w community graveyard is forgotten

By FRANK K. VASOVSKI have fought a good fight ave finished my course we kept the faith" nscription on a grave marker d Hill Cemetery on Sandy Point Road near Bryan.

y trot Red Hill Cemetery is located ut eight miles west of Bryan at junction of FM 1687 (Sandy Road) and Pleasant Hill Road, ent to a large gravel pit and Cuero the road from the Bryan city e disposal area.

consists of three clusters of most of them in an advanced of deterioration, surrounded icket rove of oak trees. Some of the narkers are torn down, others

till well preserved. e oldest identifiable grave is Whent 1889 and the most recent The elaborate tombstones and hauntingly beautiful inscrip-seem to indicate that the burial But Wi ation Lo was established as a permanent ing place for the members of an community.

, there is no evidence of any unity near the cemetery, exceoff few isolated houses scattered there. to look into this matter during my wide area

f. Oc

end

George Newton of Sandy Point next visit to Bryan.' Road, a black retired farmer living The current Co near the cemetery, identified it as "a burial site for the white folks of the Pleasant Hill Community." Newton said some of their relatives were still

Bryan contains no entries for Red Hill Cemetery.

Files at the County Tax Assessor-Collector office show the burial site is located near the boundary line between two tracts of land, one belonging to Pearlee L. Hall of Bryan and the other to William A. Faubion of Houston.

Hall acknowledged that a gravel pit "was located on her property next to the graveyard" but said she did not know the identity of the persons buried in that graveyard. Faubion confirmed the fact that the gravel pit was located at the

northwest edge of his tract. "I bought that land approximately 10 years ago and I have no idea who the people are that are buried Fauubion said, "but I intend

The current County Commissioner of Precinct 4, W. A. Stasny, said that Pleasant Hill Community was dissolved in 1930. He said the community's cemetery is now loliving "somewhere on Burt Lane," approximately three to four miles northwest of the cemetery. The county death register in the Brazos County Clerk's office in Brwan contains po enticing for Bed Stasny said.

Stasny's predecessor, Clyde J. Porterfield of Bryan, was not availa-ble but his wife provided some of the missing information on Pleasant HIll Community.

"The original settlers living around the Red Hill Cemetery were members of the Pleasant Hill Community," Porterfield said. "We called them 'Goobers' because the soil in the area was too poor to grow cotton and they often planted peanuts.

Mrs. Fred Luther of Bryan is also familiar with the community and its cemetery. She said she believed the original settlers came from Tennes-

see many years ago. "We used to clean and beautify the graveyard every year in the spring, but because of the dissolution of the community and the dis-persal of the relatives, there is nobody now strong enough to care for the graveyard," Luther said. She said that she hoped a patriotic or-ganization, such as Daughters of the American Revolution, could assume custody of the cemetery. Mrs. Gus Bade of Bryan is also

familiar with the community and the cemetery. She recalled that "in 1960 or around that time, the gravel pit near the graveyard was closed by the county authorities because human bones were frequently dug up with the gravel.

Roy Foster, of Bryan, said digging around the graveyard was stopped by the county authorities because of the proximity of the graves. "After the voters decided in 1932

to join the Bryan Independent School District, the Pleasant Hill Community began to dissolve," Foster said. The community school, or Parker School as it was then

called, was closed and the majority of people left the community for Bryan and other towns. enough of us to take care of the cemetery as we used to do in the past."

Jane A. Fuschak of Smetana and Francis E. Mosley of Burt Lane are granddaughters of W. J. Burt who is buried in the Red Hill Cemetery. They are the last members of the Pleasant Hill Community still living in the area.

They recall the time when not only Pleasant Hill but many other communities such as Riverside, Rye, Parker and Thompson Creek were flourishing in the area until the government decided to consolidate the school districts.

Some people moved out to another location, some sold their land and lost contact with each

other," Fuschak said. "Those left behind, like us," Fus-chak continued, "are getting older with each day. There are not

**MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE** 

FALL PHOTO

CONTEST

ENTRIES OPEN SEPT. 29, 1977 AND CLOSE OCT. 6,

1977 AT 5 P.M. IN THE M.S.C. LOBBY. COST IS

• PRINTS WILL BE JUDGED SAT., OCT. 8, 1977

• FOR MORE INFO. CALL: 5-5866 or 5-5357

. ANY SIZE PHOTO ON AN 11 x 14 MAT

Mrs. Steven D. Pearce of Bryan was about four years old when she left the community, but has re-turned many times for short visits. She described the community as "a group of hard working people, trying to eke out their existence of a

very poor soil." The life span of most people buried in the cemetery seems to ear out her observation. More than

half of them died before age 35. "They operated self-supporting farms producing their own food and other necessities," Pearce said.

None of these people have any so-lutions to the future of Red Hill Cemetery. Most felt that it should be restored to a status comparable to other cemeteries to preserve a valuable link to the past.

CANDID PORTRAITURE

FORMAL PORTRAITURE

mic

ARCHITECTURE

EXPERIMENTAL

X000 X000 X00

offers Student ID Discounts! 15% off of \$50°° or more 10% off of under \$50°° CASH PURCHASE ONLY We reserve the right to regulate the 212 N. MAIN 822-3119 DOWNTOWN BRYAN

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1977

**AGGIES!** 

M Douglas Jewelry

## MAKE FREE TIME PAY OFF

Earn Extra Cash As A **Blood Plasma Donor At:** 

PLASMA PRODUCTS, INC. OF TEXAS

**313 COLLEGE MAIN in Northgate College Station**, Texas

Relax or study in our comfortable beds while you donate — Great Atmosphere — Trained employ-

> ees. Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00

Bring this coupon and receive \$2 Bonus on your first donation. Effective 'til Oct. 30, 1977.

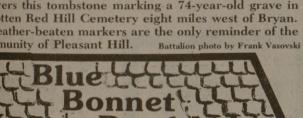
Call

846-4611

st community of Pleasant Hill.



You are invited Photographic Art by Richard Gunn



## • CATEGORIES: SPORTS NATURE

**50c PER PRINT** 

STILL LIFE PICTORIAL **HUMAN INTEREST** 

