# Keep Aged Cemetery in Good Array

On a hill on Franklin road, south of the old village section, is Franklin cemetery which came into being three years after Elijah Bullock, one of the first settlers, came in 1824.

It is a beautiful spot with shrubs and towering trees and its well-kept grounds reflect the years of care bestowed upon it.

Funds for the maintenance of this old cemetery have come in part from the township, although this income ($300) ceased when Franklin incorporated as a village this year.

THE BALANCE has come from a group of women known as the Franklin Cemetery Association Women's Auxiliary, who through-out the years have worked to-gether on many projects to raise money for the upkeep of the village burial grounds.

The auxiliary's latest effort was the annual bazaar, held last week Thursday at the home of Mrs. Kenneth Bristol, Bingham road, Franklin.

ETHEL BASSETT, auxiliary treasurer, reported that more than $100 was realized from this year's sale of handmade articles, baked goods, jams, jellies and candy.

Franklin cemetery, now comprising about five acres, was but one acre originally when Bullock, who owned the land, deeded that acre to Josiah Barkley in 1827 for use as a burying place.

The first burial, according to Bert Wood, Franklin historian, was that of a man named Warner in 1829. Warner was a brother-in-law of Dillucena Stoughton, another first settler of Franklin.

The second burial in 1831, and the first to be marked with a gravestone, was that of William Houston, the first merchant of Franklin.

About 1851 Benjamin and Charlotte Worthing purchased adjoining property and gave the cemetery's first addition to the original acre. Worthing, then justice of the peace, named the first board of trustees to be responsible for the property: Melvin Drake, Cyrenius Wood, Solomon Whitney, George B. Congleton and Harvey Judd.

The board organized into a corporate body and the Franklin Cemetery Association was born. Its earliest still recorded business meeting taking place in 1852. In that early account, it is noted that the sexton was to be paid one dollar for digging a grave.

The cemetery association still handles sale of cemetery lots, although there are but few left, for the cemetery can no longer expand its present limits.

Present officers of the association are Mrs. Will Forman, Walnut Lake, president; John Gillette, Wing Lake, vice president; Kenneth Bristol, Franklin, secretary treasurer and board members Clayton Currin, James Bowden and Mrs. Russell Pickering of Franklin; Dale Spicer and Augustus O'Dell of Birmingham. William Fraser is sexton and caretaker.

Buried in the cemetery are two soldiers from the War of 1812; 24 from the Civil War; three from the Spanish-American War; nine from World War I; seven from World War II and a national guardsman.

In July, 1940, the Franklin Cemetery Association Women's Auxiliary was organized with Sarah E. Sly, president; Mattie Cummings, vice president; Ethel Whatley, recording secretary; Mrs. Bethune D. Bigelow, treasurer and Mrs. Herbert J. Broughton, auditor.

Sarah Sly resigned within a few weeks and her sister, Addie, appointed in her place, served and guided the group for many years as president.

While the prime function of the auxiliary was the maintenance of the burial grounds, sociability was not forgotten. The ladies met one Thursday a month for a "cooperative dinner". There were no regular dues, but a "table collection of ten cents or more" was expected from each member.

Present members of the auxiliary still meet once a month for a cooperative dinner—only now they call them potlucks—and the table collection has been raised to the tune of 50 cents per member.

The early auxiliary group was responsible for some long-cherished projects. A high board fence in which enclosed the cemetery property was replaced with an ornamental iron fence. The present auxiliary had the fence painted this year.

The old time, family-style dinners are still talked about and the cook book they put out in 1941 is still used by some.

There are 97 members currently on the auxiliary. Its officers are Mrs. Kenneth Gerow, Birmingham, president; Mrs. Kenneth Bristol, Franklin, vice president; Mrs. Le Roy Garside, Birmingham, secretary, and Miss Ethel Bassett, Birmingham, treasurer.

MRS. KENNETH BRISTOL MODELS AN APRON
Mrs. Don Brownlee sits at window. (Eccentric Photo)

## Alumnae Plan Party

Jack Barry's in Royal Oak. Plans were discussed for the Christmas party for the group's adopted ward at Northville State Mental hospital.

North Woodward Alumnae of Zeta Tau Alpha were entertained Wednesday at the home of Mrs.


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## To Say Vows In December

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Barbara Ann Behn to Paul Prescott Robarts, Jr. The bride-elect is the daughter of Dr. Claud W. Behn of Fairfax lane and the late Mrs. Behn. Paul is the son of Paul T. Robarts of Oklahoma City and the late Mrs. Robarts.

Barbara was graduated from Kingswood school and Centenary Junior college in New Jersey, where she was affiliated with Sigma Gamma. Her fiance was graduated from the University of Oklahoma and is attending the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, Austin, Texas.

Plans are being made for a late December wedding.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.


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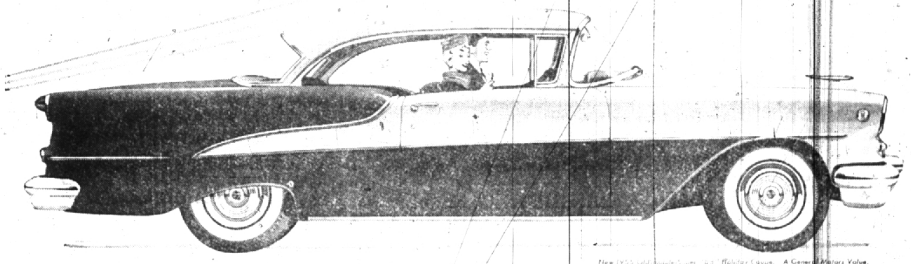

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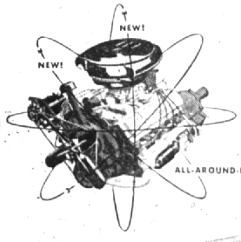


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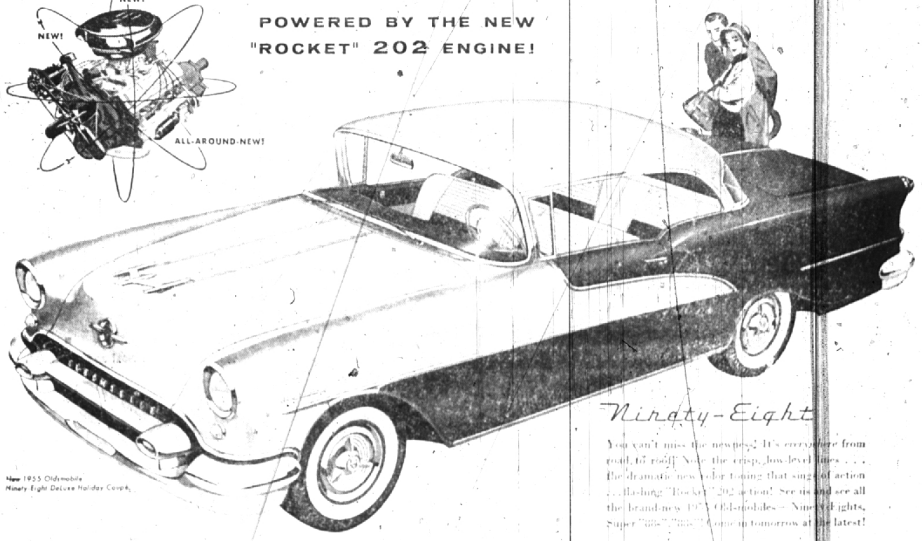

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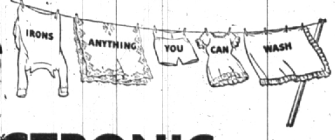


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