



# **This Is Your Life**

**Whitman Fraser**



# This Is Your Life

Whitman Fraser

1926 - 1995



*My dad planted the music of his life  
in our hearts and the music continues.  
I dedicate this book to his song  
in each of us!*

*Sherry Fraser Somerville*



# Dad's Life Begins in Wichita Falls, Texas



Wallace Winn Fraser



Great Grandfather Fraser is keeping his eye on his descendents



Grandparents, Wallace and Jen's  
Honeymoon Adventure-1913



Jen Whitman Fraser



*"In 1926 the World Received You.  
The second son of Jen and Wallace Winn."*



Whit 3 months  
Wally 5 years older





*"Your curly hair and pink shorts were in fashion"*



*"The way you smile will always con your kin."*



Whit  
3 years old

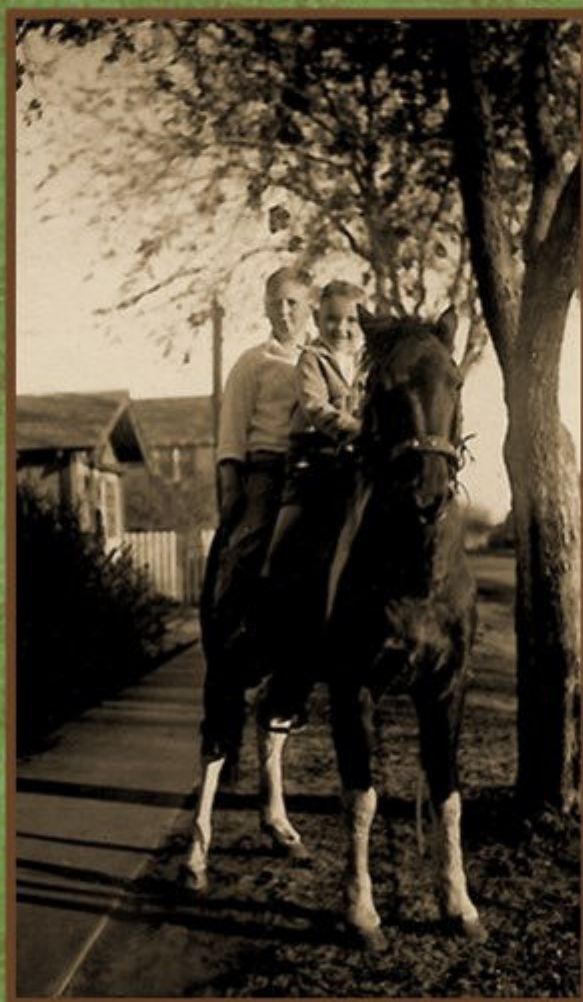


## Brothers ~ Wally & Whit



Whit  
"The Innocent"

*"Of course, we can't forget yor older brother.  
Trouble making went with Wally's name.  
Dad, we know you did your share of mischief,  
But Wally had to shoulder all the blame"*



Brothers  
on Midget



Whit center front  
Wally back left

Whit and Wally Fraser 1936







## Father & Sons



Swimming outing  
with cousin Gene  
Hanszen  
from left, Whit, Wally,  
Gene, Wallace

# Dad is Five When His Father Dies



In the Fall of 1931, Wallace Fraser died of a heart attack while on a hunting trip near Wichita Falls, Texas. Before his death, he had written a letter to his sons and attached it to his will. The following are excerpts from this letter:

To my two Boys:

A short time ago I executed my last will and testament in which I bequeathed to you and your mother all of the property which may be mine when I die. It will be a matter of satisfaction to me if, when the time comes, my worldly possessions will be sufficient to insure a comfortable income for your mother as long as she may live, and to provide both of you with an education and with your support until your education is completed.....

Since success in this life is largely measured on the gauge of accumulated wealth, I would like for you, my sons, to feel your dad had possessed the qualities which it takes to win over material things; but that is the only reason that I would want to leave you a fortune, since you would be more handicapped by it than aided. The stimulus of necessity unquestionably calls forth reserves of effort of which we do not dream ourselves capable when the path is made easy for us, and there is great spiritual gain in overcoming difficulties and in exerting ourselves to the utmost. The matter is relatively unimportant, anyway, if your minds are developed rightly.....

What is important to me and to you, whether you realize it early or late, is that you receive as an inheritance from me the benefit of the truths and the principles and the ideals which I have strived to possess.



It is natural that many of these ideas would naturally grow into your philosophy of life as you develop, even if you did not receive them from me, but I would be defaulting in my duty as a father if I failed to give you the benefit of my mature thought.....

Any philosophy of life which you eventually work out for yourself must be one that you can live with and by, one that you believe in unquestionably, but one that is flexible to bear adjusting from time to time as realities of life unfold before you. If it doesn't fit in your vital experiences, then either it is in error or you are off course..... My life so far has been a happy one. God has been good to me and I have been blessed far beyond my deserts. It is my hope and belief that I will be happy and useful for the rest of my days. If I had knowledge that my death was near, it would not mar my happiness.



## Teen Years

*"Then in high school you were  
cruising through the town on  
your own hot wheels  
Named the Cannonball of  
Witchita.*

*You tried to date the daughter of  
a rich man, Dad,  
Until she had to help push off  
your car."*



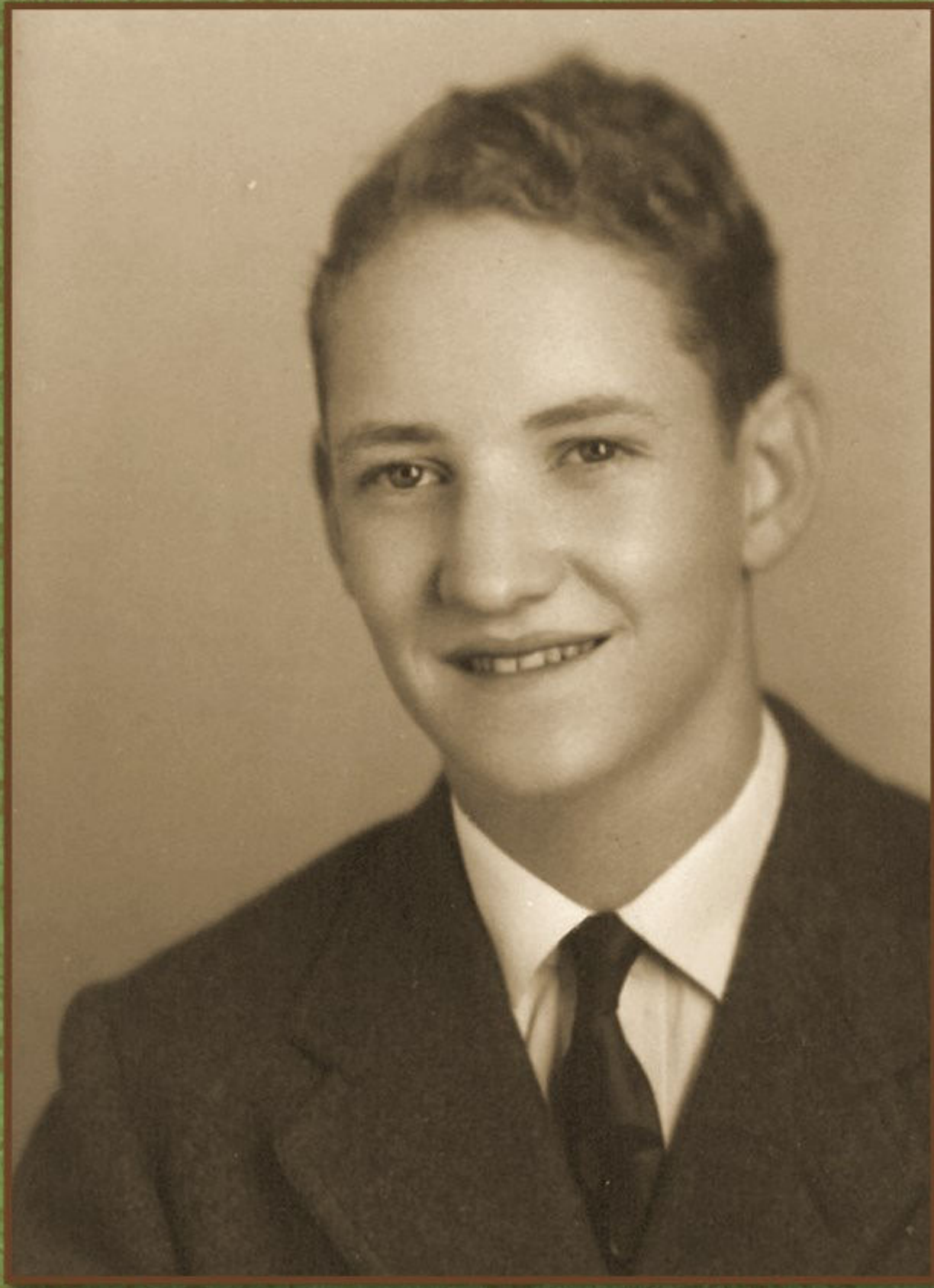
Pet rat, Chris,  
went to scout camp  
with Dad



Scouting Days



1929 Chrysler  
"Wichita Cannon Ball"





## Army Years



Whit, Folmer, Jow



Third Squad



Oakland, CA- 1947  
Returning from Korea



Twentieth Infantry, Moka, Korea, April 26, 1946  
S.T. Mizelle, Whit Fraser, Bernard Reeves, E.W. Haywa,  
Wallace Folmer, Clyde Davis, Berte Chaneller

*"When you were seventeen, you joined the army.  
A braver soldier you will never see.  
Tell us how you tried to shoot your shadow  
Or why your gun was stolen by a spinning  
dummy.  
Won't you tell about that proud second lieutenant,  
A demolition expert at the time.  
He strolled into an outhouse that was rigged by  
you,  
And the way he had to exit seemed unkind."*



**Whitman N.M.N. Fraser**  
No Middle Name



## Whit and Mary Lou (Snead) Fraser



March 23, 1951

*"Leaving Uncle Sam, you went to college,  
And Mary Lou you met on summer break.  
In March of '51 you chose to marry.  
Bill Hanzzen helped you make good your escape,  
And kindly told you that you best open the trunk before you left there.  
Inside a frantic pussy had been trapped.  
You know some say you need a tiger in your tank,  
But Wally thought your trunk called for a cat."*



First family car- 1953  
Ford Customline

# Medical School Graduate



Dad chose to avoid being identified as "little Whit," by his nearest and dearest Texas family and friends. He moved to Georgia! A small southern town promised him a hospital within two years. Hinesville became our first and final family residence in 1958.

Medical School Graduation  
1956



"DOC"



Dr. and Mrs. Whitman Fraser 1952





# 3 Fraser Additions



*Sherry Lynn May 3, 1955 (Bug)*

*"Then Gwynnie came along just two years later. The singing pair before you are the same."*



*Clint Whitman September 11, 1959 (Buster)*

*"You named your first girl from an advertisement About a belly dancer, Sherry Lynn."*



*Mary Gwynn May 11, 1957 (Gooper)*

*"Then brother Clint was born into the family, The boy to carry on the Fraser name."*

# Our Home



*"You filled our home with lots of love and  
laughter, Dad,  
And someday we three hope to do the  
same"*



# Professional Years



Dad's Office



In Between



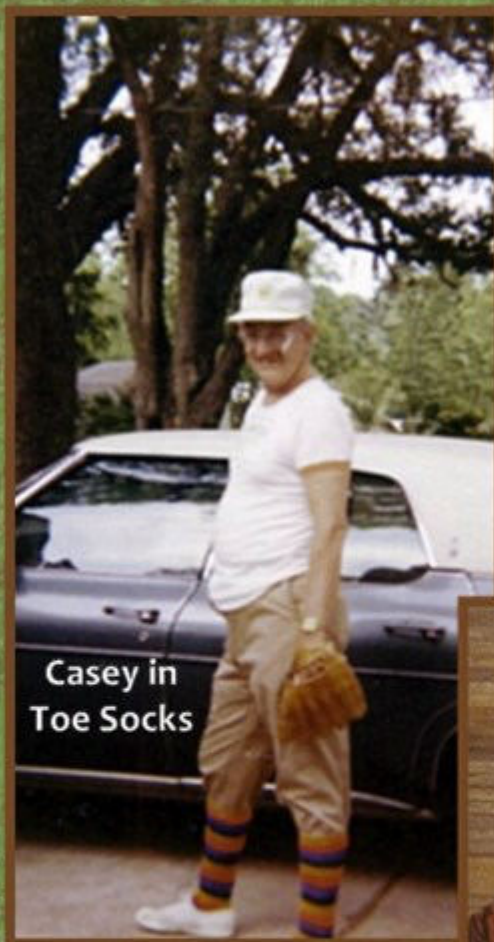
Promised Hospital



**Dad claimed his profession exempted him from any responsibility when it came to changing diapers. After all, physicians must keep their germ count down in order to protect their patients!**



# A Touch of Humor



Casey in  
Toe Socks



Pool Shark



No Comment!



Care to join me?



Abraham in  
Jesus Parade



Surgeon



Captain  
Yellow Beard



Get into the  
Swing

# Adventures With Dad



Colorado



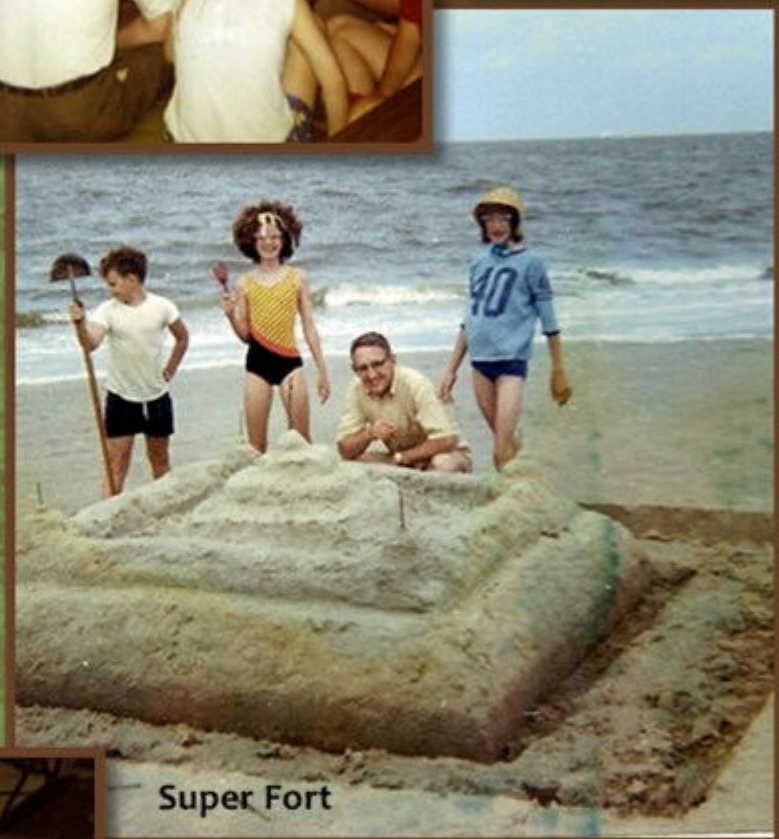
Weaver of Ghost Tales



South America



A sticky situation on St. Catherine's



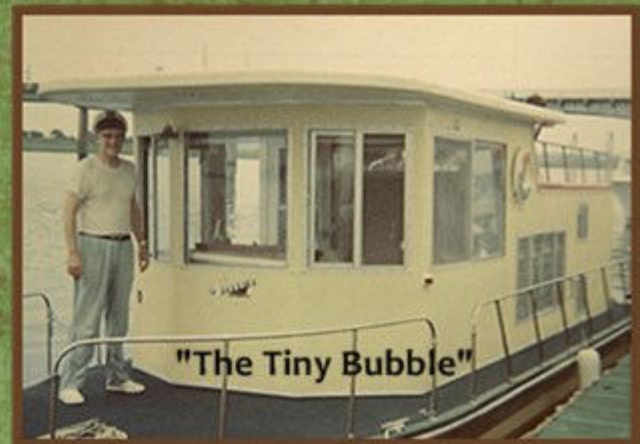
Super Fort



Mountain climbing



Enjoying the Past



"The Tiny Bubble"



# Faith & Family Were Important



# Grandfather Still Keeps Watch...



... in the Fraser home today and he smiles on what he sees!





# Proclamation & Resolution Signed



**WHIT FRASER WEEK** - Hinesville Mayor James Brown (left) and Liberty County Commissioner's Chairman James Floyd jointly sign a proclamation making next week "Whit Fraser Week" in Hinesville and Liberty County with Dr. Whitman Fraser looking on at his office during the signing. Several events will honor Fraser during the week, including a parade in downtown Hinesville on May 2; a barbecue at the National Guard Armory from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on May 2 and a This Is Your Life, Whit Fraser at the Presbyterian Church at 7:30 p.m. May 2.

## Week To Honor Dr. Whit Fraser

Herald Staff Writer

What value a doctor? More so, what value is Whit Fraser to Hinesville?

Ask almost any native of Hinesville and Liberty County and the plaudits roll off the tip of the tongue for Dr. Whitman Fraser.

And, to show appreciation, the week of April 28 through May 4 is going to be declared, "Whit Fraser Week," in Hinesville and Liberty County by Hinesville Mayor James Brown and Liberty County Commission Chairman James Floyd.

Brown, Floyd and other longtime friends and patients will honor Dr. Fraser for "faithful, dedicated and humanitarian service to the people of Liberty and surrounding counties."

steering committee has formulated plans for a week of activities, beginning with opening ceremonies at Bradwell Park on the Courthouse Square and a parade on Friday, May 2.

Doyle Mullis, administrator at Liberty Memorial Hospital, is chairman of the steering committee with Lois Dasher, Neal Brown, Sue Collins, Marge Verross and John Winn also serving on the committee.

"Several people in the Presbyterian Church and in the community were just talking one day about how Dr. Fraser was so much of a humanitarian as well as a dedicated doctor and we ought to get together and honor him somehow," said Mullis. "They got together and one thing led to another and it all caught fire into trying to organize a day for this man."

...more become acquainted with Dr. Fraser when he became administrator of Liberty Memorial Hospital.

"Whit Fraser has to be one of the best friends I have," said Mullis. "He is one of the best family practitioners I have ever used and been associated with in medicine. He is very involved in the church and the community. I have served with him as an elder in the Presbyterian Church. I guess the real outstanding quality of Whit Fraser is he is concerned with everybody."

Any organization or individual desiring to enter a float, band or other activity in the parade should contact Gary Smiley at 876-3343. Entries will be accepted until Apr. 11, with a special entry of all children delivered by Dr. Fraser. Parents of these children should contact Ms. Ann Hall at 876-9615.

The activities will continue on Saturday with a barbecue dinner, followed by a special program, "Whit Fraser, This Is Your Life," coordinated by Mrs. Lynn Sikes, on Saturday night.

Dr. Fraser, a native of Wichita Falls, Tex., studied medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and did a rotating internship with the U.S. Public Health Department in New Orleans, La. Dr. Fraser worked at the U.S. Public Health Hospital in Savannah until he moved to Hinesville in 1958.

Dr. Fraser began his medical practice in Liberty County in 1958.

Dr. Fraser and his wife, Lou, daughters, Sherry and Gwen, and son, Buster, are active members of the Hinesville First Presbyterian Church, where he serves as an elder and Sunday school teacher.

Dr. Fraser has been moderator of the Presbytery, served on the board of Rabun Gap School and many other committees and boards of the Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Fraser is chairman of the Liberty County Health Department and is a member of the American Medical Association, Medical Association of Georgia, American College of Family Physicians and the Georgia Medical Society.



# WHIT FRASER Week

*A Week Of Festivities To Honor  
Dr. Whitman Fraser*

**Opening Ceremonies**

Monday, April 28 - 4:30 P.M.  
Bradwell Park

**Parade**

Friday, May 2 - 5 P.M.

**Barbeque Dinner**

Saturday, May 3 - 11 A.M. to 8 P.M.  
National Guard Armory

**THIS IS YOUR LIFE,  
Whit Fraser**

Saturday, May 3 - 7:30 P.M.  
First Presbyterian Church

**And Other Events!**

**April 28 - May 4**



**WE LOVE Whit**

PROCLAMATION  
OF THE MAYOR OF HINESVILLE, GEORIGIA

WHEREAS, Whitman Fraser has served Hinesville and the surrounding communities as a physician for the past 22 years; and

WHEREAS, Whitman Fraser has been a leader of the community and Church; and

WHEREAS, Whitman Fraser has been a friend to the people of Hinesville; and

WHEREAS, Whitman Fraser has been an inspiration to all who have been associated with him;

I do hereby declare the week of April 28 through May 4, 1980 to be known as Whit Fraser Week in Hinesville. I urge all the citizens of Hinesville to join with his family and friends in paying tribute to Dr. Whitman Fraser for his faithful, dedicated and humanitarian service to the people of Hinesville.



ATTESTED:

City of Hinesville

*James Brown*  
James Brown, Mayor

*Onetha H. Mingledorff*  
Onetha H. Mingledorff, City Clerk

State of Georgia  
County of Liberty

Resolution  
by  
Board of Commissioners  
Liberty County  
Hinesville, Georgia

Be It Resolved by the Board of Commissioners of Liberty County Georgia, representing the people of Liberty County that:

Whereas, Doctor Whitman Fraser elected to establish himself as a resident and citizen of Liberty County in 1958; and

Whereas, Doctor Whitman Fraser a certified family practitioner has given unselfishly of himself for the past twenty-two years in the care of the physically, emotionally and spiritually ill of Liberty County; and

Whereas, Doctor Whitman Fraser while serving as Chief of Staff of Liberty Memorial Hospital continually stressed the highest medical patient care regardless of a patients race, color, creed or financial status; and

Whereas, Doctor Whitman Fraser through his concern and love of all people of Liberty County has unstintingly served as Chairman of the Liberty County Board of Health, striving to improve conditions of county citizens;

Now Therefore It Is Resolved, that the Liberty County Board of Commissioners, in session at a regular meeting this 1st day of April, 1980, do hereby recognize and pay extraordinary and everlasting tribute to Doctor Whitman Fraser as an outstanding citizen who has contributed unselfishly, untiringly and with no reservations, his whole being to the healing and care of the populous of Liberty County;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved that this resolution become an official attachment of the minutes of the April 1, 1980 meeting and that a copy of this resolution be provided Dr. Whitman Fraser on behalf of all Liberty County Commissioners, and all the citizens of Liberty County.



*Harold R. Rogers*  
Attest: Harold R. Rogers, County Administrator

Liberty County Board of Commissioners

*James M. Floyd*  
James M. Floyd - Chairman

*Hazel B. Carter*  
Hazel B. Carter - Vice Chairman

*Earl M. Bagg*  
Earl M. Bagg - Board Member

*Charles M. Gaskin*  
Charles M. Gaskin - Board Member

*Bobby L. Fugate*  
Bobby L. Fugate - Board Member



*Pete Clark Opens 'Whit Fraser Week' Ceremonies In Bradwell Park*



*Dr. Whitman Fraser, Wife Lou, And Daughters, Gwen And Sherry*



*James Brown*



*Jimmy Floyd*



*Midway Congregational Church Provides Music For Occasion*

## 'We LOVE Whit Fraser'

Waynesville Mayor James Brown and Liberty County Commissioner's Chairman Jimmy Floyd presented special proclamations and resolutions to Dr. Whitman Fraser at Bradwell Park Monday afternoon as the community began a week of activities to honor a man, doctor and friend for 22 years of service.

The Midway Congregational Church Community Choir provided music and the Rev. Nathaniel Walhouse, pastor of the Zion Temple Holiness Church, gave the invocation.

Pete Clark, chairman of the opening

ceremonies program, presided over the occasion.

After the presentations, Dr. Fraser thanked the city, county and all those present for honoring him for this special week and introduced his family to his medical family explaining to both: "This is where I was when I was not home."

Trena Izard opened the program with a solo lead with the choir:

"Dr. Fraser is a man we have all come to know and love over the past 22 years," said Clark. "We love Whit. He is a man dedicated to his God, his family and his profession."



*Friends Of City, County, Church And Community*



*Whit With Fun, Debra Clark, 'We Love Whit' Shirt*



*Trena Izard Sings Lead Song In Special Music For Whit*



*Nathaniel Walhouse Leads Prayer*



*Family Bow Head In Prayer During Ceremonies*

# Whit Fraser, 'We Love You'



The Family - Clint, Gwynn, Sherry, Lou and Whit

## Throw Another Log On The Fire

In 1938 the world received you.  
The second son of Joe and Wallace Wynn.  
Your curly hair and gink shorts were in fashion.  
The way you smile will always run your kin.  
Remember Daddy when your father took you hunting  
as a youngster.  
He told the gun so you could make the shot.  
That rabbit probably never knew what hit him, Dad.  
The love he had caught you right in the spot.

Of course, we can't forget your older brother  
Trouble making west with Wally's name.  
Dad we know you did your share of mischief,  
But Wally had to shoulder all the blame.  
Then in high school you were cruising through the  
town on your own hot wheels.  
Named the Cannibals of Wichita.  
You tried to date the daughter of a rich man, Dad.  
Lord she had to help push off your car.

When you were seventeen, you joined the army  
A braver soldier you will never see.  
Tell us how you tried to shoot your shadow  
Or why your gun was stolen by a sporting dummy.  
Wasn't you full about that proud second lieutenant,  
A demolition expert at the time.  
He straddled into an outstation that was rigged by you,  
And the way he had to exit seems odd.

Leaving Uncle Sam, you went to college,  
And Harry Lee you met on summer break  
In March of '51 you chose to marry  
Bill Hansen helped you make good your escape.  
And kindly told you that you had open the trunk  
before you left there.  
Inside a trainor penny had been trapped.  
You know some say you need a tiger in your tank,  
But Wally thought your trunk called for a cat.

You named your first girl from an advertisement  
About a belly dancer, Sherry Lynn.  
Then Gwynn came along just two years later.  
The singing girl before you are the sister.  
Then brother Clint was born into the family.  
The boy to carry on the Fraser name.  
You filled our home with love and laughter,  
Dad,  
And someday we three hope to do the same.

Well Dad we know it takes a special fellow  
Whose work keeps him so many times from home,  
To make the best of every precious moment,  
That you could spend with family alone.  
There were times, I must confess, when we were  
just a little jealous.  
Of your great profession heart demand,  
But tomorrow's memories give us the love you had  
We'll have these subtle footprints in the sand.

Chorus:  
Throw another log on the fire,  
Tell a tale to chill us to the bone.  
Play some Jimmy Rogers on the guitar.  
Plan a trip where there will be no ghosts.  
Come on Daddy, won't you play some Texas ballads  
or a Rink game.  
Let's all dress up crazy like before  
And throw another log on the fire Dad,  
Cause life with you will never be a bore!



Sherry Presents 'This Is Your Life' Book To Dad, Whitman Fraser



'Whit's Babies' - Hit Of Parade



Bill Gannaway Served In Barbecue



Daughters' Sherry, Gwynn Sing



John Ward Winn Presents Flowers



Charles Whitman Gets Apology



Kids Get Into The Art



Majorettes Do Robot Dance



Flowers For Lou



Dancerettes Perform



First Patient, Ed Mims



Louisa Strickland Rides



Mrs. Neal Brown



# Whit Fraser Week Opening Ceremony



Dr. And Mrs. Fraser Get Laugh During Monday Ceremonies

## Whit Fraser Week Begins Here

BY KEN WYNN  
Herald Staff Writer

Dr. Whitman Fraser, a man who has served Liberty County and Hinesville for 22 years as a doctor and friend, is (probably for the first time) "lost for words."

"Everyone who comes in my direction, I look them over real well and wait for them to tell me something," said Fraser Monday. "My family, my daughters and my friends have been more secretive than I can stand about this week, but now maybe I can find out just what is going on."

Fraser has been kept in the dark on things to come for months but truly welcomes the city and county's 'Whit Fraser Week' tribute, which began at 4:30 Monday afternoon.

Mayor James Brown of Hinesville and Liberty County Commission Chairman Jimmy Floyd signed a joint proclamation making this Whit Fraser Week.

Fraser came to Hinesville in 1958 from Savannah to set up a medical practice in what is now Liberty Memorial Hospital. And, before he "retired" from delivering babies in 1972, he delivered 3,249 babies.

"I came out of retirement a year

later to deliver one child," said Fraser. "That was the last one, 3,250."

But why Whit Fraser Week?

"Whit Fraser has been one of the greatest assets to Hinesville and Liberty County," said Brown. "I am certainly glad we are honoring him. I know of no man more deserving. He has meant a lot to this community in the last 22 years, not only as a doctor but a leading citizen and spiritual leader."

Activities began Monday with opening ceremonies at Bradwell Park with remarks from Mayor Brown and Floyd and songs from the county chorus.

Tuesday through Thursday will be left open for private parties and tributes to Dr. Fraser from separate groups throughout the community.

On Friday, a parade will honor Dr. Fraser in downtown Hinesville which will feature two bands, several floats, the Shriners and a special group representing babies Dr. Fraser delivered.

The parade will be at 5 p.m. and will form in the parking lot adjacent to Carter Funeral Home. It will begin on Carter Street, make a right on Main Street and proceed north to the Liberty County Courthouse where it will turn right on

All adults and children delivered by Dr. Whit Fraser are asked to attend a special meeting Tuesday night at 7:30 in the First United Methodist Church Social Hall in Hinesville.

"Final preparations for their part in the Dr. Whit Fraser parade Friday will be made at the meeting," said Chair-person Ann Hall.

Court Street and proceed to Oglethorpe Boulevard, turn right once again in front of Liberty Memorial Hospital and return to Carter Street for dispersing.

Following the parade will be a covered dish dinner held for Dr. Fraser at Shoney's banquet room. The dinner will be closed to the public and open for out-of-town doctors, medical staffs, Liberty Memorial Hospital Authority members, employees and family.

On Saturday, a barbecue will be held in the National Guard Armory from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. with all proceeds going to the Liberty Memorial Hospital Authority to purchase equipment for the cardiac department, a special interest of Dr. Fraser.

Advance tickets for the barbecue

may be purchased from any member of the Lions or Rotary Club in Hinesville.

The dinner tickets for adult plates will be \$2.75. Children's plates will be \$1.50. Also available will be barbecue sandwiches. The Lions Club of Hinesville is coordinating the barbecue.

Desserts will also be on sale. Seventy-one homemade cakes (all from scratch, no cake mixes) will be available. If anyone wants to make advance orders for an entire cake, they may call Lois Dasher, after 5 p.m., at 876-3697.

On Saturday night at 7:30 in the Hinesville First Presbyterian Church, a "This Is Your Life, Whit Fraser," presentation will be given.

On Sunday morning, at the 11 o'clock service of the Hinesville Presbyterian Church, a special service will honor Dr. Fraser at his home church and a covered dish dinner on the ground will be held following the service.

Anyone desiring to make contributions to go toward the purchase of cardiac equipment for the Whit Fraser Fund is asked to send them to Danny Bryant, care of Coastal Utilities, PO Box 585, Hinesville, Ga., 31313. The checks should be made payable to the Liberty Memorial Hospital Authority for the Whit Fraser Fund.



## **'We LOVE Whit Fraser'**

Hinesville Mayor James Brown and Liberty County Commissioner's Chairman Jimmy Floyd presented special proclamations and resolutions to Dr. Whitman Fraser at Bradwell Park Monday afternoon as the community began a week of activities to honor a man, doctor and friend for 22 years of service.

The Midway Congregational Church Community Choir provided music and the Rev. Nathaniel Walthour, pastor of the Zion Temple Holiness Church, gave the invocation.

Pete Clark, chairman of the opening

ceremonies program, presided over the activities.

After the presentations, Dr. Fraser thanked the city, county and all those present for honoring him for this special week and introduced his family to his medical family explaining to both: "This is where I was when I was not home."

Treva Izzard opened the program with a solo lead with the choir.

"Dr. Fraser is a man we have all come to know and love over the past 22 years," said Clark. "We love Whit. He is a man dedicated to his God, his family and his profession."



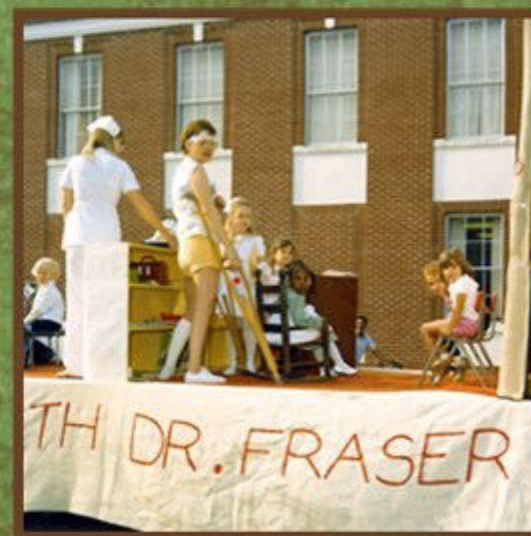
***Nathaniel Walthour Leads Prayer***







# Whit Fraser Week Parade





Nothing great was  
 ever achieved  
 without **ENTHUSIASM**  
 —Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Parade To Applaud Dr. Fraser

"We Love, Whit!"  
 "Whit Fraser Week."  
 "Whit."

There are bumper stickers, buttons, posters and tee shirts circulating all over Hinesville and Liberty County this week honoring Dr. Whitman Fraser, but the big events are on tap Friday, Saturday and Sunday as the community honors its doctor and friend.

A parade featuring the Bradwell Institute band and Dancerettes, another band, the Shriner's go-kart group, clowns, floats, beauty queens, dignitaries, politicians and a special group of babies Dr. Fraser delivered will get underway at 5 p.m. Friday.

The parade will form at Carter Street, adjacent to Carter's Funeral Home. It will begin on Carter Street, make a right on Main Street and

proceed north to the Liberty County Courthouse where it will turn right on Court Street and proceed to Oglethorpe Boulevard, turn right once again in front of Liberty Memorial Hospital and return to Carter Street for dispersing.

The Fraser family will have a special stand for viewing in front of Liberty Memorial Hospital on Oglethorpe Boulevard, where several groups will stop in the parade to pay special tribute to the man from Texas who hung his medical shingle in Hinesville 22 years ago.

The week got underway Monday afternoon when Hinesville Mayor James Brown and Liberty County Commission Chairman Jimmy Floyd presented Dr. Fraser with a proclamation and resolution making the week of April 28 through May 4 as "Whit Fraser Week."

"I've had a love affair going on with Liberty County for about 22 years and I'm real pleased to get both my families together and introduce you to each other today," said Dr. Fraser, turning to his wife, Lou, and two daughters, Gwen and Sherry. "This is where I was when I wasn't home.

"There's nothing in this world as fragile as the ego of a young doctor fresh out of medical school and I was certainly in that boat looking for a place to locate and stay," said Fraser. "I think the Lord picked out Hinesville as a very special incubator because since I have been here I have been surrounded with a confederation and a love by you people that has supported me and made it possible for me to do many things that I could not have done otherwise. Plus, it's given me a quality of life and en-

joyment of it I could have had nowhere else in the world.

"I taught my children that the people we are closest to in this world are the ones we have the biggest investment in and the ones we give the most to and with all the trouble you all have gone to today and all the investment you got in me, it looks like you are stuck because I am not about to leave and you've got a big investment you have got to protect.

"Thank you for honoring me in this way and I thank God for what you have put into my life," concluded Fraser.

Pete Clark, chairman of the opening ceremonies, urged all citizens to attend activities the rest of the week, including the "This Is Your Life, Whit Fraser," Saturday night.

"I understand this production is going to be on Broadway next year,

with all the work that has been put in it," said Clark. "They have been working hard and it's going to be a lot of entertainment for everyone.

"We love you Dr. Fraser," said Clark. "That's what the week is all about."

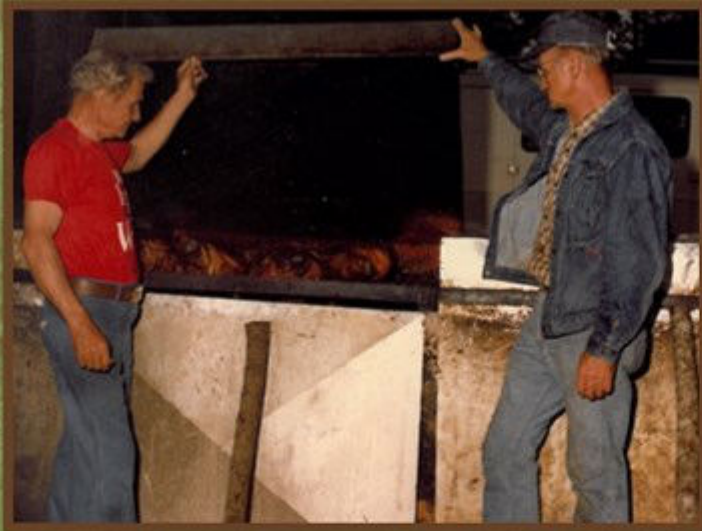
The "This Is Your Life, Whit Fraser," presentation will be held at the Presbyterian Church Saturday night at 7:30 and everyone is urged to come early if they want a seat.

On Saturday, a barbecue will be held in the National Guard Armory on Oglethorpe Boulevard from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. with all proceeds going to the Liberty Memorial Hospital Authority to purchase equipment for the cardiac department, a special interest of Dr. Fraser.

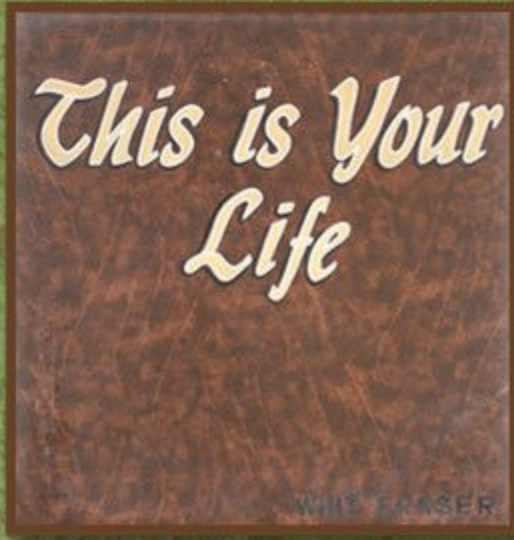




# Whit Fraser Week BBQ



This is Your Life...





## Throw Another Log on the Fire

(Chorus)

Throw another log on the fire  
Tell a tale to chill us to the bone  
Play some Jimmy Rogers on the guitar.  
Plan a trip where there will be no phone  
Come on Daddy; won't you play some Texas  
billiards or a Risk game?  
Let's all dress up crazy as before  
And throw another log on the fire, Dad,  
Cause life with you will never be a bore!

In 1926 the world received you,  
The second son of Jen and Wallace Winn.  
Your curly hair and pink shorts were in fashion.  
The way you smile will always con your kin  
Remember Daddy when your father took  
you hunting as a youngster,  
He held the gun so you could make the shot.  
That rabbit probably never knew what hit him,  
Dad,  
The love to hunt caught you right on the spot!

Of course, we can't forget your older brother.  
Trouble making came with Wally's name.  
Dad, we know you did your share of mischief,  
But Wally had to shoulder all the blame.  
Then in high school you were cruising through  
the town on your own hot wheels  
Named the Cannonball of Wichita.  
You tried to date the daughter of a rich man, Dad,  
Until she had to help push off your car!

When you were seventeen, you joined the army.  
A braver soldier you will never see.  
Tell us how you tried to shoot your shadow  
Or why your gun was stolen by a spinning dummy!  
Won't you tell about that proud second lieutenant,  
A demolition expert at the time.  
He strolled into an out house that was rigged  
by you.  
And the way he had to exit seems unkind!

Leaving Uncle Sam, you went to college  
And Mary Lou you met on summer break.  
In March of '51 you chose to marry,  
Bill Hanzen helped you make good your escape.  
And kindly told you that you best open the trunk  
before you left there.  
Inside a frantic pussy had been trapped.  
You know some say you need a tiger in your tank,  
But Wally thought your trunk called for a cat!

You named your first girl from an advertisement  
About a belly dancer, Sherry Lynn.  
Then Gwynnie came along just two years later.  
The singing pair before you are the same.  
Then brother Clint was born into the family,  
The boy to carry on the Fraser name.  
You filled our home with lots of love and laughter,  
Dad,  
And someday we three hope to do the same!

Well Dad, we know it takes a special fellow  
Whose work takes him so many times from home,  
To make the most of every precious moment  
That you can spend with family alone.  
There were times I must confess when we were just  
a little jealous  
Of time your profession must demand,  
But treasured memories given in the time you had  
Will leave their noble footprints in the sand!

# ... Makes It's Debut





# People From The Past









# Pre-Event News Article by Lynn Sikes

## What A Man!!!

### Dr. Whit Fraser Serves God, Family, Community And Patients

To say that Whit Fraser loves God, that he loves his family and that he loves his fellowman seems an understatement and calls for elaboration. Dr. Whitman Fraser is quite a rare breed of man. When the one who wove the tapestry of this life finished it, He must have thrown the pattern away, for I have never known or seen one quite so lovely in pattern, color, design, depth, uniqueness and completeness.

He has served God in every conceivable capacity in his church. He has been active in men's work, served on many committees of the Presbytery and Synod of Georgia and South Carolina and was a representative to the General Assembly in 1968. He has participated in over thirty lay witness meetings in towns throughout the South, serving as coordinator in most cases. He has served his church as a deacon and he was elected an elder in 1968. He also started an early Sunday morning devotional at Liberty Memorial Hospital for patients and personnel. He has taught an adult Sunday School Class for most of the last thirteen years. He was active in the establishment of the "Y" Club in high school and continues to support it.

Whit's love of family exemplifies the wholesome, well rounded, father, husband, head of the household-type relationship which each family needs. His children tell of the fun times they have all had together and the closeness they feel as a part of this family unit. Whit's

*Lines  
By  
Lynn*

BY LYNN SIKES



wife, Lou, is one of the sweetest, finest Christian women I've ever had the pleasure of knowing. What a lovely helpmate she is to her fortunate spouse!

Dr. Fraser's love of his fellowman knows no bounds. He befriends everyone. The nurses call on him for help, he has worked endless hours counseling alcoholics and was instrumental in starting an A.A. group here. He spends as long as a person needs to guide and counsel. I know, because I worked in his office, parttime for three years, off and on. I can remember how "antsy" I would get worrying about the other patients in the waiting room while you would hear people say, "I should have brought a lap lunch", or "I didn't cook my old man no lunch and now he ain't gonna get no supper it looks like",...or "I've been here so long this chair has grown to me". This doesn't seem to bother Dr. Fraser one bit; everyone gets equal time on a first come, first serve basis. Whit's compassion and love have touched many a heaped up heart. How many many lives of his

God-inspired words of wisdom have helped!

I talked with Wilda Kennedy who has worked for Dr. Fraser for twenty years and I asked her to tell us what it has been like to work for Dr. Fraser all of these years. She states, "This place is like a home to me, for there is a family-like atmosphere that you just don't see in other doctor's offices." She went on to say, "Dr. Fraser never bugs me about my work; he is so easy going, so witty and such a caring person." Wilda can put her hand, in the blink of an eye, on any record in that office. She doesn't just know the patients, she knows the names of their cousins, aunts, uncles and grandchildren. She works as bookkeeper, nurse, secretary and intermediary for Dr. Fraser. Wilda is a soft-spoken, special agent for the good doctor.

Celia Davis has been nursing with Dr. Fraser for about 12 years. She is a warm and friendly person who wears a smile for all who enter the office door. When asked what it was like to work for Dr. Fraser, she said, "Well he is just one of the best

bosses anyone could ever have. He is easy going, he never yells or gets upset and he provides the whole atmosphere with laughter and love. I've never seen him lose his temper." Celia's sunny disposition enhances the office atmosphere. She does EKG's, takes x-rays and is of great help as a nurse.

Elise Waller is the insurance clerk and has been for 8 years. She lends to the office her sweet disposition, her unique charm and her ever present predisposition to see the funny side of life. She is a good Christian and an asset to the office. When she first went to work for Dr. Fraser she had just lost her husband. She told me, "He is my friend, my psychiatrist, my doctor and spiritual advisor; I count myself blessed to be able to work for him."

Katie Johnson first worked for Dr. Fraser 14 years ago. She has worked there off and on since. Katie is a tiny, human dynamo. She is the model of efficiency and can get things done in a hurry without sacrificing that nursing efficiency. Katie said, "Dr. Fraser has been an inspiration to me throughout my years and has given me the encouragement that I needed to pursue my nursing career (often against great odds). He has helped me through difficult times in my life. He delivered one of my children and is our family doctor and I hope will be for many years to come. When I am around Dr. Fraser I realize there is so much more in this world to treasure than just our wages."

It is interesting to hear the office personnel reminisce about the old days when the office had five rooms—one, the treatment room or really, the emergency room, before Liberty Memorial was built, was the scene of many ludicrous, sometimes frightening and often interesting scenarios. They tell too, of the funny letters Dr. Fraser has received asking for medical advice. There were those who paid him with eggs, turnip greens and potatoes. Some paid 50 cents a month on their bill and it never went by unappreciated by Dr. Fraser.

Dr. Whit used to make house calls at night after his office hours and would often take his family with him. Lou and others can attest to ingenious contraptions which served as great improvisation for fractures and the like. Once he set a broken hip by putting a pulley in the ceiling with a bucket on the end of the rope, adjusting the pull by the amount of water he added to the bucket. He was called upon many times to help out with difficult labor which the midwives of the county, often so far back in the woods they had to pipe light in. I asked Dr. Fraser how many babies he had delivered in his lifetime of



Dr. Fraser Checks Patient Chart At Hospital

medicine and he said, "Probably a rough "ball park estimate" would be about 3,250 before Dr. Shih came and I gave up that phase of my practice then."

I'm sure that all of you join me in this tribute to a really super guy. There are so many more interesting facets to Whit's life which I would like to include here but space and time does not permit. We'll be looking forward to seeing you for "Whit Fraser Week" the last few days of April and the first four days of May.

See ya next Tuesday.

# "Pot Pourri of a Man"



## "Pot Pourri of a Man" by Lynn Sikes

In Wichita Falls, October twenty six  
The Lord stirred together a special mix;  
He threw in honor, faith and love,  
Beatific ingredients, straight from above.  
He added compassion, talent and wit  
A savory concoction, his mother called Whit.  
A little boy beaker of books and songs,  
Mischievous deeds, but a "tighter" of wrongs -  
He loved to hunt, to read and sing,  
His interest encompassed many a thing.  
He played the guitar with zest and skill,  
Writing verse and song so freely at will -  
He traveled throughout our great U.S.,  
Gaining true pride in its loveliness -



In this prized jar of the pot pourri  
There came a change in the recipe ...  
It was from High School to Korea  
Then back to pursue the doctor idea -  
He met and married a lovely girl  
Who worked him through the medical whirl.  
Summa Cum Laude he graduated  
(Prophetically, as Lou had anticipated.)  
In New Orleans and Savannah he served a year  
But cousins and providence brought him here -  
We're eternally thankful for that fortunate move  
For it has beyond a doubt turned out to prove,  
That the lovely aroma of that pot pourri  
Has been the source of a real serendipity -  
Whit:  
Your life has touched us beyond measure  
A thought we hope you'll always treasure...  
Not just the folks in Hinesville alone  
But throughout Georgia's Coastal zone.  
So, thank you, Whit, and praise to God  
For planting your feet on Liberty's sod!



MAY 3, 1980

"This Is Your Life Tidbit Edition"





### His Name is Whitman

Well, his name's not Doc Holiday, Ben Casey or Kildare  
 And he's really not to blame for the way he wears his hair  
 But if you pass through Hinesville, on your merry way,  
 You're sure to hear his name in the conversation of the day...  
 His name is Whitman

He takes his practice serious, as any physician will.  
 He never gives sugar pills or whiskey for a chill.  
 He can take out fish hooks better than Jonas Salk.  
 They say he's quite a cut-up, in surgery or in talk.  
 And his name is Whitman.

When you're heart-broken and you hurt all over  
 Call this man and you'll be in clover.  
 He'll chuckle you through the storms and rain,  
 And make you laugh in spite of pain.  
 'Cause his name is Whitman.

A welcome sight is his grinning face,  
 In O.R. or Pedi, whatever the place.  
 The secret is he cures with laughter.  
 Treatment first - the bill comes after!



Paul Sutton

### The Most Perfect Whit Fraser Song

I was trying to compose a verse for old Whit,  
 But somehow the words just wouldn't fit -  
 To leave out anything would be wrong  
 In the "most perfect" Whit Fraser song.

Who else has gone duck hunting in a Houston rice-paddy,  
 And rode the Wabash Cannonball all the way down to Columbus, Georgia,  
 with Hobo Billy and the Yodeling Brakeman?  
 Why, it's none other than the lonesome cowboy from Eldora  
 Who can make more racket on a steel string git-tar  
 Than Eddie Arnold and Jimmy Rogers all together singing songs that are  
 Mighty Purty but powerful sad.  
 Songs like Old Shep. If that don't bring a tear to your eye  
 You just ain't one of those good ole boys who deserve  
 Some time in their life to have one good woman and one good dog.  
 They just don't hardly make that kind of good ole boy no more.

Ned Sneed





Whit has been a fine brother-in-law, but I think he must be a fine Doctor, too. Last summer I was having neck and back problems and Whit made the following diagnosis:

Having given due consideration to the contraption that bridges the gap between the torso and cranial vault, it is now apparent to me what must have happened to you. While indulging in transcendental meditation, hunger pains gripped your material nature. Your body transcended the refrigerator and your spirit sought its ambrosia on its own. At that moment Ned hit the door with a crescendo reminiscent of the battleship Texas opening up on Omaha beach, causing the refrigerator door to slam on your neck. At this point Ned made a scathing remark and you strained your right shoulder throwing the meat cleaver at him. (known in the trade as a meat-cleaver-clavicle!)

*Susie*

While in Korea during 52-53, Ned received this letter from Whit:

Howdy Buckshot,

I've been to Burnet trying to reduce the animal units per acre. Just about dusk last night I got in a heart, brain, neck and gut shot, before I realized it was a brown weed blowing across the road.

Check out the sabre-toothed deer and boar and I speck you could round up a good Christmas dinner.

Enjoyed your pictures, but that .50 at Berlin station is too exposed. DIG IT IN.

See you Hoss,  
Whit





# Letters of Appreciation

Dear Whit:

Our most wonderful memories of childhood are the famous family reunions held every few years when all the cousins got together and Uncle Charles climaxed events by standing on his head.

There was the time in Baileyville, on the Fourth of July at the Ford farm, when the older cousins forgot to bring fireworks. So that the kids wouldn't be disappointed, they set off a stick of dynamite to thrill them with the noise, and inadvertently blew up the Privy and two ant beds.

Then there was the Fourth of July in Wichita Falls when your brother, Wally, set off exploding caps in the city's sewers and blew off all the manhole covers in town. The Powers-that-Be thought the Russians had arrived and almost called out the National Guard.

And there we all were, 40 years later -- with our children -- at the Cheraw reunion in 1976. As usual, Uncle Charles, approaching 80, stood on his head. We convinced him it was time to "retire", and he passed the torch to our cousin, 58-year-old Gene Hanszen. Henceforth Gene will follow the ritual and stand on his head wherever Whitmans gather.

No other member of our clan has been so honored as you have been by the people of Hinesville and Liberty County. To add to the many accolades given you tonight, and to show our love and appreciation of your many efforts, we hereby nominate you for the highest family honor: when Gene Hanszen retires, we propose that you take over the torch and stand on your head at all Whitman family reunions.

Affectionately,

The Gurley Girls

May 3, 1980



# "The God Squad"



Mr. and Mrs. Randy Walker  
Wakefield Apartments  
Apt. #3206-F Calumet Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27610

April 28, 1980

Reverend Dan B. Lott  
First Presbyterian Church  
P. O. Box 83  
Hinesville, Georgia 31313

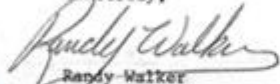
Dear Reverend Lott:

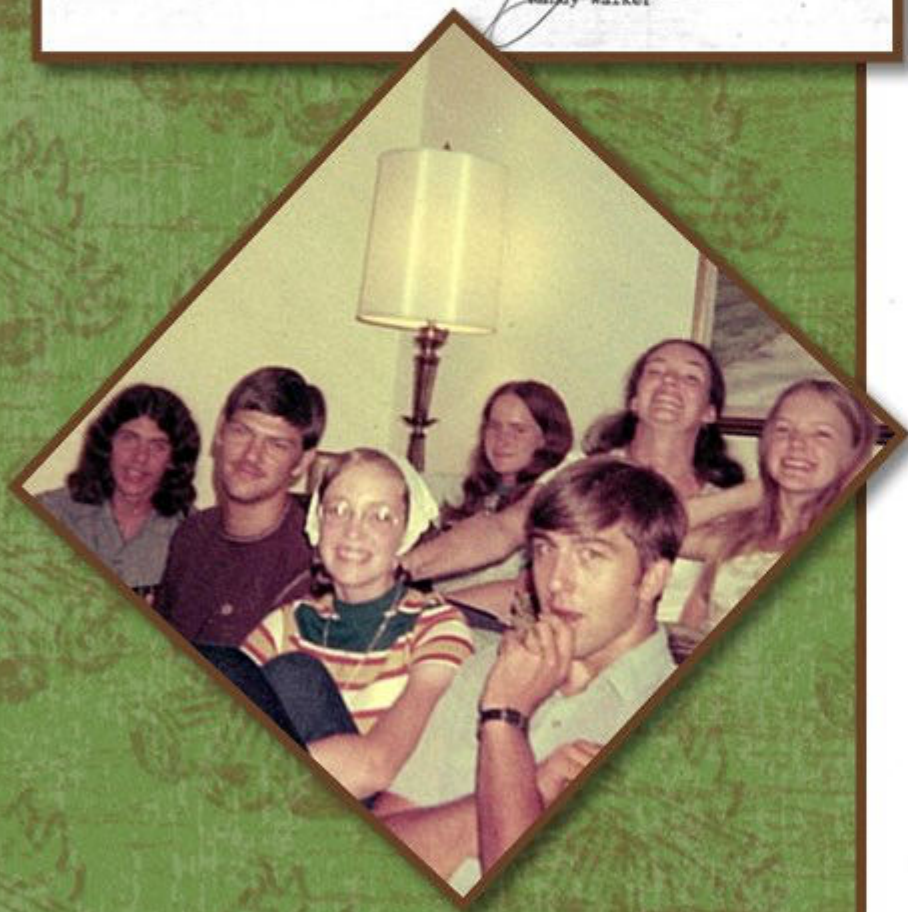
Due to a prior engagement in North Carolina, it is with my deepest regrets that I cannot attend this special service in honor of Dr. Fraser.

Dr. Fraser and his family have played an important part in my life and in my Christian pilgrimage. It was in their home several years ago at a series of Bible studies called "God Squad" meetings that my call to the ministry was affirmed. It is, therefore, with gratitude and appreciation that I address the following comments.

I would like to express my thanks to the one who reads this letter.

Sincerely,

  
Randy Walker



THIS DAY HAS BEEN SET ASIDE IN HONOR OF DR. WHITMAN FRASER, A GIFTED MAN, WHO HAS NOT ONLY SAVED LIVES IN HIS MEDICAL PROFESSION, BUT HAS ALSO HELPED TO ADD TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD BECAUSE OF HIS TREMENDOUS CHRISTIAN WITNESS. DR. FRASER HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN MY LIFE AND IN MY CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE; IT IS, THEREFORE, WITH MUCH LOVE, GRATITUDE, AND APPRECIATION THAT I DIRECT THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

I FOUND AND PUT MY FAITH IN CHRIST ON MARCH 19, 1971. ABOUT THIS TIME A GROUP OF CONCERNED ADULTS MET TO PRAY FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN HINESVILLE. TWO OF THESE ADULTS WERE DR. AND MRS. FRASER. MANY THINGS CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF THIS PRAYER GROUP - A COUNTY-WIDE YOUTH REVIVAL, AND A BIBLE STUDY GROUP CALLED "GOD'S SQUAD". THESE MEETINGS WERE HELD IN THE FRASERS' HOME, AND IT WAS THERE THAT MY CALL TO THE MINISTRY WAS AFFIRMED.

IT WAS ALSO HERE THAT I LEARNED SOMETHING FROM DR. FRASER THAT I DID NOT LEARN DURING MY FOUR YEARS OF UNDERGRADUATE WORK OR MY PAST TWO YEARS OF GRADUATE WORK AT WAKE FOREST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. THIS "SOMETHING" WAS HOW TO BE A LEADER.

I AM CONVINCED THAT EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN LEADERS ARE THOSE WHO, LIKE THEIR LORD, SEEK TO ENABLE OTHERS TO EXPERIENCE LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY. DR. FRASER EXEMPLIFIED THIS IN HIS LIFE STYLE. HE WAS CONTINUOUSLY HELPING PEOPLE TO BECOME ALL THAT THEY COULD BECOME UNDER GOD. HE ALWAYS SHOWED A HIGH CONCERN FOR PERSONHOOD. AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, DR. FRASER EQUIPPED CHRISTIANS TO BE, TO DO, AND TO TELL THE GOSPEL. YES, DR. FRASER'S MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP HAS HAD A GREAT IMPACT ON MY OWN LIFE.

THANK YOU, DR. FRASER, FOR CARING AND FOR SHARING YOUR LOVE, WISDOM AND CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ME AND TO THOSE ABOUT YOU. IT IS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT I CAN SAY, DR. FRASER, THAT I LOVE YOU.



## Whit's Wit

### Dr. Shaw T. Su

Shaw Su's another plumber and they say he is the best.  
He unplugs pipes and cranks up pumps and never soils his vest.  
Be it renal or prostatic, he's an artist through and through.  
If your hydraulic pressure fails, just go see Shaw T. Su.

### Dr. Don Piatt

Don Piatt is a con man that you really won't believe.  
They ran him out of Texas with two aces up his sleeve.  
Cardiology was his training and now X-ray is his front.  
He deals in cars and real estate and points out A-V shunts.

### Dr. Lloyd Schnuck

This kindly Schnuck is straight man for Piatt's nefarious schemes.  
He's always Mr. Nice Guy and they call him Mr. Clean.  
His halo doesn't lose its shine when Don splits up the take.  
His innocence is plain to see, he's just a piece of cake.

### Colonel White

Colonel White is the commander of Ft. Stewart's medic bunch.  
I'm sure he has his hands full, and that's not just a hunch.  
The Rangers tear each other up, they burned his O.R. down.  
But now he's building a new place, the finest that's around.

### Dr. Walker Beeson

Well if you know this Beeson dude, you know just what I mean.  
He's always looking hungry and he's always looking lean.  
His veins are full of anti-freeze, his glance will stop a bear.  
He'll zap you with 400 Watts and give you curly hair.

### Dr. Dan Willoughby

Now, Big Dan is the last one and he has me in a bind.  
Willoughby rhymes with wallaby, but that's all that I can find.  
He's never seen Australia and he hasn't got much hair.  
He's President of The G.M.S., we better leave it there.

### Visiting Doctors

We have some visiting doctors, they all are mighty fine.  
They came down here to Hinesville to wish us well and dine.  
I think you all should know them, so we'll ask each one to stand,  
And when we tell you who they are, please give them a big hand.

#### Dr. Joe Mulherin

Mulherin is the first one and he's Irish you all know.  
He started out in Hinesville over twenty years ago.  
With plaster casts and gator bites he did extremely well.  
Since passing gas became his bag, in Savannah he must dwell.

#### Dr. Jimmy Metts, Sr.

The shakers and the Movers are a breed of men with grit.  
Savannah has its quota, but there's one who never quits.  
His language shocks the D.A.R., he sins without regret.  
I'm speaking of the one and only Senior Jimmy Metts.

#### Dr. David Robinson

Dave Robinson was a galfer on the Coastal Georgia greens.  
But, Becky thought he ought to work and bring home grits and beans.  
So he came down to Hinesville to take pictures of the ill.  
Morbidity ran up sky high when Dave mailed out his bill.

#### Dr. Tom Yeh

Now Thomas Yeh does plumbing on a lot of Hinesville Rubes.  
He splits them down the middle and splices in new tubes.  
They say it's kinda hairy as they slip beneath the fog.  
They came back home to plow and milk and raise a few more hogs.



Appreciation Poured Out From The Community



Thanks for your ministry

I do thank God daily for you & Lou and what your Christian influence has done for my life & many others - Love you both!

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58)  
5121-E  
Clyde D  
Hinesville, GA  
April 11, 1980

What a gift in just a way of saying "I love you" and your family - Hope you can Dilise it.

Alone

P.S. I'm so glad Lisa Honey! Love you!

Whit, we love you this much because you really love and God.

...who attempted to... Whit Fraser has meant to... my family... community and to my family... impossible task... Hinesville knew that it was... back in 1958 when the... among us. However, at that time... could not fully appreciate the... God's blessing. In a very short... became obvious that in... dedicated Christian and a very... my mind is flooded with memories... think back over the years. Hardly truly... not express what Whit meant to the... family. In good times and through the... darkest days, he remained a steadfast... confidant... grateful for this opportunity... with yours and...



BIRDHOUSE - Lewis Downs of Hinesville has built a special birdhouse to give to Dr. Whitman Fraser. Mr. Downs designed the house like the front of Dr. Fraser's home with columns and handcarved banisters all the way around the birdhouse.

Liberty Memorial Hospital

To the world's greatest doctor we are proud we caught you hook, line and sinker. May God Bless you and yours and love you, Charles, Marilyn, Charlene & Kim Saults

MARTIN'S FLOWER SHOP  
ZHA058(1003)(4-0170635123  
1120AEST EM  
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP  
9123545898 TDMT SAVANNAH GA 11 05-02 100  
PMS DR WHIT FRASER, DLR  
HINESVILLE GA  
BEST WISHES TO YOU ON YOUR SPECIAL WEEK,  
DR JOHN NORTHUP AND DR JOSEPH DEHAVEN  
NNNNM

Thank You To A Very Special Lady - Thank you for sharing him with us. The Love of...

Hazel, Sanford Don Carter



Columbia Theological Seminary Decatur, Georgia 30030, 404-271-0122  
 May 16, 1980

Dr. Whitman Fraser  
 Hinesville, Georgia 31313

Dear Dr. Fraser:  
 It was with very great pleasure that I learned through Richard Bass of the well deserved recognition accorded you by Hinesville and Liberty County during the week of April 27 - May 2, 1980. You have well deserved this recognition and I know that I am only one of a host of friends who takes great satisfaction in it. We are grateful for the outstanding service which you have rendered as a physician and a community leader but most of all for the Christian witness which you have borne in all of life's relationships. You have been a credit to your profession and also to the Presbyterian church not only in the Hinesville congregation but in all the courts of the church.

C. W. Rawson, Jr., M.D.  
 Orthopedic Surgery  
 I remember my various contacts with you with great pleasure but particularly the time which we spent together on the committee for the boundaries of presbyteries. I still think that the plan we proposed was a sound one, and that the Synod would have been blessed by its adoption.

Orthopedic Associates of Savannah  
 Telephone 355-0140  
 P. O. Box 22787, Station C  
 Savannah, Georgia 31405

Dear Doctor and Mrs. Fraser,  
 Our thoughts are with you during this important time in your lives. We join the people of Hinesville in honoring you for your outstanding contributions to the community.

Yours truly,  
 Eugene J. Rawson  
 C. W. Rawson, Jr., M.D.

Dear Lou and Whit,  
 Joe and I will be out of town this weekend, therefore, we'll miss the "gala" fair. We are truly sorry as we would like to add our love to both of you. You and Whit - it should be "we love Lou too!" You both are very dear to all us Thompson's. A wonderful time - then Monday - it's to the old grind!

Dear Dr. Fraser  
 May 16, 1980  
 I was so busy during the week long commemorative honoring of you and your wife that I was unable to write you an appreciation of your good work. I am taking time now to write you the news stories that were published April 29, May 1 and 2, May 6th. No what my brother Nedra, and my husband May show with me the stories about you. It is wonderful to have the appreciation of so many people. My sincere love and hope to bless your wife and children with your love and affection. I sincerely hope you will have a happy birthday!

Congress of the United States  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, D.C. 20515  
 May 5, 1980

Honorable Whitman Fraser  
 Fraser Drive  
 Hinesville, Georgia 31313

Dear Dr. Fraser:  
 I have read with interest the plans for the tribute to you by the fine people of Hinesville and Liberty County. It is obvious that you are indeed more than an excellent doctor to these folks. Their pride for your contributions through medicine, community service and religious leadership paints a portrait of a great American, and I would like to join their chorus of praise. On behalf of the people of the First District of Georgia, I salute you and thank you. Please feel free to call on me if I can ever be of service to you or your family. With my warmest personal regards, I am  
 Sincerely,  
 E. P. Barks

On my desk is a great book "Competent to Counsel" written by Dr. Whit Fraser. It has been suggested this book... It has been a helpful tool in counseling for several years... We are also indebted to his family in so many ways. Gwyn meant so much to our daughter Ina during their years in Presbyterian College... It is EXACTLY true that most men who excel in witnessing and living for Christ have the help and prayers of a wonderful wife... This is certainly true in the case of Dr. Fraser... We are blessed by many of your members in both Fitzgerald and Swainsboro.

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
 Room 304  
 FEDERAL BUILDING  
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31520  
 (912) 264-4380  
 411 COTTON AVENUE  
 MARIETTA, GEORGIA 30062  
 (912) 592-1525  
 ROOM 240  
 OLD POST OFFICE BUILDING  
 SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31412  
 (912) 232-2414

Couldn't happen to a nicer guy -  
 Alex & Annette  
 MARTIN'S FLOWER SHOP

In honor of Dr. Whit Fraser

Sincerely,  
 Carolyn



Bonnie Dudley, Daughter Jennifer Present Flowers To Dr. Whit Fraser

# Fraser Program Goes Over Big In Community

## Doctor Says He's Happy

the past but the biggest point was bringing Whitman Fraser and his entire family together again.

His first nurse, Ann Groover; his first patient, Ed Mims; his office staff; his childhood playmates; army buddies; medical school friends; classmates; and former doctors he has worked with in 22 years of service to Liberty County.

His daughters sang a song, "Throw Another Log on the Fire," throughout the presentation and it was a complete family affair when his son, Buster, joined him in the last phase of the show.

His uncle, Charles Whitman, held him on his knee when he was just one year old.

"It was a new suit and I was going to a dance," said Whitman. "Whit wiggled, turned red in the face and my suit was ruined. I missed the dance. That's why I refuse to wear one of those, 'We Love Whit,' shirts until I get an apology from him."

Charles Whitman added, "Whit Fraser wanted to be one of four things when he grew up, a preacher, fireman, policeman or doctor, someone who helps people. I'm so glad he chose a doctor. He regards all people the same. Everyone is a friend. This man knows no enemies. I haven't seen any changes in his feelings in an entire lifetime."

And, that pretty well describes the man, Whit Fraser.

"There's no way to thank all the people that have worked so hard on this week," said John Ward Winn. "We may have put on an amateurish production but it all came from our heart for one purpose and that's simple, 'We Love Whit Fraser!'"

mountain all week and haven't come back down yet. But, I know that I gotta.

"It was a real experience," emphasized Fraser. "There is nothing in my life that I can relate to that will describe it. It was just like a dream.

"At first I felt intimidated but everyone was thoughtful and discreet and made it as easy as possible for me. There's some wonderful people here and we love them all.

"But now, it's back to work, double up and catch up. There can be no change in routine for me."

The week started with an opening ceremony at Bradwell Park when Mayor James Brown and Chairman of County Commissioner's Jimmy Floyd presented Fraser with a proclamation and resolution making the week, "Whit Fraser Week."

Then it was a week of dinner parties and special events tapered off with the big weekend.

A parade on Friday with the Bradwell Institute band and Dancerettes, the Hinesville Middle School band, the Ft. Stewart Gatorettes, several floats, city and county dignitaries and a special group, "Whit's Babies."

Saturday was a barbecue, chaired by Bill Gassaway, with all the proceeds going to special equipment in the cardiac department at Liberty Memorial Hospital.

Then the big event, "This is Your Life. Whit Fraser," created by Tom Smith, Palmer Dasher, Sherry Fraser, Gwynn Fraser, John Ward Winn, Nan Flowers, Lynn Sikes, Bunny Middleton, Jor'ye Bacon and committee, Emily Underwood, Earl Elam, Coastal Utilities, WGML and First Presbyterian Church.

It started at Whit Fraser's birth and traced his life through 22 years of medical service to Liberty County.

BY KEN WYNN  
Herald Staff Writer

Whitman Fraser.

A man.

A doctor.

A friend.

A father.

A husband.

This man is many things to many people but he's something, "Special!" of Hinesville and Liberty County and it was all evident last week with "Whit Fraser Week."

"We love you so much, we are going to do all this again next year," said Carolyn Lee, assistant administrator at Liberty Memorial Hospital.

"I just can't get over all the events of last week," said Mrs. Lou Fraser, wife of the doctor, Monday morning. "I'm so spaced out, I just can't seem to get moving."

"Gracious, how can I describe how I felt about what happened last week," said Dr. Fraser Monday morning. "I feel like I have been on the top of a



## Hinesville Ceremonies Honor Dr. Fraser for Contributions

By DOUG PAYNE  
Hinesville Bureau

HINESVILLE— The saying "they don't make 'em like they used to" applies to a lot of things, and people in Hinesville have set aside this week to honor a doctor who fits that description.

The week has even been named after Dr. Whitman Fraser, general practitioner for the community since 1958 and a member of the Liberty Memorial Hospital medical staff since it was built in 1961.

"He's more than just a doctor, he's a great humanitarian," said hospital administrator Doyle Mullis.

"I have been involved with a number of projects, but this is the only one where every person I've called to

help out has dropped everything and said, 'Sure. I'll be glad to help,'" said John Winn, coordinator of one of the several events for Whit Fraser Week, which ends Sunday.

The events include dinners, church sermons, a parade, ceremonies in the park and a special edition of "This Is Your Life," all dedicated to the physician whom many say has gone beyond the normal doctor's call of duty and become more than just a bedside friend.

Mullis does not think that comparing Fraser to Marcus Welby is inappropriate.

"Most doctors are trained in the scientific aspect of medicine. It's what they focus on; it's what they're forced to do these days. Only a few of

them show a real interest and talent in the human side of the business," Mullis said. "Whit Fraser is one of those. He learned his practice in an earlier time."

His personal qualities and abilities are such that even the other doctors at the hospital look to Fraser as an example and, according to Mullis, "pattern their own behavior with their patients on what they have seen Whit accomplish. His leadership and personal relationships have been a help to every one of them."

Winn says that the response to Whit Fraser Week is "a personal thing with everybody, but this guy has touched so many lives in this community. He's a confidant in personal problems, a dedicated physician and a dedicated Christian."



## Letters To The Editor

# Whit Fraser Expresses Appreciation

### EDITOR:

The following is an open letter to the citizens of Liberty county:

You really got down to where my flea bitten old gizzard thumps with all your carrying on recently. Thank you for so much love and well wishing crammed into one little week until it plumb split its britches. You all are something else!

As I think back on all that took place, there are several things that seem most important.

The first thing is that what happened spoke much about the kind of people you are rather than indicating anything about me. You sure have the ability to show love to others unashamedly and that brings up the second important thing.

You all were absolutely pent up to popping with a desire to express your love and goodwill to each other. When you found an excuse, you just uncorked it and let it flow. I think you meant as much to each other as you did to me. It became a warm and wonderful time to enjoy friends and neighbors without generation gaps, racial bias, or sex distinction--everybody in the same pot.

Finally, it reminded me that it is quite impossible to outgive our Lord. What little I have put into this County had already been returned to me "in full measure, ten times over, pressed down and running over" even

**You really got down to where my flea bitten old gizzard thumps with all your carrying on recently. -- Dr. Whit Fraser.**



before this delightful week. You all just put the cap on it.

Thank you for your warmth to my family as well as to me. I pray for you tonight that God's grace will so pour out on this people, that your love for each other will know no bounds; and all who pass this way will give praise and thanks to God for a people who show forth the love of Jesus for all the world to see.

God bless each of you.  
**WHIT FRASER**



## *Just a country doc*

Hinesville's country doctor spent his career doing what he really wanted to do

By **BARBARA HEARN**  
Courier Staff Reporter

Whitman Fraser started his practice in Hinesville wanting to be a small town country doctor and that is exactly what he was.

He said his office on Fraser Drive was built before the Liberty Memorial Hospital in 1961.

Reflecting back over two decades of practicing medicine, Fraser said he had a very satisfying career.

Over that span of time, Fraser started in general practice of medicine and surgery and then went into obstetrics.

He estimated that he delivered about 3,000 babies during his career. That equals out to about 20 and 25 a month, which is almost one a day.

"That is the happy part of medicine," said Fraser. "It looks like a miracle everytime it happens. It really is exciting."

Fraser has practiced in other fields of medicine.

Starting in the early 1970's, he dealt primarily in internal medicine with a special interest in Cardiology. He said his favorite aspect of medicine is Cardiology.

"It has affected my family," added Fraser. He said the field has developed tremendously in the last 20 years.

Fraser added it is self-satisfying to be able to alter the affect of a disease process in an individual. He said he has relieved an awful lot of human suffering in that area.

In 1979, Fraser became a board certified specialist in Family Practice.

Born and raised in Texas, he said the two states are quite different. "I've loved Georgia. It is wonderful."

Fraser's father was born in Savannah, and his grandfather was born in Hinesville. He said he had the opportunity to become acquainted to this area before he started his practice.

**WHIT FRASER RETIRES** — Having recently retired, Dr. Whitman Fraser said he plans to take up archery, wildlife photography, and binding old books together. He said he feels he had a satisfying 27 years of practicing medicine in Hinesville.



Whitman Fraser



## YMCA, Fraser Foundation Join to Bring State-of-the-Art Y to Hinesville

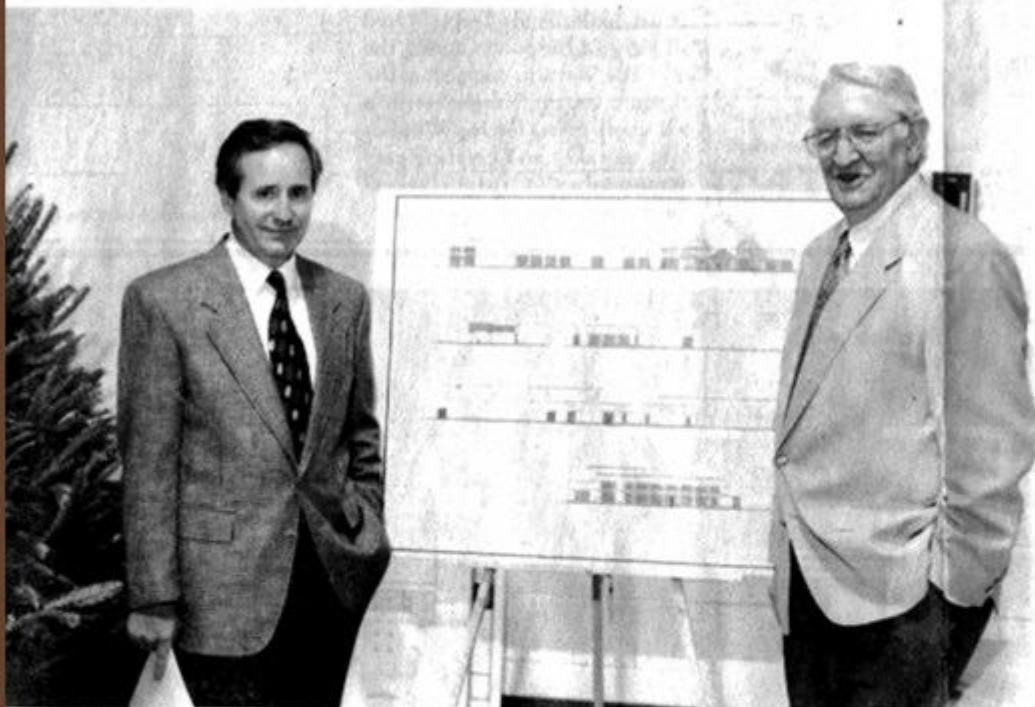


Photo by Wayne Moore

Liberty Co./Armed Services Family YMCA board president Billy Jones (left) and Dr. Whit Fraser, board member and president of the Mary Lou Fraser Foundation for Families, pose with the plans for the new YMCA facility.

By Jen Marsik

Five years ago, Hinesville didn't even have a YMCA. Now the 5-year-old organization has a burgeoning membership and, in late 1994, will have a 44,000-square-foot facility featuring an Olympic-sized pool.

According to Liberty Co./Armed Services Family YMCA

board president Billy Jones, the national YMCA office is so enamored with the plans for the Hinesville site, they have decided to adopt the new facility as the prototype for YMCAs throughout the United States.

The \$3 million facility is the fruition of the expanding partnership between the YMCA of Savannah Inc. and the Mary Lou Fraser Community

Support Foundation, which will bankroll much of the project.

"Initially, a group under Billy Jones and others put together a board of directors and were instrumental in getting the YMCA here," said Dr. Whitman Fraser, president of the Fraser Foundation and a YMCA board member. "At the same time, I was looking for a program to

get the Fraser center involved with the youth of the community."

The two organizations came together and began aggressively supporting youth programs in the area under Y director Joel Smoker.

"We turned our day camp over to them and the gym," Fraser said. "It was working well."

"When the YMCA began to occupy that space, he saw what an obvious marriage there was between the philosophies," Jones said.

courts, locker rooms and aerobics, fitness/weight and meeting rooms.

Additionally, a family counseling and addictions recovery center of about 7,500 square feet will house the Fraser Counseling Center, the Liberty Recovery Center and the Liberty County Driver Improvement Clinic.

Construction will start on a 15-acre plot on Patriot Trail near Brown Park in March of 1994. Jones added, "We hope to be swimming by next December."

*'I think it's absolutely, positively the most fantastic thing to ever happen to Liberty County.'*

— Billy Jones

The expansion resulted in a jump from about 150 up to 350 members over an 18-month time period.

At the same time, Fraser talked to a number of sources that brought him to the conclusion that an aquatics program would be the best way to get the highest number of community youth off the streets.

"Aquatics appeal to children of all ages," he said. "In baseball or soccer, the outstanding kids will get recognized, but in aquatics, the level of competition is such that it doesn't exclude anyone."

In addition to the pool, the facility will include a gym, racquetball

"The foundation was formed for ways to strengthen family life," said Fraser. "This is the orientation of the YMCA, also. It's a place for families to get together."

"I came to Liberty County in 1958 and found the people to be very caring. The financial resources are very limited, but the people are willing to work. They have the interest and responsibility that will put a lot of energy into this."

Jones continued, "I think it's absolutely, positively the most fantastic thing to ever happen to Liberty County. This will be equal to or better than any facility in the U.S. It's a dream come true." ☺



# YMCA starting construction June 23

The 43,000 square foot facility said to be a premier Y.

By Patrick Donahue  
Sports Writer

Thursday, June 23, the Liberty County/Armed Services YMCA will take a huge jump forward

when it breaks ground on its new facility.

The 43,000 square foot building, on Patriots Trail, will have a 3,600 square foot aerobics room, a 25-meter pool, a fitness room, free weight room, a basketball court, two handball/racquetball courts, separate boys, girls, men's and women's lockerrooms, a whirlpool, steam rooms, saunas and three multipurpose rooms. Y Director Joel Smoker is understandably thrilled about the prospect of moving into such a fa-

cility.

"It's been a long time coming," he said. "I thought we'd be in by this time but there have been some wetlands issues and some setbacks. We were going through the design and make sure it was done properly.

"It's like a dream come true," Smoker continued. "There are so many board members who have



Dr. Whit Fraser

worked on it and have been envisioning this since 1987. I'm ecstatic it's going to happen. This is going to be one of the premier Ys in the country."

Making this possible is a \$3 million gift from Dr. Whit Fraser, through the Mary Lou Fraser Community Support Foundation. A

See YMCA.....page 2

## YMCA

Continued from page 1

new Fraser Counseling Center, which now shares space with the current Y facility on Tupelo Trail, will also be going up next to the YMCA.

"I think about what Dr. Fraser has done," Smoker said, "and it just gives me chills. I don't know if even he understands how much impact this will have."

Smoker is grateful for getting a building with all these amenities at one time, something most Ys aren't used to getting.

"A lot of Ys aren't fortunate to build it all at one time. They have to keep adding on," he said. "I'm fortunate to walk into a situation like this."

A new building will also mean an expanded list of programs the YMCA will offer. Smoker is especially looking forward to opening up the pool. The Y has conducted backyard swimming lessons but in a year, Smoker hopes to be able to do those in the new building.

"The biggest additional program would be the aquatics," he said. "We'll be able to offer lessons for teens and adults throughout the year. We can have water aerobics and have a senior arthritis program called 'aquacise.'"

The fitness rooms will have

12 to 13 workout stations with rowing machines possible and circuit training to boot. Smoker said they'll be able to offer fitness evaluations where they can recommend what kind of workout for someone to go through if they want to drop weight or reach a certain fitness goal.

The meeting rooms and multipurpose areas, along with the pool, could point the way for the Y to get more involved in programs for teens. Smoker projects opening the YMCA two nights a month for teen programming, ranging from splashing about in the pool to watching movies to playing basketball. Smoker would also like to make the

meeting rooms available for groups and organizations to use and he said they're already starting to collaborate with the soon-to-open new Senior Citizens Center.

And Smoker is also looking forward to opening the basketball court. "We're very grateful for the use of Jordye Bacon's gym," he remarked, "but we'll have a gym we can call our own."

The expanded facility and the programs that go with it also mean a big surge in the Y staff. They could add as many as 40 part-time helpers along with three or four full-timers, including a facility manager, an aquatics director and an aerobics director.

# the Coastal Courier

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Sunday, June 12, 1994





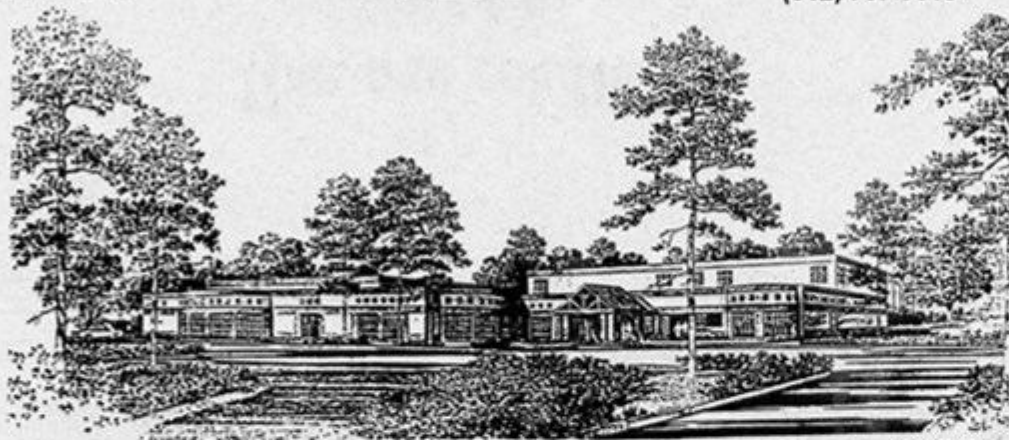
# YMCA Breaks Ground in June 1994

Liberty County/Armed Services

YMCA  
750 Tupelo Trail  
(912) 368-9622

Family  MCA

Fort Stewart Program Office  
Community Recreation Center  
Building 750, Lindquist Road  
(912) 767-7918



GROWING IN BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT . . .

## Ground Breaking Ceremonies

Thursday, June 23, 1994

11:00 a.m.

750 Tupelo Trail  
Hinesville, Georgia

Light Buffet



*File photo*  
**BUILDER** — Dr. Whit Fraser stands with shovel in hand at last summer's YMCA groundbreaking.



# YMCA Breaks Ground On New Hinesville Facility

## Officials Say Bigger, Better Y To Feature Indoor Pool, Racquetball Courts

By **STACY SEAMAN**  
Closeup Staff Writer

HINESVILLE - Temperatures were in the 90s last Thursday, but that didn't stop a group of YMCA supporters from grabbing a couple of shovels and going to work.

It was all part of a ground breaking ceremony for a new \$4 million Liberty County/Armed Services YMCA being built behind the current YMCA facility in Hinesville.

The 40,000-square-foot complex, which will be completed in about a year, is being funded through a grant from Dr. Whitman Fraser. He is making the donation through the Mary Lou Fraser Community Support Foundation, named in honor of Fraser's late wife.

Billy Jones, YMCA chairman, praised Fraser for his outstanding vision and "Let's

**"It will be one of the best in the country ... But more importantly it will offer a wonderful opportunity to recreate as a family."**

**Joel Smoker**  
branch manager

do it," attitude. "Through his example he encouraged each of us to reach beyond our own little world," Jones said.

Campaign chairman Larry Golden said volunteers have already raised \$260,000, which will be used to furnish the facility.

Branch manager Joel Smoker said that once the decision was made to have a new facility, things moved forward and volunteers never wavered from the path.

"Your commitment has turned a dream into reality," Smoker said.

The new YMCA complex will offer its members a multitude of activities for all ages, according to Smoker.

"It will be one of the best in the country," said Smoker. "But more importantly it will offer a wonderful opportunity to recreate as a family."

Fraser, a retired pediatrician, showed

"amazing foresight" by funding the project, Smoker said. He explained that Fraser can visualize how a YMCA can become a central hub for the families of a community, even though Fraser did not have the experience of a YMCA while he was growing up.

The organization has only been in Liberty County the last five years or so, Smoker said.

Because of the wide range of activities that will be available when the project is completed, Smoker said the YMCA will offer something for every age group.

One feature will be the 25-meter indoor L-shaped swimming pool, which will solve the conflicts that sometimes arise between those who want to swim laps and those who don't, Smoker said.

■ See YMCA, Page 8

# YMCA

Continued From Page 1

An area Smoker terms an "instructional well" will provide a place for lessons "during heavy use time," he explained. That will leave open several lanes for those who want to swim laps, he said.

The new pool will also be a place to offer swimming activities for those of all ages, including lessons for anyone who wants to learn how to swim, and water exercise classes for seniors and those suffering from arthritis.

Currently the YMCA offers swimming lessons to children in neighborhood pools. Those will become history once the new facility opens and allows the YMCA to expand its swimming program, Smoker said.

A "state-of-the-art fitness room" with equipment such as a stair climber and tread mill will be part of the new YMCA, along with a weight room, two racquetball courts, and a gym that can handle up to three basketball games at a time.

Boys', girls', men's and women's locker rooms will be built, as will a steam and sauna room and a whirlpool, Smoker said.

Two meetings rooms, one with kitchen facilities, will be available.

A separate building will house a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, directed by Bill Johnson; a family and divorce counseling center run by Bill Barnett and a driving school.

The Liberty County/Armed Services YMCA is limited in what it can offer now because of limited space. That will all change once the new center is in operation.

"It's going to do so much for the "Y" program," Smoker said, noting that the new facility will offer more programs to all ages, making it a place where families and singles





## Generosity 'felt for generations'

### YMCA honors Hinesville's Whit Fraser.

By Doug Gross  
Staff Writer

Hinesville's Dr. Whit Fraser was called "one of the most generous philanthropists in the Southeast" Thursday night as he was recognized for his contributions to the area's YMCA chapters.

Fraser received the Coastal Georgia Young Men's Christian Association Distinguished Leadership Award at the group's yearly meeting in Savannah.

At the meeting, leaders noted Fraser's numerous contributions

to the organization during his four-year involvement, including a major financial contribution to the building of a \$3 million YMCA

building in Hinesville.

"Never have I seen anyone involved with the 'Y' for such a short time who has made such a



Photo by Doug Gross

**THANKS — Dr. Whit Fraser, right, receives the Coastal Georgia YMCA Distinguished Leadership Award from President Randy Bugos.**

tremendous impact," Coastal Georgia YMCA President Randy Bugos said. "His generosity is going to be felt for generations."

Hinesville Director Joel Smoker echoed the sentiments.

"You don't run into many people like him," Smoker said of Fraser. "He's a very caring man."

He said Fraser is likely the first YMCA member from Liberty County to ever receive the Distinguished Leadership Award.

Fraser, in addition to involvement in numerous charitable organizations in the county, is president of the Mary Lou Fraser Foundation for Families and is a YMCA board member.

The proposed Y, which will share a 15-acre plot on Patriot Trail near James Brown Park in Hinesville with a new counseling center, will measure 44,000

See FRASER.....page 2

### Fraser

Continued from page 1

square feet.

It is scheduled to include a swimming pool, racquetball courts, a basketball court, aerobic and weightlifting

rooms.

Fraser, through the M.L. Fraser Community Support Foundation, donated \$3 million of the necessary \$3,200,000 for the center.

Sunday, March 13, 1994

From Coastal Courier



## Dr. Whit Fraser dies

Community mourns death of local philanthropist.

By Anne Cordeiro  
Staff Writer

Many Liberty Countians started this week reminiscing and mourning the loss of a longtime friend to the community - Dr. Whit Fraser.

He died at his home early Monday. His obituary says the cause of death was a short illness. Reportedly he was to undergo a heart catheterization Monday.

The doctor had long endeared himself to Liberty County. In the spring of 1980, Liberty County proclaimed its love for Fraser with Whit Fraser Week. Members of the community organized a parade and a barbecue to honor him as a friend and as a doctor. T-shirts, emblazoned with "I Love Whit," along with bumper stickers and posters were distributed.

### Whit Fraser Week

Fraser said to the crowd and his wife, the late Mary Lou Fraser, and his daughters, "I've had a love affair going on with with Liberty County for about 22 years and I'm real pleased to get both my families together and introduce you to each other today...This is where I was when I wasn't home," according to news reports from the time.

Ann Groover, nursing administrator at Liberty Regional Medical Center, met Fraser when she was a student nurse in the late 1950s in New Orleans at Charity Hospital. The Charity Hospital was a United States Public Health Hospital, where Fraser worked from 1956 to 1957.

While in New Orleans, Fraser, who worked with Groover in pediatrics, asked Groover where she was from. Groover said, "I'm from Hinesville, Georgia, but you probably don't know where that is." To her surprise she said Fraser told her he knew where Hinesville was and he had relatives there.

Fraser was born in Wichita Falls, TX on Oct. 24, 1926. His father had been born in Savannah, but his grandfather,

### Obituary on page 2

Wallace Winn Fraser, was born in Hinesville. Fraser also had several cousins in Hinesville, including Gen. J.B. Fraser. Whit Fraser moved from New Orleans to Savannah, where he continued to work at a United States Public Health hospital. Then, in 1958, he moved to Liberty County and opened a practice.

### Time for patients

Groover was his first nurse. She said time didn't mean anything to him when he saw a patient. "A patient with a 15 minute appointment could well be there for two to three hours if they wanted to....Sometimes you had to punch him up with the schedule of appointments, but it didn't matter to him," she said.

Dr. Joe Mulherin, who practiced with Fraser for four years, said he remembers the cowboy hat and the boots Fraser wore. Mulherin eventually moved his practice to Savannah.

In 1985, Fraser retired from practicing medicine. During 27 years of medical service, Fraser served as chief of staff at the former Liberty Memorial Hospital and as chairman of the Liberty County Board of Health and delivered more than 3,000 babies.

Doyle Mullis, the hospital administrator from 1970 to 1986, said he sought the counsel of Fraser many times. "I think he was one of the greatest humanitarians that came to Liberty County," he said.

When Fraser retired he intended to fill his spare time with binding old books, taking wildlife photographs, and archery. Edgar

Edwards, the former local school superintendent who worked with Fraser on the board of health, said the doctor loved to shoot his bow and arrow. When they went dove hunting, Fraser would stay out, even if it started raining. Edwards said, "Fraser would say 'Let's stay and shoot. I'll give everyone a free penicillin shot.'"

In 1993 at the YMCA Banquet in Savannah, Fraser was presented with the "YMCA of the USA Distinguished Leadership Award." Randy Bugos, the president of the YMCA Coastal Georgia, said when he presented the national award, "I have yet to run across anyone who has been involved for such a short period of time, but who has had such a major impact."

Locally, Fraser was instrumental in the YMCA. Joel Smoker, the local executive director of the YMCA, said Fraser gave the office space and the gym on Tupelo Trail where the YMCA and Mary Lou Fraser Counseling Center is currently located. Smoker said this allowed the YMCA to set up a place the community could identify.

Fraser served on the YMCA's board and many have said if it wasn't for him the new \$3 million YMCA and the new Mary Lou Fraser Counseling Center wouldn't be under construction.

"Fraser never said much at board meetings," Smoker said, "but when he did speak he had a good way of keeping people on track."

The YMCA experienced a small deficit in 1993 and some board members were depressed. But Fraser, Smoker said, reminded

See FRASER.....page 9

*"I've had a love affair going on with with Liberty County for about 22 years..."*

*-Dr. Whit Fraser in 1980*

The Liberty County Commission has requested that flags in the county be flown at half mast today and Thursday, at least through the time of Dr. Whit Fraser's funeral.

## Fraser

Continued from page 1

the board that the YMCA had given \$1,500 for day care scholarships and without those funds some children couldn't have attended the day care.

Fraser was also involved in the First Presbyterian Church of Hinesville for 27 years.

When the Rev. Dan Lott came to Hinesville he learned that Fraser and his wife had a program called the God Squad at their house. Lott said about 75 teenagers would gather for singing, praying and Bible study. Fraser also started a jail ministry program with C.R. Stanford, and a hospital ministry program, too. Lott said Fraser was inspirational because of his willingness to do anything from teaching Sunday School to working with young people.

Fraser, remembered for his unusual laugh, also played the guitar and at one time helped get a square dance group started in Hinesville. He was a storyteller, but Groover, doesn't think he told Texas tales. "I think he could back up any story he told,"

she said.

Bill Barnett, who worked at the Mary Lou Fraser Counseling Center, with Fraser said he remembers the story Fraser told when he returned from a safari trip to Kilimanjaro in Africa.

Fraser, who liked to take wildlife photographs, was going to get out of his jeep to take one of a buffalo.

But he was warned not to go to far from the jeep because the wild beasts could easily charge.

Taking some sound advice, Barnett said, "Fraser looked at the buffalo and the buffalo looked at Fraser and Fraser decided he'd just take the photos from the jeep."



# Beloved Dr. Whit, Celebrated in Life & Death

## Community lays Dr. Whit Fraser to rest

By Steve Scholar  
Assistant Editor

Dr. Whit Fraser was remembered in death much as he was in life - a kind, compassionate, God-fearing man who possessed the ability to treat every person he met with respect and dignity.

More than 300 people gathered at Hinesville's First Presbyterian Church yesterday for Fraser's funeral. They heard the Revs. Bill Johnson and Patrick Steven describe Fraser, who died Monday, as a man whose physical presence may be gone, but whose inner spirit continues to live and influence lives.

Hundreds of colorful flowers surrounded Fraser's dark wooden casket during the service and a single rose lay inside. Under a backdrop of churchbells, the painted white and oak church pews filled long before the 2 p.m. service with family, friends, government officials and acquaintances.

Both Johnson and Steven, along with Gwynn Fraser McGregor, Fraser's daughter, described him as a man of vitality whose main loves in this world were family - his family, his Liberty County fam-

ily and God's family.

"My father's greatness was his abandonment to God's will. It was God working through him. Because Jesus lives, my father lives. His seeds will go on. Dad is starting his great adventure. He lives," McGregor said.

"Whit left a great legacy. They are big foot prints to walk in. He lived his faith and was so alive.

"Whit talked with me many times about the importance of his family. His love for his family was a quality love. But he also loved your family and God's family. He never met a church he didn't like. When Lou died, he set a foundation to help families - your families," Johnson said.

As grown men wiped tears from their eyes, Fraser's two daughters and other relatives sang "He Lives" as a tribute to his faith in God and to how they feel he will continue to touch lives.

McGregor told those gathered that her mother and father would've celebrated their anniversary this month, but are now together.

"Blessed are those who die in the Lord," Johnson said.

By all accounts, he did.

Interment was in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah.



Photo by Jimmy McSaters

CORTEGE — Pallbearers carry Dr. Whit Fraser's casket from the First Presbyterian Church after his funeral Thursday.

## 'Dr. Whit' gave more to community than it can ever realize

Editor,

On March 6 I was awakened with the message that our beloved Dr. Whit Fraser had passed away during the night. He will truly be missed by many and our hearts feed sad that we won't be hearing his hearty chuckle anymore. Much of my quiet time this week has been spent reflecting on memories and feeling so privileged and blessed to have had my life's pathway cross with his.

About 24 years ago I started to work as an LPN at our local, then very small, hospital. It was obvious from the beginning that all the staff and employees were individuals to Dr. Whit. In those first months I couldn't help but notice that he called everyone by their first names - except me. I was "Mrs. Jones." Then one night in the nurses station he made a comment

to me and addressed me as "Grace." I've long since forgotten the comment, but I've never forgotten the joy of the feeling - I've arrived! I'm officially a part of the hospital family!

In those days, Dr. Whit conducted a Sunday morning devotional in the hospital dining room for the patients and employees who were able to attend. There I listened to a style of prayer which was new to me. He talked to God in the same language and with the same calmness that he spoke to everyone else.

As time passed, I watched and I listened. Depending on the situation, my thoughts were, "He should have been a teacher or he should have been a minister, or he should have been a psychologist." The list kept growing until, one day, the obvious hit. His title was MD but Dr. Whit was all of the above and more. He treated the whole person, physi-

cally, emotionally and spiritually.

Over the years my family and I were on the receiving end of his many gifts. No matter what came up or how bad it seemed, he could always find something good in any person or any situation; never judgmental, always kind and always sharing, his faith and strengths with those who needed him.

I know there were lots of us who were hesitant to call him for we knew how busy he was, how tired he must be and that he needed time for himself and his family. Somehow, when we were at our lowest, he would learn. There were times I answered the phone to hear a gentle voice say, "Hon, this is Dr. Whit, what can I do for you?"

The night my husband passed away, he was one of the first dear friends to arrive at my home. It was he who contacted our children and

my husband's siblings and helped us in so many ways.

Last year he intervened again for me during a medical crisis during the very night following the day he had spent making arrangements for his own surgery. His own problems always took a back seat when he knew someone else needed him.

I was privileged to know his wife, Lou, too. I'm sure there were many times that she, his children and grandchildren wished he could be home when he was out ministering to others. I want to thank you, Sherry, Gwen and Buster, for sharing your Dad with us all.

Last year, in a letter of thanks to Dr. Whit, I wrote, "As long as I can remember, I will remember a hand that reached out to so many people and that hand will be yours." I knew that if I was never able to say goodbye to him, I had already said it in my own way.

I believe that if today we could ask him "what can I do to help you?" his response would go something like:

"Believe in and accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and be assured of your own salvation. Then commit your life to his will and service, sharing your faith and God-given talents with others."

For his children to have been able to participate with smiles, son and strong voices at the closing service, he surely taught and they learned from where their strength comes.

Let us all not forget. We may not have the resources or the exposure that Dr. Whit had but as Gwen said in remembering her Dad, he went about his daily life planting seeds. It's up to each of us whose lives he touched to nourish them and watch them grow.

Grace Jones



## Liberty County says goodbye to 'Dr. Whit'

By JOHN CHEVÉS

Hinesville-Richmond Hill Bureau

HINESVILLE – Liberty County buried one of its finest citizens Thursday, a retired country doctor who quietly gave millions of dollars to the community and helped build its hospital and public health department.

Hundreds of people crowded into a Presbyterian church here to say goodbye to Dr. Whitman Fraser, 68, who died at his home Monday after a brief illness. He later was buried in Savannah.

Fraser was a tall, stocky Texan who never lost his rough drawl or cowboy boots. When he spoke – slowly, deliberately – people listened. But to his two generations of patients, and to the many area residents he helped financially,

**“I don’t mind saying, it’s frightening to us to imagine Whit gone.”**

**Bill Barnett**

“Dr. Whit” was a gentle man who could do only good.

“I don’t mind saying, it’s frightening to us to imagine Whit gone,” said Bill Barnett, director of counseling at the Mary Lou Fraser Foundation for Families. The Foundation is only one of several agencies that Fraser created to honor his late wife.

“Whit leaves such a gap in the com-

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## Goodbye

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munity that I don’t know how we will replace him,” Barnett said. “When you take three or four spokes out of a wheel, it won’t run quite so well anymore.”

Fraser was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, and earned his medical degree in 1956 from the University of Texas medical school in Galveston.

But Fraser chose Hinesville in 1958 as the town in which to begin his family practice. His grandfather had lived in Liberty County and left a slew of Fraser cousins in the area.

The doctor’s arrival predated by 17 years the expansion of Camp Stewart into Fort Stewart. Lacking its current federal funding, Hinesville was a tiny timber and farming town with only one or two doctors in the region.

“We were blessed to have him come to Hinesville for us,” said Flo Sikes Zechman, a Hinesville city councilwoman. “There was one time ... Whit rode in the ambulance with a patient all the way to Savannah. Hinesville was more or less without a doctor when he was gone.”

Fraser spent the next 27 years setting broken bones, bringing down fevers and criss-crossing Liberty and Long counties in his car on house calls. By some estimates, he delivered more than 3,000 babies, more than one-tenth the current population of Hinesville.

The lines were long at Dr. Whit’s office because he refused to rush any patient who wanted to talk, either about medical or personal problems. There were days that patients were well-advised to bring a magazine – or a novel – when they waited.

“There would be days we would open the door at 9 a.m., and we’d still be there at 10 p.m.,” said Wilda Kennedy, Fraser’s office manager for 25 years. “We worked some long days. But in all of the years I worked for him, Dr. Whit never raised his voice at me, or at anyone else.”

Despite his best efforts, some of Fraser’s patients inevitably died. The doctor usually would be the first to appear in the hospital waiting room, or at the family’s screen door, voice lowered, cowboy hat in hand.

“When my grandmother died, Whit came and saw us at the hospital to tell us how sorry he was,” Zechman said. “It was a very simple thing. But it said a lot about the

kind of man he was.”

In his “spare time,” Fraser sat for one term on the City Council and helped build the county’s hospital and public health department, serving in leadership roles at both agencies. He and his wife, Mary Lou, were also hits at the weekend square dances, where Fraser sometimes strummed the guitar.

“The thing I remember most about them is them smiling and laughing,” said Onetha Mingledorff, Hinesville city clerk. “He had this deep, booming laugh that started in his toes and just worked its way up through his body.”

Fraser retired in 1985 after his wife died of cancer. His energies then diverted full time to philanthropy. When Fraser wasn’t helping people make their rent payments or buy groceries, he created several family oriented agencies, such as the Fraser Counseling Center and Fraser Recovery Center.

Full-time counselors at these agencies treat hundreds of people each year for everything from divorce counseling to treatment for drug and alcohol abuse. Cost depends on what people can afford. Next door to the center is the future site of the \$3.5 million Hinesville YMCA, funded largely by Fraser.



# Fraser Center is a Dream Realized



**OLD SCHOOL** - Fraser bought the old Sandy Run School in 1985 for offices and room for his Fraser Counseling Center. It also now houses YMCA. When those organizations move about the end of this year, the building is scheduled to become the First Presbyterian School.

## New center is dream come true for doctor

By **KEN WYNN**  
Special to the Courier

Ever feel like something good is about to happen?

Whitman Fraser's dream has come true as he announced the formation of the Lou Fraser Foundation for Family Ministry in Liberty County.

"We will be located on the site of the former Sandy Run private school and will open in mid-September," said Fraser.

"We have so many plans for this ministry, so many dreams," continued Fraser. "We hope to utilize all the existing school facilities and in the future expand the entire 13 acre tract."

Col. George Hattle, chaplain, who retires on September 1, will serve as the ministry director.

The board of directors include Donald Lovett, Dixie Howe, Helen Stanford, Alfreda Adams and Fred Mingledorff Jr.

"The main focus of the ministry will be to strengthen the family," said Fraser. "It's a place where they can ask for help and get it. We need to reach these young couples before they are hurting so bad that help will be too late."

First on Hattle's agenda will be to develop training of personnel, seek volunteers, lay people, counselors of all types and go to it.



**Whitman Fraser**

"There are so many things we can do but the first three are counseling, training and making the most of our present resources," said Hattle.

"The entire program will be bas-

ed on christian principles," said Hattle. "There are so many things we can do - workshops, seminars, projecting self image, helping churches, targeting specific topics, forming special interest groups for teenagers, ladies, men, etc."

"The pet idea of the center was to target couples in their younger years and get them into the center," said Fraser. "They may not have any problems at all but the ministry can prevent them down the road. We can pick out future trouble areas, evaluate expectations, get them to communicating early and erase trouble spots."

While the ministry was still in the planning stages, Fraser had people from throughout the community, both military and civilian, to offer their help.

Fraser called them to his home last week and over 70 people jammed into his home to answer the call with "what can we do for you, Whit, since you have done so much for this community."

"It's amazing how the Lord takes a small gift and comes back to magnify it on us," said Fraser. "The Lord is so far ahead of us with his plan, we can't keep up with him, but everything we plan just falls into place with his guidance."



## A dream realized: Counseling center moves into new \$1 million building

By John Cheves  
Savannah News-Press

HINESVILLE — Five months after his death, Whitman Fraser's dream of a top-model counseling and drug rehabilitation center for Liberty County came true.

The Fraser Center moved into its new \$1 million building here Wednesday with plans to expand the mental health services it's offered to the Hinesville area for nearly a decade.

"We're here to meet the needs of families in trouble," said Bill Barnett, the center's counseling director. "Whether it's drugs, depression, divorce or violence, we're here for them. With the new space that we're getting, we'll be able to offer more programs."

The patchwork of services now known as the Fraser Center began in 1986 when Fraser, a retired Hinesville doctor, created the Mary Lou Fraser Foundation for Families to honor his late wife.

The Foundation relied on a small team of counselors to help families cope during difficult times, such as divorce. Whitman Fraser, who served Liberty County for 27 years as one of its few doctors, was one of the first counselors.

Fraser added other counseling services to the lineup during the next few years, like drug and alcohol rehabilitation. Demand for services at the private, nonprofit center also increased because of Superior Court Judge John Harvey.

Harvey recently began requiring counseling for people convicted of domestic violence, some sexual offenses and some drug- and alcohol-related crimes. Also, Harvey ruled, children of divorcing parents in the local judicial circuit must receive counseling at a place like the Fraser Center before the divorce.

"Obviously, I can't order people to get counseling at any one particular place at their own expense," Harvey said. "But I've been very impressed with personnel at the Fraser clinic. I think it's a great asset to the community."

The Fraser Center hired several full- and part-time counselors, most of them with

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## Center

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master's degrees or the equivalent. Hundreds of clients, charged fees on a sliding scale depending on their ability to pay, passed through each year.

The center became cramped in its small offices, an old school on a dirt road in north Hinesville. Fraser led the community effort to build a new and larger center, donating most of the cash.

"The funding for all of this, primarily and substantially, has come from Dr. Fraser," Noel Osteen, a

Hinesville attorney, told about 100 people at Wednesday's ribbon-cutting. "I suspect that none of (us) really saw the big picture that Dr. Fraser was putting together here."

Fraser didn't live to see the 8,000-square-foot building completed. He died in March at age 68. But the counseling services he created to help the families of Liberty County will continue after him. New programs will include parenting education for teen-age mothers and anti-violence training for area youths.

"Sometimes the best thing we can do is let somebody know that we care about them enough to try and reach them," center counselor Ginger White said. "That alone can make a big difference."





# New Counseling Facility Dedicated

COASTAL COURIER - Friday, August 4, 1995 - 5

## Fraser family credited with vision for center

When she was a child, Sherry (Fraser) Clements remembers her father, a doctor, taking the whole family on house calls.

"We'd drive all over the area, out in the country, stopping at homes to treat people who were sick. There wasn't a hospital here then," Clements said Wednesday.

There has been a hospital here for about 30 years now, thanks in part to Clements' parents, the late Dr. Whit and Mary Lou Fraser. And, also thanks to the Fraser family, there is a counseling and drug rehabilitation center.

The Fraser Counseling and Recovery Center was dedicated Wednesday. Approximately 200 people toured the \$1 million, 7,500 square foot building, heard tributes to the Frasers and the center's



**RIBBON MELEE** — After nearly an hour of sitting quietly through a ceremony, Dr. Whit and Mary Lou Fraser's grandchildren were ready to stretch by the time it came time for the family to cut the ribbon to the Fraser Counseling and Recovery Center. Adults in the picture are the Fraser's children and spouses, from left, Alan and Gwynn McGregor, Sherry Clements and Clint and Rejeanna Fraser.

## Fraser

work, and ate lunch.

The service is not new. Local attorney Noel Osteen said Dr. Fraser started a counseling service in 1986 after he had formed the Mary Lou Fraser Foundation for Families, to honor his wife, who had recently died. Osteen did legal work for the organization and was one of its first board members.

Dr. Fraser, who died earlier this year, was also one of the first counselors.

One of the center's first actions was to buy the old Sandy Run School, where offices were established. The new center is near the old school, off Tupelo Drive in southeast Hinesville.

Osteen said another counselor was also hired when the center was started and the emphasis then was on helping individuals and families with emotional problems.

Since then, Osteen said, the center has grown, adding counselors, and services (programs added in the past couple years include the rehabilitation program, as well court-ordered counseling for some sex offenders, for people convicted of domestic abuse and for people considering divorce so they'll know how the divorce will affect their children). The foundation helped start Habitat for Humanity in the area. It also started the Liberty County/Armed Services Family YMCA, which has been in the old school's gymnasium, and is to move into a new \$2 million building next to the new counseling center later this year.

"It has all been built for families," the attorney said, adding that while the late doctor believed in the saying about families who prayed together, he also knew families needed to have activities together.

"He also believed that a family that plays together stays together."

While others have contributed time and money to the foundation and its work, Osteen said, "funding primarily has come from Dr. Fraser" for the center, old and new,

and for the old and new YMCA.

Bill Johnson, who is executive director of the foundation and director of the recovery side of the center, compared Fraser to Moses, leading his people to the promised land.

"You

know, Moses didn't get to cross the River Jordan either,"

Johnson said, referring to Fraser's

death after the new center and YMCA had been started and a few months before they were completed.

The Rev. Patty Mingledorff, associate pastor of St. Thomas Episcopal Church at Isle of Hope in Savannah, spoke about her association with Mary Lou Fraser, when they both lived in Hinesville. She was a member of Mrs. Fraser's "sharing group," which formed in the early 1970s and, after some gaps, still meets today.

She said the Frasers always did things as a family and showed their concern for others by opening their house each weekend for meetings of the "God Squad," where area youths could get together "to have something to do, to be fed and to be loved."

"Mary Lou's spirit lives on in this place," the reverend said of the new center. All of the speakers said the

foundation and its programs were fulfillments of the Frasers' lives.

"It was more than a dream, it was a vision," Osteen said, adding that those who contributed to the foundation probably had not seen the "big picture" until the dedication Wednesday.

Billy Jones, board member of the Mary Lou Fraser

Community Support Foundation and president of the YMCA Board, called the Frasers and their legacy, "a natural resource of Liberty County.

Clements, the Frasers' daughter, and her brother, Clint Fraser, say they knew as children that their parents were humanitarians.

"My dad was a Christian," Clint Fraser of Georgetown, TX, said after the dedication. "It was obvious even then that he was a servant to his children and that he was a servant to his community."

Clements of Hinesville said her parents' faith led them to care about people and that they believed individuals' strength came from their families.

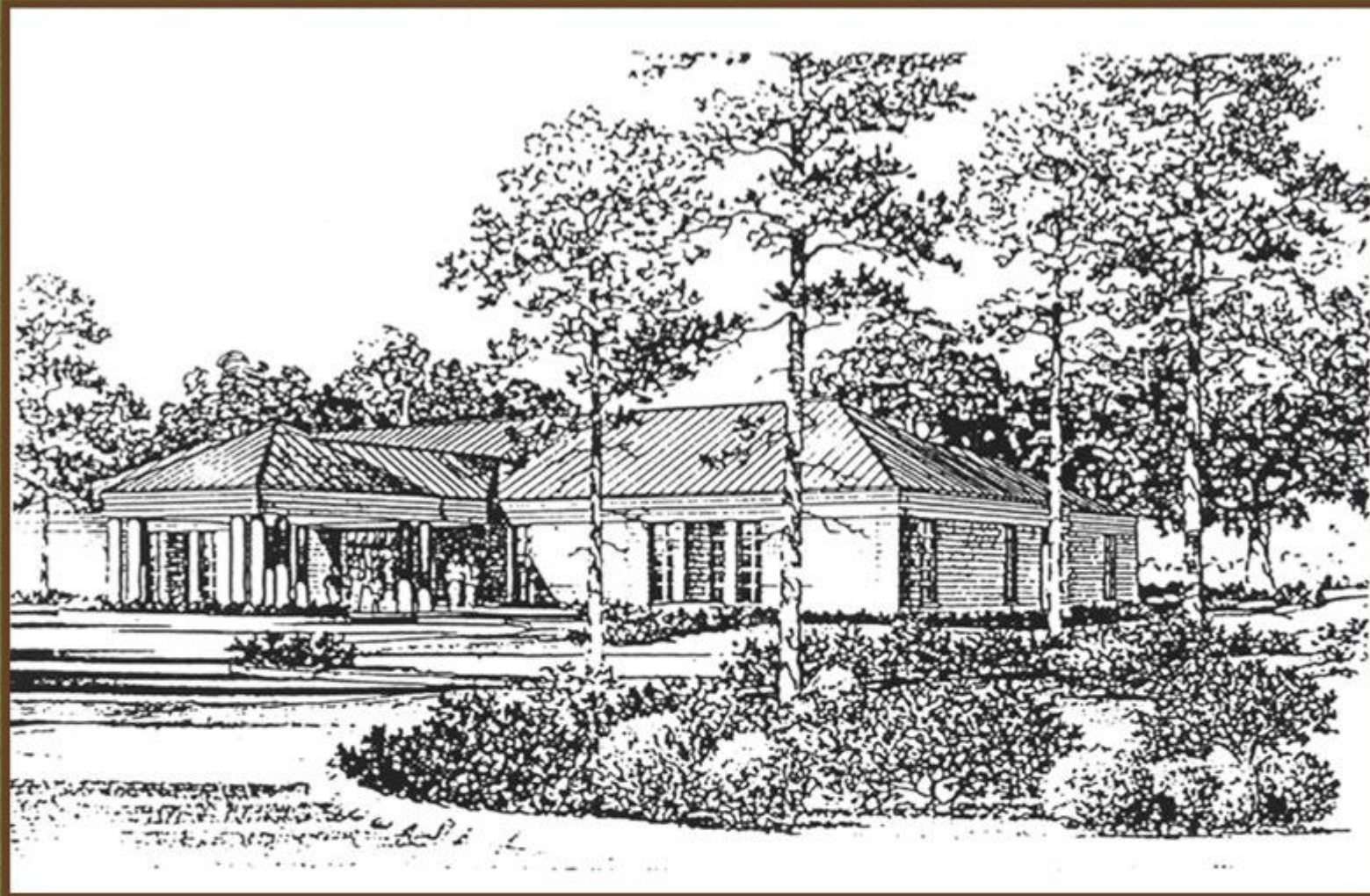
They and the Frasers' third child, Gwynn McGregor of Grapevine, TX, took part in the program.

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*"He (Dr. Fraser) also believed that a family that plays together stays together."*

—Noel Osteen







### My Life Tapestry

My life is woven in a pattern;  
Woven from many colored threads.  
A strand for each new experience;  
Shades for each feeling and each joy.  
Green for the times that made me grow in Christ.  
Yellow for warm moments filled with smiles.  
Red is the color when I gave instead of got.  
White patches for my time alone with God.

Dark colors have a place in my pattern;  
The grays of confusion and of doubt.  
Black fears shadow violent emotions;  
Deep blue for the times of wounded pride.  
Skillfully my Lord goes on weaving.  
Patiently He builds me strand by strand.  
Gently now He patches where I tried to have my way  
And forms the pattern back to fit His plan.

Jesus sees my pattern from the right side.  
To me, it looks so ragged from below.  
I only see those loose ends hanging here and there,  
But Jesus sees where every thread will go.

Music composed by Sherry L. Fraser  
Lyrics written by Dr. Whitman Fraser

