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Augusta Country



Down on the Farm
Pages 10-11

October 1998 Vol. 5, Issue 9

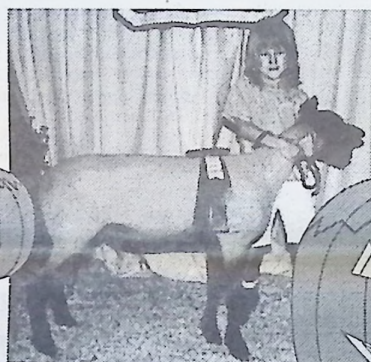
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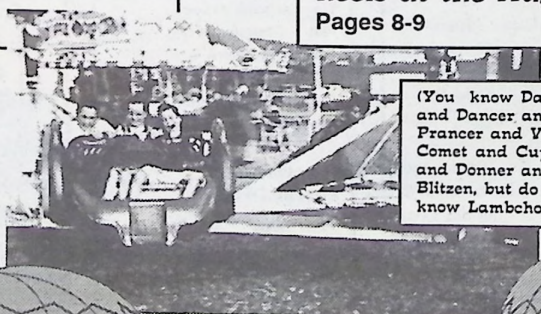


Take a
trip to
Hungary
Pages 12-13



You'll need a map to find
your way through these
cornfields
Page 4

Look who we found kicking up their
heels at the Augusta County Fair
Pages 8-9



(You know Dasher
and Dancer and
Prancer and Vixen,
Comet and Cupid
and Donner and
Blitzen, but do you
know Lambchop?)



(Hey,
it's only
October.
Who let
this
guy in
here?)



All this,
and
puffins too!



October 1998

Greenville's Sandy Powell finishes 6th in world class event

By NANCY SORRELLS

GREENVILLE — Competing against an elite corp of veteran athletes from around the world, Sandy Bocock Powell of Greenville finished 6th in the world in an ultramarathon race held in Winschoten, Holland recently. Her journey to Holland has taken her across many miles of local roads and through many years of training to prepare for the world class event in which she recently competed.

Not many people can say they have been lapped by one of the fastest long distance runners in the world, but I can.

In 1974 Riverheads High School had its first-ever girls' track team. I signed up for distance events, which in those days was the 440 and 880. We were equally inexperienced and naive about the ways of running, except one girl, Sandy



POWELL

Bocock, who seemed born to run distances for long periods of time. Sandy was the star of our fledgling track team in the spring and in the fall she ran cross country. Heck, she was the girls' cross country team and she was good.

The next year it was decided that girls could run as far as a mile and Sandy and I both graduated to that distance. That is where the lapping comes in. I was by no means a superstar running on those rural cinder tracks, but I held my own, placing second or third. And it was always second or third because Sandy ALWAYS won. She was head and shoulders, or should I say legs and feet, above the competition. And yes, she usually lapped me and the rest of the pack.

Most of those high school thinclads, me included, have not tried to run such long distances for years, even decades. But Sandy (now Powell) was always different. Running seemed a part of her very being. While everyone else slowed down and dropped out of the race, Sandy was like the pink Energizer bunny, she kept going and going. And her distances kept getting longer and longer.

Today, the 41-year-old Clymore

Elementary school teacher who still lives in the southern part of Augusta County where she grew up, would probably consider a mile run a warm-up jog or a sprint. She has progressed from distance races to marathons and now to ultramarathons, races that can be 50 or more miles in length.

Recently she returned from an ultramarathon race in Winschoten, Holland where she represented the United States in the World 100K women's masters competition race. For metrically challenged folks, 100 kilometers for is 62 miles. Racing against an elite group of 26 veteran athletes from around the world, Sandy placed 6th, finishing in 9 hours and 27 minutes, a time good enough to place her among the top 10 in the U.S. 100K women's ranking.

Just back from the competition, Sandy admitted to still being on a high from the whole experience. She was pleased with her time, especially considering that it rained the entire race and was a bone-chilling 38 to 40 degrees. The 6.2-mile race course wound through the town of Winschoten. Competitors ran the course 10 times. Certain places along the course were food zones where Sandy's husband/crew member, Ben, was allowed to hand her food as she continued circling the course.

In addition to Ben, her parents, sister and brother-in-law were there to cheer her on. There were also 25,000 to 30,000 other people along the course. "The 100 K in Europe is big time, like football here. People were cheering and there were big crowds. I had my own cheering section because they really like

Americans. They even called me up the Saturday before I left (Virginia) and interviewed me and there was an article about me in the paper in Holland," she said.

Representing the United States was perhaps the ultimate thrill for Sandy. She was selected by the U.S. Track and Field Long Distance Committee on the basis of her running resumé and was the only American woman. "There was something about having USA across my uniform that made me have a different perspective. There was a parade of nations and 17 different nations were represented. When they said 'USA and Sandy Powell,' I can't describe the feeling I had. It made me thankful to be

an American and to realize how much we have," she explained.

Training for a 62-mile race requires dedication. Sandy puts in 100-mile running weeks during peak training. That means getting up and running by 4:30 or 4:45 a.m. then two or three times a week doing a second afternoon workout. "I will run in any kind of weather except ice and then I get on my tread mill," she said.

When asked what was next on the running agenda, she explained that there was a 50-mile race coming up soon in California. And would there then be a slacking off in training or distances? With a laugh, she exclaimed: "Oh no, I'm just beginning!" Somehow, I knew that. —

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Botanical 'weirdos' brought together at Staunton 'plant zoo'

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CEDAR GREEN — As the name implies, Weird Dude's Plant Zoo is not your typical nursery and garden center, but rather an eclectic assortment of native trees, shrubs, perennials and exotic tropicals.

Located at 25 Frog Pond Road in Staunton and co-owned by Lexington native Marty Harper, former Staunton city horticulturist Susan Blackley, and Staunton lawyer Deborah Gartzke, this new business lives up to its name.

"This is not your common bread and butter, ordinary house plant nursery," head grower Harper commented. But, what Weird Dude's owners lack in the way of ordinary, they amply make up for with the extraordinary.

Their inventory boasts over

1,400 perennials, 120 varieties of alpine and cacti, ferns, tropicals and other greenery that rounds out their tally of over 25,000 plants. To house this veritable botanical zoo, Harper single handedly built the 150-foot long by 30-foot wide by 15-foot high tropical habitat.

Many of the plants at Weird Dude's come from Harper's own personal collection that started with a single cactus that he received when he was 9 years old. He is learned not only in the study of plant science, but also in paleontology, geology, entomology, and climatology and has years of experience in plant tissue culture.

With a passion for the rare and nearly extinct, Harper frequently surfs the World Wide Web for verdant oddities and seeks out col-

lectors like himself at botanical gatherings. He has even been known to purchase everyday plants from such unlikely places as the grocery store. One such buy was a familiar Christmas poinsettia plant known for its seasonal red foliage. Most of us give up on this plant after it has peaked, but not Harper. Under his expert care, the poinsettia now stands about 5 feet tall and in December gives a glorious display.

Harper, a Latin scholar, prefers exact classification of plants and therefore uses only the Latin name for species identification.

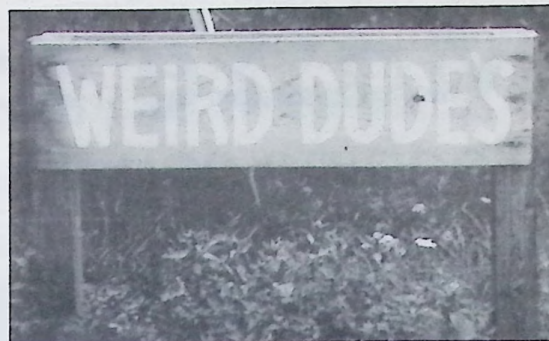
"Common names are misleading," Harper said. "For example, the term lily is overused and misused. In South Africa the Caffir is misnamed a lily solely because it has a bloom that reminds people of lilies. But it is not related at all."

Customers, however, should not be deterred from using common names to inquire about foliage in which they are interested. Harper encourages people to "tell me all you know about a plant." If he doesn't recognize it immediately than he can go to numerous horticulture books that he keeps right in his nursery and locate the plant's Latin name.

Harper is enthusiastically driven by the challenge of growing exotic greenery. A peak into the zoo reveals herbaceous wonders whose origins come from places all over the world. The nursery has everything from tropical yucca trees whose tops push at the greenhouse ceiling to tiny puppies (Harper's name for seedlings) trapped under plastic cup greenhouses.

The nursery houses weirdos such as the yautia and the octopus tree. The Ceylon native yautia has leaves that stretch 6 feet in length and as Harper pointed out, "remind you of elephant ears." And the octopus tree, a common yard plant in Australia, produces 8 blooms, each 4 feet in length and arranged on the stalk like the propellers of a helicopter.

Gartzke, a red pepper aficionado, adds 1,100 plants to the unique foliage aggregation, including the



Weird Dude's Plant Zoo is located on Frog Pond Road just west of Staunton.

Photos by Penny Plemmons

Weird Dude's Plant Zoo 1998 Fall Seminar Schedule

The one-hour seminars are free and are held at the nursery.
For more info call 540-886-6364

- Oct. 4, Fall Planting - Pros and Cons
- Oct. 11, Soil Preparation
- Oct. 18, Indoor Plant Maintenance through the Winter
- Oct. 25, Winter Preparation for your Garden

hottest pepper in the world, the red sevina habanero. The peppers of black Dallas, Peter pepper, Scotch bonnet, cayenne, Thai hot, tabasco and at least four more va-

rieties are dried and blended into salsa and "Pepper Shakins." The pepper products are labeled with a bold warning, "USE WITH CAUTION." Harper said he found out the hard way just how hot the pepper concoctions can be. Harper dismissed the notion that peppers cause stomach ulcers.

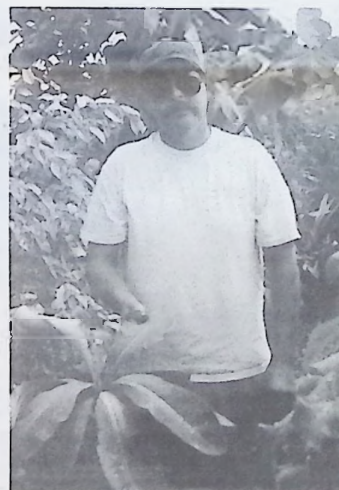
"The acid in peppers actually aids digestion and improves blood circulation. If you can just get past the "hot" you find that a pepper has a real fruity flavor," he said.

Not only do Weird Dude's peppers make great additions to meats, soups and salads, but they make for colorful house plants with some varieties growing as large as 10 feet tall.

Weird Dude's rarest plant is the Madagascar native *Biguier ankafansinsis*. The 23-year-old plant produces poinsettia-like blooms 10 months out of the year. It is downright humorous that the plant reproduces by popping seeds into the air which land in the soil of nearby pots and take up residence there.

Blackley rounds out the operation by bringing an artistic eye and knack for variety and color to the landscaping and consulting end of the nursery. "Susan cannot be contained in a greenhouse," Harper commented. "She loves being outdoors and complements what we are trying to do here."

Weird Dude's Plant Zoo is a greenhouse with a flair for the different — a nursery to observe God's imagination let loose in foliage and blooms. The appeal is that, whether you are a novice or experienced gardener, you can purchase a plant and get a story for free. And should you forget the name, just remember it's the nursery with the weird name — oh yeah, Weird Dude's Plant Zoo. —



The "weird dude" himself, Marty Harper, stands among some of his "weird" plants in the nursery at Weird Dude's Plant Zoo.



Among the varieties of pepper plants at Weird Dude's Plant Zoo is Tabasco. It is one of the hottest types of peppers grown.

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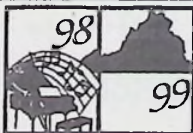
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Maize mazes amaze

Raphine couple create cornfield labyrinth

By NANCY SORRELLS

RAPHINE — This may sound CORNY, but there's an AMAZING field just south of the village of Raphine and across from the Rockbridge Vineyard. That's right, it's a giant maze through a cornfield, or, if you will, a maize maze.

There are probably one or two rural readers out there who have been in the middle of a field of towering corn and, becoming a bit disoriented, have felt like they were in a maze. But this is the real thing — a man-made labyrinth, plotted out on graph paper and then whacked out of an acre of standing corn. You have read about them in newspapers and magazines, and now, if you dare, you can try your skill at one right here at home.

The acre of corn belongs to Susan and Ross Thomas, and they were just looking for something a little different and non-intrusive to do with their chunk of Rockbridge land. "I had read in magazines about mazes in cornfields and then I did some research on the Internet and I started collecting information," said Susan.

"We drew a pattern on a piece of graph paper and then came out and mapped it out," Ross explained. Beginning in early July they began cutting out the stalks by hand to create their giant puzzle. "The maze is totally organic... we did it by hand and it doesn't get any more organic than that!" Ross said with a laugh. Susan estimated that the couple has about 30 hours of real hot work in the project, a lot of it on their hands and knees.

"The problem was when the land didn't act like a piece of paper. We ran into a wall of brambles and had to redraw the whole left side," added Susan.

The maze is now open for public confusion. Every weekend as long as the interest is there until November, the Thomases will allow visitors to explore the corny maze. A small entrance fee gives intrepid visitors the opportunity to wander the meandering half mile of dirt pathways as many times as they



The DeHass brothers -- Jesse, 13; Adam, 9; and Bryn, 7 -- find themselves wondering which way to go at one of the cross paths in the corn maze grown by Ross and Susan Thomas of Raphine. The boys are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel DeHass of Fishersville. The Thomases are shown in the photo at right standing at the entrance to their home-grown maze.

Photos by Nancy Sorrells



want. Each daring adventurer enters the labyrinth with a sealed map. If he or she emerges at the other end with the seal unbroken, then the reward is an ice-cold drink. If, in cornstalk confusion, the seal is broken, the map provides directions on how to emerge on the correct trail. Bales of hay, marked with different symbols serve as landmarks in what is otherwise an unending and unchanging wall of green stalks.

The response has been good and the visitors have enjoyed the challenge, say the Thomases. Most people take 15 or 20 minutes to make their way through the various pathways and out the other end. This writer emerged into the sunlight after about 15 confusing minutes, but did manage to find all but one of the dead ends! The really AMAZING finishers seem to be the kids, while some of the more mature adults wind up very CORNFUSED by the whole thing.

The DeHass family from Fishersville stopped by during the

See CORN-FUSED, page 5

Dairyman entertains with CORN-ucopia of obstacles

By NANCY SORRELLS

CROSS KEYS — The amazing thing about these maize mazes is that they are beginning to "crop" up everywhere. There are at least two in Virginia, one on each side of Augusta County. In addition to the Rockbridge confuser, there is a farmer near Cross Keys in Rockingham County who has decided to "milk" this maze craze for all it's worth with his Marvelous Milk Maize Maze.

Dairy farmer Jerry Mundy de-

cided to do something just a little different with one of his cornfields this year, so he created a maze in his 3.5-acre patch. From the air, the pathways of the maze spell out MILK, a word that is, after all, pretty important to a dairy farmer. The letters are 100 by 150 feet.

From the ground, the letters are

not so obvious. In fact, the humans tripping back and forth through the field of corn became so CORNFUSED they probably could not have spelled their names if asked. But as the sun beat down upon the wanderers trapped in the corridors of corn, they did yearn for the cool-

See MILK, page 5

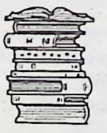
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•Milk

Continued from page 4

ness of some dairy product whether it be milk or ice cream.

"Planted" among the stalks of rustling corn were special features — mock animals that made oinks and moos, wood cutouts of farmers, and even obstacles fit for Indiana "Farmer" Jones. The latter included earthquake bridge, sinking quicksand, and the chilling igloo all rigged up from a CORNucopia of items found around any working farm.

Crawling through the chilling ig-

loo proved to be a cool relief, especially because it also proved to be the exit of the maze. Visitors to the Marvelous Milk Maize Maze were then able to purchase cold juice and dairy products or a t-shirt that bragged about surviving the maze. Families who wished could also get a wagon ride around the dairy farm.

Like the Rockbridge maze, Mundy's maze was an idea that "sprouted" even before the growing season arrived. He mapped out his giant puzzle in February and

then began staking out the field in May. A lawnmower and herbicide kept the stalks from growing along the pathways during the summer.

Mundy's maze will disappear by November, but before it does, his family plans to have a final fling by creating a haunted Halloween maze.

Mundy's Milk Maize Maze is located in Rockingham County on Valley View Road (Va. 658) and is open every day from dawn until dusk. For information call, 540/289-5377. —

•Corn-fused

Continued from page 4

maze's opening weekend and the three boys, ages 13, 9, and 7 made several trips through the maze. For a little more challenging trip through the field, they tried to work backwards from finish to start. Adam DeHass, 9, noted that the maze was "pretty neat," while Jesse held the record of fastest trip through the giant puzzle — three and a half minutes.

"Most kids want to go through at top speed," said Susan. "Their ticket entitles them to go through as many times as they want and some of the kids will go through 10 to 15 times."

The Thomases say they are pleased with their inaugural maze. "There are a lot of things that can be done with land and this is a good one," Ross said, adding that the road they live on is a real corridor for creative land use. He cited a winery, an herb farm, and a mill which makes stone ground flour as examples.

"Come late November or December we will chop the corn and feed it to the cattle," he said of the final fate of the maze (or is that maize?) But, come next year, they are ready to amaze the area once again. "We were trying to keep it simple this year," Susan said. "But we will try something more elaborate next year," Ross concluded. —



Justin Walker, 5, son of John and Martha Walker of Manassas, crosses one of the Indiana "Farmer" Jones obstacles in the cornstalk maze grown by Jerry Mundy of Cross Keys.

Weyers Cave woman fills yard with herbs

By STACEY BAKER

WEYERS CAVE — "Over a hundred different herbs growing in your yard?" That was my response when Linda Peale first told me about her interest in herbs and old varieties of plants. On my way to her house near Weyers Cave, I was trying to imagine what her yard must look like with all those plants. My own extensive experience with growing herbs consists of one — sage — which I use to add a little flavor to fried potatoes and scrambled eggs.

When I arrived at Linda's house and looked around the yard, it

looked much like any other yard — trees, bushes, swing sets, a toy here and there, and several flower beds that looked as if they could use a good weeding. Linda came out and said, "Are you ready to see some herbs?" "Yes," I replied. We strolled across the front yard and stopped next to a huge bush.

"This is an herb?" I asked. It looked like a holly bush.

"Wild Mountain Oregon grape," Linda said.

That was a new one on me. Linda explained that the grape-like seeds are edible and a tea made from the leaves or bark is good for the kid-

See HERBS, page 7



Ron Peale Jr. of Weyers Cave stands next to a stalk of burley tobacco, an "herb" once grown on most Virginia farms.

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Yesterday once more



Family made good use of ambitious ox

By NANCY SORRELLS

During the Depression, people made do with what little they had and a whole lot of brain power, especially if a farmer and his wife were raising seven kids in a log farmhouse out in the country near Greenville. That's why when one of those kids named Norman noticed a young steer out in the field pushing around a stump, it was

decided to channel that animal's inclination toward work.

The year was 1931 and the steer had been born a year earlier on the farm of Arthur and Argie Wiseman. "Norman just said to the steer, 'If you want to work that bad, we'll just work with you,'" said Catherine Evans of her brother and the ox. The ox had a name too, Bob, and he was born to a cow named Star. "After a lot

of patience and work, Bob did very well," remembers Catherine of Bob, the family ox. Just recently Catherine ran across some family pictures of the odd bovine-equine team and decided to put together the remembrances of the family. Most of the stories she collected were from her brothers Norman and Jim who did much of the farmwork during the 1930s.

Bob did so well that another of

the family's boys, Lee, teamed up with his father and Norman to make a cart for the ox to pull. "My daddy had the initiative to put things together and do things," Catherine remembered of those days on the farm.

Once the cart was made, Wiseman took a horse collar and turned it upside down to better fit the proportions of an ox neck and Bob was ready to roll. "Several years Bob and the cart were taken to Middlebrook and put in the parade. Also Mr. Marsh Archart who lived nearby always had a fun time riding in the cart with Bob," recalled family members.

In addition to the home-made cart, the Wiseman family had a buckboard and Bob would occasionally be hitched up to that. Then the children would clamber aboard and go off to visit their grandparents. "I remember one time we were going to our grandparents and all of a sudden Bob decided to cut out and under the bushes to get the



Members of the Wiseman family pose with Bob, the ox that was trained to work on the family farm near Greenville. Standing up front is Norman Wiseman, now 81, and the one who first started working with Bob. On the home-made cart is Arthur and Argie Wiseman and children Beulah and James.

Photos courtesy Catherine Evans



Lee Wiseman stands ready to take an A-harrow, pulled by Bob and Prince, to the field.



James Wiseman sits astride Bob the ox and brother Lee is mounted on Prince. Note the jaunty chapeaus worn on Bob's and Prince's heads.

Mixed teams product of invention, practicality

By NANCY SORRELLS

The Wiseman's odd looking draft team of Bob the ox and Prince the horse was certainly not the first "mixed" hitch ever to pull a plow or cart. In fact, throughout history such teams have been created when the need arose.

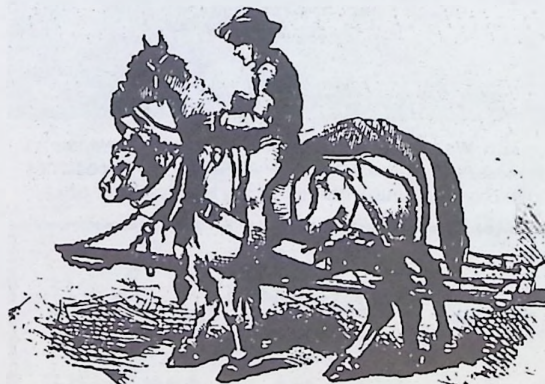
Several hundred years ago in Germany, for instance, such teams would have been, if not common, at least not unheard of. German peasants would sometimes hitch an ox (a castrated male) and a milk cow up together to work in the fields. Sometimes a horse was one of the pair harnessed up for work.

In the Shenandoah Valley in the 1850s, artist and author David Hunter Strother observed a team that he called "not a match." He went on to draw and write about

the odd combination that he saw making its way down the road.

"It was a heavy oxcart drawn by a pair that did not match particularly well. The off horse was a sway-back mare with all the hair worn off her sides by the traces and the wheel horse was a short legged bull," he said in a draft of his story.

The team of Bob and Prince as well as Strother's drawing and the historic evidence in Germany just shows that farmers everywhere and in all times used their brains and initiative to make do with what they had. And, interestingly enough, the 19th-century drawing rendered by Strother shows that the unknown farmer who hitched up his bull and mare together back then, decided that he, too, had to flip the horse collar upside down to make it work on his bovine. —



In the 1850s, author and artist David Hunter Strother drew the sketch shown above to illustrate a team of animals which "were not a match."

flies off of him!" said Catherine.

Eventually Bob was trained to work alongside the family horse, Prince, which was a real asset when added animal power was needed. Bob didn't require all the harness that Prince did; the traces were run from the upside-down collar through the hitch riggings back to the person controlling the team.

Some of the Wiseman children, especially a younger son James, also took to riding Bob bareback. The big ox provided a good ride,

See BOB, page 7

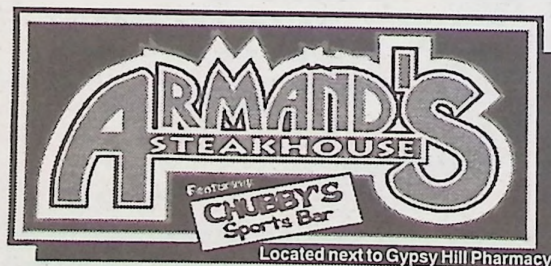
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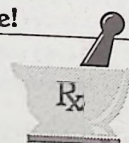
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Lipscomb road takes its name from porcelain factory

By VERA HAILEY

Lipscomb, located east of Stuarts Draft in Augusta County, was a rural community that sprang up in the last century. Many people have wondered about the origin of the name of the main road running through the area, called China Clay Road.

In 1864, the Porcelain and Terra Cotta Company, an English firm, was chartered in Lipscomb. Much of the manufacturing equipment was imported from England. The director of the company, Hugh Stewart, had been in charge of one of the largest porcelain and terra cotta works in England. The Lipscomb location manufactured

tile, terra cotta cups, saucers, bowls and pitchers. The operation burned in 1874, but was rebuilt.

Sometime during these years a kaolin deposit was discovered on the property. The term kaolin was first used in 1712 to refer to the manufacturing of porcelain in France. The substance, used to make porcelain, paper, rubber, white cement and some medicines, was used by the Chinese to make their lightweight porcelain dishes, called "china."

The building of the railroad in 1882 helped bolster the operation, and a station was built to accommodate the booming industry. This allowed their bricks, which were said to be superior to any other

bricks in the country, to be transported to destinations far outside the borders of Augusta County. The Virginia China Clay and Firebrick Company purchased the Porcelain and Terra Cotta Company property in 1883 in order to utilize the rare natural kaolin deposit.

Ruthie Dedrick of Sherando owns a piece of pottery that is believed to have come from the old Lipscomb factory. Her late father-in-law, Roy Dedrick, gave her the piece in 1974. Unfortunately, there is not mark or stamp on the item. It looks like a small crock with a round opening at the top. It was probably manufactured prior to the advent of vacuum canning in 1860. Before that time, clay crocks were

used to store butter, pickled vegetables, salt beef and pork, sauerkraut, whiskey and even water. A piece of cork covering the crock's opening was likely added in later years. The ledge just inside the lip sealed out insects and mold.

The glaze on the pot is brown and shiny. There is no visible design or color variation. It is similar in appearance to lead glazed pottery made in Middlebrook by David Grim during the same time period.

Thanks, Ruthie, for sharing this unique treasure. You may just have the only piece of Lipscomb pottery still in existence! —

This article first appeared in Backroads.



Ruthie Dedrick of Sherando holds a piece of pottery believed to have come from the pottery factory once operational in Lipscomb.

Photo by Vera Hailey

Herbs

Continued from page 5

neys and bladder, even helping to clear up urinary infections. And yes, it is related to holly.

As we walked through the yard, Linda told me all peoples of the world have used herbs and other wild plants for centuries. Some herbs were used for medicinal purposes, others were a source of food. Many people still use them today.

"Do the medicinal herbs really help?" I asked.

"Most herbs were used in the form of tea made from the leaves or sometimes bark. It has only been in the last few decades that you can buy them off the shelf in pill form. If someone has a cold or flu, any kind of hot tea will probably make one feel a little better," Linda said. "In other words, some may help, some may not. A lot depends on the individual."

We came to one of those weedy flowerbeds. What I had believed to be weeds turned out to be several varieties of mint. There was spearmint, peppermint, and one called mountain mint which was



used as a tea to reduce fever and was mild enough for children to use. The family of mint is quite large — over 2,000 varieties — including horehound and eucalyptus, which are used in cough medicines. There are also unlikely ones such as pennyroyal and oregano. All members of the mint family have square stems so whenever Linda showed me a plant in the mint family, I had to examine the stem and, sure enough, all varieties which she showed me had square stems.

Linda pointed out so many plants, along with information on their history and use, that I could not keep up with the flood of information. She said she had been interested in growing things since she was a child. "Other kids had pet animals, I had lots of pet plants," Linda explained. We were standing next to a plant called hys-

sop, an herb that is mentioned in the Bible. It was used as a blood cleanser, and is supposed to reduce blood pressure.

If you have a headache, just make some tea from willow leaves or bark. It has the same ingredient found in aspirin. Lambs' ear has big soft fuzzy leaves that you may have seen used in dried flower arrangements. A tea made from lambs' ear is great for the common cold.

Linda showed me another small plant with small yellow flowers. "This is St. John's wort. You may have heard about this one. It is real popular now as a treatment for depression. It is native to the area and can be found anywhere," she noted.

Ginkgo filoba, originally

from China, has been used to treat all types of nervous disorders. Elecampane is supposed to improve eyesight.

We finally came to a plant which I recognized — sage. I learned that, in addition to flavoring food, tea made from sage is great for treating sore throats.

Not all of these herbs were used to make one feel better internally. Jewel weed, or touch me not, likes to grow in wet areas, such as along the banks of creeks. If you have a run-in with poison ivy or oak, rubbing leaves from jewel weed on the affected area should help relieve the itching.

Linda next handed me several
See WEED, page 9

Bob

Continued from page 6

but when he was ready to stop he would "just drop his head and hump his back" and the rider "would slide off."

Bob eventually proved too smart for his own good. By 1942 the 12-year-old ox had become an escape artist. Catherine related the stories she heard of the mischievous ox. "He would take his head and just lay down a rail fence and go where he wanted. If it was a wire fence, he would take his foot and mash it down and go out. Also he would open the chicken house door and

get in as far as he could trying to get chicken litter."

Bob always had a mind of his own, which is what made the family put him to work in the first place. "Once when Norman had him hooked to the cart he ran off and took the cart to the creek and broke a wheel. I guess he wanted water. They took the wheel to the blacksmith shop which was on the farm and repaired it," Catherine said.

After a dozen years, the Wiseman family decided to sell Bob, but even today more than 50 years later the family still remembers Bob, the ox who wanted to work. —

The potato-like roots of the common cattail are edible and the seed pods can be prepared and eaten like roasting ears of corn.

Photo by Stacey Baker

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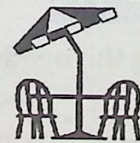
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Augusta County Fair 1998

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Gen. Robert E. Lee and his horse, "Traveller," even made an appearance at the Augusta County Fair with Evan Shiflett of Piedmont portraying the Confederate army leader in the dairy costume class.



Members of the Mountain Heritage Cloggers put on a foot stomping performance.

AC staff photos



"Who laughs this way, 'Ho, ho, ho?'" It's Jim Williams of Greenville who won first place in the junior division of the sheep costume class dressed as Santa Claus with his reindeer, "Lambchop."



Brandon Waldron of Mt. Solon exhibited the Supreme Champion female in the fair's dairy show. He is shown here with a red holstein heifer which he exhibited.



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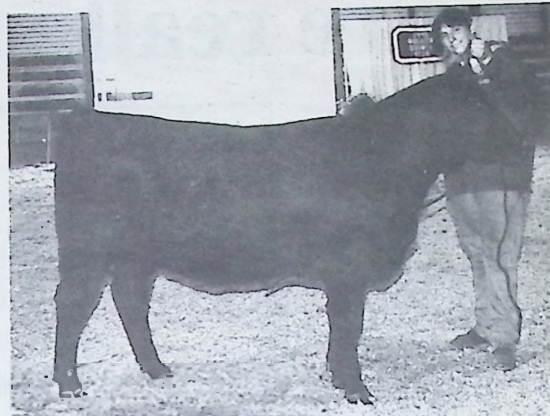
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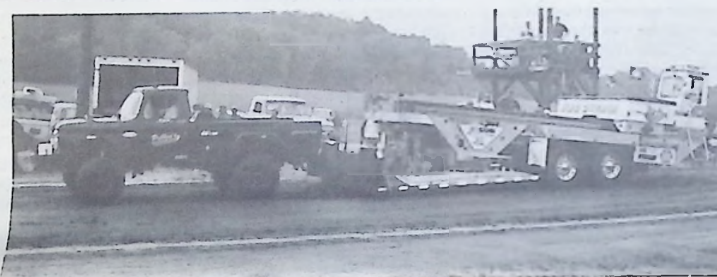
Abbearding Nightly



In the photo at left, Kayla Redifer of Weyers Cave shows off her market lamb which was selected Grand Champion at the Augusta County Fair. In the photo at right, Jonathan Coleman of Arbor Hill is shown with his purebred Angus heifer which was named Supreme Champion female in the fair's beef cattle division. In the photo below at right, showmanship champions Bradley Seal of Elkton, Billie Jo Swope of Churchville, and Jack Hinton of Greenville celebrate their achievements. Bradley was named Supreme Showman and champion beef showman, Billie Jo was champion dairy showman and Jack was champion sheep showman.



Wyatt Sours of Craigsville roars down the track in his 1965 modified Ford truck.



•Weed

Continued from page 7

leaves from two plants, rue and tansy. She told me to bruise them, then smell them, as I had earlier with many other of the plants. I did so, and what an odor! In the times before indoor plumbing, folks did not bathe as often, so not only animals had a problem with fleas and lice, people did too.

One has to imagine sitting through a long sermon while fleas nibbled on one's ankles. The leaves of rue and tansy were sprinkled on the floors of churches to discourage these pests. The odor of these two plants is so strong that if someone sprinkled a bit too much on the church floor back

then, it would have kept away more than just insects!

We then walked down by the "spring ditch." Here were many useful plants that grow naturally in wet areas. One was the common cattail. Native Americans used the roots like potatoes and the seed pods, which can reach eight inches in length when "ripe," were roasted over a fire, just like corn. Sweet flag is another potato-like plant, as well as Jerusalem artichokes or wild sunflower.

I asked Linda if she had any advice for folks who may want to raise herbs.

"Read as much as you can, and I highly recommend you get advice from someone who has been doing this awhile," she said. "When I planted my first herb seeds, I went out one day to weed the bed and pulled up all the sprouting herbs thinking they were weeds and let the weeds grow! As far as using these, many plants are poisonous

so you have to know exactly what you are doing. Also, remember anyone can have an allergic reaction to anything. Again, I would recommend working with someone who has a lot of experience. Even if you do not use herbs, they are wonderful to have growing, and it is fun to learn how these plants have been used throughout the years."

During my 40-minute drive back home (This is a BIG county!), I kept sniffing the tips of my fingers which seemed alive with all the aromas I had experienced that afternoon. "Maybe I will expand my herb garden next year," I said to myself. "perhaps an oregano plant..."

Anyone interested in obtaining advice about raising and using herbs may contact Linda at 540/234-9514. —

Stacey Baker lives in Haytie. He is an occasional contributing writer to Augusta Country.



The leaves from the tansy plant have a very strong odor when broken or bruised. For this reason the plant has been used to repel insects.

Photo by Stacey Baker

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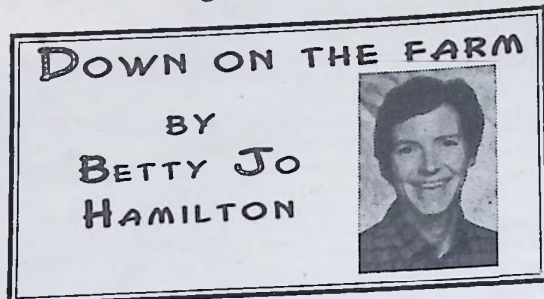
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Down on the farm we're thinking about simpler times. And in order to use the word "simpler," we must have something by which it should be compared. So we should say, we're thinking of simpler times than the present time.

All of us are prone to lapses of nostalgia, because thinking of times gone by makes us think life must have been simpler "back then" — "back then" being before bread was herbed, before shirts were designer labeled, before iced tea was fruit flavored, and before fat, sugar, salt and eggs were black-listed — oh, how I pine for the good old days when we knew so little and could truly luxuriate in the bliss of our ignorance.

Perhaps there are many of you who think farm life is the one last holdout of the simple life. Perhaps you think that down on the farms we live as farmers and their families have lived for centuries. Perhaps you think we have happily existed through the years, steadfast to our



simple way of life, a private utopia all to ourselves — all two percent of us — who have somehow managed to preserve this simple life while the rest of the world has microprocessed, micromanaged, and microanalyzed life into a whole other realm beyond simplicity. Well, if you believe this — that farm life and farming is as simple as it ever was (if it ever was) — then you are either seriously misinformed or have just never bothered to keep yourself apprised of how un-simple farming has become.

Farming is no different from any

other business or industry. Farmers have to look for an edge — to find ways to be efficient, to find ways to compete, to find ways to survive economically. I remember some years ago I heard a Virginia congressman say that farmers needed to learn to be efficient. I'm not sure on what information or research he was basing that sentiment, but evidently he hadn't spent much time around farms to see how efficiently farmers can use old baler twine.

A story my father loves to tell is about two hired hands who were

sent to mend a fence through which cows were chronically escaping. The men had no supplies or tools with them to repair the fence, so one took some cornstalks and baler twine and tied up the hole in the fence. The other hand asked, "Do you think that will hold?" Meaning, would the cornstalks and baler twine patch keep the cows from tearing down the fence again. The hand who had made the repair said, "It'll hold until I get to the house. And when I get to the house, I'm quitting."

Well, maybe that story doesn't exactly illustrate my point, but it's a good story. If it tells anything about farmers, it shows that sometimes they have to make do with what they have on hand. Extravagances are rare — strike that — for farmers whose sole source of income is farming, extravagances do not exist. I think most farmers have understood the necessity of efficiency for a long time. And many have adopted methods of farming which are a far cry from simple times when butter and egg money bought school shoes for the children.

I started thinking about how un-simple modern farming has become when, a few weeks ago, I witnessed a "technological advance" being put to use down on the farm.

In early September I had the opportunity to see for the first time ultrasound technology used to determine whether ewes were bred or open. This technology is the same as that used in hospitals for numerous types of diagnostic tests on people. Beyond its use in human diagnostic procedures, ultrasound has been used for a number of years to check horses for fetal development and, more recently, it has been used in cattle to determine the amount of back and pelvic fat and ribeye area. The use of

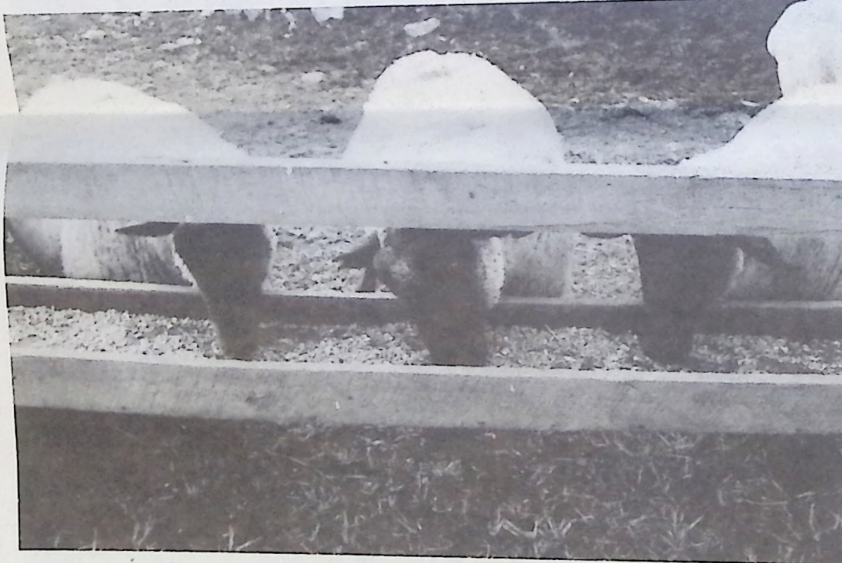
ultrasound to determine pregnancy in ewes has been employed for some time, particularly by purebred sheep producers. And, like any "new" practice, one has to determine if the process can be justified from a financial standpoint.

In the early spring I had put about 100 ewes out to be bred for fall lambing. The weather plays a major role in getting ewes bred in the spring and in previous springs the weather had been cool enough (cold enough, in fact) to promote adequate fertility rates among the ewes. However, when the weather this past spring became much more moderate (downright hot, in fact) than normal, I feared the success with breeding the ewes would drop off drastically.

It's not unusual to have a few ewes which for some reason fail to breed. In past years, these ewes simply move along with the rest of the flock when lambing time comes. There has been no sure-fire way to determine whether they're bred or not. The eyeball method rarely works. Most sheep producers will tell you this. Sort through a group of ewes and pick out the ones you believe are close to lambing and shut them up in the barn. Turn out to pasture the ewes which you don't believe to be close to lambing or not bred at all, and in a few weeks you'll have a pasture full of baby lambs and none born in the barn. That's the only sure-fire way I know of determining if ewes are bred.

And then there's the aggravation of carrying those unbred ewes along on feed for 30 to 60 days. One or two might be abided. But when you're operating on a large scale, 10 or 20 "scholarship" ewes can really cause the bottom line to sag. So as lambing time approached

See EWES, page 11



There's no such thing as a free lunch, especially not when ewes are pregnancy checked with ultrasound. The technology makes it possible to determine which ewes are bred and which ones are not.

This information allows the shepherd to eliminate "scholarship" ewes from the feeding program thereby returning a cost savings to the bottom line.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

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•Ewes

Continued from page 10

this year, I became increasingly concerned about feeding ewes that weren't bred and then coming up completely short and missing an opportunity to get them bred to lamb in the spring. With these concerns nagging at me, I decided to bite the bullet and give ultrasound pregnancy checking a try.

Biting the bullet for this procedure meant deciding if its cost would be an extravagance or if its expense would justify itself. In this case we checked 109 ewes at \$2 a head. Less than 80 head of ewes is \$3 a head. So see, we saved a \$1 a head just by having so many. If we'd only had 79, it would have cost \$237 for the lot. The 109-head only cost \$218. So really, we got 37 checked for free. Look how much money we've saved already. Are you following me on this?

In addition to the per head fee, there was a \$30 setup charge and \$42 mileage fee to bring the vet to the farm. So if we'd only had 79, the setup charge and mileage fee would have tacked another dollar on the per head fee. But by having 109 to check, it only cost an additional 66 cents per head for the setup charge and farm call. So see, we saved \$37 just by having so many. So now we've saved a total of \$56 — are you following me on this? — and that's enough to cover the setup charge and part of the mileage fee. Again, we're saving money. Isn't this great?

Checking the ewes with the ultrasound was a real education. It was exciting to be able to determine which ewes were bred and which were open using a method which is practically guaranteed to be a bit more accurate than the eye-

ball method. The vet placed the ultrasound conductor on each ewe's flank, using a little bit of vegetable oil to establish direct contact with the skin. On the screen of the ultrasound monitor the vet could see inside the ewe's uterus. The information projected there gave him a variety of information — whether the ewe was open or bred, how far along in gestation the lamb or lambs were, and how many lambs the ewe was carrying.

On ewes due to lamb in October he could not tell how many lambs were being carried because the ewes were so close to delivery that the size of the lambs prevented the vet from being able to see more than one lamb. On ewes due to lamb in November he could tell within only a matter of seconds of the ultrasound's image appearing if there was one lamb or more in the uterus.

I looked at the monitor's screen and couldn't see anything more than a gray blobiness which prompted me to ask the vet what he saw. He proceeded to show me a heart beating which, once he pointed it out, I could see, and a rib cage, which I said I could see but didn't. On another ewe, he showed me the head and eyeball, and again, the heart beating, all of which I saw, but I had to look with hopeful eyes to believe that what I was seeing was a baby lamb some 60 days from delivery. I suppose I might have been expecting the images to be more clear than they actually appeared. But then, it's not like the little lambs were going to be waving and mugging for the camera.

After all 109 ewes were checked it was determined that 42 were not bred, a number which was disappointing but not unexpected. Of

those 42, 12 are fall replacement ewes and I had not expected them to be bred but checked them anyway, just in case. So that left 30 mature ewes which are not bred but 67 which are bred, which makes 70 percent of the total number bred. That figure is a bit better than I was expecting. I had feared that perhaps half of the ewes were not bred. So it was with some relief that I learned more are bred than I had thought. The remaining 30 open ewes can go straight into the spring lambing group and not waste any

tain ewes in the manner to which they are accustomed during lambing season. I have not simply pulled this \$28 figure out of the hat. I have taken it from Publication 410-013, titled *Virginia Fall-Lambing Budget*, published by Virginia Cooperative Extension in 1995. I'm accepting the Extension Service's calculations as being close to accurate, but I suppose anyone might take issue with some of their methods of determining operating expenses. For lack of any other figure and for

Now that we've saved \$608 by spending \$290, I take some delight in that this appears to indicate efficiency — by congressional standards anyway — for what that's worth coming from a popularly elected delegation which approved the purchase of \$600 toilet seats.



grain being fed while waiting for lambs to arrive which never will. And, perhaps more importantly, I won't waste any of my time or effort watching and waiting for them to lamb this fall. This brings us back to the finances of the situation.

O.K. So the total bill for the 109 ewes, with the setup charge and mileage fee was \$290. Now, what were we actually spending that money for? What I really wanted to know was which ewes were not bred. So in essence, since it was determined that 30 ewes were not bred, technically it cost \$9.60 a head to find those 30 ewes. But remember, we saved \$56 just by having so many to check, which actually takes the total back to \$234, which means it only cost \$7.80 per head to find the 30 ewes which were open.

Depending on which figure you accept — either the \$9.60 or \$7.80 per head to sort out the 30 unbred ewes — you might think that a pricey, perhaps even an extravagant, cost. But wait. How much would it cost to carry those 30 open ewes through two-and-a-half months on feed thinking each would eventually have a lamb or lambs which would pay for the ewe's keep and maybe make some money to pay the shepherd?

It would cost \$28 a head to main-

lack of the good sense to be able to figure the per head ewe cost for fall lambing on my own, I leave it to the experts in this case.

This \$28 per ewe maintenance figure for fall lambing gives us some real insight into what the congressman might have been talking about when he said farmers need to learn to be efficient. If we had not determined which 30 ewes were not bred, these animals would have been kept in with the groups to lamb. After two-and-a-half months on feed, these ewes would be fat and fine with no lambs to show for the feed which they consumed. This is when the cash register really begins going, "ka-CHING, ka-CHING." The upkeep on the unbred ewes would amount to \$840 out of pocket expense wasted, for all intents and purposes. The \$9.60 we spent to determine which ewes weren't bred seems money well spent. Even having spent that, we've still saved ourselves \$18.40 per ewe's upkeep for a total of \$552. Add to this the \$56 we saved by having so many ewes to be checked (this savings is netted through what I believe is called a volume discount) and we end up having saved ourselves \$608. That's a 209 percent return on investment. When's the last time you got 209 percent interest

on money invested? Boy, we're really making money now.

In this situation everybody wins. The vet made about \$73 an hour for his work and equipment use. And we made \$152 an hour for doing practically nothing. Even the sheep win, and they don't win often, because the unbred ewes get turned out to pasture where they're happiest anyway and they won't have to worry about lambs until spring. Which may be even better for the shepherd because sheep fertility is promoted by cool fall temperatures and length of day so the lamb crop from those 30 unbred ewes may actually be a higher percentage than it would have been had they conceived for fall lambs. But now we're straying into the realm of prognostication which is best left to groundhogs and psychic telephone line operators, so we better stop with the facts at hand.

Of course, using ultrasound to determine pregnancy in livestock is only one of the myriad technologies which farmers are using these days to achieve efficient farm operations. And now that we've saved \$608 by spending \$290, I take some delight in that this appears to indicate efficiency — by congressional standards anyway — for what that's worth coming from a popularly elected delegation which approved the purchase of \$600 toilet seats.

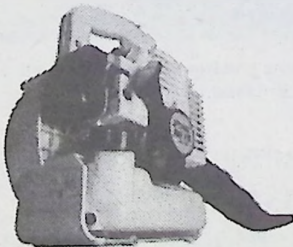
The monetary savings yielded by using the ultrasound test are certainly encouraging, but I haven't even mentioned some of the intangible benefits like the lessened wear and tear on the shepherd's nerves for having to watch 100 ewes due to lamb, 30 of which never would. It's difficult to place a dollar figure on the savings achieved through peace of mind.

And there was one ewe in the group which was bred, however, no fetal activity could be detected. That was enough information to earn the ewe a ride to town the next time a truck was headed that way. Finding that one ewe and being able to cull it before problems arose might have paid for checking the whole group of 109 ewes.

Now I have separated the unbred ewes from the bred ones, so I won't have a mob waiting in the wings for delivery. Come October, I'll have an intimate gathering of 27 ewes to deliver lambs. In November and early December, there will be 40 ewes to move through the lambing shed. I'll still eventually have to deal with those other 30 ewes which should have lambs in the spring, but I'll worry about them when the time comes.

Down on the farm times are not nearly as simple as they used to be. But I can't say I want to turn back the hands of time. Some of the newly developed methods of doing things seem to make life down on the farm a little easier than it used to be. And that sounds simple enough to me. —

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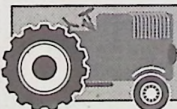
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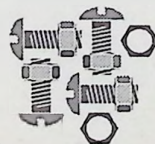
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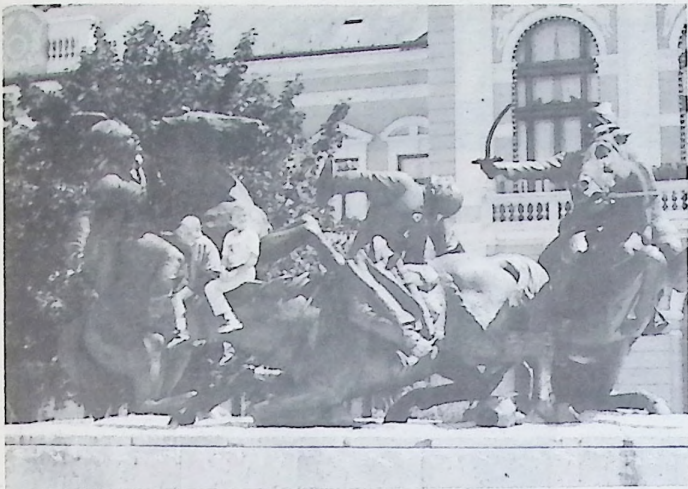
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Jon and Matthew Greenawalt on a sculpture depicting battle in the Eger, Hungary town square.
Photos by Dave Greenawalt



Rosemarie, Jon and Matthew Greenawalt look out over a portion of the castle at Eger, Hungary.

•Hungary

Continued from page 12
were too slow noticing the peas' movement. By the time the few brave Hungarians tried to go and take care of the situation, it was too late. The Turks' explosion made the walls collapse on the Hungarian defenders.

It was neat to get to see these pockets where the drums used to be, and to go in the small section of tunnel that is usable once again, after a vast amount of excavating.

Above the older tunnels, which are mostly filled in, there is another set of tunnels which the Austrians built after they defeated the Turks 91 years later. We got to walk all around these tunnels, which was a lot of fun. They had original vents to bring in fresh air, and there was a well which was really neat.

From the upper level you could look down, and from one of the tunnels there was a hole in the side of it and you could look in. They could

get water from either level, although they would have had to have a very long rope. It was neat when you were in the tunnel to poke your head in the side of the well, look up, and see the people's faces above as they dropped coins. (There was a net half way across to catch the coins so they didn't hit you.)

We got to see one of the pots that the women had used, and a large rock basin in which they mixed gunpowder. We saw several cannons which were remakes of the originals, and held some of the original Turkish cannonballs. The smallest Turkish cannonball I don't think would have fit into the largest Hungarian cannon.

We generally had a fun stay in Hungary. It was a lot of fun to get to play soccer with the Hungarian students during sports hour at the camp, although our team didn't usually win. Most Hungarians have been playing soccer all of their lives, like many American children do with baseball. —

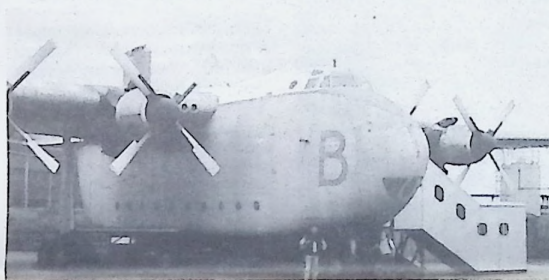
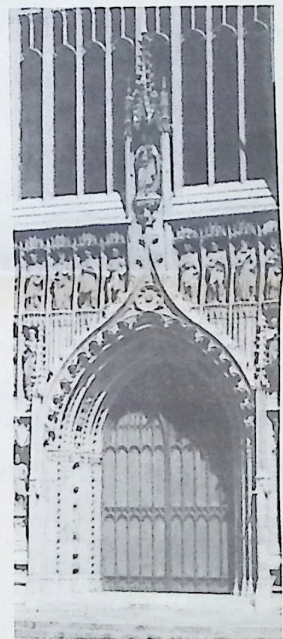


Photo above — The one and only Beverley Transport Plane at the Military Transport Museum in Hull, England.
Photo below — The Greenawalts visit with former neighbor Rosaneni in Balatonalmádi, Hungary.



Beverley Minster Cathedral, England

Photo by Matthew Greenawalt



At the Eger Cathedral

Photo by Matthew Greenawalt

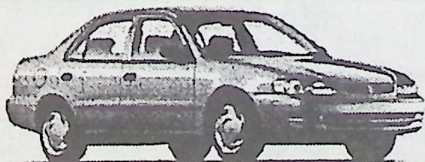
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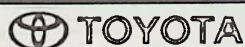


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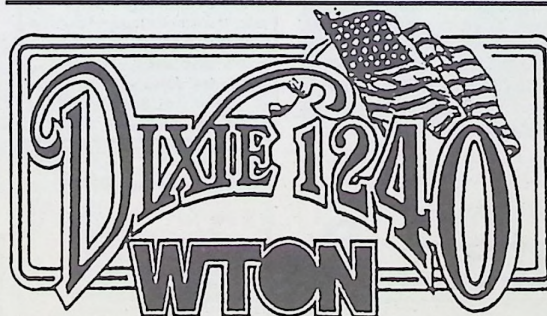
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Schoolhouse News

RHS FHA members win gold in New Orleans

By JULIE GRIMM

GREENVILLE — This past summer the Riverheads High School Chapter Future Homemakers of America went to New Orleans, La., for the National Leadership Meeting.

There were six members of the chapter that represented Virginia at the national conference. Those involved were Shelly Buchanan, Misty Reed, Karol Buss, Misty Blackwell, Amy Badgley, Stephanie Harris, and Kathleen

Buchanan, chapter adviser. These six girls represented Riverheads High School and Virginia in four different categories, Senior Chapter Showcase, Occupational Skills for Life, Junior Skills for Life, and Senior Community Service.

These ladies left on their trip on July 4 and returned on July 10. During their stay they competed for the gold medals of their division, went to various meetings, dinners and went sightseeing. When the group left New Orleans they de-

parted with three gold medals and one silver medal.

When Mrs. Buchanan was asked how she felt about all of their accomplishments she said, "I'm very proud of them. Several officers and members have already set their goals to go the National Competition in Boston this year." Ladies you did an outstanding job this summer — good luck in 1999. You have shown that hard work and effort do pay off! —



Representing the FHA chapter of Riverheads High School at the national convention in New Orleans, La., were Amy Badgley, Stephanie Harris, Karol Buss, Kathleen Buchanan, Shelley Buchanan, Misty Reed, and Misty Blackwell. FHA staff photo

Exchange students settle in at RHS

By MEREDITH McCOOL

GREENVILLE — Carlos Herranz and Maria Grebionkina, exchange students, are attending Riverheads High School for the 1998-99 school year.

Carlos, 17, is from Zaragoza, Spain. He will be staying in Augusta County with the Turner family for 10 months. Having been pulled from a Spanish IV class, he was just as leery about an interview as anyone in a new environment. Matters were complicated by his shaky English and my scant ability to speak Spanish. However, he is adjusting amazingly well, and

enjoying himself in the meantime.

Maria, known to some as "Masha," is 16. She calls home Kirov, Russia. She will be staying in Augusta County for a year, and is living with the Dolive family.



GREBIONKINA HERRANZ

Maria confessed to the monotony of questions an exchange student is asked. After making several jokes, she said that she dislikes the fact that people treat her like a kindergarten because English is not her first language. She demonstrated how people would talk slow and loudly, or use hand gestures to communicate, when really she could understand them just fine, most of the time. Nevertheless, she is having a wonderful time here.

All in all, Carlos and Maria are teenagers, taking every advantage to experience the world. If all teens are pretty much the same, how different can they be? —

Gap FFA member is finalist for national proficiency award

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.

-- The National FFA Organization has announced that Troy Lawson of Churchville has been selected as a national finalist for the National FFA Proficiency Award in the area. Lawson is one of only four people chosen to compete for this award at the national finals to be held this November during the National FFA



LAWSON

Convention in Kansas, City, Mo.

Lawson is a member of the FFA chapter at Buffalo Gap High School. He became eligible for the national award after winning the Virginia state FFA competition earlier this year. He is a student at Virginia Tech and is the son of Jeff and Barbara Lawson.

In recognition of being a finalist, Lawson will receive a plaque and \$250. The national winner will receive an additional \$250 during a special ceremony at the convention. Lawson's award was earned in the Diversified Livestock Production -Entrepreneurship category for gaining hands-on experience in livestock production. ---

Grimm to serve as school news editor

GREENVILLE — Augusta Country's school news editor from Riverheads High School for the 1998-99 school year is Julie Grimm. She is a senior and serves as a class SCA representative. She also is a cheerleader and has been since her freshman year. Julie says she is looking forward to June 3, 1999 which is her graduation date. After high school she plans to attend Blue Ridge Community College and later transfer to James Madison University to become a physician's assistant specializing in pediatrics. Julie is the daughter of David and Gail Grimm of Greenville. —

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Middlebrook Ruritans host Jack Marsh

AC staff report

MIDDLEBROOK — Jack Marsh, special assistant to the president during the Ford administration, was the guest of the Middlebrook Ruritans at their Sept. 9 meeting.

Marsh, father of Middlebrook physician Rob Marsh, spoke to Ruritan members about the settlement of the Shenandoah Valley by Scotch-Irish and German settlers who filtered down the valley from Pennsylvania. He reviewed some Augusta County history, telling Ruritans the county is named for Princess Augusta, mother of George III of England.

It was noted that Augusta County was one of the great western expansion counties and in its original tract extended west to the Mississippi River and north to Ohio. Marsh pointed out that it was a then-inexperienced George Washington who, as a 17-year-old, came to the "frontier" of Augusta County and surveyed the territory.

Marsh called this "Washington's 10 years in the back country." He credited Washington's time spent living on the frontier for making him a formidable soldier. Although raised in Tidewater aristocracy, Washington was elected to his

first of two terms in Virginia's House of Burgesses to represent the Harrisonburg area north to Winchester.

Marsh said the future Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and first president of the United States of America was introduced to politics and soldiering largely because of experience he gained while living in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

Many school children may know the nation's first president for refusing to lie after chopping down a cherry tree. However, Marsh said Washington's legacy extends beyond his personal integrity into the realm of being a great military leader and political strategist. He called Washington one of the "most outstanding leaders in the last 1,000 years."

The 200th anniversary of Washington's death will fall on Dec. 14, 1999. Marsh encouraged Ruritans to urge their congressional representatives to pass resolutions recognizing Washington's legacy.

Marsh was born in Harrisonburg, served in the National Guard during World War II and graduated from Washington & Lee. He set up a law practice in Strasburg and in

1962 was elected a congressman to represent Virginia's 7th district. He went on to serve as assistant secretary of defense and counselor to Vice President Gerald Ford. When Ford stepped up to the presidency following Richard Nixon's resignation, Marsh continued to serve as a counselor to Ford. He served as Secretary of the Army for eight years during the Reagan administration making him the longest serving Secretary of the Army in U.S. history. He now teaches at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

Marsh said he is frequently asked which of his jobs he has found most interesting.

"I would say the most interesting job I've had was working in the White House with an office next door to the president and to be involved on a day-to-day basis with decisions made by the president," Marsh said. "But I tell people the most important job I've had is being a U.S. congressman. Being a member of the House of Representatives is like being in the infantry of the legislative process."

Marsh's mother and grandmother were from Swoope and he noted that he feels a special connection to the area. He commended Ruritans for the active role they

take in their community.

"I've always been convinced that the strength of our country is in our small communities," he said. "There's an atmosphere of caring and concern here, and I'm afraid

we're losing that in this country." Marsh said he was pleased his son and his family chose to live in the Middlebrook area. He thanked Ruritans for welcoming his son's family to the community. ---



Duane Swanson, left, president of the Middlebrook Ruritans, welcomes Jack Marsh, former Secretary of the Army and presidential adviser during the Ford administration, to the club's September meeting. AC staff photo

Augsburger to speak at Staunton church

STAUNTON — Myron S. Augsburger will be the featured speaker for a "Celebration of Faith" to be held at Staunton Church of the Brethren Oct. 18-21.

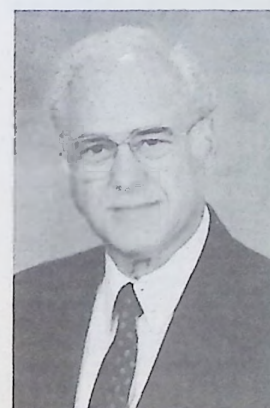
Dr. Augsburger is a world renowned evangelist who has held crusades in major cities across the United States and Canada and countries around the world including India, Africa, the Middle East, Central and South America, and Asia.

A graduate of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond and author of more than 20 books including *Discovering John*, a commentary on the book of St. John, Dr. Augsburger is best known locally as a past-president of Eastern Mennonite University where he also served as a professor of theology. Dr. Augsburger will be joined by his wife, Esther, who will conduct a morning session at 10 a.m. Oct. 20. A sculptor and lecturer, Mrs. Augs-

burger's works include the compelling "Guns to Plowshares" in Washington D.C. and two outdoor pieces displayed at EMU.

Services will take place at 7 p.m. each evening and include a special children's message. The public is invited to attend.

Music will be supplied by Ken and Betty Masterman. Free child care will be available. For information call Staunton Church of the Brethren at 886-8655. The church is located at 1615 N. Coalter Street. —



MYRON AND ESTHER AUGSBURGER

Christian writers to meet

MT. CRAWFORD — A chapter of the Shenandoah Valley Christian Writers' Fellowship will be meeting at the Mt. Crawford Cornerstone location (on Va. 257, west of U.S. 11 and the I-81 Mt. Crawford exit) at 7 p.m. Mondays on the following dates: Sept. 28, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7. A group will be traveling together to the Christian Writers' Conference in Sandy Cove, Md., Oct. 4-8. Call Beth Greenawalt at 540/828-2034 or Deborah Sensabaugh at 540/261-1910 for information. ---

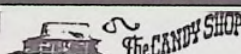
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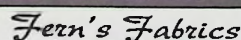
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The Hitching Post

Career choice offers the study of horses... literally

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is another in a series of stories about equine-related careers.

By I.B. HOOFNIT

MIDDLEBURG -- Where do you go to find out about horses? Who do you turn to when you need to know something related to the field of horsemanship? I discovered a very special person in an unusual horsemanship career. Laura Rose is a librarian at the National Sporting Library which is a research cen-

ter for horse and field sports.

Laura has been a librarian for seven years and has maintained an interest in horses, books, and libraries. Although this field is very limited in demand, Laura suggests that anyone interested in pursuing this type of career might start out doing volunteer work in a local library.

"See if it is what you would like to do," she suggested.

Positions can include working with the public, organizing information, and even computer/tech-

nology. Large libraries may have staffs of hundreds of employees. Laura explained that the National Sporting Library has a staff of two and they must do all areas of "work" positions.

There are also many different types of libraries from which to choose — public, special (such as the National Sporting Library), university/academic, and corporate, to name a few. Most libraries require a master's degree in library science.

Laura's interest in books and horses led her to a journalism in-

ternship for *The Chronicle of the Horse*. The office building of the *Chronicle* also hosts the National Sporting Library.

"I spent a lot of time in the NSL," explained Laura. "A position came open and I started part time." She later went on to earn a master's degree in library science from Catholic University. "In two weeks of library school I knew that I loved it!" she said.

In addition to her work as an "equine" librarian, Laura's inter-

ests in horses extends to the Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation. She serves on the board of directors as well as volunteers teaching students with disabilities. "I am interested in horses, art, and journalism, too," she said.

If you have an interest in books, love horses, and decide a career as a librarian is for you, then consider this career in horsemanship. It is a special interest pursuit, but one that offers an unusual alternative in the study of horses. —

National Sporting Library is resource for equestrians

By CHRIS MARRS

MIDDLEBURG — The National Sporting Library, a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1954 as a research center for horse and field sports. The library is home to over 10,000 books of interest to horse

enthusiasts. Sharing a building owned by *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine in Middleburg, the NSL was originally founded by Alexander Mackay-Smith and George L. Ohrstron Sr. In 1955 upon Ohrstron's death, the responsibilities were taken over by his son

George L. Ohrstron Jr.

Hundreds of sportsmen and book lovers support the library as members of the Friends of the National Sporting Library. The membership fee includes a subscription to a newsletter that keeps readers informed about library activities as well as book reviews and new arrivals. The library is open to the public weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to make appointments.

There is some good news for NSL in the future. Next spring the library will be moving into a new 15,000 square-foot building which resembles a carriage house. The new library is being built on the same seven-acre site known as Vine Hill

which is the current home of the library and *The Chronicle of the Horse*. Some features of the new building include stacks for 30,000 books (the new inventory upon moving will increase to 15,000!), a rare book room for 6,000 books, a 100-person capacity meeting room, an art exhibition room, audiovisual library, and computer workstations, as well as much more.

The National Sporting Library and 27,000 other libraries participate in the interlibrary loan system. If you would like to use a book, you can contact your local library and request it. If the book is able to "travel," it will be sent to your local library and made

available to you. Books obtained through the interlibrary loan system cannot be checked out, but rather must be used for research on site at the library which has obtained the loan from NSL.

This special library has welcomed many visitors and researchers including pony club students, equine magazine journalists, writers, and many sporting enthusiasts. Field sports include books on angling, shooting, and even falconry.

For information on this unique research center and how you can become a supporting member of the NSL, call 540/687-6542. Librarian Laura Rose or Director Peter Winants look forward to helping you. —



This is a model of the National Sporting Library which will be built in Middleburg.

THE HITCHING POST

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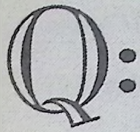
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Common problems may be handled with common sense



My horse has a problem with its coat. There are small bumps along the back under the fur. They are not bug bites, but are crusty and hard. The horse is field kept. Do you have any suggestions or comments on what they might be?

—KAT

The problem you are describing sounds like a condition called rain rot. This is a fungus that is often found on field-kept horses. Their living conditions provide a moist, warm environment for fungus growth in their fur. The condition is contagious and you should take care in treating it and watch for it to show up in your other horses if you keep them together. Fungus is also contagious to people so take care in your own health, too.

There are various fungi treatments on the market that can help with this condition. However, if you find that they are expensive or ineffective, I suggest a simple apple cider vinegar rinse. Apple cider vinegar is a natural fungicide and, although it has a strong odor, I recommend it highly for any fungus infection. Apply the vin-

egar directly on the affected area and leave on to dry. Brush the coat the next day and most of the bumps will start to come out, unfortunately also removing the fur. The fur will grow back in time.

Sometimes a good maintenance program will help prevent rain rot. Using a simple vinegar rinse once a month will keep the fungus to a minimum and protect your horse's coat. It will also prevent infection to the rest of your stock.

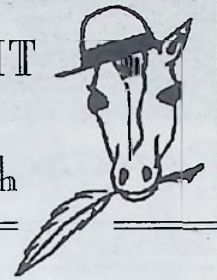
In discussing some common problems like rain rot, another situation that is annoying is tail rubbing. Horses with a bacterial infection will often rub their tails to relieve the itching. This causes the tail hair to tangle or, worse, rub off. It is important to remember that fungus and bacteria are two different types of infection and you should check with a knowledgeable per-

son concerning your treatments.

Bacterial infection is common in the tail area due to the droppings. Keeping the rectum area clean helps prevent infection. Rinsing the tail hair with a solution of two parts antibacterial mouthwash mixed with one part baby oil can help. The mouthwash kills the bacteria causing the infection and the baby oil helps condition the skin and hair.

The most important consideration in horse care is cleanliness. Daily brushing and grooming is important to maintain a healthy horse. Horses that are constantly kept clean tend to stay clean. If you are a sporadic groomer you might find your horse likes to roll after a good grooming. Rolling is nothing personal against your grooming

I.B. HOOFINIT From the Horse's Mouth



efforts. It's just that after being dirty it feels strange to be clean. Your efforts should be consistent and steady in order for your horse to feel normal being clean! Remember, horses are creatures of habit.

Is it normal to be clean or is it normal to be dirty? Each horse will tell you a different story depending upon its care. —

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 pro-

vided in this column is meant to be taken as general advice. Each horse, rider, owner, and situation reflects different problems. I.B.'s answers are meant to be informative and enjoyable, but not binding. Common sense in any situation is a must.

Goldenrods bring color and confusion to fall fields

By MARK GATEWOOD

Just as the late summer insect noise reaches its peak, the fields and roadsides begin to glow. The many species of goldenrods bring a wash of fall color, but they also bring some confusion to the scene.

Identifying the different species is challenging because many look alike and are separated by minute characteristics. And, because it's showy and widespread, goldenrod gets blamed for something it doesn't do.

Let's clear up that last item right away. While goldenrod pollen probably makes some contribution to the fall pollen allergy sufferer's discomfort, it's not the main culprit for this reason: goldenrod pollen is fairly heavy and sticky and not easily carried on the wind. Goldenrod needs the services of insects to distribute its pollen and it advertises this by putting out brightly colored flowers. Visit a patch of goldenrod on a sunny day and you'll see honeybees, beetles and other insects on the flowers; look closely and you may even see the tiny yellow crab spider nestled down in the flower taking his own toll from the traffic.

The main contributor to the late-season pollen count is ragweed. Ragweed has tiny pollen grains easily carried by the wind. With no need of brightly colored flowers to attract insect pollinators, ragweed produces tiny green flowers almost unnoticed by most of us. But it sure puts out the pollen. We must say this in ragweed's favor, though: it

See *POLLEN*, page 19



Goldenrod's bright yellow-gold flowerettes add a splash of late season color to the landscape.

AC staff photo

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Country Crossroads

Reflecting pool reflections

By Roberta Hamlin
September 1998



Dear Maude,
Well, what can I say? Certainly it has all been said! (And, quite frankly, a lot more has been said than people in Washington or anywhere else would have preferred.) So far, I have refrained from reading Mr. Starr's report to Congress and try not to watch too much television. I cannot imagine that all of those lurid details are much of a basis for self improvement.

So, in order to amuse myself otherwise, I have been spending the morning and evening commuting time watching people as they journey to and from their jobs, trying to decide from their dress and demeanor, just where they work. (You know how I love clothes and what they say about people.)

The Washington dress code is very subtle. It can tell one a lot. Dressed in just-from-the-cleaners dark suits with crisp shirts, (and sometimes a bit of daring in a colorful tie, but not often,) you will find the men who are in some branch of legal work — lawyers, lobbyists, etc. No matter what the temperature, no self respecting young lawyer just out of law school would be seen without his jacket. He will wear his scuffed white running shoes on the walk from the car to the subway station, but will refuse to remove that coat! In the summer many will forego wearing a vest, but at the first hint of cooler weather out comes that third piece.

The women lawyers, of whom there are quite an increasing number, tend to dress very similarly — they are seen in perfectly tailored, classic skirts and jackets, with sometimes a touch of femininity in the blouse. Those women who are just getting started, will appear in very sensible athletic shoes, with their nice dark suits, but soon (at least one block from the doors of their offices,) change into very sensible dark low heeled shoes. No sexy spike heels here!

The women who have reached a higher level at the firm would never be seen riding on the subway. They arrive at the parking garages in their nice, expensive, sensible heels. The members of the legal group one sees on the subway are obviously uncomfortable, even in the chilly blast from the overhead vents, but would not have you know it for the world. They very nonchalantly read their New York Times. A few less conservative ones may let you see them reading the Washington Post. And more recently many will sit with blank faces, not wanting to believe what was reported about the President. Others look around as if someone might recognize them as having once been on the staff or at committee headquarters and ask questions. The very conservative ones, who couldn't wait to get to the juicy parts of "The Report," read their copies out of half opened briefcases, trying to act as if they were checking their daily schedule. The dark suiters who are lobbyists look thoughtful, probably trying to remember if there was anyone they had "known" in their past who might have a loose tongue. There are little worry lines across their faces.

Of course, there will be other men dressed in suits and ties as well, but they seem to look uncomfortable in a different way — they tug at the tie, sort of uncomfortable instead of the smug someone-should-do-something-about-this heat kind of uncomfortable. These are the government workers in mid-level jobs who have a meeting or seminar on that particular day and must be properly dressed. Most of them wear short sleeved shirts and ties with comfortable jackets, if necessary, the rest of the time. You will see them sort of scanning most of the paper, but often engrossed in the sports section. Their female counterparts will be nicely dressed, with perhaps a little more choice of color, and often fun-type jewelry, but they are going to look sensible, according to the weather.

And then there are the smart dressers. Once in awhile there will come along the high-fashion dresser in a dashing

Prayers offered and prayers answered

George Herbert, the 17th century poet, once prayed:
*Thou, who hast given so much to me,
give one thing more -- a grateful heart.*

If I had only one request to make and only one prayer to teach my children, this would be it. The fact that I am not limited to one request or one prayer creates all kinds of complications. Undoubtedly, the heavens are filled with frivolous requests and silly prayers hardly worthy of the name. I am embarrassed by several of my own. A few examples I've heard include, "Lord, you know I don't have much time, and you know how much I need that parking place near the front. If you give it to me now, I'll serve you forever." Or "God, there's only 10 seconds to go; we can win this thing, if you give us the power. Please!" Everyone knows the old observation that more prayers are offered before math exams than at any other time.

Maybe I shouldn't be so critical of such silly prayers. After all, if somehow God is mysteriously present in all activities, (which I believe is true), then everything we do is worthy of prayer. Nothing is off limits. Even George Herbert, reflecting on the menial tasks of washing dishes, scrubbing floors and cleaning house, wrote:

*Teach me, my God and King
In all things thee to see,
And what I do in anything
To do it as for thee.*

Still, I'm not convinced that finding parking places and winning games qualify as worthy subjects for fervent prayers. They are disqualified in part, because such prayers if answered according to the petitioners' request always create losers who wind up outside the divine blessing. This happens frequently.

I remember years ago when a young woman testified gladly that God had helped her find a parking place. She was gently confronted by an elderly woman on a cane. What if I needed that same parking space? Do you think God wants me to walk all the way, when you could do the same so much more easily? Then she unknowingly paraphrased Tina Turner saying, "What's God got to with it?" The embarrassed woman who was so glad that God had actually helped her shopping, knew the answer. Everyone else does too. The answer leads me to believe two things about prayer. If you dare to pray, choose carefully your requests, and it's best to eliminate all the petitions that, if answered, will result in winners and losers.

George Herbert's plain request for a grateful heart is the kind of prayer worthy to be offered day and night. Why? Because gratitude is the source of goodness. Goodness in human life leads to social well-being. Our country is in short supply of gratitude and goodness. We are living through a

dress and spike heels, hair just perfect, nails to perfection, who is obviously satisfied with herself. She may or may not have a meeting, and when encountering this personality type, one finds her always the same. Ready for when that meeting may be called. The male smart dresser is usually, but not always, more subdued, and looks as if he has been polished to a high sheen. The shoes and belt are the same color and material. The shirt looks as if had been dyed to match the trousers. Often one can see the glimmer of lots of good gold at the neck, or wrist. He may not be so concerned about being ready for some meeting as he is about just liking to see himself in such nice things.

The Hill staffers often can be confused with the legal group. However, most of them opt for the classic ivy league look, unless there is an important hearing they must assist with, at which time they dress half way between the legals and the mid-level government types.

But there are also those who don't really fit any mold. (This is the class I often find myself in.) If the day is dark and chilly, an independent dresser will show up at the office in turquoise or bright pink and upset the whole dark and somber mood. Or when the spirit moves one of these



From the AC archives

Saying grace
By
Roy Howard

long and dangerous season of self-indulgence. Actually when this season of indulgence began is anyone's guess. I suspect it's longer ago than anyone cares to admit. (It's easier to blame the most recent generations.) But no honest person disputes that the results are now beginning to multiply with disastrous consequences.

The root of our social disease is the loss of gratitude. I am talking about a shift in perception that has taken place in our understanding. The shift is a move away from receiving things we have as gifts toward deserving these things as rights. Things like good work, the land, the air and water, the community, the family; the whole social fabric that sustains a decent, caring society. These things are gifts; to be grateful for them sustains goodness within yourself and your community. If we perceive them merely as things deserved, earned or owed, then gratitude is missing, and the wellspring of goodness dries up. To be truly grateful is to recognize everything that comes my way is a gift. If I see myself as a recipient of gifts, then I am more likely to preserve these gifts so that others may share in my undeserving bounty.

In our local communities we can help one another cultivate a sense of gratitude for the gifts that strengthen personal and social well-being. What are these gifts? I'll name a few that I have witnessed and for which I am most grateful. Good land and clean water, well-loved and well-preserved by people who know the sacred dimension of both. Farmers who farm carefully, and teachers who teach skillfully, who treat their farms and their classrooms as holy ground. Neighbors who give generously, without bitterness, to those in need. People who kindly offer hospitality toward strangers searching for a homeplace. Compassion for the suffering, solace for the sick and support for the disabled among us. Synagogues, sanctuaries, open-air tents and cinder-block buildings wherever opportunities are offered for people to pray well and cultivate a good life that leads to common goodness.

These are gifts to be cultivated. They are local practices that will lead us from a simple prayer for gratitude, prayed daily, toward a good society. ---

Roy Howard is pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church. This article was originally published in Augusta Country's December 1995 edition.

people, they might have the gall to go to work on a dress-down Friday, when everyone else is in jeans, in a slinky dress and heels. At those times they are looked at with a little bit of scorn by those who would have loved to wear something slinky but would never have thought of it. The men in this category don't seem to notice what others are wearing. They plod along in something thoroughly neat but comfortable.

The tourists are easy to spot with their new tee-shirts, shorts, walking shoes and fanny packs. They come in groups often with matching shirts and have an excited look about them. What will they see in the city? Who may drive by in that limousine? Will someone important cross their paths?

Many of those legals, government types, smart dressers or even the independent dressers, could pass for someone important. They might actually be very important. That is what makes the game so much fun. I think I know how to tell people in this town by how they dress and look, but I am never sure. And if I make mistakes, then who knows — one of those tourists might be gazing at me and wondering who I am. Just as long as they don't think I'm Monica in a blond wig!!

Love, LuLu

October gardening tips

First frost anytime now

Nothing much happened in Middlebrook this week, except we've been keeping one eye on the weather reports and one eye on the pumpkin patch. Any day now, there'll be that proverbial frost on the pumpkin — a sure sign that autumn has arrived.

While a light frost doesn't harm pumpkins, there are several tender crops in the vegetable garden that we should take special precautions with.

Essentially, all frost protection methods are based on preventing or replacing radiant heat loss of vegetables. If we can just keep that ambient heat energy in the crop, we will be successful in preventing damage.

Your main concern should be to harvest all ripe, tender crops before a frost hits. Summer squash, melons, eggplant, cucumbers, peppers and okra are some of the crops that can't withstand even a light frost and should be picked immediately.

For the plants remaining in the garden, the best method of frost protection is something

you should have thought about six months ago when you planted the garden — good site selection. Remember that hot air rises and cold air sinks. Visualizing the flow of cold air and its possible buildup in low spots or behind cold air dams, such as fences, hedges, wooded areas, is the most effective, quick method of vegetable site selection. If a site has good cold air drainage, then it is likely a good production site as far as frost damage is concerned. If your spot is low and unsheltered, it is likely to be a frost pocket.

If the frost warning is mild (predicting temperatures no lower than a 30 degrees F), try covering tender plants such as tomatoes with bushel baskets, burlap or canvas sacks, boxes, blankets, or buckets. Warm days after the frost will help to mature more fruit as long as the plants have nightly frost protection.

Cool-season crops such as cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and spinach can withstand some cold. In fact, many old timers say that their flavor is enhanced after a frost.

If frost protection is to be practiced successfully, it must be handled with the same care and attention as spraying, fertilizing, pruning, and other gardening practices. Successfully protecting crops will add several more weeks of those delicious home-grown veggies. —



The Garden Path

By Jeff Ishee

October chores for the garden

Late-fall tilling can help control insects, such as corn borer, corn earworm, cucumber beetle, squash bug, and vine borer. This is because it exposes overwintering insects to winter conditions. It also makes soil preparation easier next spring. Do not apply quick-acting fertilizers while tilling the soil during the fall. Otherwise, the nitrogen will leach away before spring. Materials that release nutrients slowly into the soil, such as rock phosphate or lime, can be worked into the soil in the fall.

When temperatures start dropping, be sure to check for any chemicals that should

not freeze. Move them to a safe storage place where temperatures do not fall below 40 degrees F. Frozen liquids can break jars and split plastic containers, spreading concentrated chemicals within reach of children or pets.

In folklore, woollybear caterpillars are used to forecast the severity of the winter — the more black on the woollybear, the colder. Conduct your own research to see if it works. Though these insects feed on a variety of garden vegetables, they are not present in large numbers and are not pests of any particular plant. —

•Pollen

Continued from page 17

produces large quantities of oil-rich seeds which persist on the plant into the winter. This makes it an important winter food source for our ground feeding birds. In some parts of the country, it's a staple food item for quail. Goldenrod, widespread and showy, doesn't match up to ragweed as a wildlife food.

Goldenrod is pretty much an American original. Europe has one native goldenrod — plus some of our species which have naturalized. We have 50 species, give or take a few. In Virginia, we can start with the seaside goldenrod on the dunes and salt marshes and go right up to the high mountain ridges without losing sight of some type of goldenrod in every habitat.

It seems odd that gardeners haven't picked up on goldenrods. I was out at André Viette's on that rainy Sunday in August and he had Canada goldenrod for sale. This may seem like unwarranted optimism from a business standpoint, but I call it giving long-overdue recognition. Granted, on many species the lower leaves become tattered and wither before the blooming period runs out, but there are exceptions.

One goldenrod which I visit every year on North Mountain below

Elliot Knob seems an excellent candidate for ornamental use. It's fragrant goldenrod, so-called for the mild anise odor of its crushed leaves.

The leaves of fragrant goldenrod are dark green and leathery and evenly distributed along the stem of the plant. They remain fresh through the blooming period in late September into October. And, yes, a transplanting and seed-collecting trip is probably in my future.

Maybe the best way to enjoy the goldenrods is as native plants in their selected habitats. If you'd like a little intellectual stimulation, try learning the goldenrods. The common plant field guides will do — *Newcomb's Wildflower Guide* or the *Peterson Field Guide to Wildflowers*. You will need a 10X hand lens because you'll be asked to look at some awfully small structural details to tell one species from another. And you'll need sun protection; with the exception of a few woodland species, goldenrods are full sun all the way.

Unjustly accused by allergy sufferers, dismissed by the garden trade, the goldenrods still manage to hold their heads up and put on an annual display that brightens our Augusta country. You might say it's the final act in our summer show. Let's get out and enjoy it. —

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Relief Sale, Sept. 26

FISHERSVILLE -- The 32nd annual Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale will be held Sept. 26 at Augusta Expoland.

Breakfast, including pancakes and sausage or omelets or scrambled eggs and sausage, will be served from 6 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Auction of handmade furniture will begin at 9 a.m. and will be followed by the quilt and comforter auction at 10:30 a.m. Lunch, including turkey tenderloin, baked potato, and green beans, will be served beginning at 11 a.m. At noon, auction of paintings and prints by local artists will begin. The quilt and comforter auction will resume following sale of the prints and paintings.

Also available for purchase during the day will be homemade food items such as bread, rolls, cakes, pies, cookies, candy, donuts, applebutter, and fruit pies. Ready-to-eat foods available will include country ham sandwiches, barbecued chicken, Brunswick stew, french fries, pizza, funnel cakes, cider, and soft drinks. Other items such as cheeses, meats, cider by the gallon, fruits, jams, jellies, honey, dried fruit, fresh vegetables, red wheat flour and cornmeal also will be available. A variety of crafts, plants, and international craft items will be available for purchase.

Proceeds from the Virginia Mennonite Relief Sale benefit the Mennonite Central Committee which works in agriculture, community development, education, economic

technical development, and social services throughout the world. About 88 percent of the MCC dollar goes directly to the "field."

This will mark the last year of the Relief Sale at Expo. In 1999 it will move to Rockingham County Fairgrounds and be held the first Saturday in October. ---

Organ concert, Sept. 27

BETHEL GREEN -- Bethel Presbyterian Church is hosting an organ concert at 1 p.m. Sept. 27 to be performed by Sara Ann Lamb, Bethel's organist, and Frank Kennerly of Staunton.

Mrs. Lamb and Kennerly will perform a variety of sacred and secular music. Bethel's organ was made in 1928 by M.P. Moller of Hagerstown, Md.

Worship service on Sept. 27 will begin at 11 a.m. with a covered dish lunch to follow. Friends and neighbors of Bethel are invited to join the worship service and fellowship to follow during the lunch hour. After the luncheon is completed the concert will begin. A free will offering will be collected.

Bethel is located 1.5 miles west of Riverheads High School on Howardsville Road (Va. 701). For information, call 886-6041. ---

Ham & turkey buffet, Oct. 3

MIDDLEBROOK -- St. John's Reformed United Church of Christ will hold its country annual ham and turkey buffet from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 3 in the church social hall. Cost for the meal is \$9 for adults, \$4 for children 4-12, children under

3 are free. Hand crafts and baked goods also will be sold. Proceeds from the supper and items sold will benefit church projects.

St. John's is located 1.7 miles west of Riverheads High School just off Howardsville Road (Va. 701). ---

Annual meeting, Oct. 5

SANGERSVILLE -- The Augusta County Farm Bureau will hold its annual meeting and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Sangersville-Towers Ruritan Hall. Awards will be presented to area youth competing in Farm Bureau's annual contests. The Sunset Mountain Boys of Mt. Solon will provide entertainment. Board members will be elected for the coming year and resolutions will be considered for endorsement.

For information about the Farm Bureau annual meeting, to make dinner reservations, or learn about becoming a member call 540/886-2353. ---

Lord's Acre Day, Oct. 10

MINT SPRING -- Mint Spring United Methodist Church will hold its annual Lord's Acre Day Oct. 10 at the Mint Spring Ruritan Building.

A bazaar will begin at 11 a.m. Dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Included on the menu are ham, barbecued chicken, barbecued beef, and an assortment of vegetables. Prices are \$9 for adults and \$4 for children. An auction will begin at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from the day's events will benefit church projects.

Mint Spring Ruritan Building is located seven miles south of Staunton on U.S. 11. ---

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Ever After gets thumbs up... even from Hannah's dad

This summer movie goes got to see Zorro ride again. You dodged bullets at Normandy. And you witnessed the end of the world — twice. Chances are, however, you missed *Ever After* — the real gem of the summer movie season.

Ever After is the story of Cinderella—with a twist. The movie opens with the Brothers Grim paying a visit to a Grand Dame, who tells them the story of the real little cinder girl and even has the real "glass slipper." She then weaves the story of Danielle, a tale far more engaging than the fairy tale.

Played by Drew Barrymore, Danielle is a feisty young woman living with her step-mother Rodmilla, played by Anjelica

Huston, and her two stepsisters, the conniving Jacqueline and the kindly Marguerite. Even though Danielle has been relegated to the kitchen, her integrity and loyalty dominate the household and eventually the kingdom.

The kingdom is, at that moment, in a tizzy because Prince Henry does not want to marry the Spanish princess the king and the queen have chosen for him. As he flees from his overbearing father and understanding mother, he meets Danielle for the first of many times. Their future has an inauspicious beginning when Danielle beans him with an apple after he steals her horse.

A series of events brings the

two together time and again until love blossoms. But, of course, the wicked Rodmilla has plans for her own daughter, Jacqueline, and the Prince.

The plot follows the familiar story except that this Cinderella relies on herself and her own resourcefulness rather than a fairy godmother. Indeed, she turns out to be her own fairy godmother. She's a girl who makes her own dreams come true and who doesn't sit around waiting for her Prince Charming to rescue her. As a matter of fact, Prince Charming acts like a cad most of the time and is ultimately saved from himself by his lady love.

Written and directed by Andy

Tennant (*Fools Rush In*, and some episodes of *The Wonder Years*), Susannah Grant, and Rick Parks, this is an engaging and uplifting story. The sets and costumes are lush, the action zesty and the dialogue is passionate and self-assured.

Barrymore, for all her earlier dismal movies, turns in a tremendous performance. She holds the story together and commands the screen. Dougray Scott (*Mission Impossible*) is a perfect prince. He's handsome and human; you'll love him and want to bean him yourself throughout the movie.

Huston is perfect as the evil-step-mother who, at the heart of things, has herself been wounded in love. She actually makes you feel a bit sorry for Rodmilla, yet allows you satisfaction when she's punished for her misdeeds. A talented cast — including the impeccable Jeanne Moreau — rounds out the movie.

If you miss *Ever After* at the movie theater, then be sure to

FLICK



FLAK

A movie review by

Hannah's mom, Sue Simmons

catch it in video release. It is one of those rare films that makes you feel good whether you're a teenage girl or someone like Hannah's dad, who gave it two thumbs up (and this is a man who isn't often in touch with his feminine side!)

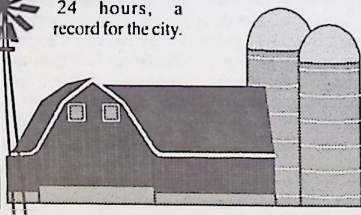
Ever After is rated PG — which I can't figure out because there's no language or nudity or violence except for a short sword fight. Hannah's mom gives *Ever After* three-and-a-half bananas. —

Yesterday's weather

Most newspapers include a weather forecast in each edition. But we try to be a little different at Augusta Country. We may not know what the weather will be like tomorrow, but we sure know what it was like yesterday.

Oct. 1, 1752 — The second severe hurricane in two weeks hit the Carolinas. The Onslow County Courthouse was destroyed along with all its records, and Beacon Island disappeared.

Oct. 7, 1981 — Seattle, Wash., received four inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the city.



Oct. 12, 1987 — Floyd, the only hurricane to make landfall the entire season, moved across the Florida Keys. Floyd produced wind gusts to 59 mph at Duck Key, and up to nine inches of rain in southern Florida.

Oct. 16, 1913 — The temperature in Downtown San Francisco soared to 101 degrees to equal their record for October.

Oct. 17, 1971 — Great balls of fire were observed just ahead of a tornado moving down the main street of Wray, Colo. However, little other electrical activity accompanied the storm.

Nine persons were injured in the tornado, all at a trailer court at the edge of town.

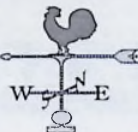
Oct. 22, 1985 — A guest on the top floor of a hotel in Se-

attle, Wash.,

was seriously injured while talking on the phone when lightning struck. Several persons are killed each year when the electrical charge from a lightning bolt travels via telephone wiring.

Oct. 26, 1859 — New York City had their earliest substantial snow of record as four inches blanketed the city.

Oct. 30, 1988 — Ten cities in the Upper Midwest reported record low temperatures for the date. The morning low of 20 degrees at South Bend, Ind., was a record for October, and lows of 18 degrees at Grand Rapids, Mich., and 20 degrees at Fort Wayne, Ind., equalled records for October. The low of 2 degrees at International Falls, Minn., smashed their previous record for the date by 11 degrees. Syracuse, N.Y., received 2.9 inches of snow to establish a record for October with 5.7 inches for the month. —



Information for this report was taken from the World Wide Web homepage of the U.S. Storm Data Center.

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