



# Augusta Country

October 1995  
Vol. 2, Issue 9

Callithumpion band entertains  
Greenville newlyweds, page 8

Subscription form, page 28!

P.O. Box 51

Middlebrook, Va. 24459

## WATERWORLD: Greenville man creates gardens that float

By SUE SIMMONS

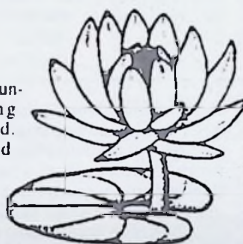
GREENVILLE -- It's easy to pick Keith Folsom's children out in the crowd. They're the ones wearing wading boots. Not surprising considering much of their time is spent in a world of water. The Folsom children's waterworld is not only their home but also their father's business, Springdale Water Gardens.

Springdale Water Gardens is a watery, flowery wonderland of 11 pools and seven man-made waterfalls at the

end of an unassuming dirt road. Located between Greenville and Middlebrook, Folsom

sells materials and supplies — as well as offers free advice — to customers who have discovered the pleasures of water gardens. Folsom states the obvi-

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Keith Folsom of Springdale Water Gardens near Greenville will be appearing in Willard Scott's Home and Garden Almanac on the Home and Garden cable network. The segment was filmed at Willard's Newport farm. AC staff photo

## Willard Scott's Newport hideaway is setting for home and garden show

By SUE SIMMONS

NEWPORT -- The weather is really incidental to Willard Scott's daily folksy Today Show weather forecasts. America enjoys hearing Willard talk about sourwood honey, tasty food, home remedies, and the tomatoes that grow in his garden.

Now fans can watch Willard Scott's Home and Garden Almanac on the Home and Garden Cable Television Network five times each week.

"We filmed 26 shows last year which are now airing," Ani Hovannisian, the show's producer, explained. "The network has ordered 26 more," she continues, commenting that they are now filming their second set.

Filmed primarily at Willard's farm which straddles the Augusta-Rockbridge county lines just west of Newport, the show often features area businessmen and women and local specialties.

"Susan Blackley, Staunton's horticulturist planted Willard's flower garden; Don Haney of Buffalo Springs Herb Farm planted the herb garden; Jim Schreckhise of Grottoes

See FILMING, page 3



Keith Folsom, standing in water garden, and Willard Scott pause for a few minutes before the camera rolls during filming of a program for

the Home and Garden Cable Network. Willard's farm near Newport has served as the setting for several episodes of the program.

Photo by Sue Simmons



# Augusta Country -- The egg is hatched

With this issue of *Augusta Country* we mark our first anniversary of publication. Although it's trite to say, it seems impossible that a year has passed since we published our first 16-page edition of "friendly news for friendly people" on Oct. 1, 1994.

The year has been a challenging one for us -- trying at times, yes, but full of rewards. We are encouraged by the comments we hear almost daily -- and sometimes even more than once a day -- about how *Augusta Country* has been received.

*Augusta Country* is now being mailed to more than 50 zip code areas in Virginia, goes out to 26 states, and Great Britain! The fact that we have drawn such a large and widespread audience is due to the great interest folks have expressed in the newspaper.

Covering events and people from southern Rockingham County to northern Rockbridge County, in and around Augusta County, and beyond, *Augusta Country* has impressed readers with the amount of ground we are able to cover. This is due to the dedication and hard work of staff writers Nancy Sorrells, Sue Simmons, Lois Skeen, Terry Terrell, Jeff Ishee, and the work of occasional contributing writers who include Deborah Sensabaugh and Irene Kegerreis. Our thanks to them, as well as columnists Roberta Hamlin, Roy Howard, and Lee Ann Heizer, for what they do to make each issue of *Augusta Country* unique and interesting.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please renew our subscription to *Augusta Country*.

We have enjoyed the newspaper very much during this past year.

It's wholesome and inspiring to read about the talents and accomplishments of our county people -- young, old, and in-between.

Particularly enjoyed the article about the George Jarvis family as they are good friends.

Keep up the good work.

Mary H. Fuller  
Raphine

*Thanks for renewing. Lots of folks have jumped on the renewal bandwagon we're pleased to report. We're not planning to send out individual notices for renewal and hope folks will use the renewal form on page 24 for this purpose. We will be marking newspapers with a "Time to renew!" stamp to help remind folks to check their expiration dates and mail in their renewal requests. ---*

We also thank advertisers who are helping to bring *Augusta Country* to area readers. Their support has been important to our survival through the first year of operation. We will strive to continue offering affordable advertising in a publication which folks read and -- we are told -- read and read and read.

With this issue we break new ground. For the first time *Augusta Country* will be available on local news stands. Free copies have been discontinued so if you know of family or friends who haven't subscribed, direct them to the nearest news stand where they'll find the most recent edition of *Augusta Country*.

We have two priorities for our second year of operation. Our top priority is to maintain *Augusta Country* as a leading source of lo-

cal news and information for Augusta County and surrounding areas. We will continue to focus on human interest and historical features and bring you news of church and civic organizations. Emphasis on agriculture news will be continued. Our second priority is to continue to grow.

In our premier issue published in October 1994, I said that response in the fashion of subscriptions to *Augusta Country* would tell us if we had hatched an idea or merely laid an egg. At the close of our first year, we feel that we can say quite confidently that *Augusta Country* is an egg that has hatched. We have shaken off the shell of newness, grown some feathers, are beginning to actually look like something, and even managed to test our wings a bit. During our second year, we invite you to come along with us as we swoop and soar in the skies over Augusta country.

Until next month,

*Betty Jo Hamilton*

Betty Jo Hamilton  
Publisher and editor

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# COVER STORY



Continued from page 1

ous when asked for a definition of his product.

"A water garden is simply putting water in your garden," he says.

He points out that a water garden can be anything from a birdbath to a barrel of water on a patio to a lake.

"Water becomes the focal point of the garden," Folsom adds, making the garden a source of endless interest and pleasure. Water gardens have become increasingly popular among those whose interest is home landscaping. So popular, in fact, that Folsom will be appearing in an upcoming segment of Willard Scott's gardening program which airs on the Home and Garden Cable Network.

Folsom has been in the garden business for 15 years. He first became acquainted with closed water gardens when he worked for Lilypons, both in Texas and Maryland. He eventually worked for the Village Garden Center in Fishersville before starting his own business which is now the largest supplier of water garden products in Virginia. Folsom caters to do-it-yourselfers.

"You're only limited by your imagination," Folsom maintains.

He offers two pieces of advice, however.

"Put the garden where you can and will participate in it and remember — bigger is better," he laughs. "Seriously, everyone who builds one regrets not



Keith Folsom checks some of the Koi which he stocks at his water garden specialty business. The fish are popular items in what is an expanding part of the state's agriculture industry. AC staff photo

making the pool bigger."

Springdale offers a complete line of equipment and material for the installation of a water garden. Free workshops and seminars on water garden and waterfall construction and maintenance are held monthly between March and October. Even if you aren't in the market, Springdale Water Gardens is worth visiting.

Be warned—it's hard to resist the magic of Folsom's waterworld. ---



A film crew from the Home and Garden cable network films a segment of Willard Scott's program at Scott's farm in Newport. Numerous local garden experts have been invited to the farm to film segments for Scott's show.

Photo by Sue Simmons

## •Filming

Continued from page 1

put in a row of trees; and a local Extension agent put in the vegetable garden," Al Fisher, the show's executive producer said naming local people who have been featured on Willard's show.

"Willard is investigating hydroponics," Hovannisian interjects, "so we asked Keith

Folsom to install a waterfall here on the farm."

Keith, owner and operator of Springdale Water Gardens near Greenville, and his assistant, Matt Critzer, built the waterfall over a four-day period. The crew of six filmed the work through its progression. On the

# Willard Scott -- America's next door neighbor

By SUE SIMMONS

Willard (calling him Mr. Scott is unthinkable) puts you in mind of the insurance salesman who lives next door to you -- personable, easy to talk to, and an immediate friend for life.

A big man with a big personality, Willard enjoys a good joke, and he chuckles a lot. He talks privately about the same things he talks about on television — food, restaurants, people he has met, and... the weather.

That he is a gentleman, there is no doubt.

Born in Alexandria in 1934, Willard was one of Washington, D.C.'s pioneering local television personalities. When he was 18 and Jim Henson 15, they appeared on a local children's show where Henson introduced a frog that would one day become very famous.

Most Washington area residents remember Willard as one of the "Joy Boys" on an early humorous talk radio show. Others remember him as Bozo the Clown hosting a daily afternoon kiddie show. He is credited with creating the clown persona Ronald MacDonald.

Eventually Willard became the weatherman on Washington's Channel 4, providing a perfect foil to the serious Jim Vance. Willard's weather was more schtick than weather, but people loved it and him. When asked where he got his meteorological information, he admitted that he dialed the local weather line.

Willard moved to NBC's Today Show in the early 1980s. Predictions of his failure were soon forgotten when it became obvious the jovial weatherman had charmed audiences across the nation. From the average home viewer to world renowned personalities, few could resist NBC's new weatherman. First Lady Barbara Bush showed just how popular Willard was when she left her husband's side on their walk down Pennsylvania Avenue during the Inaugural Parade just to give Willard a big kiss on national television.

After all, Willard Scott is America's next door neighbor. ---



WILLARD SCOTT

fifth day of shooting, Willard joined Keith to put the finishing touches on the project.

"Willard will put a rock in place and watch as Keith puts flowers in the pool. The conversation will center on the care of the pool and the varieties of plants that can live in it," explains the show's producer. This scene will get about eight minutes of air time in the finished show.

The scene unfolds just as Hovannisian said it would. Except that it takes four hours to tape.

In the hurry-up-and-wait world of television, cameras and cables must be moved, lights reset, jokes told, sound tested, lines rewritten and practiced, jokes told, make up applied, jokes told, props put in place, blocking set up — after a catered leisurely

lunch complete with more jokes and a little gossip about the QVC network.

Finally the magic moment arrives when someone says -- not yells -- "quiet" and "cameras rolling."

Willard Scott turns into — well — Willard Scott and enthusiastically introduces his new best friend Keith Folsom to the television audience. Finished in two takes, the taping seems nearly flawless. Flawless, that is, save for the antics of a slippery green creature.

Only a bullfrog, which for some insane reason has been named "Willard," fails to cooperate, making a break for the nearby stream just as Keith presents the amphibian to the show's host.

Well, that's show biz. ---



# The birdwoman of Augusta Springs

*Banding birds part of Betty Gatewood's journey through nature*

By NANCY SORRELLS

AUGUSTA SPRINGS -- In many ways Betty Gatewood's life has been a naturalist's journey, stopping to cross country ski, peering through magnifying glasses at bugs, teaching ecology to youngsters, identifying flowers, and hiking through the woods. But for the Beverley Manor Middle School science teacher, who has been accompanied on her sojourn by her husband Mark and her daughter Elizabeth, the best stops along the way are those involving birds.

Which is why Betty gets up before dawn on quite a few summer mornings and spends her early

morning hours scurrying back and forth in a U.S. Forest Service wetland called Augusta Springs. There, sometimes accompanied only by buzzing gnats and droning cicadas and at other times aided by loyal assistants, she bands birds.

Birds she captures in her silky thin mist nets are quickly identified, analyzed and then given lightweight aluminum bracelets to wear on their right legs before being released to get back to their hectic summer schedule of raising and feeding a family. In addition to enriching her own knowledge of the ornithological world, the data Betty gathers is funneled into an international study on birds

as indicators of global ecological change.

At times, though, the global issues fade into the background, and Betty is just content to do what she enjoys, and that is banding birds. Her hobby, which is not one for the casual birdwatcher, goes back more than 20 years when she and Mark received an unusual wedding present.

"Some friends gave us a membership in the Brooks Bird Club. Some of the people in this group are professional naturalists, but all of them spend every breathing moment studying the natural world," Betty recalls. "We got involved with that group, and they conducted a very expansive banding project in Dolly Sods, W.Va."

That sparked her interest in banding, and she got her own permit to band the following year. Earning the right to place the minuscule strip of aluminum on a bird's ankle involves a rather in-depth application process. "You have to learn how to get in the mindset to organize data. It is very disciplined. You have to be recommended by other banders, list your educational background, give character references, etc.," she said.

In 1974 Betty was granted her permit and given the right to place No. 20538 on a bird's leg. On her application, she cited educational purposes as her reason for wanting a permit, and she has continued the educational focus to this day. "I wanted to open the eyes of kids to birds. I wanted them to see birds close up in their own environment," she said in elaborating on her educational goals.

Since those days, her naturalist's journey has taken her on a winding path across the country, and she has tried to band birds wherever the family has moved. Number 20538 has graced birds in 10 different places including Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, California, Connecticut, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

Wherever she puts down roots, she also puts up nets and bands, but not without obtaining the necessary permits at each new place. When she and Mark worked in Yosemite, that meant getting federal, state, and national park permits. While there she launched a project to study the Stellar Jay population and its population increase as a result of campers.

It was in Yosemite where Betty had an interesting encounter with the avian population. "The first Yosemite bird I banded was a

robin. How unexciting, right?" she recalled. "Well, one day three robins were in the net thrashing around, and a great grey owl came swooping down, going for them. I wondered how I was going to get the owl out of the net, but at the last moment he went up and over the net and sailed into the forest."

With their move to Virginia a few years ago, Betty again began looking for a place to band, and the Augusta Springs area near Craigsville seemed the perfect place. Already aware of the area through the Augusta Bird Club and the Virginia Native Plant Society in which both Gatewoods are members, Betty knew the area was a prime spot for banding.

Once a resort spring, the area on the Deerfield Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest is being developed as a Watchable Wildlife and environmental education area. A spring-fed stream flows through a wet meadow at the site and keeps the water table high throughout the summer.

"I wanted to band at Augusta Springs because it is such a neat area with a variety of habitats. Wetlands are the nurseries for a lot of animal and plant populations," she said.

Betty has five nets that she stretches across an active bird area. Her nets are either six or 10 meters in length and made of very fine polyester or nylon netting. If they are placed correctly, the birds perceive the black strands as an early morning mist and fly into them. The net breaks the animals' speed, and they drop into the folds and get tangled.

A properly stretched net and a conscientious bander create very



Betty Gatewood carefully removes a catbird from a net. The woman is involved in a continent-wide ecological study which requires that birds be caught and banded.

Photos by Nancy Sorrells

little additional stress to birds which live a very stressful life anyway. "You have to get enough stretch into the nets that they can't see them, but enough sagginess that the nets don't bounce the birds off like a trampoline. Instead the net catches them and drops them down into the folds," Betty explained.

Insuring the birds' safety is of primary concern for Betty as she scurries from net to net checking for captures. That is why she arrives at dawn to open her nets and run her survey before the summer sun gets too hot for a tiny animal caught in the net. The nets are open for six hours, so a dawn beginning means she can roll up the nets by noon.

This particular morning has been slow because an early shower hampered the birds' early morning routines. A check at each net every 20 minutes proves fruitless until mid-morning when net number 3 begins revealing several tiny living treasures.

A glance at the net reveals a tiny iridescent indigo bunting as well as two larger catbirds. With quick and gentle hands, Betty untangles their tiny bodies and places each one in a brown paper bag to calm them. She then carries the birds to her field table set up under the cool shade of a row of maples.

Working methodically but with a speed necessary in order to get the birds back to the wild, she takes each animal through a data check. With notebooks full of identification and classification keys before her, she identifies each bird and then attempts to determine its gender and age. There are a number of ways, which vary

*Continued on page 5*



Information about each bird caught is gathered. Here Betty weighs a bird by placing it in a nylon stocking attached to scales.



# Augusta Springs study part of continent-wide project

By NANCY SORRELLS

AUGUSTA SPRINGS - Augusta Springs may just be a tiny dot on the map of North America, but every time Betty Gatewood records data on the birds she has captured and banded there, she is contributing to an international ecological study.

Known as MAPS or Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship, the program is a cooperative effort among public agencies, private organizations and the bird banders of North America to monitor land birds in an effort to study their population changes in relationship to changes in habitat, toxic pollution, climate changes and ozone depletion.

Headquartered in Point Reyes Station, Calif., the center has divided the continent

into eight regions and established monitoring stations within each area. Data compiled from banding projects from every station are sent to California where they are analyzed. The program was launched in 1989 with 17 stations and had grown to around 300 by 1994. The long-term goal of the MAPS program is to have 320 stations across North America with 20 to 60 stations in each region.

Betty Gatewood's banding program fits neatly into the large scale program, and the George Washington National Forest personnel have given her permission to fit her studies into the master plan of MAPS monitoring.

"The constants in the program are the people, the nets, and the regions. The variables are the birds," Betty said of her project. "The majority of the people are

volunteer banders, but a great deal of concrete research comes from these personal, self-driven banders."

Much of the MAPS analysis is based on studying target species, particular species which can be captured in adequate numbers in each region to provide sufficient study numbers. Betty operates in the northeast region where the target species are black-capped chickadee, veery, wood thrush, American robin, gray catbird, red-eyed vireo, yellow warbler, American redstart, ovenbird, common yellowthroat, northern cardinal, and song sparrow.

To be accurate within the MAPS study, Betty is not allowed to start banding until after migration is over. That insures that she captures residents and not just traveling birds. The setup date varies according to latitude.

Last year she spent eight mornings at her Augusta Springs nets. The results of her work were filed in a report that went to the George Washington National Forest and the MAPS program. In 1994 she captured, handled, and recorded data on 100 birds from 29 different species and banded 81 of those. The highest number were the indigo buntings, which were confirmed as an active breeding species in Augusta Springs. Also confirmed as a breeding species at the springs through Betty's data were song sparrow, field sparrow, northern cardinal, common yellowthroat, blue-gray gnatcatcher, American goldfinch, Carolina chickadee, Louisiana waterthrush, ovenbird, and yellow-breasted chat.

"It is neat to be a tiny study in this very big study that looks at how the environment has changed with birds being the indicator species," said Betty of her participation in the MAPS program. "..."



Betty Gatewood places a band on an indigo bunting. The banding project is part of a continent-wide study of the migration patterns of birds.



Betty Gatewood's field table holds all the materials she needs to carry out the bird banding project.

Continued from page 4

from species to species, to arrive at this data. Included are wetting the skull of the bird and then using a magnifying glass to look for ossified skulling (more spots would indicate an older animal), softly blowing on the underside of the bird to part the feathers and identify the animal's gender, as well as opening the bird's mouth or peering into their eyes for indications of age.

There are other bits of data which she looks for and records on her banding data sheet. One of the more fascinating is looking for a brood patch, or bald spot on the bird's stomach which indicates a nesting parent. By softly blowing on the stomach of the first catbird captured, Betty turned up such a patch. "See she has no feathers on her stomach. That is a brood patch. They lose the feathers underneath so they can transfer body heat to nest. Otherwise the feathers would get in the way of the incubation. We want to work quickly and let her get back to her nest," Betty explained. A

field sparrow caught later in the morning also had an exceptionally nice brood patch, and both birds were indicators of an active breeding bird population at Augusta Springs.

Holding the birds gently with two fingers around the head and a thumb on the body, Betty also checks for body molt, flight feather wear (very worn feathers would mean that the birds had just completed a long migration from as far away as South America), juvenile body plumage and wing chord. Each bird is also slipped into a nylon stocking and weighed using a small spring scale. The tiny indigo bunting checked in at just 13.5 grams, while the bigger catbird tipped the scales at 34 grams.

Before release each bird was also adorned with a band. The loose-fitting aluminum rings come in eight sizes with some additional ring sizes for hawks and owls. A wire full of each size is inserted in a briefcase on Betty's field table. Her permit does not allow her to band waterfowl, endangered species, eagles or hummingbirds.

"I always band on the right leg because I'm right handed," Betty explained.

Through the course of the day, the utmost concern in Betty's mind is getting the birds safely back in the air. "The different birds have a different degree of being docile or hyper. Chickadees are usually pretty frenetic when they are in the net. Warblers and house sparrows are pretty passive. But I always feel a lot of stress to move quickly," she said, noting that one time she captured so many animals at once that she knew she could never tabulate all the data on each bird without endangering some of them. "I just took them out and started letting them go," she said.

After she has blown on their undersides, peered in their eyes, wet their heads, measured their feathers, opened their mouths, weighed them and banded them, she gently carries them out into the open and lets them go, thankful for the moments when she was allowed to cross paths with such beautiful, delicate creatures.

"Birds are my favorite animals," Betty says. "The color is one thing that draws me, the differences in color can be pretty dramatic. But the neat thing is that birds are there all the time, you just can't always see them. They are a part of the natural world that won't stand still. But if you happen to get a glimpse of their world, it's something special."

Betty noted that less than five percent of banded birds ever arrive back in a bander's net again. She was pleasantly surprised this year when she found a banded indigo bunting bearing her permit number caught in the nets. The bird was caught by Betty Aug. 27, 1994 having hatched in Augusta Springs last summer. Catching the bird again on Sept. 2, 1995 was momentous because this means the bunting traveled to its Central American wintering grounds then returned to Augusta Springs this year to nest for the first time. To Betty, the recapture of the bunting proved to be the fruits of her labors.

"This has made it all worthwhile," said an excited Betty. "It was really cool."---



Betty Gatewood prepares to release a catbird back into the wild. Although there is only a 5 percent chance a bird will ever be caught in any net again, Betty marked a milestone this past summer when she netted a bird which she had banded last summer.

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# Betty Barger chooses early retirement from Extension

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

VERONA — A local homemaker has found herself in somewhat of a pickle.

A gallon of cucumbers have been soaking in apple juice for a month. The homemaker mistook a bottle of apple juice for a bottle of cider vinegar. A complicated family recipe which involves soaking the cucumbers for three months has been thrown into chaos when the mistake is discovered. The question — the cucumbers will eventually be heated in a sugar syrup before being canned. Should the homemaker reduce the amount of sugar in the syrup since the cucumbers have been soaking in sweetened apple juice for a month?

Pickles. That's one of the dilemmas facing Betty Barger just three weeks before she will retire as a home economics agent in Virginia Extension's Augusta office.

"This is very typical of questions I get during canning season," Mrs. Barger says, "because people are trying to duplicate recipes from notes and information that grandma had."

The home economist now faces the difficult task of calling the homemaker to break the bad news.

"Throw them out," Mrs. Barger instructs. "Apple juice is no substitute for cider vinegar."

Other pots boiling on Mrs. Barger's stove include the arrangements for two seminars — the conference center has seminar attendees booked to use hotel rooms when the seminars are only day-long events. Pushing pickles and seminar planning aside, Mrs. Barger takes a few moments to reflect on her 28 years as an Augusta County Extension agent.

"Remember when" are the words most often spoken during this conversation because Mrs. Barger's visitor on this day is a



Betty Barger, who has served as an Augusta County Extension agent for 28 years, will retire Sept. 28.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

former 4-Her, one of many who went through Augusta's 4-H program during Mrs. Barger's 16 years serving as the county's 4-H agent.

Remember 4-H camp at Kiwanis Lake... remember Congress at Blacksburg... the talent show at the Virginia State Fair... those red skirts with elastic waists in your first 4-H Fashion Revue... remember Electric Congress in Richmond... remember that picnic up in the woods when you loaded us all into the back of your four-wheel drive pickup... remember,

remember, remember? The list seems endless. Indeed they are memories which seem as close as yesterday, but which in fact spread across almost three decades of youth involvement for Mrs. Barger.

Of course Mrs. Barger is too young to actually be retiring. She is among 43 Extension staff across Virginia who opted to accept Gov. George Allen's offer on his Early-Out Program designed to save money and reduce the number of state employees.

"It took me awhile to figure out I qualified [for the program]," ex-

plains the soon-to-be retiree. "Once I found out I did qualify, and as soon as I was able to understand that I met the requirements, the decision was made."

Mrs. Barger began her career in Augusta County on October 1, 1967. Mary Elizabeth Tappy came to work in the Augusta Extension office after graduating from Radford College with a degree in home economics education. Prior to that she had served an internship in Fairfax County and had trained for three months in Rockbridge County. After completing her student teaching in her senior year at Radford, Betty Tappy decided she would prefer to go into Extension work.

"I liked the interest of people seeking the resources of Extension," she said of her choice over a career as a public school teacher.

A native of Rochelle in Virginia's Madison County, "Miss Tappy" began her career in Augusta County with her time divided between the 4-H program and home economics. She was introduced to the world of Extension by then-Augusta agents E.B. Morse, R.L. Coffey, Frank Clements, and Dorothy Stansberry. She would eventually share the responsibility of directing Augusta's 4-H program with Coffey.

"I had grown up with a lot of involvement in 4-H," Mrs. Barger recalled. "That was the area of Extension that I had more desire to do. I was glad I was moved into the 4-H position when I came here."

Miss Tappy became Mrs. Barger in 1970 when she married Staunton native Baxter Barger. The couple's son George was born in 1973. It wasn't many years before the youngster began making the week-long stays at 4-H camp where his mother was one of the Extension agents leading groups of some 100 youth at the annual summer event.

In Mrs. Barger's early days as a 4-H Extension agent, children in grades four through seven belonged to clubs which met monthly at schools. As the school schedule changed, the program was altered to offer an exploratory program for fourth-grade students

with older youngsters moving into community clubs. In those days, the average annual enrollment in the county's 4-H program was about 1,100 youngsters. The number kept the agent busy in the numerous projects and events held annually for the county's 4-H youth.

Mrs. Barger continued in her 4-H position until January 1994 when she handed those responsibilities over to Augusta Extension newcomer Jennifer Mercer. Mrs. Barger will complete her tenure in the Augusta Extension office Sept. 28 as the county's home economics agent and says she is looking forward to her early retirement.

"I'll probably relax and enjoy the holidays," she says. The Bargers will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary Oct. 10, and Mrs. Barger says it may be early '96 before she begins her search for a second career.

"It may be volunteer, or it may be part time," she says. "I've always had a lot of desire to work with a travel agency."

Certainly a career move in this direction might pull from Mrs. Barger's years as an agent during which time her job has taken her all over the state of Virginia and to other states including Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Texas.

"My husband's always said I had my suitcase packed all the time anyway," Mrs. Barger says of her days traveling for Extension.

The retiring county agent says the "high esteem people in Augusta County have for Extension programs" has made her career an enjoyable one.

"The support of the community has always been rewarding," she said. "Augusta County has always had a lot of support for the 4-H youth program. Having the support of businesses and people made it an easier job than some of my co-workers in other areas were having. The good support of people in Augusta County, and the ease of getting volunteers and donations made the program successful."

"I'm looking forward to the change," Mrs. Barger said. "I will miss parts of my job, but after these many years I'm also looking forward to the change." —

## Fiske's departure will leave Augusta County Extension staff at two agents

AC staff report

VERONA — With the retirement of Betty Barger and the departure of agriculture agent David Fiske, Augusta County's Extension staff will stand at two after the end of September.

Mrs. Barger has announced that she has accepted Virginia's Early-Out Plan. Fiske is headed to Atlanta, Ga., where he will be working for the ranch division of Rollins Corporation which runs a large cow-calf operation on sev-

eral southeastern ranches.

Originally from Loudoun County and a graduate of the University of Nebraska, Fiske has served three years as Augusta's agriculture agent for horticulture, crop production, and sheep.

"It was a hard decision to leave," he said. "It's going to be challenging, but I'm looking forward to it."

The resignations of Mrs. Barger and Fiske leave obvious holes in Augusta's Extension staff. The home economics position will be

frozen for at least a year and may not be filled after that time. The agriculture position also is to be frozen, but Fiske noted that he has encouraged county administration to push for the position to be filled.

"Hopefully it will be filled," he said, "but it's up to Extension administration to decide what to do."

With Mrs. Barger and Fiske leaving Augusta Extension work, only an agriculture agent and a 4-H agent remain on staff. —



David Fiske, Augusta County agriculture Extension agent, has announced his resignation. His departure will leave only one agriculture agent in Augusta County.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton



# Saluting area 4-H clubs, members -- National 4-H Week: Oct. 1-7

**J.T. Begoon, 15**  
Willing Workers 4-H Club  
Project areas: Livestock judging, Market Animal Show, Honor club member

J.T. has been in 4-H for seven years and is a 10th-grade student at Fort Defiance High School. J.T. says his 4-H participation has allowed him to "see a lot of the country." Through competition in judging events and livestock shows, J.T. has traveled extensively in Virginia. He says being in 4-H has made him more sociable. "Shoot, I can talk to anybody now," he stated. J.T. credits 4-H with making him confident and assertive, characteristics which he said will be valuable to him when he enters college and, later on, begins job hunting. Through his success in 4-H, J.T. won scholarships in livestock showing events. He says this money is in the bank drawing interest until the time he will need it for college tuition. J.T. is



J.T.

the son of Tom and Shelly Begoon of Grottoes.



ANDREA



ANGELA

**Andrea Farley, 16**  
PEACH 4-H Club  
Project areas: Public speaking, Honor club, Market Animal Show

**Angela Farley, 16**  
PEACH 4-H Club  
Project areas: Pets, Market Animal Show, livestock judging, sewing

Twin sisters Andrea and Angela are already way ahead of most folks their age. As home-schoolers, the two earned their general equivalency degree in August and plan to attend Blue Ridge Community College next semester. They are members of a 4-H

club specifically for home-schooled youth. PEACH (Parents Educating Augusta County Home Schoolers) has a regular monthly meeting and planned activities each week.

Andrea got started in 4-H by showing sheep in the Market Animal Show. She participated in the Turkey Q contest — a 2-hour presentation which required that Andrea grill turkey and tell about the preparation process. She advanced to national competition in this area and traveled to Louisville, Ky., to compete. A 10th-place finish in the national contest earned her a \$100 U.S. Savings bond. Andrea says her participation in 4-H events has made her more confident, and — quite obviously — kept her busy.

Angela also got involved in cooking presentations, but she chose the Beef Ambassador contest. In this event she prepared beef — she chose sweet & sour meatballs — and gave a speech about the beef industry. She advanced to state competition at Virginia Tech where she placed sixth. Aside from cooking, Angela's great interest is ani-



mals. At home she helps care for the family's menagerie of critters which includes goats, pigs, calves, ducks, horses, dogs, and cats. She hopes to pursue studies which will prepare her to be a veterinary technician. Angela said she feels her project work in livestock judging will be beneficial to her in this endeavor. "In livestock judging you learn that the animal is more than just what you see on the outside," she said. Andrea and Angela have been 4-H members for eight years and are the daughters of Fred and Jackie Farley of Verona.

**Dana Noel, 13**  
PEACH Club

Project areas: Horses, animals, pets  
Dana's family moved to Augusta County from Concord, Mass., two years ago. A home-schooled student, she was looking for extracurricular activities which would bring her together with others of her age and interest. She joined the PEACH Club (Parents Educating Augusta

County Home-schoolers) and found just what she was looking for. "It was a way to get involved in the community," Dana says of her choice. Recently she had the opportunity to help out at the Augusta County Fair's Petting Zoo. She entered a number of crafts and home-made foods in the fair's home arts division. Dana also marked another milestone at the Augusta County Fair winning Grand Champion honors in the 4-H Junior English Division of the fair's horse show. She also won the show's high point award for 4-H in the English riding division. Dana has been in 4-H for two years and is the daughter of Lynne and Bruce Noel of Stuarts Draft.



DANA

**Chris Keagy, 13**  
O u t d o o r  
Sports Club  
Project areas:  
Target shooting, shooting sports, firearm safety



CHRIS

When Chris asked his parents for a gun they said "No." But if he would

See 4-H, page 11

## Agent plans year full of activities for 4-H members

By JENNIFER MERCER

The 1995-96 4-H year in Augusta County promises to be very active. There are currently 17 4-H Clubs in Augusta County. These clubs include community clubs, Cloverbud clubs, judging teams, and special interest clubs.

For those who are not familiar with 4-H, it is youth oriented, educational organization that emphasizes the hands-on, learn-by-doing approach to education. The mission of 4-H is to assist youth and adults working with those youth, to gain additional knowledge, life skills, and attitudes that will further their development as self-directing, contributing, and productive members of society. 4-H is open to all youth, ages 5-19. Youth ages 5-8 may join the Cloverbuds. Other youth are eligible to join the community clubs, special interest clubs, and judging teams.

Within each community club, a multitude of projects are available. Some of these projects include cats, dogs, beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, health, nutrition, computers, aerospace, safety, sewing, forestry, wildlife, water quality, vet science, and the list goes on. Youth who participate in a 4-H community club can choose from this list of projects to determine their focus for the 4-H year. Special Interest Clubs such as the Horse Club, Dairy Club, Livestock Club, Honor Club, and Outdoor

Sports Club concentrate on one particular area of interest as the club name implies.

There are many opportunities for youth to participate at the county level in activities such as public speaking, presentations, Share the Fun Talent Show, Fashion Revue, County Fair, and the Market Animal Show. Most of these events allow for youth to advance to the district and state level if they so desire. Within each club there are many opportunities to participate in educational workshops and/or competitive programs as well.

Summer Camps are a big part of the 4-H program. Some of the camps made available to Augusta County 4-Hers include, Junior Camp, Horse Camp, Shooting Sports Camp, Environmental Camp, Fishing Camp, and High Adventure Camp. These camps do much more than teach youth about fishing or horses. 4-H camps allow campers to develop social skills that they may not be able to develop elsewhere. They learn to interact with other youth. They develop a sense of independence and self-confidence while having fun and making new

friends in a healthy, outdoor, well-supervised environment.

In addition to the community and special interest clubs, there is also an in-school program. Youth in the county elementary schools are all given an introduction to 4-H in the fourth grade. Depending on the program for the year, they may have actual clubs within their class where they elect club officers and have regular meetings. Correct parliamentary procedure is emphasized as well as providing exposure to other 4-H project areas and programs including all county-wide 4-H activities. These youngsters are also en-

couraged to join a community club near their homes.

4-H is a volunteer led organization, meaning that all clubs and programs are organized and run by adult volunteer leaders working in cooperation with the county 4-H Extension Agent, Jennifer Mercer. In order to provide all of these opportunities for Augusta County's youth, volunteers are needed to help run these programs. If any adult would like to assist or would like more information on any of these programs, call the Extension Office at 540/245-5750. Additional volunteers are always being sought to help support the program.

In addition to the current program, two new clubs will be starting during the 1995-96 year. These include a second horse club and a High Adventure club. Adult leadership is needed for these clubs. Training will be made available to anyone interested, so it is not necessary to be a specialist in any particular area to be a leader for that club. Potential volunteers or parents wishing to sign their child up for 4-H should call Jennifer Mercer at the Extension Office (540/245-5750) for more information on volunteering opportunities. —

Jennifer Mercer is the 4-H Extension agent for Augusta County.

## New 4-H clubs in Augusta County

### Horse Club

A second-Augusta County 4-H Horse Club will be starting this year. This will be an excellent opportunity for youth interested in horses (owners and non-owners) to learn more about horses, go to horse shows, and participate in many horse activities.

### Outdoor Sports Club

The emphasis of this club is on the shooting sports. Currently the club has an indoor air rifle range at the Augusta County Government Center. The club meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Youth must be at least 9 years of age to par-

ticipate. Newcomers to the club must go through a safety program before being allowed on the range. This program is offered during regular meeting times and, depending on the size of the group, takes one or two meetings.

### Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

This program meets during the Outdoor Sports Club meetings but does not conflict, just in case youth wish to participate in both clubs. Emphasis is on wildlife identification, habitat management, evaluation of aerial photographs, and wildlife foods. Youth are taught how to evaluate a given

area of habitat for suitability to a particular species then put this knowledge into practice by developing management plans for urban and wild areas.

### Livestock Club

The Livestock Club is being developed to help youth who show livestock or would like to show in the 4-H/FFA Market Animal Show or simply for those who are interested in learning more about fitting and showing livestock and livestock selection.

Anyone who is interested in joining one of these clubs or volunteering to help with these clubs should call 540/245-5750. —





# Yesterday once more



## Callithumpion band entertains Earhart newlyweds



Dale and Mary Earhart of Greenville demonstrate part of the "shivaree" ritual when the new groom is required to push the bride around in a wheelbarrow. The couple was "welcomed" into the community with the midnight rousing also known as "serenading" or "belling."

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

By NANCY SORRELLS

GREENVILLE -- Mary George and Dale Earhart were married on July 12 this summer, but they had to wait until Aug. 4 to be "welcomed" into the community. And what a welcome it was — an old-fashioned midnight callithumpion band "serenading" by family and friends that brought the newlyweds, and certainly all of their neighbors, out of deep sleep with an ear-splitting clamor.

The serenading -- or belling or shivaree depending on the community and the storyteller -- is an old-fashioned way to welcome a newly married couple into the community. Tradition usually holds that the newlyweds should be roused late at night and forced to serve refreshments for the visitors in order to establish their place in the community.

Although the practice is centuries old, it has died out in many areas. In the Old Providence area of southern Augusta County, however, couples are still occasionally serenaded.

"A lot of Old Providence people have always done it," explained Debbie Earhart, sister-in-law to the new groom and a ringleader in the most recent serenading. Debbie and her husband Eric actually had a little revenge to invoke because they were the recipients of a serenade in 1986.

On the most recent occasion of serenading, 40 or so of the couple's family and friends gathered shortly before midnight at the Greenville Post Office, just down the hill from the Dale and Mary's

cozy log house. After a few moments of strategy planning, the mob -- for it could best be described as that -- set off on a stealthy hike up the hill.

Once they were within earshot of the house, the group spread out across the front lawn and let loose with their clamor. A callithumpion band of popping firecrackers, exploding guns, clanging cowbells, saws being boinged with hammers, smashing trash can lids, pounding pots and pans and even a loudspeaker pierced the night air.

It was a rucous loud enough to wake the dead, and eventually the bleary-eyed couple appeared at the door. Dale, who admitted to having "participated" in the administering of a few serenades, knew exactly what was going on, and he good-heartedly got dressed and joined in the fun.

The local tradition is that the new husband has to "ride a rail," which is why some of the younger men had carried a newly toppled tree up the hill. Dale straddled the tree trunk, and then several fellows hoisted man and rail on their shoulders for a "ride" around the house.

Mary was drawn into the thick of things for the second part of the tradition, which called for the bride to be pushed by her new husband around the house in a wheelbarrow.

Mary was mumbling something about a divorce and the lost opportunity for a good night's sleep, but she good-naturedly joined in the fun. Although tradition demands that the bride serve refreshments to the visitors, the pranksters were nice enough to bring coolers full of their own drinks, which they

promptly set up on the sleepy couple's front porch as the serenaders settled in to stay a while.

"Although I've heard of a serenading before, I've never seen one," Mary said. "All I really want to do is go back to sleep!"

Among the most zealous serenaders were Dale's parents, Ed and Mary Margaret Earhart, who were themselves the victims of a serenade nearly 40 years ago.

Ed recalls that he and his new bride were invited over to dinner at his in-laws house, and he wondered why everyone was stalling and staying around so long. "I couldn't understand why her grandparents were still there, but I soon learned when all heck broke loose," he said.

Ed and Mary Margaret were "kidnapped" and placed in the back of a pickup truck. "They were playing ball in Spotswood that night, and they hauled us right through the middle of the ball game. The pickup truck drove right on the field and was followed by cars blowing their horns!" Ed recalled with a chuckle.

"It's very seldom that you see a serenading done anymore," Ed continued, but noted that "we just had to get these two" because of Dale's eager participation in previous community serenades.

Just as they have been for generations, the evening's pranks are all in fun and were accepted good-naturedly by the new Earhart couple. It's all part of ushering in a new couple to the community.

"I really feel like it just shows you have friends," said a grinning Ed about the welcoming of his son and daughter-in-law. ---

### Serenading, belling, shivaree

## Traditions can be traced back to Old World customs

By NANCY SORRELLS

Whether it's called a serenading, belling or even a shivaree, the community welcome received by the newlywed Earharts is a centuries-old custom that goes back to the Old World. The oldest word for the custom, shivaree, comes from the word charivari which means to serenade with loud noises. The word belling is self-explanatory and is derived from some of the "musical" instruments used to rouse the couple from sleep.

The "Encyclopedia of Southern Culture" notes that in the South in the 1800s, newlyweds came to expect the initiation into the community. If the awakened couple failed to invite the boisterous visitors into

the house for refreshments, then the groom was taken for a ride on a rail or tossed in a creek or pond. In other areas, the couple was kidnapped and taken for a ride until they promised to serve refreshments to the pranksters.

The experience of the Earharts this summer sounds much like the old fashioned belling described by Valley folks a century ago. It became popular for the bellers to find unique ways to create noise and clamor. All types of bells were used including cow, sheep, dinner, and sleigh bells, thus the local name for the celebration. Other noisemakers included beef rib bones which were clacked together, a circular saw blade mounted on a pole and hit with a

hammer, and a "horse fiddle" made from a wooden crate and rosined string over which a rail was drawn to make a screeching sound. The cacaphony from these "instruments" was jokingly called a "callithumpion band."

Although the belling custom differed from neighborhood to neighborhood, very often the crowd would sneak up to the bride and groom's house under cover of darkness, according to Shenandoah Valley folklorist Elmer Smith who wrote about Valley customs. Often the bride was asked to serve cider, apples or molasses cookies, and occasionally the groom passed out cigars.

In some areas, newlyweds were put in a wagon and paraded around

the community, like the serenade given to Ed and Mary Margaret Earhart years ago. At other times, just like the case of Mary and Dale, the bride was put in a wheelbarrow, and the groom was told to push her around. Riding the rail was also a common part of the prank, and occasionally both the husband and wife were put on the rail.

According to Elmer Smith, serenading was not always readily accepted by the newlyweds, and rags had to be stuffed down the chimney in order to "smoke" them out of the house. There were instances where the rowdiness got out of hand as well, and because of these occasional tragic results, some members of the community

frowned upon the whole thing. Some of the more conservative religious groups, like the Mennonites and Brethren, also discouraged the worldliness of belling.

Today, very few people have been serenaded into the community. With a few exceptions, like the folks in southern Augusta County who have kept the tradition alive, the idea has died out. But even today remnants of the shivaree remain -- the practical jokes, tying noisemakers on the newlyweds' car, and the sabotage of their luggage. These practices have their roots in customs and traditions which settlers brought to America from the Old World. ---



# Westminster Church celebrates 40th anniversary

WAYNESBORO — Westminster Presbyterian Church members past and present will celebrate the church's 40th anniversary Oct. 8.

The Rev. James H. Allen, who served the church as its second minister from September 1958 to November 1967, will be guest speaker for the anniversary celebration's morning worship. Following his ministry at Westminster, Allen became associated with the University of North Carolina and has served as campus minister and dean of students. Since 1973 he has worked as vice chancellor for student affairs at UNC.

Celebration activities include a Time for Remembrance during Westminster's Sunday School hour which will give adults and teenagers a time to share their experiences within Westminster. Following the worship service, there will be a catered lunch in the church fellowship hall where the church's organizational meeting was held 40 years ago. There will be a "Reminiscence Room" containing old photos, scrapbooks, slides, and a video history of

Westminster.

Presbytery approved the organization of Westminster after approval of First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, and the Committee of Church Extension of the Presbytery. Assisting with the organizational work was Lyda C. Wood employed by First Presbyterian Church as Church Extension worker to Westminster.

The Westminster Colonization Program proposed by First Presbyterian was first approved by Lexington Presbytery in January 1954. Some of the land on which the church and manse now stands, was bought and some donated by individuals and groups supporting the outreach program.

Westminster's first worship services were held on May 19, 1954 (Mother's Day) in what was the garage of the present manse. Later the "Manse Chapel" was expanded by opening the garage doors and using a canopy loaned by Etter Funeral Home. This continued until the organizational meeting was held in the yet-to-be-finished fellowship hall on Oct. 9, 1955.

On the day of Westminster's first service in the manse garage,

it was also announced that Dr. John A. Womeldorf of Princeton, W.Va., had accepted the call of Waynesboro's First Presbyterian to serve as assistant pastor there and to work with the Westminster effort. The Womeldorf family arrived in August 1954. At the time of the organizational meeting of Westminster, Womeldorf received and accepted Westminster's call to be its first minister. He served the church until November 1958.

Three Westminster Circles were organized under the leadership of Mrs. W.W. Walker, Mrs. J.L. Johnson, and Mrs. J.W. Phillips. Margaret Womeldorf organized and directed Westminster's first choir. In September 1955 Mrs. John Zimmer became director of Westminster's adult choir.

The first class of 12 elders included C.W. Caulkins, Clark Dorsey, Wilbur O. Hansen, Ray Hewitt, Jacob L. Johnson, John J. Larew, Cecil Layman, R.B. McKenzie, Paul Shannon, Clifford M. Smith, Sam Sorce, and William Walker.

Groundbreaking for Westminster was held Nov. 28, 1954, and

the first worship service included the organizational meeting in the new building Oct. 9, 1955 with a charter membership of 240. —

*This article was provided by Dorothy Jones who is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.*



This 1954 photo shows Lyda C. Wood, left, who pioneered Westminster's first Sunday School. Dr. John A. Womeldorf, center, was Westminster's first minister, and his wife Margaret, right, organized the first choir. The three are standing by the first sign erected to direct worshippers to services which were being held at that time in the garage of the manse.

Photo courtesy Dorothy Jones

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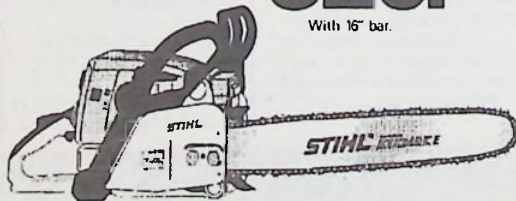
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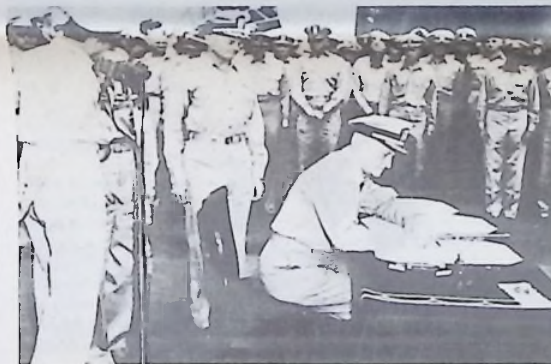


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## Remembering VJ Day, September 2, 1945



Photographs taken on board the USS Missouri tell the story of Victory over Japan Day when Japanese forces surrendered to the United States Sept. 2, 1945. These photos are copies of originals which were taken by official photographers at the event. In the photo at right, members of the Japanese delegation board the Missouri which was anchored in Tokyo Bay. In the photo at left U.S. military officials sign the document to accept Japan's surrender. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz signs for the U.S. as Gen. Douglas MacArthur, standing at left, looks on. In center is Rear Adm. Forrest Sherman. These photos were provided to AC by subscriber Jim Harris of Rt. 3, Staunton who was stationed on the West Coast with the Army Infantry when the surrender was signed. He later served with occupation forces at Okinawa. Harris spent the duration of his time in the military disposing of supplies which had been stockpiled on Pacific islands in anticipation of the U.S. invasion of Japan. Harris says he doesn't have any war stories. "If they hadn't dropped the atomic bomb and Japan hadn't surrendered, then there'd have been one chance in 10 that I would have a story, and nine chances out of 10 I would have been killed." —



# Augusta native and family serve as missionaries to Hungary

By NANCY SORRELLS

GREENVILLE - For David and Beth Greenawalt and their three young children, life is full of daily blessings and struggles in a strange land on another continent.

David, a graduate of Fort Defiance High School, has been a United Methodist missionary in Hungary for more than two years and, after returning home this summer to visit their families, the couple and their children have returned to their home in Balatonalmadi for another year.

After serving eight years in Virginia (four in Sherando and four in Martinsville) as a United Methodist minister, David felt a call to go to Eastern Europe and help the people there who were just emerging from under the yoke of communism.

"I felt there were tremendous needs around the world for people to hear the gospel. We went over there just three or four years after the Soviet breakup and religious freedom hadn't been felt there for 40 years. We felt it was an excellent time to go," David said.

In Hungary, he is a school teacher in an English high school, a career-oriented school where the students gain fluency in English as well as take traditional secondary courses. The Greenawalts explained that the high school system is quite different in Hungary than it is in the United States. There, students decide on a career path and then attend a school that helps focus their goals. If the choice takes you to a school in another part of the country, then by the time you are 14, you live in dorms during the school year.

David's school is a dual language school which means that most students are very fluent in English and are encouraged to study English in recognition that it is now the international language. The five-year high school includes a first-year language acquisition year. During the remaining four years, any class in the school could be taught in English. In addition to being fluent in their native Hungarian and English, the students are required to take another language during their school years.

"It is not uncommon for them to speak three or four languages. I hear my



Beth and David Greenawalt with children, from left, Rosemarie, Jon, and Matthew. The Greenawalts recently returned to Hungary where they serve as missionaries.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

students speak of wanting to be journalists, vets, lawyers and doctors," David explained.

Technically David is on loan from the Methodist Church and has been appointed by his bishop, but he is officially under the auspices of OMS, a worldwide missionary organization. The missionary team of about a dozen adults scattered throughout the country meets in Budapest every month or so to determine its missionary direction.

"There is a need all over Europe, especially in Central and Eastern Europe for English teachers, and the Hungarian government is open to Christian missionaries in the public schools. They don't mind if you share your faith in the schools," David explained.

The Greenawalts describe a country that has been almost devoid of faith and hope since the clamp down of communism in the 1950s. The country of 10 million people is about the size of the state of Indiana. It has the highest suicide rate in the world and the high-

est rate of alcoholism in Europe.

"In Hungary, Christianity was barely tolerated, and they did their best to eradicate it. They didn't allow anything outside of the church. They basically left the old people alone, but many of the young people couldn't get a job and couldn't get into the universities if they worshipped openly," David said.

"They had no idea that Christians could be fun. The only Christians they'd seen were old folks," added Beth. She and her husband, who are both in their 30s, helped organize a summer English camp for students in the country's military tracked high schools.

Their experience with the week-long camps, which they helped run last summer, was a case in point. Although the Hungarian government knew that the English camps were being sponsored by Christian missionaries, they apparently did not communicate that to the boys who signed up for English instruction.

"At the beginning of the camp

we gave them each two books, one was the New Testament and the other was a religious book on Christianity. The boys got these books and had a real bad attitude. But by the end of the week that attitude changed. They warmed up to us and could see that we just wanted to have fun. We won their trust and made some friends and they thought that, 'Well, maybe your attitude toward God might be right.'"

"We saw that same softening at each camp," Beth added. "At first they had a hard, cold attitude and that softened throughout the week."

Part of the Greenawalts' reason for getting involved in the camps in the first place was because they are forced to move out of their duplex home every summer to make way for German tourists who come and spend money in the town of 8,000 located on Lake Balaton, the largest lake in Central Europe. "The town is primarily a tourist town. Most people rent part or all of their homes to German tourists every summer," Beth said.

Being nomads for part of each year is just part of the adjustments the family has had to make. Beth must raise and home school Rosemarie, 3, Jonathan, 5, and Matthew, 7, although the two boys do attend a Hungarian school for part of the schooling. In addition to supplying the "Mommy time" that her kids need, Beth opens her home to visitors and helps David bring his students over as much as possible. She also has a number of writing projects going on and wrote the text for a 15-minute video on Hungary that was produced by OMS.

Life in Hungary is not easy, either for the Americans or the Hungarians. In a country where the average income is \$300 per month but the prices are equal to or more than in America, they see the United States as a promised land. "It is incomprehensible to them that Americans can make so much money. They think America would

Continued on page 11

## If the sock fits, wear it

By BETH GREENAWALT

For years I have struggled with the "Great Sock Mystery" — better known in social circles as "What really happens to all those missing mates?" I have to admit, though, that the most recent victory went to the socks.

When we left a parsonage for the mission field, my careful, organized packing was interrupted by the arrival of our third baby. Parishioners and relatives rallied around to help my distraught husband package and transport the remainder of our possessions. We took up temporary residence at my parents' home prior to an overseas mission assignment. There, among towering stacks of miscellaneous boxes, I found our collection of unmatched socks awaiting me.

Then my husband learned that he needed to precede me to Hungary, our new country-of-residence. While Dave toured Budapest, I attempted to plan for two years abroad in a country where clothes are prohibitively expensive and supplies unreliable. I needed to pack for three small but rapidly growing children while fitting everything into four large and four small suitcases, home library not excluded.

Right.

During those tension-filled days, dreams gradually gave way to reality:

"No, Matthew, your giant teddy bear won't fit into your backpack on the plane... maybe Gram can send it later."

"I'm sorry, Jon, but your desk is too big to fit into a suitcase."

See SOCKS, page 11



David Greenawalt, center, with first-year English students in a Hungarian classroom.

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Continued from page 10

be a great place to study and work and live," David said.

The Greenawalt family has adjusted to the different pace of Hungary. They have no telephone because it is a 5-year wait to obtain one, and they have no car, relying instead on bicycles, walking or catching a local bus which runs once an hour.

"You have to adjust your expectations to a slower pace," Beth explained. "You put fewer things on your 'to do' list. Shopping in Hungary is like a treasure hunt. You go to a number of different stores for things, and sometimes they have it, and sometimes they don't. If they don't have it, they don't know if they will ever get it, they might, and they might not. When we came back to America, we were stunned by the variety in the stores," Beth said.

A case in point, they added with a laugh, was that -- although the ballpoint pen was invented by a Hungarian -- you can't buy a decent one there.

An even more frustrating gap for the family has been the difficulty in communicating. Although the children know a spattering of the language, none of the family is fluent. Beth describes a particularly poignant situation where she was on the wrong bus line and didn't know how to get where she was going or even how to get back home. While she was sitting on the bus fighting back tears, a man who spoke English got on the bus and was able to explain to the bus driver her dilemma. The bus driver then went out of his way to get her on the right bus. "I felt very silly and very vulnerable, but I had been reminded of the Lord," Beth said.

"We were a bit naive when we

went over," Beth continued. "Linguists have rated Hungarian as one of the five most difficult languages. It has been a lot more of a barrier than we realized. Dave gets along pretty well, and I can get along shopping, but I feel like I am in kindergarten. When we came over (back to Virginia) for Christmas, all of a sudden we felt so competent. We could go into a store and communicate!"

The American things they miss range from peanut butter ("the doctors there can't believe we eat it") to better medical care for the children. But perhaps more than anything else they miss their families. "We miss our parents and having our children separated from their grandparents. That's one of the biggest things," David noted. "We think of things that are so much easier when we come home. Having a car, phones, and going in a shop and not having to pantomime."

There are other aspects that make their mission worthwhile, however, not the least of which is the relaxed atmosphere of their village where Beth doesn't worry if she sends Matthew over to the grocery store to buy things by himself.

For David, teaching has opened up a whole new world and represents the reason the family has extended their original 2-year commitment for another year. "I really love my students and have built a relationship with them and the school. I felt like I wasn't ready to leave yet," he said.

Perhaps Beth summed up the family's thoughts best in the OMS video for which she helped write the text. "It's been a real blessing to be part of the ministry here," she said. ---

## •Socks

Continued from page 10

Surrounded by the wailings of three small children, I consulted long lists of necessities and fit our possessions in like puzzle pieces. Every time Dave called, he suggested about 10 more items it would be good to bring, ranging from rechargeable batteries and heavy duty bike locks to muffin pans and molasses.

I couldn't find a spot for the dictionary, the Strong's Concordance, and 10 ruffy dresses for our baby. Even without the frame, my favorite childhood painting -- sacrificially presented to me by my sister who had inherited it -- wouldn't fit. A pile of children's underwear, shoes, and mittens waited patiently. I found myself saying, "I wonder if Mom can send them later?"

We had heard rumors of a friend of a friend in my in-laws' church who traveled occasionally to Budapest. He might be willing to bring us a few items. In all, I think we left five boxes of "hopefuls" awaiting the "friend of a friend's" possible assistance.

However, on the afternoon I sorted socks, I made one parting joyfully. I had laid out rows upon rows of those mateless socks which had mysteriously multiplied over the past four years. They covered two couches and the coffee table in infant, children, and adult sizes: dark, colored, white with one stripe, white with multiple stripes, and plain white.

With the fanaticism of a treasure hunter intent upon pirate gold, I sought matches.

The rows diminished until finally only one forlorn couchful remained. I stared at it uncertainly... Matthew's new red sock which he wore only once... the pure wool anklet, alone for three years now....

"This is it!" I said aloud. Courageously I thrust down all those agonized inner murmurings of "But suppose tomorrow you find the mate?" With resolve I marched across the room. As I bundled the pile of socks into the discard box, I thought of poor Pilgrim's joy when the burden finally rolled from his back.

During Dave's next dollar-a-minute call from overseas, I exulted, "I got rid of 'THE Socks!'"

("Uh--that's fine, honey," he responded as he huddled in a pitch-black phone booth in 10-degree weather.)

A few months later we were safely settled into our space-saving apartment in Hungary. The outlet hose of the native wash machine flowed into our bathtub, so I knew for certain that socks weren't being swept away into the sewer system. Several times we upended the dollhouse-sized machine, but never did we find even one sock in its inner workings.

Already, though, a new collection of Mysterious Mateless Socks was beginning. Yet still I rejoiced in my victory over the mountain I had escaped.

Our first "care package," lovingly packed by our mothers, arrived at the hand of that sainted friend of a friend of my in-laws. Remembering the multiple boxes of treasures we had left behind -- and later frantic requests for various items -- we opened the suitcase with nervous expectancy -- to find included in the shipment and scattered throughout, the mountain of mateless socks from which -- I thought -- I had gleefully escaped.

Of course. ---

## •4-H

Continued from page 7

enroll in an instruction course about firearms, his parents said they might consider letting Chris have a gun. That's how he became active in one of the newest 4-H clubs in Augusta County, the Outdoor Sports Club. A member for

the past year, Chris has been learning about firearm safety and handling. He's making progress, too. Chris has won Marksman and Pro Marksman awards which are determined according to points scored on a shooting range. Chris said he is looking forward to the club's activities for the coming year which

will include traveling to shooting sports events around the county and state. Chris is the son of Joyce and Warren Keagy of Staunton. He is a seventh-grade student at Stewart Middle School.

**Austin Johnston, 10**  
**R.L. Coffey Club**  
**Project area: beef cattle**

Austin is starting his third year in 4-H and is a member of one of the county's community clubs. For the past two years he has exhibited steers at the annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show. He has also attended 4-H camp and says he's looking forward to becoming involved in other areas of 4-H.

Austin is a fifth-grade student at Riverheads Elementary School and is the son of Dinah and Donnie Johnston of Middlebrook. Mrs. Johnston says she feels 4-H helps children on a social level.

"It's a good extracurricular activity. The kids learn a lot through 4-H that you don't through everyday life," she said. "It's not just about winning either. They all work together to achieve a common goal." Mrs. Johnston said she credits 4-H with being an "all-around good character builder." ---



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# Paraplegic joins ranks of cyclists on her 'Freedom Rider'

By NANCY SORRELLS

**BRIDGEWATER** - When Jeannette and Bill Seitz went up to the registration table at the Shenandoah Valley Bike Festival held at Bridgewater College in July, festival workers assumed that Bill was the rider and Jeannette was along as a family member. **WRONG!**

It was a logical assumption. Jeannette is a paraplegic, paralyzed from the waist down as the result of a car accident in 1981. But shortly after registering, both husband and wife were in the saddle ready for the evening's 19.5-mile ride through the rolling Shenandoah Valley countryside. Bill blended right in with the crowd of cyclists awaiting departure. But the Lycra-clad Jeannette drew more than a few second looks as she set out in her three-wheeled, low-slung Freedom Rider bicycle, her shoulders moving rhythmically as she pedaled with her hands.

Chatting with the couple in the settling dusk after they completed their ride reveals a true picture of love -- for each other and for cycling. Hailing from Bluff City, Tennessee (a stone's throw from the state line at Bristol), 42-year-old Bill and 32-year-old Jeannette have been married for 10 years. The pair were once a marked contrast in athleticism. "I never was

athletic," Jeannette says. "Even before my accident, I was a non-sports person. But Bill has been cycling for 27 years. He was a big cyclist."

Although Bill does not race, he has always spent a great deal of time in the saddle. After their marriage, they explained, he would go out on 50 and 60 mile rides and leave Jeannette at home for hours at a time. "He would feel bad because he was leaving me home," Jeannette adds.

Eventually, Bill weighed the pros and cons and gave up cycling altogether in order to spend more time with his wife. That was before the Freedom Rider. "One day I was reading a magazine called 'Sports in Spokes' which is for handicapped people, and I saw an ad for this kind of bike. I started shouting and got all excited," Jeannette recalls of that day in early 1993.

Bill got excited too. As a former owner of a bike shop, he knew a little bit about bicycle design and mechanics, so he studied this particular model and found it to his liking.

An order was placed for the bike and since its arrival in March 1993 the couple's lives revolve around riding and training and traveling to bicycle related events. Although she admits that riding the bike was easier than she thought, she was not able to simply hit the road and

pedal 50 miles. "The first couple of times I rode about eight miles. Eventually I worked up to 15 and now I ride four to five times a week and put in about 20 miles each time. It takes me two to two and a half hours depending on the wind," she says.

Jeannette sits on the bike with her legs strapped straight out in front of her on either side of the front wheel. The pedaling is done with her arms in a rowing motion so that her hands move forward together and then back together. The machine is steered by leaning and the brake lever is on the center tube directly in front of her.

Although they are very pleased with the bicycle, Bill has drawn upon his expertise to improve it. "Pretty soon we will have a new machine," he joked, listing some of the changes he has made. "I modified it and made the frame shorter, and I put a different crank on it. I am getting ready to replace the drum brake with a center pull brake," he explained.

He has also worked on the tires which are now Kevlar all the way around. "They are an unusual size, 24 inches by 1 inch, and they have a tendency to get snakebite flats," he said, noting that by using Kevlar the frequency of flats has decreased. He also puts 180 pounds of pressure in the 125-pound rated tires.

"We've been tweaking at it and tweaking at it to make it lighter as well," adds Jeannette, explaining that the frame alone weighs 22 pounds, and the whole vehicle weighs in at around 40 pounds. There are 28 gears on the cycle that range from 94 inches to 10.5 inches.

Although they are now both cyclists, the two do not always log their training time together. Jeannette averages eight or nine miles an hour and puts in most of her training time early in the day. She has a set route of loops that take her around the community. "I've made a lot of friends. Because I go the same way every day, people watch out for me. People on their way home from work honk their horns and wave," she said.

Even the local bike shop helps out, and Jeannette jokes about her "roadside assistance." Although she can repair broken cables herself and a chain is easy to put back on, fixing flats is a bit more daunting a task. So Jeannette carries a cellular phone in her bike bag, and when she flats, she gives the bike shop a call. Because her training routes are no further than five miles from the store, she is usually back on the road again fairly quickly.

Her training routine barely slacks off at all in the winter. The \$2,000 bike came with a trainer which hooks onto the front wheel and turns it into an exercise bike. As a consequence, she and Bill are ready to roll in the spring. Since buying the bike in 1993, she has logged nearly 10,000 miles on it.



Bill and Jeannette Seitz of Bluff City, Tenn., get ready to ride in the Shenandoah Valley Bike Festival held recently at Bridgewater College.

Photos by Nancy Sorrells

This summer she has completed two of her longest rides to date, a 64-miler in June (the last 25 miles being in the rain) and 53-miler in May.

"All our weekends are planned from now until October," they explained of their schedule designed to taste cycling all over the East.

The people on the trips have delighted in riding alongside Jeannette, who has added an orange flag on a long pole as a safety measure. "They will ride along with me for awhile and talk with me," she said, adding that at times they also expressed a little "envy" for her bike. "I was riding one of the worst hills I have ever been on," Jeannette says in explaining the previous remark. "I was really tired, so I just grabbed the brake and stopped. I sat perched there on the hill waiting to recover. I have such a low gear that I could do that and with three wheels I won't tip over, so I just stopped. Everyone else was struggling up the hill shouting, 'No fair!'"

In the years since obtaining the Freedom Rider, Jeannette says her

life has changed in many ways, most importantly she and Bill share a common love of cycling. She has even passed the "true cyclist" test of getting some road rash, she notes, almost proudly showing off her healing skin from a crash a few weeks ago.

"The Freedom Rider is a great product. I would encourage anybody thinking about it to give it a try. I really get out more now, and I get to ride," she said.

One of her ultimate goals in cycling is to ride in and complete a century ride -- 100 miles -- something Bill does quite regularly. "I'd like to do it just one time. It would take a special set of circumstances. It has to be glass flat, and I have to have good sag support, but I think it's do-able," she says.

When asked if she would consider herself a serious cyclist, Jeannette paused for a moment and then replied: "I guess I am. It's opened up a whole new realm of experiences for me. And since I've started riding my bike, I'm in the best shape I've ever been in in my life, even before my accident." ---



Jeannette Seitz pumps along on her "Freedom Rider" part way through a 33-mile route she rode during the Shenandoah Valley Bike Festival. Jeannette is a paraplegic but has been able to take up cycling using a three-wheeled, arm-powered cycle.

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# D.F. Cash recalls early days as livestock dealer

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

**JOLLIVUE** — Everybody has a story. If your name happens to be Dreno Cash, the first story you have to tell is how you happened to be named "Dreno."

"My father was a soldier in the Spanish American war and served in the Philippines," Dreno says. "They captured a Spanish general who was a member of the Royal family of Spain but had been educated at Harvard. He and my father became great friends. He had seven names. I used to be able to remember all seven, but now I can only remember the first three — Alvarez Alphonse Dreno. That's where my father got the name Dreno."

**Dreno Fulton Cash** — Fulton was his uncle's name and he was named thusly because Dreno was born on his uncle's birthday — is known to most local folks simply as "D.F." Anyone who has ever sold livestock locally should know this fellow who spent almost six decades working at local stockyards and as a livestock buyer. Mr. Cash celebrated his 90th birthday Aug. 12

and was honored with a party on Aug. 13 by fellow members of Christ United Methodist Church on Churchville Avenue. About 175 guests attended the party which was held following church services. Mr. Cash is the church's next-to-the-oldest member.

"There's a lady who's a couple months older'n me," he points out.

Born in Roanoke in 1905 — the year Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt were married according to one of his birthday cards — Mr. Cash is the oldest of John T. and Julia Margaret Cash's nine children. John Cash was originally from the Folly Mills area and his bride was from Spottswood. The couple moved to Roanoke where they started their family. In 1927 the Cashes bought 140 acres of farm land east of Jollivue and the family returned to Augusta County.

"He wanted to get his boys out of the city," notes Mr. Cash's wife, Gertrude, who he married soon after his return to the area in 1927.

"I was raised in town 'til I was 21 years old," Mr. Cash said. "You can imagine what I knew about a farm." But lack of knowl-

edge did not deter the man from forging ahead at farming.

"I even broke a pair of oxen and farmed with them," he said.

The year 1935 marked Mr. Cash's entry into the world of livestock buying, trading, and handling. Staunton Livestock Market opened at the C&O flats just off of Middlebrook Avenue that year, and

Mr. Cash was hired as a clerk. Prior to the stockyard's opening though, he has a clear recollection of how livestock was traded in those days.

"Between '27 and '35 if you had livestock to sell you would take it over to the C&O flats on Saturday. People would buy 'em and then they would be shipped by rail to Baltimore for the sale on Monday," he explained.

Mr. Cash was also instrumental in opening a stockyard in Monterey where a group of stockholders hired him to run the yard's office. Finley Campbell, an Augusta County native, worked with Mr. Cash at the Monterey yard. Mr. Campbell had charge of the sales ring in the endeavor.

Mr. Cash recalls the margin of profit in livestock sales was pretty narrow in those days. He noted an occasion when he had twenty 200-pound hogs to sell for which he was offered 3 1/2 cents a pound.

"That would have been \$7 a head," he said. Mr. Cash refused the offer and instead butchered the hogs. He sold sausage for 10 cents a pound and fresh hams for 15 cents a pound.

He also recalled the sale of a 1,000-pound Angus bull which he had raised from a calf. The year was 1930, and the animal was shipped for sale in Baltimore where it brought 3 1/2 cents a pound for a total of \$35.

"It cost \$5 for the freight to send him up there, and \$2 went for commission. That left \$28 net," he said.

In 1936, Staunton Union Stockyard opened on New Hope Road. Mr. Cash worked at the C&O flats yard for 28 years and then moved to the yard on New Hope Road where he became affiliated with E.M. Hewitt. As a livestock dealer, Mr. Cash bought cattle from the local markets to be shipped to Pennsylvania, Iowa, and Ohio. He was a buyer for Valleydale most of 30 years and also bought livestock from Bunker Hill. Working as a livestock dealer had its ups and downs.

"It broke me three times," Mr. Cash said and recalled washing dishes for a living after one such setback. He also faced a tangle of government regulations controlling dealers, a situation which sent him to Washington to face down Department of Agriculture officials over a dispute about record keeping. But Mr. Cash wasn't the only victim of hard times in the livestock business. He spoke of a time when the local stockyard was left holding the bag on a \$125,000 debt when a midwestern cattle dealer went under.

"He'd been playing the futures market heavily," Mr. Cash said. "They never did get the money. Last I heard that fella" was driving a truck somewhere."

Mr. Cash pointed out that stockyards opening for business in the area was good news for local farmers.

"It was good," he said. "A lot of people cuss the stockyard. But there's more than one buyer there. That's the beauty part of it... the real advantage. Most people would



Friends and family of D.F. Cash, center, honored him with a party on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Granddaughters Vicki Blackwell, left, of Rt. 2, Staunton, and Jane Ellen Cash of Memphis, Tenn., were among the 175 guests at the party.

rather sell their livestock right off the farm. But nine times out of 10 you're better off taking it to the sale. It was good back then because if you needed money you could take something in and get your money right after the sale."

Mr. Cash worked at Staunton Union until 1993 when he "retired." To hear him talk of his experiences with livestock trading, it seems as if he might have just returned home from a day at the yard. (In fact through most of his career he spent all of every day, six days a week at a stockyard somewhere buying livestock.) But after six decades in the business, it's hard to simply turn aside from pursuits of earlier years. Speaking of his experiences in buying and selling livestock, Mr. Cash sounds almost like a youngster recounting treasures found beneath the tree from Christmases past.

Perhaps a few lines of framed cross-stitch presented to Mr. Cash by niece Joyce Thompson at his 90th birthday celebration sum it up best:

*"We never really grow old it seems  
We keep in our hearts our fancies  
and dreams*

*And in a corner all tucked away  
Is the child we all were yesterday." —*



D.F. Cash of Jollivue looks at one of the gifts he received at his 90th birthday party held Aug. 13. The counted cross-stitch was created by his niece, Joyce Thompson. The figure in the center depicts the house where Cash was born which was located near Folly Mills.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

## Associations announce cattle sales

Feeder Calf Associations in Augusta and Rockingham counties have announced the schedule for their fall state-graded sales.

Sales will be held Oct. 3 and Nov. 7 at Staunton Union Stockyard on New Hope Road. Both sales are calf yearling sales for steer and heifers of beef breeding. Sales will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Take-in time for cattle is 6 a.m. until noon the day of the sales. Cattle must be consigned for these sales at least two weeks in advance. For information about registering cattle for the Augusta sales call the Extension office at 245-5750 or Doug Riley at 885-2783.

Sales at Rockingham Livestock Sales on U.S. 11 south in Harrisonburg will be held Sept. 21 and 25, Oct. 12, 19, and 23, Nov. 9, and Dec. 14. Calf yearling sales for steers and heifers are Sept. 21, 6 p.m.; Oct. 12, 7 p.m. and 19, 6 p.m.; Nov. 9, 5 p.m.; and Dec. 14, 5 p.m. The Sept. 25 sale will be at 7 p.m. and is for Holstein steers only. The Oct. 23 sale will begin at 7 p.m. and is for yearling steers only. Rockingham sales do not require advance consignment, however it is helpful for organizers to know numbers of cattle being brought to specific sales. For information about

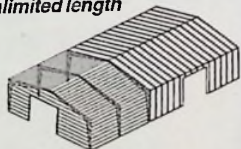
the Rockingham sales, call the stockyard at 434-6765.

Cattle for the Augusta and Rockingham sales will be graded by state inspectors and must meet certain specifications to be accepted for the sales. Animals will be graded and sorted into lots according to type, weight and frame size. Buyers find the sales attractive because the state inspection is an assurance of quality. Producers also benefit from the numerous buyers who have access to the sales through the use of multiple phone lines set up during the auctioning of cattle. ---



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# There's a pigeon sitting on my head

Down on the farm we're thinking about things that make us scrunch up our eyes and wrinkle our noses. Getting the silo ready for corn chopping season, for instance, is one of these things.

Sure we should have done all this back in the spring which would have eliminated some of the things which make us scrunch up our eyes and wrinkle our noses. But the memory of eye scrunching and nose wrinkling from previous experiences is vague enough that we forget these are circumstances we'd rather avoid.

At the end of this past spring, as it happened, we emptied out our silo — that is we'd fed all the silage it contained which left the unloader at the bottom of the 18x60-foot concrete block silo. In April, we should have gotten in there and dismantled the thing and raised it back to the roof of the silo so it would be ready for corn chopping season which then — in April — seemed a hundred years away. But we didn't do that. We just left it.

"Just leave it," I recall saying to my father when spring chores began to pile up. "We'll get it one of these days." (I need to make myself a note about this for next year so we don't make this mistake again.)

Because it costs \$12 a month for electricity at a silo not in use, the ever frugal farmer calls the power company two minutes (that's how long it takes him to drive from the silo to the nearest telephone) after the last load of silage is fed in the spring to have the power shut off. "That's \$12!" I've been told as if it were enough money to travel around the world or buy the Empire State Building, if one had the chance.

At any rate, with the power off, a generator is then required to raise the unloader back to its storage position in the silo's cap.

"Just leave it," I recall myself saying to my father. "We'll get the generator over there and move it one day. Anyway, we need to cover it up."

"One day" finally arrived shortly after Labor Day when the crush of corn chopping was fast approaching. I finally resigned myself to a task which could no longer be put off.

In the bottom of the silo, my father and I made the necessary adjustments so that the unloader might be raised. A wheel apparatus was removed and wired to one arm of the unloader. A guide wheel was adjusted to eliminate contact between the unloader and the walls of the silo. As we worked something kept distracting me.

"What's that noise?" I asked my father of something I was hearing — sort of a scratchy kind of noise like static on the radio or pellets hitting a wire screen. We paused

## Down on the farm

By Betty Jo Hamilton



and could not determine what the noise was. A few minutes later and still inside the semi-darkness of the silo, I could stand it no longer.

"What IS that noise!?" I asked again. Cocking my head to one side then the other, I determined the noise was coming from beneath us. I squatted down for close inspection of the small amount of dry silage on the silo floor and saw then the source of the noise... bugs, thousands of them, were crawling all over the remains of the silage.

"Oooo, bugs," I said, scrunching up my eyes and wrinkling my nose at the tiny creatures scurrying and crawling about. Seeing the bugs had the same effect on me as

when someone says the word "fleas" — you start wiggling about and itching begins almost instantaneously. The presence of the bugs spurred me to work faster — I'm not too fond of small enclosed dark places where things are crawling about.

It had taken me longer probably to notice the bugs, because up to that point I had been distracted by pigeons which were flapping around in the top of the silo. Every year these birds take up residence in the silo. One of the things we should have done in April was cover the unloader with plastic to keep the pigeons from casting their litter upon it. Of course we didn't do that. "Just leave it," I said to my father. "It's all the way at the bottom. They won't mess it up too bad."

What a foolish notion. With pigeons in the top of the silo there's only one place for their waste to go and that is down where, over a four-month period, it had been landing and accumulating on top of the unloader. Working to cover the loader's motor and the rest of the apparatus, I made every effort to avoid contact with the pigeons' mess.

"Oooo, pigeons," I said, scrunching up my eyes and wrinkling my nose as we worked to cover the unloader with plastic.

Making a hasty retreat from the silo, my father and I replaced three doors at the bottom. The power cord to the unloader dangled down the chute — a cord which needed to be moved back to the top of the

silo. As I began to consider the ascent, my father slapped at a wasp with his cap.

"Watch that wasp. They probably have a nest up in the chute," he said.

"Oooo, wasps," I said scrunching up my eyes and wrinkling my nose. "Well, that's enough for today," I said hastily, my mind racing ahead to a possible confrontation with angry wasps in the close quarters of a silo chute. "We'll take up the cord when we raise the unloader."

Having 24 hours to screw up my courage (and make a plan), I was ready the next evening to brave the unknown of the silo's chute. You know, it's pretty dark up there.

With my father and brother-in-law manning the generator and the loader's winch apparatus at the base of the silo, I maneuvered my way up the ladder and through the chute opening. In one pocket I carried grip pliers and an adjustable wrench. In another pocket I carried a can of wasp and hornet spray.

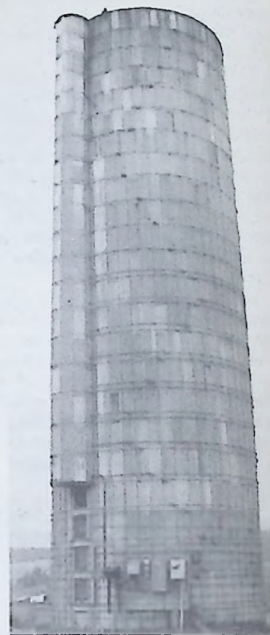
Moving carefully and slowly into the chute I encountered not wasps but rather four months' accumulation of spider webs and their residents.

"Oooo, spiders," I said scrunching up my eyes and wrinkling my nose as I struggled to climb up the chute and stay out of the webs.

A few feet further up some buzzing caught my attention. I grabbed for the can of wasp spray. I froze in my position waiting for the attack and the pain of bee stings. The buzzing continued, but I remained unmolested. The buzzing, I guessed, was being made by some unsuspecting winged insect caught in a spider's web.

"Oooo," I said scrunching up my eyes and wrinkling my nose as I imagined the winged insect struggling to free itself of the web's sticky strings.

About a third of the way up the chute I had to stop to remove a clamp from the power cord, a task that was barely achievable in the darkness. O.K. you try putting grip pliers on a bolt and removing a nut with an adjustable wrench in the



The chute on the side of a silo provides access to the unloader inside. The climb to the top is 60 feet.

AC staff photos

dark. And did I mention you have to do it twice, and the power cord you have to hold while you're doing it weighs about 30 pounds, and all your weight is thrown onto the balls of your feet, because basically you're suspended in midair standing on 1/2-inch iron ladder rungs, and after a few minutes muscles in the calves of your legs cramp so badly it feels like your toes are being pulled up to your kneecaps.

With the clamp removed I was ready to move on up the chute now carrying the power cord along with me. Each step up the ladder seemed to add another five pounds of weight to the cord. Once at the top there was some relief because

Continued on page 15

It's easy to put off the inevitable climb up into the silo chute. You know, it's pretty dark up in there.

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Continued from page 14

there is a bit more light, and you're finally able to unburden yourself of the power cord and hang it in its storage position. Of course the nuts and bolts have to be readjusted again, but it's not so difficult now because you have a little more light — all the other conditions remain the same however.

With the cord in place and me at the top of the silo to watch the process, all is now ready for the raising of the unloader. I yell down the chute for my companions to begin, and the unloader begins its slow ascent toward the roof.

A lone pigeon sits on top of the unloader tripod on this occasion. A dead pigeon — dead for some time I might add — dangles from a tripod pulley.

"Oooo, a dead pigeon," I said, scrunching up my eyes and wrinkling my nose and wishing that the other pigeon would find a place to exit the silo.

The unloader inches its way up the silo. Sixty feet probably doesn't sound like much distance to cover, but when you're 60 feet in the air at the top of a silo, 60 feet is 60 feet. Watching the unloader move closer to the top, I see that all seems to be well. The pigeon (the live one that is) becomes agitated as the unloader moves closer to its perch. Three feet from the stopping point, the unloader stops moving. My father and brother-in-law have shut off the generator to determine how much further the unloader needs to be raised.

"I don't think we'll be able to hear you yell to stop with the tractor running," my brother-in-law shouts up the chute.

"Oh, I expect you will," I yell back.

"Well, yell loud," he instructs.

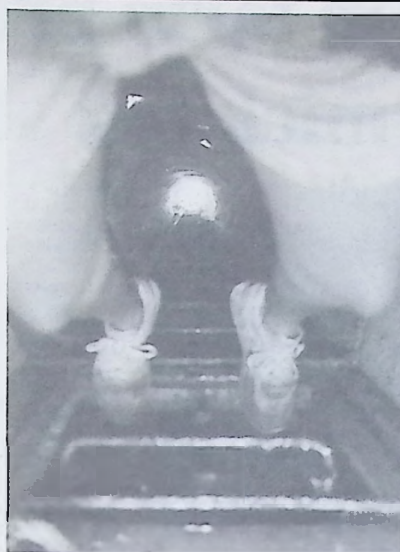
"Don't worry. I'll yell loud," I respond.

The tractor is cranked up again, and the unloader inches closer to its destination. The pigeon is really annoyed now. It flies from one side of the silo to the other looking for an outlet. It bounces off the roof, flutters from side to side, swoops, swirls, then finally it lights.

"Oooo, there's a pigeon sitting on my head," I say scrunching up my eyes, wrinkling my nose and congratulating myself on having the good sense to have worn a hooded sweatshirt for the task then cursing myself for having thrown the hood back a few minutes earlier.

I'm frozen in position now, 60 feet above the ground, standing on 1/2-inch ladder rungs, holding on for dear life, the muscles in the calves of my legs feel like my toes are being pulled up to my kneecaps, and there's a pigeon sitting on my head. This is probably the sort of thing that caused Shannon Faulkner to crack.

Fortunately for me the pigeon sought another perch rather quickly by which time the unloader had reached



Once at the top of the chute, it's a long way down.

its endpoint, and by which time I had a yell forming inside of me the volume of which was equivalent to a Rocky Mountain avalanche. Needless to say, my compatriots heard me when I shouted for them to stop moving the unloader.

Emerging from the chute as if returning from a journey through a pharaoh's tomb and once safely back on solid ground, I was asked about the position of the unloader. Was it high enough? Would it be in the way when silage is blown in the silo? Was the cord in place? Would the sheet blow off?

"Yes, no, yes, no," were simple responses, and the only ones I cared to offer. There was nothing about the position of the unloader that seemed dire enough to necessitate a change or, for me, another trip up that chute.

It's things that make us scrunch up our eyes and wrinkle our noses that cause us to put off the inevitable. And if you ever find yourself with a pigeon sitting on your head, you'll know why we don't have to think twice about why we put things off down on the farm. —

## Forestry and wildlife tour is October 19

Most livestock producers have a certain amount of land which is best suited and devoted to timber production. On Oct. 19 during Forest Products Week, a bus will travel through western Augusta County for a forest and wildlife management tour. The tour will demonstrate forestry and wildlife management opportunities, acquaint participants with public and private sources of technical and financial management assistance, and demonstrate multiple-use forestry and wildlife management techniques.

The first stop on the tour will spotlight a stewardship plan which includes a grape arbor establishment for grouse, crop tree release, riparian area restoration, and best management practices. The second stop will show selection harvests, timber stand improvement,

and farm ponds.

"Watchable wildlife" will be the focus of the third stop on U.S. Forest Service Land. The Little North Mountain Wildlife Management Area will be the final stop on the tour where a specialist will talk about gypsy moth's effect on vegetative structure and wildlife habitat.

Space is limited on this bus tour which will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The tour will originate at Churchville IGA with departure set for 8 a.m. Tour participants should return by 5 p.m. Registration fee is \$20 until Oct. 9 and then increases to \$25. This fee covers the cost of lunch which will be served at the Augusta Springs Camp. Pre-registration is required by Oct. 9. Contact the Augusta County Extension Office at 245-5750 for information about this bus tour. —

## Cattle Health Conference set for November 1

STAUNTON — A statewide beef cattle health conference will be held Nov. 1 at Ingleside. The conference is designed to address the health concerns of both the cow/calf and stocker cattle operator.

Speakers making presentations at the event include veterinarians from the Virginia Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine, specialists from Virginia Tech, and privately

practicing veterinarians.

Some of the topics to be covered include yearling pasture gains, calving problems, sick stockers and baby calves, as well as herd health management.

Registration fee for the program is \$20. Participants are asked to pre-register by Oct. 20. For information about the cattle health conference call the Augusta County Extension Office at 245-5750. —

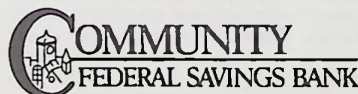
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# Latest advances in farm practice focal points of McCormick test station tour

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

**STEELES TAVERN** — Like Cyrus McCormick, researchers at the Steeles Tavern Experiment Station which once was home to the famed grain harvesting innovator continue to search for better ways to farm. At the station's annual field day held Sept. 6, some 70 farmers from across the state learned about some of the most recent advances in commodity production and heard reports of trials under way.

Nutrient management and effective and efficient use of fertilizers were topics most discussed at the meeting. Carted around the farm in hay wagons to the station's various test sites, field day participants heard reports from Extension agents, specialists, and Virginia Tech researchers in a number of fields of specialties. Harold Roller, a Rockingham County Extension agent, led off the event with an overview of nutrient management programs.

"It's not a dirty word," Roller said of nutrient management. "A lot of you have been doing it for a number of years but didn't know what to call it."

Roller explained that an effective nutrient management program will "match crop needs for plant nutrients with soil capability and fertility levels." When properly



Jon Repair, left, Rockbridge County Extension agent, explains a bale storage demonstration to participants in the annual Steeles Tavern Research Station Field Day.

AC staff photo

practiced, programs will include an initial phase of determining the amounts and levels of plant food available in the soil, Roller said. The existing plant food will be supplemented, if necessary, with commercial fertilizer to achieve appropriate levels of plant food for desired production levels.

Producers may use a variety of fertilizers including poultry litter, liquid dairy manure, and solid dairy or beef manure. Roller noted that the nitrogen content of these substances should be determined to precisely evaluate the amount

of nitrogen being applied to soil. While poultry litter supplies about 40 pounds of nitrogen per ton, liquid dairy manure falls into the 10 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 gallon range. He noted that liquid manure varies more in content than any other type of manure. Roller urged producers to test liquid manure in the spring and fall to determine its makeup.

In order to insure that the appropriate quantity of fertilizer is applied, manure spreaders must be calibrated to determine quantities put onto fields. Winston Phillips,

nutrient management specialist with the Division of Conservation and Recreation, told field day participants how spreaders may be calibrated.

"It's important to get the application rate correct," Phillips said. In the ideal situation, he noted, manure should be spread consistently.

Phillips described two types of spreaders commonly used by farmers. The traditional box spreader's greatest advantage, he said, is that it may be used to spread any type of manure. To make sure that box spreaders are applying the correct rate of fertilizer, Phillips told producers not to overload or "heap" manure into the boxes. Loads should be level, he said. Producers also should adjust the chain speed on spreaders so that they move 2 to 2 1/2 feet per minute. The litter pans should kick the manure out evenly, and the top beater should be in place to prevent excess manure from falling out of the spreader.

Fan spreaders, Phillips said, are more specialized than box spreaders and may be used only to spread poultry litter and lime. These gear or hydraulic driven implements should maintain an average fan speed and will spread half-ton to 4 tons of litter per acre.

With an aromatic load of poultry litter on board a fan spreader,

Phillips demonstrated to participants how the machines can be calibrated using plastic sheets spread out on the ground behind the spreader. Running the spreaders so that litter is thrown out onto the sheets is the best way to see the spreader's dispensing pattern. Its application rate is determined by weighing litter caught on the sheets.

A fan spreader's application rate also may be found by recording its loaded weight, spreading over a known acre, and then weighing again to find out how much litter the machine is applying per acre. This practice will help producers determine the amount of nitrogen they are getting on fields, Phillips said.

At yet another test site on the station, Jon Repair, Rockbridge County Extension agent, discussed a trial which was started only this summer. The two-year demonstration project is testing four types of round bale storage to determine the method which most effectively controls waste and quality.

In the bale test, four types of bale protection are being tested. Repair explained. Control bales are not covered and sit on bare ground. Among the bales being tested are those with plastic bonnets and placed on bare ground.

Continued at top of page 17

## Eastern farmers converge on Swoope

By JEFF ISHEE

**SWOOP** — You could tell something was up.

Shuey Road, in west central Augusta County, is normally hushed and a picture of serenity. However, on this August morning, automobiles seemed to be almost in a procession as they slowly motored down the gravel lane. They were coming from both directions to a common destination. The automobiles came from the south via Middlebrook, and they approached from the north via Swoope. The convergence of traffic, so early in the morning, occurred at a small sign next to the Middle River. Here, the cars eased across a rustic bridge and drove down the lane to Polyface Farm, the home of the Salatin family.

Looking at the tags of the automobiles parked in the pasture was like looking at a list of states on the eastern seaboard. There were cars from Pennsylvania, trucks from Maryland and Ohio, RV's from Georgia. People had come from 27 states, and 2 foreign

countries, to find out one thing... how does this family do it?

Co-sponsored by *Stockman Grass Farmer* magazine and Polyface, Inc., this was billed as a Graziers Reunion, but it looked almost like a family reunion from a distance. Paying guests numbering 320 milled around on the morning of Aug. 5, shaking hands, drinking coffee, and eating homemade sweet rolls prepared by the Shell Family of Bath County. Folks from Alabama conversed with ranchers from Texas. Farmers from Pennsylvania chatted with agribusiness professionals from New York.

Floyd Horn, deputy under secretary of agriculture for research, education, and economics, came down from the USDA office in Washington and was mingling with farmers. Some people pitched in and helped the Salatin family finish up the morning chores. Then, at 8:30 a.m., the crowd of interested visitors turned and walked with Joel Salatin out to the pasture. This was the beginning of the Walking Farm Tour that would take up most of their day.

The first stop in the pasture was the portable loafing shed that Joel uses in his "Salad Bar Beef" program. All ears were alert as he discussed pasture management, the production of healthy forage, and herd genetics. Occasionally, hands would shoot up into the air, and a cattleman from West Virginia might ask about portable fencing and its use in paddock design. Joel happily divulged the logistical secrets that he uses here on his family farm, admittedly biased toward sustainable agriculture.

Towards the middle of a beautiful Augusta morning, the crowd was into it. You could sense their anticipation as they walked across the field to the next stop on the tour, which was the Eggmobile. Here, hens are allowed to free range for the majority of their diet. The congregation asked about nests, feed content, control of predators, and chicken breeds suitable for small scale commercial production.

Later in the morning, Joel led the throng of visitors to two other pastures, via eight tractor pulled wag-

ons, to discuss the pastured broiler and pastured layer programs. Here the folks saw small, portable, bottomless pens, where chickens are raised for several weeks on pasture. Following the cattle in a field, the birds thrive on the lush green grass and help clean up after the cattle. The assembly asked questions about both the broiler and the layer programs, egg quality, and how they could reproduce this plan on their own farms. Joel freely answered inquiries about investments in equip-

ment, profits available to the small farmer by dealing directly with the customer, and labor required to make the program a success.

Joel's 14-year-old son Daniel then led the group through his "Raken House," which is a combination rabbit/chicken house. It was quite amusing to watch this young man astonish the crowd with his expertise on rabbit genetics, breeding, and the commercial potential of a forage-based rabbit

See RABBITS, page 17

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Continued from page 16

those with bonnets and placed on wooden pallets, those with no covers and placed on wooden pallets, and those with plastic sleeves which protect the bales top and bottom.

Bales were weighed when rolled and the forage quality measured. When bales are fed this winter, they will be weighed and tested again to determine which method of storage best preserves the hay's quantity and quality. Next winter more of the bales will be fed and the quantity and quality measured after setting over a two-year period. The bales weighed between 960 and 1,040 pounds when freshly baled.

Repair encouraged producers to consider the weight of round bales when feeding cattle to make sure that enough hay is being fed to supply the nutrient needs of all cattle. At the same time, he emphasized the need to conserve hay by not feeding cattle more than they need. Repair also stressed the need to test forage samples to determine the percent of crude protein being provided to cattle through hay.

At the next stop on the station tour, Repair showed producers three types of forage being tested in plots but admitted that the success of the test had been marginal. Puna chicory, cinnamon red clover, and matua were planted in plots on the station to demonstrate different types of forage which Repair said "may have a place in grazing systems." He noted that the puna chicory is a good mid-to-late-season forage and is fairly drought tolerant while the clover variety may be used to establish three- to four-year stands of a forage which is disease resistant.

Matua is a forage used in Australia and New Zealand and nicknamed "rescue grass." Repair said matua will establish a seed head every 30 days and will reseed itself.

Dale Wolf, Extension agronomist, introduced the topic of establishing and managing perennial tall warm season grasses. From a historical perspective, Wolf explained that these forages are native to Virginia. The grasses were eliminated from the Valley when early settlers' animals grazed off the tall grasses. Cool season grasses such as orchard grass are not native to Virginia and were introduced from Europe by settlers.

Using tall warm season grasses in a grazing system may offer advantages to producers, Wolf said. Cool season grasses can be grazed up to the first of June. Warm season grasses, which Wolf said thrive in 90 to 100 degree temperatures, provide excellent forage during June, July, and into August.

"Production potential is great for warm season grasses," Wolf said, noting that these perennials produce well on poor soil, are drought tolerant, and have well-developed root systems which are excellent for erosion control. He noted that stands of warm season grass are not difficult to establish. Wolf said producers may "enhance and insure" success by not sowing seeds until the soil has warmed up enough to germinate the seeds, typically between June 15 and July 15. Planting between these dates also permits producers to control weeds.

Wolf also noted that warm season grasses make excellent hay if baled before the seed heads form. He said the quality of this hay is



Winston Phillips, standing at loudspeaker, spreader by placing plastic sheets on the ground to catch manure as it is broadcast. AC staff photo

equal to alfalfa or tall fescue but has lower protein than cool season grasses. Hay made from warm season grasses has "always been adequate for cows," Wolf said.

Tech's agronomist also spent some time discussing fall fertilization of cool season grasses. The practice is gaining momentum and showing excellent results in tests, Wolf said.

"It's remarkable," he noted of the practice, "and something you sure ought to consider."

Researchers have determined that by applying fertilizer from mid-October to early November, enhanced growth is noted in the spring. One test Wolf spoke of included applying 50 pounds of nitrogen in October and 50 pounds of nitrogen in the spring as opposed to applying 100 pounds of nitrogen in the spring. In the test where the nitrogen application was split between fall and spring, Wolf said the stand was maintained into the next fall. The stand to which

100 pounds was applied in the spring died. Recommendations for the practice call for 50 pounds of nitrogen to be applied in late fall and additional to be applied in the spring as is the typical practice, Wolf said.

Also making presentations at the field day were Joe Fontenot, professor of animal and poultry science at Virginia Tech; Jesse Richardson, attorney; and Martha Wright, Virginia Tech animal science graduate student. —

## •Rabbits

Continued from page 16

production program. Small pocket cassette recorders were pointed at Daniel, and notepads were being filled quickly, as onlookers scribbled furiously.

Then it was time for a break from the farm tour, and all of the Polyface guests assembled at the barn, where fresh chicken (pastured broilers) and pork (raised in the farm's "pigaerator") were laid out on the massive barbecue grills. After grace was said, the crowd lined up for a picnic luncheon of barbecue, baked beans, cole slaw, sweet iced tea, lemonade, and buttermilk chocolate cake. The mouth-watering spread was prepared by local folks, and the out-of-state visitors were treated to a first class Shenandoah Valley farm feast.

The crowd then gathered at one end of the barn, where Joel had set up hay bales to resemble an amphitheater. They eagerly listened as several topics were discussed at length, including deep litter bedding, creating compost with a device Joel calls the "Pigaerator" system, selling directly to the consumer via "Relationship Market-

ing," and governmental regulations that both hurt and help the small-scale farmer.

The remainder of the afternoon, was spent at the Salatin's poultry processing shed. Here, each step of the chicken processing operation was discussed in detail. Questions about slaughter wastes, temperature requirements, sanitation, and efficiency were confronted directly, and each time, the folks in the audience seemed to nod their heads in acknowledgment, and scribble notes for later review.

As the afternoon wound down, a few guests simply ran out of energy and parked themselves under a shade tree to chat with other farmers. Others walked up the dirt road towards Little North Mountain to view the forest/pasture conversion program that Joel has established utilizing pigs as "Porkivators," which simply means that he is using swine to clear land and cultivate a harvested woodland for transformation to meadow. The end result is that land harvested for timber is converted

to pasture, fertilized and cultivated by the pigs, and when the project is complete, a freezer full of pork chops, sausage, and ham seems as though it is just a gratuity. It is a remarkably uncomplicated idea, and the conceptual logistics of having animals perform all of the labor (rather than heavy equipment with all the noise, petroleum waste, and soil compaction) were being noted by many.

As the warm summer sun slipped down toward the Alleghenies, cars began to leave the farm, again almost as in a procession. It is imaginable that a lot of folks were looking in their rear view mirror, thinking, "That's how they do it." The crowd of over 300 had come to learn, and this field day had been a stimulating and educational experience.

As they eased down Shuey Road toward their own farms in Tennessee, Indiana, and North Carolina, it was evident that this day they had succeeded in farming the mind of one of Augusta County's leading agriculture innovators. —

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# Inaugural year successful for Augusta County Fair

## AC staff report

**FISHERSVILLE**-- The Augusta County Fair was a success when measured by any standard.

Held Aug. 23-26, the fair featured entertainment, livestock shows, musical guests, and numerous other events which drew crowds from all over Augusta County and beyond.

According to fair organizers, about 10,000 people flocked to

the event which was the first held under the leadership of the current fair board.

Jim Ashby, fair board president, said the group is already planning for next year's fair.

"We want to get started right away," he said. "We want people to give us suggestions for improvement. The fair this year was very successful. We have established a base, and we can work

See additional fair photos on page 23.

from there... 99.99 percent of the people who came to the office trailer said they thought it was headed in the right direction."

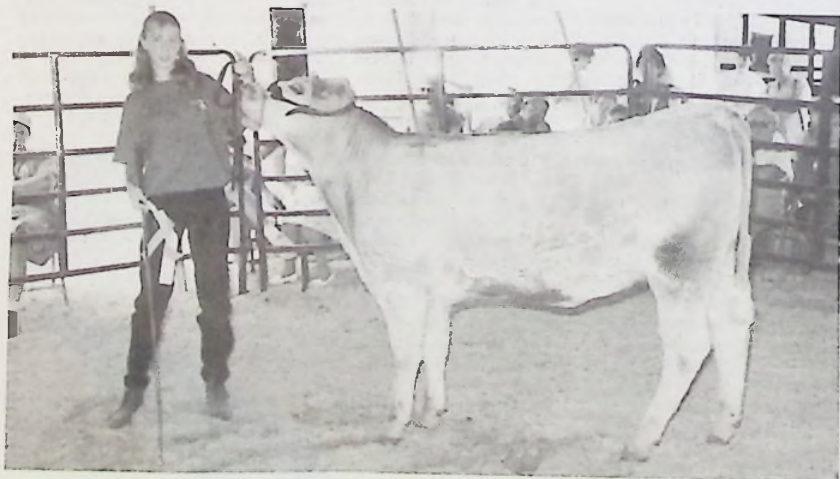
Ashby commended the volunteer organizations who helped coordinate some of the events for keeping activities running smoothly. He said the immediate business before the board is to evaluate the 1995 fair in order to plan for the 1996 event. ---



Corey Stogdale, 4, of Stuarts Draft was the winner in the junior division of the sheep costume class held at the Augusta County Fair. He appeared as "Heap Big Chief

Corey" with his Pinto pony, "Katy." Corey is the son of Ricky and Lois Stogdale.

AC staff photos



Lindsey McCune, daughter of Mike and Debbie McCune of Fishersville, showed the Grand Champion commercial beef heifer at the Augusta County Fair.



Jonathan Coleman, the son of J.R. and Betty Coleman of Arbor Hill, was the winner of the intermediate division in the sheep costume class with his entry, "Let it rain, let it rain."

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"The Cow Belles," from left, Brooke Ann, Holly, and Hannah Sayre, daughters of Sarah and Mark Sayre of Churchville, took first place honors in the dairy costume class.

## Fair fun for dairy youth

By LOIS R. SKEEN

FISHERSVILLE -- It was hard to tell whether the spectators or the kids were having more fun on Friday night in the dairy barn at the Augusta County Fair held Aug. 23-26 at Expo in Fishersville.

The evening's events of the fitting and showmanship competition, the calf costume class, and a race

through an obstacle course provided entertainment for onlookers as well as the participants.

After participating in workshops during the previous two days learning to properly wash, clip, and present their animals in the ring, the youth had a chance to show off their skills in the fitting and showmanship classes. Although this class was an optional



Katie Hutchison, center, receives the Supreme Champion trophy from Mrs. Roudabush representing Ron-Rou Holsteins. At right is show judge Mark Grove.

event, every one of the 46 dairy participants led a calf in the competition beginning with 21 "pee-wees," all under 7 years old. Judge Riley Wagner of Bridgewater selected Katie Hutchison from Rockingham County as the overall winner, and Elizabeth Fuller, of Churchville, as the reserve champion. The participants received livestock brushes and tailcombs from Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau, cash awards sponsored by Dairyman Specialty Co., and the pee-wee showmen were lucky enough to get candy bars from Hershey Chocolate. The champion trophy was sponsored by Gloryland Holsteins.

The crowd was then treated to a parade of 16 costumed calves, fea-

turing everything from hippies to hula girls, and even a famous baseball star, "Cow Ripken." The winning entry was "The Cow Belles," shown by the Sayre family. In second were Tyler and Wesley Rhodes, a.k.a. Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble with their calf, Dino, complete with spots and a purple tail. The Beach Bums from Neodak Dairy were third place winners. The class cash awards were sponsored by Houff's Feed and Fertilizer.

There is nothing like a horse race -- in this case a cow race -- to really get the crowd involved. More than 25 participants, from pee-wees to grandpas, pulled their sometimes unwilling calves through an obstacle course to the

encouraging cheers of the crowd. Stepping through tires, over fence rails, around barrels, through a field of eggs, and through a man-made mini-pond, all with varying success. Calves were pulled, pushed, coaxed, and finally trotted over the finish line. After a run-off between five ties, Andrew Hutchison and his calf were declared the winners.

In the type classes shown the following day when the conformation of the calf itself was judged, 49 animals were exhibited by 21 youth before judge Mark Grove of Fishersville. The dairy breeds exhibited were ayrshire, brown swiss, holstein, jersey, and red and white holsteins. In the end, Katie Hutchison took home another trophy, presented by Ron-Rou Holsteins, for Grand Champion honors of the show. She won with her senior yearling ayrshire, "Miss Kenwan Ruby," who was also junior champion at the West Virginia State Fair held just the week before the Augusta fair.

The other breed champions were Triple T Johnny Tonya, Brown Swiss Champion, shown by Ben Hutchison; CCHI Random Rogers, Champion Holstein, shown by William Arbogest; Rose, Jersey Champion, shown by Bridget Copsey; and Eckeldale Licorice Sue-Red, champion Red and White, shown by Megan Switzer.

If you find yourself full of popcorn and tired of the ferris wheel at next year's Augusta County Fair, come on down to the dairy barn and join in some free, old-fashioned fun. The dairy show is open to youth under 19 years of age, and all dairy calves are eligible to enter, both registered or grade. For more information about the fair, or about other county 4-H dairy club activities, contact the Augusta County Extension Office at 245-5750.

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Augusta Country was among the business exhibitors set up in Expo Hall during the fair. A.J. Romero, left, of Love, won a country ham given away by AC on Friday night and

is presented with her prize by AC marketing director Jeff Ishee. Saturday night's winner, also of a country ham, was Libby Flora of Grottoes.



# Producers all ears at corn production meeting

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

**WEYERS CAVE** — Although the corn might not have been tall as an elephant's eye, it was certainly tall enough to prove that the 1995 growing season had been a good one for the stalk and ear harvest. Standing amid a sea of corn on Gerald Garber's Cave View Farm on the evening of Aug. 30, about 80 area corn producers heard what it takes to make high yields in the corn harvest.

None of the producers present had to go anywhere to know that it takes plenty of rain to make the season a good one for corn. In opening remarks, Garber noted that the test plots of corn received ample rainfall until late in the season. He noted that no irrigation was used on the corn until early August when the equivalent of 1 inch of rainfall was artificially introduced.

Among the trial plots at Garber's farm were test plots of hybrid corn varieties planted by Virginia Tech. Harry Behl, a member of Tech's department of soil and environmental sciences, said the 1995 plots represent 45 varieties from 10 different seed corn companies including Augusta, DeKalb, Doeblers, Dyna-Gro, Hy Test, Mid-Atlantic, Northrup King, Pioneer, Southern States, and Stine. Joining these compa-



Joe Emanuel, a Mycogen seed corn representative, tells about a variety of corn planted in demonstration plots at Cave View Farm in Weyers Cave. Mycogen was among a number of companies which had seed corn varieties planted in the acreage.

AC staff photo

nies, Agri-Pro, Cargill, Chem-Gro, Funks G, Mycogen, and Southeast Ag each had demo plots at Cave View.

In addition to adequate rainfall, producers also know that soil fertility plays an important role in corn yields. Mark Alley, Virginia Tech Extension agronomist, emphasized the need for soil testing prior to planting and fertilization.

He noted that it is important to manage soil fertility for maximum corn production. When tests indicate that the soil's pH has dropped below 6, Alley said it is time to start applying lime. The presence of lime helps to keep nutrient levels in the soil up, according to Alley. For producers using manure or poultry litter for fertilizer, the agronomist indicated soil pH must

be maintained in the 6 to 6.5 range for maximum microbial activity to break down manure or litter.

For individuals applying nitrogen to fields, Alley pointed out the need to use the element efficiently. Market conditions have pushed the price of nitrogen up substantially. This trend is likely to continue, according to Alley. Because of the increase in price, producers will need to study alternatives in nitrogen application. Alley noted one test which showed that a band application of 30 pounds of nitrogen to the acre produced the same results as a broadcast application of 60 pounds of nitrogen to the acre.

Alley explained that producers harvesting corn this fall which will be followed with a planting of rye may not need to fertilize this ground when rye is planted. Soil should be tested following the corn harvest, Alley said. If nitrogen tests at 30 parts of per million or greater, no additional fertilizer is needed for rye. Depending on the environmental conditions of the season, residual nitrogen left behind by the corn crop may be sufficient for a stand of rye.

Weed control is another important factor affecting corn yields. The corn at the Cave View trial was planted using conventional tillage, but Scott Hagood, Extension weed

scientist, was on hand to talk about weed and grass control. Before talking to producers about controlling weeds in the corn field, Hagood spent considerable time enumerating ways Virginia Tech's Hokies will control Virginia's Cavaliers on the football field. Hagood boldly predicted that the Hokies will defeat the Cavs 20-10 when the two teams clash in their annual cross-state rivalry.

While Tech will be looking to gain the upper hand on its gridiron opponents this fall, Hagood noted that corn producers might also gain some ground on weed and grass control by applying herbicides in the fall. He noted that once corn is removed from a field — and allowing some time for weed regrowth — herbicides applied in the fall will control weeds into the next season. Some weeds present in corn fields in late fall are not present when herbicides are applied in the spring and therefore are not affected by the spring herbicide application. Fall perennial weed control with products such as Roundup or Banvil will control late season weeds, according to Hagood.

The Extension specialist also encouraged producers to be "good stewards" when mixing and loading atrazine. He warned that there are efforts under way to eliminate atrazine for use in weed control.

"There is no science that says it should be eliminated," he said, "but there are a lot of politics. People who don't know about it (atrazine) would like to see it eliminated. Our stewardship will allow us to continue to use it in a good way."

Following the presentations by Alley and Hagood, Augusta County Extension Agent David Fiske introduced seed corn company representatives present. Each was given the opportunity to tell about their company's plots as producers viewed the corn in production. —

## Cattlemen struggle with salary cut

**DALEVILLE** — Virginia beef cattle producers are bracing for a second consecutive year of severe price decline. Current Virginia feeder cattle prices are running 23 to 27 percent below comparable prices in 1993. To feeder cattle producers this equates to a \$135 to \$166 per head price reduction on the cattle they ship to western feedlots.

A year ago, a southwest Virginia cattle producer sold his trailer load (approximately 70 head) of 700-pound feeder steers for \$.88/pound. This year the cattleman sold a similar lot for \$.68/pound. That is a \$9,800 reduction in his annual salary, with expenses remaining constant.

The declining price trend began in 1993 with an 8 percent drop in finished cattle prices. Slaughter cattle prices fell due to a burden-

some mid-year oversupply of beef and an increase in cattle numbers due to an upswing in the cattle market cycle.

The continued lowering of feeder cattle prices between 1994 and 1995 is largely a result of uncooperative weather. Continuous rain in the corn belt through May and June 1995 hampered corn planting schedules, reducing the potential 1995 supply by almost 2 billion bushels. Current corn prices as of early September were over \$.50/bushel higher than September 1994. The increase in corn and feed grain prices cost feedlots \$.10 more per pound of cattle weight gain. The increased cost to feedlots is passed on to the feeder cattle sector by lowering the price of feeder cattle.

Complicating the problems of

lower prices and high feed grain costs for feeder cattle producers was the lack of rainfall in Virginia during the month of August. High temperatures and lack of rain depleted pastures and caused many cattle producers to sell cattle earlier in the year than planned and at lighter weights. This influx of cattle on an already depressed market coupled with lighter sell-

ing weights has left Virginia cattle growers with returns well below break-even levels.

Most price forecasters predict continued low price levels into 1997 based on increasing cattle numbers in the cattle market cycle. Virginia producers can only hope for more cooperative weather in the next two years to ease the burden. —

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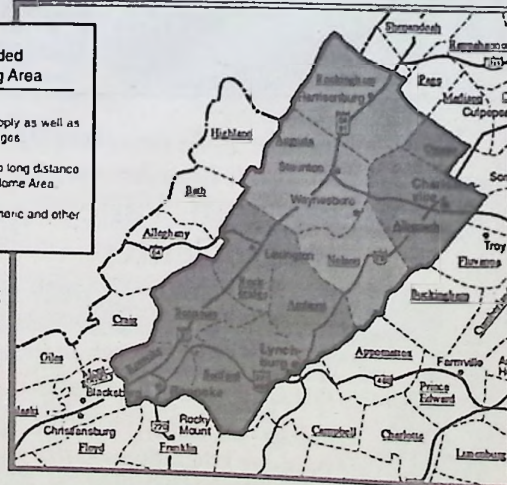
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Virginia Cattle Price Situation						
Mid-August prices, L&M-1 feeders						
	1995	1994	1993	Drop \$/head since '94	Drop \$/head since '93	
<b>Steers</b>						
650 lbs.	69.70	86.11	90.65	\$107	\$136	
750 lbs.	65.95	80.58	86.01	\$110	\$150	
850 lbs.	63.13	75.51	82.63	\$105	\$166	
<b>Heifers</b>						
650 lbs.	59.89	75.35	82.40	\$100	\$146	
750 lbs.	60.90	74.15	80.43	\$99	\$146	

Source: Virginia Tech





(L) Habitat for Humanity's Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro chapter completed the house at 1321 Ashby St. in just nine days. On hand for the habitation service was Lucian Petras, SAWHFH Board Member who presented the Holy Bible to homeowner Loretta Stewart. (R) Loretta and her 4 year old son Zachary, home at last.

## Habitat for Humanity 'blitz' builds house at 1321 Ashby Street

By SARA LOVELACE

STAUNTON — Each house has a story to tell, but the house at 1321 Ashby St. has a story all its own.

Like an old-fashioned barn raising, the community came together to build a house for one of their neighbors. What was a vacant lot on the morning of Sept. 9 was transformed by Sept. 17 into a home for Loretta Stewart and her 4-year-old son Zachary.

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Habitat for Humanity's latest success was a "blitz" build with many volunteer groups working each of the nine days. This Staunton house is a part of Habitat for Humanity International's "Building on Faith Week," in which each chapter was challenged to build a house.

Worldwide, Habitat for Humanity has built over 40,000 houses. First-time worker Marion Ward from Mary Baldwin College who got involved in the local blitz build told why she participated in the project.

"This is the kind of volunteer work where you actually produce something, not just sit in a meeting," she said. Ms. Ward went on to explain that so many volunteers were on the site the day she worked that they each had to take turns hammering.

"We were cheering each other on," she said.

Words like this were not uncommon on the Ashby Street site. With tools in hand, skilled workers and unskilled volunteers worked side by side to build an entire house — from start to finish — in one week.

Beau Beasley, public relations coordinator SAWHFH, explained exactly what Habitat does.

"It makes safe, sound housing for those who can't afford it, but it's not a giveaway," Beasley noted that a prospective home-

owner is chosen by a selection committee. The committee takes into account, need, ability to pay a no-interest, no-profit mortgage, and whether the family has children. Each homeowner must put in at least 200 hours of "sweat equity" working at the site or in the Habitat office. Loretta, the Ashby Street residence prospective homeowner, put in over 600 hours of work at Habitat and took pride that the house was hers.

Many corporations and people in the community made cash donations, gave discounts on supplies, or lent a hand to help build. Mary Baldwin College sent faculty and staff, Augusta Home Builders Home and Garden Show donated money, and there was a Habitat Golf Tournament held at Gypsy Hill Golf Course. According to Habitat organizers, one of the most helpful groups has been area churches representing 21 different denominations.

Marney Gibbs, a Habitat volunteer, said she feels it's important to help.

"It seems like such a concrete way to deal with problems in our society. It gives people a feeling of empowerment," she said.

Every house has a story to tell, but this house has a story all its own. It's the place where Zachary will play and grow, a place where Loretta can come home to and know it's hers, and a place which can be remembered as a symbol of unity. Loretta seemed overcome with pride and joy as she anticipated moving into her new house.

"Habitat for Humanity is the best organization in the whole world," she said. "I thank God, my congregation, and all these wonderful people surrounding me. It's just great."

Sara Lovelace is a senior at Robert E. Lee High School.

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See page 23 for details.

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## Augusta County School schedule

### October

Oct. 9	End of first grading period
Oct. 9-13	School Lunch Week
Oct. 9-24	Literacy Passport Fall Testing, grades 7-10
Oct. 11	All County Chorus, Stuarts Draft High School
Oct. 19	Parent conferences, 6 - 8 p.m.
Oct. 20	Parent conferences, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
	No school for students
Oct. 30	Professional workday
	No school for students



# Schoolhouse News

## RHS Crop Show features 1,200 exhibits

By HEATHER CALDWELL

GREENVILLE -- Apathy? Lack of motivation? Not at RHS or in its Future Farmers of America chapter.

With 1,200 exhibits of every vegetable and crop imaginable, the school cafeteria was a cornucopia of diverse color and shapes on Sept. 6. From acorns to zucchini and field corn to barley, the FFA had a variety of crops on display.

The exhibits were judged on quality and uniformity.

Scott Buchanan, FFA officer, said: "I was amazed by the success of the show despite the drought."

Calling it the "largest show ever," instructor and club sponsor Eugene McIlwee recalled many years when drought and bad weather hindered the show. "I also think we had both excellent and outstanding quality," he said.

Top winner John Farrish with

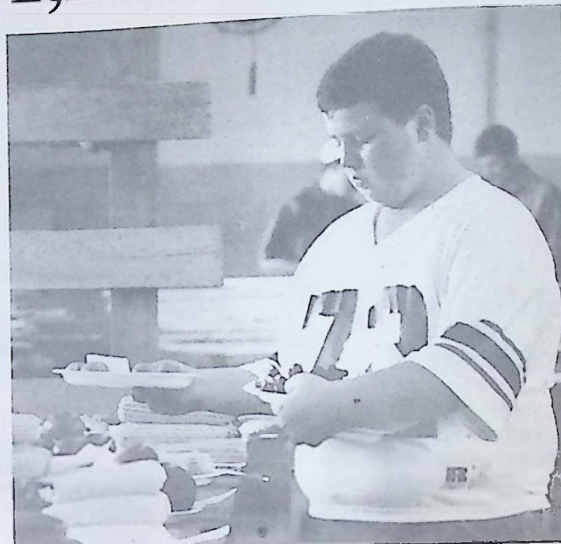
125 exhibits said the crop show was, "a lot of hard work." Farrish entered lavender and peppermint which no one else had so, therefore, he won. He also won first place in red cabbage which were big and full, and third place for his wheat straw. Farrish had a total of 42 ribbons in all and received \$15 for his winnings.

Second place with 100 exhibits was captured by Jared Hemp.

"I am proudest of my red tomatoes, silo corn, red onions, rye straw, and sudan grass," he said. Hemp received a total of 60 ribbons and \$10 for his vegetables. "It all took a lot of work this summer," he said.

Greg Buchanan, third place winner, said, "I was amazed by the tough competition." Buchanan received \$5 for his winning entries and had 55 exhibits.

All-in-all the show was a complete success with approximately 100 participants. This was a class requirement and all agriculture students were graded on participation and required to bring in at least 7 items. Congratulations to all participants and winners! ---



Glenn Kruis, a sophomore agriculture student at Riverheads High School, places his entries for the RHS Crop Show on wagons in the ag building. There were 1,200 entries in this year's show making it the largest ever.

RHS staff photo



Parents and students had the chance to view the RHS Crop Show display which was set up in the school's cafeteria. The show featured 200 categories of crops and vegetables including everything from acorns to zucchini.

AC staff photo

## RHS student works as missionary in Costa Rica

By KIM WILSON

GREENVILLE -- Jenny Oliver, a student at Riverheads High School, recently went on a missionary trip to Costa Rica. She and 20 other people from local churches took the trip to help complete the building of a church there.

This is the second consecutive year that Miss Oliver has helped on the building of the church, which was started three years ago. The church will benefit the resi-

dents of Nicoya, a small town in the country of Guanacasta. This year Miss Oliver helped primarily with the painting of the church, however, last year she helped with the actual construction.

Miss Oliver's trip to Costa Rica lasted two weeks. During the first week there was painting to be done. The trip's second week was spent mostly sight-seeing. The major attraction that she went to see was Mt. Irazu, an active volcano.

"It was so pretty. The volcano was beautiful," Miss Oliver said.

Another big thing to do was shop.

"It was so awesome, because all the vendors were selling stuff on the street," she said. Miss Oliver said she bought many things, but in particular she mentioned a beautiful maroon and white cape. The cape cost 4,986 colones which is about \$27.70 in U.S. currency. In Costa Rica, one U.S. dollar is equal to 180 colones.

Miss Oliver said she had a wonderful time and enjoyed being able to help people at the same time. ---



HEATHER CALDWELL

### Caldwell to serve as RHS news editor

GREENVILLE -- Heather Caldwell has been selected to serve as Riverheads High School news editor.

Her responsibilities will include making story assignments for articles which are to appear in Augusta Country. She will also be writing stories related to events at RHS.

Miss Caldwell is a junior at RHS and is a student in the Photojournalism II class. She will be working with RHS instructor Cherie Taylor to provide news for the Augusta Country Schoolhouse News section. ---

## RHS senior canoes through Minnesota

By AMY BERRY

This summer a local group of six teens and two adults took an adventurous trip to Boundary Water Canoe Organization in the northeast corner of Minnesota. Ian Dubinski, a senior from Riverheads, was one of the members of the canoe trip.

The group left Virginia on July 18 and arrived at Boundary Water on July 24. From there they set out on their trip which mainly con-

sisted of canoeing from lake to lake.

Two week's worth of food supplies were carried on one of the canoes. Fish like bass and northern pike were plentiful. Other wildlife such as moose, loons, and two bald eagles were spotted near the

group's campsites. There were strict regulations at the camp grounds, such as, no airplanes and no motorized boats. When the group finally reached Sowdale Lake they went from there to the Canadian border. They all returned safely to their homes on Aug. 4. ---

Schoolhouse News welcomes submissions from all area schools. Send your school news items to Augusta Country, P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459. If you are a member of the Riverheads school community, you may contact Cherie Taylor or Heather Caldwell at 337-1921 to place an item in AC's Schoolhouse News section.



# Wilson Memorial students turning sips into bits

FISHERSVILLE -- Wilson Memorial High School's TMD Special Education class has initiated a program to collect and recycle aluminum cans and use the money to purchase a Macintosh computer system that the students (and teachers) can more readily use.

Shawn Carberry, one of the students, collected enough cans throughout Wilson Memorial by the end of the 1994-95 school to surpass any other school in this immediate collection area. However,

this year teachers Bobbie Sprouse and Randy Porter hope to increase their collection area and raise enough to purchase the newer and more user-friendly system that some of the students are already using in their classes at Valley Vocational Technical Center.

"We're hoping that having a focus such as purchasing a large piece of equipment for a class of handicapped students will help get students and staff at Wilson as well as the local community in-

involved and contribute in a way that costs them nothing. In addition, it gets us all thinking in terms of using something that would otherwise be discarded," Porter said.

The notion of making the best use of available resources provides a good metaphor for the school and community-based training that Mrs. Sprouse, Porter, and their classroom aides offer. They provide instruction and experiences in a variety of vocational and community settings in order

to get their kids functioning as independently as possible.

"Our present thrust is to get our students working at jobs in the community so that when they complete school they will be able to make a living of some sort. Aside from the money, we've seen that these kids get a tremendous boost in self-esteem from doing real work," said Mrs. Sprouse.

When asked what they intended to do with their "can money" once

they'd met the \$2,000-goal for the Macintosh system, Mrs. Sprouse quickly replied: "Well, there's all that software that we'd need to go with our new computer."

Anyone who would like to contribute aluminum cans can drop them off at Wilson Memorial High School during school hours or call the school at 886-4286 to arrange a pickup. Businesses and other area schools are especially invited to pitch in and help out. ---

## Lynn Shafer picks up RHS baton

By ELIZABETH NAPIER

GREENVILLE -- Riverheads High School Band students received a welcome surprise with the new band director for the new school year. Who is she, you ask? Her name is Lynn Shafer and she comes to us from Buena Vista.

Ms. Shafer graduated from Parry McCluer in 1988 and was in the class of 1992 at JMU. She completed JMU with a degree in music education and a concentration on the trumpet.

"I knew in the seventh grade I wanted to be a band director," recalls Ms. Shafer. When asked how

she liked Riverheads she said, "It's nice to work with such a cooperative and supportive faculty, and at the same time such mature, intense, and talented students." Thanks! When asked for a final comment she replied, "I feel blessed to be in this job." ---

## Thanks for the support

The Fall Sports Program has been made possible by a select few of the Photojournalism class at Riverheads. Senior Tom Taetzsch and Junior Heather Caldwell have spent most of the summer selling ads to neighboring businesses. We would like to thank these businesses for their generosity and patronage to us during this time. Also, a special thanks to Danielle Richardson, yearbook editor,

for helping us get it together, and to Kimmie Wilson and Timmy Fitzgerald for telephoning the parents and spending endless hours on the phone. Finally, a very special thanks to the parents, friends, and family members for buying this program and coming out to show your Red Pride at fall sports events!

Heather Caldwell  
RHS news editor

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Greenhouse only three years old. Steel "quonset" design. Propane heater, fans. You move. Make an offer. 337-xxxx after 5 PM.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Miss Beverly Sandlin, retired school teacher and a resident of Augusta County for her entire life, will be 96 on the 12th of October. All friends are invited to attend celebration at XXXX Lutheran Church on Sunday afternoon, October 14th at 4 PM. She has requested no gifts please. Just your attendance.

Lordy Lordy! On September 30, Ben Lawson will be forty! We love you!

#### LIVESTOCK

Three brush goats raised with family care and attention. Moving in October and must sell these wonderful land clearers. \$40 each, or all three for \$100. Call after 5 PM. 885-xxxx.

Broiler, fryers -- ready to go, \$17/b.; eggs by the dozen -- farm fresh, \$1.25 doz. Call 886-xxxx.

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. J.P. Hallison will celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary on Sunday, October 20th. All friends and relatives are invited to attend this special occasion. 5 PM at Fellowship Hall of the XXXX Methodist Church.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE

The 27th annual Hillhouse Family Reunion will be held at Sherando Lake, Saturday, October XX, 10 AM - 4 PM. For more info, call at 886-xxxx.

#### ANTIQUES

Covered wagon still in restorable condition. See at once. Wife says it has to go. Call 248-xxxx anytime.

#### AUTOMOBILES

1989 Cadillac Eldorado. White with beige interior. One owner (local). Asking \$6700. Call 886-xxxx.

#### TRUCKS

1992 Ford Explorer. A/C, A/T, Stereo/CD, 4WD, good tires. Navy blue with tan upholstery. Just went over 35,000 miles. Call 248-xxxx.

#### PETS

AKC German Shepherd puppies. Will be six weeks old on October 12th. Four males and five females. \$125 each. Call 942-xxxx.

#### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Iron Poster Bed. White with forest green trim. Good condition. \$50. Call 885-xxxx.

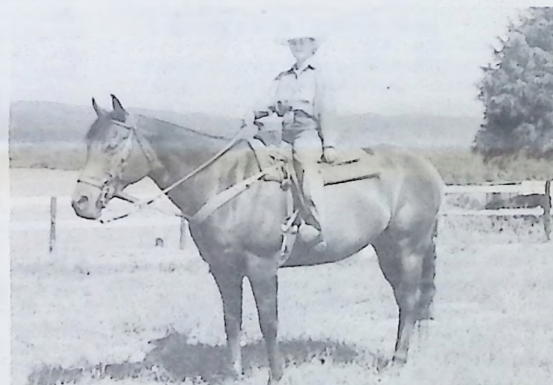
5 HP lawn mower. High Wheel. Good condition. Needs new blade. Call 886-xxxx.

10 cu. ft. refrigerator, like new. \$300 or best offer. Call 886-xxxx.

#### HELP AVAILABLE

1995 JMU grad with B.S. in marketing would like to talk with Valley business about working with your firm. Moved here from Colorado for college, and now I just can't leave the Shenandoah. High energy, high self esteem. Let's talk. Call Barney at 943-xxxx.

Need help cutting or hauling hay? Two healthy boys looking for summer job. Call Alice (their mom) at 337-xxxx.



Stephanie, 10, top photo, and Randy Temple, 14, were Grand Champion winners at the Augusta County Fair Horse Show held in August. Stephanie won in the Western timed events division and Randy won in the Western riding division. Their parents are Pat and Joseph Temple of Craigsville.

AC staff photos

Please place my ad in the next issue's Country Trader.

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Ad must be received by Oct. 10 to appear in November issue.



# Country Crossroads

## Reflecting pool reflections

By Roberta Hamlin

September, 1995

Dear Maude,

You can always tell when it is August in Washington. There is a sudden calm that is almost weird.

What with the high heat and humidity this summer and the equally high tempers among the politicians, everyone was glad when Congress did finally go home. The House members who were stuck here with Whitewater hearings that first week were in a pretty sour mood, and most staffers were happy to see them leave. The Senate was no pleasant place either until the members finally got away. And the sad thing is, they actually did very little even with all that hot air. The newspapers made it sound as if all sorts of things were happening, but in reality all those votes were mostly by committees on one side of the Congress or the other. The real fight will start when they try to reconcile everything. There still is no budget bill. The farm bill is gathering dust. But for a while there is blessed relief from it all!

At this time of the year, the streets suddenly become quiet, and it actually is possible to cross them without putting one's life at stake. The only traffic one has to watch out for are the tourists who are trying their best to figure out the city's three- and five-sided blocks. If they manage to master that, there is next the unfathomable rational of parking restrictions within the District -- sometimes there is parking in the morning, sometimes in the afternoons, sometimes not at all with the most vague signs imaginable.

And tow-away zones are another thing altogether. You can stand at the windows in the Hill offices and watch the police line up at 3:55 p.m. with their ticket books and little tow trucks behind. Pity the poor tourist who is 10 minutes late getting to his car. It will be gone to some obscure lot in a part of Washington where one does not feel the most comfortable.

One of Sara's cousins was in town just last week and parked in one of those areas with enough restrictions to take up three signs. However, he and his wife decided, after much analyzing and discussion, that they would be able to park there until four o'clock, which was correct. That would give them plenty of time to see the Capitol. But unfortunately the tour they took was about three minutes too long, and when they walked across the park, there they were: cops, tow trucks, and a ticket. They offered to pay the fine, but no, the tow truck had positioned itself and off the car must go. I do not think that I had better repeat what was said, but Sara's cousin just barely managed to bite his tongue in time to keep from having much more serious problems. After a long, and expensive, cab ride and quite a bit of waiting, they finally recovered the family car, minus a bit of paint, and swore that they would never drive into D.C. again. One more victory for the subway system!

After about a week I had managed to clear my desk, and without all that pressure, actually was able to take a lunchtime walk. My, how much I have missed! All of the shops along Connecticut Avenue are filled with fall clothes. I never even had time to get out my new sundresses I bought a few months back. But I did not let that dampen my shopping excitement -- I simply decided that I would put them away for next year and go have fun! On one lunch break, I managed to find two glorious evening dresses at fantastic prices (still have to look for shoes, but that can be done later) and a new fall suit as well. I am beginning to feel like my old self again! One week I took off two whole days to check out those stores I had missed. Tell Mama that now that I am back in my



## Do you know who you are?

Sometimes it takes a storm to remind you who you are. That's a lesson I've had to learn again and again. It was Hurricane Felix (The Little Hurricane That Tried) which most recently provided the occasion for my learning. Believe me, when I left the Valley heading for the beach with my family, I didn't anticipate any lessons. I anticipated the beach with ocean waves breaking on the shore under a clear blue sky, dolphins leaping in the distance. Swimming, sand castles, children laughing, kite flying -- you get the picture. Vacation.

This is what I expected, as we drove on the Outer Banks with our mini-van fully loaded with suitcases, beach balls, inner tubes, linens and food for a week. By the time we got to the island the van looked like we'd been traveling for days, not a few hours. Hooray!, we screamed in unison, driving into the parking lot of our rented accommodations: finally summer vacation at the beach. We had all been planning this moment for at least a year. The temperature was 95 when we arrived without a cloud in the sky. In the blazing heat, we unloaded the stuff and hauled it up three flights of stairs to our little home with a view. How can it possibly take this many trips up and down the stairs? Finally, the van is empty, the kitchen is stocked, the beds are made; time to take your shoes off and put your feet up. Smell the salt drenched ocean air, listen to the waves. Vacation.

Honey, listen to this. The radio says this Felix is coming our way, getting closer. They say it's pretty strong. Oh, don't worry; it'll go north. It's not going to hit here, we're on vacation. Relax. Relax, indeed did as another two days passed underneath cloudless blue sky. Then the surf began to get stronger and higher and the tides pulled swiftly. No problem, just a little wind from the storm. Then the red flag went up all along the shore. No swimming allowed anywhere on the beach. Uh, Oh.

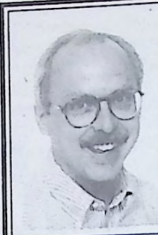
Honey, the man just came down the pool. He says we have to evacuate immediately. Evacuate? My brain went dead from shock. What does that mean? Evacuate; do you remember that word? It means leave, now. We have to leave this place before the hurricane blows us away. But that's impossible, we are on vacation. We paid for this place. The sky is still blue. All our stuff is here. Well, honey, all our stuff is going down to the van. Three flights of stairs? Again? Yes, we have to leave.

Before long, every family had faced the cold reality of the news. What a somber, sad bunch of people walking down the stairs with fishing gear, bicycles, ice-chests and suitcases, some with clothes hanging out, loading up station wagons and mini-vans. Mass exodus in the middle of a long-awaited summer vacation is not a happy sight to see. Babies were crying

shopping mode, I will see what I can find for her for that big party she is planning for next month.

Poor Dylan has about given up on a job. He came to Washington for a visit during recess only to find that one of his good friends who was a doorkeeper on the House side had lost his job, along with more than a dozen other doorkeepers. It made Dylan so depressed that he said he was going to give up looking for a job and create one himself. He keeps talking about running for Congress. His Mom says she will finance it, and I told him I would do all I could from here. Whether or not it is a smart move, I don't know. The saying in D.C. is that one never goes from being an administrative or legislative assistant to membership in Congress. It is difficult to do, for even though the constituents have dealt with these assistants for many years, they never seem to bother to remember their names. But some who run have made it, and it would be great if Dylan could be another success story. We will see.

Now that Labor Day has passed and all of those vacations have been taken, it is still quiet. Of course, Congress came



## Saying grace

By  
Roy Howard

for a nap, mothers and fathers were just screaming at each other. Irrationality takes over in these circumstances, blaming each other for the new direction of the hurricane. An hour later we headed home exhausted, the van full, but our spirits depleted like inner tubes with no air.

Then we hit the traffic. Jam is too polite a term to describe the vast sea of cars, RVs, and vans, with their car-top carriers, inching along the road like turtles going nowhere in a hurry. Some people hung homemade signs on the windows with messages like "Felix, is a four-letter word ..." or more urgent "where are you going to stay?" No one was in a good mood, moving along the road trying to get over the only bridge to the island.

And no one was in the mood to learn any lessons about life. Including me.

Which is why it took a few days after our forced evacuation and the eventual demise of Felix to reflect on the events. I was under the delusion that my life is firmly in my control. Because I can get to work on time, dress myself, make reasonable financial decisions about my future and plan a vacation, my life must be control. Wrong. It only takes a single storm, even a storm that never lived up to its potential, to remind you that the big things are out of your control. The floods this summer swept away any illusions people along the river may have had about control. Now droughts have dried up hopes along with the crops. A child is tragically stricken with Leukemia and everything seems out of control. A car spinning out of control on a rain slick surface crashes and in an instant the lives of the occupants are changed forever.

You and I control only the small potatoes; the big things are beyond our reach. It's an illusion to think I can control my life, let alone my vacation. Farmers and those who live close to the land know this probably better than anyone else. We live in a vast holy mystery where things beyond our control happen every day; it's enough to live well under the circumstances given to us. My guess is that the most peaceful people driving away from the Outer Banks were the ones who know that some things are out of our control. For the rest of us, it takes a storm to remind us who we are. And you know what? When Felix did turn out to sea, we came back to the ocean for a wonder-full vacation. ---

back on the 5th, and with a loud noise on the 6th, the Senate quickly proceeded to pass the Defense Spending Bill (after they had watered down the language so that everyone would get a little credit for doing something.) Now their version will have to be reconciled with that already passed by the House. More haggling. And Senator Packwood gave the newspapers plenty of copy what with the threat of expulsion and his resignation. Not only did he save the Senate from having to vote against him, but it saved his retirement as well. Everyone is probably happy even though they may not act like it.

Since I stayed here and held down the fort while everyone else in the office took turns at their vacations, I hope to get home soon. It will depend on which hearings I will need to cover. Tell Mama when you see her to get my room ready. So far, it has been a long hard year, and I am certainly ready for a good rest at home -- and I have all these wonderful new fashions to show her!!

Love to all,  
LuLu



# Fall is garden soil reconditioning time

Nothing much happened in Middlebrook this week, except the weather turned just right for thinking about Fall.

You know, now is the time we should be thinking about next year's garden. "Oh come on" you say. "I have all of this year's crops in, and I'm tired of the vegetable garden right now. The weeds took over sometime in mid-August, and the last thing I want to do is spend more time in the garden. Let's just call it a year, Jeff." This is probably familiar with a lot of folks in Augusta County; however, I have heard it explained more than once to me that the most important 90 days in a garden occur in the fall of the year. Why in the world, when the freezer is full, and the canner has one more year of experience behind it, would we be thinking about garden soil and how we are going to rejuvenate it for next year?

Because soil is complex, and should be considered the cornerstone of your garden harvest. Did you know that healthy soil is almost one-fourth air? After tilling a couple thousand square feet, you will agree that this does not make it as light as a soufflé. But the air in your garden soil, whether it be a tiny kitchen garden or a 1/2-acre market garden, is essential to healthy plant growth. Without it, the organic matter in your soil will not break down. So how do you aerate the soil to aid in this oxidation? By mixing the top eight inches or so with a spade, or as most of us Virginia gardeners do, tilling.

Organic matter is crucial to the health of your garden soil. Interestingly enough, it takes death in your garden to create new life. What is organic matter? The residue of anything that once was alive can be termed organic matter. It can be grass clippings, leaves, corn stalks, fish meal, sawdust, tree bark, etc. When temperature and moisture conditions are just right, this organic matter in your soil breaks down into humus. It is used by little critters (earthworms) and even littler critters (bacteria) as food. This digested food becomes the decomposed material which adds humus to your garden soil, and supplies nutrients which are essential for plant growth.

OK. We are getting a little too technical here, so let's



## Three steps to the best garden in 1996:

1. Start in 1995 by tilling organic matter (shredded leaves, manure, grass clippings, etc.) into the top few inches of soil during October and November.
2. Put your garden to bed for the winter by covering the soil with something organic, inorganic, or even Aunt Ruth's old quilts. Plant a cover crop if you have time.
3. When the seed catalogs start arriving this winter, rest easy by knowing that millions of critters (earthworms and bacteria) are over-wintering in your garden, munching away, and creating humus for the future.

Throw out a few bushel baskets of autumn leaves on the ground, run your lawn mower over them, and then toss the shredded leaves over the garden. If you have a grass catcher on your mower, it makes it that much easier. You know that pile of compost sitting over in the corner that you have been adding to all year? Well, spread it over your garden beds evenly and start thinking about next year's compost pile. Don't be stingy with the compost. The more the better.

Some folks around the county have been pretty creative with their search for organic matter. I've seen peanut hulls, cotton seed hulls, old moldy hay, chopped corn stalks and several other things used to create more humus in the soil. There was even small talk at the farmer's market about the fellow in the county who was given a truckload of spoiled fish. His wife and children took the afternoon and went to the mall while he tilled the partially frozen fish into the soil. (I'd like to see his garden next year!) You can chop up this year's sweet corn stalks (which are dead and brown by now), by simply making a little pile and running the mower over a few at a time. Spread that accumulation of ashes from the woodstove (never coal ashes) on top of the soil before you crank up the tiller. Look around your place and think "organic matter." You might be surprised with what you come up with.

Once you've got all this organic matter spread evenly over the garden, mix it in with your spade or tiller. You are not only adding organic matter, but also air, which is vital in transforming the matter into plant-sustaining humus.

The second thing you must do is decide that you are not going to leave your garden soil bare this year. Experts say that the principle reason for soil erosion in Virginia is insufficient vegetative cover. Bare ground this

fall and winter is not what you want with a good garden in mind for next year. Cover the garden with something, be it organic, inorganic, or whatever. Aunt Ruth's old quilts would be better to protect the soil than nothing. A good inorganic cover that is reasonably priced is black poly plastic sheeting. This eliminates sunlight (bye,bye weeds!), holds water in the soil instead of letting it evaporate, and keeps the top layer warm, all which create an ideal environment for earthworms (excellent critters to make humus in the soil). Try to use at least 4 mil poly, so you can recycle it and use it next year instead of having to take it to the dump. Good organic covers are compost, shredded autumn leaves, grass clippings, sawdust, and manure. Just spread whatever you have on top of the garden soil and leave it there. The thicker the cover the better for your soil.

An alternative cover is a living one. A cover crop is one that you don't put in the freezer. "Why would I want to grow anything that I can't eat?" says one. Well, because this crop is cheap to plant, cheap to grow, and does wonders for your garden. (And yes, it will be eaten --- by the critters in your soil!) A cover crop decreases soil erosion, adds organic matter to the soil when tilled under in the Spring, improves tilth, and adds useful nutrients. Winter cover crops should be planted no later than Nov. 1 if you expect substantial growth at all. Preferably, you should plant by Oct. 1. What you are aiming for is cover crop growth that dies back and becomes a protective mat over the garden soil. Annual rye grass is an excellent choice due to its rapid growth and thick cover. Another choice is crimson clover, which not only is a cover, but adds nitrogen to your garden because it is a legume. These, and other, cover crop seeds are available at most gardening centers.

So, the last crop you plant for the 1995 garden season is really intended for the 1996 season. Three weeks before you plant next year's first vegetables, till under the cover crop that you planted this Fall, in order for the residue to break down sufficiently.

Fall is a critical period in the life of your garden. To sum it up, if you do all of the above now, you will have a wonderful head start on having a great garden next year. ---



Working organic matter into soil during the fall will give gardeners a headstart on the 1996 growing season.

AC staff photo



Horse manure, left, and cottonseed hulls are excellent sources of organic matter. Manure may be bought by the pickup load direct from farms and cottonseed hulls may be bought at local gardening centers.

AC staff photo

keep it uncomplicated. What you want is a good garden next year, and to get a good garden next year you must have healthy soil. To have healthy soil next spring, what you want to do is add air and dead stuff to your garden soil this fall. I suppose we can't get much more unpretentious than that. "So how do you do it?" you say.

The first thing you want to do is mix in to the top few inches of your garden as much organic matter as you can get your hands on. Local cattlemen will sell you pickup truck loads of manure for a very reasonable price. Horse stables will often give manure away if you do the gathering and hauling. It is there to be had if you look around a little.

## Thanks for calling to check on us!

A number of folks called *Augusta Country's* offices during the past few weeks to find out where the September issue was -- many of them wondering why they hadn't received it. Some folks even called the post office to see if there was some sort of mail slowdown.

*Augusta Country* did not publish a September issue. In June we announced that due to vacation schedules we would consolidate August and September into a single issue which we published as an expanded Summer 1995 edition. This was mailed out Aug. 1.

With the October 1995 issue we return to our normal

publication schedule. Subscribers should look for issues to be delivered about the last week of each month and, in most cases, about 10 days in advance of the magazine's news stand release.

Even though we condensed two issues into one, we are standing by our 12 issues for \$12 offer which we made last year. This issue represents the 12th edition we have published, so if you subscribed in September or October of 1994 your subscription is due for renewal. And first-year subscribers are guaranteed the \$12 subscription rate until Sept. 30, 1996 even though the rate for new subscriptions increases to \$16 annually after Oct. 1. ---



# Here, there, everywhere

## Home-based food businesses to be focus of conference

VERONA — The number of home-based businesses in the United States hit the 24 million mark in 1994, and trends show the number will continue to increase. Some of the most common home-based businesses are those involving some type of food production.

A Home-Based Food Service & Products Business Conference will be held Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ingleside. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension, the conference will include speakers to help educate individuals about operating home-based businesses.

Kathy Parrott, Virginia Tech Extension specialist, will address the topic "Can you live where you work, and work where you live?"

Liability insurance for home businesses will be discussed by Connie Kratzer, also an Extension specialist. Assistant Director of James Madison University's school of accounting Dinah Gottschalk, will present information about record keeping and taxes. Health regulations involved when selling foods from the home will be discussed by Karen Campbell of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, and Bill Day of the Staunton-Augusta Health Department.

The event will conclude with a panel discussion of home-based food service. Val Trani of Lexington who makes flavored vinegars, Matt Cauley, a Millboro farmer's

market vendor, Jim Bowman, a pick-your-own vegetable producer from Grottoes, and Jed Shaner, an Augusta County beekeeper, will participate on the panel. These individuals will discuss the rewards and challenges of home-based businesses and tell how and why they got started in their businesses.

Registration for the conference is \$25 which covers the cost of lunch, refreshments at breaks, and an information packet. If more than one person from a business or family is attending, the fee is \$20. Enrollment is limited and reservations must be made by calling the Augusta County Extension Office at 245-5750. —

## Mailbox of the month

AC staff writer Nancy Sorrells found this unique mailbox at the Miller residence on Shutterlee Mill Road west of Staunton.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells



## DOLLARS AND SENSE

## Weathering the current market

They say the market "climbs a wall of worry," and that seems to be true. Last year's rising interest rates led some analysts to believe the stock market was headed for a tumble. Since then, the market has climbed more than 700 points and has surpassed the magical 4500 mark, leaving others to believe the market must surely be headed for a correction.

In the bond market, Congress' talk of a flat federal tax has left an uneasy feeling among the municipal-bond community. If a flat tax rate were adopted, municipal bonds would lose the advantage they offer over taxable investments and would become less attractive.

Of course, no one knows for sure what will happen in either market. The stock market may take a short breather, and Congress may indeed adopt a flat federal tax rate. On the other hand, the stock market may continue its climb for awhile longer, and Congress' talk of tax reform may prove to be just that — talk.

Seasoned investors know this uncertainty is typical of the markets. It's what makes investing so challenging — and so rewarding. This uncertainty is also why prudent investors heed the following common-sense guidelines.

**Invest for the long term** — Regardless of what type of investment you choose, one thing is certain — the market will always rise and fall in the short term. Adopt-

ing and maintaining a long-term investment strategy, however, will increase your investment success. When choosing between a buy-and-hold strategy and trying to time the market, there is no choice. As one Stanford University study showed, you would have to time the market correctly at least 82 percent of the time to do as well as an investor who buys and holds stock. So, remember it's time in the market, not timing the market, that's crucial.

**Invest systematically** — Another excellent investment strategy for smoothing the sometimes turbulent effects of the market is to invest a fixed amount at regular intervals. Also called dollar-cost averaging, this strategy allows you

to buy more shares when prices fall and fewer shares when prices are high. Over the long term, systematic investing will result in an average cost that's actually lower than the average price of the security.

**Buy quality** — When selecting your investments, don't seek out the "hottest" or most popular investment. Instead look for individual stocks and stock mutual funds that have demonstrated consistent growth in earnings and dividends over an extended period of time.

**Diversification** — By investing in a variety of investments, you can reduce risk while potentially increasing your return. One study found

that 90 percent of a portfolio's overall performance depends on how well diversified it is. Also, when diversifying your investment dollars, remember to diversify not only by investment type but also by maturities as well as industry and geography.

The most important thing to remember when investing is to avoid rash decisions based on the current market situation. If you've chosen quality, long-term investments and your investment needs and objectives haven't changed, you should probably stick with your present investment strategy. —

This information was provided by Scott McDevitt, a Waynesboro investment counselor.

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Featuring J. Susanne Simmons, MAFC project researcher, who will present findings of the African-American Research Project. Other panel members include Edward Ayers, University of Virginia; Turk McCleskey, VMI; Edgar Toppin, Virginia State; Robert Watson, Colonial Williamsburg; and Jacqueline Walker, James Madison University

In photo at right, Jim Logan of Joan Circle in Staunton shows off a "volunteer" sunflower which grew in his yard this summer. The plant had 20 seedheads on it. Another volunteer which sprouted in Logan's yard had only one seedhead.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells



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**Sept. 27, '95 Fall Farm Tour**

The Augusta County Extension Leadership Council and the Staunton-Augusta Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring a tour of Augusta County farms on Sept. 27. The event will begin at 1 p.m. and will include stops at Cros-B-Crest Farm to view greenhouse and poultry operations and Robert Riley's sheep and dairy operations. The tour will culminate at Casta Line Trout Farms east of Craigsville where a trout and chicken dinner will be served. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$6 for children under 10 and may be purchased at the Augusta County Extension Office, Staunton-Augusta Chamber of Commerce, Waynesboro-East

Augusta Chamber of Commerce, and at Planters Bank locations in downtown Staunton, on Greenville Avenue, or at branch offices in Stuarts Draft and Grottoes. —

**Oct. 7-8, Hands and Harvest**

MONTEREY — Plan a visit to Highland County for the annual Hands and Harvest celebration of autumn. The event includes apple butter making, music, blacksmithing demonstrations, bake sales, and craft demonstrations. Events are planned for both McDowell and Monterey. Be sure to catch the antique and classic car show and parade at 10 a.m. Oct. 7 on Monterey's Main Street. Also on Oct. 7, a 7:30 p.m. concert of Old Style Southern Duet and Fiddle Tunes in McDowell's Highland County Courthouse is sure to be a crowd pleaser. The weekend's events are sponsored by local merchants, civic organizations, and the Highland County Chamber of Commerce. For information call 540/468-2550. —

**Oct. 7-8, Fall Foliage Festival**

WAYNESBORO — The Virginia Fall Foliage Festival will be held Oct. 7 and 8 in Waynesboro and features an art show in downtown Waynesboro. The festival also includes a celebration of the fall apple harvest. Call 949-8203 for information. —

**Foliage hotline**

For folks wishing to view fall colors in all their glory, the U.S. Forest Service has established a toll-free telephone number to inform travelers of which forests are at their peak of leaf color. The number is 1-800-354-4595. Callers will hear a recorded message suggesting routes for good viewing in selected national forests. The message will be updated each Thursday by 10 a.m. —



## Back issues available

If you missed an issue of *Augusta Country* or if you'd just like to catch up with what's been going on, back issues of *Augusta Country* are available.

Subscribers of *Augusta Country* may obtain back issues at no charge although we do ask that you cover the cost of postage if we have to mail them to you. The price of back issues to non-subscribers is \$2 per copy plus postage and handling.

Call 885-0266 or write *Augusta Country* at P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459 to order back issues. Please be sure to specify which issue(s) you want and how many. There are only a limited number of back issues available so requests will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. ---

## Postscript



In the Summer 1995 issue, *Augusta Country* profiled Middlebrook musician George Jarvis who makes music and musical instruments. In that article, "Middlebrook family makes music the old-fashioned way," *Augusta Country* reported that George was preparing to build a 16-sided banjo.

Less than two weeks after the summer issue was published, George called to say he had completed the banjo and asked if we'd like to see it. "You bet we would," was our reply and knew *Augusta Country* readers would also be interested in an update on George and his musical creations.

George built his 16-sided banjo using red walnut, maple, redwood, and black walnut alternating four inserts of each wood to form the body of the instrument. Colors of the wood vary from the black coffee color of the red walnut to the gold of the maple to the

mocha shading of the black walnut to the red of the redwood. The varying colors of the woods produce a kaleidoscopic effect around the banjo's drum head.

Flying doves are inlaid in maple against some of the darker woods for added decoration. The neck of the banjo is made of poplar and walnut and has a rosewood fingerboard. The back of the banjo is intricately decorated with a design of dogwood blossoms and doves.

As with most of the instruments he has made to date, George started this one from scratch, the process beginning with the creation of a pattern for the banjo. The project took about a month and wasn't completed until George had applied 20 coats of lacquer to the wood on the instrument.

When asked what was the most difficult part in building the banjo, George answered simply: "All of it." ---

## Augusta Farm Bureau to hold annual meeting

STAUNTON — Augusta County Farm Bureau members will convene for their annual meeting October 2 at Buffalo Gap High School.

The 6 p.m. dinner meeting will be followed by a keynote address by Virginia Farm Bureau Federation President Wayne Ashworth.

The meeting's agenda will include consideration of the county federation's resolutions which, if approved, will be sent on to the state level for action. Also requiring action of the group will be the election of officers. The slate includes Harold Armstrong, president; Richard Shiflet, vice president; and Maxine Arey, women's chairman. Directors standing for election include Bruce Bowman, Wayne District;

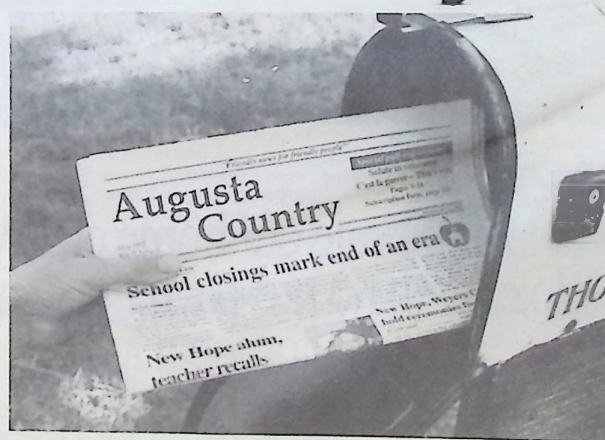
Donna Riley, Beverley Manor District; Betty Jo Hamilton, Riverheads District; and Todd Beck, at-large member.

The evening's events will also include a number of award presentations. Augusta Farm Bureau will announce its selection for Miss Augusta County Farm Bureau as well as award winners for Young Agriculturist, Youth Leadership, Young Farmer of the Year, and Good Citizenship.

All Farm Bureau members are invited to the annual meeting with two free meals provided per membership. Additional guests will be \$6.25 each. Reservations must be made by Sept. 25 and should be made by calling the Farm Bureau office at 886-2353. —

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