

Hallsville Memorial Day upholds traditions of a century ago

HALLSVILLE — Memorial Day is a traditional day in Hallsville.

Observance of Decoration Day in the village dates from 1870. In 1910, a ceremony was established which is still followed today.

Every year, a service is held at one of the two Methodist churches, alternating yearly, with a speaker and then a procession to the Hallsville Cemetery with the Adelphi Band in the lead. At the cemetery, bouquets are placed on the graves of all war dead by village children.

A musical service is held at the Soldier's Monument in the Soldier's Circle of the cemetery with a wreath placed on the monument.

The Soldier's Monument was erected in the cemetery in May, 1906 by Mrs. Rufus Hosler in memory of her brother, Capt. Luther Buchwalter.

This year a decendent of Luther Buchwalter will be the speaker at the church service.

Louise Buchwalter Young was born in Hallsville in 1919 on a family farm which was established in 1810. Mrs. Young currently lives near Chicago but her family still owns the farm and vacations there frequently.

A graduate of Vassar College, Mrs. Young has worked on radar research for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has been the science



Louise Buchwalter Young

editor for an educational foundation. She is the author of several books including "Power Over People" a book about the

high voltage transmission line which has been built across land near Hallsville.

The subject of her Memorial Day address will be the continuity in family and community life.

Charlene Willis, secretary of the Memorial Day ceremony, said the observance of the holiday has not changed much since she was a child.

On Sunday, women from the churches will gather at the old school house to make the bouquets to be placed on the soldier's graves. Mrs. Willis said the flowers were picked by village children when she was a child, now they are brought to the school by the women who make the bouquets.

Mrs. Willis said when she was a child the bouquets were carried to the cemetery by children. Now they are carried in cars, but the 150 bouquets are still put on the graves by the children.

Harold Karshner, a cemetery trustee, places flags on the graves of all war veterans before the ceremony. Mrs. Willis said Karshner knows the graves of all veterans in the cemetery, including those of 37 Civil War veterans.

The Adelphi Band plays taps as the bouquets and the wreath are placed. Mrs. Willis said many of the townspeople walk to the cemetery behind the band and the ceremony is "a heritage which is viewed with pride by the local people.

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