

O.V. Carper, 85, dies; built first shopping center in McLean



O. V. Carper, who died Monday at 85, was a member of a family that has been prominent in the McLean area for nearly two centuries.

Mr. Carper was born on the family place at Prospect Hill, across Georgetown Pike (Route 193) from Madeira School. He helped with the family farm, his duties eventually including driving the milk truck. While Madeira School was being built, he drove a truck to carry building materials.

Later he went into partnership with his cousin John, forming the firm of J.H. and O.V. Carper that operated a service station and a contracting business. The Carpers carried road materials for many McLean area driveways as the community grew. John Carper was McLean's fire chief.

O.V. acquired the Beatty property on the south side of Old Dominion Drive and west of Chain Bridge Road. Part of this land, according to longtime residents, had been a siding for the Great Falls & Old Dominion Railroad. The abandoned railroad bed be-

came Old Dominion Drive in 1935. Mr. Carper opened the first units of Old Dominion Shopping Center in 1945. The Esso station he owned with J.H. had been built about 1932.

Mr. Carper leaves a daughter, Betty; a brother, Wilson, and a sister, Birdie Shepherd, and three grandchildren. His wife Elizabeth died in 1979.

The funeral service was held Wednesday at Money & King Funeral Home in Vienna, and burial was at Andrew Chapel cemetery on Leesburg Pike (Route 7.) The family suggested that memorial contributions be made to Sharon Chapter Temple, Lodge 327, in care of Denzil O. Evans, 6822 Wise Street, McLean, Virginia 22101.

Mr. Carper's brother, G. Wallace, who died in 1966, was a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 24 years, and was chairman for 16. Wallace also was the area member of the State Highway Commission. His farm at Georgetown Pike (Route 193) and Spring Hill Road became Greenway Heights.

Another Carper Farm, Sharon, was on Georgetown Pike closer to Washington. This tract owned by Philip (Fred) Carper from about 1914 was acquired in 1958 by the Broyhill construction firm and became Langley Estates.

The mill known as Colvin Run Mill, now a County park, on Leesburg plke (Route 7) about five miles west of Tyson's, is attributed to Philip Carper, and the structure is dated to 1811. The place was known as Carper's Mill, and O.V. lived until recent years on a hill across Leesburg Pike. Much of this property, bordering Difficult Run, became part of the Carper's Farm subdivision.

Philip Carper of the mill was the father of Thomas Jefferson Carper, whose son Thomas S. Carper lived at Spring Hill Road and Georgetown Pike, and was O.V.'s father. Tho-

mas's brother Philip Frederick bought the Sharon Farm, now Langley Estates, about 1914.

A cousin of O.V.'s, Mary Guilford, is still living. Others no longer living who were well known in the community were Bright, H.H., John, Stanley, and Mrs. Elsie Reed Burns.