



**FORGOTTEN GRAVEYARD**—Sheriff's deputy Harvey Carter and young Dennis Wayne Barker, 295 Channing St., examine one of the tombstones in a graveyard behind the LaGrange housing development next to Ft. Bragg. Huge mounds of debris have been dumped on one edge of the long-forgotten burial ground. (Observer photo—Reese)

### Can Old Graveyard Be Saved?

# Litterbugs Spoil 'Secret' Playground Of Youngsters

By PAT REESE

One of the "secret" places for youngsters in the LaGrange housing area for several years has been a long-forgotten graveyard in the woods between their homes and the Ft. Bragg reservation.

They've fought battles, chased Indians, hunted bear and just plain visited the quiet leaf-covered burial ground.

Recently, someone started dumping truckloads of trash, used building materials and other debris along the edge of the graveyard.

They were upset and went to their parents for help. The parents called members of the Cumberland County Historical Society. The society called the sheriff's department. And now sheriff's deputies are checking the law to see if the graveyard can be saved.

There are several dozen tombstones still standing. Some of the names are still legible.

#### Inscriptions

They read like this:  
"Neill McQueen, Came From

Scotland about 1793. Aged about 75 years."

"Duncan McArthur, born 1799, Died 1873."

"Sarah McQueen, Born 1855. Died 1857."

"John McCaskill, was born in Inverness Shire, Scotland, June 22, 1799. Died February 26, 1859."

"Sarah McDonald, died in 1879. Aged 76 years. Wife of John McDonald."

"Catharine McDonald, sister of Malcolm McDonald. Born in Isle Skye, Scotland, in 1801. Died in Cumberland County, N.C., in 1869."

"Margaret McDonald, born in the Isle of Skye, Scotland. Aged 94 years. Died August 1, 1846."

#### Preservation?

Jack Crane, a member of the historical society and one of best informed citizens on Cumberland history, says the graveyard is probably one known years ago as the "McQueen Cemetery."

Crane, a long-time supporter of a movement to preserve the old graveyards of the Fay-

etteville area, has suggested to residents of the LaGrange neighborhood that Boy Scouts or some other group be encouraged to take care of the cemetery.

"So much of our history has slipped away because people haven't cared," he said this morning. "I hope we can retain what's left."

According to Blake Craft's notes "Grandfather Duncan McArthur was buried at the old McQueen Cemetery, also Aunt Susan, Uncle Alex and others in the Ft. Bragg reservation - rather in the edge of it."