

# Augusta Country

June 1996  
Vol. 3, Issue 6

P.O. Box 51

Katharine L. Brown  
104 Williams St.  
Staunton, VA 24401

0747-10/96

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
MIDDLEBROOK, VA  
PERMIT NO. 5

MAILED 5/24/96 FROM MIDDLEBROOK, VA — ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

1996 Market Annual Show  
Special Section, Pages 13-16

Down on the Farm, Pages 18-19  
Schoolhouse News, Pages 20-24

Middlebrook, Va. 24459

## Craigsville's Harry Peters has 'been around the horn'

**F**rom the coal mines of West Virginia to driving livestock along the Parkersburg Pike, 96-year-old Harry Peters has seen it all

By SUE SIMMONS

CRAIGSVILLE — "Of all the birthdays I've celebrated this was the jolliest," Harry Peters of Craigsville commented, standing in his yard, among family and friends who had gathered to help him celebrate his 96th birthday.

Born on April 20, 1900 in Longdale, Va., in Allegheny County, Peters has lived and worked in various places at different times of his life.

"I've been around the horn," he said with a chuckle before beginning a litany of the many places where he has lived and worked.

His father worked for a farmer in Buffalo Gap when Peters was a boy, then moved the family to Covington. The waters of Lake Moomaw now cover the site of the home in which he spent his boyhood.

"I've worked in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, Buffalo Gap and in the Estaline Valley at Fordwick," Peters said.

As a very young man — actually as a boy — Peters went to work in the coal mines of western Pennsylvania in the winter and then traveled to Parkersburg, W.Va. to work on a farm in the summer. He quit the coal mines for good after they were unionized early in the century.

"A lot of men went out on strike before the mine owners recognized the union," Peters explained his dislike of unions. He and the others who didn't



Harry Peters of Craigsville shows off the garden tiller he received as a gift for his 95th birthday. He recently celebrated his 96th birthday.  
Photo by Sue Simmons



For a time Harry Peters worked as a muleskinner at the limestone mine in Fordwick. Technically a muleskinner was a person who hauled anything using mules.

Peters is seen on the far right in this photo taken in the 1920s.

Photo courtesy Harry Peters

join the walkout kept working. "It was dangerous to work during a strike," he said, even though the union hadn't been recognized. "You could get killed."

"I'll never forget it. All of us who kept on working were in a room. Mr. Frick, the mine owner, got up on a table and told us not to quit. He said, 'Stick with us, and we'll stick with you 'til hell freezes over,'" he recalled.

Unions just didn't appeal to Peters.

He quickly returned to Covington where he went to work for a farmer. That man, Mr. Fortney, had a place 20 miles east of Parkersburg, W.Va., and he wanted to get his milk cow and horses moved there. "The railroad was on strike," Peters explained. "They couldn't promise him how long his livestock would sit on a car or how long it would

take to get them to Parkersburg."

So Fortney and his hired men decided to drive the livestock to Parkersburg along the Parkersburg Pike — among the last people to do so.

The horses were hitched to a wagon and young Peters put a halter on the Jersey cow and led it.

"We drifted along the Parkersburg Pike," Peters emphasizes the word "drifted" in order that no one might mistake the slow pace of their travel.

"We camped at night under the sky and under the wagon if it was raining," Peters said. "We milked the cow three times day right out on the ground."

The first river the group crossed was the Jackson River.

"There weren't any bridges or fords," Peters explained.

See COVERSTORY, page 3



## Chemical People planning special event for graduates

By BECKY WILLIAMS

GREENVILLE — The Riverheads High School Class of '96 will go out in style when members of the class celebrate their graduation at the 12th annual After-Graduation Party.

To be held from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. on June 14 at the YMCA on North Coalter Street in Staunton, the event is being sponsored by the Riverheads Chemical People.

A variety of alcohol- and drug-free activities plus entertainment are planned for graduates and guests. Adult chaperones will supervise all activities.

Augusta Medical Center will provide some of the food and drinks as well as Shenandoah's Pride, Hershey Chocolate Co., Little Debbie, and Hershey Ice Cream. Many activities will be available at the Y including tennis, swimming, Jacuzzi, racquetball, wallyball, and karaoke. The Chemical People has received a Division of Motor Vehicles mini-grant to help offset the cost of renting the YMCA facilities. If funds are sufficient, plans are to have an Orbitron available for the enjoyment of the graduates.

Jim McCloskey, a local cartoonist, will draw caricatures of seniors. A video will be made of the night's

events so seniors can enjoy "remembering when" at future reunions. Each senior will be given a special Class of 1996 T-shirt. The design on the shirt was created by Mary Chiaromonte, an RHS junior.

Drawings for substantial cash door prizes will take place for those who remain for the entire event. Businesses are donating gifts and gift certificates to be used as door prizes on the Fortune Wheel.

Over the years, the After-Graduation Party has been supported by many parents, churches, community organizations, businesses, and other concerned people. The committee is working to make this a safe, memorable alcohol- and drug-free fun-filled night for the Class of 1996. Parents are asked to encourage their seniors to attend this event and not to plan alternative parties on this special night.

There is no admission charged for the party which has an approximate cost of \$2,000. Individuals, groups, or businesses who would like to make contributions to the effort may do so by sending donations to RHS Chemical People, c/o Joyce Hinton, Rt. 2, Box 347, Staunton, Va. 24401.

Becky Williams is president of the Riverheads Chemical People.



MOATS



SHIFLETT



HEATWOLE



MORRIS

## Fort FFA honors members

AC staff report

FORT DEFIANCE — The FFA chapter at Fort Defiance High School honored its members at a banquet and awards ceremony held recently at the school.

Kim Moats, Jason Shiflett, Melvin Heatwole, and Willie Morris received the night's top honors. Moats was named the Outstanding Non-Officer Member. Shiflett gathered in the Star Farmer award and was named the recipient of the Chris Huffman College Scholarship. Star Agribusinessmen honors went to Heatwole and Morris.

The chapter presented Proficiency Awards to the following individuals:

Ag Communications and Outdoor Recreation. Kim Moats; Ag Mechanics, Shawn Wills; Placement in Ag Mechanics, Weldon Rankin; Ag Processing, Nursery

Operations and Turf Grass Management, Tim Strickler; Ag Sales and Landscape Management, Kristi Avoli; Beef Production Entrepreneurship, J.T. Begoon; Beef Production Placement, Wes Rusmisl; Dairy Production, Kenny Hyden; Diversified Crop Production, Josh Puffenbarger; Diversified Livestock Production, Jason Shiflett; Diversified Livestock Placement, Shawn Morris; Environmental Science and Equine Science, Beth Blackwell.

Also, Floriculture, Mary Hylton; Home & Community Development and Poultry Production, Willie Morris; Sheep Production, Jason

Roller; Small Animal Care, Kristi Brown; Soil & Water Management, Melvin Heatwole; Specialty Animal Production, Mindy Roberts; and Swine Production, Wes Begoon.

Public Speaking awards were presented to Beth Blackwell, junior; Evan Garber, senior; and Willie Morris, extemporaneous.

Recognized as having the highest overall grade point average among FFA members in their classes were Jon Roller, freshman; Derek Mangun, sophomore; Mary Hylton, junior; and Evan Garber, senior. Each carries a 4.0 gpa.

Recordbook winners were Ashley Gutshall, junior and Corena Crickenberger, senior.

Fort's Soil Judging team of Amanda Shreckhise, Kristi Avoli, Jason Shiflett, and Melvin Heatwole were recognized as the state's top team. Members recently traveled to Oklahoma City to compete in the national contest.

The chapter conferred an Honorary Degree to Raymond Swaddley of Mt. Sidney. Swaddley is a retired agriculture instructor who serves as a substitute in the Fort ag department when the need arises.

### HAMRICK FUNERAL HOME

Totally Locally Owned Since 1865

Traditional Funerals

Cremation Services

Pre-Arrangement and Pre-Paid Service

886-2363

18 West Frederick St.

Staunton, Va. 24401

### Henry Funeral

Home, Inc.

1030 W. Beverley Street  
Staunton, Virginia 24401  
540/885-7211

- Full Services, including pre-need and cremation
- Ample Parking
- No Steps
- Entrance for the Handicapped

Robert M. Corbin  
President

### The Meating Place

Located on Va. 252  
(Middlebrook Road) just south of Staunton  
540/885-0197

"We are your chicken, pork, and beef headquarters for all your summer barbecues. If your church or civic organization is planning a fundraiser, call Frank or Terry for prices on the freshest meat available."

"We care about you & your satisfaction is guaranteed."

Mon.-Fri. -- 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Sat. -- 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### The Spirit of the Shenandoah

GOSPEL FESTIVAL

Natural Chimneys Regional Park

Two great weekends!

June 21-23

August 23-25

Jeff & Sheri Easter, The Williams, Brian & Marsha Duncan, The Hoppers, The Steeles, The Inspirations and many others! Performances begin at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Sunday events begin at 10 a.m.

BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS

FOOD AVAILABLE

Subscribers!!! Tell your friends they can find Augusta Country at one of the following retail outlets.

IGA - Churchville

Weyers Cave Mobil

The Bookstack - Staunton

Texaco at Gypsy Hill - Staunton

Beverly News Stand - Staunton

Pappy's Place - Buffalo Gap

Gitchell's - Staunton

IGA - Craigsville

Augusta Co-Op - Staunton

Greenville Shell

Augusta Co-Op - Weyers Cave

Middlebrook General Store

Engleside Western Wear

The Candy Shop

-- Mt. Sidney

-- Stuarts Draft

## Augusta Country

is published monthly by

See-KWA Publishing P.O. Box 51 Middlebrook, Va. 24459

Subscription rate: \$16 per year

Publisher & editor  
Marketing director  
Sales associate  
RHS News advisor  
RHS News editor

Betty Jo Hamilton  
Jeff Ishee  
Chris Marrs  
Cherie Taylor  
Heather Caldwell

### Staff writers

Vera Hailey  
Betty Jo Hamilton  
Roberta Hamlin  
Roy Howard  
Jeff Ishee

Deborah Sensabaugh  
Sue Simmons  
Lois Skeen  
Nancy Sorrells  
Terry Terrell

### Contributing writers

Katharine Brown  
Betty Gatewood

Mark Gatewood  
Beth Greenawalt

Chris Marrs  
Penny Plemmons

### Student writers

Heather Caldwell  
Jennifer Ishee

Christine Manley  
Elizabeth Napier  
Laurn Plennmons

Becca Schneider  
Hannah Simmons

Call 540/885-0266 or 1-800-884-8248 for publication information.  
Copyright 1996©

Articles appearing in Augusta Country may not be reprinted without the express written consent of the publisher.

Please recycle



WSVA supports our community by donating money to local charities. Would you like WSVa to make a donation in your name to your favorite charity? Pick up a WSVa Charity Stripe at your local 7-11 store and find out how!





## COVER STORY

Continued from page 1

Peters asked Fortney how he was going to get that cow across. "He just said 'It's up to you,'" Peters recalled.

"I led that cow into the river from a low bank, and right after it got into the water I hopped on her back and laid across her. She took me right across that river," Peters laughed. "And when she hit the other bank, I did too."

Peters went on to explain that he felt like he had really accomplished something riding the cow across the river. He found out later, however, that the girls who had tended the cow had always ridden it, and it was trained to let people on its back. Peters still laughs at the joke on him.

The journey to Parkersburg took almost 12 days, in part because the group "drifted" to their destination.

"That cow gave out on us before we ever got to Parkersburg," he said, explaining that she suffered from sore feet.

They left the cow to recover in the care of a family encountered along the way and continued their journey. Later however, Peters was sent back to get the cow.

"Cows weren't worth much in those days but that Jersey gave some thick milk," he said. "She made 14 pounds of butter a week. One man offered her owner \$500 dollars for her, but he wouldn't give her up."

It took several days to travel to Fortney's place with the cow, but left to his own devices, Peters managed to make the trip a little more bearable, bartering milk for room, board, and pasture along the way.

Back on the Parkersburg farm, Peters did the kind of farm work he had learned as a boy at this father's side. He recalls cradling 18 acres of oats and wheat, because the land was too steep for farm machinery. Eventually Peters returned to Virginia where he hauled wood to the 10 barrel stave mills in Deerfield and where he later went to work for a Clifton Forge watch salesman who owned a big place in Buffalo Gap.

"Charles Sence told me he could spend a hundred dollars a day and never spend all his money," Peters recalled, a hint of awe still in his voice. When asked what happened to his former boss, Peters replied, "He lost all of his money in an oil swindle in Kentucky."

Eventually Peters went to work as a muleskinner for Lehigh cement near Craigsville.

"A muleskinner hauls everything — lumber, bark, cord wood..." Peters said.

Even limestone — from the mine to the limestone crusher to the cement plant at Fordwick. Before the railroad everything used for and at the cement plant was hauled by mules and muleskinners.

Augusta Correctional Center is today located on the site of the old limestone mine which

# 'A muleskinner hauls everything...'



Harry Peters, left, and a companion at the limestone mine near Fordwick. Limestone was hauled from the open pit and after being crushed was used to make cement.

Photo courtesy Harry Peters

was an open pit style operation.

"I was a man, but this was a boy's job." A "boy," explained Peters, was anyone who didn't have a wife or family to support. "I got paid 37 1/2 cents an hour — not bad wages for a boy."

Peters recalled an especially favorite mule named "Mouse." "All I had to do was say, 'Come on, Mouse,' and that mule would follow me anywhere in that mine," he said.

Asked if the mule was his own, Peters laughed, "That was a company mule. I didn't own nothing but myself."

Peters boarded in Fordwick and walked to work each day.

Peters remembered the lunch bucket prepared for him by the boarding house seemed to be lacking. On the other hand a co-worker, Bob Kelso, had a good lunch packed each day. "So I asked him if he lived at home. He told me he boarded at the Harper place down in Bell's Valley," Peters said.

After making some inquiries about boarding at the Harpers, Peters learned Mr. Harper also worked for Lehigh.

"Mr. Harper said he would have to ask his wife Alice if there was room for another boarder," Peters recalled. There was and the next night Mr. Harper took Peters home with him.

One day Peters spied the Harper's daughter Emma up in an apple tree. Peters laughed: "So, that's how I got here and got that bad woman." Emma Harper became Peters' wife on Dec. 26, 1923. Then he gets serious. "No," he

*"I was a man, but this was a boy's job." A "boy," explains Harry Peters, was anyone who didn't have a wife or family to support. "I got paid 37 1/2 cents an hour — not bad wages for a boy."*

your bank account," he cautioned.

The Peters settled on a piece of property in Bell's Valley not far from the Harpers' home and lived in a part-log, part-frame house that "was as old as I am now" when they moved in. Their eight children — two boys and six girls — were born in the house.

In 1939 Peters built a house within sight of the log house, and the family moved in. The family lived in four rooms and carried water from a nearby spring and well. They walked to school and walked to church just as their father walked to work.

The Peters children recalled they could earn a Bible if they had perfect attendance at church and Sunday school for one year — and that included Sunday night service. Each Sunday the girls walked the four miles to the Little River Church of the Brethren and the four miles home and then repeated for their trek in the evening. They earned their perfect attendance and their Bibles. They recall that their father walked with them each Sunday.

Peters never attended school. "I had to learn to work," he explains. "Didn't have time to look at no paper."

Despite the absence of formal education in his own life, two of Peters' children are graduates of Kentucky's Berea College as are several of his grandchildren.

Eventually a railroad at Lehigh Cement streamlined mining of limestone and the manufacture of cement, but it put the muleskinners out of work.

Peters continued to work at Lehigh, however, doing "anything and everything they told me to do."

He eventually "retired" but continued to work at Lehigh. That ended when the factory closed. Afterward he occupied himself with construction work and with hired farm work.

Mary Altizer recalls what a pretty sight her father made walking slowly along cradling wheat.

Neighbors admire his ability to build things without plans. Peters shrugs as if this is misplaced admiration, saying "give me a ruler, a square and a level, and I can do anything." At 96 Peters lives by himself. His granddaughter, Betty Kennedy, who lives nearby, calls him each day at 6 a.m., noon, and at 6 p.m. "When I call him at six in the morning, he is up, has had his breakfast, and is hanging up the dish towel from doing the dishes."

Peters puts out a garden each spring. As a matter of fact, the day before his birthday celebration he put out his onions, cabbage, and peas. He also has potatoes, beets, and lettuce in.

Asked why he bothers with a garden at his age, he laughs. "Everyone else has a garden, and I want what everyone else has," he said. Peters adds that he doesn't even like peas, but he grows them anyway, knowing he can give them away. "I'm not going to quit 'til I have to," he declares.

Peters enjoys using the garden tiller he got for his 95th birthday and proudly shows off the virtues of the machine. He also makes ax handles and whittles whirly-gigs.

Peters loves toys and gadgets, especially if they whirl. A room in his house is filled with them, and he got several more for his birthday.

And two tomato plants.

For the jolliest birthday he has ever had. —



Peters' love of toys and gadgets, especially anything that twirls, prompted him to begin whittling tops which he makes from wooden thread spools.

Photo by Sue Simmons



# Quilting: As American as Mom and apple pie

## Needle and thread used to record family history

By LEE ANN HEIZER

MIDDLEBROOK — Take a few pieces of fabric. Select a pattern. Piece by piece you gradually turn small geometric shapes into the larger whole. Add in some batting and quilt in a design. It's as American as Mom and apple pie. It's how you make an American quilt.

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church near Middlebrook served as a crossroads to bring together some original American quilts at its Quilt and Textile Show held May 4.

"If these items could only talk," commented Ruth Cline, one of the show organizers, "what stories they could tell!" Although the needlework remained quiet the owners and crafters of the pieces had a variety of stories to share about the history of their fabricated treasures.

Jo Scott Howell Calhoun, an Augusta County native and resident of Deerfield, described her pieced-and-appliqued sunburst pattern quilt.

"The pattern came from *Woman's Day* magazine, and the fabric came from Staunton Fabric Center," she said.

Mrs. Calhoun remarked that the quilt, which features numerous green, orange and yellow calico sunbursts on a white field, had taken her about six months to piece by hand. The quilting on the sunburst quilt was done by Anna M. Burkholder of Stuarts Draft. A self-

taught quilter, Mrs. Calhoun began making quilts in the 50s.

"I've always liked handwork," she explained, indicating that quilting was a natural progression for her interest in needlework. Friends and relatives have become aware of her talents, and she has made many quilts which are now becoming heirlooms in families other than her own. She recently made a quilt which will grace a bed in Fredericksburg.

"One has gone to Switzerland," Mrs. Calhoun reported, "an 1898 pattern — 'Storm at Sea.'"

One quilt, made for her friend, Jean Fauver McKay of Staunton, was on display at the Mt. Tabor quilt show. The pattern, "Goose Chase," was crafted of small triangles of burgundy red, slate blue, navy, dark and light green which created a vivid pattern against white.

"This is my first quilt," Mrs. Fauver beamed as she related how she and Mrs. Calhoun had worked together in the design process. In order to create a quilt which would complement colors in Mrs. Fauver's home, the two had identified solid hues in draperies.

"We selected the material on Palm Sunday," remembered Mrs. Calhoun, "and I brought the quilt to you on Dec. 20."

Mrs. Calhoun described her hobby as one which requires a great deal of time and even laughingly commented, "I'm going to put a stop to it, too. I don't get enough reading done!"

Although piecing quilts keeps her hands too busy to hold a book, Mrs. Calhoun, a retired school teacher, noted that the time is well spent. "I enjoy doing it. It brings me through the winter nicely."

Situated near a country crossroads, Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church is perched on a green hillside. Dogwood blossoms in the churchyard rustle in crisp spring breezes which race northwest from Little North Mountain to Sugar Loaf.

The array of pastel and primary colors of quilts, afghans, heirloom samplers, and embroidery

displayed throughout the historic church during its quilt show was rivaled only by the lilac, red bud, and dogwood in bloom outdoors. In addition to assembling well over 200 individual exhibits, the show served to bring together church, community, and family stories as well.

The names of the quilt patterns and the colors selected created a rural spring scene inside the church social hall. "Delectable Mountains," "Rail Fence," "Apple Tree," and "Grandmother's Flower Garden" were just a few of the pat-

couple Gene and Beth Spittler were gifted with quilts from a number of family members but did not always get the story of the quilt.

"Now," said Mrs. Spittler, "I wish they could talk and straighten out their history for us."

The patchwork crazy quilt made by Spittler's grandmother, Mary Josephine Whitmore, proclaims some of its story however. An understanding of family life and deductive reasoning helps to complete the picture.

Embroidered with intricate gold stitching on each seam, the quilt



Kay Swanson of Middlebrook shows the quilt made by her grandmother, Della Murphy, around the turn of the century when the woman was living in a sod house in eastern Colorado.

tern names which reflect the agrarian lifestyle captured in quilts by generations of quilters.

Rather than create a "Log Cabin" or a "Woodland Path," one quilter crafted a family record of names and dates. In 1964, Angeline Clemmer Cason, used men's ties to piece a quilt for her sister Louise Baylor. A unique addition to the piece was the quilter's decision to incorporate the names of the Luther-Clemmer family descendants as part of the embroidered needlework on the coverlet. Now a treasured heirloom in the family of Ruth Cline, niece of the quilter, the coverlet brings back pleasant memories of previous generations, as well as providing a concrete genealogical record.

Pointing to a crazy quilt pieced of durable cottons in dark blues, grays and brown, Beth Spittler of Swoope, said, "These quilts are from my husband's side of the family," and added with a laugh, "There were so many in my family that we wore our quilts out keeping warm!" As a young married

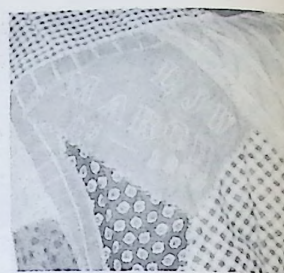
displays the crewel-stitched initials, L.J.W., and the date — March 27, 1905. L.J.W., the family knows, was Spittler's mother, Laura, and the date in 1905 was her 10th birthday.

"This quilt was made for warmth," indicated Beth Spittler. "Perhaps her mother made it for the child when she started sleeping in an adult-sized bed."

Another grandmother-crafted quilt displayed in the Mt. Tabor show was born in a sod house in eastern Colorado around the turn of the century. Kay Swanson of Middlebrook related the story of her grandmother, Della Murphy.

"She had come from Missouri in a horse and wagon, and there she had my mother. This quilt was made the year my mother was born," she said. The Arabian Star patchwork pieced quilt utilized cotton scraps of many colors.

"My grandmother lived to be almost 99. Up to the day she died she was frugal," remembered Mrs. Swanson. "She used whatever cloth she could get her hands on. She could make some-



Initials and a date -- L.J.W., March 27, 1905 -- tell part of the story behind this quilt which was on display recently at Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church near Middlebrook.

Photos by Lee Ann Heizer

thing out of nothing."

Reflecting on the quilt as a link between generations, Mrs. Swanson continued, "As I get older I realize how important the history of these pieces is. My grandmother told me that she worked in the fields, with my mother strapped to her back, during the day, and she worked on this quilt sitting in a chair by the fireplace at night."

Remembering her grandmother Mrs. Swanson commented, "She was born in 1887, and I often think of the changes she saw during her lifetime." Della Murphy's quilt has seen the years come and go but remains a vivid and tangible tribute to the care with which it was created.

Featured in the exhibit were a number of baby quilts, including an 1890 version of "Wild Geese Flying," exhibited by Susan F. McCray, a member of Mt. Tabor. The hand-pieced quilt was made for Mrs. McCray's grandfather and originated in Rhode Island. The quilt is registered with The Historic Quilt Association of Washington, D.C.

Two young members of Mt. Tabor, Jacob David and Joshua Taylor Heizer, exhibited crib quilts made as baby gifts for them by their great-grandmother, Myrtle Eavers.

Jennifer Cline of Middlebrook explained the significance of a crib quilt made for her son, Weston.

"It was made by Betty Gay Beam, a family friend, and it is pink, yellow, mint green and turquoise," she said. The vividly colored quilt, obviously designed for a farm boy, featured a sheep motif created from a scrap of antique cotton bedspread.

"She knew I was crazy about sheep," remarked Mrs. Cline. The quilt will no doubt become an heirloom keepsake for three-year-old Weston. "She told us we couldn't hang it up," said Mrs. Cline. "We had to use it. And he did use it! Here's a drool stain," she laughed, pointing to one corner.

Whether they are made from brilliant hues or subdued pastels, each quilt portrays a slice of American life and records pieces of family history to go along with it. —



Beth Spittler of Swoope explained that this patchwork crazy quilt was made by her husband's grandmother for his mother's 10th birthday.



# Friendship stitched tightly together despite years and miles

By NANCY SORRELLS

**MIDDLEBROOK** — Fifty years is a long time. About as long in days, months and years as the distance from Middlebrook to Australia is in miles. A long time. A long way.

Augusta County was a different world in 1946, and the Middlebrook High School graduating classmates of that year had their whole lives in front of them. Even for a rural high school, the class was small — just 14, two boys and 12 girls.

Cornelia Mae Shuey and Virginia Lee Ellinger were two of the seniors in the Class of '46, friends who had been through school together. One ventured forth around the world, the other put down roots within a few miles of her homeplace. Over the years, Cornelia and Virginia Lee stitched a lifetime of memories which became the fabric of their friendship.

The story really begins in September 1934 when the Class of 1946 first entered public school as first graders. Cornelia, Virginia Lee, and Bob Heizer were just three of dozens of students all picked up by a school bus from along the rural lanes and back roads and brought into Middlebrook Elementary.

"The buses were about like buses now except there was a middle seat in it that was much lower. Those were flat seats, and you could sit back to back," recalls Virginia Lee.

Those elementary classes were large, she remembers, but many of the children back then dropped out of school in the seventh grade to go to work.

Those that graduated went to school just 11 years instead of the 13 grades of today. "We were not exceptionally close, nobody really was back then because the distances between your homes were so great, but we remained friends all through school. We didn't have but two boys in the graduating

class and we all had to fight over them," laughs Virginia Lee, who wound up marrying one of them, Bob Heizer.

Of those 14 graduating seniors, 12 remain as does their teacher, Ann Jones. Most still live in the area although one has moved to the big city of Charlottesville and another has roamed as far as Cumberland, Md. The class motto that year was "Hitch your Wagon to a Star." Certainly nobody's wagon traveled further than Cornelia's. The dark-haired girl went to Washington, D.C. to work. It was there that she met and married Dale Eicholtz. When Dale's business took him to Australia, the couple set off for the land down under. It has been nearly 30 years since the move, and Cornelia has never returned to her native Augusta County.

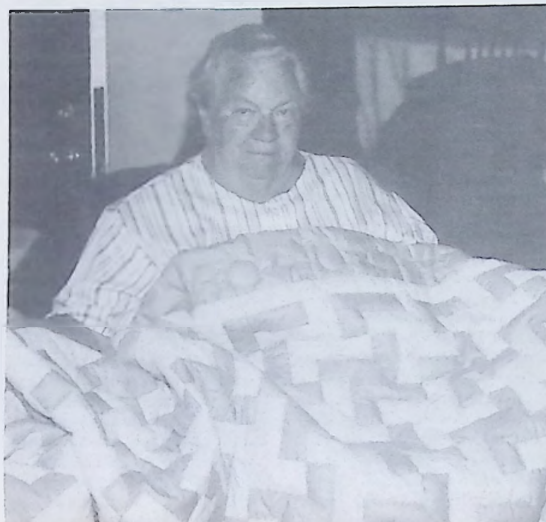
Despite the miles, she can visit frequently through her friendship with Virginia Lee. For decades the two have kept in touch with letters, telephone calls, and gift packages.

The early inspiration for the correspondence came from Virginia Lee. "We were school friends. I try to keep up with everybody. I wrote a letter, and the first thing you know she wrote back, and then we were writing real often. In the later years we talk on the telephone as well," explained Virginia Lee.

As the stacks of letter began to pile up, the two made plans to make telephone contact. And, although Virginia Lee admits to some trepidation about time differences and accents, the venture was such a success that it has continued often.

"They are 15 hours in front of us time-wise, but it goes right straight through. I can call her as quickly as I can call Lee Ann (her daughter-in-law who lives a mile up the road). She definitely does have an Australian accent though."

At times the long-distance



Virginia Lee Heizer of Middlebrook shows the quilt made and given to her by girlhood friend, Cornelia Eicholtz. The two graduated from high school in 1946 and, although they haven't seen each since Cornelia moved to Australia nearly 30 years ago, still keep in touch.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

friendship has even taken on an eerie nature. Even when they were in high school, the girls' lives seemed to run parallel. Both were in the home economics and glee clubs, and both served stints as class reporter. Cornelia was a member of Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church as a child, Virginia Lee did not go there as a child, but is a member now. The similarities really got interesting, though, when the two girls went their separate ways, got married and began families.

Take for instance the fact that Cornelia and Dale have three sons and Virginia Lee and Bob have four sons and a daughter. Nothing unusual about that, but... as the children were born and names were given — and unbeknownst to the each of the women — here is what happened. The Australian boys are named William, Thomas and Johann. Three of the Middlebrook

kids are: William, Thomas and John (R.G. and Ann are the other two children). Those with the same names are also close in age. "That was strange. We didn't know we were calling our kids the same names," said Virginia Lee. And, although Cornelia has not returned to the States, two of her sons have visited and met their Middlebrook counterparts.

Cornelia lives in the city of Dorchester in the state of Victoria (the same region where Melbourne is located). Through the years she has sent her classmates calendars and books and even a boomerang from Australia. The packages that leave from Middlebrook are different. They are reminders of an old home — newspaper clippings, Christmas ornaments of historic buildings and things like that. Videos have also flown back and forth across the oceans. "She has sent

me quilted pillows and dahlia flower seeds. I call the flowers 'Hello Dollies,' and they are beautiful, all different colors. Bob plants them and transplants them for me," Virginia Lee says.

Perhaps the most enduring symbol of their friendship, however, was the package that was mailed from Australia in November 1992 and arrived in Middlebrook nine weeks later. Cornelia hand-stitched a green and white double size quilt and mailed it to her schoolmate.

"The quilt was made through friendship," Virginia Lee said. "It is special. I will never use it, it means too much. She called me and told me it was coming, and then it took so long to come — nine weeks. I really began to doubt it would come at all."

It was worth the wait, however, and Virginia Lee counts it among her prized possessions. The quilt pattern is "wind wheels." Along one side of the quilt Cornelia stitched "Wind Wheels of our mind. Nov. 19, 1992." On the other end, in honor of their friendship, she stitched, "Virginia Lee, Bob, 1946 Cornelia."

The friendship quilt was displayed recently in the Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church quilt show. Putting the quilt in the church was a way for Cornelia to visit her childhood church without having to leave Australia. Today Cornelia is very active in the Lutheran church in Australia.

A video tape of the show will soon be sent to Australia, most likely eliciting a flood of letters and perhaps phone calls back and forth.

Virginia Lee and Cornelia would like to visit each other in person, but as the years roll by the likelihood of that ever happening has dimmed. Health problems kept Cornelia from attending her 40th class reunion and will probably deter her this year as well. Problems with her back mean a great deal of pain and many of the letters Virginia Lee receives were written while Cornelia was lying flat on a backboard.

The two write whenever the urge hits them. "We just write when we feel like it. It might be two or three times a month or every three months. There is no set time. I sure hope we can keep communicating for a long time to come," says Virginia Lee.

Fifty years ago when the Middlebrook class dreamed of hitching their wagons to a star, their destinies were uncertain. Those wagons have taken the classmates on a lot of journeys and today the stars shine just as brightly over Australia as they do in Middlebrook. But they are the same stars and they twinkle with shared memories.

When asked if she would ever have dreamed of having a childhood friend at the other side of the world as a pen pal, Virginia Lee shakes her head and laughs, saying, "Heavens to Betsy, no! I don't guess I ever thought of anything like that."

•Quality

•Diversity

•Service



At Cros-B-Crest Farm our goal is to provide quality plants that will perform in your garden and landscape. We invite you out to the farm to inspect our diverse variety.

Annuals • Perennials • Vegetables • Shrubs • Herbs

886-9379



Mon. - Sat., 9-5  
Closed Sunday

Care Home  
Medical

providing our community with:

•Home Medical Equipment  
•Respiratory Care Services

For all your home health care needs,

come visit our retail store at  
420 COMMERCE SQUARE  
STAUNTON, VA. 24401

886-9111

1-800-952-0137

949-5161



# Yesterday once more

## Trinity Episcopal's history part of county's heritage

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — This is the third in a series of six articles about churches in the area which are celebrating 250th anniversaries this year.

By NANCY SORRELLS

**STAUNTON** — It is hard to study Augusta County history without running smack dab into the history of Trinity Episcopal Church. With an official government-related beginning that reaches back to 1746, Trinity is the lone non-Presbyterian congregation among half a dozen churches celebrating 250th birthdays this year.

But despite the fact that Trinity's roots are Anglican, there is still a great deal of Presbyterian history intertwined in its early chapters. There is also a lot of political history. The beginnings of Trinity, or Augusta Parish as it was called for its first 75 years, go back to the government of the colony of Virginia.

In those days there was no separation of church and state. There was one church, the Anglican church (called Episcopal in America after the Revolution), and it was the only church recognized by the state. The other names for Anglican church in Virginia underline this fact: The Established Church, the Church of Virginia or simply the Church.

The established church had more than just religious duties in the community. The church's governing body, called a vestry, checked on land boundaries, levied taxes, cared for the poor, orphaned and illegitimate, and were the moral police of the community, making certain that people did not, among other things, break the Sabbath, commit adultery, and swear in public. The vestry was also responsible for hiring an Anglican minister and building an Anglican church.

When counties were established, a local governing body, called a court, was set up to take care of criminal offenses. At the same time, and often with the exact same boundaries, the parish was established with a governing body called a vestry to take care of the welfare and religious duties just described. Augusta County and Augusta Parish were created in 1738. In 1745 there were enough new settlers that a court was created. In 1746, the eligible male votes

met and elected 12 men to serve on the vestry, thus engaging the moral government of the community. The election of the vestry also marked the spiritual beginning of Augusta Parish Church. Interestingly enough, the Anglican vestry was made up of a majority of Presbyterians due simply to the fact that this area was settled by large numbers of people from Northern Ireland who worshipped in the Presbyterian faith rather than in England's Anglican church. Nonetheless, these vestrymen, Presbyterians and Anglicans alike, swore to uphold the "doctrine and discipline" of the Anglican church. This oath of conformity moved a later historian to describe these newly elected government officials as "politically Episcopalians and doctrinally Presbyterians!"

With the state church officially established in Augusta County, the vestry immediately set about organizing church services and hiring a minister. Again the Presbyterian characteristics are evidenced in this action. The group employed a minister at its first meeting in 1747, the Reverend John Hindman. Hindman was no stranger to the Shenandoah Valley. He had lived in what is now Rockingham County for several years. A Presbyterian minister by training, he helped establish a meeting house in the Rockingham area. He also developed a love of race horses and was a frequent visitor to a dirt track near Port Republic. For reasons that will remain lost in history, Hindman decided to become an Anglican rector. He sold some of his Valley land in order to finance a trip back to England to be ordained in the Anglican church. When he returned, the "Racing Parson" was Anglican enough to accept the job

with Augusta Parish.

Poor Hindman never lived to see his church built. He died within two years of accepting the job, leaving behind a valuable estate that included a number of racehorses. It was many years before Augusta County would have a church building. Frontier unrest caused by the French and Indian war slowed things considerably, but in the meantime, services were conducted by the second minister, John Jones, either at the new county courthouse or in outlying chapels.

Finally, in 1763, a church was built, marking the physical beginning of Trinity Church. The land, just a few hundred yards away from the county courthouse in Staunton, was sold to the vestry by William Beverley. Little is known about the appearance of the church beyond the fact that it was brick, presumably 40 feet by 25 feet, and was constructed at the cost of 500 pounds. The structure stood on the same lot as Trinity stands today, and was built in the middle of what had already become the burying ground for residents of the community.

Jones lived until the beginning of the Revolutionary War although his health deteriorated to the point that a curate, or assistant, had to be hired to help him. The first curate remained in Augusta County less than a year, but the second, Alexander Balmaine, became a leader in the community and a Revolutionary patriot. He eventually joined the American army as a chaplain and never returned to Augusta County.

The Revolutionary War brought much change to the established church. Many Virginians expressed resentment against the church because of its ties with England despite the fact that most of the



Trinity Episcopal Church, April 1996

colony's clergy were loyal to the American side. When America secured its independence from England, the established church's ties were severed as well and the Anglican church became the Protestant Episcopal Church. It was no longer a part of the local government under the new nation which saw the separation of church and state as a paramount concern.

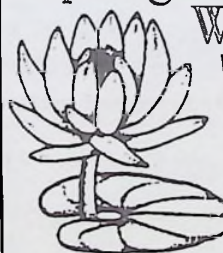
During the Revolution, Trinity did have one small moment of glory for

the American cause. In June 1781, the church served as the state Capitol and housed such luminaries as Patrick Henry and Thomas Nelson. Fearing capture by the British, Virginia's legislature fled Richmond and met in Charlottesville. When the British followed, the legislature retreated over the mountain to meet in the Augusta Parish Church from June 7 until June 23, 1781.

See TRINITY, page 7

## Springdale Water Gardens

Virginia's Premier Grower of Water Lilies and Bog Plants



1-800-420-LILY

**FREE SEMINAR:**  
Above ground ponds,  
patio ponds,  
tabletop gardens

June 8, 10 a.m. or June 9, 2 p.m.

We will show you how to enjoy a water garden without having to dig a hole. We will put one together for you complete with a pump and statue.

•Personal Attention

•Free Catalog Available

**NEW HOURS: Mon.-Sat., 9-5; Sun., 1-5**

Springdale Water Gardens is located on Old Quarry Lane near Greenville. From Interstate 81, take the U.S. 11 south Greenville exit (No. 213). In Greenville, turn right onto Stover School Road. Go 2.3 miles and turn left onto Old Quarry Lane. Go one mile to nursery.

*Hammond & Foster, Inc.*  
*Insurance*

**AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE  
• HEALTH • ANNUITIES**

*"Dedicated to Serving  
our Customers"*

**886-0500**

934 N. AUGUSTA ST.  
STAUNTON, VA.



## •Trinity

Continued from page 6

Augusta vestryman Colonel William Fleming, a member of the Virginia Senate, served as acting governor for several days of Staunton's time as temporary capital.

During the two weeks that the legislators were meeting in Staunton, a false alarm caused the lawmakers to flee further west to Warm Springs. Legend has it that Patrick Henry was in such haste to leave town that he left one boot behind. When the threat subsided, the men returned to Staunton where they elected Gen. Thomas Nelson as the new governor of Virginia. Apparently during the interim, a motion was made and rejected to make Patrick Henry a dictator.

The years from the close of the Revolution until the early 1800s almost saw the end of Trinity. With their minister dead, their curate in the army, and their ties with the state severed, the congregation floundered. For a long time services were sporadic at best.

Once again a Presbyterian stepped in to help. James Chambers, a Presbyterian minister, apparently held services and performed marriages for the Anglicans in 1787 and 1788, but soon left for adventure and a medical career in Kentucky. He met an untimely end in 1801 when he was killed in a duel over honor that stemmed from a card game disagreement.

The church struggled along with only a dozen communicants until 1811 when a Methodist minister, William King, agreed to become ordained and lead Augusta Parish church. King, who was a homeopathic doctor by trade, possessed a powerful preaching and praying style and revived the church enough that it remained alive until a new generation of trained Episcopalians came along.

### See related story, page 8

This new generation that served Trinity — Daniel Stephens, Ebenezer Boyden, William Jackson and Frederick Goodwin — brought an evangelistic frenzy to the church and sparked an era of growth that took the church through much of the 19th century. With this regrowth came the construction of a new church, built on the same lot in 1830. During this period the town was also growing, and the cemetery was heavily used by both Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians. The church which once stood at the edge of town was now in the middle of a thriving city.

Growth was coupled with stability in 1843 when the Reverend Thomas Castleman came to town. By this time the old name of Augusta Parish had been forgotten in lieu of a new name, Trinity Church. Castleman stayed at Trinity's helm for 12 years. Perhaps his biggest legacy was guiding the congregation in the construction of a third church facility — the one in use today.

English-born architect James Johns designed the brick Early Gothic Revival structure for the people of Staunton. According to local legend, the driving force behind the new building was the donation of a silver dollar by a 5-year-old boy who expressed a desire for a new church. The cornerstone was laid in 1854, and the final touches were put on the church in late 1855. The new edifice cost \$15,000.

It was at this time that the public use of the cemetery came to a close and Thornrose Cemetery was opened. In the last 130 years only a few burials, mostly ministers and their families, have taken place at Trinity.

Any further construction on the church lot was delayed because of the Civil War (1861-1865), but the church again proved its

value to the community in that conflict. During the war years, the church was opened as a classroom for the Virginia Theological Seminary. The school, which is the Episcopal seminary, was forced to flee from its Alexandria location because of Union troop movement.

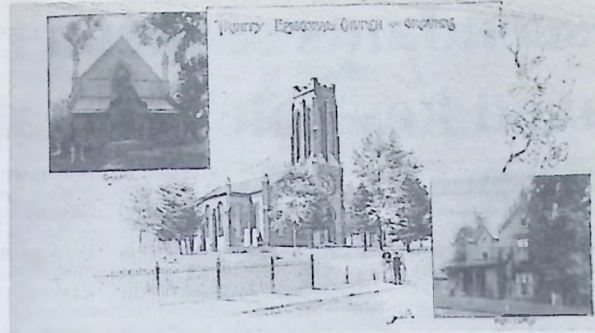
In 1871 a dynasty of sorts began at Trinity with the arrival of the Reverend Walter Hulihan. The Civil War veteran led the congregation for the next 46 years. His early tenure saw the construction of the rectory and the parish house (the first in Virginia), and a major addition added to the church itself. Hulihan's later years, however, also saw division come to Trinity. In 1893 a portion of the congregation left to form a second Episcopal church in Staunton, Emmanuel.

Hulihan stepped down from the pulpit in 1918, and the church issued a call to John J. Gravatt, Jr. of Kentucky. Although Gravatt accepted the call, he was drafted before he could begin his pastoral duties. The congregation negotiated with the war

department for his release and Gravatt arrived in the spring of 1919.

The 20th century has been a time of steady growth for the church which first set down roots in colonial Virginia. The parish house was renovated and expanded in the 1920s, and the church underwent a structural overhaul in the 1950s. Spiritual growth came with the Reverend W. Carroll Brooke, a leader of social causes, who was the rector for 22 years in the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s. Today the Reverend John Lane heads the church. He has been at the Staunton church since 1987. Most recently he authored an inspirational book of his sermons titled "Plain Preaching."

As Trinity church celebrates its 250th birthday, it can look back over a long and storied history which links it to the early colonial government, American patriots, seminary students and just ordinary Anglicans. All of those worshippers, from 1746 to the present have striven to remain "conformable to the doctrine and the discipline" of the Episcopal church. —



Trinity Church, chapel and rectory from a print published around 1900.

### ▲▲▲ VIRGINIA REHABILITATION AGENCY INCORPORATED

•Physical Therapy •Occupational Therapy •Speech-Language Pathology

▲ Outpatient Clinic ▲ Home Health  
▲ Hand Therapy ▲ Pediatric Care  
▲ Nursing Home Services

Comprehensive Work Injury Management Program

▲ Injury Prevention  
▲ Return-to-work oriented  
▲ Case Management

•Appointments scheduled same day

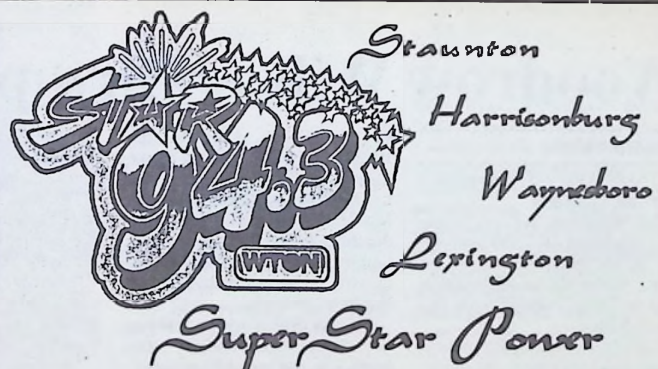
•Most services covered by insurance

**1-800-729-4510**

106 MacTanley Place  
Staunton, Va. 24401

540/886-4510

Fax: 540/885-2450



No one doubts it.

America and the World are fascinated with it.

America's Music *SuperStars* are only  
on Contemporary Radio.

In music research, contemporary *SuperStars* have nearly 100% name  
recognition. That's overwhelming recognition!!!

**STAR 94.3 FM is contemporary radio  
at its absolute best.**

"From the Oldies to the 90s," every single song is tested for its familiarity  
and appeal to our Adult audience, the largest group of consumers in today's  
marketplace with above average incomes. They look for "quality" in the  
purchases they make and the music they choose.

Not only do we provide an in-demand music format, but we combine it with  
an outstanding personality line up and great contests like "Win Free Rent or  
Mortgage... up to \$1,000."

**THE ONLY STATION BIG ENOUGH TO DO IT!!!**



# Descendants of former Trinity rector played key role in local, state history

By KATHARINE BROWN

Among hundreds of ministers in each denomination, a handful leave a real mark on their churches, their times, or their society. Frederick Deane Goodwin, former rector of Trinity Church, Augusta Parish, Virginia was such a man.

Goodwin was born in Massachusetts, raised in the Congregational church, and educated at a New England boarding school. He graduated from Amherst College, then came to Virginia to teach in Clarke County. This small county, then recently formed from the eastern Frederick County, had some of the finest plantation houses and richest planters in all of Virginia. Another Clarke County treasure was the Reverend William Meade, who was rector of the Old Chapel near Millwood and also Bishop of Virginia. This engaging evangelical Christian exercised a powerful influence on three generations of Virginia Episcopalians. Meade's charisma drew others, such as Frederick Deane Goodwin and his brothers into the Church. In neighboring Frederick County, Goodwin also knew the Jackson family who provided seven clergymen to the church, including Goodwin's predecessor at Trinity, Staunton.

Goodwin graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria in 1833. He received a call to Trinity,

Staunton, in 1836. For his first six months in town, he boarded with the Fackler family, whose son, St. Michael Fackler, became a pioneering clergyman and missionary in Oregon and Idaho.

Goodwin threw his heart into the work in Staunton, holding two services at Trinity every Sunday and one on Wednesday, prayer meetings, lectures, and services at Boyden chapel in the county.

Goodwin also had a strong interest in work with African-Americans in Staunton, most of whom were then slaves. He held a service for them the second Sunday each month. Noting in his diary that 70 came to his first service, he wrote, "I do hope that I may be the means of doing them good. I have not shed so many tears in Ch. since I came to Staunton."

When the Western Lunatic Asylum and the Virginia School for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind were established in Staunton in 1839, Goodwin worked with their administrators to gain their participation in his congregation.

Goodwin met the young woman he married in Staunton while she was visiting there. She was Maria Archer, daughter of an Army surgeon in Norfolk. Maria was a close friend of Mary Briscoe Baldwin, the first Episcopal female missionary in Greece. Later, the Goodwin's named one of their daughters Mary

Baldwin Goodwin.

When the Goodwins left Staunton with their young family in 1841, they left behind a strong and flourishing Trinity Church. They went on to a successful ministry in southwestern Virginia. Goodwin built a strong parish at St. Johns, Wytheville, and traveled widely as a missionary, establishing new parishes. In 1858, he took on responsibility as rector of a new congregation in Christiansburg that became St. Thomas's Church. Other spots where he held services in Montgomery County were Central Depot (Radford), Blacksburg, and Yellow Sulphur Springs. Goodwin also traveled across the mountains to Jeffersonville (Tazewell) to conduct services. He carried his work to Smyth County as well, where he started a small congregation that was the nucleus for Christ Church, Marion.

The other contribution that Frederick and Maria Goodwin made to their church was their children. Two sons and a son-in-law became clergymen. Seven of their grandsons were Episcopal ministers, as were at least three great-grandsons. One grandson, the Reverend Conrad Harrison Goodwin, was rector of St. John's Church, Waynesboro, 1935-1946. Their daughter's (Frances Goodwin Ribble) three clergymen sons carried on their grandfather's interest

in African-American church members as professors and dean of the Bishop Payne Divinity School, the Episcopal church's theological seminary for blacks in the segregation era. Another grandson, the Reverend Frederick Deane Goodwin was consecrated Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Virginia in 1930, and became the Bishop in 1942.

The grandson who made the most visible contribution to American history was William Archer Rutherford Goodwin, rector of Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg 1901-1908 and Professor at the College of William and Mary. W.A.R. Goodwin was so impressed with the historically important people and events in the sleepy little town of Williamsburg that he dreamed of restoring its colonial splendor, in order to teach 20th century Americans about their past. Vast funding was necessary to realize that dream, and Goodwin decided how to get it. He was the man who interested John D. Rockefeller Jr. in his restoration dream, and got the commitment of the funding to create Colonial Williamsburg. Goodwin was active in the restoration process, and his daughter, Mary, a great-granddaughter of Frederick Deane and Maria Archer Goodwin, was the scholar who discovered the famous Bodelian plate, the only



FREDERICK DEANE GOODWIN

known original drawing of the Capitol and the Governor's Palace, that made possible the reconstruction of those two key buildings.

Frederick Deane Goodwin brought his New England education and disciplined life to Virginia, and gave to his adopted state a stronger Episcopal Church and a heritage of able descendants who strengthened church and education and helped to preserve Virginia's heritage.

Katharine Brown is director of research and collections at the Museum of American Frontier Culture and formerly was the executive director of Woodrow Wilson Birthplace. She holds a doctorate degree in history from The Johns Hopkins University. She and her husband, Madison, live in Staunton.

## Woodrow Wilson Birthplace celebrating birthday

By SUE SIMMONS

STAUNTON — The Birthplace is having a birthday.

The Woodrow Wilson Birthplace celebrates the 150th anniversary of the construction of the Manse, the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States.

To celebrate, the foundation is exploring two topics in the upcoming year — historic preservation and Wilson's family heritage focusing on the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian presence in the Shenandoah Valley.

"The last year has been spent in new research," Pat Hobbs, curator of collections, explained as she worked on the new exhibit "A

Pastor's Home. A President's Birthplace." Funded by the Beirne Carter Foundation and conducted by Beth Schweiger and Ann McCleary, the research takes an in-depth look at Benjamin Mosby Smith and Joseph Ruggles Wilson, the two ministers who lived in the Presbyterian manse.

"A great deal of the material was known, but Ann McCleary analyzed it in a new and more coherent way," Hobbs offered.

Staunton of the 1840s and 1850s was a booming town with an inadequate water supply. When water was finally pumped up to Gospel Hill, the neighborhood experienced rapid growth, becoming the most upscale place to live in Staunton by

the time the manse was built in 1846.

Hobbs says it is their goal to "evoke Staunton in 1850."

"We want to create an image of what Staunton felt like, sounded like, smelled like," she said. Hobbs admits the exhibit is "evolving."

"There are plans to continue research and uncover more artifacts that deal with the Wilsons and with Staunton," she says.

"Artifact-poor in terms of Staunton" is how Hobbs describes the exhibit. She hopes, however, that word will spread, and those who have objects from this area and period will permit their temporary exhibition at the Birthplace.

Hobbs pointed to a ledger from the American Hotel

loaned by Tom Cabe.

"This ledger comes from the hotel livery. It is a record of the cost for the care and feeding of horses" who were owned by guests at the hotel, she explained. "A great many people stopped over in Staunton on their way to the many (hot and warm) springs located in the region."

Hobbs points to a small book titled "Cook's Routes to Springs on the Virginia Central Railroad."

"Staunton was like the hub of the wheel for this traffic," she noted.

President Franklin Pierce stayed overnight in the Virginia Hotel in 1855 before departing for the springs the next day.

"The Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind was an advertised desti-

nation for tourists," Hobbs offered. "People came to walk the beautiful grounds. We even found a letter written to Jessie (Woodrow Wilson) when she lived at Hampden Sydney inquiring about her corn crop." Hobbs paused, "No one else is excited about this, but I am." For more information about the exhibit "A Pastor's Home, A President's Birthplace" or upcoming events call 885-0897. The exhibit will be on display until May 1997. —

### Evers Family Restaurant

Rt. 11 North, Mt. Crawford 433-0993  
Serving lunch Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
2 entrees, hot vegetables, salad bar & dessert...\$4.99

Beverage - 85 cents extra  
Serving dinner Monday through Thursday, 4 - 8 p.m.  
3 entrees, hot vegetables, salad bar & dessert...\$6.99

Beverage - 85 cents extra  
Serving special buffets Friday through Sunday

Hours: Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.  
Sun., 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

### Staunton Book Review

Antiquarian & Good Used Books

BOOKS WANTED

All categories - All Ages

9 East Beverley St., Staunton, VA 24401

Tel: (540) 886-6913 E-mail: staunton@interloc.com

HERITAGE  
HEARING AID CENTER

YOU SAVE

\$50 OFF

ANY HEARING AID

Expires 9-31-96

FREE Consultation

Easy payment plans  
30-day FREE trial

1105 Greenville Ave., Staunton

886-6553



# Middlebrook family takes to the woods in search of morels

By NANCY SORRELLS

**WALKER'S CREEK** — Arlie Wolfe can be driving down the road at 45 miles per hour and spot them, off in a field, just poking up out of the ground. Or he can be climbing straight up a mountainside and pick them out against the gray and brown background of the spring woods.

What he is finding are mushrooms or "common morels" as they are identified by nature books. Scientists attach the botanical name of *Morchella esculenta*, but those who grew up walking the Allegheny ridges of western Virginia simply call them honeycombs. And those same people claim that there is no better eating than a "mess" of fresh honeycombs rolled in flour and fried in butter.

"Nothin' beats 'em fresh," exclaims Arlie's wife, Joan. "We eat as much as we can without doing anything to them. We eat them a couple of times a day when they first come out," she said.

For the last 46 years, hunting honeycombs has been a ritual of spring for Arlie and his family, but this year I convinced them to take me along as a newcomer.

For several hours on a warm spring day I was immersed in the lore of the mushroom, learning where to look, why to look and how to cook these spring fancies.

But first we had to find the patches where the morels are known to return year after year — the "where to look" part. "I know where they are at," Arlie explained of his favorite hunting spots. "It is like ginseng. You don't show too many people your patches."

For most people, especially novices like me, knowing the location of the patch would not be enough. Here comes the "how to look" part. You have to have a developed eye for spotting a brown, white and gray mushroom protruding only a few inches from a patch of brown leaves or easing up against a gray

rock. I must admit I was more worried about keeping my footing along slopes that would make a mountain goat cringe while Arlie scampered nimbly back and forth across the hillside.

"You just gotta look everywhere in through here," he said while waving his hand at a patch of woods perched on a hill. "Here's one, a nice black one. Sometimes you have to get on your knees to see 'em, other times you have to stand up. Sometimes you see 'em coming up the mountain and sometimes coming down."



**Arlie Wolfe of Middlebrook has success on a recent morel hunting expedition.**

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

The secret to spotting the morels, though, is in the training Arlie received from his father years ago. "When I was three or four years old, Daddy took us out and told us that when we would see a honeycomb, we had better get it. 'If you

don't,' he said, 'it'll go back in the ground.' So I always get 'em when I see 'em," he said.

The Wolfes warn that it is *always dangerous* to harvest plants from the wild. There are poisonous mushrooms which could be mistaken for morels by a novice. "Always go out for the first time with an expert who has picked mushrooms for years," warns Arlie.

The edible morel has an irregularly pitted cap and a hollow stem. The Wolfe family divides these morels into four subcategories: black, yellow, white and long stem. The

first three types are described by the color of their cap, while the last has a longer stem than the others.

"See how the tops have cavities in them. I have found all four kinds in this area. The white ones are often around old apple orchards and poplar trees. When people used to have old family orchards you used to find more of the white and yellow, but they've taken most of the old orchards down," Arlie explained. "The blacks ones like soil with a darker base," he

added. "And the long stemmed ones usually come in twos."

Although the family knows about where to go from year to year to search for their edible feast, there are quite a few factors which figure into the season's harvest. Apple trees, poplars and even mayapple plants are good places to start looking. "It just depends on the season," Arlie said. "They'll grow under poplar and walnut. Sometimes moist ground, but it can be too wet or too dry. The soil has got to be just right. And they need a certain amount of sun and a certain amount of shade."

The exact time of spring when the honeycombs start to appear also varies from season to season. Last year the Wolfes started picking in the middle of March, but this year they had no luck until the middle of April.

"The season's late this year. We'll probably find them up to May 15 or so," Arlie said. "The ground is warm now," he added, digging his fingers into the dirt. "If we get a good rain now, they will pop right up. Some years they will come up so fast they will explode. It's all in the season."

All of this lore was dispensed by Arlie even as he kept up the pace of a marine drill sergeant. He



***Morchella esculenta* or wild morel mushrooms come in a variety of shapes and sizes.**

indicated that despite the fact that we were finding the tasty treats here and there, the harvest was far below that of other years.

"See here between the poplar and the old oak? On a good year this whole ground would be covered. This year, it's far and in between," he said.

Arlie's daughter Maryann was also along for the excursion. And, although, she could match her dad's walking pace, she has developed a different hunting technique. Where her father picks mushrooms on the fly, Maryann hunkers down and scopes out the situation. "I just find a patch and circle," she explained.

Just as with her father, hunting mushrooms had been a rite of spring as long as she can remember. "One older lady in the area who is dead now used to blow on them (the mushrooms) in order to plant the seed so they would come back next year. Now sometimes we do that just in honor of her," she remembered.

On this day we picked about a bread bag and a half full of mushrooms, but in the years when the harvest is richest, the Wolfe kitchen will overflow with the spring delicacy. "The most I ever found in a day was 12 gallons. I used to find those things and give them away," Arlie recalled. "The biggest one I ever found was 14 inches. It looked like Snoopy the dog."

Searching for the perfect mushroom has become quite the hobby for the family which has been known to take to the woods at night in their quest.

"You can hunt them at night," Arlie says, adding that he feels sure that people will doubt what he had to say next. "The black mushroom has a dark glow to it. I have picked mushrooms until 9 o'clock at night, because the black mushroom shines and glows blacker than black."

Black or white, day or night, mushroom hunting is a family tradition for the family. "They grow all around the mountain," Arlie noted. "I've hunted 'em all over this mountain." Suddenly he paused in the midst of his fast-paced scramble up a slope. "I believe I'd rather hunt these than deer, and I love deer hunting!" —

And the morel to the story is...

## Wild 'rooms make for good eating

By NANCY SORRELLS

**MIDDLEBROOK** — "The only time I've ever been sick from eating mushrooms is when I've eaten too many," says Arlie Wolfe. As soon as he says that he breaks out into a grin and adds, "Of course that happens 'bout every year."

In the Wolfe family, springtime means gorging on fresh picked morels. The big ones and little ones, the white, yellow and black ones and the long-stemmed ones. Although the white ones possess the best flavor according to Arlie, nobody in the family would turn down any of the honeycombs they bring to the supper table.

"You can eat 'em anyway you want. I had some on hamburgers yesterday. You can eat 'em raw. You can eat 'em fried in butter," he added, ticking through just a few of the many ways they have eaten mushrooms.

"Nothing beats 'em fresh, though," chimes in Arlie's wife, Joan, the family matriarch.

Joan goes on to detail the preparation for spring mushrooms.

"You cut them in half and soak them in salt water a couple of hours to kill any bugs that might be in them. Then you drain them really well," she says.

After that the fun begins. "You can put them on top of pizzas and in other food. I usually try to do one mess a year in butter. I roll them in flour and fry them," she explained.

Arlie jumps in to explain, however, that the soaking time is often eliminated on the first mess in the spring and everyone jumps right to the eating stage. "They are awfully delicious scrambled in eggs," he notes.

Extra morels can also be canned, dried or even frozen. The drying process can be accomplished in a variety of ways. The Wolfes cut the mushrooms in half and, without soaking, dry them in a dehydrator. Although they lose some flavor, the mushrooms quickly rehydrate in water and last for years. Sun-drying is another means of dehydrating the morels, although the mushrooms become so light that they blow away unless covered with a screen. "A woman down on the 'crek puts them on a string like red peppers and dries them. She doesn't cut them at all," the family said in describing the many alternative storage methods for morels. Joan has perfected a method for freezing as well. "You flour and fry them. Then put them in the freezer. When you take them out, don't thaw them out. Just use the broiler to get them real crisp or the regular oven to warm them."

No matter if the harvest is large or small, the Wolfes considers their honeycombs a treasure to be enjoyed. —

## Flowers for June at Shenandoah Valley Landscape

"Flowering Trees"

Dogwood, Bradford Pear, Cherry, Redbuds  
Ornamental Shrubs

Flowering pots & baskets

Geraniums -- Flowers for summer

COME VISIT OUR COUNTRY SHOP FILLED WITH

•Baskets •Silk Flowers •Lisa Geiman Prints

•Flags •Garden Ornaments •Collectibles

•Indoor Water Fountains

Rt. 11 248-2708 Verona



# Expo showcases Virginia's beef industry

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

HARRISONBURG — Nobody had to ask, "Where's the beef?" Because at the Virginia Beef Expo, it was everywhere.

From the sales pavilion to the show ring, from the exhibit hall to the concession stands, from the cooking contests to the new technology demonstrations, everything at the seventh annual event was beef, beef, and more beef.

Cool, but fair weather prevailed during the Expo which drew a crowd of some 5,000 spectators and participants. In the face of Great Britain's BSE hysteria and domestic conditions which have pushed the cattle market to its lowest point in decades, the Beef Expo was a show of confidence by beef producers throughout Virginia and other Mid-Atlantic states who attended the event.

Results of the Expo's nine cattle sales proved that producers are determined to continue improving their herds despite the downward market trend. Held April 26-28 at Rockingham County Fairgrounds, Expo cattle sales grossed in excess of \$450,000 with purebred sales accounting for \$385,000 of that total. The top seller at the event was a purebred Angus cow/calf pair which netted \$10,500. Other breed averages were Simmental, \$1,273; polled Hereford, \$1,272; and Charolais, \$1,130.

Commercial stock was also strong in the sale ring with replacement heifers drawing a large crowd. Sixty fall calving bred heifers averaged \$691, and 43 open heifers averaged \$473 with gross sales of \$64,670. The top group of commercial heifers was four Angus bred females which brought \$1,025 each.

There was certainly no fear of consuming beef either as produc-



Exhibitors participating in the many cattle shows held during the Virginia Beef Expo get their entries ready to take before the judge.

Photos by Betty Jo Hamilton

ers lined up to sample steak sandwiches for lunch during the three-day event and feasted on roast beef tenderloin for dinner at the event's annual barn party held Friday evening. The Beef Inn-Style Cook-off proved to be a big draw for consumers who watched as chefs from restaurants and inns across Virginia competed for a grand prize of \$1,000 for the best beef dish. Michael Oder, chef at Cuz's Uptown Barbecue, Cabins & Resort at Pounding Mill, took the top award with his recipe for and preparation of Cuz's Acapulco Filet.

Likewise, consumers flocked to cooking schools conducted by Bob Pastorio, a well known gourmet personality from Harrisonburg. Pastorio's schools included preparation techniques and tips. Saving the best for last, the crowd was treated to samples of Pastorio's

taste-tempting creations.

The interest of youth in the beef cattle industry was apparent in the event's many contests and competitions. Junior Showmanship and the Beef Gran Prix Obstacle Course drew large numbers of junior competitors to the show ring as did the heifer and steer shows.

In team competition, area FFA chapters sent representatives to demonstrate their skills in the hay stacking contest and the cattle working contest.

The Riverheads High School FFA team of Philip Howell, Craig Brown, and Arbra Armstrong, finished a strong second to the first-place team from Spotswood High School in the Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council's hay stacking contest. Third place in the event went to another team also sponsored by Spotswood FFA.

The contest tested participants' ability to load 48 bales of straw onto the bed of a pickup truck. Contestants were judged on time and safety of the procedure. The course concluded with competitors required to drive loaded trucks through an obstacle course complete with simulated ground hog holes and ditches with penalty points awarded if bales were lost off the load.

Spotswood II team finished with a time of 4:04 and five penalty points for a final score and first-place finish of 252 points. The RHS team finished the course in 4:28 with no deductions for a final tally of 258 points for second place. The Spotswood I team finished a distant third with 271 points.

plan explained the team's method of inoculation for injections, and the methods for administering the specified types of deworming product and growth promotant.

Each of the cattle working teams consisted of three individuals — one who moved cattle into the chute, one who operated the catch gate, and one responsible for mixing vaccine. Once one of the steers was caught, the three team members worked together to administer the specified treatments.

Whittier pointed out that the event was structured to teach youth the correct principles in processing cattle. Contestants were instructed that cattle should be handled in a manner which is safe for both the animal and the person



Travis Black, Susanne Potter, and Nathan Deacon, members of the Rockbridge Stockmen's 4-H Club, successfully defended their 1995 cattle working title during competition at this year's Beef Expo. The Rockbridge Trio claimed the contest's top spot for the second year in a row.



Bill Beal of Virginia Tech uses ultrasound to record backfat, marbling, and ribeye area data on a Hereford brood cow. The technology has become compact enough

so that it is portable. Beal is working on a pilot project in Virginia which makes ultrasound services available on site to beef cattle producers.

Spotswood II team members were Melissa Dawson, Andrew Hutchison, and Ben Hutchison. Spotswood I team members were Ken Hammer, Matt Welsh, and Cathy Hutchison.

In the junior cattle working contest, knowledge and expertise proved as important as speed. With Dee Whittier of Virginia Tech providing the narrative, contestants were faced with administering a number of annual vaccinations and routine treatments to three 700-pound steers. But for contest participants, the event began long before the teams approached the cattle working chute.

In advance of the contest, participants were told what vaccinations and treatments they would have to administer. Each team had to complete a processing plan and submit it to contest judges. This

doing the treatments.

"Cattle should be handled appropriately, so there's no injury to the cattle or team members," Whittier said.

The contest was based on achieving a high score of 100 points. Of that total a team could earn 20 points for correctly completing its processing plan and 10 points each for finishing treatments on the three cattle in under five minutes, properly implanting the growth promotant, properly administering vaccine, properly attaching fly tags, properly handling the cattle, and safety in handling the cattle.

Ten teams competed in the event, and it was last year's first-place team from Rockbridge County which claimed the top spot again. Travis Black, Susanne Pot-

See EXPO, page 11





Riverheads FFA members Phillip Howell, Craig Brown, and Arbra Armstrong compete in the hay stacking contest held at the Virginia Beef Expo. The team placed second in the competition which was sponsored by the Virginia Forage and Grasslands Council.

## •Expo

Continued from page 10  
ter, and Nathan Deacon, members of the Rockbridge Stockmen's 4-H Club defended their title with a time of 4:35. Madison County 4-H, represented by Ben De Boer, Darby Kirby, and Bryan Tompkins, fin-

ished second with a time of 4:50. The third place team was William Walther, Joey Davis, and Adam Wampler of the Turner Ashby FFA. Although their time of 4:48 was faster than the second place team, penalty points dropped the TA team into the contest's third slot.

For those interested in learning

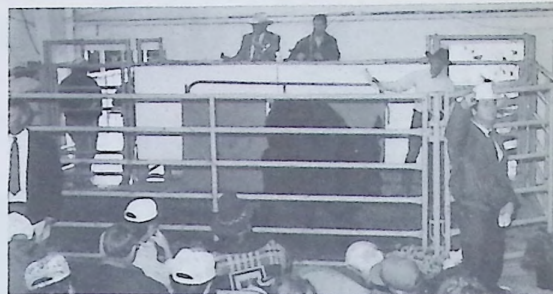
about the cutting-edge technologies in the beef cattle industry, the Expo featured a number of events to do just that. Trade show exhibits, which numbered almost 100, featured the very latest in all aspects of beef cattle production. From feed products to mineral supplements to housing facilities to feed handling and cattle handling equipment, there was no lack of information pertinent to the enterprising beef cattle producer.

One of the most recently developed technologies in the beef industry was demonstrated by Bill Beal of Virginia Tech who demonstrated the use of ultrasound in identifying carcass traits in cattle.

"There is a high correlation between size of the ribeye and frame score," he told his audience.

By using ultrasound to take a ribeye measurement on an animal between its 12th and 13th rib, Beal explained that much can be learned about the animal, and the traits it will pass on to its offspring. Ultrasound is also useful, Beal said, because it takes measurements from a live animal. Previously the data could only be gathered after slaughter of the offspring. Collecting data on marbling, backfat, and ribeye area is important in evaluating herd sires, he said.

"It's a balancing act," he said. "We have to get accept-



An auctioneer calls for bids during the purebred Angus seedstock sale held at the Virginia Beef Expo.

able carcass sizes, acceptable ribeye area, and acceptable marbling to get them into the choice quality grade."

Because ultrasound technology has become quite compact, the device can be taken to producers' farms to gather data. Beal noted that instead of only having access to data on herd sires, much more information can be collected from many numbers of a sire's offspring. By being able to take measurements from live animals, Beal said that "a lot more data" can be collected and correlated. This can be translated into more information about the potential of a sire's progeny.

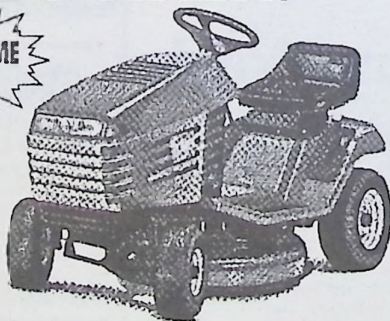
Beal's work with ultrasound technology is part of a pilot project in Virginia. The service will be offered through Virginia Tech for a two-year period. After a six-month training period, the service will be turned over to the private sector with ultrasound technicians offering the capability to Virginia producers.

The Virginia Beef Expo is held annually to showcase Virginia's second largest agricultural industry. Cash receipts of cattle and calves totaled \$295 million in 1994 ranking Virginia 18th in the United States in beef cattle production. The state's cattle inventory is 1.8 million cattle. —

# AT \$1,499\* YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO WALK.

LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Model 12-32XL  
Lawn Tractor  
12 hp engine with  
32" mowing deck



SEE OUR LINE OF TORO® WHEEL HORSE® LAWN TRACTORS STARTING AT JUST \$1,499\*

- Get all the quality and engineering of a Toro Wheel Horse at a very affordable price.
- Sleek styling and step-through design come together in a tractor that is as comfortable as it is attractive.
- Features 32" side discharge deck as standard, optional bag or Recycler kits available.
- Visit us today to see our complete line of value-priced lawn tractors.

Cohron's Hardware

220 N. Main St.

Stuarts Draft

337-1241

800/219-3167



Wheel Horse  
Tractors & Riding mowers

When you want it done right.

\*Manufacturer's suggested promotional retail price. Subject to local dealer option.

http://www.toro.com

## Augusta County farmer earns national recognition

By LOIS SKEEN

MT. SOLON — Carlyle Grimm was recently named to the Badger Northland President's Club, which consists of the top 10 performing dealers in North America. Badger Northland Inc. is a Wisconsin-based manufacturer of livestock forage, feed and manure handling systems that selects this group annually based on sales volume of Badger products over the previous year.

Grimm received additional recognition and was selected as Badger's Outstanding Dealer. He was chosen for the honor from over 400 Badger dealers nationwide.

Grimm's business began 34 years ago when he bought some Badger equipment for his own use on his beef and turkey farm, located a few miles from Va. 42 just south of Bridgewater.

"I bought a chopper, blower, and two wagons, and I liked them," explained Grimm. "At that time, no one around here knew what Badger was." He introduced Badger equipment to other farmers in the area, and his business steadily grew.

The farm-based dealership is one of the few of its kind that remains. A bit off the beaten track, Grimm does not see this as a disadvantage. Customers come from Rockingham and Augusta counties and the surrounding area, including parts of West Virginia.

He attributes his success to ser-



Stan West, Badger vice president, congratulates Carlyle Grimm of Augusta County for his achievement in being named Badger's outstanding dealer. At right is Robert Hartsock, president and CEO of Badger Northland, Inc. Also pictured is Grimm's wife, Charlotte.

vice and availability. A beef cattle farmer himself, he realizes the importance of "keeping farmers going," especially during silage cutting time. "We are basically open 24 hours a day. We keep a good supply of parts, and if we don't have it, we try our best to get it as quick as we can," he said.

Running a family business the old-fashioned way, farmer-to-farmer, has no doubt contributed to its success. Carlyle's wife, Charlotte, and their four daughters all help out in the business when necessary.

"We have call forwarding, so people can get hold of one of us.

All my daughters live within five miles, and they all know how important it is to get people parts when they need them. Sometimes people have come, gotten what they needed and written us a note," explains Grimm.

While Grimm takes pride in the honors he has earned, he does not consider them to be his greatest reward. "Badger is a family kind of company, and I like that. We've met lots of other dealers from across the country, as well as the local people. The biggest reward is the friends I've made." —



# Patterson brothers turn green grass into green bucks

By LOIS SKEEN

CRIMORA -- Five years ago, brothers Crawford and Bill Patterson were at a crossroads. They were supporting two families from a 60-cow dairy herd, and in Bill's words, "We weren't making enough money for the amount of work we were doing." They wanted to milk more cows, but that would require building a new facility. In order to pay for a new facility, they would have to milk quite a few more cows, which would require purchasing or renting more land to raise the feed for more cows... well, you get the picture.

In order to expand the herd without expanding their facilities, the Pattersons decided to change to a rotational grazing system. First, they did some homework. They visited dairies utilizing rotational grazing in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Indiana, among others. They got advice from Harlan White and Jerry Swisher from the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. They hired a consultant to teach them more about the way grasses grow, and how to manage pastures to get the most dry matter intake of the highest quality.

"We had to learn what properly grazed pasture is supposed to look like," says Bill. "Beef cattle farmers tend to graze the grass too short, and dairymen graze it when it's too tall. It's important to provide grass while it's in its vegetative state to get the most nutrients into the cows. If it's too tall, then you're better off making hay from it."

The Pattersons now have divided most of their 400-acre farm and 125 acres of rented ground into 22 paddocks of various sizes and vari-



Crawford and Bill Patterson stand in one of the 22 paddocks on their 400-acre dairy farm. The Pattersons switched to a rotational grazing system four years ago and have found it a pleasant alternative to traditional dairy production methods.

Photo by Lois Skeen

eties of grasses, including orchard grass, bluegrass, fescue, alfalfa, clovers and ryegrass. Previously, they raised 60 acres of corn silage to feed 60 cows. Last year they grew corn for silage on only 18 acres, which fed 100 cows. "And the silo is still half full," says Bill.

That's because the cows graze from about mid-March to mid-November, if everything goes right, cutting what the Pattersons refer to as "conventional feeding" down to about four months of the year. During the winter months, they feed round bale grass silage and some corn silage, along with 25 percent protein pelleted feed in the parlor.

During the grazing season, they feed 14 pounds of 8 1/2 percent protein feed in the parlor, consisting of 25 percent barley and 75 percent corn plus minerals and vitamins. Crawford estimates the grass is about 25 percent protein if grazed in the right stage, which reduces the need for a more expensive high protein supplement.

In the spring when grass grows faster than the cows can eat it, the milking herd is rotated among six paddocks with the other pasture land harvested for hay. "If you haven't got extra paddocks in the spring, you're overstocked," explains Crawford.

The stocking rate at the farm is currently about one-and-a-half cows per acre of pasture, a bit lighter than the normal recommendation. The Pattersons have found through experience that cows will eat "more than the experts tell you they will," in fact up to 3 percent of their body weight if plenty of grass is provided in the vegetative stage.

The result of this major change in the Pattersons' feeding system has been "more money with less work," as Bill succinctly stated. The herd size has been increased by nearly 50 percent without expanding the facilities. Since the cows harvest their own feed, feed themselves, and even spread their own "fertilizer," the labor involved is greatly reduced. The herd average has dropped from 23,500 pounds of milk per cow per year to 18,500 pounds, but the farm's net profit has increased to three times what it was prior to rotational grazing.

Getting the cows out on pasture instead of confined on concrete has made a big improvement in herd health too, as evidenced by a reduction in a cull rate of 40 percent which has dropped to the range of 12 to 20 percent. Since fewer replacements are needed for the herd, about 30 head of cows or heifers are available each year for sale to other dairymen for breeding stock, which provides an extra source of income.

According to Jerry Swisher, Area Dairy Extension agent, there is increasing interest in rotational grazing in Augusta County.

"We have close to 10 percent of the 87 dairy herds in Augusta County presently using an intensive rotational grazing system," says Swisher. Some of them are us-

ing a seasonal system, where all the cows calve at about the same time, and all are dry for two months during the winter. This system further reduces the need for conventional feeding methods, not to mention giving the dairyman a two month vacation from milking twice a day.

Rotational grazing may not be for every dairyman. Unlike a conventional feeding system, you cannot formulate the herd ration for the next six months and stick with it. Decisions must be made on a daily basis as to which paddocks to use and for how long.

"This system is more management intensive," says Bill. "Somebody has to be thinking about this all the time. If I could tell what the weather was going to be for the next 30 days it would be easier, but you can't do that. You have to stay flexible; you make mistakes, and you learn from them."

One thing the Patterson brothers have learned is that they do not want to return to their previous management system. When faced with the question of feeding year-round, both shook their heads emphatically and answered, "Three months of the year is enough of that." —

## Augusta 4-Hers compete in Dairy Bowl

By LOIS SKEEN

How many pounds of milk does it take to make one pound of cheese? Which breed of dairy cow produces milk with the highest percentage of butterfat? When a baby calf is nursing, into which part of the stomach does the milk go?

If you answered these questions "10, Jersey, and abomasum," you could have been a successful contestant in the 4-H District Dairy Bowl held recently in Harrison-

burg. Augusta County entered two teams in the junior division. Augusta's "A" team placed second overall. 4-Hers from Clarke, Frederick, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Augusta counties competed in the contest.

Team members were quizzed on their knowledge about the dairy industry with questions about milk products, animal feeding, housing, milking, and health, and the various breeds of dairy cattle. Study questions were provided prior to

the contest.

In the first phase, contestants took a written test. When teams faced off to compete against one another, each team was asked a series of questions in the first round. In the toss-up round, speed became a factor as team members had to ring in by pressing their buzzer to answer a question.

Dave Winston, Virginia Tech Extension Specialist for 4-H Dairy

Young programs, planned the event and served as moderator. "The Dairy Quiz Bowl is an excellent way for kids to learn about the dairy industry and have a lot of fun doing it," says Winston.

Augusta County participants were: Team A — Kendra Inman, Charlie Moore, Audrey Fuller, and Aaron Shifflet; Team B — Zachary Waldron, Lydia Moore, Byron Phillips, and Karen Inman. —



### June is Dairy Month

Augusta Country salutes the proud heritage of dairy farming in Augusta County and the Shenandoah Valley.

STAR  
DUNLOP

HERSHEY TIRE CO., INC.

MICHELIN  
FIRESTONE

Founded on the Golden Rule

•Recapping

•Wheel Balancing

•Farm Tire Service

Featuring long-short bar and long-long bar tractor tires

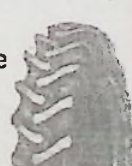
624 North Augusta St.

Staunton

886-3438

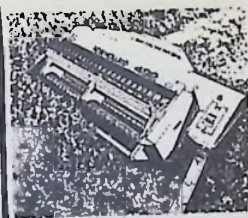


Long-short bar



Long-long bar

## ULTIMATE



### MAKE HAY WITH THE BEST

To see haymaking at its best ask for a demonstration of the deluxe nine-foot Model 492 Haybine mower-conditioner. With an independent lightweight header, it floats over irregular fields with less guard damage and a cleaner cut. Come in and see this one to appreciate top-of-the-line quality.

**Stickleys**  
the people with Service

600 Richmond Ave.  
Staunton, Va. 24401

Hours:

Mon.-Fri.

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

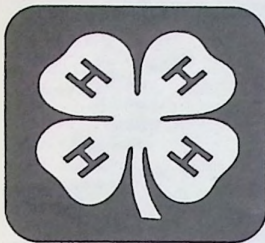
Sat., 8 a.m.-noon

NEW HOLLAND

1-800-296-1283

540/885-8107





## Exhibitors bring 'most of the best' to ring at annual Market Animal Show



By BETTY JO HAMILTON

STAUNTON — Choosing the top animals at the 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show was simple for Judge Keith Bryan of Penn State University. It was simple, because he had only one criterion for the Grand Champion in each species.

"I'm looking for the most of the best," he said before he began judging the show's steer classes.

Sounds simple enough. But when faced with making that selection from among fields of 123 steers, 138 lambs, and 55 hogs, Bryan's task proved a daunting one.

Surfacing to the top of the event were animals shown by Jason Michael of Mt. Solon. Michael, 17, exhibited the show's Grand Champion steer, Grand Champion hog, and Grand Champion pair of hogs to claim three of the event's top awards.

Joining Michael in the winners' circle were Wes Marshall, 15, of Weyers Cave who showed the Reserve Grand Champion steer, Troy Lawson of Churchville who exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion hog, and Westley Begoon of Grottoes who showed the Reserve Grand Champion pair of hogs.

In the sheep show, Bryan's selections were spread out among four county youth. For the first time in many years, there was no cross-over between the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand champion singles and pairs of lambs.

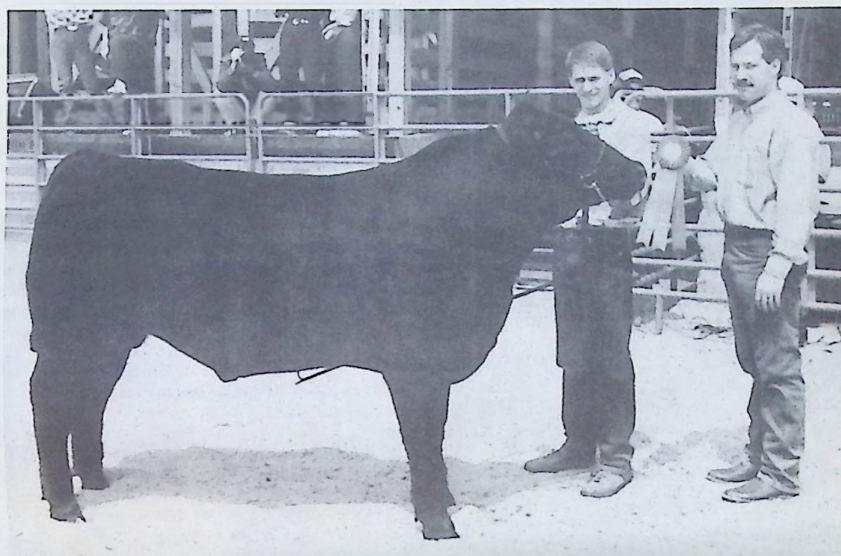
Bryan's eyes fell on a lamb exhibited by Amanda Hemp of Middlebrook as the show's Grand Champion. Matthew Hickey, of Rt. 1, Staunton, exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion lamb. In pairs competition, Jason Roller of Weyers Cave claimed Grand Champion honors, and Amy Trout of Swoope exhibited the Reserve Grand Champion pair.

The 51st annual Market Animal Show was held May 1 and 2 at the Staunton Union Stockyard. The event is sponsored each year by Ruritan Clubs of Augusta County and the Staunton-Augusta Chamber of Commerce.

The entry with "the most of the best" in single market lamb competition was Hemp's 110-pound Dorset lamb. Bryan was challenged in selecting the Grand Champion from the field of 125 lambs exhibited in singles competition.

"What it boils down to is which one combines the traits (of muscle, trimness, and pattern) to the highest degree," Bryan said before making his final selection from the show's top eight lambs. He chose Hemp's lamb, Champion of the heavy-middleweight division, as the market lamb which was "correctly finished in terms of firmness, muscling, and freshness."

The judge commended exhibitors on the field which he called "extremely good lambs." "This has been an excellent single lamb show,"



Jason Michael, Buffalo Gap FFA; Judge Keith Bryan  
GRAND CHAMPION STEER, DIVISION IV CHAMPION  
SENIOR STEER SHOWMANSHIP

he said. "I compliment exhibitors for the apparent quality, consistency, and demeanor of their lambs."

During judging, Bryan commented that he felt the lightweight lambs would be the most difficult to place. However, as the show progressed, the judge found that the contest's heavier lambs were no easier to rank than the light lambs. Faced with selecting winners from a variety of lambs which included both purebred and crossbred stock, Bryan explained his selection process to exhibitors and the audience.

"The first thing animals lose when they go to the rail is their breed identity," he said. While he noted the show's purebred lambs were of high quality, he credited exhibitors with bringing some "excellent crossbred lambs" to the show.

The four champion lambs were different in their type and kind, Bryan noted. Meanwhile, the four reserve champions, he said, were similar because of their breed makeup. Champions included lambs of apparent Dorset, Suffolk, and Hampshire breeding, while the show's Reserve Champions all appeared to be of Suffolk breeding.

"I want to pick the lamb which will yield a carcass most preferred by the industry," Bryan said. That lamb turned out to be Hemp's Dorset lamb which was bred by Billy Wade Jr. of Greenville. Finishing a close second in the Reserve

Grand Champion slot was Hickey's 110-pound Hampshire lamb bred by Rocking R Farms of Rt. 1, Staunton. Hemp's Grand Champion honor was a step up from her performance in 1995 when she exhibited the show's Reserve Grand Champion single lamb.

Hemp, 12, is the daughter of Michael and Katrina Hemp of Middlebrook and is a member of the Beverley Manor Middle School

FFA. Hickey, 15, is the son of David and Linda Hickey of Rt. 1, Staunton and is a member of the FFA chapter at Buffalo Gap High School.

Having seen most of the lambs through the ring one time, Bryan found few surprises when judging the show's 54 pairs of lambs.

"I'm a stickler for uniformity," he said at the conclusion of the first  
See SHOW, page 14



Amanda Hemp, Beverley Manor Middle School FFA  
GRAND CHAMPION LAMB, DIVISION III CHAMPION  
JUNIOR SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP



Jason Michael, Buffalo Gap FFA  
GRAND CHAMPION HOG





**Jason Roller, Fort Defiance FFA  
GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF LAMBS**



**Amy Trout, Buffalo Gap FFA  
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF LAMBS**



**Matthew Hickey, Buffalo Gap FFA  
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION LAMB  
RESERVE CHAMPION, DIVISION III**

## •Show

*Continued from page 13*

class of pairs. "They have to be peas in a pod." Roller's 125- and 130-pound pair of Suffolk lambs were those which fit Bryan's bill for Grand Champion pair. The lambs were bred by Roller's grandfather, O.B. Roller, at Roller Dale farm in Weyers Cave. Size was not of paramount importance to Bryan, however, as he chose Trout's pair of Dorset lambs, each weighing 95 pounds, as the Reserve Grand Champion pair. Trout, whose lambs were of West Virginia breeding, is no stranger to the winner's circle having shown the Grand Champion pair in the 1995 show.

Roller, 16, is the son of Randy and Ann Roller of Weyers Cave. He is a member of the FFA chapter at Fort Defiance High School. The daughter of James and Susan Trout of Swoope, Trout, 18, is a member of Buffalo Gap's FFA chapter.

The Champion's ribbon in the lightweight division was claimed by Ashley Craun of the Fort Defiance FFA. Monika Huffer, Lone Member 4-H, took Champion honors in the light-middleweight division. Hemp's eventual Grand Champion emerged as Champion of the heavy-middleweight division. One of Roller's pair of Grand Champions earned Champion honors in the show's heavyweight division.

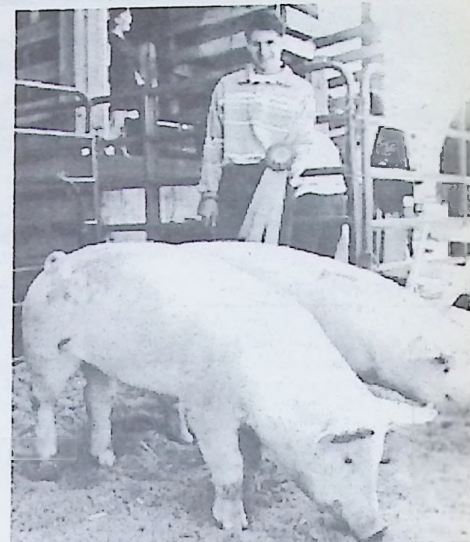
Scott Vess of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club claimed Reserve Champion honors in the lightweight division, while Josh Botkin of the Beverley Manor Middle School FFA carried away Reserve honors in the light-middleweight division. Hickey's lamb was Reserve Champion in the heavy-middleweight division, and Jon Roller finished with Reserve Champion honors behind his brother's Champion lamb in the show's heavyweight division.

In the cattle show, Bryan said the steers which rose to the tops of the event's four divisions were "structurally sound." While he admitted there were "trade-offs here and there," he picked Michael's 1,285-pound ChiMaine-Angus cross steer as "the most complete" in the show. Michael's steer emerged as Champion of the show's heavy-weight division and came from Sumption Cattle Co. in Biltmore, S.D. Michael is a member of the FFA chapter at Buffalo Gap High School and is the son of Don and Frances Michael of Mt. Solon.

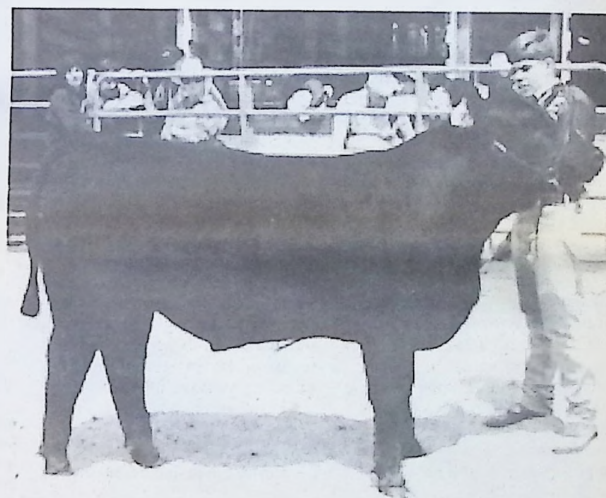
Marshall's Reserve Grand Champion 1,165-pound Angus steer was bred by his grandfather, Jim Coffey, at Ivy Dell Acres in Weyers Cave. Marshall, the son of Steve and Cindy Marshall of Weyers Cave, is a member of the Fort Defiance FFA. Marshall's steer was Champion of the show's heavy-middleweight division.

Following Michael in the heavyweight division was Scott Buchanan's 1,237-

See STEERS, page 15



**Jason Michael, Buffalo Gap FFA  
GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF HOGS**



**Wes Marshall, Fort Defiance FFA  
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION, DIVISION III CHAMPION**



**Troy Lawson, Buffalo Gap FFA  
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION HOG**



**Westley Begoon, Fort Defiance FFA  
RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION PAIR OF HOGS**



# Youth win Augusta Country Showmanship Awards

## AC staff report

STAUNTON — Six Augusta County youth were selected as the top showmen at the 51st annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show held May 1 and 2 at Staunton Union Stockyard.

Willie Morris of Bridgewater, Chris Curry and Jason Michael, both of Mt. Solon, Amanda Hemp of Middlebrook, Danielle Gayhart of Churchville, and Bryan Shomo of Rt. 6, Staunton were selected by Judge Keith Bryan as the top junior and senior showmen in the event's lamb, hog, and steer exhibitions. Each of the six exhibitors receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

sponsored by *Augusta Country*.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," Bryan told exhibitors as he prepared to make his selections of the top junior and senior showmen in the sheep show.

Morris, 17, a member of the Fort Defiance FFA chapter, was selected as the show's top senior sheep showman. Amanda Hemp, 14, won junior honors in the sheep show.

Bryan commended Morris for his performance in the ring saying he was "very calm, very relaxed, extremely smooth."

In the junior competition, Bryan complimented the youngsters on their showmanship efforts.

"You've done an excellent job, setting the feet and legs, being courteous to other competitors," he said. He particularly noted the demeanor of Hemp's lamb which stood

calmly throughout the judging.

Morris is the son of Ed and Brenda Morris of Bridgewater. Hemp is the daughter of Michael and Katrina Hemp of Middlebrook. She is a member of the Beverley Manor Middle School FFA.

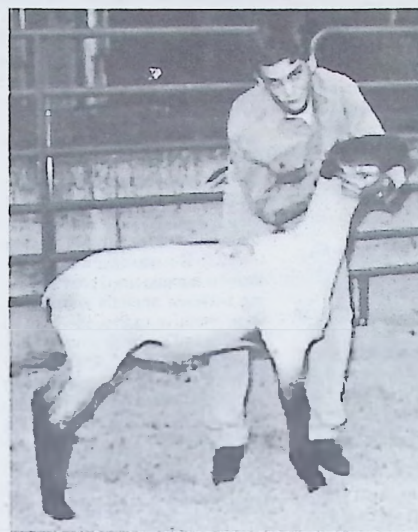
Placing second and third in the senior sheep showmanship division were Amy Trout of the Buffalo Gap FFA and Ashley Craun of the Fort Defiance FFA.

In junior competition, another BMMS FFA member, Rosalie Riley, placed second, and Jonathan Coleman, a member of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club placed third.

To all sheep showmanship competitors, Bryan explained what he looked for in the top showmen.

"They have a smoothness showing the sheep and not themselves. They're keeping the feet and legs placed squarely under the animal.

See AC AWARDS, page 16



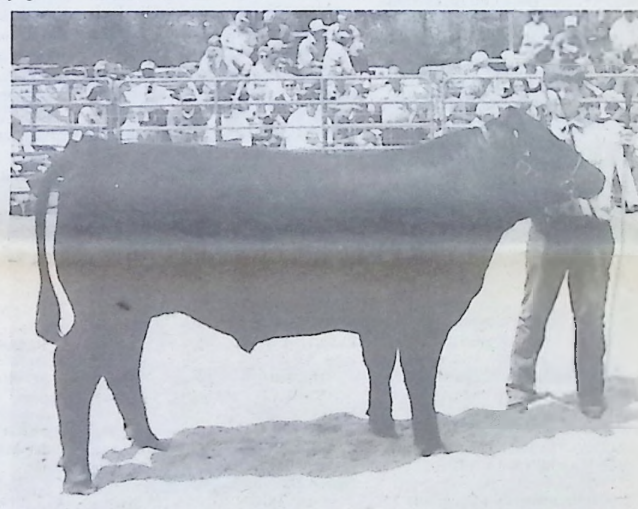
Willie Morris, Fort Defiance FFA SENIOR SHEEP SHOWMANSHIP



Chris Curry, Buffalo Gap FFA SENIOR HOG SHOWMANSHIP



Danielle Gayhart, North River 4-H Club JUNIOR HOG SHOWMANSHIP



Bryan Shomo, Beverley Manor Middle School FFA JUNIOR STEER SHOWMANSHIP, DIVISION III RESERVE CHAMPION

## Steers

Continued from page 14

pound Angus steer which won Reserve Champion honors. Buchanan is a member of the FFA chapter at Riverheads High School. In the heavy-middleweight division, a 1,180-pound Angus steer shown by Bryan Shomo claimed Reserve Champion honors. Shomo is a member of the FFA chapter at Beverley Manor Middle School.

Bryan proved he was color blind by selecting a silver 1,150-pound Charolais-cross steer exhibited by Matthew Hickey as Champion of the light-middleweight division. But Hickey's steer was the only one of non-Angus breeding which Bryan put in the show's top spot. Scott Morris' 1,105-pound Angus steer took the light-middleweight division's Reserve Champion spot. Morris is a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA.

In the lightweight division, Trent Byerly claimed Champion honors

with a 1,060-pound Angus steer. Byerly is a member of the Fort Defiance FFA. Reserve Champion honors went to a 1,000-pound Angus shown by first-time exhibitor Jacob Leonard of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

In explaining his search for the steer with "the most of the best," Bryan said he was looking for animals with the right combination of "muscle, finish, and pattern." Before he began judging, Bryan said the show's top steers would have "long, clean fronts, straight tops, level rumps, and set down squarely on their legs." As he progressed through the divisions, the judge said he found "sound, functional, well-balanced cattle." Bryan commended exhibitors for their work in selecting steers and preparing them for the show.

In the hog show, Bryan's requirements of the top animal were as straightforward as they had been

for the other species.

"Big-framed, lean, heavy-muscled, structurally sound, well balanced... that's it in a nutshell," he said in describing the task of selecting the top market hog. After judging five classes of hogs, Bryan cited Michael's winner from the heavy-middleweight class as being that which most closely fit his requirements. He said Michael's 240-pound hog was "lean," had adequate "muscle shape," and was "really deep in her rib." The Grand Champion hog came from a Maryland swine breeder.

Lawson's 225-pound hog emerged as the winner of the heavy-lightweight class to claim the Reserve Grand Champion spot. Bryan described Lawson's hog as being "really big in terms of skeletal frame." Lawson, 16, is the son of Jeff and Barbara Lawson of Churchville and is a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA. His hog also

came from a Maryland breeder.

In pairs of hogs judging, Bryan found he had his work cut out for him.

"The quality is extremely good, extremely uniform in all pairs as far as type and kind," he said. "They are really lean and balanced."

The determining factor in the hog judging was the potential of the individual in the market place.

"Ultimately we have to be able to please the consumer with lean edible pork," Bryan said before making his final selections.

"Leanness, muscling, and uniformity" were the keys to success in the pairs of hogs exhibition.

"They have to be peas in a pod," Bryan said. "There can be very little weight spread, and they must look very similar."

Michael paired a 230-pound mate with his Grand Champion single hog to claim Grand Cham-

pion honors in the pairs exhibition. The Reserve Grand Champion pair shown by Begoon weighed 210 and 225 pounds. Begoon, 14, is a member of the Fort Defiance FFA and is the son of Tom and Shelley Begoon of Grottoes.

The 1996 Market Animal Show was dedicated to Earl D. Reeves of the North River community. Reeves has been a long-time supporter of the event having worked as an agriculture instructor for 31 years. Reeves continues to be active as a full-time farmer and operates a 380-acre family farm. He is a member of the North River Ruritan Club and Moscow Church of the Brethren.

Reeves served as ringmaster for the show. June Cohron of Staarts Draft served as master of ceremonies. Sandra Stanwitz, executive director of the Staunton-Augusta Chamber of Commerce presented ribbons to exhibitors. —



## •AC Awards

Continued from page 15

They find a spot as directed, set the lamb up quickly, smoothly, and effortlessly and keep them looking their best," he said.

Juniors and seniors were judged in a combined showmanship class for the hog show. Junior exhibitor Danielle Gayhart, 14, won the event placing ahead of junior Emily Curry in second, who was followed in third by her brother, Chris, a senior, in third. As the top placing junior and senior hog showmen, Gayhart and Chris Curry receive the \$100 savings bonds.

For the hog showmen, Bryan had some simple advice.

"You never know how long you're going to be out here," he said. "If you start too fast, the pigs get tired. You need to drive the hogs calmly and coolly at a slow easy pace."

Bryan suggested that the proper way to show a hog is with its "snout about six to eight inches off the ground." He warned competitors to be prepared to alternate canes and brushes from one hand to the other depending on which side of the hog they work. In choosing the top hog showmen, Bryan said "eye contact and presence made the distinction."

Following his selection of Gayhart as the top hog showman, Bryan said, "She looks like she's

having fun but is intent on what she's doing."

Gayhart is a member of the BMMS FFA chapter and is the daughter of Danny and Pat Gayhart of Churchville. Curry, 18, is an FFA member at Buffalo Gap High School and is the son of Charles and Betsy Curry of Mt. Solon.

In the steer show, Bryan chose Michael and Shomo as the top senior and junior showmen, respectively. Steer showmanship found Bryan looking for exhibitors who demonstrated "quality and consistency." He observed whether showmen maintained proper spacing between animals and if they were attentive to the judge.

"This calf has been worked very hard and diligently," Bryan said of Michael's animal in complimenting the youth for his efforts with the steer in preparing it to show. He pointed to Michael's "relaxed and methodical" manner and noted that the showman stayed in "high and tight, keeping the steer's eye in line with the calf's top line."

Michael is a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA and is the son of Don and Frances Michael of Mt. Solon.

Placing second in senior steer showmanship was another Gap FFA member, Matthew Hickey. He was followed in third by Fort FFA member Ashley Craun.

In junior steer showmanship

competition, Bryan caught competitors off guard by going around to each one and whispering a question to each.

"What color are my eyes?" he said a few moments later as he revealed to the audience what he had been doing. His point was to make the young exhibitors aware of the need to concentrate on the judge while showing their steers.

"This is a good class (of junior showmen). They've done and excellent job," Bryan said. "These juniors are to be commended. Everybody's very methodical and relaxed. It's a tribute to them and whoever taught them."

The judge chose Shomo as the top junior steer showman, crediting the BMMS FFA member for being "upheaded and alert." Shomo, 13, is the son and stepson of Scott and Sally Shomo of Rt. 6, Staunton. Placing second in the junior division was Jonathan Coleman. Third place was claimed by Carrie Brown. Both Coleman and Brown are members of the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club.

Augusta County sponsors the showmanship awards each year to recognize exhibitors for their efforts in showing and fitting animals for the event. Competitors are judged on their appearance, the animal's appearance, and how the exhibitor handles the animal while it is being judged. —

## Market Animal Sale results

**Grand Champion lamb**, 110 pounds @ \$4.30/lb. to Hershey Tire Co.

**Reserve Grand Champion lamb**, 110 pounds @ \$3.90/lb. to The Tire Mart

**Grand Champion pair of lambs**, 125 & 130 pounds @ \$2.30/lb. to The Daily News Leader

**Reserve Grand Champion pair of lambs**, 95 pounds each @ \$2.40 to Augusta Mutual Insurance

Floor on 63 Blue O lambs averaging 108 pounds was \$1/lb  
**Grand Champion hog**, 240 pounds @ \$1.95 to Lynwood Shiflett

**Reserve Grand Champion hog**, 225 pounds @ \$1.90 to Churchville IGA

**Grand Champion pair of hogs**, 230 pounds @ \$1.90 to Transit Mixed Concrete

**Reserve Grand Champion pair of hogs**, 210 & 225 pounds @ \$1.25 to Grottoes Pallet

Floor on six hogs weighing 200-215 pounds was \$1.60

Floor on 23 hogs weighing 220-250 pounds was \$1.70

**Grand Champion steer**, 1,285 pounds @ \$1.40 to Transit Mixed Concrete

**Reserve Grand Champion steer**, 1,165 pounds @ \$1.05 to H&R Cleaning Co., Inc.

Floor on Choice steers was \$2.60, Floor on Select steers was \$2.95

1. J. Michael, BG FFA; 2. D. Gayhart, NR 4-H; 3. J.T. Begoon, FD FFA; 4. R. Riley, BM FFA; 5. J. Begoon, WW 4-H

**Class 4, Heavy-middleweight**  
1. J. Michael, BG FFA; 2. C. Curry, BG FFA; 3. E. Curry, NR 4-H; 4. D. Sheets, BG FFA; 5. R. Riley, BM FFA

**Class 5, Heavyweight**  
1. D. Howdyshe, NR 4-H; 2. N. Nycum, BM FFA; 3. J. Sheets, NR 4-H; 4. I. Swartzel, RLC 4-H; 5. B. Vess, BM FFA

**GRAND CHAMPION** — Jason Michael  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION** — Troy Lawson

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Chris Curry, Dixie Stoutamyer, Danielle Gayhart, Jonathan Coleman, Jason Michael, Emily Curry, Jerilyn Sheets, Darren Howdyshe

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP** — Danielle Gayhart  
**SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP** — Chris Curry

**MARKET HOG PAIRS**  
**Class 1, Lightweight**

1. W. Begoon, WW 4-H; 2. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 3. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 4. D. Gayhart, NR 4-H; 5. E. Curry, NR 4-H

**Class 2, Middleweight**  
1. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 2. R. Riley, BM FFA; 3. J.T. Begoon, FD FFA; 4. J. Begoon, WW 4-H; 5. G. Johnston, ML 4-H

**Class 3, Heavyweight**  
1. J. Michael, BG FFA; 2. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 3. N. Nycum, BM FFA; 4. D. Stoutamyer, BG FFA; 5. B. Vess, BM FFA

**GRAND CHAMPION** — Jason Michael  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION** — Troy Lawson

**STEER SHOW RESULTS**  
**DIVISION I, 930-1,085 lbs.**

**Class 1** — I. J. Leonard, ML 4-H; 2. A. Armstrong, LM 4-H; 3. N. Buchanan, RLC 4-H; 4. I. Stickley, FD FFA; 5. J. Henderson, SD FFA

**Class 2** — I. T. Byerly, FD FFA; 2. J. Coleman, ML 4-H; 3. C. Curry, BG FFA; 4. C. Shinaberry, ML 4-H; 5. C. Irvin, RHS FFA

**Class 3** — I. A. Gilbert, RHS FFA; 2. A. Hemp, BM FFA; 3. T. Sheets, LM 4-H; 4. T. Lam, BG FFA; 5. W. Rusmisl, FD FFA

**CHAMPION** — Trent Byerly  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Jacob Leonard

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Jacob Leonard, Arbra Armstrong, Chris Curry, Adam McCune, Jonathan Coleman, Trent Byerly, Amanda Hemp

**DIVISION II, 1,090-1,150 lbs.**

**Class 1** — 1. Co. Heizer, RLC 4-H; 2. G. Buchanan, RHS FFA; 3. R. Riley, BM FFA; 4. S. Morris, BG FFA; 5. D. Howdyshe, FD FFA

**Class 2** — 1. S. Morris, BG FFA; 2. J. Wilcher, BG FFA; 3. J. Dean, SD FFA; 4. B. Lohrey, RHS FFA; 5. M. Miller, LM 4-H

**Class 3** — 1. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 2. T. Byerly, FD FFA; 3. J. Riley, RLC 4-H; 4. C. Curry, BG FFA; 5. J. Dean, SD FFA

**CHAMPION** — Matthew Hickey  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Scott Morris

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Rosalea Riley, Cole Heizer, Wes Rusmisl, Scott Morris, Jonathan Riley, Matthew Hickey

**DIVISION III, 1,155-1,215 lbs.**

**Class 1** — 1. W. Marshall, FD FFA; 2. Ca. Heizer, RHS FFA; 3. B. Blackwell, FD FFA; 4. S. Talley, BG FFA; 5. J. Hemp, RHS FFA

**Class 2** — 1. B. Shomo, BM FFA; 2. J. Hemp, RHS FFA; 3. T. Labadie, SM FFA; 4. J. Buchanan, RLC 4-H; 5. T. Moss, FD FFA

**Class 3** — 1. J. Leonard, ML 4-H; 2. G. Buchanan, RHS FFA; 3. A. Craun, FD FFA; 4. B. Skellton, SM FFA; 5. T. Thompson, FD FFA

**CHAMPION** — Wes Marshall  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Bryan Shomo

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Wes Marshall, Beth Blackwell, Jared Hemp, Bryan Shomo, Ashley Craun

**DIVISION IV, 1,220-1,475 lbs.**

**Class 1** — 1. S. Buchanan, RHS FFA; 2. J. Coleman, ML 4-H; 3. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 4. A. Craun, FD FFA; 5. J. Shomo, RHS FFA

**Class 2** — 1. J. Michael, BG FFA; 2. J. Hunter, BG FFA; 3. R. Riley, BM FFA; 4. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 5. C. Lyle, BG FFA

**Class 3** — 1. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 2. Cr. Brown, RHS FFA; 3. C. Blackwell, RHS FFA; 4. Chris Pultz, RHS FFA; 5. Ca. Brown, ML 4-H

**CHAMPION** — Jason Michael  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Scott Buchanan

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Scott Buchanan, Garrett Johnston, Jason Michael, Carrie Brown, Craig Brown

**GRAND CHAMPION** — Jason Michael  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION** — Wes Marshall

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP** — Bryan Shomo  
**SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP** — Jason Michael

## Market Animal Show placings

### Club/Chapter Code:

BG FFA — Buffalo Gap FFA  
FD FFA — Fort Defiance FFA  
RHS FFA — Riverheads FFA  
BM FFA — Beverley Manor FFA  
SD FFA — Stuarts Draft High School FFA  
SDM FFA — Stuarts Draft Middle School FFA

WM FFA — Wilson Memorial FFA  
SM FFA — Stewart Middle School FFA  
BR 4-H — Blue Ridge 4-H  
DC 4-H — Dairy 4-H

LJ 4-H — Livestock Judging 4-H  
LM 4-H — Lone Member 4-H  
ML 4-H — Middlebrook Livestock 4-H  
NR 4-H — North River 4-H  
RLC 4-H — R.L. Coffey 4-H

SH 4-H — Springhill 4-H  
WW 4-H — Willing Workers 4-H

### LAMB SHOW RESULTS

#### SINGLE MARKET LAMBS

##### DIVISION I, 95-100 lbs.

**Class 1** — 1. A. Craun, SH 4-H; 2. K. Nully, LM 4-H; 3. E. Curry, NR 4-H; 4. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 5. A. Hinton, RLC 4-H

**Class 2** — 1. A. Craun, SH 4-H; 2. A. Trout, BG FFA; 3. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 4. B. Glass, WW 4-H; 5. J. Hinton, BM FFA

**Class 3** — 1. S. Vess, ML 4-H; 2. C. Pultz, RHS FFA; 3. B. Shreckhise, WW 4-H; 4. K. Roller, WW 4-H; 5. B. Vess, BM FFA

**CHAMPION** — Ashley Craun  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Scott Vess

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Jason Grimm, Carrie Brown, Chad Blackwell, Sheila Nycum, Ashley Craun, Amy Trout, Jack Hinton, Kelly Roller, Brandon Shreckhise

##### DIVISION II, 100-110 lbs.

**Class 1** — 1. J. Grimm, LM 4-H; 2. J. Coleman, ML 4-H; 3. C. Harris, ML 4-H; 4. J. Hinton, BM FFA; 5. R. Croft, WW 4-H

**Class 2** — 1. B. Napier, RLC 4-H; 2. M. Lam, BG FFA; 3. M. Huffer, LM 4-H; 4. L. Ratcliffe,

BG FFA; 5. Mo. Huffer, LM 4-H

**Class 3** — 1. Mo. Huffer, LM 4-H; 2. J. Botkin, BM FFA; 3. M. Huffer, LM 4-H; 4. S. Vess, ML 4-H; 5. J. Williams, BR 4-H

**CHAMPION** — Monika Huffer  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Josh Botkin

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Jonathan Coleman, Julie Grimm, Mike Lam, Michele Huffer, Scott Vess, Monika Huffer, Danielle Temple

##### DIVISION III, 105-115 lbs.

**Class 1** — 1. A. Hemp, BM FFA; 2. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 3. Ju. Grimm, LM 4-H; 4. D. Grimm, RHS FFA; 5. J. Grimm, RHS FFA

**Class 2** — 1. B. Shreckhise, WW 4-H; 2. Jo. Roller, FD FFA; 3. A. Trout, BG FFA; 4. J. Botkin, BM FFA; 5. J. Shiflett, FD FFA

**Class 3** — 1. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 2. C. Curry, BG FFA; 3. C. Harris, ML 4-H; 4. R. Croft, WW 4-H; 5. D. Grimm, RHS FFA

**CHAMPION** — Amanda Hemp  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Matthew Hickey

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Matthew Hickey, Amanda Hemp, Jon Roller, Josh Botkin, Kim Moats, Chris Curry

##### DIVISION IV, 115-130 lbs.

**Class 1** — 1. Jo. Roller, FD FFA; 2. R. Riley, BM FFA; 3. C. Brown, RHS FFA; 4. B. Burton, SH 4-H; 5. J. Wonderley, WW 4-H

**Class 2** — 1. Ja. Roller, FD FFA; 2. R. Riley, BM FFA; 3. A. Hemp, BM FFA; 4. W. Morris, FD FFA; 5. C. Curry, BG FFA

**Class 3** — 1. M. Croft, FD FFA; 2. Ja. Roller, FD FFA; 3. M. Hickey, BG FFA; 4. B. Vess, BM FFA; 5. C. Pultz, RHS FFA

**CHAMPION** — Jason Roller  
**RESERVE CHAMPION** — Jon Roller

**SHOWMANSHIP** — Craig Brown, Ben Burton, Rosalea Riley, Willie

Morris, Jason Roller, Morgan Croft

**GRAND CHAMPION** — Amanda Hemp  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION** — Matthew Hickey

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP** — 1. Amanda Hemp, 2. Rosalea Riley, 3. Jonathan Coleman

**SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP** — 1. Willie Morris, 2. Amy Trout, 3. Ashley Craun

##### MARKET LAMB PAIRS

###### Class 1, 190-205 lbs.

1. A. Trout, BG FFA; 2. N. Nycum, BM FFA; 3. J. Hinton, BM FFA; 4. A. Craun, FD FFA; 5. B. Napier, RLC 4-H

**Class 2, 210-215 lbs.**  
1. B. Shreckhise, WW 4-H; 2. K. Roller, WW 4-H; 3. D. Grimm, RHS FFA; 4. Mo. Huffer, LM 4-H; 5. Mic. Huffer, LM 4-H

**Class 3, 215-220 lbs.**  
1. C. Harris, ML 4-H; 2. L. Ratcliffe, BG FFA; 3. R. Croft, WW 4-H; 4. J. Shiflett, FD FFA; 5. A. Hinton, RLC 4-H

**Class 4, 220-225 lbs.**  
1. Jo. Roller, FD FFA; 2. J. Botkin, BM FFA; 3. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 4. B. Vess, BM FFA; 5. J. Coleman, ML 4-H

**Class 5, 235-250 lbs.**  
1. Ja. Roller, FD FFA; 2. A. Hemp, BM FFA; 3. M. Croft, FD FFA; 4. R. Riley, BM FFA; 5. A. Johnston, ML 4-H

**GRAND CHAMPION** — Jason Roller  
**RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION** — Amy Trout

**HOG SHOW RESULTS**  
**MARKET HOG SINGLES**

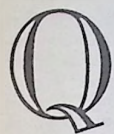
**Class 1, Lightweight**  
1. W. Begoon, WW 4-H; 2. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 3. S. Nycum, BG FFA; 4. C. Curry, BG FFA; 5. D. Stoutamyer, BG FFA

**Class 2, Heavy-lightweight**  
1. T. Lawson, BG FFA; 2. W. Begoon, WW 4-H; 3. J. Riley, LJ 4-H; 4. D. Gayhart, NR 4-H; 5. E. Curry, NR 4-H

**Class 3, Light-middleweight**



# Believe in what works for you



What do you recommend for a bit? I am a green rider with an older horse. My husband wants me to switch to a hackamore, but I don't think I should (after what I've been reading), because it seems crazy to retrain my horse to a hackamore.

Kathy Coggeshall, Sandwich, Mass.

I sense from your letter that you don't want to change. And if you are not looking for a change, then everything must be all right. That is my first reaction. People who are changing constantly from bit to bit are usually looking for some kind of result, whatever it may be. I guess I would like to explain how bits work in a very basic way, because I respect the fact that you are "green."

I spoke with Kim Harris at Bit 'n Bridle, and she explained that a hackamore is a "bit-less" bridle. It works on the bridge of my nose with pressure to which I respond. I learn that if I stop, the pressure is released. Pressure is applied as the rider commands me to halt.

There are different types of bits and they work on the bones of my lower jaw with pressure. I have a sensitive area there and I respond to the pressure quickly. However, misuse and over used of the pressure can cause me to become "deadened" to the discomfort. I don't give the required response

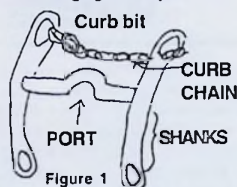
as quickly or as effectively. That is when the rider and trainer begin to increase the magnitude of the pressure. But one fault I would like to discuss here on the part of the rider is the "hanging on" with hands.

In a Western curb bit, there are two areas to concern yourself with in understanding severity. The first is the port or curved part of the bar that goes through my mouth. (See Fig. 1) The higher the port, the more severe the bit. It applies pressure on the roof of my mouth as well as the bones of my lower jaw. The second consideration is that of the shanks. When the rider draws back on the reins, the shanks apply pressure on the curb chain in a vise-like way under my chin and on my lower jaw. The LONGER the shanks, the more SEVERE the bit.

In Fig. 2 which shows a snaffle bit, the part that determines the severity are the bars. The wider the bars, the softer the bit, the narrower, the more severe.

Let me explain severity. I am a 1,000-pound animal when fit. After

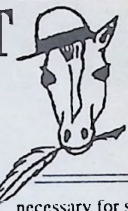
training and conditioning I feel pretty darn good and cocky sometimes. It's not that I don't have respect and love for my rider, it's just that sometimes when I'm heading for a fence, and I'm on a timed course, and the adrenalin is pumping, sometimes the only thing that I'm concerned with is going for it. I can forget to listen to my rider. And the only control my rider has over a moving, powerful beast like myself is the bit in my mouth and the pressure of the leg against my sides.



Severe bits tend to even the odds between us. I have had severe bits in my mouth on a cross country course, but in the dressage ring I'm just fine in a snaffle. It all depends on the horse, what it's doing at the time, the rider's control, balanced out with how prepared we are.

If you are resorting to more severe bits for control, which I do realize is necessary for some horses, then you are basically losing some of your control. I am going to stress BACK TO BASICS!

## I.B. HOOFINIT Horse Sense



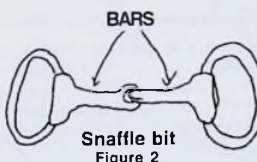
Transitions, Balance, and Suppling exercises. Transitions build a firm communication base between rider and horse through repetition, teaching rider and horse about each other's habits and creating responsiveness to each other's needs.

Balance helps build the horse's

ing ability necessary for so much that is asked of him today. Leg yielding, shoulder ins, and ground bending exercises are examples.

So in answering your question, I would suggest the following: If you are happy and your horse is happy, then what is the problem? Don't change because someone else's opinion on what works for them means it will work for you too. This is not always true. We are all different, situations are different. And each one has to be worked out in its own way. Believe in what works for you.

I.B. Hoofinit is a fictitious horse character developed by Chris Marrs as a service to teach horse care. Questions to I.B. Hoofinit may be submitted to P.O. Box 2955, Staunton, Va. 24402. Questions become the property of Chris Marrs, and answers are subject to editor approval. Information provided in this column is meant to be taken as general advice. Each horse, rider, owner, and situation reflect different problems. I.B.'s answers are meant to be informative and enjoyable, but not binding. Common sense in any situation is a must.



confidence in himself and his ability to carry the weight of a rider in different situations. Cavelletti and ground poles are great for this.

Suppling exercises stretch the horse, eliminating stiffness so that he is better prepared as an athlete for whatever is asked of him at any given time. It is like doing ballet at the same time you are weight lifting. Building muscle can be great for strength and endurance, but without a little ballet to supple your horse, he won't have the turn-

## The Hitching Post

A business directory to area equine supplies and services

## Bradley Insurance Services

Farm Insurance available for the Equine Industry



## Waynesboro Tack & Supply

English/Western Tack  
Horse Supplies

Take Va. 254 (Woodrow Wilson Parkway) east.  
Turn left onto Va. 608, then right onto Va. 785

Rt. 1, Box 131-D  
Waynesboro, VA 22980  
1-800-883-8277

Dwight Mongold  
540/363-TACK  
(8225)



## co-op

Your complete equine supply dealer

TACK  
CLOTHING

BOOTS  
FEED

Staunton • Waynesboro • Weyers Cave • Fairfield • Scottsville

## HORSESHOEING

Professional Workmanship  
Service is Warranted

540/248-2836

Farrier  
W.J. Tomlinson



Purina Dealer

DRAFT FEED & SUPPLY, INC.



Two Great Locations!

Route 340 South  
P.O. Box 621  
Stuarts Draft, Va. 24477  
540/337-0408

Route 631  
Old Buena Vista Road  
Lexington, Va. 24450  
540/463-5963

"Where Quality & Service Go Hand in Hand."

Augusta Country and I.B. Hoofinit have teamed up to offer an advertising service for equine businesses. To promote your service call Chris Marrs, 885-3579 for special rates.

## Engleside Wholesale & Western Wear

Rt. 2, Box 100  
U.S. 11 Mt. Sidney, Virginia 24467

DISTRIBUTOR FOR ENGLISH & WESTERN RIDING APPAREL  
COUNTRY/WESTERN DANCE APPAREL & INDIAN JEWELRY

Graham & Nonnie Engleman  
OWNER

1-540-248-6713



# It ain't over 'til it's over

Down on the farm we're thinking about baseball. Not because we're fans, because we're not really that crazy about the game. We're thinking about baseball, because that famous quote, "It ain't over 'til it's over," is attributed to professional baseball's legendary Yogi Berra.

Berra played baseball — catcher, we think — then later managed, we think, the New York Mets, we think. Like I said, we don't know too much about baseball, but we do know that Yogi Berra played baseball and, on one occasion when his team was facing a seemingly unachievable come-from-behind win, said, "It ain't over 'til it's over." Berra no doubt was trying to get his players to play to their greatest potential right up until the last strike of the last out in the game's last inning. And Berra was right. It ain't over 'til it's over.

As applicable as it is to baseball, Berra's sentiment is reflective of a couple things which we play through on the farm every year — winter and lambing.

So much has been said about the winter just past, that I risk redundancy to tack on any more. Certainly Berra's quote, "It ain't over 'til it's over," is reflective of what the winter of 95-96 was like. Some of us are reluctant even now, as Memorial Day approaches, to say of this winter, "It's over." Indeed, many farmers fed livestock well into May due to cool conditions and slow growing pastures. In fact, some folks down on the farm were so conditioned to the practice of the daily feeding regimen that they didn't even notice daytime temperatures were hovering in the 80s, and the grass was greening up.

"Will you please stop feeding the cows?" I implored my father one day.

"Ahhh," he started, "they still need a little something."

A few days later...

"Will you PLEASE stop feeding the cows?" I begged again.

"Ahhh," he started, "they still need a little something."

And yet again, a few days later...

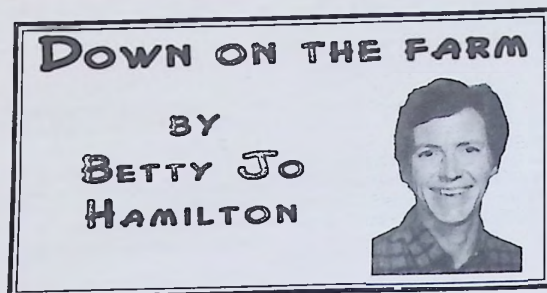
"Will you PLE-E-E-E-ASE stop feeding the cows?" I pleaded.

"Ahhh," he said, "I believe they need a little something."

"Feed on then," said I to myself knowing that the winter feed supply was growing shorter and shorter, and the lack thereof would more than likely be the determining factor of whether or not the cows "still needed a little something."

As for lambing, the saying, "It ain't over 'til it's over," is more appropriate for this annual ovine routine than it is to batting a ball around a diamond-shaped field.

Each year I go through the same management practices with the ewes. Their breeding season is controlled so I know the exact dates



when lambs are due to begin arriving and the exact dates after which no more lambs can possibly make their entry into the world. My "pre-game strategy" — if you will — changed a little bit this past year in that I decided to break the ewes into smaller groups. It was hoped this would make lambing time more manageable for the shepherd than it had been in previous years, i.e. having 110 ewes due to lamb over

way to keep separate and apart from one another the groups of ewes timed to deliver at different intervals. For the first "three innings" — if you will — of this past lambing season this was quite simple to do. Ewes which weren't due to lamb until January or March were simply left out to pasture. Fall lambing ewes were brought in close to the barn for the usual lambing observation and care.



A late arrival among the flock proved "it ain't over 'til it's over." All ears and legs, this fellow will have to do some growing to catch up with his ovine counterparts.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

a three-month period from late January to late March vs. synchronizing 50 ewes to lamb in November, breeding 30 ewes to lamb in late January to early March, and another 30 due to lamb from early March to mid April.

Yes, the second scheme sounds more complicated, and it is from a breeding management standpoint. But from a lambing management standpoint, it proved to be almost enjoyable with the exception of that late January-February lambing period. The winter of 95-96 has convinced this shepherd to eliminate January-February lambing from the schedule altogether, a decision which actually has me looking forward to next January and February when I won't have to worry about lambs coming when the weather is so adverse.

Another factor which must be considered about the latter scheme of lambing is that there must be a

Moving into the top of the fourth inning, things continued to be manageable with no lambs due to arrive during early January's grand slam snowfall. Unfortunately, the slugfest of snow did cause mass confusion on one occasion when all three groups of ewes got mixed into one. This meant someone had to spend considerable time sorting through the one big group trying to separate it back into the original three groups. We haven't yet decided who was responsible for the error of leaving a gate open which allowed the groups of ewes to get mixed up. But the resulting runs batted in by the intermingled ewes had the home team scrambling for a comeback.

Ultimately, only one ewe in the March lambing group could not be accounted for when the lambing game headed into the top of the seventh inning.

With only one out remaining in

the eighth inning, the home team pulled even with the lambing ewes. By mid-February, lambs had been weaned from ewes which had lambed in the fall. These ewes were sent across the road — put on waivers, if you will — to other pasture effectively eliminating them from the game.

In the bottom of the eighth, ewes which had yet to lamb were evaluated to determine which would not lamb. These ewes were sent to market as management determined it would not renew their contracts for another season.

The top of the ninth left only 27 replacement ewes to lamb beginning in early March. Each of these successively stepped up to the plate hitting singles or doubles which were easily fielded. The home team held its own, and by March 23 it appeared that the lambing game had reached its climax with all replacement ewes having delivered their lambs.

In fact, I was surprised they had accomplished this feat. I couldn't recall a year in which all the replacement ewes had delivered their lambs within a 30-day period. Replacements are usually slower to get bred than mature ewes, so I usually anticipate their breeding season will by necessity be longer which requires that rams be left with them longer.

But March 23 arrived, the one remaining replacement ewe delivered her lamb, and as there were no others left to lamb I proclaimed, "It's over." I was as surprised as anybody.

"I guess you're busy with lambing," more than one person asked me in early April.

"No, no," I replied. "All mine finished up in March. I'm through, thank heavens."

Indeed, I was being as truthful as I could be. Since all the ewes had in one way or another systematically eliminated themselves from the lambing game, I had every reason to believe the game was over. All that was left to do was pull the tarp over the playing field and turn out the stadium lights.

"What is that?" I asked my brother-in-law as I pointed out across the meadow to the pasture across the road, one (finally) beautiful spring afternoon.

"What is what?" he said, his eyes following the direction of my finger tip.

"There," I said. "Over there on the hill. See those sheep. WHAT is that? It looks like something there with that ewe. See that one standing just up the hill from the others by herself?"

"Yeah, I do see something, but I can't tell what it is from here," he said.

"What IS that?" I said again, disbelief combined with yet even more disbelief. "What is THAT?" I said,

for the fourth broken record time. And then answering myself, "It looks like a lamb."

Just then the ewe moved off to one side and a small dark speck became clearly visible on the hillside.

"When are they due to lamb?" my brother-in-law asked.

"They're not," I said. "Come on, we better go see about it."

Upon investigation we did indeed find a baby lamb, evidently from that one ewe which had managed to blend into the wrong group during the January grand slam mixup.

"What's wrong with its ears?" my brother-in-law asked as if he were looking at a two-headed snake in a circus sideshow. I had to admit the lamb's ears did appear a bit large.

"Looks like it's part donkey," I said. In fact the lamb appeared to be all ears and all legs. I can't recall seeing a newborn lamb with ears as big or legs as long as the one my brother-in-law and I were assessing on that day which was, by the way, April 22 — a full month after I thought I'd finished the lambing game.

So the ewe I had looked for so hard back in January when all the groups got mixed up finally could hide herself no longer. Her lamb gave her up. Bottom of the ninth, bases loaded, score tied, two outs, three balls, two strikes, one more pitch, and the batter swings. A pop fly into centerfield... the ball goes up, up, up... the fielder back pedals... he loses the ball in the lights... it's almost to the fence... he leaps... he stretches... stretches... stretches... THWACK. The ball hits firmly in the pocket of his glove, and the game is over.

"It ain't over 'til it's over," as Yogi Berra said once to his players.

Later, I looked on my calendar to see what kind of notations I had made about the ewes' delivery dates. And there it was, in black and white, clearly written on the April 22 page, in my own handwriting, "Replacement ewes due to stop lambing."

"Don't you know when your lambs are coming?" my brother-in-law had asked me as we gathered up the ewe and her lamb and moved them back across the road with others of similar type.

"Yes, I know," I said. "I thought I knew. They got mixed up in January, and there was one I never could find. I guess that's her. I wondered how I managed to get finished with those replacements in a month's time. There's always one that holds out until the end."

Sure enough, there she was. The last ewe, with the last lamb, on the last possible day lambs could arrive. Like the man said, "It ain't over 'til it's over."

Down on the farm we're thinking about things that aren't over until they over... like baseball games, winter, and lambing. Maybe Yogi Berra was an outstanding professional baseball player and manager. But he could have used all the same lines and still been a pretty good weatherman or shepherd. —



# It's done, and that's all

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

Having to get the sheep sheared is an annual and much dreaded chore. There's really no way to approach the event with a positive outlook.

"We're shearing sheep on the first Saturday in May," I told my brother-in-law in early March.

"First Saturday in May? All right. I'll be there," he said.

I had anticipated a response which included some sentiment of displeasure over the approach of the event and queried him about this.

"Well, it's got to be done, doesn't it?" he said.

"Yes, it's got to be done," I had replied.

"Well, I'll be there," he said. "I hate doing it. But I'll be there."

And so it was with the usual dread that we approached the annual task.

The day arrived, and there were numerous complications. One helper called in sick. One helper had a prior commitment. It rained only an hour before the shearing was to commence. Some of the sheep had been shut up overnight, others were left standing out in the rain. Sheep cannot be sheared when wet.

"I told you to shut those sheep up," my brother-in-law said.

"I did what I could," I replied. "I don't have room to shut them all up."

"Yes, you do. You could have shut some back under the barn, some in the stables. You've got plenty of room."

"Well, I didn't shut them up," I said.

"Well, I told you to," he said.

"Well, I didn't, so just dry up about it," I said, trying to close the argument.

"I told you to shut them up," he said again in defiance.

Having to move the procedure indoors didn't help matters any. If there's anything worse than

you can come back later and finish if you want," I told the sheep shearers. They had an appointment with another 50 ewes at another farm for the same day. When those of ours which were dry were finished, the shearers packed up their equipment and headed off to their next appointment.

"We'll be back by 1 if the sun comes out," they said.



Once the annual shearing is done, it's hard to determine who's happier that it's over - the sheep or their caretakers. The sheep,

at any rate, can enjoy warm summer temperatures a little more without their heavy winter coats.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

shearing sheep outdoors, it's shearing sheep indoors in the confines of a dimly lit stable. The mood for the day was set. Grouching, grousing, griping, and complaining all the way, the sheep shearing commenced.

"If the sun comes out good for an hour or so, they'll dry off, and

A breezy and cool morning turned into a steamy and sunny midday. When the shearers returned, the sheep were dry.

"I told you to shut those sheep up," my brother-in-law said for the umpteenth time, underlining what I thought was a moot point and which got no response from me.

As it happened, I was not the only one who had not shut their sheep up. The other 50 ewes which were to have been sheared also had been left out overnight. They would have to reschedule their annual coiffure.

For another four hours we

included in her dowry. Unbeknownst to him, he had contracted to a lifetime's worth of sheep shearing assistance due to some cleverly worded wedding vows.

We don't usually mind doing work that has to be done. But this annual task has some particularly unpleasant aspects to it that can just barely be endured. Consider for a moment that the shearing process removes a sheep's winter coat -- a coat which it has been wearing for more than six months, in all kinds of weather -- snow, rain, mud, snow, rain, mud -- indoors and out.

It is a coat which is between the sheep and everything it encounters -- mud, manure, bedding, mud, manure, bedding. Add to all of this the sheep's production of lanolin into the fleece. It's probably not possible to imagine the state of a sheep's fleece upon removal, but -- suffice it to say -- if you think about it long enough it can be quite disgusting.

The day, it seemed, would never end. With two shearers working as fast as they could, with my brother-in-law catching each of the sheep and delivering it to its respective "barber," with my father packing the wool into bags, with me worming the ewes and marking them, with my brother-in-law and me gathering up the fleeces and carrying them to the packer, one by one the ordeal was finally complete.

The shearers packed up their gear. The wool bags were tied shut and moved to the granary for storage. The wool rack, to be dismantled later, was moved near its storage area. Gates used to channel the sheep into the shearing stable were returned to the garage. Finally the end of a very long day had been reached... sore backs, clothes soaked with lanolin, sheep urine and manure, arms scratched from nettles and cockleburs in the wool, scratches burning from the lanolin... finally the end of a very, very long day had been reached.

"I told you to shut those sheep up," my brother-in-law said -- again.

"Well, I didn't," I said -- again.

There's really only one thing to be said about this year's annual sheep shearing. It is the thought which occurred to me when the very long day had finally ended.

"It's done, and that's all," I said to myself when we had finished. No bells, no whistles, no frills. It has to be done. It has to be done every year. Just getting it done is an odious task for everyone involved. So for this year, at least, it's done. And that's all. --

**SPECIALIZING IN FARM TRACTOR  
AND TRUCK TIRE SERVICE**

**BRUCE'S MOBILE  
TIRE SERVICE**

540/377-9297 SHOP  
540/460-2285 MOBILE PHONE  
540/887-6910 VOICE MAIL

Rt. 671  
Spottswood, Va. 24475

*Owned & Operated by Bruce Holden*



**Federated  
Auto Parts**  
**FISHER  
Auto Parts**  
PROFESSIONALS

Serving the needs of Augusta County  
since 1929.

<b>Staunton</b> 542 Greenville Ave.	<b>Staunton</b> 2216 W. Beverley St.	<b>Churchville</b> Rt. 250
<b>Craigsville</b> Craig St.	<b>Verona</b> Rt. 612 E.	<b>Stuarts Draft</b> 101 Greenville Rd.
<b>Waynesboro</b> 1220 W. Broad St.		

**Staunton  
Metal  
Recyclers**



Full service recycler  
buying copper, brass,  
aluminum, glass, tin  
cans and iron

1-800-887-3851  
885-1569  
511 Bridge St.  
STAUNTON

**CLEAR SPAN STEEL FRAMES**

Barns -- Riding Arenas -- Hay Storage  
Machinery -- Shed Shop



•20' to 180' Wide, Unlimited  
Height

•Complete Building Packages  
Available

•Licensed Contractor Discounts

Call Today For Frame Prices

540/886-5291

or

1-800-322-2218

**PERKA OF VIRGINIA**



# Schoolhouse News

## Craigsville Elementary students spend year soaring and swooping with birds

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CRAIGSVILLE — "A Festival of Feathered Friends" brought to a close a year-long study of birds by Craigsville Elementary School students. Proud parents, faculty, and guests filled the school's gym to enjoy an April evening of original song, dance, and poetry as presented by kindergarten through fifth-grade students.

The multifaceted ornithology project was the brainchild of second-grade teacher Carolyn Ringgold and Mary Baldwin College folk dance instructor Irene Sarnelle. Last September, these ladies put their heads together, let their imaginations soar to the sky, and hammered out an interdisciplinary proposal centered around the study of real and fantasy birds. The mystical elwedritche bird of German folklore, introduced by Mrs. Sarnelle, was the inspirational thread weaving language arts, fine arts, and science together.

The proposal, "Weaving the Fabric of Our Heritage," took flight after being awarded a \$1,000 grant from the Valley Alliance for Education. Additional financial support came from local businesses, organizations, and individuals.

The curriculum provided "many enriching activities," states Ms. Ringgold, with intentions of giving students "an awareness and appreciation for their environment as well as a sense of community pride."

Over the year's course, numerous guests visited the school and shared their talents and expertise as they related to ornithology. Bonnie Hohn, associate professor of biology at MBC and Gary

Diver, assistant professor of physics at the college visited the school and brought along Ms. Hohn's cockatoos. Ms. Hohn intertwined tidbits of bird information between the antics and chattering of her three bird-brained comedians, Admiral, Cramer, and Pocohontas.

Other live bird presentations included a visit from Julie Reel accompanied by wild birds from the Wildlife Center. Sportsman Earl Shriver brought his five birds of prey and discussed how he uses his birds to hunt. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries came and discussed wild turkeys and endangered species.

Students had the opportunity to watch chainsaw artist Don Blanchard create an eagle from a wood stump, hear tales from folklorist John Heatwole; and create bird block prints under the instruction of Ludean Withers. Music and song workshops revolving around birds were provided to students throughout the year by Craigsville's music director Glenda Deaton and accordion player Ron Tomocik of Denver, Colo.

Former art teacher Margaret Miller added her creative genius to the bird plan and directed the making of fantasy birds using recyclable materials. Students sculpted

papier-mâché into colorful bird masks, bird marionettes and an assortment of freestanding birds. These marvelously imaginative birds decorated the school's halls and classrooms, and by their existence told a story of how much the students had learned about birds, their anatomies, habitats, and ability to fly. On the night of the festival, selected students performed the Elwedritche Dance, choreographed by Mrs. Sarnelle and accompanied by Tomocik on the accordion. Much to the crowd's delight, the elwedritche made a special appearance and joined the students in the dance.

A wall hanging composed of 196 squares bearing each student's name and bird artwork plus a square submitted by principal Jerry Zaccaria was revealed to the parents and guests. The spirit of the project was embodied in the wall hanging as each stitch laced the experiences of Craigsville's school children to a community with a rich heritage. The festivities were brought to a close with the assembly uniting their voices to sing a German spring song which translated said, "The whole flock of birds wishes you a happy year full of good health and blessings." —



Bonnie Hohn, professor at Mary Baldwin College, pauses for a few moments with her cockatoos, Admiral, Cramer, and Pocohontas, during activities recently at Craigsville Elementary School.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

## Gap students cooperate in Craigsville project



Joshua Sprouse, far left, a first-grade student at Craigsville Elementary School, works with C.J. Jones, a Buffalo Gap High School junior. Jerry McLain, far right, also a Gap junior, helps Candace Stephenson, a CES first grader. Gap students assisted CES students with birdhouse construction.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

By PENNY PLEMMONS

SWOOP — "I'm thinking of a large bird that is black all over with a white bald head and flies high in the sky," said first grader Jeremy Shiplett to his classmates. "Give up?" Of course, the answer is a bald eagle.

Visiting the woodshop at Buffalo Gap High School, two first-grade classes from Craigsville Elementary School occupied themselves by playing the "I'm thinking of a bird" game before launching into birdhouse production with Gap's technology education instructor Ed O'Connor and his seventh-period construction class.

For Betty Yoder's and Mary Sue Traxler's first graders, this project was a continuation of their year-long study of birds at CES. Mrs. Yoder stated that this enterprise was "a cooperative learning, hands-on experience" with older students teaching younger students the "how to's" of building a small birdhouse.

Donning safety glasses, the 29 apprentices received a bird's eye view and exhibition of radial, table, band, and cut off saws.

Bright-eyed Bryan Lucas, of Mrs. Traxler's class, wanted to see the machinery in operation "just one more time." Ninth grader Steven Churchill encouraged young Bryan by reminding him that one day he would be in high school and be able to operate the machinery himself. As the afternoon slipped by, sounds of hammering replaced

the whirring noises of the various saws. Elementary students, guided by the hands and knowledge of high school students, assembled the prepared wood into the final product.

"Coming to Gap has been one of the highlights in our study of birds. The children are so proud that they built their very own birdhouse," Mrs. Traxler said.

"I hope that our shop class will do this sort of thing again," said Gap junior Tim Rankin. —

Carnivals

Birthdays

**DIXIE PONY RIDES**

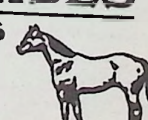
WAGON RIDES

CARSON & BRENDA

540/943-3873



Company Picnics



Fairs



# German 'elwedritche' is forerunner of American 'snipe'

By PENNY PLEMMONS

You feel honored that as the new kid in town, you have been invited to go hunting with the coolest kid on the block. As you approach the designated meeting place you notice that Mr. Cool has also invited another guest, his best friend. They are arguing about who is going to hold the bag. You arrive on the scene and Mr. Cool whimsically says to his friend, "Since he's the new kid, we should let him hold the bag." The two argue a bit more and then agree you are the best candidate and hand you a large burlap sack.

You have no idea what the bag is for, but you sense that a great privilege has been bestowed upon you. As the sun falls behind the mountain, the three of you enter the woods. You notice that the other two fellows have flashlights. You didn't think to bring one, but as you glance skyward you catch a glimpse of a rising full moon and figure that will be light enough.

Your new-found friends enthusiastically tell you about the creature you are stalking. Their excitement is contagious. This is definitely your lucky day. You get to be the one to bag this thing. You have become so absorbed in this adventure that you haven't realized how deep into the woods you have traveled.

Finally, Mr. Cool says, "Shh!" You strain to hear what he hears. "This is definitely the place," he whispers. The other friend nods in agreement. This is your big moment. You crouch down on the ground holding the sack open as wide as it will go.

Your friends have tiptoed into the surrounding brush in an effort to shoo the prey straight into the sack. All you have to do is snatch the varmint up in the bag and claim victory.

Your body is tense. Your senses keen as you wait and wait and wait. The breeze sends a chill down your spine. The moonlight is obscured by the clouds.

There is still no catch and no sound or sight of your buddies. Truth painfully sets in. You've been tricked. You have been the victim of a "snipe hunt."

"I first remember hearing about the snipe hunt from my son and his friends, and I thought to myself, 'this sounds similar to an elwedritche hunt,'" stated Rosa Kesterson in her German accent. The elwedritche is a magical bird from folklore that originated from the Rheinland-Pfalz in Germany. Its spelling and pronunciation vary depending on the locale.

According to Mrs. Kesterson, a haughty city lad would visit a farming community and lord his superior state in life over the lowly farmers. The locals, determined to teach the city dweller a lesson, would interest him in hunting elwedritche and revel in the braggart's bruised pride when he would stumble from the woods the next morning still "holding the bag."

Bob Larson in his book, "It's all

your Pfalz," describes the fantasy bird as having six legs with webbed feet, prominent eyes and a long pointed beak. Other tales describe the bird with the ability to fly backwards. Stories revolving around the elwedritche are as numerous as the day is long. Mrs. Kesterson, who is a historic interpreter on the German farmsite at the Museum of American Frontier Culture, states that the elwedritche stories can be "a little scary, crude, elusive, or whatever the storyteller wants them to be." She recalls reading elwedritche stories as a child and having "the daylights" scared out of her.

Mrs. Kesterson recently returned to her homeland in Germany, and visited the Klemmhof Fountain in Neustadt. The fountain mist sprays over sculptured elwedritche birds, each one different from the next.

The elwedritche played a big part this year in Craigsville Elementary School's study of birds. The students created their own imaginary

birds using a variety of media. They wrote stories, poems, and choreographed dances around the elwedritche theme. Earlynn Miller, professor of dance at James Madison University, commissioned Stauntonian Gwynne Walsh to make an elwedritche costume. Since its creation, the elwedritche has made a number of appearances throughout the area, including Craigsville Elementary School's "Festival of Feathers and Friends." Dr. Miller states that the bird "has a social calendar that rivals most people's!"

Those who are serious about the folklore surrounding the elwedritche, are members of the Elwedritche Association, subscribe to the Elwedritche newsletter and even drink elwedritche wine at the Elwedritche Festival.

For those who might be skeptical about the bird's existence, Dr. Miller reminds that, "Everybody has seen an elwedritche. And if you haven't you would never dare admit it publicly."



## Augusta County students attend camp

By BECCA SCHNEIDER

MONTEBELLO — Eleven talented and gifted students from Beverley Manor Middle School joined other students from Stuarts Draft and Stewart Middle schools for the Augusta County school's annual environmental camp which began May 1 at Camp Blue Ridge near Montebello.

After settling in at the camp, students convened in their first of 10 sessions for some get acquainted exercises. The next morning, early risers were treated to an "early bird" hike. Then after breakfast, the whole crew started a two-and-a-half mile vigorous hike up Crabtree Falls. It was a long, but worthwhile hike. The view from the top was incredible.

George Savage, a seventh-grade teacher at BMMS, led a session on "survival and water skills" following the Crabtree hike. Campers learned in this session how to gather water with the fewest resources available, how to start a fire without matches and even what to do in case of an emergency.

Following the survival session, a workshop on orienteering was conducted. Participants learned the importance of reading a compass accurately,

how to hold one correctly, and how to find the way by playing a challenging game.

Also on Thursday, students learned about the forest. Students compared chunks of wood to see the similarities and differences. Later they bored trees to see how old the trees were by determining the numbers of rings in the tree.

An "owl prow" was the featured event for that evening. Students learned many different owl calls by listening to many recordings and imitating the sounds. Prowling around in the dark set the stage for stories around the campfire by Mack Swift.

The third and final day at camp was spent investigating the water quality in the Tyce River. Each group of students found its own section in the river and started testing the pH and dissolved oxygen levels. Students also determined the health of the river by identifying the different aquatic organisms living there.

Students agreed that the environmental adventure was well worth the mosquito bites, poison oak and ivy and the tiresome hikes. Most students expressed a desire to return to the camp for a similar experience.

Becca Schneider is a seventh-grade student at Beverley Manor Middle School.

In photo at left, Augusta County Talented and Gifted students gather at the top of Crabtree Falls for an environmental camp.

Photo by Betty Gatewood

Safety is always a phone call away!

**CELLULARONE®**



The biggest name in Cellular/Mobile communications offers you safety at your fingertips no matter where you are in the Valley or across the country.

Call Karen Wright today!  
**480-0441**

330-6 Statler Crossing, Staunton, Virginia

**Dick Firebaugh -- Real Estate, Inc.**

Joe Glover

540/885-0558, home

540/885-3729, work

Spring Hill area  
\$137,900



Nearly seven fenced rolling acres minutes from town with spacious brick ranch, paved drive, landscaped yard, luscious garden and terrific mountain view. Home offers maintenance-free exterior, full walk-out basement and basement garage. Offering includes 40' by 44' pole barn with water, 50' by 12' poultry house, fruit and nut trees, grape arbor, mature trees and shrubs.



# WES students pull strings of imaginary creations

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

**FISHERSVILLE** — Cinderella married Cool Man. Farmer Brown performed the ceremony. And the couple's best friends sang at the wedding. Fantasy, you say? Perhaps. But the occasion was as real as the students who created the marionettes which acted out this story and others at Wilson Elementary School recently.

Using little more than tubes from pants hangers, old clothing remnants and tennis balls, glue, and string, Wilson students created their puppets during an artist-in-residence program at the school. Led by Staunton puppeteer Celia Collins, the program was funded through the school's Talented and Gifted program, WES Parent-Teacher Association, and the Principal's Instructional Fund, according to Donna Semple, Wilson's library media specialist.

"We try to make plans every year to do a residency," Semple said. "Celia performed last year at the school, and we invited her back to do the residency. The idea is to get a professional to come in and perform and teach about their particular area of fine arts."

Semple said residency programs give students an opportunity they might not have otherwise.

"We don't have art instructors (for elementary students) in the Augusta County schools," Semple said. "Our teachers just are not trained in drama and art. The residency gives students a chance to meet and work with a professional."

The residency program at Wilson stretched out over a two-week period. During the program's first week, 21 Wilson students identified as talented in drama made marionettes. Parent volunteers worked with the students as they created marionettes from no more than scrap. Old tennis balls were used for heads. Cardboard tubes from pants hangers were used for legs and arms which were joined together with pieces of muslin.

Hands and feet were rocks — used to add weight to the figures — wrapped in muslin. Pieces of fabric cut from worn out clothing were used to dress the marionettes. Add a little yarn for the hair, and the marionettes were almost ready

for their debuts. Materials used to make the marionettes were chosen for a specific reason.

"The main point is you don't have to buy everything," Collins said. "The major goal is to have children realize they can be creative, they can make things and don't have to go to the store to buy something to have something wonderful."

Once the body of the marionette was complete, the students found they only needed to attach strings which created figures capable of movement and emotion.

Working with groups of students in small numbers, Collins helped each one learn how to manipulate the marionettes. Before long the stringed figures were walking, shaking hands, bowing, and nodding yes and no. A bit more instruction and Collins helped the students learn how to make their marionettes show emotions — nervous, happy, and sad. Students wasted little time in learning how to bring their creations to life. And each marionette was as unique as its creator.

There was Super Dude, Gabrielle the veterinarian, Dopey the basketball player, Molly the school girl, Knight of the Square Table, Al the dragon, Sitting Flower the Indian princess, Merlin, Batman, Cinderella, Farmer Brown, and Cool Man.

"Puppets become characters," Collins said of the students' creations. "They're really just extensions of ourselves. It's very important that the puppet speak. The puppet will tell us what it wants to be."

In the residency's second week, Collins performed with her marionettes before the Wilson student body. The next two days found Collins leading workshops with students who had made marionettes. Students were challenged to create their own dramas using marionettes which they had constructed. On the residency's closing day, students performed with their marionettes during an assembly of the Wilson student body.

A 30-year veteran of the dramatic arts, Collins began her career as an actress and later became a costumer.

"I retired from costuming, because I felt I was just repeating myself," she says. Her stage and production experience prepared

her for the eventual career change to puppeteering.

"I was all primed for this but didn't know it," Collins said. She recalled making marionettes and performing with them as a young girl.

"I made puppets when I was a little girl, and I've only been making them again for about five years," she said. "I was an actress and costumer in the theater, then one day I said, 'I can put it all together.' It was from that moment that Collins decided to return to her 'little girl fantasy' and pursue a second career as a puppeteer.

Today Collins performs a one-woman show using 24 marionettes of her own creation in three plays and one variety show. She has written the scripts for each of her plays and has also written songs used in the plays. Performances have taken her to schools and libraries throughout Virginia and New Jersey. She also has appeared at First Night celebrations, museums, and hospitals.

"If I hadn't done it as a child, I wouldn't have any creative pool to draw from," she says. "I want to make sure that any child I come in contact with has this experience that could be a resource later in life."

Although she had worked with children in creating marionettes before, Wilson's program was Collins' first school residency.

"My basic philosophy is in the doing is the knowing," she said. "As you try something, it's about problem solving, and one thing leads to another. You try

not to worry about the end product. The process is the thing that's most important. Process is important, not presentation."

So it was a confident Cool Man who asked Cinderella to be his bride. Their best friends literally leaped at the chance to sing at the wedding. When asked to perform the ceremony, Farmer Brown at first declined. With much begging and crying and pleading by Cinderella, Cool Man, and company, Farmer Brown finally agrees to marry the couple. Farmer Brown takes center stage.

"Cinderella, do you take Cool Man to be your husband?" he asks.

"I do," says the bride and nods.

"Cool Man, do you take Cinderella to be your wife?" Farmer Brown says.

"I do," says the groom solemnly.

Farmer Brown instructs Cool Man to kneel and present Cinderella with a ring, then she is instructed to do the same. Their friends sing a fervent love song.

"I now pronounce you husband and wife," Farmer Brown says. "You may kiss the bride." Cool Man gives Cinderella a light kiss on the cheek. And, as the story goes, they lived happily ever after. —



Cinderella, seated, considers a marriage proposal from Cool Man. Puppeteers are Hamilton Stone, left, and Andre Jenkins who were among students participating in a marionette workshop held recently at Wilson Elementary School. Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

## SHERANDO ROSES

Old Garden Roses  
Grown on their own roots  
Sold in Containers

Open Fri., Sat., Mon., 94  
Sun, 1-5 April thru Oct.

540/942-1617  
Rt. 1 Box 467  
Lyndhurst, VA 22952

## VISTA GREENHOUSES

Rt. 42N & Rt. 728,  
Stover Shop Road,  
Churchville, Va. 24421

### Specializing In Indoor Plants

Open Fri. 1-6; Sat. 12:30-4  
**337-6957**

## VAL-PAK ON THE OUTSIDE MEANS SMART VALUES ON THE INSIDE!

Look for the blue Val-Pak envelope in your mailbox this month! It's packed with valuable savings from merchants all over your neighborhood. So, you don't have to go out of your way to save money.



Look for your Val-Pak envelope in Augusta County on May 24 with valuable offers from Buds Unlimited Florist, M.J. Design, Animal Health Clinic, Shenandoah Acres, Augusta Rehabilitation, Mark Martin's Auto World, Medicine Shoppe, Ambassador Carpet Cleaning, Merry Mads, Surratt Tire, Dr. Gene Pauncic, El Puerto, Nautilus.

**PIRELLI UNIROVAL**

New Market, VA  
477-3171  
896-7717

Best Tire Selector

in the Valley

**ROSEN & SONS, INC.**  
Alignment Specialists  
Bob Rosen  
C.C. Rosen

and more

Mt. Crawford, VA  
234-Tire (8473)  
1-800-296-8473



# Electronic 'baby' helps student understand parent's responsibilities

By SUE SIMMONS

FISHERSVILLE — "Hush lil' baby don't say word, Papa's gonna buy you a mockin' bird."

Willie Beverage, didn't have to buy a mockingbird or a diamond ring, but now he knows what it means to try to hush a baby.

Beverage, a senior at Wilson Memorial High School, recently participated in "Baby Think It Over,"

part of the Child Development curriculum taught by Roena Barbare.

Each student got custody of Baby Think It Over for two full days and had to be her parent during that time.

"I had to feed, clothe, and bathe the doll," Beverage explained. "And when she cried I had to make her stop crying by holding it a certain way and feeding it."

A life-size, real-weight doll, Baby (Willie assures us that it is a girl) cries at random intervals for unspecified periods of time. Holding the doll upright or "feeding" it — inserting and holding a probe in the doll's back for up to 35 minutes — causes the doll to stop crying. A small computer inside the doll records how long it cried and if it was shaken, dropped or in some way mistreated.

The all-important probe is worn by the students at all times. It is attached to a tamper-proof, non-transferable hospital bracelet. As a result, only the assigned parent can quiet the doll.

"The doll has an easy, normal, and cranky mode," Beverage went on to explain, which increases or decreases the periods of calm between outbursts of loud, realistic crying.

Asked what mode the doll was set on when in his care, the Wilson senior responded honestly, "normal. I'm the one who was cranky when it woke me up at night."

The doll is in the "parent's" care

around the clock for 48 hours. It comes with a diaper bag, clothes, bottles, and a car seat-carrier. Students must manage all the accessories along with their normal school routines — carrying book bags, attending class, riding the bus, taking gym, eating lunch, hanging in the halls.

"You don't mind carrying stuff for someone else, but it feels different carrying all that stuff when you know it's yours. At first my friends laughed. They thought it was funny," Willie commented. "Then they asked me questions about it."

Willie admits to being embarrassed at first, but he wouldn't let anyone else babysit or take care of the doll. He also admits that middle-of-the-night feedings were the hardest.

"She woke me right up," Willie said of the crying doll. "And I just got up and did it (fed her), so I wouldn't have to hear her cry no more."

He admits to falling asleep while feeding the baby. "The probe would fall out, and she'd start to cry again, and it would wake me up," he said.

Mrs. Barbare prepares her students with an informative talk about the doll and the general background rules. She also sends a let-

ter home to the "grandparents" explaining the purpose of the exercise.

Students fill out a survey of their perceptions about marriage and babies before and after their experience. Willie, only one of two boys in a class of 16, volunteered to be one of the first parents. "I wanted to get it over with," he offered.

The doll caused Willie to miss the bus to the Valley Tech one day, and he admits to feeling very lonely when he was up with the doll in the middle of the night.

Once his two days were up, however, Willie felt like he had accomplished something. "I couldn't believe I did it," Willie laughed. "You never know when it's gonna cry; how long it's gonna last. You have to be ready for everything. It's not even close to a real baby, but it does begin to teach you."

Willie doesn't think two weeks would be a truer parenting experience but adds, "the more people who start using this doll, the more they'll think about having kids."

Willie's six weeks' grade will depend on how well he parented Baby Think It Over. He isn't sure what his grade is, but he is confident that he and others in the class did a good job. —



Willie Beverage, a senior at Wilson Memorial High School, holds "Baby Think It Over." The device simulates an infant which cries, needs to be fed, and have its diapers changed at unpredictable intervals.

Photo by Sue Simmons

## Unemployed rocket scientist inventor of space-age baby simulator

By SUE SIMMONS

Family life teachers once resorted to having students carry around five pound bags of flour or an uncooked egg to simulate a baby. Technology and Rick Jurmain have changed all that.

An unemployed rocket scientist who once worked for NASA's mission control, Jurmain created an infant simulator at the urging of his wife who was struck by the partial reality of eggs and flour sacks.

Baby Think It Over is the fourth generation of a simulated doll that gives teenagers an experience in the responsibilities of parenthood. The device costs \$250 and is used at Wilson High School as well as Fort Defiance, Stuarts Draft, and Buffalo Gap. —

## RHS singers put in stunning performance

By ELIZABETH NAPIER

GREENVILLE -- This year the Riverheads High School Select Singers took their first trip in many years. No one knew what to expect. So when we got to Williamsburg everyone was very nervous but also excited. We got off the buses, changed and got ready to perform. This was the first time we had performed for judges as a group, and we were hoping to do all right.

After we performed, the group was off to Virginia Beach with the band to spend the weekend. When Saturday night came, the choir expected to just receive a participation trophy, but when the announcer said first place, the students went crazy and the entire weekend was a success. Way to go RHS. ---

## RHS band excels in Fiesta-Val competition

By CHRISTINE MANLEY

GREENVILLE -- Once again the Riverheads Gladiators Band blew away its opponents, this time at the Fiesta-Val competition in Virginia Beach.

The band received superior and excellent ratings in addition to second place concert, second place drumline, first place jazz, first place parade, parade champion, and the icing on the cake, Grand Champion. Cyndi Cox received first place drum major, and Tom Taetzsch was outstanding soloist. Congratulations

also to Lynn Shafer for being awarded best director.

The RHS select choir assisted in the success of the music department, achieving first place mixed chorus.

After experiencing the thrill of victory, the band enjoyed a day on the beach and a visit to Busch Gardens. Many interesting hats were purchased, including two for Ms. Shafer and Ms. Dillon who were later "crowned." Following the success of competition, plans are being discussed for next year's excursion. ---

## ATTENTION HOME-BASED BUSINESS OWNERS

Augusta Country believes in home-based businesses, because we are one! We can help you connect with new customers. Call now and ask for an Augusta Country ad rate card. It explains not only our advertising philosophy, but also shows how you can reach out to Augusta Country's readers for only \$1 a day.

Chris Marrs  
885-3579

Jeff Ishee  
886-8477

or call toll-free at 1-800-884-8248

"Early to bed, Early to rise, Work like heck, and advertise."

Bruce Williams

Augusta Country

P.O. Box 51

Middlebrook, Va. 24459

1996

Aug. 20-24

Augusta Expoland  
Fishersville



Both indoor and outdoor exhibit space is still available.

FAIR CATALOGS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE IN VERONA AND ALL LOCATIONS OF THE AUGUSTA COOPERATIVE FARM BUREAU.

\*All entries for the 1996 Fair (except Antique Tractor and Horse pull) must be made on an official entry form which is found in the fair catalog.

For further information, call the Augusta County Fair office at 540/245-5627.

## Family portrait preservation

"We take delight in, and are skilled at, framing family memorabilia."

Mint Spring  
Frame Shop

OPEN WED. & THUR., 10AM-5PM

OTHER DAYS & EVENINGS

BY APPOINTMENT

540/337-3576

Located in Mint Spring, 4 miles past Staunton Mall on Rt. 11 south Rt. 2 Box 392 Staunton, VA 24401



# Gap FFA takes ag show on the road to Churchville Elementary School

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CHURCHVILLE -- "Food for America Day" sponsored by Future Farmers of America from Buf-



Anita Churchill, a student from Craigsville Elementary, tries out a John Deere tractor at "Food for America Day" held recently at Churchville Elementary School.

Photos by Penny Plemmons

falo Gap High School provided preschoolers through fourth graders with a hands-on opportunity to learn about the origin of America's food supply and the "farm to market" concept.

FFA members supplied the labor, animals, farm equipment and special exhibits that turned Churchville Elementary School's ballfield into a barnyard expo.

"Our goal is to educate children and the public about where our food comes from," stated Gap agriculture instructor Barry Gray.

Sporting stickers on his T-shirt that read, "I love milk," and "Beef: It's what's for dinner," Gray added: "We take for granted that the grocery store has the food we need and never stop to think about how the milk and meat got there."

The exhibits, neatly arranged in a horseshoe pattern on the ballfield, were manned by Gap students who answered questions and encouraged children to pet the animals.

The farm-to-market lesson was quickly learned when the children laid aside cartons of Shenandoah Pride milk that they had been sipping to tug and squeeze on a cow's udder and squirt a stream of milk into a pail. The children also were able to pet a lamb and then watch local farmer, Doug Riley shear a sheep.

Children were treated to a petting zoo of pigs, draft horses, llamas, calves, donkeys, dairy goats and even a few puppies. Rainbow trout, in a small aerated pool, deftly escaped the clutches of inquiring hands. And, of course, there was "Bill" the plump, wild rabbit shown by Gap student, Chris Brown.

There were chickens, pheasants, and a miniature horse to see. Chris Curry, president of Gap's FFA had his working border collie tagging around after him.

Several tractors and a four wheeler were available for children to mount and pretend to drive. And, like our ancestors before us, children

cranked the handle of a corn sheller, separating the kernel from the cob.

First time exhibitor, Westwood Animal Hospital caught on-lookers' attention with various parasites and a heart diseased by heartworm. Hospital practice manager Susan Trout interpreted for the attentive children x-rays of a dog's dislocated hip, puppies in the womb, and a safety pin lodged in a dog's stomach.

Shirley Kaufman, newcomer to the agriculture department at Gap, said, "Even though these children are young, hopefully the next time they sit down at the table they will remember where some of their food has come from."

According to Kaufman, approximately 1,200 children and adults attended the event. —



Jackie Sprouse, left, and James Craig, right, Craigsville Elementary kindergartners, take some pointers on milking a cow from Catherine Knight, a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA chapter.

## 'Project Adventure' takes students to Virginia Beach

By BETTY GATEWOOD

VIRGINIA BEACH — The outdoor education club of Beverley Manor Middle School — called Project Adventure — traveled to Virginia Beach in mid-April to culminate a year of meetings, guest speakers and studies. The trip concentrated on the natural history of coastal Virginia.

All seventh grade students at Beverley Manor Middle School focus on Virginia's watersheds and Augusta County's effect on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. These Project Adventure students had the extra advantage of seeing first hand what happens on the coast and could relate this to the watershed studies back in Augusta County.

After a brief lesson on coastal ecology and ocean terminology on board the bus, the 29 students and four adults arrived at the Virginia Marine Science Museum in Virginia Beach mid-morning. An introductory film set the stage for the exhibits in the two museum buildings. In the expansion section of the museum, "Micro/Macro Marsh" was a favorite exhibit. Here students could investigate the microscopic world of the salt marsh, then exchange places with a fiddler crab and enter the macroscopic world of the marsh with heron legs, snakes and insects gigantic to humans, but relative to the view of the macro-world inhabitants there.

A boardwalk along Owl's Creek joined the two museum buildings and allowed students to view wildlife in the salt marsh. Exhibits in the established museum were also popular: the "touch tank" with

horseshoe crabs, whelks, and starfish, the "sting ray pool" where students could reach down and touch the rays. The size of the fish tanks — which were incredibly huge — amazed everyone.

For the afternoon, the group headed to the marina near Rudy Inlet. After a sprint to the beachfront where all waded in the Atlantic, the staff from the Virginia Marine Science Museum met and oriented the group with a "dock talk" regarding the next phase: the ocean collections boat trip on the "Miss Virginia Beach." The staff and crew of the boat prepared students for the trip with information on ocean ecology, salinity, plankton, fish and crab species, and safety.

Once cleared of the rock jetty at the mouth of the inlet, the crew and the students let out, then hauled in a trawling net to capture fish, rays, sponges, and crabs. Temporary aquariums on board allowed students to touch and investigate the ocean treasures. A

plankton sample was netted by pulling a plankton collection net for several yards. When hauled onto the boat, students were amazed to see the sample bottle teeming with the almost microscopic life.

With the help of the museum staff, the puzzle pieces of ocean and coastal ecology, the effects of activities in Augusta County on the health of the oceans began to fit neatly together. This enjoyable adventure became a learning time in which this select group of students gained an appreciation for the complexity of the water world in which we live. —

Betty Gatewood holds a bachelor of science degree in secondary education from the University of Missouri. She has taught middle school and high school life science/biology courses for almost nine years. During a hiatus from teaching a few years ago, Betty spent time doing natural history and historical interpretation at several parks and museums in California.



Project Adventure students "scope out" the wildlife in the marsh on Owl's Creek at Virginia's Marine Science Museum.

Vermont and Ohio. This is her second year teaching seventh-grade life science at Beverley Manor Middle School. Betty was honored

recently by being named "Teacher of the Year for 1995-96" at BMMS. She and her husband, Mark, live in Churchville.

**THE TIRE MART**

**Your Complete Home & Auto Center**

Est. in 1973

**FREE OFFER FROM STIHL®**

**BEST GAS TRIMMER DEAL IN TOWN!!!**

Our most popular trimmer for homeowners - lightweight, easy to start, comfortable to use with exceptional power!

**\$139.95**

*Top Rated in Leading Consumer Magazines!*

**STIHL®**

*There is a difference.*

Free \$23 Value

**YARD CARE KIT**

**Kit includes:**

- Handy Utility Box
- Two, 50' long loops of extra line
- Quality Safety Sunglasses
- New "Measure-Top" 16 oz. Oil

Free offer with FS-36 purchase for a limited time only.

CONSUMER

**2**

YEAR WARRANTY

**STATE INSPECTION NO. 6 NOW DUE**

Located Across Street From Super Wal-Mart

Richmond Rd. Staunton, VA 885-8141 1-800-223-6460

Store Owner and Manager, David Surratt

**the TIRE MART Inc.**



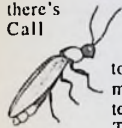
# Here, there, everywhere

## Lightning bugs:

## Deception in the grass

By MARK GATEWOOD

Step out into a warm June night most anywhere in the Valley, and it's almost too much for the senses to take: the droning, shrilling insect songs, the darkness and the humidity press against your eyes and ears. You turn to go back inside and then — lighten up... there's a lightning bug!



Call the kids, get some jars, and try to catch summer's most elusive mystery.

The light-producing scheme of the lightning bug was first explained in 1885 by a French physiologist named Raphael Dubois. He found that two substances were involved in the process, one being oxidized in the presence of the other, to produce light without heat. With what must have been a bit of a sense of humor, Dubois named the substances luciferin and luciferase, after Lucifer, the bearer of light.

Much more is known now about the chemistry of this light production, but it doesn't make nearly as good a story as what the lightning bugs do with that light.

What we call lightning bugs or fireflies are in fact several different species. Each species has a characteristic pattern to its flash, including duration and timing of the flash, the height of its flight and even the shape of the flash.

Our most common species makes a dip and a vertical hop during its flash to produce a j-shaped pattern. Another produces flashes in series of threes and another produces a squiggle pattern by wiggling rapidly from side to side during a long flash. This is all done, of course, by males. The females sit on vegetation and wait for the appropriate species to flash and then answer in kind until the male comes in to land and mate. So, you're saying, another clever way for nature to make sure the right males and the right females get together. Yes, but that's not all.

There is another group of species, slightly larger than the first group, whose females lurk in the grass and mimic the reply flashes of the smaller species. When a male comes in to investigate, the larger female seizes and eats the duped suitor. Now, prior to her own mating, the females of the larger species carry out normal courtship behavior with their own males just as described above, with their own flash patterns and replies. Following fertilization, the females switch to a mimicking flash pattern and become predatory on the smaller species. Is this a weird craving of pregnancy? Well, yes, but it's also a good way to assure a source of protein for the females to use in producing good quantities of healthy eggs.

We've gotten this far without going into biospeak jargon like sci-

entific names, but it might not hurt to introduce a little Latin, since the different species have no common names. The first-mentioned group of small species belongs to the genus *Photinus*, which means "little light." The commonest species, which is probably the one in our yards and hayfields, is *Photinus pyralis*, or "fiery little light." The large, predatory species belong to the genus *Photuris*, which translates, with some license, to "tail-light."

I have to confess that I've never witnessed any of this behavior. The phenomenon has been reported throughout the Appalachians from Massachusetts to Georgia, so it's a good bet that it's happening here in our fields and yards. It would probably take more patience than I usually have, not to mention better eyesight, to see all this happening. Most of my lightning bug encounters lately have involved children and running. Also, to find that many different species, you'd need a more diverse habitat than a backyard. A hayfield, part of it low and wet, and bordered by woods and a stream, should be a good site for a lightning bug extravaganza. If, that is, you're not afraid of encountering a little deception in the grass.

Mark Gatewood lives in Churchville. He is an avid outdoorsman and holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation from the University of Missouri.

## Twister swirls across summer's big screen

By HANNAH SIMMONS

Tornadoes!! Cyclones!! Twisters!! Not a storm! A movie!

Sounds like an adventurous movie to me. Leave it to producers Steven Spielberg and writer Michael Crichton to create a movie about the destructive forces of nature that each year attack America's heartland with deadly results. And leave it to director Jan De Bont who last year took moviegoers on the nailbiting bus ride in *Speed*, to cook up special effects which turn tornadoes into monsters which growl and roar as they relentlessly stalk victims from one quiet midwestern hamlet to the next.

In *Twister*, Helen Hunt plays the obsessed tornado-chaser Jo Harding. As a child Harding sees her father sucked out of an underground storm shelter by a killer tornado and dedicates the rest of her life to "avenging" her father's death. She becomes a tornado chaser in order to learn enough about the storms to adequately warn potential victims.

Bill Paxton is Billy, Jo's soon-to-be ex husband who also happens to be an ex-tornado chaser. Prior to their marital separation, the two teamed up working under a university grant to study tornadoes and develop an early warning system which they hope will save lives. Names of the six tornadoes which appear in the movie have not been released.

The storyline in this action thriller is thin. Jo and her team of ragtag tornado chasers wait for the sky to unleash its fury of tornadoes, hoping they will be the first to study the inside of a tornado. To accomplish this feat they use contraptions known as "Dorothy I, II, III, and IV." (Get it... Dorothy?)

When Billy comes to retrieve divorce papers from Jo, he literally gets swept up in the excitement of tornado chasing.

The first twister pursued by Jo and Billy destroys "Dorothy I" and Jo's truck. Dorothys II and III are destroyed in much the same way. You have to see the movie to find out what happens to "Dorothy IV," but rather predictably, the racing crew encounters flying debris, horizontal rain, hail, flying cows and tractors, and yet more tornadoes (of course) in their last-chance effort to put Dorothy IV to work.

*Twister* has awesome special effects. The computer-generated tornadoes look real. In some cases they are real as one production unit of the movie spent all of last summer filming footage of tornadoes for use in the film. Up-close shots of wind whipping around the actors/actresses and some tricky camera work intensifies the sensation of the actors actually encountering the true force of a tornado — which was simulated using blasts of wind created by jet engines located just off camera.

Dramatic sounds accent the roar of the cyclones. In one scene a tornado lands right on top of the crew; cars almost crushing them, they're showered with glass as hubcaps slice the air.

And you can bet Jo and Billy have a close-up view inside a tornado. *Twister* is potato chip-pleasure. It's brainless, it's fun, it must be seen on a big screen. The characters have several funny lines and scenes which break the suspense of the tornado chases. Although *Twister* is sure to be one of the top money grossers of the 1996 summer movie season, it lacks the finesse of a carefully crafted plot to make it any more than an onscreen rollercoaster ride.

Hannah gives *Twister* two-and-a-half bananas. *Twister* is rated PG-13 and includes some strong language.

## Fresh Air Fund seeks host families

There are still openings available for Augusta County host families for the Fresh Air Fund this summer. Invite a child into your home for 10 days and share the things dreams are made of like an open field, a star-filled sky, or just room to run and be a kid. You'll help a child see the

world in a whole new way. Fresh Air Fund children are boys and girls from New York City, 6 to 12 years old. If you would like to discuss becoming a host family for the Aug. 2-12 time frame call 1-800-367-0003 or contact your local representative at 540/248-6203. ---

## AROUND THE CORNER

### AARP, June 1

MT. CRAWFORD -- AARP #129 Harrisonburg/Rockingham will have its monthly luncheon meeting at noon June 1 at Evers Family Restaurant. John Craig of the Emergency 911 system will present the program.

Persons 50 years old or older are welcome. Call Peggy Goodnough at 828-7497 for information. ---

### Reenactment, June 1

NEW HOPE -- The Palmetto Sharpshooter Regiment will hold a Living History Day and Ceremony June 1. The event commemorates The Battle of Piedmont when Union forces broke through Confederate lines then pushed on to enter Staunton the next day. The Civil War camp will be open to the public beginning at 9 a.m. For information call 337-3790 or 886-6995. ---

### Gospel Festival, June 21-23

MT. SOLON -- "The Spirit of The Shenandoah" Gospel Festival will be held June 21-23 at Natural Chimneys Regional Park.

Jeff & Sheri Easter, The Wilburns, and Brian & Marsha Duncan will lead off the event beginning at 6 p.m. Friday. Saturday's performers include The Easters, The Hoppers, The Steeles, and The Easter Brothers with performances beginning at 6 p.m. Sunday morning events begin at 10 a.m. with The Steeles. Jeff Steele will deliver the message.

In the event of rain, concerts will be held in the Ruritan Hall. For information about the festival call 540/350-2682, 540/433-2346, or 540/833-5274. For information about camping call 540/350-2510. ---

### Vacation Bible School, June 23-27

BETHEL GREEN -- "God's Brave People" will be the theme of Vacation Bible School to be held June 23-27 at Bethel Presbyterian Church. Co-sponsoring churches Mt. Tabor Lutheran and St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ will join Bethel in hosting the event.

A light meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. each evening of the school with classes for children ages 3 through the sixth grade. Ministers of the three churches will lead a class for adults. A nursery will be provided. Activities will include gym time. Classes will end at 8:30 each evening. The Bible School will conclude Thursday evening with a bonfire.

Pre-registration by June 20 is requested. For information call Tish Folsom at 337-0725, Carolyn Shomo at 886-1782 or any of the three churches. ---



# Country Crossroads

## Reflecting pool reflections

By Roberta Hamlin  
May, 1996



Dear Maude,  
Thanks so much for letter with all the news from home. It is always exciting to hear about people starting out on the great adventure of married life! I know that you will have a wonderful time at Cousin Anna's son Tony's wedding. I wish I could be there too, but with Congress in one of their brief spurts of energy, my time is tied up. Even though our work on the Farm Bill is over, the boss has me watching all the other legislation to make sure that something unexpected does not get tacked onto the end of some other bill.

Love is definitely in the air though, for Dylan wrote the other day that he was to be an usher in one of his friend's weddings. He did not seem too excited about the event, however, and even made a few comments about his friend's sensibility, so I guess this is not the time to bring up the subject of his own plans!

When one works in an environment such as that here in the Capitol, it is easy to forget the happiness most people find in sharing a life together. In this "City of Power," those vows made between two people very often tend to get squeezed into a tiny box in the back of people's memories. It is a city where power is most important, and the ties of one person to another often get in the way.

Washington is a hostile environment for wedded bliss and faithfulness. In such an atmosphere no matter how strong one's affections or high the morals, the temptations are always there. On any given day, while crossing the street near one of the House or Senate office buildings, one can see some person gazing with great admiration at a member of Congress or top staff person. It is an attraction which the ego finds difficult to ignore. One wonders if it is the person, or the position, which holds the attraction. But attracted these people are, and in a workplace where people often spend as much as 12 or 15 hours a day together, they develop friendships and relationships which are not always healthy ones. When marriages do hold together, it is often because one member of the partnership looks the other way. I have seen so many people get themselves into tangles, that I had just about given up on there being any such thing as a stable, loving relationship in this capital of ours, until I went recently to a grand party in celebration of a local couple's 50th wedding anniversary.

My boss had accepted the invitation to their party and then at the very last minute was called out of town. I had known this couple, Mary and Phil, casually for several years, since they are personal friends of the boss and were often in our office, so they invited me to attend in his place. I was very excited to be able to go, (and, of course, it was a great chance to go out and buy myself a new dress, as if I needed an excuse.) It was the most elegant and wonderful party I have been to since I came to this city!

Mary and Phil are two great people, and their affection for one another has always been evident. One hears, "yes, Love," or "what do you think, Dearest?" in their conversations all of the time. He is from an old Irish family in New Orleans, and she is also Irish, from Boston. They met during World War II when they were both in the service, and as soon as the war was over, they were married in the Philippines. The wedding had been simple, not like what we see so often today, but their celebration of their 50 years together was absolutely elegant. I got myself all done up in my new dress and shoes and took a taxi to the Four Seasons for the evening dinner dance which Mary had put together. I've been to some great parties in this town, for as you know, I have never been shy about

## Take a stand for children

*The quality of your life is in proportion, always, to the capacity for delight. The capacity for delight is the gift of paying attention.*

Take a Stand for Children. This demand came recently in the form of two brochures, one editorial, one sermon and one large note posted on the Internet. In the spirit of recent American politics, those who care about the plight of children and the social policies that affect them are being urged to come to Washington, D.C. on June 1; to hold signs, hear compelling speeches, make urgent pleas to influential leaders and to stand in favor of all good things for children. Surprisingly, no politicians have been invited to speak at this staged event. Such occasions are usually showcases for speeches that reveal more than anything else the capacity of politicians to ignore the practical and moral implications of their words.

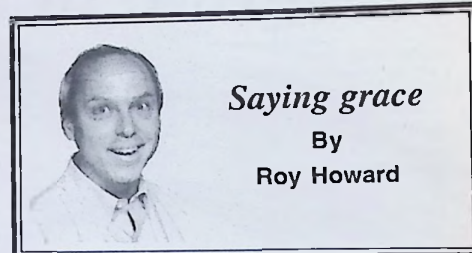
I'm not opposed to such events; in fact, I've been to quite a few myself. Democracy is more vital when people care enough to assemble before the citadels of power to voice concern. That the folks gathered on June 1 will raise their voices on behalf of children who have no other voices of power makes this event more compelling than most. I believe that our social policies ought to ensure better care for children, especially children who are poor, neglected and without any hope in this world. These are the little ones that schools call "at risk." Indeed they are, but the plain fact is that as long as they are at risk, the rest of us are also at risk. At-risk children become at-risk adults, and at-risk adults do terrible things to themselves and to others.

So yes, I think it's time to Take A Stand For Children, but I'll not be going to Washington, D.C. to hold a sign, listen to compelling speeches or sing protest songs. I'll stay here where there are abundant opportunities to support children. It's not that those in sunny D.C. are doing less, it's only that each of us must choose where to stand. You can't stand everywhere. Everywhere is nowhere. You must stand somewhere. Where I stand is here, with the children. The delightful truth is that I'm surrounded by people taking the same stand in Swoope, Middlebrook, Greenville, Staunton, Verona, Churchville... well, all over the place. In the blazing sun, under lights, on hard bleachers and in lawn chairs.

Every day of the week there are people who are standing with our children. That is to say, they are living sacrificially by giving up something of their own so that their children and others will have something valuable. These are the parents who come to every ball game. When it's hot and when it's cold, when it's clear and when it's rainy, they are present cheering loudly for every child, not just their own children. When they can't possibly get off work, they take a moment to look their daughter or son in the eyes and tell them how much they would like to be there and want to hear about everything when they return.

What a wonderful thing they do for the support of chil-

accepting invitations. Little was I prepared, however, for the beautiful room and wonderful music that met me when I arrived. One of their friends, who does custom floral work, created exquisite centerpieces of roses and sugared fruit that sat upon tall columns in the center of the tables. The band, at least 20 people, was dressed in clothes of the 40s, and singing and playing all the old songs from the year Mary and Phil were married. The food they served made me wish I had not eaten anything at all that day, for it was so delicious, and I had no intention of leaving a single bite of it. After dinner, Phil took the mike and introduced all of their friends, new and old, and he and Mary danced together. It was one of the most touching evenings I have ever spent, and it made me stop and realize that not everyone in this city is trapped in that power game which I am witness to so often in the halls of Congress and the government agencies. I realized that these two people had managed to survive all of the obstacles. When Mary and Phil returned to the states after



Saying grace

By  
Roy Howard

dren. And how about the coaches for these ball teams and the umpires, too? If you've been there then you know the amount of time and energy it takes to coach a team. You know what is sacrificed along the way so that almost every day of the week — alas, even Sunday! — so that children have these opportunities. The rest of us do well to say thanks and to be there for those who are there always for our children.

This is what it means to take a stand for children. It means going to their dance recitals, choir practice, swim meets, soccer, softball, baseball and basketball games. It means showing up again and again. It means providing them with the moral and spiritual resources of a faith community that will shape their values and beliefs, and point them toward God. It means, above all else, to pay attention to them, especially when there are many other things that demand your attention.

What we are slowly coming to realize is that all children are "at-risk" as soon as they come into the world. Some may have more protection than others, but all children need the conscious love and support of adults who live sacrificially so that more and more children will experience life with joy and abundance. All honest parents know that we can't do it alone. We need teachers and mentors and all kinds of wise helpers. That's why it's such a joy when a community claims all children as "our" children and act as though it's true.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit two area Headstart classrooms. Children, three and four years old, most of whom live in families that are financially poor, or suffer a disability or for some other reason need a "head start" are receiving a great gift every school day from dedicated teachers. One classroom made me laugh just walking into the vibrant room full of children learning their colors and their computer skills. The teachers were paying attention to their little students, and the whole place was a happy learning center. It occurred to me that a stand is being taken for children in this classroom and in so many other classrooms. Maybe this is where the folks in D.C. and the folks in Augusta Country connect. I wanted to say to somebody in power, don't take away the money that will keep these teachers teaching these children. If you do we'll pay for it later. Nothing comes for free.

Take a stand for children. —

their marriage, they came to Washington, where each of them began working in government jobs. At one time, Phil, an attorney, was chief of staff of the House Rules Committee, a position of importance and power, but at no time during all of those years did they let the environment interfere with their personal lives. It made me think that perhaps the most important method of survival is a positive attitude and a sharing of one another's successes as well as disappointments. When I returned home after the party, a little late, too, for it was so much fun that no one even thought of leaving early, I could not go to sleep right away, for I kept thinking about how happy those two great people are.

I wish I could be there for Tony and Shiril's wedding. But since I cannot, please tell them for me that I send my warmest good wishes and for them never to forget to tell one another each day how much they care for each other, so that I can look forward to attending their 50th anniversary.

Love,  
Lulu



# Off to war we go, hoe in hand

Nothing much happened in Middlebrook this week, except they mowed the ballfield.

And then, of course, there was the music of songbirds in the garden. Early on a June morning, with a fresh pot of coffee brewing on the stove, rays of sunlight surging through the gingerbreading of the side porch, and the harmony of robins rising from an apple tree branch just outside the kitchen window... well, it just doesn't get much better than that.

June is a wonderful time of year for the vegetable gardener. The seedlings and transplants are well established and reaching for the sky. The compost piles are built with Montgomery Hall Park leaves, grass clippings, and recently collected sheep manure. They are slowly amassing nutrients for return to the soil later this summer. The chickens have bugs (lots of fat, juicy bugs) to feast on. Life is at its fullest in June.

Which reminds me of one of the elements of life I'd rather forget, which is: "When spring is so vibrant, so lush, so full of potential, why does it seem like we are confronted with something so distasteful as war? Why can't life go on without war?"

You gardeners, by now, should know that I'm speaking of war with our true enemy — weeds.

What is a weed? Some folks say that a weed is any plant growing out of place. Others say that weeds are specific plants, such as thistle, nettles, dandelions, or burdock.

Recently, I was reading Carla Emery's *Encyclopedia of Country Living* which states that "there is only so much plant food in your garden, and you've worked really hard to get it there. If your garden has one weed for every vegetable plant, then half your soil plant-food is going to the weeds and half to your vegetable plants. That means

that your vegetable plants will be half as big and healthy and productive as they could be if there were no weeds."

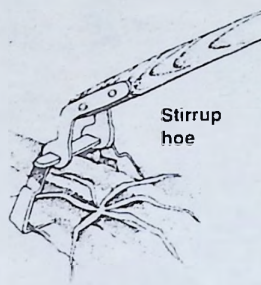
I wish it were that simple, but Carla has gotten the general idea correct. The problem with weeds is one of competition. A few individual weeds don't mean much; however, consistent populations of the same species can spell disaster to your garden.

Competition for the nutrients in your soil is like a small war going on. The weeds have been there for months, perhaps years. They are well established, hardy, and can tolerate a wide range of conditions. Then, here comes a little six-inch tomato transplant onto the battle scene. The tomato plant is making a huge transition from a protected indoor environment. It has new soil around its roots, new air around its leaves, insects buzzing around, and a battery of tiny weed seeds all waiting for the right moment to germinate and ambush the limited nutrients in the soil. What's a gardener to do?

I've heard of gardeners who don't believe in weeding. Really. They feel a more holistic approach is appropriate. "If God didn't want the weeds to grow, then they wouldn't. Look over there. Those weeds aren't hurting anything. Why should I kill them?"

Well, I suppose that there is an argument for every garden practice, including that of not weeding. Maybe it was the way I was brought up. Or perhaps it is the fact that I like a clean looking garden. Regardless, I just can't get past the "competition" factor of weeds. It is clear to me that vegetable plants will definitely do better when they do not have to compete with weeds for available water, nutrients, and minerals.

There are many methods available to fight the war on June weeds. You can mulch. You can spray her-



Stirrup hoe

bicides. Or you can use that time-honored method that we will address here, the technique that farmers and gardeners have used for centuries — cultivation — specifically, hand cultivation.

In this age of mechanization, it is easy to forget that the most effective and sometimes the easiest way to work soil is with hand tools. A well designed hand tool, properly used, is a pleasure to work with. They are quiet, they are less likely to damage soil structure than a heavy machine, and they offer healthy and productive aerobic exercise.

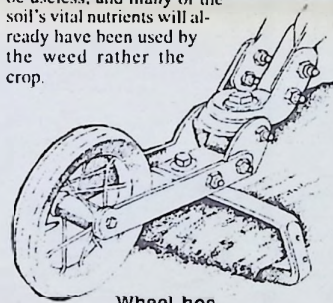
Frequently I'm out hoeing a few rows, and the following thought occurs to me: "Why are hundreds of men and women across this nation cooped up inside an air-conditioned prefab gymnasium, listening to 100 watts-per-channel electronic mumbo-jumbo, and jumping up and down wearing \$60 designer tights? Jane Fonda, what have you done to us? Why, those folks could be out here in the pea patch with me, enjoying a nice sunny day, listening to the birds sing, and doing some aerobic hoeing. It wouldn't even bother me if they wanted to wear those skin tight outfits." I can even provide some music and might suggest they sing along as I sing:

Hoe, hoe, hoe your crop  
Gently down the bed  
Merrily, merrily, down the row  
Oh my back feels dead  
It is infrequent that a gardener

runs across a new hand tool which, in all his enthusiasm, doesn't make his back "feel dead," but there a few which offer absolute gardening satisfaction, which change his entire strategy on winning the war with weeds. I have had the pleasure to find two such tools within the past year or so.

The first is called a stirrup hoe. Some gardeners call it a scuffle hoe, and others call it an oscillating hoe. I think it looks just like a horse stirrup, so I'll stick with that terminology.

Stirrup hoes are double-stemmed, that is to say, they have a vertical support at each end of the blade. The shape of the stirrup hoe blade cuts a shallow, horizontal swath in the soil, sparing the crop plant roots. The open center allows small rocks to pass through and even be lifted up out of the soil for retrieval. The stirrup hoe operates on a push-pull motion which is almost (and I really mean this) effortless. The action of the sharp stirrup blade passing less than an inch under the surface slices off weeds right at the crown. No hacking is involved. Just skim along under the "skin" of the soil. The only prerequisite to using a stirrup hoe is one that should be practiced in all weed wars: cultivate when the weed is young and tender, just as it emerges from the soil. If you wait until weed growth is rampant, the stirrup hoe will be useless, and many of the soil's vital nutrients will already have been used by the weed rather the crop.



Wheel hoe

## The Garden Path

By  
Jeff  
Ishee



The second tool for weed wars that I recently discovered is the wheel hoe. This is not the old fashioned large wheel hoe, but the one with a small front wheel. A wheel hoe combines a hoe with a wheeled frame to support the blade. Master Gardener Eliot Coleman calls it "the best (hand powered) cultivation tool for inter-row work on up to five acres." The small wheel allows the most efficient and direct transfer of force from the operator to the blade. The wheel hoe I recently acquired is a real pleasure to work with. Cultivating my gardens now takes a quarter of the time it used to take. You just walk along at a steady pace while making a smooth push-pull motion with the arms. If the tilth of the garden soil is just right, you can just use the wheel hoe to slice along as fast as you can walk. Its use may be limited in a small garden; however, if you are working with over 2,500 square feet, a wheel hoe could turn a weed war into nothing more than a minor skirmish.

There are probably more types of cultivating hoes than any other garden tool. Most all of them work fairly well. But on a June morning with birds singing and rays of sunlight bearing down on vegetable plants, give me a stirrup hoe or a wheel hoe anytime. The war on weeds will be over promptly. I take no prisoners. —

Staunton/Augusta Farmer's Market

Every Saturday



Local Growers ♦ Baked Goods  
♦ Naturally Raised Meats ♦  
Eggs ♦ Bedding Plants  
Spring and Summer Vegetables  
♦ RAIN OR SHINE! ♦

7 AM to NOON

For information about selling at the market call 332-3802

Located at the Wharf Parking Lot on Johnson Street  
Historic Downtown Staunton Free Parking

## Country Trader

### NOTICE

All church groups or organizations who wish to participate in this year's Middlebrook Community Bazaar on Nov. 2, please call to reserve your table now. 886-1088 or 337-1426.

### RENT OR BUY

Returning missionary family looking for a few acres or large lot to rent or buy within an hour of Harrisonburg, with house or suitable for mobile home. 540/377-2508.

Augusta Country  
classifieds -- A free  
service to subscribers --  
Send us your ad, and  
we'll publish it in our  
next issue. Deadline for  
July issue is June 10.

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


Subscribers — 2 free ads per year, please include subscriber number from mailing label with ad. Non-subscribers — \$8 for 30 words. Ad must be received by June 10 to appear in July issue.

Place your ad in The Country Trader. **SUBSCRIBERS** — 30 words or less free; 50 cents each additional word. Limit two free ads per year. **NON-SUBSCRIBERS** — 30 words or less — \$8; 50 cents each additional word. All ads must include phone number or response address. Payment must accompany ad submission. Mail to Augusta Country Trader, c/o Jeff Ishee, HCR 32, Box 109, Staunton, Va. 24401.

Augusta Country has the right to reject any ads which do not meet the above requirements. Country Trader was created as a service for readers of Augusta Country. Businesses please utilize our display advertising.



## Progress on construction at BGHS slow but sure

By LAURYN PLEMMONS

**BUFFALO GAP**—Renovation is well under way at Buffalo Gap High School. Nielsen Construction Co. has torn Gap inside-out and upside-down. Construction began behind the school on Aug. 21 with the tearing up of the grassy turf to make space for a much needed new gymnasium.

Many students have commented on how complicated it is to pay attention in class when right outside the window you see men in bright yellow hard hats operating giant cranes and bulldozers digging up masses of dirt.

Construction workers were forced to move inside due to the sinister winter weather. They started by removing all the ceiling tiles in the hallway and in many rooms to make rewiring more accessible. This made the school very monotonous and colorless.

On various occasions students and teachers were forced out of their regular assigned classrooms to any open space available to make way for the "busy bee" construction workers. Walking down the hall has also become a tedious task as one tries to avoid tripping over fallen pipes and boards and pieces of debris, but most of all making sure not to knock the man with the tool belt off the ladder.

Four classrooms in the annex have just been finished. These new rooms have been repainted, have had heating and air-conditioned installed, and they have had new electrical wiring along with the replacement of windows. After the completion of the annex, renovation of the rest of the classrooms will go on a rotation schedule so classes will be moved for days instead of weeks.

On April 8 renovation of the auditorium began. The windows were removed and replaced with brick. Other rooms on the agenda for remodeling are the art room and the old gym.

Principal William Deardorff stated in Buffalo Gap's newspaper "that we need these improvements because of the increase in the number of students, and because our sports teams can practice here at Gap, so they don't have to travel to the elementary and middle schools.

Buffalo Gap should be totally renovated by the fall 1998. After spending \$8.5 million, Gap will be a new school complete with a college-size gym, air conditioning and central heating, new plumbing and wiring, new paint and tiles, an elevator and three additional classrooms. These three classrooms are to be a tech-ed room, an art room, and a science lab. —

Lauryn Plemons is a ninth-grade student at Buffalo Gap High School.

## RHS students tired of construction but happy with results

By HEATHER CALDWELL

**GREENVILLE**—The question on many Riverheads High School students' minds is, "When is this construction going to be over?"

As of now, many students are finally moved into "new" classrooms. Others have found a new residence in the Ag building, old Art Room, trailer, or other empty rooms. Physical Education students are dressing out in the bathrooms, because the locker rooms are under construction. This also poses a problem for those participating in athletic events. They, too, must cram together in bathrooms to get changed.

On the brighter side, most agree the "new wing" is fabulous. The clean, bright-colored tile and new paint has given everything a welcoming fresh look. Once the school year comes to a close for summer,



John Hedrick of Nielsen Construction Co. works in a hallway at Buffalo Gap High School recently. Both Gap and Riverheads High School are undergoing extensive two-year renovation projects.

Photo by Penny Plemons

the construction will be in full swing. Every community member should stop by and see the changes taking place. ---

Heather Caldwell is a junior at Riverheads High School.

## SUBSCRIBE AND WIN!

# Augusta Country

"Friendly news for friendly people"



As close as your mailbox!

## ANNOUNCING THE GREAT AUGUSTA COUNTRY GIVEAWAY!

\$20 gift certificates — \$100 in groceries

Augusta Country is sponsoring "THE GREAT AUGUSTA COUNTRY GIVEAWAY" with drawings held and prizes given away each month. To enter here's how to qualify for drawings:

- 1) **SUBSCRIBE** — That's right. All you have to do is send us a check for \$16 to start your subscription. Your name automatically goes in the hat for our once-a-month drawing.
- 2) **RECOMMEND US TO A FRIEND** — Tell all your friends about Augusta Country. Share your copy of Augusta Country with them. Encourage them to subscribe and tell them to write your name on their subscription form when they subscribe.

Each month Augusta Country will hold a drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to a restaurant of the winner's choice. All new subscribers will be eligible for this drawing. Names of Augusta Country subscribers who recommended us to new subscribers will also be eligible for the drawing.

Subscriptions must be received by June 18, 1996 to qualify for this drawing. AND, just to

sweeten the pot, in August we'll be drawing for a \$100 grocery gift certificate. All new subscribers or friends who recommended us to new subscribers will be eligible for this drawing.

And the more friends you recommend us to and the more of your friends who subscribe, the more chances you have to win!

So subscribe and win or recommend us to a friend and win!

May winner!! Shelley Begoon of Grottoes

..... 696

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rt. or St. no. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

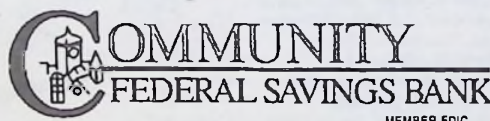
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about Augusta Country from: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of person who told you about Augusta Country)

To subscribe and qualify for drawings mail this form along with your \$16 personal check to Augusta Country, P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459.

## SUBSCRIBE AND WIN!

- Checking
- Savings
- Safe Deposit
- Visa Cards
- Home Loans
- Consumer and Auto Loans



-- We Belong Together --

38 N. Central Ave.,  
Staunton, VA  
886-0796

2934 W. Main St.,  
Waynesboro, VA  
943-5000

Corner Rt. 340 & 608,  
Stuarts Draft, VA  
337-1514

## 24-HOUR EXPRESS LINE

To access your account balances:

885-7938

Outside Staunton or Stuarts Draft:

540/943-5070