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Buffalo Gap's
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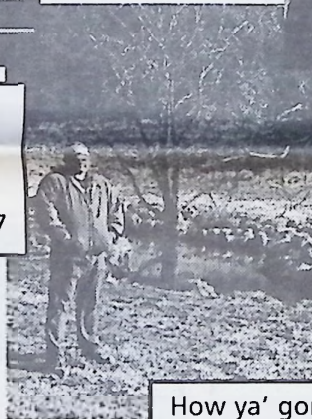
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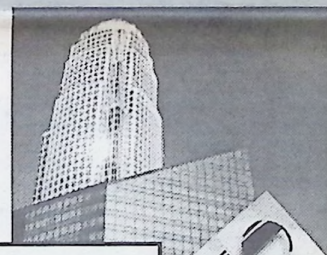
Retrace Gen.
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How ya' gonna' keep 'em
Down on the farm, now
that they've seen
Charlotte, N.C.?

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MARCH 1999

New VFBF president ready to take on challenges for farmers

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

STAUNTON — Challenges facing Virginia farmers are numerous and varied. And some of the greatest challenges farmers must face

are found beyond the farm gate. Newly-elected Virginia Farm Bureau Federation President Bruce Hiatt says he is looking forward to taking on some of the challenges which lie ahead for farmers.



Rick Shiflet, right, Augusta County Farm Bureau president, welcomes newly-elected Virginia Farm Bureau President Bruce Hiatt to a District Leadership Conference held recently in Staunton.

AC staff photo

ers. After serving 10 years as VFBF vice president, Hiatt was elected to his new post at the state Farm Bureau convention held in Roanoke in early December.

"We have a lot of challenges ahead of us," Hiatt said at a VFBF District Leadership Conference held recently in Staunton. "Farmers are confronted with regulations and restrictions that are increasing each year. Some of these are necessary and some we don't need. It's Farm Bureau's job to make sure agriculture is treated fairly."

A major task which Farm Bureau assumes is to lobby for farmers in Richmond and Washington. Both the state and national FB organizations keep their eyes on states' legislators and national lawmakers to help ensure that farmers' voices are heard in capitals and the nation's Capital.

"I want (Farm Bureau) to continue to be a strong voice for agriculture and make sure our farmers receive a fair price for products," Hiatt said.

The VFBF president said the environment, labor, water rights, and land use are issues which will receive a lot of attention over the next few years. The new poultry legislation, which has passed the General Assembly and is expected to be signed into law by Gov. Jim Gilmore, was an issue to which Farm

Bureau had devoted vast amounts of resources and time.

"We did not get what we wanted," Hiatt said. "We negotiated a settlement that we felt was the best we could receive. We worked on this for over a year and exhausted all our energies to bring it to a closure."

The new poultry legislation will go into effect July 1, however producers will have time to bring their operations into compliance with regulations concerning nutrient management and litter storage. Momentum which carried the bill through the Assembly came from support by groups looking to clean up and protect the Chesapeake Bay from pollution. They cited agriculture runoff as

a main source of this pollution.

Virginia's poultry producers maintained they were in compliance with voluntary regulations to ensure proper litter management on farms. However passage of the poultry legislation puts the force of the law behind nutrient management on farms.

VFBF did manage to protect Virginia's Right to Farm law during the 1999 General Assembly. Numerous bills before House and Senate committees represented attempts to change the Right to Farm law and assign a different definition to farms which exceed a certain number of animal units.

"Any change to the Right to Farm law would have been devastating. See CHANGE, page 7

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Staff writers

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Contributing writers

Matt Caldwell
Betty Gatewood

Jennifer Ishee
John A. Taylor


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VFW honors student essayists, educators

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON—What better place to talk about lessons in patriotism than at a Veterans of Foreign Wars post? Such was the case recently when the Augusta Staunton Post 2216 gathered to honor the winners of its youth essay contest.

More than 255 area youth in the seventh, eighth and ninth grades entered the VFW-sponsored competition by writing an essay entitled "What Freedom Means to Me." After much deliberation, judges Becky and Tom Park and Larry Ward, chose six winners who were honored at the ban-

quet and presented with certificates and savings bonds.

Taking home the top prize in the essay contest was Beverley Manor Middle School seventh grader Beth Huffer. Because her hobbies include historical re-enacting, the daughter of Charles and Donna Huffer of Churchville, knows first-hand about the history behind the freedom enjoyed by all Americans. Beth is president of the Shenandoah Society of the Children of the American Revolution, a member of the Tom Telegraph Children of the Confederacy, and a straight-A student.

Two of Beth's friends and sev-

enth grade classmates at BMMS, Melissa Koiner of Swoope and Lauren Davis of Staunton, were second and third respectively in the contest. Both girls are also outstanding students in the classroom.

Three other students were honored as being head and shoulders above the competition and the best in their schools. Treva Grimm was the Shelburne winner, Brandon Akers was top essayist at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, and Brian Bell was the Grace Christian winner.

The essay contest is in its third year of competition and has proved very popular with area

students. "VFW started this program to get the younger kids involved in democracy and show them how it works," explained Don Hall, the post adjutant.

He added that the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy public speaking contest in the high schools for a number of years and that the essay contest was an expansion of that concept within the middle schools. Three Voice of Democracy winners were also honored during the evening with first place going to Grace Christian's Benjamin Paulus, second to Riverheads' Helen Desper, and

third to Grace's Katie Summers.

A special plaque was given to area educator Earl "Buddy" Bosserman Jr., who has been instrumental in promoting the essay contest in the Augusta County schools. Bosserman is in charge of the social studies programs in the county.

Also receiving awards were area social studies teachers Beverly Wise and Scarlett Kiser from BMMS, Donna Wait from VSDB, Pam Landes from Shelburne, and Debbie Summers from Grace. First Sgt. Mike Harris of the Virginia State Police also received a citation for service. —

Area students win honors for thoughts on what freedom means

Beth Huffer
First place

Beverley Manor
Middle School

As I pick up the newspaper, an article catches my eye. "Starr Testifies," is the headline. As I read on, I think how lucky we are to have the privilege of reading the news. This is just one example of the many freedoms we have today, thanks to our Founding Fathers.

Freedom to me means many different things. This freedom ranges from simply going to a town meeting to speaking out



HUFFER

against our government. To put it much broader, there are simply five central freedoms. They are all defined in the first amendment.

Freedom of speech is first. This freedom to me means that I don't have to worry about being arrested for what I say. Most of the world lacks this privilege. Next is the freedom of press. Printing the truth in our country is very essential, because we know what is going on without censorship. Another freedom we enjoy is freedom of religion. We can go to church on Saturday, Sunday or not at all. We can practice our own religious beliefs without government interference. Another of our main freedoms is the freedom of petition. This is our way of telling our government we

don't like government actions. We have the freedom to sign a petition to affirm our opinions. Finally, there is freedom of assembly. That means the government can't stop people from meeting to discuss issues and concerns that are about government affairs.

In conclusion, freedoms of speech, press, religion, petition, and assembly are the principles of our society. They allow us to live free lives. Liberty, justice, and equality all derive from these freedoms. Thus, freedom to me means a life of expressing my opinions, hearing the local news, signing petitions, attending the church of my choice, and going to political rallies. In our country, freedom makes the American dream come true. —

Melissa Koiner
Second place
BMMS

When I walk down a street and see a newspaper stand I start to read the headline. "House members predict inquiry to end short of impeachment." I don't usually stop and think, what allows us to write our daily news, or that there are people in other parts of the world that don't have a choice of what to put in their newspaper. I don't stop to think about how



KOINER

lucky we are that the government specifically gave that power to us.

Think of the First Amendment as an example. It says that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of the speech, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government of a redress of the grievances. (This is basically saying we as American citizens have the freedom to speak, assemble, petition, practice religion, and write freely.) It says that we have freedom to do certain things. That we have laws we have to follow, but the freedom to do things too.

Most United States citizens take things like freedom for granted. They don't stop and ask themselves what if the First Amendment was never written? We wouldn't be able to attend the church of our choice, we would read a newspaper edited by the government and our grievances would not be printed in them. We would not be allowed to talk freely about our opinions and feelings, to have petitions against what we don't want, or see if there's a better way of doing things.

Think about all of the people who have spoken out about what they thought or believed in. Martin Luther King, Jr., for example spoke out about equality of people, that blacks and whites were equal. Rosa Parks for another example wouldn't give up her seat on the bus. She thought that she was as good as the person who wanted her seat.

These are just examples of what some people have done, but to me freedom is great! It's something I was born with, and it gives me more opportunities as I learn more about it each day. It lets me go to the library and get a book, or go to the mall and buy some clothes. To me freedom means that I have the power to wake up one day and try to change the world for the better. —

More
winning essays
on page 18

Lauren Davis
Third place
BMMS

To me, freedom means being able to make your own choices and being able to be independent. We are lucky to have so many freedoms in the United States because many other countries do not have this much freedom. Many people come here each year



DAVIS

to be free, and the Statue of Liberty welcomes them to America. Our forefathers worked so hard to make this country free.

We have five very important freedoms guaranteed to us in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. These include freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and freedom of petition. They state that we cannot be arrested or punished for saying what we believe and voicing our opinion. The limits on these freedoms are that we cannot lie about someone or say something to hurt their reputation.

Thousands of immigrants come here each year to be free from oppression of all kinds. That's what is great about America, everyone gets a chance and opportunity to prosper and no one is held back because they are different. Many years ago, immigrants first started to come to America. They would spend miserable months on a crowded ship, but when they saw the Statue of Liberty, they knew everything would be fine.

Our forefathers fought many long, hard wars in order to win independence for the United States. They first fought for freedom against Great Britain in the Revolutionary War from 1775-1783. Throughout the years, many other countries tried to take over the United States, but never

succeeded. We have pulled together and held on for over 200 years.

America is full of symbols of freedom. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia rang when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776 and when the Constitution was ratified in 1790. These are two of our nation's most important documents. Also, the Statue of Liberty was a gift to the United States from France in the late 1800s. All of these things show independence, liberty, and freedom.

In conclusion, we are very lucky to live in a country where we can make our own decisions. I am very proud to live in America and be a free citizen. We live in a country where we can be independent and we should not take this for granted. —

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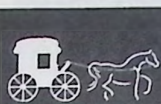
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Yesterday once more



Stonewall Jackson's famous Valley Campaign had dubious beginning

By JOHN A. TAYLOR

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of articles about Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign.

As we move into the spring season, many Civil War buffs in the Shenandoah Valley will begin to reflect on the important events which occurred in this area some 137 years ago. In March 1862 the Battle of Kernstown marked a somewhat shaky beginning for Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's famous Valley Campaign. By mid-June, however, his fabled campaign had earned fame and glory for the Confederacy and established Jackson's reputation in the annals of military history.

The eventual outcome was not apparent to the military participants in the early spring of 1862 when the Confederate situation was des-



Massanutten Mountain, 50 miles in length, is shown from a distance with one of its few passes to the Luray Valley near New Market.

Stonewall Jackson took note of this geographic feature and would put it to good use during crucial troop movements in May 1862.

Photos by John Taylor

perate. The Southern capital of Richmond was under martial law as the city prepared for a threatened

massive movement up the Virginia peninsula by a huge Union army under the command of Gen. George McClellan. Federal victories all over the country, including Ft. Henry, Ft. Donelson and Shiloh in Tennessee; Pea Ridge in Arkansas; Roanoke Island in North Carolina; Glorietta Pass in the New Mexico Territory; Mill Springs in Kentucky and Ft. Pulaski in Georgia were beginning to strangle the South. In April, the fall of New Orleans and defeats on the Mississippi seriously restricted the river use and threatened to geographically split the Confederacy.

And so there were plenty of reasons to focus attention in the Valley on a little Confederate army of around 4,000 men under the command of Stonewall Jackson. The Confederate leader had withdrawn his army southward from Winchester during early March 1862 as the Union soldiers under Gen. Nathaniel Banks pulled out of winter quar-

ters in Maryland, crossed the Potomac and moved into the Shenandoah Valley. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, the Confederate in charge of all Southern forces in Virginia, feared that Banks would join the Union move on Richmond. An alarmed Johnston ordered Jackson, positioned 45 miles south of Winchester in Mt. Jackson, to do anything possible to discourage movement of Banks toward the Southern capital.

The stage was set for confrontation. One side had an eye toward the Confederate capital, the other, outnumbered more than 6 to 1, had to prevent that from happening while also maintaining itself as a threat to the Federal capital at Washington, D.C. After occupying Winchester, the Union's Banks sent reconnaissance forces out to scout the area but found no evidence of Jackson. Believing that Jackson had left for Richmond, Banks wrongly assumed the Valley situation was under control and began

moving a 7,000-man division under Gen. Alpheus Williams to Manassas where they hoped to hook up with McClellan near Richmond.

Meanwhile, Jackson's cavalry commander, Turner Ashby reported that the Union forces had pulled back beyond Winchester and that only a small force remained to protect the city. Acting on that faulty information, Jackson and Ashby actively engaged the enemy at Kernstown, a few miles south of Winchester, on March 23, 1862. The Union force of about 7,000 top-notch soldiers under Gen. James Shields and Col. Nathan Kimball was considerably more than the normally infallible Ashby had reported. Shields, having been slightly wounded the previous day, had delegated field command of those soldiers to Kimball.

As the battle began, Kimball was able to keep the bulk of his forces hidden from view in the woods and Jackson at first was probably unaware of how badly his 4,000 men were outnumbered. The footsore Confederates, who had marched steadily over several days to reach Kernstown, ran low on ammunition and the battle ended when the Southerners were forced to retreat.

And so the first battle of the Valley campaign ended in Jackson's defeat. Or did it? Certainly it ended in retreat. Indeed the badly outnumbered Rebels were in a far worse situation than Jackson realized and he was fortunate to have salvaged the bulk of his army. A

See **DEFEAT**, page 5



The stone wall used by Gen. Stonewall Jackson during the Civil War battles near Kernstown.

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Augusta Clerk, JMU students make preservation a priority

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — Some of the papers they are handling probably haven't seen the light of day for 200 years, but those documents are getting a new lease on life thanks to preservation-minded Augusta County Circuit Court Clerk John Davis and a pair of James Madison University students.

The clerk's office is currently working on a project to restore and index 79 drawers of "office judgments"

dating from 1745 to 1800. The judgments are a variety of decisions handed down by the court. Each drawer is chock full of hundreds of folded and bundled pieces of paper. The papers, which have been stored in the courthouse basement for years, are covered in coal dust and usually tied tightly into bundles with pieces of string. Any handling causes the papers to crumble.

As part of the preservation process, each bundle is opened and individual papers are flattened, cleaned and repaired if necessary. The information on the judgments found in the drawers is being input into a computer data base. The yellowed papers, cre-

ated when Augusta County was still a restless frontier, are then filed in archivally correct materials which will slow down their deterioration.

The work is being conducted by senior history major Whitney Lunsford and history/anthropology major Amanda Schraner. They are the second pair of JMU students to work on the project which began a year ago.

The work has been interesting according to Whitney, who plans to attend law school next year. "These papers represent any decision handed down by the courts. A very large portion of them are disputes over owing money. Some of the names have become very familiar and there were definitely repeat offenders," she said.

Both students welcome the opportunity to work with primary sources. For the first week or so they had to adjust to the unfamiliar 18th-century handwriting. Many letters were formed differently and the documents contain abbreviations that appear odd to most 20th century readers. Sometimes the scraps of paper contain real surprises like hand-drawn maps. The pair recently ran across a court summons written on the back of a poem.

"I have found a couple of cases concerning counterfeit money," said

Amanda. "It's interesting because in those cases, the government did not intervene. It was the person who received the counterfeit money suing the person who gave him the money. In both cases the money was included with the documents."

Whitney and Amanda will work on the project for the rest of the school year and then a third wave of students will likely be called in to complete the job which is about one-third finished. When complete, an easily accessible research tool for genealogists and other historians will be available. The judgment papers are very popular with the many researchers who frequent the clerk's office and deed room.

"I like working at the courthouse because I feel that what we're doing is really important. As a history major, I know the importance of preserving things for future generations. Some of the records are almost completely disintegrated, so I feel that there is an urgency to save the information before it's too late. Preserving them now will make this information accessible to people forever," explained Amanda.

The loose paper restoration project being worked on by Amanda and Whitney was made possible by a grant from the Virginia Circuit Court Records Pres-

ervation Program. This program, started in 1990, has provided money to restore and protect valuable historic records located in Virginia's circuit courts.

To date, the Augusta County clerk's office has received over \$95,000 in grants from this program. In addition to the current project, this money has been used to install a smoke and fire alarm system in the courthouse and to restore 50 of the oldest and most fragile record books in the clerk's office.

Augusta County's records are a valuable resource used by researchers from all over the country. Government records in other places have often been destroyed by fires or were simply misplaced, but Augusta's are amazingly intact. And, because the county once extended to the banks of the Mississippi River, the records' importance extend far beyond the present-day county borders. Some early records of Pittsburgh, Pa., for instance, are contained within the courthouse because that area was once part of Augusta County.

Much of the recent record restoration has been accomplished because the clerk is so preservation minded. Davis, who also volunteers many hours with the Au-

See CLERK, page 6



Whitney Lunsford and Amanda Schraner, James Madison University students, work on a project to restore and index 79 drawers of "office judgments" dating from 1745 to 1800 kept in the Augusta County Courthouse.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

•Defeat

Continued from page 4

more aggressive union commander might have destroyed him. Strategically, however, the battle was a success for the Confederacy because it forced Abraham Lincoln to insist on troops being in the Valley in order to defend Washington, D.C., thereby keeping reinforcements away from McClellan and Richmond.

Militarily, Jackson had probably unknowingly challenged the previously accepted tradition of a smaller unit not attacking a significantly larger one. His bluff paid off because Union generals were convinced he would not have attacked without the assurance of reserve forces. McClellan, who was in overall command of Banks' Valley

forces, ordered the return of a division to the Valley thinking Jackson was undoubtedly being reinforced.

When one realizes that the overall purpose of the Valley Campaign was not to win and hold ground, but to cause concern for the safety of Washington and to protect Richmond, then Jackson came out of the battle looking pretty good. Some even argue that Jackson knew quite well that the enemy was stronger than Ashby had reported, but that the evidence that Banks was moving part of his army to assist McClellan was enough to merit attack at any cost. Moreover, the battlefield experience was beneficial and Jackson's stern discipline against those subordinates who allowed the retreat without his order hardened his forces for the upcoming task faced by his small

army in the next 2 1/2 months.

The man who ultimately faced Jackson's wrath after the Kernstown battle was Gen. Richard Garnett who ordered the weary Confederates to withdraw. Garnett was replaced by Gen. Charles Winder and Jackson lodged court martial charges against him. Garnett's transfer meant that he was never tried, however. He fell mortally wounded a little over a year later in Pickett's charge at Gettysburg.

The losses to the Confederates at Kernstown were 455 killed or wounded and 262 captured, while the Union sustained losses of 103 killed, 441 wounded and 24 missing. After the engagement, Jackson again moved southward to Mt. Jackson where he regrouped and temporarily established his army along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. He now developed a plan to harass three distinct Union armies determined to destroy him — the Army of the Shenandoah under Banks was assigned the area between the Blue

Ridge and the Alleghenies; the Army of the Rappahannock under Gen. Irvin McDowell was stationed just east of the Blue Ridge; and the Army of the Mountain Department west of the Alleghenies was under Gen. John C. Fremont.

Thus the stage was set for the next engagement in the Valley Campaign. Union Gen. Robert Milroy, under Fremont in the west, had developed a plan to take the important city of Staunton, strategically located on the Virginia Central Railroad and a crucial link between the Valley and Richmond. Confederate forces under Gen. Edward "Old Allegheny" Johnson had just spent the winter camped in the mountains to the west of Staunton. Johnson's men were instructed to assemble in Highland County near the village of McDowell, along the Bull Pasture River and on Shenandoah Mountain in order to defend Staunton.

Meanwhile, Jackson moved south to a protected position east of Harrisonburg. By late April reinforcements from Gen. Richard Ewell

east of the Blue Ridge had nearly doubled his forces from what he had commanded at Kernstown.

During this period in late April, Confederate President Jefferson Davis consulted with Robert E. Lee (who was still in Richmond as an advisor) and Jackson on the Valley strategy. Whether the plan was the result of one man's brilliance or all three is not known, but one Civil War historian called the ultimate scheme "the most brilliant piece of strategy in the history of the Civil War."

In the field, Jackson wasn't tipping his hand. Whatever his plans were at the end of April, Jackson did not share them with anyone, not even Gen. Ewell, whose troops were fast approaching the west side of the Blue Ridge near Harrisonburg as ordered by Jackson. Stonewall Jackson alone would call the signals which would raise the curtain on the next phase of the fast-moving Valley Campaign during May. ---

Next month: The battle of McDowell and Jackson's movement toward Front Royal and the Potomac in May 1862.

John Taylor is a retired commodity analyst for the U.S. International Trade Commission. He was born in North Carolina and raised in Staunton. He earned a degree in agriculture from the University of Maryland. His interest in the Civil War has prompted him to begin compiling a book which chronicles the political and military aspects of the war on a day-by-day basis.

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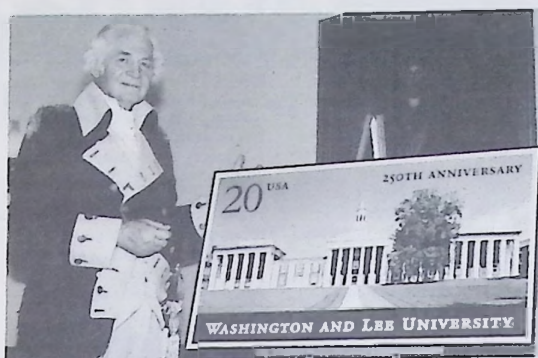
Stamped post card commemorates Washington & Lee

By NANCY SORRELLS

LEXINGTON — He was "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." George Washington added another first to his famous list on Feb. 11 when he helped unveil a first-day issue of a United States Postal Service commemorative stamped card. The post card honors Washington and Lee University's 250th anniversary and is part of the Historic Preservation series of postal cards issued by the post office.

The 20-cent post card features one of Washington and Lee's most well-known landmarks, The Colonnade. The red brick Greek Revival building with its white columns was built in 1824. The photograph for the stamp was taken by W&L photographer and alumnus W. Patrick Hinely, while Derry Noyes of Washington, D.C. designed the stamp.

The first day issue ceremony took place in the university's other famous building, Lee Chapel. Remarks by Lexington Postmaster, Larry Creamer; vice-president of postal services for the Mid-Atlantic Area Henry Pankey; and W&L academic dean Larry Boetsch were included in the afternoon activities. Colors were presented by a color guard from W&L's next door neighbor,



William Sommerfield, a.k.a. George Washington, unveils the stamp commemorating the 250th anniversary of Washington & Lee University in Lexington.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

bor, Virginia Military Institute. Music was provided by the Washington and Lee University Chorus.

Creamer, the Lexington Postmaster, noted that he was honored by the rare opportunity to help introduce a new stamp card. "The post office is proud of the history and tradition that's made Washington and Lee worthy of this card," he said.

W&L, the stamp's honoree, was started in southern Augusta County in 1749 as a classical school, making

it the ninth oldest institute of higher learning in the country. The classical school launched by Scotch-Irish pioneers was moved several times before landing in Lexington. In 1796, the school received its first major endowment from George Washington. In honor of that donation, the school was renamed Washington College.

In 1865, at the conclusion of the Civil War, Confederate general Robert E. Lee accepted the presidency

of the college. He devoted the rest of his life to education and brought a sense of honor and morality to the campus. Lee died in 1870 and is buried on the campus in the Lee Chapel. After his death the school's name was changed to Washington and Lee.

The recent post card stamp unveiling was not the first stamp to be issued in the school's honor. In 1949, almost 50 years to the day earlier than this year's ceremony, a 3-cent stamp was issued to honor the institute. The stamp featured pictures of Lee and Washington. It was the first stamp ever issued to honor an institution of higher learning.

The 1999 stamp marks the first time that the same place has had two separate stamps issued in its honor. "We will share with others across the country this cherished image," Boetsch said of the new stamp.

At the conclusion of his remarks, Boetsch introduced the most popular speaker of the afternoon, a man he said needed no introduction, but was "first in the hearts of the Washington and Lee community." With that said, George Washington, clad in a 1799 outfit, strode to the podium to make a speech. In addition to his late-18th century clothing, the living history actor, portrayed

by William Sommerfield, wore wire-rimmed spectacles and had his silver hair pulled back in a queue.

"Dr. Franklin and I had a vision for that agency the postal service," Washington explained to the crowd as he talked about how the postal office was meant to link the new country together.

Pankey explained to the gathering how the vision of America's first father is carried out today. "Over 70 million pieces of mail are handled daily by the Mid-Atlantic region. The postal service binds this nation together," he said.

The issuance of commemorative stamps and cards, like the one honoring W&L, has been a part of the postal service since 1893 he added. They serve to "preserve moments in time and bring people and history to life."

At the conclusion of the speeches, a much-larger-than-life depiction of the stamp was unveiled on stage. Then, everyone retired to the Lee Chapel gallery where the ceremony's honored guests proceeded to put their "John Hancocks" on the post cards and ceremony programs. Even G. Washington got in the signing, but in 1999 he was using a felt tip instead of a feather quill. —

Middlebrook school newspaper gives glimpse of yesteryear

By NANCY SORRELLS

MIDDLEBROOK — As I sit here in February 1999 and remember that this year is Middlebrook's 200th birthday, it is fun to look back and see what was happening in Middlebrook of yesteryear. Let's take a trip back to February 1928 and check out the action in the school paper, *The Breezes*.

On the national front, it is reported that George Washington was "Convicted on Cherry Tree

Charge." A prominent American historian, Dr. William E. Barton, noted that he could not tell a lie because more than likely the young George did take a hatchet to his father's tree.

Locally, things were hopping in the "Brook" where a Junior League had been formed. The organization, started with the help of Stuarts Draft High School, elected Claudyne Rosen as president, Frank Hanger as vice-president, Lucille Hanger as treasurer, and

Mac Wagner as secretary.

The new service organization put a sink in the school laboratory, bought school song books, and was raising money for library books.

Speaking of school improvement, an editorial by Jean Martin noted that: "We, as pupils of Middlebrook High School, should do all we can to improve our school, that it may be one of the best schools attainable." Jean wrote that students should keep the floor and desks clean. In the

school's newly equipped dressing room, special care should be taken to keep the area free "from old tennis shoes and things that accumulate on the floor."

The modern high school that Jean speaks of boasted two buildings, a gymnasium and a community assembly room. When the school was built, a community-wide canvass raised \$8,000 in a few days to help erect the state-of-the-art complex.

The school teams at the high school were tough competitors. In February 1928 it was reported that the six-player girls' basketball team had whipped Pamassus, 38-22 to win county honors. V. Fauver, C. Areheart, and J. Almorode were standouts. The girls also defeated Bridgewater, 33-28. L. Hanger scored a dozen points for Middlebrook, while Wagner led with 21.

The Middlebrook boys' basketball team dropped three opponents, Churchville (31-16), Stuarts Draft (18-15), and Weyers Cave (31-23).

In the first game Hanger had 12 and Holtz 8 points. Holtz dropped in 9 points in the Draft game. Against Weyers Cave, Hanger and E. Bowman had 11 and 10 points respectively for MHS.

The other big news in the newspaper was that Floyd Heizer married the village's third-grade teacher, Estelle Glover, on Dec. 21, 1927. The couple took a honeymoon trip to Washington.

The final article in *The Breezes* gave a brief synopsis of Middlebrook's history. The people in the village are "naturally conservative in the politics and have always maintained their interest in their centers of religions," stated the paper.

But there was no place like home to those who lived in and near the village. "In natural beauty, worldly prosperity and in the culture and character of the population, few centers have more to offer than the village of Middlebrook and its environs," concluded the article. —

•Clerk

Continued from page 5

gusta County Historical Society, has long been committed to keeping the records of the county safe, secure, and available to the public. When he became clerk in 1984, his goal was to restore the first 50 deed, will and order books through 1800, and to finish restoring the marriage bond records through 1850. With this goal accomplished, the new

goal will be to restore all records and indexes on an as-needed basis, of which the current project is a good example.

Preservation work with the courthouse documents will not be over when the 79 judgment drawers are saved. Future courthouse records projects will include additional indexes and paper restoration of the chancery records. A long-term goal will be to image many of the court's

historic records and have them available in digital format.

Although it has been more than two centuries since Augusta's citizens were worried about Indian attacks and wolf problems, modern researchers can get a glimpse of that life through the records that remain. And, thanks to an attitude that promotes preservation, those records will be around to tell their stories for centuries to come. —

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See page 2



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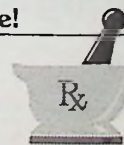
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Farmers preserve water quality, stream banks with riparian easements

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — An unprecedented amount of Shenandoah Valley acreage and stream bank miles has been preserved forever and water quality has been raised to a new level under the Valley Conservation

Council's recently launched Headwaters Riparian Partnership.

The partnership is aimed at preserving and protecting riparian corridors, land along Shenandoah Valley streams and rivers, by placing conservation easements on the property and, in many cases,

reimbursing landowners for taking such initiatives.

The results can be felt from one side of the state to the other as clean water, less soil erosion and better habitats in the Valley produce a cleaner Chesapeake Bay. This unique public-private partnership is backed by more than \$500,000 worth of funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Easements are legal documents attached to deeds, in which landowners retain ownership of their property yet convey certain specified rights to an easement holder. In the case of the Headwaters Riparian Partnership, easements are co-held by the Valley Conservation Council (VCC) and the Headwaters Soil and Conservation District (HSWCD).

Easements are tailor-made to fit individual landowners' needs, but in all riparian easements owners sell the right to destroy the riparian corridor, which includes never building new structures in the protected floodplain area. Program participants also agree to develop and implement a conservation management plan in cooperation with HSWCD. Plans include best management practices such as tree planting and reducing livestock access with fencing and alternative water sources.

Five Augusta County landowners along either the Middle River or its tributaries have already signed riparian easements under the new partnership. They represent more than 52 acres and three miles of stream bank land now protected along this waterway that flows north where it eventually joins the Potomac and then rolls on into the Bay.

"These first riparian easement participants deserve much of the credit for having the vision to see the long-term benefits of combining best management practices with conservation easements," said VCC Executive Director Faye Cooper.

Dale Powers, who has a small farm along the Middle River, was

the first landowner to commit to a riparian easement under the Headwaters Riparian Partnership. For him, the agreement was a common sense decision.

"I had grazed (my land) right up to the riverbank for 19 or 20 years and every spring I had to put the fence back after it flooded. After the last big flood, I backed off and took a look and thought, 'how ridiculous,'" said Powers.

Powers explained that he decided to move his fence back away from the floodwaters. He has also planted trees and a wildlife patch and is letting "nature takes its course," on the 4.3 acres in his easement. "I put the land into an invested mode and I took it out of production. I guess it is only like a teaspoon of water out of the ocean, but someone has to start or we're never going to get the Chesapeake Bay cleaned up," he said.

Rick Shiflet, a full-time farmer and president of the Augusta County Farm Bureau, also points to the common sense of his easement, which encompasses almost 22 acres along Eidson Creek.

"It was an easy decision. I gave up the development rights of a floodplain! And it was voluntary and I got paid for it," he said of what he considers a very positive partnership.

Landowners who commit to riparian easements work with the easement holders to develop a management plan that assures continued protection of the riparian zone. Typically this is done by establishing and maintaining stream bank vegetation and limiting livestock access to the stream.

Shiflet's new management plan calls for creating a riparian buffer of hardwoods and some shrubs along nearly 4,000 feet of stream bank. He has split his acreage up into three sections and will experiment with different habitats to see which works best. In addition, he has moved his fences 35 feet off the stream and has established two controlled permanent crossings.

"I have been talking conservation and about paying attention to all the Ps and Qs of conservation. I just decided that it was time to do more than talk the talk," he said of his decision to place his creek bottom land in an easement. "I don't feel like it has changed my farm operation, and it's nice to know that the land will look just like it does now forever. Period."

For many farmers along the Middle River, Hurricane Fran in 1996 provided the final push to-

ward considering a riparian easement. "The floodwaters took my fences out twice that year, in the spring and in the fall," remembered Bill Fink, a retired farmer who operates a small cow/calf operation. He has since moved his fences back off the floodplain, signed a riparian easement and planted ash, oak, walnut and pine along his river corridor.

"After Fran, I knew I wasn't going to put cattle back on the land. It is a good thing to protect the water and this is an investment in cleaning up the water. It is good to keep the cows out of the water. They make a mess when they stand in the river in the summertime and they tear up the stream banks," he said.

Scott Weller, who has placed 14.8 acres and 1.14 stream miles of his beef cattle farm under a riparian easement, said that "three 100-year floods in a year-and-a-half" played havoc with his fences along Middle River. After studying the problem, he began working with HSWCD, the forestry department, and the VCC.

"It really went hand-in-hand with the Conservation Reserve Program we have in place," said Weller. In addition to changing the fence patterns, several thousand new trees will be planted on his land including a variety of hardwoods, pines, shrubs, and even some swamp chestnut and bald cypress in a marshy area.

"We really needed trees in some of those areas. We didn't need to be farming right up to that stream bank," he said.

Weller said he has enjoyed working on the management plan and looks forward to March when a crew will come in and plant thousands of trees on his land. He plans to film the land before, during and after the tree planting just to see the differences. "I have enjoyed this. I will get a lot of trees planted and get the situation with the river under control. Just give it 5 or 10 years and come out and look at it," he said.

According to HSWCD representative Robert Whitescarver, what See HSWCD, page 19



Rick Shiflet of Westview stands along Eidson Creek which runs through his farm. Shiflet placed a riparian easement, which encompasses almost 22 acres, along the creek.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

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Change

Continued from page 2
to farmers," Hiatt said. "Right now these bills are tabled. So far we have been able to prevail."

Hiatt, 58, was born on his family's apple and peach farm in Carroll County near Cana. He served in the Air Force for four years and later became a Virginia State Trooper. He served as a trooper in Winchester for three years and later went to work with U.S. Fidelity & Guaranty Co. He earned a law degree from LaSalle Extension University.

After his father's death in 1979, Hiatt left USF&G and returned to the farm which has been in his family for four generations. Hiatt assumed leadership of VFBF which boasts a paid staff of 600 and has 144,000 members across Virginia. Hiatt succeeded Wayne Ashworth who retired as VFBF president, a position which he had held for 10 years. —

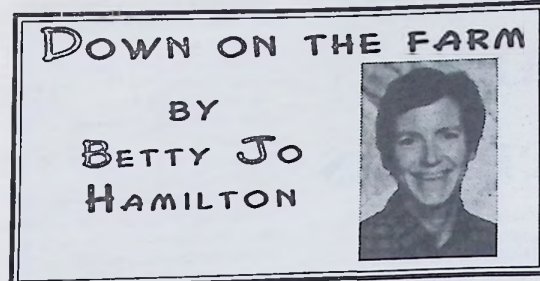
Eastern hillbillies get peek at NCBA extravaganza

Down on the farm we're thinking about our midwinter-prelambing-precalving-spring planting-season-quasi-vacation. I took hold of an opportunity in February to tromp down to North Carolina for a brief respite from the farm for what I'm supposing was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to attend the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show held Feb. 10-14 in Charlotte.

I say once-in-a-lifetime because this was the 101st outing for the event and this year's convention in North Carolina was only the second time in 100 years the event has been held east of the Mississippi River. I figured if I was ever going to get to the convention, 1999 would probably be my only chance. Next year the show goes to Phoenix, Ariz., and the year after it will be in San Antonio, Texas.

Granted, Charlotte is an unlikely spot for a bunch of cowpokes. I mean, it's not exactly known as a "cow town" like, say, Kansas City or Omaha, Neb. or maybe Abilene, Texas. But I suppose the NCBA — whose main offices are in Denver, Colo. — thought they might patronize "hillbilly" East Coast cattle producers by having the big annual shindig in an eastern locale at least once every 50 years. There is, after all, no compelling reason to have the convention in the Eastern U.S. Where eastern producers have 100 cattle, western ranchers have 1,000. But maybe even the Western producers didn't mind taking in a little East Coast scenery after staring at sage brush and tumbleweed for 50 years or more. And so, to Charlotte the nation's cattle producers came.

They came from Copiah, Miss. They came from Cuyahoga, Ohio. They came from Cobb, Ga. They came from Emmett, Iowa. They came from Kansas, Washington, Indiana, Colorado, Texas, Virginia and Ala-



bama. More than 5,000 of the nation's beef producers converged on Charlotte for four days of cud chewing and corral loafing. Highlights of the convention included Pfizer Animal Health's Cattlemen's College, NCBA meetings and the always popular trade show — a spectacle in and off itself without all the other convention trappings. And there I was — little ol' me from Middlebrook, Va. — smack dab in the middle of all of it.

I arrived in Charlotte on Wednesday evening and was ready to hit the convention circuit bright and early Thursday morning. (OK, I'm lying. I never do anything bright and early when I go away from the farm for meetings. I can get up bright and early when I'm home at the farm. If I wanted to get up bright and early, I'd have just stayed home. OK, so maybe it wasn't early. But it was bright.)

Anyway, I arrived in Charlotte to find forsythia and daffodils in bloom and folks mowing the grass. I couldn't help but think my North Carolina neighbors had lost their marbles so I rode up and down the streets of Charlotte with my car windows down yelling, "Hey, don't you know it's only February the 10th? It's not nearly time to be mowing the yard." This behavior on my part drew only puzzled stares from Charlottean grass mowers and when I turned the corner just beyond my hotel and saw a Char-

lotte Police barracks I thought I better adjust my behavior to maintain a low profile while in the city.

The Cattle Industry Convention was held at the Charlotte Convention Center which is located in the heart of Charlotte's spit-polished "Uptown." Now around here, folks would call this part of a city "downtown." But in Charlotte, they call it "Uptown." I think it's because the very essence of the word "Uptown" is like "Hey, what's happenin'," this is Uptown, we're upbeat, we're goin' places, we're in the groove." Everything in "Uptown" Charlotte is kept "just so." It was a little bit like when you go to someone else's house and they have everything just so neat and in place and you want to be sick because your house is a wreck and you have to put on a biohazard suit whenever you come in the house.

All joking aside, the powers that be in Charlotte have created an urban environment that is highly conducive to commerce and tourism. The sidewalks are free of trash and debris. All the newspaper coin boxes are lined up in perfect rank. Public areas are attractive and well maintained. Traffic flows smoothly around the main points of interest which are easy to find. Parking is ample and affordable — only \$5 for the whole day, \$6 in some places.

The convention center itself is a masterpiece — spacious meeting rooms, open, airy and well lit com-



Among items on display at the NCBA Convention Trade Show held recently in Charlotte, N.C., were a number of hydraulic powered cattle catch chutes, the bottomline sales pitch being: "Fellas, if this won't hold 'em, nothin' will." Photos by Betty Jo Hamilton

munal areas, food service well above average by convention standards, staff who were courteous, cordial and helpful. The city even operates a shuttle service to bring convention attendees to the center from Charlotte's numerous Uptown hotels including Hilton, Omni, Holiday Inn, Sheraton and Clarion to name only a few.

My first day at the convention I looked forward to participating in Pfizer's Cattlemen's College. I'm always eager for information that will be useful in our cattle operation. Of course, I don't think my father is ever particularly happy when I announce I'm going off to an educational seminar. I think I see something in his eyes — fear, I think — as he ponders what new lame-brained idea I'll return home with and want to implement in our operation.

However, when I arrived at the Cattlemen's College and looked at the list of course offerings, I have to say I was a little disappointed. Among seminars included were The ABCs of EPDs, How to Keep Her From Having Calving Problems, Keeping Calves Alive & Performing, Ideas for Handling Cattle, Forage Management, New Product Development, Winning the Consumer Back and Environmental Stewardship. These are only a few of the topics which were presented in a veritable seminar smorgasbord. I was disappointed because I've sat

through some of the same seminars on previous occasions. I suppose I might get to a few more seminars than some people do. But still, there was plenty to sample from for anyone who attended the Cattlemen's College and a lot of valuable information was presented.

Out of curiosity to see which seminars were drawing the biggest crowds, I slipped in and out of concurrent seminars. Sessions on New Product Development and Heifer Calving were standing room only. Cutting Costs/Adding Value and Environmental Stewardship drew only scattered attendance.

By the time I drifted into the Environmental Stewardship session, I was getting tired of drifting, so I sat for a spell and found the topic held my attention better than I had thought it would. I hadn't been in my chair for more than a few moments when I realized I recognized one of the presenters seated on the dais. Ernie Reeves of Mt. Solon, a former Southeastern Regional Environmental Stewardship award winner, was there to describe techniques his family has incorporated to stabilize and preserve Mossy Creek in northwestern Augusta County. His task for the Cattlemen's College seminar was the same as his counterparts from other areas of the United States.

I'd never given much thought to See CONVENTION, page 9



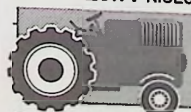
The Charlotte Convention Center exhibit hall provided complete amenities for trade show exhibitors, whether their exhibits were of the animatronic variety, like Pfizer's talking steer, Max, (shown in photo at left) or the real McCoy's, such as Golden Link's Simmental and Angus heifers.



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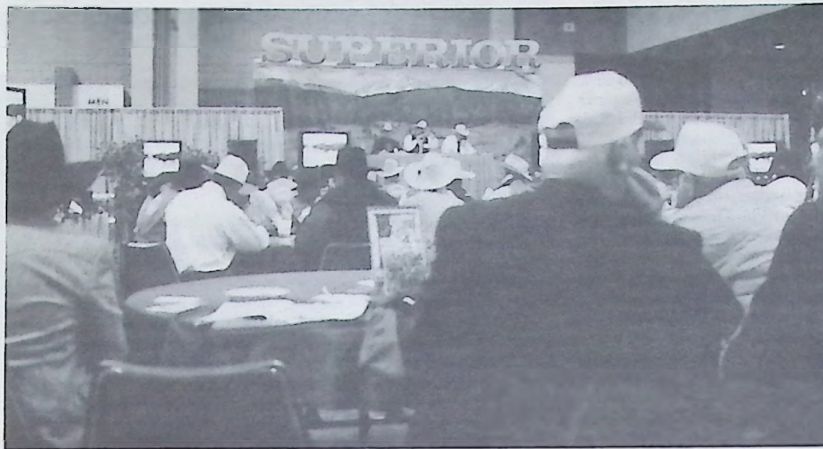
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Convention

Continued from page 8

the different types of conservation problems which farmers face in different regions of the country. All of the producers present had implemented a variety of conservation measures to protect the environment in and around their farm and ranch operations. And while the techniques varied from one locale to another, so too do the natural resources for which farmers are responsible.

For instance, in Virginia, farmers want to make sure they protect the "creek" (pronounced creek, rhymes with check, long Es all the way) from runoff and erosion. In Iowa, producers' concerns are with protecting the "creek," (rhymes with trek, as in Star Trek.) In Nebraska, these folks have a consuming passion for maintaining good water quality in the "creek," (rhymes with trick.) But regardless of what one calls it — "creek," "creek," or "creek" — "hey, it's water, let's keep it clean," was the bottomline sentiment of producers who spoke during the



If you've got 5,000 of the nation's cattle producers gathered in one place, you might as well have a cattle auction. More than 60,000 cattle were sold in the comfort of the Char-

lotte Convention Center during two days of the NCBA convention. Buyers viewed the four-legged merchandise on TV monitors set up in the Superior Livestock "sale ring."

Cattlemen's College Environmental Stewardship seminar.

After all that sitting and listening, cattle producers couldn't help but feel their stomachs start to growl, so folks starting moseying into the convention center ballroom where a veritable sea of tables were ready for a luncheon also sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health. I've got to give the Pfizer folks and the convention center food service staff a lot of credit. They put on a mighty good feed.

First of all, you just had to admire the table settings before you even dared to dive in. At

every place setting among the more than 800 was an attractive place card from Pfizer welcoming folks to the luncheon. Near the card was a gold-foil wrapped chocolate piece commemorating Pfizer's 150th anniversary. In each chair there was a sleek, chic, faux leather Cattlemen's College portfolio for note taking.

And at the top of each place setting was a slab of the deepest, darkest, richest looking chocolate cake that I've ever seen. As a matter of fact, it was so deep and dark and rich that I'm sure the Antichrist will be carving out hunks of this stuff some day. Jerry Falwell wouldn't have eaten it. But I did. And I don't mind saying that I did

so after sucking up a marvelous "No Name Steak," just one of the many new beef products developed through funds provided by beef checkoff dollars to which all cattle producers contribute.

The "No Name" petite steak was tender, juicy, flavorful and just the right portion for someone who was getting ready to eat a gigantic piece of chocolate cake. (I was polite. I didn't eat all of the chocolate cake. I left some on the plate just to demonstrate my gentility and keep my tablemates from thinking I was a canal horse.)

We had two very professional and courteous servers working our table at the luncheon. Again, these

folks were among the many convention center staffers who have obviously been put through rigorous hospitality training to make the convention experience a positive one for folks coming to Charlotte. The servers shook out each napkin and placed it in the lap of each luncheon participant, saying as they did so, "Welcome to the Charlotte Convention Center." Oooooo, these people are good.

After some time I struck up a conversation with the man seated next to me at the luncheon. Having overheard a few stray pieces of his conversation with his opposite elbow neighbor, I could tell the fellow operated a feedlot and his nametag showed his homebase as Sanderson, Texas. We talked for awhile and he told me his family runs about 1,500 cattle a year, have about 900 beef cows — mostly Hereford — and purchases the balance of the calves they need to finish out their feedlot. He said they take calves to slaughter weights of 1,250 pounds and that he prefers not to buy "all white" cattle because they take too long to finish. And he said he wasn't particularly interested in "all black" cattle either. He described his feedlot stock as "all colors," which was a bit of a surprise to me, but color isn't as important in western markets as it is in the east.

I told "Malone," my new best friend from Texas, a little bit about our family operation back in Virginia. Since we have recently started participating in the Virginia Cattlemen's Association Virginia Quality Assured program, which offers special identification of feeder calves using a veterinary-certified herd health program, I was curious to learn if calves put through this type of program are of any particular value to feedlot operators. Malone assured me that they are. He said he's willing to pay more for these types of cattle because they will stay healthier than calves not vaccinated for respiratory diseases sometimes contracted by cattle sold through auction barns and then trucked long distances.

Malone even went so far as to say these calves are probably worth \$12 more a hundred than regular calves. "They're worth \$12 more," Malone said. "But I won't give you but a nickel more than the other kind." I could tell Malone does his figuring with a sharp pencil. Even though I'd like to have the \$12, I told Malone I'd take the nickel but I couldn't even get the nickel if I didn't do the vaccinations required by the VQA program. He assured me programs like the VQA program are beneficial to feedlot operators.

By the end of the meal, I felt I had developed enough rapport with Malone to tell him one of the few "Texas" jokes I know. It happens to be one of my father's favorites.

Seems there was this Texan who was bragging to an eastern greenhorn about how big his ranch back in Texas was.

"My ranch is so-o-o-o big," the Texan drawled, "why, when I get up in the morning, I get in See TEXAS, page 11



What's a convention trade show without a few free samples and gifts? Vendors lured customers to their booths with an assortment of items including beanie babies, foam "stress" cows and a host of other trinkets.



Parking near Charlotte's convention center was plentiful and affordable. Folks came from all over the United States for the NCBA Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show held Feb. 10-14 in Charlotte. This oversized Hereford bull came in from Wisconsin. If the cows there are this big, it's no wonder they call it America's Dairyland.

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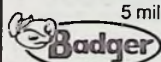
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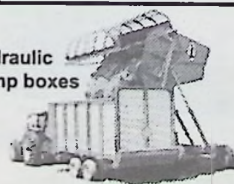
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A trip to Carolina: Nothin' could be finer

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

I travel so infrequently that even the most uneventful trip, for me, can be packed with excitement. My recent excursion to Charlotte, N.C., for the 1999 Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show was no exception to this rule.

I'd like to offer a few words about my impressions of Charlotte for those of you who perhaps have not made a trip to that fair city in recent years. Not that there's any reason to do so, unless you happen to be traveling there, as I did, for a convention or maybe some obscure basketball tournament like that of the Atlantic Coast Conference to which the city has played host in years' past.

But I suppose if you have to travel somewhere, Charlotte -- known as the "Queen City," by the way -- would be just as good a choice as any if you're looking for a taste of big city atmosphere without some of the usual complications.

When you travel to Charlotte, if you travel to Charlotte, it may be reassuring to know that it's not too difficult to find one's way around the city. Even I didn't have too much trouble finding my way around. And that's saying a lot for someone who must at once confess to having a negative sense of direction. Even with several maps at the ready, I have trouble making the right choices about direction when I want to get somewhere in an unfamiliar locale.

Time and time again -- and no matter how well I plot out my course in advance of setting out on the venture, and as I proved to myself in Charlotte on numerous occasions -- when faced with a choice of deciding which direction to turn -- left or right -- I always make the wrong choice. If I turn right, I should have turned left. If I turn left, I should have turned right. Sometimes I think, "O.K., my

first reaction is that I should turn right, but I know that will be wrong, so I'll turn left instead and that should be right since my first choice of direction is usually wrong." This tactic never works either because two wrongs don't make a right. Or is that two lefts don't make a right? Anyway...

And it's not that I'm among that group of people who refuse to stop to ask for directions when unsure of the correct course to take. I do stop and ask for directions which I did on one occasion while in North Carolina. I asked a fellow to give me directions to an interstate junction. His response was, "You want the quick way?"

Now, you might immediately think that this is a stupid question. Of course, anyone would want to know the quickest route to get where you're going. But the sad and stupid part of this particular scenario is that when the fellow asked me, "You want the quick way?" I actually had to pause for several seconds and reflect on my answer. "Do I want the quick way?" I pondered. After several seconds I decided, yes, that would be the thing, the quick way.

So the fellow gave me directions -- "the quick way" -- to reach the nearest interstate junction which turned out to be quick indeed -- all of three minutes -- when it had taken me more than a half-hour to get to where I was when I had meandered around to my endpoint from a course of my own choosing.

In addition to that time-honored tradition of asking someone familiar with an area for directions, my time spent traveling around Charlotte helped me to adopt a new technique in pursuing the appropriate direction of travel: when in doubt, turn in at the nearest Presbyterian church.

There are a lot of Presbyterian churches in Charlotte so this helped to facilitate my newfound technique. I just figured -- on one outing when I had gotten turned around and needed to get headed

back in the other direction -- the Presbyterians at Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church on Park South Road in Charlotte who, through use of their road front sign, espoused the sentiment, "Blessed are the merciful," wouldn't mind me turning around in their driveway, which I did. And, mercifully, I got headed back in the direction I should have been going in the first place.

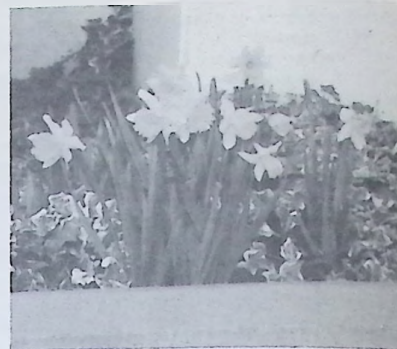
So other than Presbyterian church-hopping across Charlotte, what is there to do in the big city? Well, you could start out by shopping. I'm not much of a shopper. Never have been. But if there are any shoppers out there reading this, then Charlotte might be a good destination for you. However, there is a warning that goes with this recommendation. Some malls in Charlotte feature

what they call an "upscale shopping experience." This means a scoop of ice cream costs \$2.10. But if you don't have a lot of dough to drop, you could still spend countless hours roaming the city's shopping areas just looking at the huge variety of shops and retail outlets.

In Uptown Charlotte, for instance, they have what they call the Overstreet Mall, which is a labyrinth of shops located on the lower stories of the many corporate office complexes in the central downtown... (oops, pardon moi) Uptown (that's what they call downtown in Charlotte, Uptown) ...the central Uptown area of Charlotte.

Many of these corporate centers are connected by skywalks, which are enclosed walkways over the streets. It's possible to walk all over Uptown Charlotte without one's feet ever touching the sidewalks. In fact, if you walk along the sidewalks in Uptown, you'll see virtually no one on street level. But if you roam up into the overstreet malls, you'll be swept up in a crush of upwardly mobile young professionals zipping along the corridors and across the skywalks from one building to another, some chatting on cell phones as they breeze along.

If you'd rather not bother with the hustle and bustle of the Uptown experience, you could always



Daffodils in Charlotte, N.C., were in full bloom the second week in February when the city played host to the Cattle Industry Convention.

Photos by Betty Jo Hamilton

head out to the burbs where there are any of a number of mega malls, again, some of which offer "upscale" shopping. I took a notion to track down SouthPark in Charlotte's lower southeast end and found a multi-level-mall sprawled out over several city blocks which featured four major department stores and 119 shops of every imaginable variety.

As I said before, I'm not much of a shopper, so once I found SouthPark and settled in, I began looking for something to do other than shop. Despite the mass of retail opportunities which presented themselves, I became bored with the

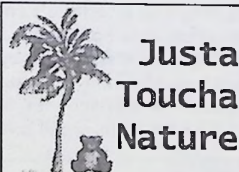
See SHOPPING, page 11



This is just one of the many plazas in Uptown Charlotte which feature clocks, Italian marble and rushing water to provide a comfortable atmosphere for urbanites taking a break for lunch on a 70-degree February day.



Charlotte's twin corporate towers -- First Union Center (photo at left) and Bank of America Corporate Center -- rise 50 and 60 stories respectively above street level. They are the jewels in the crown of North Carolina's "Queen City."



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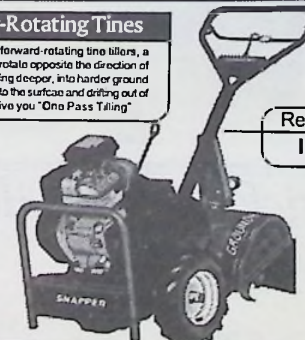
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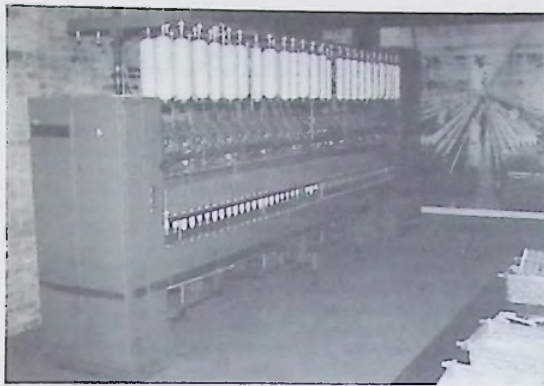
•Shopping

Continued from page 10

whole SouthPark experience rather quickly. Then my eyes lit upon a shop which offered on-the-spot ear piercing. But then I decided I didn't want to live with the stigma associated with having to explain how I got my ears pierced on one wild night in Charlotte. And besides, what would the folks over at Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church think?

Even if you aren't a great shopper, you still might enjoy looking at the architectural wonders which have been built in Uptown Charlotte. There is the 60-story Bank of America Corporate Center which hulks over the city. It is topped with several tiers of what look like — from 60 stories down — stalagmites. Or is it stalactites? You know, the kind that grow from the cavern floor upwards. Anyway, the Bank of America Corporate Center is a 60-story building with spiky things on top.

Or there is First Union Center, which is about 50 stories and has a domed top. At night it is lit up green and stands out against Charlotte's city scape. But then, it would be hard to be a 50-story building and not stand out. I found I preferred the 50-story First Union building to the Bank of America center mostly because I liked the domed



Items on display in Charlotte's Museum of the New South included this 1965 Arrow M-1 Whitins Roberts spinning frame. In the 1900s men working in the region's textile mills earned \$216 annually and women netted \$157.

top more than the spikes.

And then for the spy in all of us, there is Charlotte Plaza — a sleek looking building, the all-glass exterior of which presents the appearance of black limousines with tinted windows. You know, the ones you see rolling along but you can't see who's riding in them and you're sure it must be a movie star or a billionaire or somebody like that.

It was interesting to note that Charlotteans seem to have an ob-

session with time and water. Just about anywhere you look in Uptown, there are clocks sticking up as part of landscaped public areas. And not far from the clocks you're bound to find a fountain or a reflecting pool or a waterfall of some kind. In one plaza there was even water running beneath elevated sidewalks. I guess with all that cement and macadam, the powers that be in Charlotte thought some running water might soften the edges a bit.

Again, I have to give Charlotteans a lot of credit. They have their Uptown buffed and polished to a high sheen. They have managed to hide all the seams associated with the urban experience. In Uptown Charlotte, there is no grit. There is no grime. Blooming winter pansies and ornamental cabbages adorn a multitude of raised gardens scattered throughout plazas in the city.

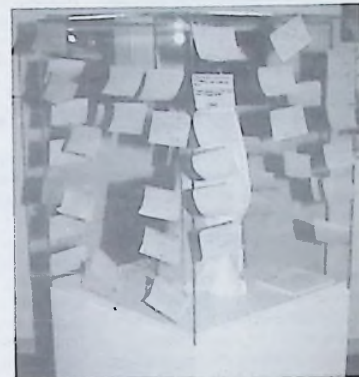
In addition to First Union and Bank of America, other notables including Duke Power, Bell South and Mass Mutual join the corporate crowd in Uptown Charlotte. Architects have used ample quan-

tities of Italian marble in all colors and patterns to create buildings which are both attractive and resilient. Just walking through the foyer of the Bank of America Corporate Center, staring up at the marble covered shafts which carry elevators all the way up those 60 stories is enough to make one forget the age-old question, "So just how did the Egyptians build those pyramids?"

Speaking of history, there is no sense of it in Uptown Charlotte. At least that's what I thought at first, what with all the modern architecture. But then I saw a mural which depicted an artist's rendering of an

See HISTORY, page 17

An interactive exhibit room in the Museum of the New South allowed the public to write comments about the display on post-it notes and leave them for others to read. The notes were so numerous on one case that a Ku Klux Klan hood and mask held within was all but obscured from view.



•Texas

Continued from page 9

my pickup, and it takes me all day to drive from one side of the ranch to the other."

The eastern greenhorn replied, "Yeah, I had a pickup like that once too."

So that's the joke I told to Malone, my new best friend from Texas, and he got a little chuckle out of it. Then he said, "All kidding aside, my family is the third largest landowner in the state of Texas. We own about 250,000 acres," which made me want to say, "Let's see now, where did I put that crowbar? I need it now to get my feet out of my mouth." I just hope Malone has a good pickup truck.

Another highlight of the luncheon was a presentation by Brian Barrett, president of Pfizer Animal Health to the NCBA, of a \$150,000 check to establish a fund for producer education. NCBA has been working in conjunction with animal health pharmaceutical companies to educate farmers and ranchers about appropriate methods of administer-

ing medications to cattle in order to preserve the integrity of retail cuts taken from beef carcasses. Barrett said producer education is one of Pfizer's "cornerstones" to make cattle producers more profitable and better managers.

Friday marked the opening day of the Trade Show at the Cattle Industry Convention. With more than 200 exhibitors, the event was billed as a "show-stopping information explosion." And it was that. The convention center exhibit hall was packed with virtually every known cattle industry technology available today — animal health care, cattle handling, farm equipment, computer services, forage systems, minerals — not too mention all the services available to farmers and ranchers — insurance, credit, feed analyses, retained ownership operations, cattle identification — the list of exhibitors was practically endless. It was only by a systematic method of going up one aisle then down the next that I got to see all the exhibitors there.

And what would an assembly of cattle producers be without a cattle

auction? Well, we'll never know because there was even a cattle auction going on during the convention trade show. But other than nine live cattle on hand in the exhibit area, trade show spectators wouldn't catch a whiff of the 60,000 cattle sold during two days of the event. Just like everything else at the convention, the cattle auction was state-of-the-art.

Using satellite links and viewing stations set up in the exhibit hall, Superior Livestock Auction sold cattle to buyers in multiple locations around the U.S. Spectators and buyers at Charlotte's Convention Center relaxed in the comfort of the environmentally controlled arena and viewed lots of cattle for sale being broadcast across no less than 10 television monitors. A lot of cattle would be brought up for auction. A notation across the bottom of the television screen would provide the number of cattle in the pen, the average weight, where the cattle were located and their availability dates. Video of the cattle being sold rolled as the auctioneer barked out the bid and buyers

munched on jelly beans and snack mix. Prices on the cattle looked strong with a lot of 130 steers weighing 775 pounds bringing 73.35 a hundredweight and another lot of 64 steers of the same weight bringing 72.60. Some cattle sold were on ranches in New Mexico or Arizona or any of a number of western states.

Among the exhibitors at the trade show there are a few which deserve credit for going the extra mile to entice cattle producers to stop by their booths. At the top of the list was the New Z Corral where Farnam Livestock Products were being hawked. Stopping at the New Z, trade show participants could have their Stetsons treated with Resistrol to prevent rain damage. They could have their cowboy boots shined to a high gloss or relax for awhile in two vibrating recliners. Fill out one of the New Z customer surveys and you'd receive a dandy little cattle whip to take to the barn the next time you want to sort cattle.

Also deserving note was "Max, the talking steer." This Pfizer animatronic spoke throughout the

trade show about the importance of injecting vaccines and other health care products subcutaneously in the neck region of the animal. Over at the Bayer booth, folks were lining up for "stress cows," small cows made of foam rubber perfect for squeezing to relieve stress. Another popular item was the Grazon beanie baby which could be obtained if one were willing to provide a little information about weed control methods used on the farm.

After two days of cattle industry immersion, I was ready to leave North Carolina's piedmont and head back toward the hills of Virginia. It was nice to take a break for a little midwinter-prelambing-precalving-prespring planting-season-quasi-vacation. It was even nicer that the National Cattleman's Beef Association brought its annual convention to Charlotte this year so some eastern hillbillies like me could have a chance to attend. And when the advertisements for next year's convention in Phoenix start to run, I'm gonna' sort of wish I could go. —

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FFA helps students make connection to careers

Do you know what makes the connection between school and a rewarding career? For nearly 500,000 students, being a member of the National FFA Organization (FFA) is equipping them today with the skills they will need to lead and succeed in the future.

"FFA takes the classroom knowledge and brings it to life," said Larry D. Case, national FFA advisor. "FFA provides many opportunities for members to develop self-confidence, leadership skills and positive values."

Dressed in the familiar blue and gold jackets, FFA members are popularly associated with raising animals

or growing crops. From this proud heritage, many people are surprised to discover there are more than 300 careers in the business, science and industry of agriculture. FFA members, from urban, suburban and rural areas, are preparing for careers in such diverse fields as genetic engineering, marketing, law and communications. The number of agriculture positions is anticipated to expand as countries depend more on the United States for their food, fiber and natural resources requirements.

FFA members from the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam will organize

events and activities to build awareness of agriculture education and support during National FFA week February 20-27, 1999. National FFA week is held each year near the birthday of George Washington to recognize his leadership and commitment to American agriculture.

This year's theme, "FFA-Making the Connection," illustrates how FFA's programs allow students the opportunity to apply classroom information to real-life situations. Even if students decide not to pursue one of the hundreds of agricultural careers, they benefit from the public speaking, career experience and leadership skills they gain from FFA.

FFA is a national organization of 447,880 members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture.

Local, state and national programs provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom. The organization has 7,503 local chapters located throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands. FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. —



**National
FFA Week**
Feb. 20-27, 1999

RHS chapter keeps busy throughout year

GREENVILLE — The Riverheads FFA Chapter has an enrollment of 75 members for the 1998-99 school year.

In the fall, contests such as forestry judging and tractor driving provided many opportunities for students. Doug Grimm won the chapter and federation tractor operators contest and advanced to the area competition where he placed third.

In September the chapter received the Outstanding Mechanics Exhibit award at the Virginia State Fair and sold ads for the FFA calendar.

During October the chapter conducted the annual citrus fruit sale. Top salesmen were Neal Buchanan, Amanda Hemp and Jason McIlwee. Chapter members Colby Irvine, Carrie Heizer, Neal Buchanan, Amanda Hemp and Jack Hinton represented Riverheads in Kansas City, Mo., at the National FFA Convention. Jack won the state FFA Dairy Showmanship Contest and got to participate

at the national level. He brought home a bronze medal.

In December 1,300 boxes of citrus fruit arrived and were delivered to the customers to complete the fund-raising program for the year.

During February the public speaking contest was held with competitions in prepared and extemporaneous public speaking. Bryan Shomo represented the chapter at the senior level. The week of Feb. 20-27 is National FFA week, during which time the chapter joins in celebration with chapters across the state and nation by conducting different activities each day of the week.

The parliamentary procedure contest is held in March and a program called "Food for America" is presented at the Riverheads Elementary School career day in April.

A dairy judging contest, the

Market Animal Show, and a livestock judging contest dominate the month of May. The chapter also holds its annual parent-member awards banquet in May. During June a selected group of members will attend the State FFA Convention held at Virginia Tech.

The many activities sponsored by the Riverheads chapter make the year very busy and exciting.

Officers for the year are: Colby Irvine, president; Carrie Heizer and David Arehart, co-vice presidents; Neal Buchanan and Drew Glenn, co-secretaries; Stephanie Branch and Bryan Shomo, co-treasurers; Carrie Brown and Amanda Hemp, co-reporters; Jason McIlwee and Aaron Root, co-sentinel; Sarah Huntley, historian; Justin Fravel, student adviser; Adam Glenn, Jack Hinton and Timmy Simmons, directors; and Gene McIlwee, adviser. —



Colby Irvine, son of Carl and Janice Irvine of Rt. 2, Middlebrook, is shown with the steer which he will exhibit at the annual Market Animal Show in May. Colby is a senior at Riverheads High School and is president of its FFA chapter.

Stewart FFA members work to make the connection

FORT DEFIANCE — The 130 members of the Stewart Middle FFA chapter have been very active this year working to make the right connections for its members through FFA.

The chapter's year started in early August, with 10 members participating in a three-day leadership workshop with the Beverley Manor FFA

chapter. Other activities participated in by chapter members thus far include the Virginia State Fair, AES/FFA Leadership Conference at Virginia Tech, the Augusta County FFA Federation Leadership Conference, working the Augusta FFA Federation booth at the fair, participation in chapter contests of AgriScience Mechanics and Technology and FFA Quiz Bowl,

Ben Burton, left, and Luke Talley spend the last few minutes of Agri-Science class cleaning the mechanics laboratory. Students in the sixth through eighth grade at Stewart Middle spend a set period of time in mechanics laboratory learning the correct use of power tools.

and partnering with the Stewart Middle FFA and TSA chapters in the Virginia adopt-a-highway program. The chapter also had a representative in the Federation Creed speaking event.

Upcoming FFA activities include participation in middle school FFA events, the Augusta 4H-FFA Market Animal Show and Augusta FFA Federation dairy and livestock judging events. The chapter's year will conclude with a parent-member banquet in May and attendance at Virginia's State FFA Convention in June.

Chapter officers are Luke Talley, president; Jeremy Arey, vice president and federation director; Jillian Begoon, secretary; Tim Cupp, treasurer; Brittany Stansberry, reporter; Ben Burton, sentinel; Anna Lomasney, student adviser; Holly Caricofe and Kristin Carr, historians; Mark Garland, sergeant-at-arms; and Brandon May, assistant sergeant-at-arms.

During FFA Week, members have planned ag skills contests, a faculty breakfast, giveaways, and

sponsorship of the school's February fun night. Other information

about chapter happenings can be found on its webpage, www.augusta.k12.va.us/smsstffa —



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Wilson FFA sets goal to involve members

FISHERSVILLE—The Wilson Memorial FFA chapter has an enrollment of 116 members for the 1998-99 school year. The goal for the chapter this year is to involve as many chapter members as possible in a variety of activities. To accomplish this goal, the chapter sponsors a variety of events from which to choose.

In September, the annual field trip to the Virginia State Fair appealed to many. While at the fair, the Wilson chapter competed in the Forestry Field Day competition.

Forestry judging highlighted the chapter's October calendar as

members competed on the junior and senior level.

Homecoming at Wilson once again attracted the enthusiasm and creativity of our members as the FFA captured the SCA-sponsored winning float competition.

The horticulture classes were involved in various school improvement projects this fall which included landscaping areas in front of the school building as well as donating and planting a new American dogwood tree.

Community service again was a focus as various chapter members and officers gave their time and

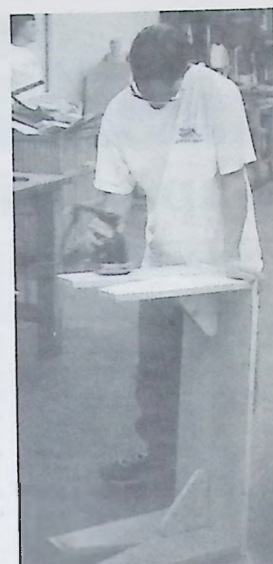
energies in assisting the SCA in the annual Thanksgiving morning food and turkey delivery.

In December, 1,000 boxes of citrus fruit arrived and were delivered to customers. Students selling 20 boxes or more will be rewarded by earning a trip in February to the Eastern Outdoor Sports Show in Harrisburg, Pa.

The second semester continues to be as busy as the first. Highlights include National FFA Week activities, public speaking, parliamentary contests, the Cooperative Leadership Conference, Food for America, dairy, and livestock judging competition.

The culmination of chapter activities is the annual parent-member banquet and week-long participation in the State FFA Convention.

In the photo at right, Wilson FFA member Jeremy Tomey puts the finishing touches on a garden bench which he constructed for the spring plant sale to be held in the last week in April. Wilson's art department will also participate in the sale.



FFA members at BMMS earn big BUCKS

CEDAR GREEN—The Beverley Manor Middle School FFA Chapter is 109 members strong. Chapter members participate in a variety of events and activities including chapter meetings, citrus fruit and flower

sales, community service projects, career development events (contests) and recreational activities.

Chapter officers are selected each semester to coordinate monthly activities. The 1998-99

school year will come to a close with the State FFA Convention where members will use their skills and knowledge gained in AgriScience classes and practices and compete with other FFA members in activities on the campus of Virginia Tech in June.

A highlight of the year is the FFA BUCKS Auction that is held in the spring. During the year, members earn FFA BUCKS (which will later serve as money) each time they participate in an FFA activity. At the end of the year, members tally their accumulation of BUCKS and then can use these BUCKS at an auction sponsored by the FFA Chapter.

Chapter members and parents solicit various community businesses and organizations for donations. Over 100 businesses donated to the FFA BUCKS Auction held in May 1998 making for a tremendous success of this activity.

On the night of the auction, mem-

bers and parents will attend a catered meal at the school, which is then followed by an FFA awards ceremony. After the awards ceremony, the auction begins. An auctioneer begins selling these items to the students. The item goes to the highest bidder, who then pays for his/her item with earned FFA BUCKS.

The more the member has participated during the year, the more BUCKS he or she will have to spend. Only FFA members may bid and buy. This activity not only increases student participation throughout the year in FFA activities, but also uses their competitive skills of money management during the live auction. This FFA BUCKS Auction has been one of the greatest successes at Beverley Manor Middle School. The 1999 auction will be held in April.

The advisor of the Beverley Manor Middle School FFA Chapter is Sally W. Shomo.



Over 100 local businesses contributed to the success of the FFA BUCKS Auction held by the Beverley Manor Middle School FFA. Students buy items using FFA BUCKS which are earned through participation in FFA events during the year.

Buffalo Gap FFA striving for success in 1999

SWOPE—Buffalo Gap FFA started off the school year with 136 members, the largest club at Buffalo Gap High School. The 1998-99 officers are president, Matt Hickey;

vice-presidents, Danielle Gayhart and Rosalea Riley, secretaries, Chad Craun and Mandy Robinson; treasurers, James Ramsey and Jenny Keith; reporter, Emily Curry; and sentinel, Clyde Bowers.

A junior officer team was elected in October. The junior officers are president, Tina Wilson; vice-presidents, Katie Killingsworth and Jon Shipe, secretary, Hockaday Jones; treasurers, Tim McLain and Matt Nettles; reporter, Ryan Hewitt and sentinel, Allen Rawley.

Six members of Buffalo Gap FFA attended

the National Convention in Kansas City, Mo. They were Jenny Keith, Doug Britt, Scott Talley, Emily Curry, Danielle Gayhart and Troy Lawson. Troy was a national finalist in diversified livestock production. The students attended FFA leadership presentations where they heard nationally renowned speakers.

In December, Buffalo Gap FFA assisted KCY with its Toys for Tots program. The chapter sold tickets on a guitar that was signed by nationally known country music entertainers. The proceeds of the ticket sales were used to purchase toys for needy children in the Shenandoah Valley.

The FFA week celebration at

Buffalo Gap entails the following: Monday - Western and FFA Day; Tuesday - Animal Day (a sampling of the farm animals in Augusta County will be on display); Wednesday - faculty breakfast; Thursday - Ag Olympics; and Friday Womanless and Manless Beauty Contest.

This spring Buffalo Gap FFA members will attend leadership conferences and the state convention. They hope to have a strong year on the state and national level.



In the photo at left, Katie Killingsworth of the Buffalo Gap FFA shows a baby animal to a youngster during a Food for America program held this summer at the Wharf in Downtown Staunton. In the photo at right, Fort FFA members (from left) Dustin Riley, Joey Harris and Travis Knically work in the ag machinery service lab to overhaul a tractor which will be sold in the spring.

Fort FFA members plan events

FORT DEFIANCE—What a year for the Fort Defiance FFA. We kicked off this year by competing at the State Convention. Fort won three state contests: the ag sales, ag marketing, and livestock judging.

The junior mechanics team came in second and John Kegley placed first.

The soil judging team, consisting of team members Kara Michael, Danny Lauro, Ashlie Karicofe, and Kenny Hyden, placed first in the state. Also, the junior team placed second. John Kegley was high individual in the junior contest.

Chapter president Ashley Gutshall and vice president Beth Blackwell attended the Washington Leadership Conference in July.

Fort's junior forestry team placed first in the area. The team consisted of Lee Roadcap, Adam Hostetler, Chris Houff, John Wilkins, and Aaron Tami. The team will compete in the state contest in the spring.

The ag sales team consisting of Kenny Hyden, Ashley Gutshall, Beth Blackwell, and Danielle Tourje, along with the ag market-

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Schoolhouse News

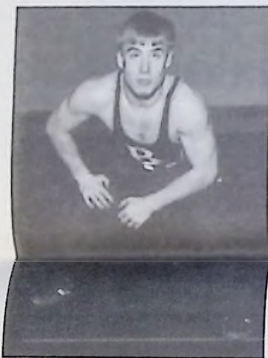
Gap's 'King of the Roll' sets sights on title bid

By PENNY PLEMMONS

SWOPE — On or off the mat, Buffalo Gap High School wrestling standout Micah Warnock is known as the "King of the Roll."

The senior wrestler uses strength and focus to pop out of a cowboy (headlock), roll his opponent and clinch the win. Wrestling coach and Gap Spanish teacher Leonardo Lopez has watched Warnock time and time again submit to the cowboy, reverse the move and own the pin.

"Warnock has other great moves that have contributed to his successes," Lopez commented.



MICAH WARNOCK

But, according to the coach, it has been Warnock's goals that have put him in the winner's seat.

"When you have goals you can overcome anything," Lopez said. And Warnock has overcome some tough opponents and continues to set personal goals to keep on succeeding.

With an undefeated regular season and first place in the Skyline District Championship behind him, the Gap senior at 140 pounds is striving for upcoming regional and state wrestling titles. Warnock's wrestling season objectives were to be the best he could be and to concentrate on winning.

"I wrestled every match like it was the state championship," Warnock commented. This tough attitude has paid off with a year end win-loss record of 23-0 of which 15 wins were pins, two were by technical falls and six were by forfeits.

Regular season successes over Riverheads' Mike Jones and George Webb from Madison County earned Warnock a bye in the Skyline District match. At the district, Warnock again duelled with Webb, pinning him at the 1:53 mark, and stripping Webb from his first place ranking in single A schools by Virginia Mat, a promoter and data clearinghouse for high school wrestling.

Warnock's varsity jacket is a trophy case for 67 pins, 6 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze medals earned during

his four-year high school wrestling career. The 18-year-old Warnock is a three-time Varsity letter winner and served as team captain this year.

"Warnock is tenacious," Lopez commented. "He never gives up. He just keeps coming at you. He's like a Mack truck, an 18-wheeler coming straight down hill."

Lopez uses his own youthful wrestling experiences as a springboard for coaching.

"Wrestling changed my attitudes for the better. It gave me direction, discipline, literally turned my life around. Coaching allows me to give back to students what wrestling gave to me," Lopez recalled. "Micah is a smart wrestler. He has the ability to set-up his moves. He is able to give up something that is not working. A hard lesson he has learned is that it is all right to give up a point or two when you know you can gain them back in the next move. I've watched him mature as a wrestler and a person over the years."

Lopez' coaching philosophy eliminates time wasting maneuvers and encourages his wrestlers to go directly for the pin. He expects his athletes to be gentlemen before matches, but once they step onto the mat it becomes all-out war.

"Once on the mat, it is no Mr. Nice Guy," Lopez says. Referring to the opponent, Lopez instructs his wrestlers to, "take them down, break

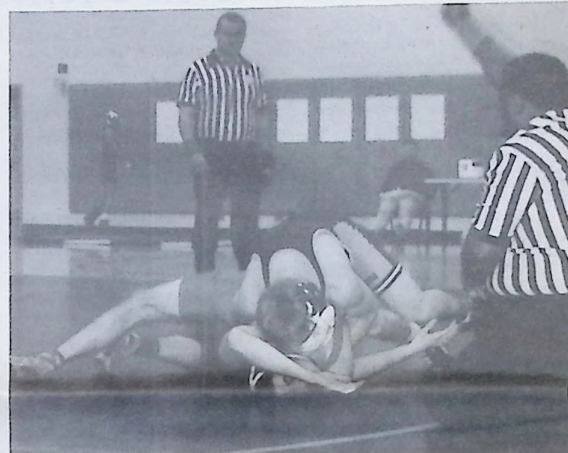
them down, terminate them, put them on their backs and let them count the lights in the ceiling."

Lopez encourages Warnock to push the limit, be aggressive, gain submission and finally control. Warnock refers to Lopez as his "wrestling father." His first exposure to wrestling and Lopez came as a seventh grader, when he tagged along behind his older

brother, Nathan, to wrestling practices at Gap. Lopez often permitted Warnock to practice with the team.

As an eighth grader, Warnock merited a spot on Gap's JV team. Looking back, Warnock said, "Coach gave me a chance. He said he was looking for kids like me who wanted to learn more."

Wrestler Sean Jones also in-
See MICAH, page 15



Gap's Micah Warnock pins Madison's George Webb in Skyline District action. With the win, Warnock stripped Webb of his first place Single A state rank.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

Beverley Manor students strut science know-how at fair

CEDAR GREEN — On Jan. 26, 150 students displayed their science projects in the annual

Beverley Manor Middle School science fair. Projects were divided into sixth grade "open" category,

seventh/eighth grade "physical science" category, and seventh/eighth grade "biological science" category. Judges agonized over projects on Wednesday morning and decisions were made that afternoon. Judges were retired BMMS science teachers, Larry Neff and Shirley Crawford; Churchville Elementary School principal, Richard Landis; Beverley Manor Elementary School principal, Al Costa; Mary Baldwin professor, Gary Diver and biology teacher, Angie Young. Ribbons and first place plaques were awarded on Thursday morning during an as-

sembly for participants.

The BEST IN SHOW award went to Nikki Griffin for her intricate and time-consuming project entitled, "Killing Bacteria."

FIRST PLACE winners were:

Open category — Justin Clough for "Building Better Bridges;" Physical category — Jonathan Bartley for "Paper Towel Strength;" Biological category — Jenna Humphries for "Streamflow to River Volume."

Students placing in each category were:

Open category — second place, Martha Vaught; third place, Bethany Tullios; fourth place, Elizabeth

Dattilio; fifth place, Ryan Gregory; honorable mention, Ariana Hamer.

Biological category — second place, Cole Heizer; third place, Clayton Faidley; fourth place, Sarah Jo DeVenny; fifth place, Ross Sandy.

Physical category — second place, Melody Sullivan; third place, Becky Burns; fourth place, Will Dolive; fifth place, Trenton Link; honorable mention, Katie Robison. —



Winning 1999 science fair students of Beverley Manor Middle School were (top row, from left) Will Dolive, Trenton Link, Clayton Faidley, Cole Heizer, Ross Sandy, Melody Sullivan, Sarah Jo DeVenny, Katie Robison; (middle row, from left) Martha Vaught, Bethany Tullios, Ryan Gregory, Elizabeth Dattilio, Ariana Hamer, Becky Burns; (seated, from left) Nikki Griffin, Best in Show; Justin Clough, first place in open category; Jonathan Bartley, first place in physical category; and Jenna Humphries, first place in biological category.

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RHS FHA stresses careers during national recognition

By JENNIFER ISHÉE

GREENVILLE — Riverheads High School FHA officers planned months in advance to prepare for National Future Homemakers of America Week Feb. 7-13.

FHA prepares students to become strong leaders in families, careers, and communities. Some of the

many promotions we have made include radio spots made by members on Augusta and Rockingham county stations. Two of our officers were on TV 3 News at Noon Feb. 10. Everyday there were announcements made to the students and a school display case was made.

This year we promoted our newest event program, Career Con-

nections. We invited people in the community to come share their career with us in all the Work and Family Studies classes. Each day of the week was dedicated to a certain career. Monday was medical day. Susan Young, a clinical social worker, and Maggie Liptrap, a medical transcriber, shared some interesting information about the medi-

cal field. Tuesday, Media Day, was taken by Jeff Ishée, WSWA, and David Meeks from The Daily News Leader. On Wednesday, students listened to Francis Chester talk about his career in law.

On Thursday, Dr. Landry, a local veterinarian, and Debbie Hartman, from the SPCA, discussed what it takes to work with animals these

days. Friday was physical fitness day. Students learned ways to gain personal wellness through exercise by Teresa Robertson, a jazzercise teacher. Also joining her was Regina Shank, a massage therapist and owner of a day spa in Staunton. This brought the end to a well-planned FHA week presented by the Riverheads High School FHA. —

RHS forensics team wins county meet

By MATT CALDWELL

GREENVILLE — The Riverheads High School forensics team has met with success during its 1999 campaign.

Despite having had only two meets — one practice and one versus Buffalo Gap — Riverheads nevertheless managed to claim

•Fort

Continued from page 13
ing team of Danny Lauro, Ashlie Karicofe, and Josh Puffenbarger, and the livestock judging team of Wes Begoon, Wes Marshall, J.T. Begoon, and Philip Steiner, all traveled to Kansas City to compete at the national FFA convention. The ag sales team received a gold rating. The ag marketing and livestock judging teams earned silver ratings.

Fort plans to continue participating in many more activities. During National FFA week we have many activities to promote agriculture. This spring we will have our Food for America program presented to local fourth grade students.

The Fort Defiance FFA has had a successful year because of the dedication of members and support of advisers. We are very enthusiastic about the rest of the year! —

first at the Augusta County meet Feb. 3, held at Wilson Memorial.

Participants placing for Riverheads included: Katie Caldwell, first, oratory; Kori Valz, second, prose; Nell Desmond and Leah Dubinski, second, duo interpretation; Bill Brannock, second, humorous; Jamie Gano, second, foreign extemporaneous; Jessica Hill, second, domestic extemporaneous; Sarah Payne, second, oratory; Rachel Howard, second, story telling; Meredith McCool, third, serious; and Morgan Pittkin, third, spelling. —

In St. Louis is RHS musical production

GREENVILLE — Shubert Fendrich's *In St. Louis at the Fair* will be performed at Riverheads High School 7:30 p.m. March 5. Features of the two-act musical include well-known tunes such as: *Meet me in St. Louis, Louis*; *Ta-ra-ra Boom-de-ay*; and *Hello My Baby*.

Soloists, under the musical direction of Jean Dillon include Robb Shipp, Jennifer Funk, Rachel Howard, Leah Dubinski, Nell Desmond, Sarah Read, Josh Howes, Kori Valz, Bill Brannock, and Matthew Caldwell. Directed by William H. Dillon, *In St. Louis at the Fair* promises to be a soft and jovial excursion for one and all. —

A Watershed

By ZECHARIAH D. JONES

A watershed sheds water,
You know,
like a dog sheds hair.
Sometimes harmful things
shed into the water,
That's why we have to make
people aware.
The Chesapeake Bay is an
example of a watershed.
A big important watershed
that is being destroyed.
Things like using
too much fertilizer,
Are things we
surely can avoid.
But some people
just don't care,
And don't think about the
animals and
people down there.
The animals living in the
water are dying
because of pollution,
And the people who hunt
for them are
looking for a solution.
They are looking for an
answer to why all the
fish and crabs are gone.
This is their job, and if
we don't stop polluting,
It will be in vain for them
to get up
and fish for nothing
until past dawn.
So if you want to have fish
and all that good stuff,
Treat the watershed well.
Because if you keep
treating it bad,
One day it might rebel.

BMMS student wins poetry contest

BMMS staff report

CEDAR GREEN — Zechariah Jones, a seventh grade student on the Discoverers team at Beverley Manor Middle School, has recently been awarded first place in Virginia in the seventh grade division of the River of Words environmental poetry and arts contest with his poem, *A Watershed*.

The contest was conducted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and sponsored locally by the Headwaters District of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Zechariah, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Jones, his siblings and his science teacher, Betty Gatewood, were hosted at an awards ceremony held Jan. 25 at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

After the ceremony, the students were presented to the House of Delegates as they viewed the proceedings from the gallery. Tours of the State Capitol and Executive Mansion ended the eventful day.

•Micah

Continued from page 14
spired the young Warnock. "He was a great wrestler and I wanted to be just like him," attested Warnock. Sadly, Jones' career was cut short when he was killed in an auto accident. Warnock carries a deep admiration for Jones each time he walks onto the mat. Lopez agrees that Warnock could not have picked a better role model. Warnock must face as many as

nine opponents to win the state championship. To get a top seed in the state match, Warnock will have to perform well in the regionals. He plans to stay on a steady course of practice and preparation. He relies on prayer for his mental focus and bends his knee before every match to request safety and fairness for all the wrestlers.

If Warnock clinches the state title he will match Gap's Mike Mahon's 1996 legacy of a perfect season and state championship win. Warnock recognizes that anyone can be beaten and when all is said and done, win or lose he will walk off the mat, head held high, confident that he has given it his all. Warnock's future holds wrestling promises.

The Newport Apprentice School in Newport News is reviewing his stats for a position on their team. Warnock intends to study the tool and die and pipe fitting trades at the school.

Warnock, the son of Julia Cash from Staunton and Greg Warnock of New Hope, is also an accomplished vocalist, having competed for the last five years in the District Show Choir competition and receiving a first alternate award to the Governor's School for the Performing Arts. Warnock claims that he takes nothing for granted in these final matches. He intends on going into the championship matches focused and prepared to win. Good luck to the King of the Roll. Roll on. —

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ATTENTION MIDDLEBROOK/SWOPE-AREA LANDOWNERS

The establishment of an agricultural-forestal district is being considered in the area of Augusta County southwest of Staunton shown on the map below.

If you own property within this area and would like to learn about ag-forestal districts, you are invited to a meeting

7 p.m., March 25 at the
Middlebrook
Community Center.

Farmers who have placed their land in ag-forestal districts, representatives from Augusta County's government, and members of the Valley Conservation Council will be on hand to present information about ag-forestal districts.

If you would like information about this meeting or have other questions about ag-forestal districts, call VCC at 886-3541.

Information also may be obtained by calling 885-0266.



The Hitching Post

Use exercises to gain balance, control bounce



I take riding lessons and when I ride at the trot I bounce. How do riders learn how to sit at the trot?

As a lesson horse I have to deal directly with the problem you ask about. Let me explain how your bouncing affects me and then we'll work on exercises to correct it.

When a rider bounces on my back, I tense up the muscles in my back and I will raise my head up to protect myself against the discomfort. This causes the rider to bounce more because we end up working against each other. When we work against each other the tension builds causing more bouncing for the rider

and more discomfort for me.

There are different exercises you can do to correct this problem. Part of the problem stems from a loss of balance. Gripping to hold on can cause riders to bounce.

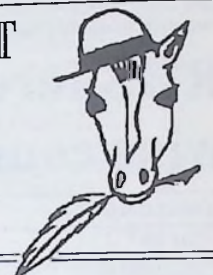
That is why learning to relax is very important. Bareback riding can help you become used to the horse's movements quicker. Short transition work between the walk and trot can also help. This means making shorter trot transitions and learning to keep your balance during them. Trot for

shorter distances until your balance improves. Another exercise that helps is the half-halt.

The half-halt is used a great deal in riding and it helps to rebalance the horse as well as regain control for the rider. Most tension in riding is caused from a loss of control or a feeling of loss. Half-halts are used to bring the horse back into the rider's hands. The way to ask a horse to half-halt is to use the correct aids to ask for a walk while trotting. As the horse starts to slow down to make the transition into the walk you release the asking aids and maintain the slower speed. Most riders beginning to learn the half-halt are not sensitive enough to the horse to feel the transition down and end up falling into a walk.

It takes practice to know when to "let go" to maintain an even

I.B. HOOFINIT
From
the
Horse's Mouth



steady pace at the trot. Remember that halt transitions should be approached with the seat before hands. The seat aid is applied before the hand so the horse is not "pulled" to a stop through the reins. The seat aid also asks the horse to engage the hindquarters for a smoother transition down.

The best way to approach this problem is with two main exercises — transitions and half-halts. With transition work your main objective is to develop your balance and seat through A LOT of experience.

Short transitions from walk, trot, and back to walk again will help you experience more changes and learn to balance with them.

Half-halts work on control and rebalancing both yourself and the horse. Ask your instructor to help you learn and practice these exercises in your lesson program. Take it from "the horse's mouth" — the more comfortable you are on my back, the better I feel. And the better I feel, the more I like the ride! —

I. B. Hoofinit's 'Horses in History'

Can you identify the horse described in the following vignette? If so, simply write your answer down and mail it with your name and address to I. B. Hoofinit's Horses in History, P. O. Box 2955, Staunton, Va. 24402 or call 540/885-0266. The first correct answer received will be sent a free gift! The answer will appear in the next issue of *Augusta Country*!

Who am I? I was stabled in a barn in Boston, Mass., in the year 1775. At about 10 p.m. I was awakened, saddled and turned over to a man I didn't know. He took me out in the middle of the night on the evening of April 18, mounted me and rode very fast to Lexington. We arrived around midnight. From there we left around 1 a.m. for Concord with two other riders. The other two riders escaped a British cavalry patrol, but my rider and I were captured. My rider was released, but I stayed with the British. Can you identify my rider and me?

The name of the horse featured as last month's mystery horse was **Marengo**, which belonged to Emperor Napoleon I.

This little Arabian stallion was a perfect match for the short, rather portly military leader. Napoleon had 130 horses for his personal use. Horsemanship was an impor-

tant part of military life. Horses were bred for their endurance, courage under fire, and speed.

Marengo was one of the 52 horses that made up Napoleon's personal stable on the ill-fated Russian campaign in 1812.

See **MARENGO**, page 17

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.

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First Winter Equine Expo boasts something for all

By DEBORAH SENSABAUGH

LEXINGTON — The energy vibrates between horse collars and shining black harnesses as 38 or so tons of mostly Belgian draft teams care not a whit they have been replaced by tractors for years. A harness ring clangs here, a snaffle bit rings there as they bide their time in memories as if they know a tractor can't listen to its driver or pull a little bit more because of heart and pride and the will to win.

At the Virginia Horse Center's first Winter Horse Expo, the mighty draft horses have filled the stands as no other performance during mid-January.

"Quiet," the announcer commands. "Quiet while they pull."

One by one the teamsters follow their giants to the cement-block filled sled. A drop of the doubletree's hook into the front ring signals man and beast. The horses dance once, twice more in the slow motion their size decrees. Then they pull, more and more, until one team

remains. Don and Fred, the immense sorrel and roan team from Osgood, Ill., clomps in to receive the applause. Jerry Gilkerson will hang a blue ribbon on his truck mirror tonight. His 5,100 pounds of horses have pulled 9,000 pounds. But only Don and Fred know how much more they could have pulled had they not beaten every other competitor.

Local draft horse owners didn't do too badly either, considering they were pulling against teams which travel across the country and win recognition for their farms by pulling the most weight week after week in everything from country fairs to big equine extravaganzas.

Pop Colvin's Jim and Pat (from Dry River) came in fifth in the lightweight division, with Danny Olinger's Tom and Mike copping sixth. They're from Dryden. The crowd's favorite, Jason Rutledge's feisty little Suffolks from Copper Hill, not only pulled seventh place, but were cited by a national trainer the next day for their wonderful

obedience to Rutledge. Chad Miano of Nicholsville got ninth with Smokey and Dan.

In the heavyweight pull, the Carolina Connection from Marion took third with Jack and Tom. Randy Wonderley of Grottoes took home the fifth place ribbon with Harry and Bob who were so in unison their walk was synchronized. And Roy Cash of Amherst pulled to a sixth place ribbon with Mike and Rex. Raymond Agnor's team from Fairfield took eighth place, pulling out at 7,000 pounds.

While the drafters may have pleased the largest crowds, the rest of the Horse Expo attractions weren't slack. From the spicy scents of Friday evening's chili cookoff to the full card of trainers, the workshops and the trade show, everyone seemed pleased with the results of this first winter effort at the center.

"Horses are a common thread for us all," claimed Pat Womble, treasurer and chaplain for the Virginia Chapter of Equestrian Ministries International.

Mrs. Womble spoke at the Sunday morning service the organization sponsored on the bleachers as horses worked in the sand below to the strains of "Amazing Grace" and "Praise Him."

"I didn't remember how to make this chili," Daneen Bivona of Charlottesville confessed just before she was announced as winner of the chili cookoff. "I had gotten the recipe from my Aunt Louise and had made it three times when I was first married. It has cumin, pepper sauce, white and black pepper, tomato sauce, ground beef, onions and garlic. I rinse and drain the ground beef and I don't use any chili powder," she says.

"All day I have been cooking this chili and remembering my Auntie Louise. She's been gone three years. This has been so personal for me."

Other chilis ranged from cool and tasty to super hot, as the judges confessed while downing glasses of water between samplings. And when

the judges were done, the public was turned loose at the crock pots and dished a few bowls themselves.

After the chili cookoff, a Country Western Dance drew a few brave souls to the coliseum floor to do—
See EXPO, page 19



Daneen Bivona, right, dishes up some of her prize-winning chili at the Winter Equine Expo held recently at the Virginia Horse Center.

Photo by Deborah Sensabaugh

•History

Continued from page 11

electric streetcar for which a private foundation has been established to restore streetcar service to Charlotte's Uptown.

At first I thought this looked like a good idea, but then I got to wondering what a streetcar is going to look like rolling up and down the streets against an ultramodern nearly futuristic streetscape? And then I wondered who would ride a streetcar since everybody is walking to and fro in the skywalks and few folks seem inclined to come down to street level? In fact, it appeared that many

professionals were parking their vehicles in subterranean or indoor garages, walking from one skywalk to the next to reach their office buildings, dining at cafes in the overstreet malls and then returning to their vehicles to leave for the day without ever having gone outside to accomplish any of it. Maybe not. It was just an observation.

But just when I thought Charlotte had no sense of history, I came upon The Museum of the New South. I'm no more of a museum buff than I am a shopper, but I have to admit I was intrigued by the name of the museum.

"Just what," I asked myself, "is the New South?" Well, within only

a minute of plunking down my \$1 admission fee I learned that the "New South" is the time period which began in 1877 after the Civil War and Reconstruction and extends to the present. The museum's focus is the region which includes Carolina's piedmont covering 11 counties in North Carolina and two in South Carolina.

Movers and shakers of the New South believed that social and economic problems facing the region would be solved by diversifying agriculture and developing industry. However segregation in the New South promoted a second-class status for African Americans among

whom poverty was common despite the outcome of the Civil War. Today's perspective of the New South is one of boundless optimism enriched by integration and diversity, according to museum literature. The overriding attitude of the New South being that the future always looks better than the past.

So with that background information in place and firmly planted in my mind, I entered the first room of the museum to see a cotton gin, a chainsaw, and a race car driver's uniform on display. I have to admit I was puzzled enough to make bee lines to display cases to find out what cotton gins, chainsaws and race car driving have to do with

the social and economic problems facing the Carolina Piedmont after the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Let's start with the easy one first — the cotton gin. In the 1920s and 1930s, many New England companies relocated all their textile operations to the south. Cotton continued to be picked by hand until after World War II. Growth of the southern textile industry heralded the rise of the New South, which worked out really well for northern companies which relocated factories to the south. But it didn't necessarily work out so well for people, many of them farmers and their families, who went to work at the textile mills.

See COTTON, page 20

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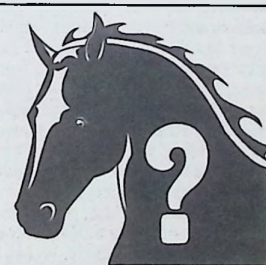
•Marengo

Continued from page 16

Marked as the beginning of the end of Napoleon's career, the Emperor had decided to attack Russia with an army already weakened by years of war.

The attack met its biggest disappointment at Moscow where the city was mostly destroyed and deserted, leaving the army little recourse but to withdraw before the Russian winter set in. The terrible snowstorms, frigid cold, and food deprivation caused severe losses to the French army. Hunger and cold took its toll and did what the largest armies of Europe had not been able to. Of the 600,000 men in Napoleon's forces, less than 250,000 survived the retreat. The fact that Marengo survived the long trip home attested to the little horse's spirit and stamina common to the Arabian breed.

On June 18, 1815, Napoleon and Marengo met their last major battle defeat in the battle of Waterloo. By a simple twist of fate Napoleon decided to hold off his attack be-



cause of heavy rains the night before. The Duke of Wellington, commander of the allied forces of Great Britain, Germany, Belgium, and the Netherlands was about equal in size and strength to Napoleon's army of around 74,000 troops. Napoleon's decision to wait to attack until after noon changed the odds against them as Marshal Gebhard von Blucher arrived with his Prussian troops to reinforce Wellington. Until that time the odds had been a 50-50 chance of success for Napoleon. The Battle of Waterloo became famous for the final defeat of Napoleon and his horse, Marengo. —

ADDRESS CHANGE?

If your address has changed for any reason or if you are planning to move, you must notify *Augusta Country* of the change. Call 885-0266 or 1-800-884-8248 or write *Augusta Country*, P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459. Please help us keep our records up to date. Thank you

Country Crossroads

Reflecting pool reflections

By Roberta Hamlin
February 1999



Dear Maude,

Once I had a friend who said that the month of February was her least favorite month of the year. It was cold, it was depressing, and it fell in that time between the holiday slump and the first signs of spring. She believed that it was only fit for hibernation. Perhaps she was right!

All of us had thought that surely, by the end of January, all of the details of "The Big Story" would be over and done with, but in good Washington fashion, the politicians managed to drag another two weeks and news coverage from it. But finally — oh blessed relief — it was over.

Overheard from a customer at a favorite carry-out on the Friday of the vote:

"I can't believe it's all finally over."

"You mean, they have finished with the vote?" said customer number two in an excited and distressed tone. Oh my goodness, she had just slipped out to grab an early cup of soup. Did she miss the long awaited end!!

"Oh, not that," replied customer number one. "The end I'm so excited to have come about, is an end to having to stay at the office and work every night until after nine o'clock!" (One of the major television networks has its offices just around the corner.)

Not long after the final Senator had cast his vote, and those on the Hill were being interviewed, the downtown workers began to wander out of their office buildings, their eyes glazed. There seemed to be a quiet hush settled over the area. The cars didn't even try to run you down when you tried to cross the street. Very strange.

I cannot say that I was not among those who were out in the fresh air. Filene's had posted a big sale for the weekend, and, well, you know how I am, — how could I not at least go and check things out just in case there was something there which I simply could not live without?

Inside the store were more of those downtown workers who appeared to be in some sort of shock, milling around the store, buying the strangest things. Mufflers and scarves and heavy sweaters, which had been marked down to ridiculous prices, were going out of the store in great bunches. (I even found a wonderful \$120 designer sweater for \$24.) The day was really mild and sunny and warm. Maybe those who had been so glued to their television sets, except when they dashed out the front of their building, were unaware of the time of year it was.

Past the big containers, filled with blooming pansies, to the carry out, they did not realize that they had already missed most of winter! But also, perhaps unconsciously, something told them that there could probably be a few more cold winds blowing down Connecticut Avenue before everything finally was in bloom. After all, things were on sale!

By the next day, people were still doing and planning the craziest things. One friend told me that she was planning to go spend the weekend at the beach. I suggested that even though the beach could be nice this time of year, it also could be unpleasant. She gave me a strange look, as if she did not quite understand what I was talking about, and I wondered if perhaps she had gotten lost sometime around the end of September.

Another friend had been trying to keep his sanity by going each day up to Du Pont Circle to watch all of the interesting people who tend to hang out there, because seeing those people tended to bring him back to reality. But once all was over, he missed those daily breaks so much, he went up and sat for three hours in the park, even though the office was finally quiet. He could ask someone there a question and get a weird answer. It was better than having to discuss the achievements of a fellow worker's six year old.

Conversations like that seemed worlds away. For the last months, the problems of the President have seemed

VFW honors area students for thoughts on what freedom means

Treva Grimm
School winner
Shelburne



GRIMM

To me freedom means you have certain rights, but you can't do what you please, when you please or where you please. You can do what you want as long as it is legal, where you want, at the appropriate place, when you want, at the appropriate time. In the classroom, I can speak my opinion of things without fear because I think different from another person. I may write a letter to the newspaper about my feelings about government actions without thinking of being arrested for my thoughts. I may go to a particular church not because I was forced to, but because I choose to.

Brandon Akers
School winner
VSDB



AKERS

What freedom means is freedom to deaf people. If you are deaf some countries will not let deaf children go to school. America offers freedom to deaf people so they can go to school.

If deaf people want to marry deaf people, they can. Some countries will not let the deaf marry deaf people. America lets the deaf marry with deaf people. If you are deaf, you can't drive a car in Europe and so you have to walk on roads. America lets the deaf drive cars. Some countries will not let deaf people use guns. America

lets us use guns but you can't kill people; only the police can use guns and you use the gun for safety.

I am not sure but some countries will not let married people have two or three babies. Some countries will say okay but only one baby can be born. In America it is okay if there are more babies born but people must pay taxes for baby things.

Some countries do not let people go to church or temples. America is okay; they go to church or temples. Some countries will not let some people go to school or college. In America it is okay for some people to go to school or college. Some countries will not let people hunt for animals. In America it is okay for people who want to hunt for animals.

Most people like to live in America for freedom and friends. I have lived in America for 17 years. I am happy that I can do anything when I need and when I want it. I thank America for my life. —

Brian Bell
School winner
Grace Christian



BELL

Freedom. What is it to be free? To me freedom is a gift given to us by our forefathers. We usually don't realize how lucky we are to be able to stay in bed as late as we want, or to be able to own a Bible in our own home and go to church of our own free will!

Sometimes when we talk about freedom, people are glad they are free because they only want to do what they want. I can't stop them, but as for me I pray especially for those who gave their lives just so we can make our own decisions. If people don't have enough respect just to be the least bit thankful for what they have, then I feel really sorry for them. I sometimes wonder how they could be that self-centered!

so important to everyone here, because we, as residents, felt we were involved in them. That kind of intensity can make one forget that there really are first graders out there doing their homework, and people out buying groceries. It will take a long time to get back to normal.

My friend Paul has gone off to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to spend some time with his father, who is suffering from Alzheimer's. His dad won't remember a thing about the whole Washington mess, and Paul says it will be such a wonderful visit, as he knows he will not be asked a single question about politics. Many of those who work on the Hill are leaving town for anywhere. They cannot quite face getting back into the swing of business (and neither can their bosses, most of whom beat them out of town.) Some workers took files and reference manuals with them. It is hard to remember who was appointed to that subcommittee when it has been such a long time since any

Some words that have really sunk into my mind, and that everyone should abide by are "THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE!" These 11 words are symbols of what we fought for; words that represent what our AMERICAN FLAG stands for. The more I learn about our nation, the more I realize why hundreds and hundreds of men and women gave their lives for our freedom.

The STAR SPANGLED BANNER, our national anthem, is another symbol of our freedom. Each time I hear it or sing it I realize that the freedom we so often take for granted was purchased for all of us at a great price. Part of what freedom means to me are the feelings I get when I hear this song.

The flag, our national anthem, human rights, equality, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, the Unknown Soldier all are a part of what freedom means to me. Freedom of speech, even to disagree, freedom of religion and the right to vote are individual freedoms that set this country apart from all the others in the world. The United States of America, that's what freedom means to me. —

work of that sort has been done!

In our office, the boss has a big board meeting scheduled to meet here in a few days. It has been our salvation. There are so many things to do, so many people to call, that it keeps him busy making sure we are on top of things, and us busy with a change of pace. Two of us have been putting together booklets of reports, board minutes, special projects and contracts. I have used the binding machine so much my arm is sore. But it is like doing many things — raking leaves, shoveling snow or cutting the grass — it makes the muscles all ache, but the brain is clear. If I were home I would be out searching for those early weeds to pull from the flower beds!

When we finish our board meeting, I am hoping to get home for a little visit. Mama says she wants to come visit Washington, and I told her I would drive down and get her. Hope to see you in just a few weeks. Love, LuLu

Be ready for spring; take time to plan landscaping

I can envision it now — spades being sharpened and old garden hoses tested to see if they will last one more season. The mailbox has been supplying the avid gardener with a steady supply of catalogues depicting plants and gardens under utopia conditions.

Spring is just about here and the warming days assure us that "the time" is almost here. But what will I create — a new rose garden or that dream water garden? No, this year is the grand patio design I saw on the cover of *Southern Living*. One thing for sure, even if the weather does not cooperate, now is definitely the time to plan the design.

It is important when designing to keep in mind the overall picture and not just a certain type of plant. Where will your vehicle traffic approach your home and do your guests have a place to park?

Do they approach the front door or do they always seem to enter through the laundry room or kitchen?

Too often a landscape design puts too much attention on appearance instead of how it flows. Appearance is of course important in an aesthetic objective, but if your circulation patterns are askew, then you may have a problem.

Next, you must decide where to put plants and trees. Decide first where you want the plant material followed by the type of plants to use. A dwarf Japanese maple makes a more dramatic effect at close range because of its intricate leaf structure but ornamental grasses can show gracious effects at a distance as they blow in the breeze. When selecting plant materials for your landscape, texture, color, size, compatibility, and seasonal interest should be deciding factors.

Texture refers to the shape and form the leaves and or flowers play against each other. Hostas with large bold leaves contrast well with liriop that has a fine texture. They are also compatible because both will tolerate shade. The colors of hosta and liriop blooms are lavender and white, which work well together.

Size is a very important factor when selecting plant material. If the windows in your home are 3 1/2 feet from the ground, then a plant growing 6 feet is too large. Also, plan a perennial bed with the small perennials in front increasing in size to the rear or center, depending on the viewing angle.

Seasonal interest can play a vital role in a garden design. Forsythia is wonderful in the spring but does not offer much after it has bloomed. Plan the garden to show off in every season. This can be a tough job in the

Lawn & Landscape

By
Jeff Flint



winter months. Some plants that offer options include winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), witchhazel (*Hamamelis*), and red stem dogwood (*Cornus sericea*).

Yes, spring is around the corner but now is the time to plan your garden and when warm weather reaches us, you will be ready to go. —

Take a walk — you might meet a walking fern

By MARK GATEWOOD

Like everyone else at this time of the year, we were hunkered down, waiting for March to blow away and make room for April. I suggested to My Wife the Biology Teacher that we try to salvage a cold, cloudy, windy Sunday afternoon with a walk down to Shamoka Run. It's a good walk, four miles out-and-back, over lightly-traveled dirt roads with enough ups and downs to make for good exercise. Maybe some early bird or bloom would reward the effort.

Swaddled in Polar Fleece and Gore-tex, we headed out into the wind. As the road dropped down toward the creek, the terrain gave enough shelter to let us unzip our coats and unclench our jaws. For no particular reason, other than it's what I like to do, I stopped to look closely at some of the limestone exposed by the road cut near the creek crossing. There, in a seam in the stone, was a small tuft of green. It looked like grass but it was wrong; there was no grass coming up this early. Looking closer, I found that the tiny plant's few leaves tapered to long, grass-like points; but each

leaf flared to an un-grasslike arrow-head base which abruptly tapered to the stem. This was no grass: this was a walking fern.

As plants go, ferns are a world of their own. Their lacy foliage and dinosaur chow heritage give them a mystique shared by no other group of plants. Most appealing of all, though, are the "un-femlike" ferns such as walking fern.

The walking fern has an unusual vegetative method of reproducing: the long, tapering leaf tip reaches out and, wherever it encounters suitable conditions, it puts down roots and a whole new plant develops. In effect, it "walks." But this little plant was unconnected to any possible parent. Why here? And how?

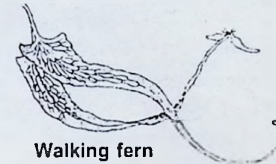
As usual, the answer takes us to reproductive strategy, and ferns have a strange one. It's called alternation of generations. Ferns don't have flowers. That's the easy part. Turn over the leaf — which, because we were talking about ferns, we now have to call by its proper name of frond — of any mature fern plant and you will find what look like tiny patches of brown suede. They may be scattered on the underside of the frond or massed; their shape and

arrangement are used in determining the identity of some fern species. These masses are sporangia and they produce millions of tiny, dust-like spores. Spores are carried on the wind. When one lights on a suitable piece of habitat, it develops into a quarter-inch pad of green called a prothallium.

I have never, to my knowledge, seen a fern prothallium, so from this point I'm going by what the books tell me. Male and female reproductive organs develop on the underside of the heart-shaped prothallium. Under certain moisture conditions, these organs burst to allow union

of a sperm and an egg, and the fertilized egg develops into the complete plant we recognize as a fern. That's the alternation: a spore-producing fern is one generation, an egg and sperm producing prothallium the next. Personally, I can't see much advantage to this system. It seems awkward. Any homeowner knows that a dandelion or a maple tree does it better with flowers and seeds. Maybe success to a fern doesn't lie in numbers.

I can show you one plant book that says walking fern is rare and another that says it's common. The plant seems to like cool, shaded



Walking fern

limestone outcrops, which is a fairly narrow habitat range. Best I can tell you, it is where it is and it ain't where it ain't.

But it's always a good plant to look for and it just might reward your search on an otherwise unredeeming March day. —

•Expo

Continued from page 17

se-do. Next, two of the featured trainers ran (sort of) a cloverleaf barrel racing pattern with bridleless horses. Next, local barrel racers did nearly as well with full tack.

For anyone looking for a horse fix on Saturday and Sunday, nationally known trainers peddled everything from ropes, halters, round pens and videos, to demonstrations of how their methods would make even the meanest

horse gentle as a lamb. To punctuate their point, they showed their highly trained gentle horses off to full advantage. Pat Perelli twirled a dazzling array of ropes, Dan Sumner explained "bio-scan," the Karrasches revealed how they trained their horses to bow (they trained Flipper) and David Seay rode as he explained his progressive horsemanship.

In one demonstration, GaWaNi, a Cherokee, taught about Native American horsemanship. He swooped around the arena on his paint horse, waving spears and shooting arrows. Then, laying aside his feathers, he donned a riding helmet and taught spellbound children how to safely fall off a horse.

"I really try to reach the children," GaWaNi said from in front of his tipi in an interview. "And hopefully I'll reach the adults as well."

The Expo featured an array of clinics in the coliseum's downstairs classrooms as well. Locals Judy Spitzer talked about horse show jump design, Sue Baizley talked about fitting saddles to horses, Dr. Melissa Holland stressed equine chiropractic, Nancy Peterson (Hollins College director of riding) talked about scholarships and equine education, Mike Spitzer offered a farrier seminar and Mary Harcourt talked about TREC, a

two-day event of orienteering and cross country from Europe.

Dr. Brent Hall of Raphine talked not only about the equine diseases listed in the schedule, but went on to urge horse owners to let their horses be themselves. "Green grass and sunshine will cure about anything. Just turn them out and let them be horses," he said.

By the time the first Winter Equine Expo closed its doors and the trainers, vendors and riders exited the huge coliseum, everyone agreed the event had been a good idea, especially since it replaced and revamped what had been a disappointing two years for the Virginia Horse Festival in April.

"Better than we expected," a number of the vendors said as they surveyed the sales of everything from t-shirts and horse jewelry to books to saddle blankets to boots to cowboy hats and vests.

Expo officials were just as pleased with the results of this first winter-time attempt, especially with the balmy weather following the previous weekend during which the Maryland Horse Expo saw icy roads keep many hopeful attendees at home.

"I liked it here. I hope to come back this way sometime," GaWaNi offered as he packed up his tipi and lodgepoles and headed for Pennsylvania and his next show. —

•HSWCD

Continued from page 7

these Augusta County landowners have done by establishing riparian corridors is use "the single most effective conservation practice we know for improving water quality of the stream." When used in conjunction with other conservation practices, stream health and wildlife habitat rise enormously and soil erosion and flood damage plummet, he added.

"We know a forested buffer will filter out sediments and nutrients. Tree roots have a much greater ability to hold soil than any other vegetation. Because the rootball is so big, it gives the stream bank stability. The trees also shade the

stream, which cools the water and allows it to hold more oxygen. With more oxygen, you will see an increase in desirable fish and the tree leaves provide food for the aquatic insects that the fish feed on," Whitescarver added.

One other tract of land in the Middle River drainage system also has been established as a riparian corridor under the new Headwaters Riparian Partnership — Witt and Jane Morris' 6.2 acres. These landowners have helped launch a program that will create a new benchmark in the quality of valuable environmental corridors. And, although the Chesapeake Bay is the ultimate recipient of these efforts, "we get the benefit first," said

Whitescarver.

"Everyone and everything benefits — the water, the land, the property owners, and the greater community. The commitments these landowners are making to sustain these critically important stream buffer lands not only enhance the value of their properties, but contribute long-term water quality benefits to the Middle River as well as the Chesapeake Bay," said Cooper.

"It was the natural thing to do," said Powers. "If you're sediment conscious then it's common sense. I'd like to see more easements along the river. I feel good about my easement when I go down there and look at it and see new things growing." —

Smoke Signals sends up message worth seeing

It's the Fourth of July 1976. Radio KREZ reports that: "It is 45 sunny degrees outside. It's a good day to be indigenous!" That night, a boy's voice tells us, "My parents celebrated the white man's Independence Day with the biggest party in Coeur d'Alene tribal history." Before it is over, the house is ablaze. "I don't remember the fire but I've heard the stories. In every one of them I could fly."

So begins Thomas Builds-a-Fire story in the all-Indian production of *Smoke Signals*, a Sundance Film Institute Award winner and a must see for anyone who enjoys an intelligent feel-good movie.

The movie moves seamlessly back and forth between the boyhood of Thomas and Victor Joseph, son of Arnold Joseph (Gary Farmer), the man who caught baby Thomas when he was thrown from the upstairs window of the burning house, and their present life on the reservation.

Thomas grows into something

of geek. Wearing thick glasses and carefully braided hair, he smiles constantly and never seems able to say the right thing. A self-styled "medicine man," Thomas tries to ingratiate himself to everyone with his constant chatter and mystical stories. Victor, however, is a tortured young man. Abandoned by his father and raised by his mother (Tantoo Cardinal) at an early age and left to an indolent reservation life, he rails against life generally and against the irritating Thomas specifically.

Then word arrives that Arnold, Victor's father, has died. Victor must go to Phoenix to claim his father's belongings but hasn't enough money to make the trip. Thomas offers him the needed funds if Victor will allow him to tag along. Victor reluctantly agrees on the condition that Thomas doesn't embarrass him or tell any of his stupid stories.

The trip becomes a life-changing voyage of redemption. Victor meets Suzy Song (Irene Ballard),

his father's friend, who helps him to a deep understanding of this father's life and love. He also comes to realize how fatefully entangled his life is with Thomas.

Sherman Alexie, a Spokane Indian and author of note, based *Smoke Signals* on his collection of short stories, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. An optimistic and gregarious man, he confronts stereotypes, race, reservation life in the most gentle and humorous way. His story is really a Greek tragedy and comedy rolled into one. He pokes fun at Native American stereotypes with some zingers. When Victor tries to instruct Thomas on how an Indian is supposed to look and act, "Don't smile. Be stoic. Like a warrior. Like you just came back from hunting buffalo." Thomas reminds him "Coeur d'Alene didn't hunt buffalo! We fished for Salmon." Or when someone says, "The only thing dumber than an Indian on television, is an Indian sitting in

front of a television."

Alexie's collaboration with producer and director Chris Eyre is a good one. Eyre has made a crisp movie that moves along flawlessly. Any English teacher could use the movie to demonstrate the meaning of transition. He doesn't insult his audience's intelligence with cinemagraphic or emotional tricks. This is the first movie Eyre has ever made and I hope it is the first of many.

You may recognize Tom Skerritt and a few actors from *Northern Exposure* in *Smoke Signals*, but generally the cast is an unfamiliar one. Adam Beach and Evan Adam are wonderful as Victor and Thomas. Adam especially plays it straight as the geeky Thomas. Most notable is Farmer's performance as Arnold Joseph, a character the viewer comes to know only through flashbacks. Farmer captures the hopelessness of a man's life on a reservation, the trap and curse of alcohol, and his

FLICK



FLAK

A movie review by

Hannah's mom, Sue Simmons

final humanity through confession and forgiveness.

Smoke Signals has been described as an "on-the-road-buddy-movie" but it is so much more than that. This film never made it to the Bijou but it is in video stores near you. If you're looking for a good story and a warm little movie for a cold March day, *Smoke Signals* is a good one to put on your list. The film is Rated PG-13 for intense images -- whatever that means. I recommend it for the entire family. Hannah's mom gives *Smoke Signals* three-and-a-half bananas. Hoka Hey. ---

•Cotton

Continued from page 17

Well, maybe the cotton gin wasn't the easy one. A Homelite chainsaw was on display because they are manufactured at a plant in Gastonia, N.C. The chainsaw was among items representative of those being manufactured at plants throughout North Carolina today.

The race car driver's uniform was one of Jeff Gordon's. You know, he's the fellow who just won the Daytona 500. Gordon is from North Carolina and now lives in Charlotte. Carolina is proud to be the birthplace of stock car driving which has its origins with moonshiners who altered standard automobiles in order to outrun law officers.

One notable characteristic of the museum's first display room was a feature I haven't seen used before in museums. The room was set up to be interactive to a certain degree. At the entrance to the room were pads of post-it notes on which

people could write comments about displayed items then stick them near the items for others to read.

One item I hadn't noticed when I entered the room was in a glass display case that was covered with so many post-it notes I could barely see what was in the case. After I peeled one of the notes off and peered through the gap, I was startled to see a Ku Klux Klan hood and mask staring back at me. Its display there had as profound an effect on me as it had on many of the people who had been past it before me and who had left notes commenting on the hood's inclusion in the exhibit.

The Ku Klux organized in 1866 to promote white supremacy. Interest waned but was revived in the 1920s because of distrust of foreigners, Catholics and Jews. The Klan's cause rose again in the 1960s to maintain segregation. Some of the post-it notes attached to the display case included vitriolic expressions toward the museum for hav-

ing included the hood and mask in the display, feeling it only perpetuated sentiment for the Klan despite the intention of its serving as a reminder of society's inclination toward racism and prejudice.

Likewise on the walls were displayed numerous tracts related to anti-integration literature circulated during the Civil Rights era. Sentiments expressed on the post-it notes included sadness and shock in reaction to literature meant to sustain a society divided by skin color.

The Museum of the New South turned out to be an eclectic offering of different aspects of post-war southern life. There is a room devoted to preserving family history, whether it be a framed needlepoint family tree or an album of family photos. Several rooms were devoted to the rise of the textile industry in the south, the use of child labor in the mills and the eventual elimination of child labor by industry. The push for "collective resistance" by

mill workers and the eventual failure by labor unions to organize mill workers was documented. There was also a glimpse into two southern lifestyles -- that of a slave family in the ante-bellum south and life in a post-1900 textile mill village.

The self-guided museum tour was completed by viewing numerous postcards which depicted some notable Charlotte structures, many of which have been demolished in the name of progress. One of the oldest existing buildings in Uptown Charlotte is the old First National Bank -- now called One Twelve Tryon Plaza -- which was built in 1927. Among other notable historic structures in the city is First Presbyterian Church which was built in 1857. Many Charlotteans have honorary pews here including Mrs. Stonewall Jackson. I had to wonder where Mr. Stonewall Jackson was allowed to sit.

The Museum of the New South is located at 324 North College Street in Uptown Charlotte. Don't go to Charlotte just to see this

museum. But if you're in Charlotte, be sure to stop by. The museum is planning an impressive renovation and rebuilding project beginning in 2000, so there may be more of the museum to see the next time I'm down that way.

Of course, no trip to Charlotte would be complete without a visit to some of its notable eateries. But I didn't get to any of them, so my trip was incomplete which means I'll need to go back some day. I did have dinner at one of Charlotte's finer Kentucky Fried Chickens. Admonitions from my mother kept me away from places like the Keg & Cue Bar. And I missed an opportunity to eat in a two-story McDonalds. That's typically Charlotte -- even the McDonalds were multi-story structures.

North Carolina is just down the road. So even if you're not going to a convention or a basketball tournament, why not plan a trip to Carolina? Nothing could be finer. ---

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.



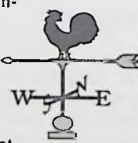
March 1, 1989 - March came in like a lion, with snow and high winds, in the northwestern U.S. Winds gusted to 86 mph in the Rosario Strait of western Washington State.

March 7, 1932 - A severe coastal storm set barometric pressure records from Virginia to New England. Block Island, R.I., reported a barometric pressure reading of 28.20 inches.

March 12, 1888 - A blizzard paralyzed southeastern New York State and

western New England. The storm produced 58 inches of snow at Saratoga, NY, and 50 inches at Middletown, Conn. The blizzard was followed by record cold temperatures, and the cold and snow claimed 400 lives. New York City received 20.9 inches of snow, Albany, N.Y., reported 46.7 inches.

March 27, 1984 - The temperature at Brownsville, Texas, soared to 106 degrees, and Cotulla, Texas, reached 108 degrees, equaling the March record for the U.S. ---



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