

George Wolf, Treasurer of the Mt. Israel Cemetery Association Since 1944, is New Vice-president; Wants Younger People To Join

FELLOWSVILLE—When the Mt. Israel Cemetery Association was first formed in 1944, George Wolf of Newburg was the treasurer of that organization.

He has continued to serve in that capacity until June of this year, when he passed the care of the association's affairs on to the new treasurer, Mrs. Imogene Wolfe of Fellowsville.

Other officers elected recently included: President, Mrs. Burton Shahan of Mt. Israel; secretary, Mrs. Carolyn Bolyard of Laurel Mountain. Wolf has been "promoted" to the office of vice-president.

Earlier Days
The first directors included Earl Harvey, Wesley Wolfe and Raymond Shahan. Wolfe, Shahan lives in Mt. Israel.

Mrs. Burton Shahan, the new president, began as the secretary of that small group.

A Letter
The first step in forming the association, led the group to write letters to people of

the community asking for their support.

A copy of the letter, as George Wolfe read:

"We are endeavoring to form an organization for the upkeep of the Cemetery at the Mountain in memory of our loved ones buried there. To keep the ground cleaned of filth, rubbish, grass and etc. because of depressions and

maintaining in the manner that will show respect for those worthy souls whose posterity we are.

"Whose graves we will not leave to visit and place a rose in memory of."

"This cannot be done without funds, so on July 16, 1941, an enthusiastic group met at the Church and elected officers as per this letterhead."

(The letterhead carried the names of the original officers.)

Accepted an offering and solicited funds to complete a more workable organization from those living remote and not privileged to meet with us on

the above named occasion.

"Subscriptions and cash donations have been voluntary in amounts from five dollars to twenty-five dollars. You should have a mental and moral obligation to support this movement. If you do, send check to Mrs. Burton Shahan, secretary, who will acknowledge receipt of same."

The letter was signed by the Mt. Israel Cemetery Association.

First Donations

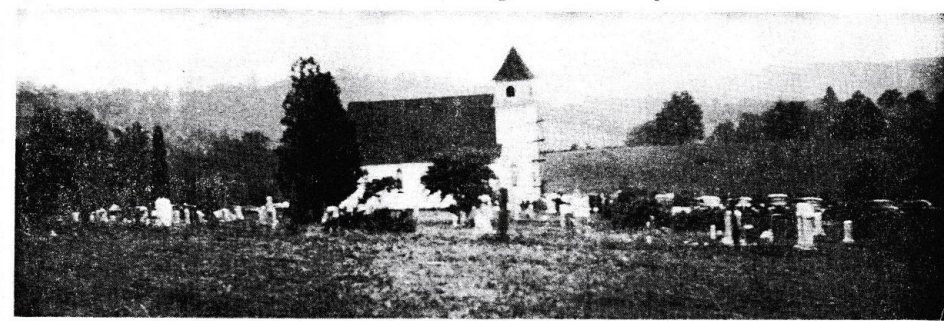
To begin the movement Earl Harvey, Wesley Wolfe, Clifford Wolfe, George Wolfe, W.A. Siwewell and J.S. Siwewell gave \$25 each. There were a number of 20 to one dollar donations, which totaled out to \$540.50.

That was quite a collection, considering this was war time and money was scarce.

George Wolfe

Wolfe, who is 90, is just six months younger than Fellowsville's oldest living resident, Joseph E. (Ezra) Loughridge.

Wolfe can recall how it was



AUGUST 20, 1939 the Mt. Israel Cemetery was grown up with weeds. The looks of the cemetery prompted a group of men and women in the community to form an Association that would keep

the grounds cleared and straighten the slanting tombstones. That organization was finally formed in 1944 and they are still active in keeping the cemetery up.

when the group began work on the cemetery.

There were trees as large as four feet in diameter, which had to be removed. Several monuments had to be straightened, where the trees had forced them to tilt. Shrubby, roses, pine and brush was high as a man's head. All of this would have to be taken care of.

Men brought their scythes and mowers and began by cutting back the brush.

The next step was the grading to level the grounds.

Community residents brought shovels, rakes and other gardening implements for leveling the land.

When the men were filling in a hollow, near the cemetery, Clark Shahan and the Rev. Johnny Funk would work long hours, Wolfe remembered. The women would bring dinner in and afterwards would help to level out the grounds.

About Five Acres

Wolfe estimated the grounds to be about four or five acres and it is all kept up well, now, with the help of the community and the Association.

Young Involvement

Wolfe said he has been telling the community for a long time that they need to get the younger people involved in serving on the board.

He hopes that in the near future younger members of the community will begin taking an active part in the Mt. Israel Cemetery Association.



GEORGE WOLF was originally the treasurer of the Mt. Israel Cemetery Association and was recently promoted to the office of vice president of the association. Wolfe said he is hoping that more young people will take an interest in the group. Above,

he points out some of the many things that were done to improve the cemetery. He has a picture of the dedication ceremonies framed and hanging in the dining room of his Fellowsville home.