. They lived on the 2nd floor where Elder Frazee established his office, a bedroom for he and his wife, a bedroom for their daughter, Rebekah, and a bathroom. On the 1st floor there was a large living/dining room with a picture window and a stunning view of the valley and of Lookout Mountain, a large kitchen, and two bedrooms and a bathroom for students. The partial basement had a large wood stove with

ducting to carry heat to all parts of the house.

When the Frazees moved to Eden Valley, Colorado, for two year 1968-1970, Wayne and Mavis Dull were homeheads at Crestview. Elder Frazee served as President at Eden Valley, and left Wayne Dull to lead out as Executive Vice President of Wildwood. In 1970 they switched places. Wayne Dull moved to Eden Valley as President, and Elder Frazee returned to Wildwood, moving into Forest. By 1972 May Steensma moved into Crestview with Dona, who then lived in the upstairs of Crestview and served as secretary to Elder Frazee in his office, which was still there. Elder Frazee, Sister Helen, May and Dona worked as a team managing Crestview as a student/single worker home, care home for elderly, always growing a large garden. May and Dona took turns driving the Frazees to his speaking appointments at camp meetings, youth meetings, and Conference workers' meetings all over North America. Sadly, Crestview burned in 1989. Forest home had burned in 1987. Sister Helen had passed in 1986. Elder Frazee and May Steensma were married in 1987, living at Crestview. So with the burning of Crestview, Elder Frazee and May moved into a motorhome parked at the Forest site, and Dona moved into an older motorhome parked next to them.

Among the workers who had lived at Crestview were Larry and Diana Fleming. They came to us from Oak Haven in Michigan. Here is where the Flemings first tried out doing restaurant ministry, a small successful venture in Fort Payne, Alabama. With that success, they were invited to take on management of Wildwood's restaurant and health food store in Chattanooga known as Foods for Life on Ringgold Road. The Lord provided a large home and a few other buildings on

a property about a mile from Wildwood where the Flemings became homeheads for the restaurant ministry in Chattanooga. They called it Country Life Ranch.

God richly blessed the work of the Flemings in the restaurant ministry. They changed the name from Foods for Life to Country Life Restaurant, and moved it into larger quarters closer to a higher traffic area of Ringgold Road. From there the Flemings moved on to establish restaurant ministries in New York City.

Our Chattanooga vegetarian restaurant ministry was carried on for many years after the Flemings left, but in recent years was not sufficiently successful to maintain and it was closed. Today Country Life Ranch serves as extended campus housing as needed.

“Fire! Fire on **Sunset Hill**! All able bodied persons come help us fight the fire.” It was April 2, 1958 and the weather had been very dry. The trains that run through the Wildwood property on the way to Nashville have been become notorious for sparking fires on our property!

As soon as we heard the call as many of us as were able quickly made our way to a truck that was heading up the road to go as far as possible toward the fire. We all worked hard and as fast as possible making fire trails, taking wet bags to fight the fire and doing what we could. With all working we finally got it out about sunset. We were hot, dirty and sweaty but thankful that the Lord had helped us.” This short story about the fire was shared by Nellie Boykin.

As you walk past the remains of the burned out Crestview, and looking about, a tractor, sheltered in a shed may be seen and a large path through the trees will open up into a yard surrounding a nice ranch-style frame home as well as a smaller dwelling to the right of the larger house. The smaller dwelling, known as Ridgeview, was built by Wilbur Atwood in the 1980’s as a garage to move into while he would build a house beside it. The house never materialized and the Atwoods moved elsewhere. So when Forest burned, Elder Frazee moved into Ridgeview, still as a garage apartment. Later, after he married May Steensma, they lived together at Crestview. After Crestview burned, Elder Frazee and May took up residence in Ridgeview with Dona living in a motor home parked next to it.

Here is where Ulla Hansen came to visit from Maine, and decided there needed to be a proper home built for Elder Frazee’s care in his senior years with Parkinson’s Disease. She organized fund-raising and a Maranatha-like team of workers to build the Frazee home just beyond Ridgeview in a beautiful meadow with a view of Racoon Mountain peak and the ridge running west toward Nickajack Reservoir 15 miles away. The Frazees and Dona moved into it in 1993. This home proved a blessing sent from heaven via Ulla Hansen for the retirement ministry of Elder Frazee in the closing three years of his life. He passed away in 1996.

After Elder Frazee’s passing, May Steensma Frazee, affectionately known to all Wildwood staff and workers as Aunt May Frazee, devoted her full time to the work of Pioneers Memorial and filling orders for W.D Frazee sermons. In 1999 she accepted the responsibility of caring for Geraldine Foote which lasted for the next 7 years! Harvey and Geraldine Foote had been singing evangelists with the Frazee Company in Oklahoma and Louisiana. Later Harvey Foote would serve as General Manager of Wildwood for about 12 years in the 1940s and 1950’s. Now Harvey had died in their home in Loma Linda, California, and when Geraldine could no longer care for herself, she wanted to go back to Wildwood. She thrived in May’s home for seven years, and quietly passed in 2006.

Dear Aunt May, who had faithfully cared for the elderly in her home for over 30 years, soon needed care herself. What a blessing it was that Wildwood could provide students to care for her

in her own home until she quietly passed on February 20, 2016. A true Mother-in-Israel, she nurtured the students who cared for her in the love of Jesus for them personally, in praise and prayer, teaching them how to claim the promises of God in daily life. Hers was the quiet, consistent life of a true Christian!



Mountainview

Following the dirt road that brought you to the mountain top, it will take you through the woods from the Frazee home to the aptly named home at the end of the road, **Mountainview**. There is a nice large yard with ample space for a garden. The Athertons first lived here with students. I

remember Liz Hall walking nearly every day to work at the new lifestyle center. Most students and workers walked everywhere then, as I recall. Of course there was need of vehicles for various reasons but we were much more exercised then. Many homeheads followed the Athertons. Bob and



Athertons

Jeanne Payne lived here more recently. It is an ideal location for absorbing the ideas and energies of children and it greatly blessed the Paynes' four young ones who spent much time outside. In recent years, the three bedrooms in one end of the house were remodeled into a small apartment where Gus and Dona (Steensma) Paulin now live. The larger end houses Jesse and Kristen Ravencroft with their baby daughter, Hannah, and Kristen's father, Gleason Appling.

Someone else who had a lot of energy was Jere Franklin who was here first as a student (as I recall) in the 1970's. He was older than most students, with leadership skills and energy. He taught a class in how to build a log cabin in the woods northeast of Ridgeview. Just a basic structure with no plumbing but a protection from the elements and a wood stove to use. It has been used for quiet get-away time for staff and students. Elder Frazee held a number of leadership retreats there for a few years. Pastor Atwood used this primitive location to give a seminar in true education. Students would gather for the day lectures, bring a lunch, and walk home in the late afternoon. It was a blessed experience to be surrounded by nature, the bird sounds, and to let the spirit of God speak through these lesson books to one's heart and mind.

As you walk down the mountain road today, you may be met by a group of deer who will often stand curiously by and watch you walk by. It just depends on how far away you all are. They have learned that this territory is a "safe haven" as hopefully many other people have found in coming here for all kinds of healing.

Wildwood is a safe place for the sin-sick soul. Especially in nature and on the trails, God likes to meet us with the "treatments" we need. As you near the bottom of the hill, to the left, is a clearing where once there was, you guessed it, another mobile home. This one was named **Trail**



Elizabeth Hall



Jere Franklin's log cabin. In picture is Gordon Gilkes, Bill Sherman, Ernie Rainda

Inn. It was placed there by LeRoy and Eulene Borton for their family of three children. Trail Inn was home to many others for many years. LeRoy was a paraplegic due to a terrible car accident, but he has been a great inspiration to many with numerous industrial skills to share as well. Eulene was blessed with a voice for singing and composing music. She sang with many of the female singing groups at Friday night vespers, and has made a number of vocal recordings.

Speaking of the beneficial effects of nature which includes gardening, we should mention several locations on campus that “specialized” in this sort of treatment. One was the grape vineyard that was located behind Hyder, covering quite a bit of the area where Sunlit now sits.

Over near Treetop you see a large open field where currently there is a grove of persimmon and Asian pear trees, occupying the lower left quadrant. But back in the day, was it Brad Thorpe whose father donated scores of apple saplings and all these trees were planted from Orchard View home over to Treetop’s front yard. I guess Brad would have had to stay all these years to tend them if they were still to be thriving now, but God sends people to tend other parts of His vineyard.

Mac Powell, who was here in the 1970’s, came because the idea of a community effort to live together peaceably, appealed to him. He may have been studying this message but his wife had accepted it. Mac enjoyed gardening and someone reminded me that he was the one that planted the field above Lakeview Dorm (and below Treetop) with blueberry bushes. But neither did Mac stay to tend the work of his hand and they too have died away.

We can be thankful that God is so faithful to tend the garden in our hearts to produce fruit to please Him. The last notable spot of the numerous garden and farm areas, was the location of the prolific sweet potato patch. God had other plans for that prime food-producing location and this became the ground upon which the new lifestyle center was built. It is not a city, but a sanitarium, set on a hill, to give light to those ready to receive it.

God is our great heavenly Father and Gardener ready to restore us to what we were originally intended to be, if we will submit to the refining process. To Him it’s worth it. May we, as all the residents whose stories we have mentioned, respond to the call of His grace.

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