

John Schell

Side 1:

[1/1] He was born in 1922 and with the exception of his time in the service in WWII has lived in Asheville. He attended Murray Hill School (off of South French Broad and Vernell Ave.). [1929 Asheville City Directory: Murray Hill School, 46 Tiernan, Mrs. E. B. Monroe principal] It was condemned and he transferred to the Newton School. He walked or went on street car. He attended Newton through 3rd through part of the 5th and transferred to Aycock School when family moved to West Asheville.

[1/21] Newton School was built in 1922 and he remembers the principal (see file). Originally Union Hill Academy was, with several other buildings, on this location. For several years the school ceased to exist and the city, in agreement with the trustees, built and opened Newton. It operated until 1982 when, due to integration, the school was not large enough to accommodate the number of children required [however Jesse Ray's children attended - see his tape re: integration. The school building was said to be unsafe when it was closed suddenly during the school year of 1982.]. The land was leased from the Stevens' Family Trust. When the city was unable to use the building it was turned back to the trust. The trust stipulated that the land be used to operate a school. Jack, head of the trust and a member of the Community Foundation Board (see Imogene "Cissie" Stevens tape), devised legal means for the land to be given to the Community Foundation which could sell a portion of the school property and use the proceeds for educational purposes. [Mrs. Mabel Snowden, Jack Stevens]

[1/60] The Newton Cemetery, started in 1818, was part of the Stevens Family Trust property. A court order was necessary to sell the school property and: 1. restore the cemetery and set aside funds for maintenance in perpetuity; 2. establish an endowment trust for educational purposes (see tape by Imogene "Cissie" Stevens) with funds from sale of property.

[1/87] The Stevens Family Trust was established by William Forster in 1803 to be used for educational purposes. The cemetery was not established at that time but when it was he was buried there. The Union Hill Academy, on the property, changed its name to Newton Academy in honor of Newton, the first head master and Presbyterian minister who served in this area. [William Forster (Forster-Stevens scholarship award see p. 17, 1992 Annual Report enclosed), George Newton]

[1/108] Foundation was approached in 1984. The property was appraised for \$689,000, offered for sale and sold to the Mission Hospital, the only bidder. The court ordered that \$75,000 be set aside for maintenance of the cemetery. A proper fence has been installed and markers replaced. Five hundred thousand was set aside in the Community Foundation as an endowment trust for scholarships for the 18 counties in Western North Carolina.

[1/170] There is a cemetery committee which hires a landscaping company to take care of the property. The gates are opened and closed every day by an employee of the Memorial Mission Hospital. [Dan Foy]

[1/198] The hospital is now in the process of building on the north side. There will be an outpatient imaging center.

[1/209] Well-known people are buried in the cemetery along with some 28 Confederate soldiers and 5 unknown Union soldiers. [George Swain, David L. Swain (governor and early president of University of North Carolina)]

[1/262] The sale of the property was conducted by a former mayor and student of Newton School. He wanted it to be under a dogwood tree which his class had planted as a memorial to his class. [Richard A. Wood, Jr.]

[1/281] The blizzard of last March knocked down several trees but there is insurance for damage. The neighbors are glad the cemetery property is cared for.

[1/302] He toured a school group and they practiced their subtraction in obtaining the age of the deceased.

[1/316] The Community Foundation came into existence through the Junior League and the United Way with the aid of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation funds. As it became better known prominent people contributed and today the assets total over 10 ½ million dollars. It's a corporation in its own right but is affiliated with the Center of Foundations in New York and the Council of Foundations in Washington for idea sharing.

[1/389] Eighteen counties are represented and board members are scattered around the counties. Communities also raise their own funds to spend locally and use Community Foundation to invest money for them, advise and serve as an umbrella.

Side 2:

[2/1] Land-of-Sky Regional Council is a governmental organization and ideas are shared (especially in regard to literacy programs) but there's no close working relationship.

[2/11] Work with the Junior League and United Way (though not in competition). The Foundation is the receiver of gifts and the United Way is the giver of gifts.

[2/18] The Community Foundation holds money and the proceeds are used. The Community Theatre, French Broad River Foundation, Junior League, Rotary Club and Civitan have scholarship funds held by the Community Foundation which gives proceeds on request.

[2/35] Earnings from the endowment funds are put back into the community. Grants have been given to hundreds of organizations. There are several ways of establishing foundations.

[2/59] There is a distribution committee composed of 10 members of the Board of Directors. Requests are received and evaluated and the staff looks to see how it fits geographically and needs are weighted.

[2/92] The Community Foundation makes itself known through the newspaper, brochures (enclosed), a mailing list to 1,400 charitable organizations, representatives on boards in community, solicitation of the public. The foundation is not just asking for funds, but acts like an umbrella managing funds for others.

[2/113] He tells about himself. He knew retirement from the Citizen-Times was coming up and was offered a part-time job with the Foundation in 1987. He served for 3 years. He is now a member of the board and comes in one day a week.

[2/144] He started the Resource Center for Foundations. This makes information available on what organizations might have money for projects, where the money comes from, where it goes and assistance in writing grants. This library is more extensive than the one in Knoxville, is affiliated with the Foundation Center in New York, and material is kept up to date.

[2/199] As a boy he carried a paper route and worked for the paper after high school in the circulation department. He served as a pilot in the Pacific Theatre in WWII and on his release in 1946 he married and went back to the paper, becoming general manager in the accounting department until retirement in 1987.

[2/228] During his time with the paper he was involved with the Chamber of Commerce, United Way etc. and in 1963 he was asked to serve on the Asheville School Board. After checking to be sure there would be no city management conflict, due to his position with the paper, he accepted and served 11 years (4 as chairman and 2 previous years as vice chairman). [Mayor Earl W. Eller, Weldon Weir]

[2/267] This was during the period of integration. He said there were some stormy meetings. The Federal Court mandated the program that is being worked out today.

[2/280] "Magnet" schools came after his time. From what he reads in the paper he thinks that some schools specialize in one area and some in another. Parents have a choice as to what school their child will attend.

[2/294] There had to be give and take in court-mandated integration. The blacks and whites would be the same ratio in city schools as in administrative districts. Complicated, because city school district not the same as city limits. In 1937 city took on a tax for schools which was not the same area as the school administrative district formed through annexation.

[2/341] School Board was not involved in day to day operation - this was left to the school superintendent.

[2/351] After the School Board service he was asked to be a trustee on the board of Western Carolina in Cullowhee.

[2/361] He is on the Board of Trustees of the First Union National Bank and is now working with "Crime Stoppers."

[2/375] He was married in 1945. Has a daughter who is a clinical social worker in Asheville and a granddaughter in sales of communication systems in Philadelphia and a granddaughter in Haw Creek Elementary School. [Margaret Roberts (daughter of former Mayor Gallatin Roberts of Asheville, died in 1931) (brother Edward Roberts was deputy-clerk of Superior Court and Deputy U.S. Marshal), Linda Burgin, Connie Harris, Holly Burgin]