



WHY THE NAME "WHISPERING FIRS"

One Sunday morning in mid March, 1951, Gracie Jacobs had just finished dressing for church and began looking for her elderly mother, Ada. She looked in every room of the house to no avail. Beginning to panic, she then decided to look on the front porch. There sitting in the glider, dressed only in her bath robe, was Ada. Gracie proclaimed, "Mama what in the world are you doing out here? You will catch your death of cold!" Ada responded, "Oh? am just sitting here reminiscing about your father and listening to the breeze whispering through the fir trees." The Jacobs home has been lovingly referred to as Whispering Firs by some family members ever since.



Ada's husband, John Elery Jacobs died, March 13, 1950, at the age of 80. Ada McConnell Jacobs died, April 7, 1952, at the age of 82. Both Ada and Elery were born on the same day, December 29, 1870.

This story was retold by Marc Linder, great grand-son of Ada Jacobs, as it was told to him by his great aunt, Gracie Jacobs.

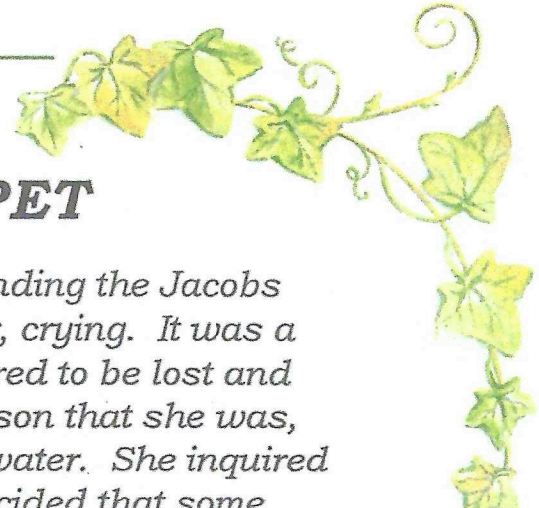




HISTORY OF THE FIR TREES

In the late 1920's, Chiang Kai-Shek's wife was being educated in the United States. In 1932, upon one of few visits made to this country to visit his wife, the military leader, later president of China, paid a visit to the White House and presented the U.S. government with a rare species of tree, a Chinese yew, better known as Cunninghamia. The tree grew quite large, overtaking a side-walk on the White House lawn. One weekend in the late 1930's, George W. Jacobs II, son of Ada and Elery Jacobs, was taking a tour of the White House when he noticed a gardener pruning limbs off this unusual tree. George inquired if he may have a clipping to take to his home in Grayson, Georgia. He drove home for Thanksgiving from Washington, D.C., with the limb tied to the front bumper of his car. George was the green thumb of the family and could make anything grow from a clipping. So he prepared the limb and planted it on the front left side of the home. After a number of years the tree grew to the top of the front porch. Wanting to give the house a more balanced look, George broke off a limb from the tree and planted it on the right side of the home. Both trees have flourished and are as you see them today, thus inspiring the name Whispering Firs.





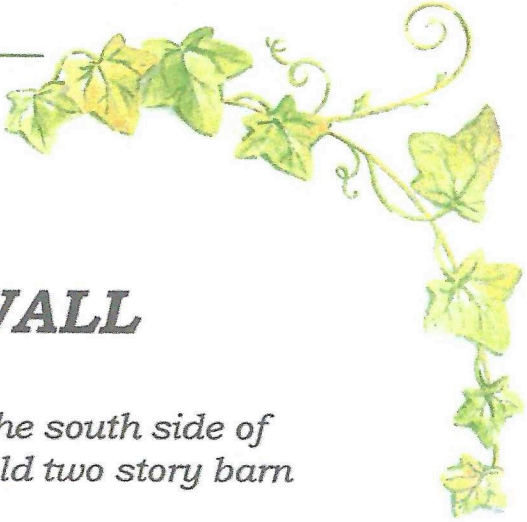
A DOG NAMED PET

In the late 1940's Hazel Jacobs was minding the Jacobs store when a puppy showed up at the door, crying. It was a shabby looking Heinz's 57 dog that appeared to be lost and hungry. Hazel, being the kind hearted person that she was, took the little dog inside and gave it some water. She inquired around to find its owner to no avail and decided that some stranger passing through town must have abandoned him. Hazel had always wanted a little pet to call her own. The cat she took in a few years earlier never was a big hit with her parents or sisters so she had to find him another home. A dog just might go over better, so she decided to take it home and see what kind of reception he got. Elery, Hazel's father, who was in his upper seventies, and was not getting around as much as he used to, took to the little dog right away. The dog, now named Pet, had found himself a home for life.

Over the years Pet had become a close member of the family. Hazel was a schoolteacher in Grayson and also taught Sunday School to the children of the Methodist Church. Both buildings were here in town, so Hazel walked to work and church. Every now and then Pet would slip into her classrooms to be with the children. After awhile he became a full-time student and the most educated, religious, and beloved dog in town. Every time you saw Hazel you saw Pet. He would tag along to protect her and stayed until she made the trip back home.

Years later, in 1959, a great sorrow fell upon the Jacobs family with the passing of Mabel, Hazel's sister. Everyone in the home was full of grief and dismay. Pet was a very sensitive dog and must have understood the loss. The old dog began crying, and stopped eating suddenly the day of Mabel's funeral and soon he too was laid to rest. It was said half the town turned out with their children to bid Pet farewell. The local grave digger built a little wooden coffin and placed a head stone for him. Pet's grave can still be seen at the rear property line in the shade of the old pecan trees of Whispering Firs.





THE OLD ROCK WALL

The eight foot granite rock wall, located on the south side of Whispering Firs, is the partial remains of an old two story barn that burned down in the late 1930's.



One Sunday afternoon Elery Jacobs was burning a small trash pile outside the barn. The fire was just about out when Mr. Cagle, a long time customer of the Jacobs store, walked up and ask Elery if he would mind selling him some kerosene for his heater. The store was closed, but because Mr. Cagle had no fuel, Elery decided to open the store just this once, on Sunday, to help out a neighbor. While walking to town a heavy cloud burst blew up. The two men made it to the store and completed their business. The storm blew over in a very short time so Mr. Jacobs headed home. While walking back he could hear screams, shouting, and see smoke coming from the direction of his barn. The wind from the storm had blown sparks from the smoldering fire into the hay that was put out for the cow. The fire was so intense that the whole barn went up in flames in a matter of minutes and could not be extinguished. It was said you could see the smoke all the way to Lawrenceville, five miles away. Mr. Jacobs was a very religious man and never believed in working on Sunday. He was heard saying, a number of times for months after the fire, that if he only had not taken money for the kerosene on Sunday, and waited till later instead, he would still have a barn. He truly believed that the Lord was teaching him a lesson for working on Sunday by letting his barn burn down. After that incident you would never find any of the Jacobs family doing any kind of work on Sunday. Ada, Elery's wife, even prepared all Sunday meals on Saturday from that day on.