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April 28, 1999

Middlebrook makes
philatelic history
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**54th annual 4-H and FFA
Market Animal Show, May 5 & 6**
Special Section -- Pages 9-12

May 1999 Vol. 6, Issue 5

P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459

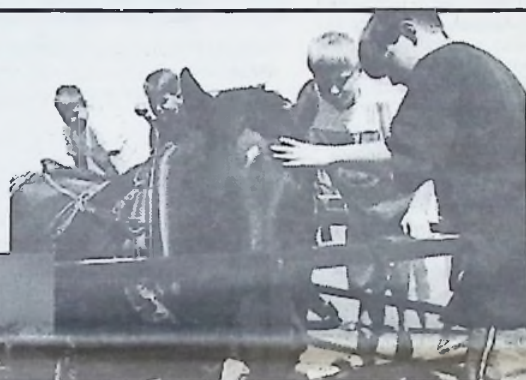
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had a four-legged festival too!

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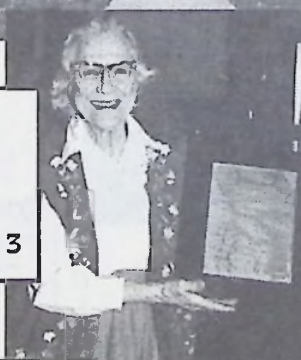
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IT'S SHOW TIME!!!

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Middlebrook makes philatelic history

By NANCY SORRELLS

MIDDLEBROOK — Once this sleepy village in southern Augusta County was a bustling beehive of activity as farmers and tradespeople came and went about their daily business. On the rainy morning of April 28, the level of activity in Middlebrook returned to that of its heyday, at least in the post office, where Postmaster Susan Treiber was hand-canceling cards and letters with a special Middlebrook Bicentennial postmark.

"This is certainly the most people who have been in the post office at once since I've been here," she said of the steady flow of people at her window. Granted, the Middlebrook P.O. is not palatial — put a half dozen locals in there and the claustrophobic must step out for air. But, nonetheless, the pace was steady from 8 a.m. onward.

Ms. Treiber, who has been postmaster for almost six years and has worked for the U.S. post office for 17 years, was prepared for the onslaught.

"Well, I re-inked the ink pad to make sure it was sufficiently inked, and I washed windows, vacuumed, and got here half an hour early," she said with a smile.

She also had flowers and balloons to brighten the place, and teamed up with former postmaster Bill Brubeck, whose hardware store is connected to the post office by an interior door, to supply coffee, cake and cookies to those waiting in the LONG lines for the special stamp on their cards and letters.

Brubeck knows a little bit about the village and the postal service, having served as Middlebrook



Former Middlebrook Postmaster Bill Brubeck and present Postmaster Susan Treiber hand cancel postcards with the commemorative Middlebrook Bicentennial Postmark.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

postmaster from 1963-1993. The post office was in the same building as it is now, even during the tenure of those postmasters who preceded him, Charlie Almarode and Peyton Rusmiselle.

"Back then the post office was in the back corner (of the store) and was a little place with lattice work around it," Brubeck remembered.

Those who wanted a very special souvenir of Middlebrook's birthday could choose to have the bicentennial stamp placed on the back of a postcard featuring one of three scenes from Middlebrook's past. The complimentary postcards were printed and distrib-

uted by the Middlebrook-based newspaper, Augusta Country. The old photographs for the postcard were supplied by the Rosen family.

Probably as much preparation went into arrangements for the special postmark as went into the village's founding in April 1799 when William and Nancy Scott sold 27 lots. This time around, much of the work was handled by the Richmond office of the postal service. The official stampmaker put the finishing touches on the special one-of-a-kind stamp 3 p.m. April 26 at which time it was expressed to Middlebrook where it arrived at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday. Less than 24 hours later the stamp was in action.

Ms. Treiber admitted that de-

spite the fact that she hand cancels everyday, she was a novice with special stamps.

"I have learned this morning that I get the best postmark if I roll the wrist forward from the body. Rolling the wrist works best as opposed to a direct stamp," Treiber said.

The Middlebrook community was using the celebration to generate interest for another bicentennial project for the village. The Middlebrook Ruritans are overseeing a fund drive to get a cast iron historical marker placed there. Middlebrook was the first of only two historic districts in Augusta County to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places (in 1981).

The village's history and collection of well preserved 19th-century buildings makes it a unique place. Those who want to contribute toward the \$1,100 needed to get the marker can stop by Brubeck's Hardware or make a check payable to the Middlebrook Ruritan Club and mail it to the Middlebrook Ruritan Club, Middlebrook, VA 24459.

With the commemorative postmark, the bicentennial postcards,

Middlebrook, Virginia 24459

1799 BICENTENNIAL 1999

April 28, 1999

and the historical marker, the community is celebrating a heritage that is increasingly rare in today's fast-paced society. Middlebrook has never lost its hold on that small-town atmosphere. Even on days when nothing special is going on, the post office and the hardware store are still the center of visiting, catching up, and maybe just a little gossip.

"Oh boy, on a rainy day or a cold day around here, this is still the gathering place for all the farmers," said Ms. Treiber.

April 28 was the only day that walk-in customers could get the special postmark, but until May 28 people may send stamped envelopes and cards to the Middlebrook Postmaster (24459) to be stamped and returned. After that, the special stamp will be returned to Richmond and destroyed, giving all those with Middlebrook Bicentennial Postmarks a special place in history. —

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Research of family provides glimpse of community's roots

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — An interest in the history of Augusta County and Middlebrook comes naturally to Sarah Francis Suter. After all, it's her family history as well.

Her McCutchen ancestors had an original land grant in the Middlebrook area, while her Anderson ancestors were among the original settlers in the northern part of the county. Her lifelong interest in researching these family trees and piecing together clues about the families has consumed many hours.

"My mother schooled me in the family history," Mrs. Suter recalled. Her parents, Maude Carwell and William Bailey Anderson, lived in a log house in the Franks Mill area. "My mother would take me all around and show me who lived here and who was buried there. All those people are gone now," she said.

Mrs. Suter's mother was born on "The Burnt Cabin Place" near Franks Mill. According to family legend, the farm was called "The

Burnt Cabin Place" because of an Indian raid there. At any rate, the moniker was used in official documents as early as 1780.

After a lifetime of being surrounded by the history of her family, Mrs. Suter, now in her 86th year, can look back and talk about such characters as Elder Billy McCutchen as if she almost knew him personally.

The McCutchens have always been a favorite research topic in the family, and Mrs. Suter's daughter Sarah Suter Splaun has been particularly involved in the McCutchen Trace Association. The organization was founded in Franklin, Tenn., in 1973. In fact, the first McCutchen family reunion was held at the Suter's Staunton home.

The McCutchen family history has come to the forefront of Mrs. Suter's thoughts recently with the celebration of Middlebrook's bicentennial. As well it should, because the McCutchens figure into the village's history in several key ways.

John McCutchen was the first family member to live in the section of Augusta County which would come to be known as the Middlebrook area. This pioneer acquired 920 acres in the Beverley

Patent. A page from the family Bible picks up the story from there. John's son, Samuel married Elizabeth Fulton on June 20, 1753. The couple had a dozen children including William born late in 1758.

William, who later became known as Elder Billy for his association with Old Providence Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, was a patriot in the American Revolution. "He was so anxious to serve in the revolution he lied about his age," Mrs. Suter said of her ancestor, who joined the fledgling American army.

In 1778 McCutchen was ordered by Col. Sampson Mathews to drive a supply wagon from Staunton to George Washington's army at Valley Forge. The wagon train crossed the Blue Ridge at Rockfish Gap and loaded up on a

"My father was with Gen'l Washington in his winter quarters at Middlebrook, New Jersey, and when he came home, he said he would call this place Middlebrook after his old winter quarters of that name in New Jersey."

James McCutchen

supply of bacon at Orange and Culpeper. McCutchen and his fellow soldiers caught up with the army between Morristown, N.J., and the Hudson at King's Ferry.

McCutchen eventually served three terms of enlistment and was at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. His army service changed him in many ways. After he was discharged in New Jersey he received his pay in the paper currency of the colonies. As he made his way back to the Shenandoah Valley, he soon learned that the inflated Continental money was nearly worthless. A week's wages would not pay a foot traveler's expenses for a single day according to one source.

Upon his return to Augusta County, McCutchen settled in on his farm about a mile east of Middlebrook. The area, where three springs emerge from the ground in close proximity to one

another, is interesting geographically. The waters from the springs flow in two different directions, either north to the Shenandoah and eventually the Potomac or south to the James. The McCutchens called this phenomenon the parting of the waters according to Mrs. Suter. The land is also the highest part of the Valley floor, being equal in elevation to Afton Mountain.

According to family legend,

there is one more thing that William brought back with him from his military service in New Jersey — the naming of the village of Middlebrook. Although some sources say the village received its name because of the obvious occurrence of a stream running through the hamlet's center, an 1885 article in the Staunton newspaper offers a different explanation.

The article quotes William McCutchen's son, James, as saying that the teen-aged William chanced upon the name during his service in New Jersey. "My father was with Gen'l Washington in his winter quarters at Middlebrook, New Jersey, and when he came home, he said he would call this place Middlebrook after his old winter quarters of that name in New Jersey," said the article. The clipping adds that when William McCutchen placed the name upon the settlement, the future village had but three houses. Although the log house built by the McCutchens stood just to the east of the village, the family also owned lots in the new village.

Mrs. Suter, who is descended from William's brother, Samuel, grew up with stories like that of her pioneering family. "At one time it was said there were so many McCutchens that they had to ride three to a horse!" As for the McCutchen homeplace, Mrs. Suter remembers the log house only when it was a skeleton of logs without so much as a roof remaining.

Ferretting out her family history and local stories has been an enjoyable task for many years noted Mrs. Suter. "I do enjoy it, but I have had a time digging it all out," she said. —



Sarah Francis Suter holds a water-stained document which holds clues to her family's roots.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

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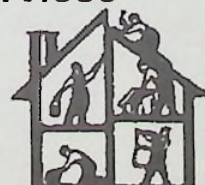
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Yesterday once more

Jackson stymies Union troops at Winchester

By JOHN A. TAYLOR

It was during the late spring of 1862 that Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's army lived up to its nickname of the "foot cavalry."

May 23, 1862 found Jackson's Confederate army firmly in control of Front Royal. The Union troops, under Gen. Nathaniel Banks, were 12 miles to the west at Strasburg. Historian Beven Alexander explains that Jackson, in a single move, had "severed Banks' direct rail link with Washington, sealed off Banks' retreat route to the east, placed himself on Banks' flank, and was as close to Winchester, his main rear base, as Banks himself."

After considerable procrastination, Banks decided that in order to protect Maryland from possible southern invasion which would further endanger Washington, he would move his troops northward toward Winchester. He planned to use the Valley Pike (now Route 11) as Jackson moved cautiously along the road from Front Royal to Winchester.

Jackson's caution was due to the fact that he had to ascertain that Banks would not slip past the Confederates at Front Royal and leave the valley by way of Manassas Gap. Such a result would have been contrary to the purpose of Jackson's campaign which was to

keep the Union troops occupied in the Valley away from Richmond.

When Jackson received word that the Federals were still definitely in the Valley and moving toward Winchester, he began his chase in earnest. The Confederates first attempted unsuccessfully to intercept Banks by way of some connecting roads to the Valley Pike. However, well rested Union forces had the advantage of beginning their march earlier in the day along the smoother surface of the Pike.

Jackson's men, exhausted from two weeks of marching from long distances west of Staunton, had to struggle on the rough back roads. As Jackson moved his division and the Louisiana troops from Gen. Richard Ewell's division under Gen. Richard Taylor, his pursuit was further slowed as his hungry Confederate troops constantly looted the disabled Union supply wagons.

The bulk of the Union army reached Winchester just ahead of the Rebels, but were so hard-pressed by Jackson that they lacked the time to set up adequate defenses at the southern perimeter of town. Jackson and Ewell's combined armies outflanked the Union at both ends of its line.

The main line of the outnumbered Federals finally broke during the ensuing battle and retreated from Winchester all the



The view from Bolivar Heights: Maryland Heights and Harpers Ferry (at left), the Potomac River (center), and Loudoun Heights, Va. (at right). Jackson's army ad-

vanced as far as Loudoun Heights during the last week of May 1862 before withdrawing toward Strasburg on May 31.

Photos by John A. Taylor

way across the Potomac, some 36 miles away, before regrouping at Williamsport, Md. A Union officer described the rout: "As we passed out of Winchester on the Martinsburg road, I saw our straggling columns pouring out by every avenue...accouterments and knapsacks began to be strewn along the route..."

Unfortunately for the South, the Confederate cavalry did not launch a coordinated assault against the retreating Union troops. Jackson expressed his disappointment in his official report: "Never have I seen an opportunity when it was in the power of the cavalry, to reap a richer harvest of the fruits of victory...There is good reason for believing that, had the cavalry played its part in this pursuit...(that) but a small portion of Banks' army would have made its escape to the Potomac."

Despite his disappointment, however, Jackson soon realized that his overall objective had been attained, at a relatively low cost. Banks, on the other hand, suffered a huge loss of supplies and 40 percent of his forces were either killed, captured or missing.

Jackson's success so concerned Abraham Lincoln and his advisors that Union forces originally planned for Richmond were rerouted to the

Valley. President Lincoln devised a military plan of his own to trap Jackson. He planned to move the two forces of Generals Irvin McDowell and John C. Fremont to the Shenandoah Valley in order to cut off any southward movement from Winchester by Jackson, while reinforcing Banks. Lincoln hoped Banks would begin immediately moving back across the Potomac, thereby pushing Jackson southward into the trap.

Gen. Jackson, in Winchester, was apparently unaware of the trap for several days. Even after being informed of the movements of Fremont and McDowell he seemed unconcerned and did not order a retreat from Winchester until May 30.

The unconcern on Jackson's part may have been planned. Historian Douglas Cohn writes that "if Jackson's operations brought McDowell to the Valley, then Jackson would have accomplished all that Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Joe Johnston had desired... Apparently, Jackson was intent

upon hanging on until the last moment. He was the bait luring McDowell, and he played his part fully, lest his pursuer lose interest."

Jackson's troops, as far removed as Loudoun Heights across the Potomac from Harpers Ferry, began their pullback on May 31. Lincoln's plan might have worked had it not been for the inadequacies of his generals. The slow movements of McDowell and Fremont were no match for the swifter Jackson, while Banks claimed that his forces were still too disorganized after their loss to mount a full-scale offensive from Maryland before June 10.

Although Lincoln had ordered his western armies into the Valley by way of Harrisonburg, their route had been effectively blocked several weeks earlier by Jackson's engineers. In addition, Jackson had sent a message to Col. John Imboden, who was recruiting in Staunton for his partisan ranger unit, asking him to do what he could to block Fremont's advance.

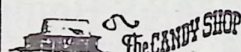
See FREMONT, page 5



Interesting exhibits on the Valley Campaign may be seen at the Stonewall Jackson Museum at Hupp's Hill just north of Strasburg.

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•Fremont

Continued from page 4

Imboden responded with troops stationed strategically at a narrow pass along the road from Franklin to Harrisonburg. Fremont therefore traveled to the Valley by a longer, more tedious route to Strasburg.

It took both Union armies approximately

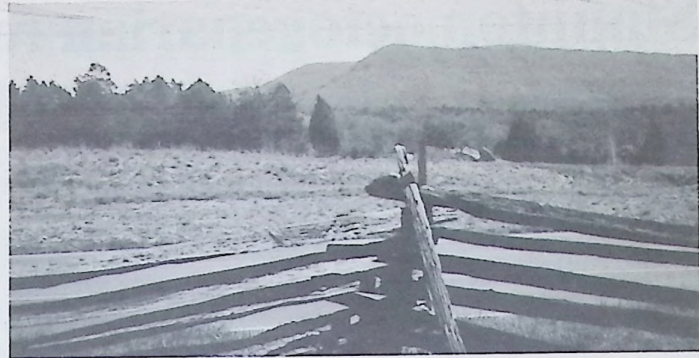


Jackson's army advanced to this point along the Potomac River at Loudoun Heights in May 1862 but retreated to avoid entrapment by Union forces converging near Strasburg.

eight days to move 70 miles while Jackson moved 50 miles in just two days. Of course it might be pointed out that McDowell and Fremont were extending their lines of communication while Jackson was rolling back his forces toward his source of supply. McDowell and Fremont also found communication difficult with the Confederates in between them.

By sundown of June 1, as Ewell's forces stalled Fremont's approach, the last of Jackson's army pulled southward from Strasburg, successfully evading the Union trap. Gen. James Shields' troops, under McDowell, had reached Front Royal in time to close off that avenue of escape and might well have reached Strasburg in time had Shields not mistakenly taken the road to Winchester.

As fierce cavalry engagements took place between Fremont's now rapidly pursuing army and Jackson's rear guard, the Confederates reached Mt. Jackson, their familiar campgrounds used after the retreat from Kernstown in March. The Southerners escaped this time with a huge wagon train full of captured Union supplies and over 2,000 Union prisoners. When the last of Jackson's men crossed the Shenandoah River, they burned the bridge. Heavy rains that evening raised the level of the river sufficiently to prevent Fremont's immediate use of a pontoon bridge.



The northern end of the Massanutten Mountain range as seen from U.S. 11 near Strasburg. On June 1, 1862, Stonewall Jackson's army moved quickly southward past this point as Gen. Shields' Union army held Front Royal just 12 miles to the east and Gen. Fremont's Union army was a few miles to the west moving toward Strasburg. If Jackson had been just a few hours later, his army would have been trapped north of Strasburg and the results of the Valley Campaign would have been quite different.

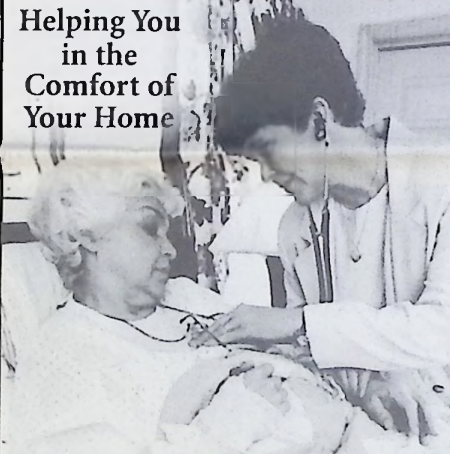
Confederate losses for this portion of the campaign were relatively light. Dabney reported that "in all the engagements, from Front Royal to Strasburg, 68 men were killed, 329 were wounded, and three were missing." Meanwhile Jackson used the time delay granted by the rains to decide how to handle Fremont to the north and the contingent of McDowell's army under General Shields which his scouts informed him was slowly trudging southward through the mud on the other side of the Massanutten Mountain.

Jackson had now reorganized all his cavalry under Gen. Turner Ashby and the horse soldiers were now performing up to Jackson's high expectations after their dis-

appointing lack of pursuit at Winchester on May 25. Part of the cavalry was dispatched across the Massanutten to burn bridges and help impede Shields' progress south of Luray and to discourage the Union use of a road that crossed the mountain toward New Market. Jackson then decided that he would try to move fast enough to arrive at the south end of the Massanutten between the towns of Port Republic and Harrisonburg and then determine how to handle his pursuers once he arrived at that location.

Next month: Jackson's Valley Campaign concludes with the surprising defeat of two different Union armies on successive days at Cross Keys and Port Republic.

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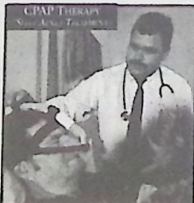
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Staunton octogenarian recalls events of yesteryear

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — Elizabeth Crafton Terry is a woman on the go. And never in her nearly 88 years has she let obstacles stop her from going. Even a bout with scarlet fever as a young child which left her with a profound hearing loss didn't stop her. Today this intelligent woman with an elfin smile and sparkling eyes is still going strong, driving herself to the many club meetings and activities in which she participates.

Her life began in a big white farmhouse on Middlebrook Road just outside of Staunton. There she played with her two brothers — older brother Glenn and younger brother John Marshall. Both brothers, by the way, are still going strong as well.

The trio got into the standard amount of mischief as children. John Marshall and Elizabeth had a playhouse in their father's shop and they decided they wanted to fix it up like a home with real elec-

tric lights. The two clambered up on the roof and cut a live electric wire. Fortunately their mother discovered them before any serious injury occurred, but they did have to get a repairman to restore electricity to the house.

When the children reached school age they walked about a mile to Old Grove, a rural school in Augusta County. Elizabeth attended Old Grove for three years and then enrolled as a day student at Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Staunton. Her mode of transportation on the two-mile journey was often by Shetland pony. "I rode three different ponies, but Beauty was the one I remember. I would tie her up at the greenhouse at VSDB," said Elizabeth.

The ponies were very small she recalled. In fact the pony and Elizabeth were small enough that one time during inclement weather, her father loaded her AND the pony in the car and drove them both to VSDB.

Pony transportation also came

in handy for Sunday school at the Baptist church on Beverley Street in Staunton. The three Crafton children would hook Beauty to a pony cart and ride to Sunday school in style. Elizabeth enrolled in the Baptist Sunday school when she was just three years old. Her enjoyable memories of the school include a \$5 first prize in the Proverbs contest.

For people of the area in the early 20th century, the Augusta County Fair held at Gypsy Hill Park was the place to be in the summer. Elizabeth and her pony won second-place prize in a race one year. During another race, she rode her horse MacStar in a two-lap event.

"My horse MacStar was so fast he was ahead of the others in the first lap and again in the second round with one other horse, ridden by Mrs. Reid, coming up on us. The two of us rode around the second round until we got in front of the stand. Mrs. Reid pulled her horse off the track and my horse stopped so quickly in front of the



Elizabeth Crafton Terry of Staunton holds open a trunk, bought for her by her father, which she has restored.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

crowd I was flopped over MacStar's neck," she recalled.

In yet another equine competition, Elizabeth drove a wagon, pulled by a white and brown spotted horse named Dolly, and won first prize.

Learning and competing and growing were always part of Elizabeth's drive in life. After finishing 10 years at VSDB, she enrolled at Stuart Hall and spent four years there studying English and art, playing field hockey, and participating in the camera club. Today her still lifes and landscapes which hang from the walls of her home are as bright and vibrant as if she had painted them yesterday instead of in the 1930s. True to tradition, she found a way to transport herself to school. "I drove a Model-T Ford to school every day. John Marshall took me to Gypsy Hill Park and taught me to drive. We drove around Gypsy Hill Park three or four times," she recalled. That was in 1929 and she has been driving ever since!

After she finished her schooling, she came home to live with her family. For many years she sold paintings and helped out at

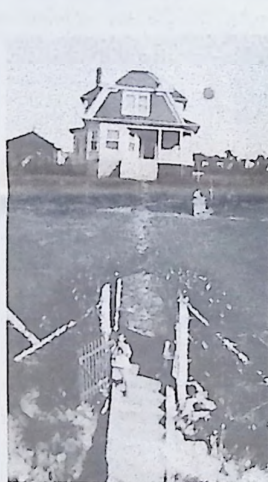
her father's business at Crafton's Park. Every time she took up a hobby, she went full force. She bought a pair of canaries. Eventually she raised over 50 birds and sold them. Then she raised and showed cocker spaniels, bringing home ribbons in that arena.

While at a dance for the deaf in Washington, D.C. she met Bernard Terry from New York. They married. See TERRY, page 19



Included in this Crafton family photo are Chesley Kinney Henderson, a relative, (far left) and Charles Henderson Crafton. Standing in front of him is Glenn Crafton. Holding the little girl, who is Elizabeth Crafton, is Bessie Henderson Craig. On the right is Helen Henderson Shanon with her arm draped over Woody Henderson. The woman in the very back is unidentified. The photo was taken at the Henderson home place which was located on Middlebrook Road just outside of Staunton.

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Crafton Terry



Still standing today is the farmhouse where the Crafton family lived and where Elizabeth was born. Charles had this house built in 1909 by Hiner and Jones for \$1,500. The 15-acres of land cost \$1,000. Additions were put on in 1920 and 1926.

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Crafton Terry



The three Crafton children -- from left, Glenn, Elizabeth, and John Marshall -- prepare for the one-mile walk to Old Grove school.

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Crafton Terry

Don't delay.
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See page 2

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Journal reveals highlights of early 20th-century life

By NANCY SORRELLS

It's easy to see how Elizabeth Terry came by her adventure-some spirit — she obviously came by it naturally, a trait inherited from her father Charles Henderson Crafton. The Henderson history in Augusta County stretches back to the frontier days and, before that, family legend says the family immigrated from Scotland.

The spirit of adventure must have been passed down from generation to generation until it landed squarely in the soul of Elizabeth's father who was born in 1884. Charles was a businessman, a farmer, a livestock dealer, and an entrepreneur all rolled into one.

In 1906 Charles married Mabel Glenn. Within a few years he bought 15 acres and built a six-room house. His mother gave the couple a cow and two pigs. Charles already had a bicycle so he milked the cow and cycled into town each day with a gallon of milk that he sold for 20 cents.

In order to get work, Charles moved to Waynesboro for a while

and worked for his wife's father, J.A. Glenn, at a flooring mill. Soon, however, he loaded up the family's belongings in three road wagons and moved them back to the farm on Middlebrook Road.

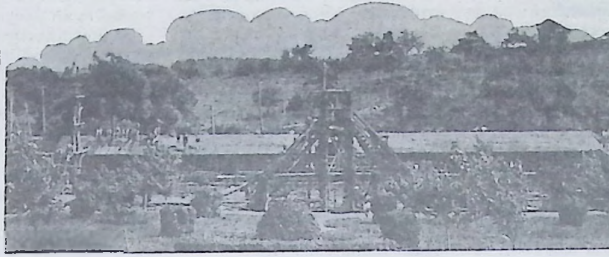
One of the next jobs to come down the pike for Charles was a contract to carry the Middlebrook Star Route mail from Staunton to Middlebrook, Moffett's Creek and Jump Mountain. For years Charles kept a notebook and jotted down occasional entries. The penciled pages provide a great deal of insight and details about the postal business for which he was paid \$1,300 a year.

"I bought a Little Giant Truck from the Ford Motor Co.," he wrote of his mail truck which had "solid tires & chain drive." But evidently the road was too much for an automobile and the contraption lasted only three months. Everyday he would get stuck and have to get pulled out.

"After three months I traded it to Ford Motor Co. for a 1/2 ton Ford truck. Tires were guaranteed for 1,500 to 3,000 miles (but) very

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An old advertisement for Crafton's Park

Courtesy Elizabeth Crafton Terry

few ever lasted that long," he wrote. Charles used the truck one year, but winter and bad roads caused him to trade in the truck for the more reliable transportation of a spring wagon and two horses. He would use one horse one day and the other the next.

Even a horse and wagon strained under the weight of the mail and the condition of the

roads, so the next year Charles bought two more horses in order to rotate two-horse hitchers. He stabled two horses at Moffett's Creek in O.C. Beard's [sic] barn. Each day when he got to that point in his route he exchanged horses, driving one team to Newport and the other back to Staunton. Everyday at noon he would meet another postal worker, named Si Walker, at the

Jump Mountain post office and they would exchange mail.

Not content to just work one job, Charles recognized an opportunity to make even more money when World War I began. "I started buying & shipping pigs" which would be used to feed the new soldiers at army camps. "I bought & shipped thousands of pigs and shoats

See CRAFTON, page 19



This miniature golf course was at Crafton's Park which was owned and operated by Charles Crafton. The park was located on

the Middlebrook Road about one mile south of Staunton's present-day city limits.

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Crafton Terry



In 1911 Charles Crafton went to work in Waynesboro at a flooring mill owned by his father-in-law, J.A. Glenn.

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Crafton Terry

Other interesting notations in Crafton diary

1912 - Planted 198 Apple trees & 105 Peach in orchard Cost \$41.75
Nov. 1940 - Visited International Livestock Show in Chicago. Had a Special Car from Staunton & Back.
22 Augusta Farmers composed the Group.
April 1943 - Blair Coiner, Glenn Cline, CH Crafton & Virgil Gore Drove to Fla. when B. Coiner bought a Home in Miami Beach &

yacht. We drove to Chicago & Wisconsin. Gore & Cline bought a load of Stock Cattle in Chicago. We visited 14 states & the trip cost us 98.50 each. Came back the Penn Super Highway.
Oct. 1947 - I toured the West. Post Master had 2 special trains out of Chicago 462 passengers on the 2 trains. ...Danced with Mary Pickford in Portland

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John Lewis to be subject of ACHS spring meeting

AC staff report

To Augusta County history lovers, John Lewis is larger than life. Reputed to be the first European settler in the area, he arrived on America's frontier from Ireland after slaying "an Irish Lord" and fleeing from the law. Lewis and his family settled near present-day Staunton where they proceeded to become political and military leaders in Augusta County.

John Lewis and his family will be the focus of the Augusta County Historical Society's spring meeting 3 p.m. May 23 at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in Fort Defiance. "Will the real John Lewis please stand up?: The Lewis family in fact and folklore" is the title for an entertaining and informative afternoon.



KATIE LETCHER LYLE

Two published researchers and writers on this fascinating family will be the featured speakers. Lexington's Katie Letcher Lyle, novelist, historian, and folklorist, will discuss Margaret Lynn Lewis (the wife of John Lewis) and her purported "diary." Mark W. Cowell Jr. of Staunton, editor of the authoritative Lewis family history, will focus on the factual record of John Lewis in Augusta and on the ballad which the Lynn family adopted. Katharine Brown, historical society president, will moderate and include remarks on the problems of conducting research on the Lewis family in Ireland.

Mrs. Lyle is the author of 13 books including poetry, novels, historical non-fiction, and nature books, as well as many articles. She holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins. She is also a folksinger, speaker, and teacher, having taught for more than 25 years at local colleges. One of her most popular books, *Scalded to death by the steam*, is in its 13th printing. Her 1998 publication, *When the Fighting is All Over*, was short-listed as the best non-fiction book for the year. Among many other awards, she has been a Newbery finalist twice.

Cowell comes to his love of Lewis family history naturally, as a direct descendant. Although he was born in Illinois, he got back to his roots when he summered with relatives in the Shenandoah Valley. Cowell's specialty is linguistics. He received a degree from the University of Virginia and did post graduate work at Cornell and Harvard. He worked in Saudi

Arabia setting up Arabic language courses for Americans living in that country. In addition to editing the extensive John Lewis book, he edited a medical dictionary and worked as a lexicographer.

Dr. Brown has spent a great deal of time in Ireland in pursuit of historical research. She lived in the country for a year on a research fellowship. During her trips to the country, she has delved into the Lewis family connection on that side of the Atlantic.

The Augusta County Historical Society's spring meeting is open to the public. A short business meeting will precede the main program. Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church will also have its museum, located in the old session house, open to the public, and a short history of this historic church will be presented at the meeting. Refreshments will follow the program.

Augusta Stone is located on U.S. 11 north of Staunton in Fort Defiance. The historical society is a non-profit organization dedicated to learning about and preserving the history of Augusta County, Staunton and Waynesboro. In addition to two meetings per year and an annual banquet, the society publishes a newsletter and a journal, and sponsors other history-related activities.

There are a number of active ACHS committees in which members can participate including, landmarks, cemeteries, and publications. For more information about the society or the spring meeting, contact Dr. Brown, president, at 886-5979 or Nancy Sorrells, vice-president, at 377-6390. —



The inscription on John Lewis' tombstone reads: "Here lie the remains of John Lewis who slew the Irish Lord, settled Augusta County, located the town of Staunton, and furnished five sons to fight the battles of the American Revolution. He was a brave man, a true patriot and a friend of liberty throughout the world." Lewis will be the topic at the Augusta Historical Society's spring meeting to be held 3 p.m. May 23 at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in Fort Defiance.

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54th Market Animal Show slated for May 5 and 6



STAUNTON — The 54th annual 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show will be held May 5 and 6 at Staunton Union Stockyard on New Hope Road.

4-Hers and FFA members from across Augusta County will be exhibiting lambs, hogs and steers during the event which is sponsored each year by Augusta County Ruritan clubs and the Staunton-Augusta and Waynesboro Chambers of Commerce.

Wednesday's events open with the show dedication at 3:30 p.m. Each year the show is dedicated to an individual who has been a long-time supporter of the event. The lamb show will begin immediately following the dedication. Single lambs will be exhibited first, followed by the pairs competition.

Thursday's events will begin with the market hog show at 8 a.m. Hogs will be shown as singles and pairs. Following

the conclusion of the hog show, the steer show will begin at approximately 9:30.

Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be selected from the single lambs, pairs of lambs, single hogs, pairs of hogs, and the steers. Exhibitors will also compete for \$100 U.S. Savings Bonds for the top junior and senior showmanship effort in each species. Showmanship Savings Bonds are sponsored by *Augusta Country*.

The Market Animal Show culminates Thursday evening with the Parade of Champions beginning at 6 p.m. Sale of livestock will follow the parade. Area businesses and individuals support 4-H and FFA members by bidding on animals for sale. For information about participating as a buyer at this year's Market Animal Show, call the Augusta County Extension office at 245-5750. —

Augusta 4-H and FFA members putting final touches on Market Animal projects

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

Snip-snip here, brush-brush there — it's time to start getting animals ready for the 54th annual Market Animal Show. Even as *Augusta Country* goes to press, 4-H and FFA members across Augusta County are cleaning and grooming their animals for the upcoming event.

It's hard to say which of the three types of animals — lambs, hogs, or steers — is the most difficult to prepare for the show.

Simply by their sheer size, steers certainly require a great amount of effort to clip, wash and dry. And that doesn't even include buffing their hooves, or tassling their tails, or moosing their polls, or blacking sun-bleached hair. And in only an instant, when a restless steer bumps up against another one while waiting in line to go in the

show ring, the whole process can be blown completely when slobber or manure gets smeared across a just-cleaned hindquarter.

And then there are the hogs. What can be said about the difficulties of preparing a hog for a show? They are, after all, hogs. However, most exhibitors will tell you that hogs, even by their very nature, require the least attention before showtime. Put them in a crate and give them a bath — that's about the most anyone can do for a hog. Brush them off a little. Keep their noses and backsides clean. And then be ready to move when the show ring gate opens, because hogs go just about wherever they want when they're turned loose for judging. It's up to the exhibitors to maintain some sense of control over the whole business.

And then there are the lambs. Imagine putting a full-length wool body stocking on a 100-pound child. Then imagine trying to wash the wool body stocking and the child at the same time. It's not easy. And then at some point, all the wool

nubbies have to be clipped off the body stocking. Then there's a whole lot

of extra combing and carding to be done to make sure each strand of wool is in just the right spot.

And all the 4-H and FFA members exhibiting livestock will be doing their best to exhibit their animals in the show. The members' success showing their livestock, whether an animal finishes at the top of the class or the bottom, is perhaps more important than the overall quality of the animal itself. Because each exhibitor will be scrutinized by the judge for his or her ability in showing an animal. This



Jim Ashby of Churchville, a purebred Dorset breeder and showman, instructs a group of Augusta County 4-H members in the finer points of lamb showmanship during a clinic held recently at Cross-B-Crest farm near Staunton. The event was

sponsored by the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club. Ashby's pupils will be put to the test when they exhibit their animals at the 54th annual Market Animal Show to be held May 5 and 6 at Staunton Union Stockyard on New Hope Road.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

is what is known as showmanship.

Jim Ashby, a veteran sheep showman and purebred Dorset breeder, gave 4-H members some tips recently on exhibiting their animals.

"You want to get the most out of your lamb," Ashby said. Translated this means, set the lamb's legs up right, stretch it out, brace it when the judge checks it out, hold the lamb's head up and keep its neck stretched. Make sure the lamb holds it back up straight instead of relaxing in a sway back position.

"You don't have any friends except that lamb you've got in the show

ring," Ashby stated. Translated this means, concentrate on showing the animal. Don't wave at Mom and Dad. Don't grin at Grandma and Grandpa. Don't be winking at girlfriends or boyfriends. They'll have to wait until after the show. The only friend to be concerned with during a show is the lamb or steer or hog being exhibited.

"Know where the judge is," Ashby said. "Pay attention." There's not much translation needed for this. Exhibitors must keep an eye on the judge who will motion for an exhibitor to move an animal into place. An exhibitor who isn't watch-

ing the judge may well lose his or her placing in a class. The judge won't wait for an exhibitor who is daydreaming or making goo-goo eyes at a girlfriend or boyfriend.

"Do not get excited," Ashby reminded exhibitors. Remaining calm in the showing is very important. Animals can sense when exhibitors are tense and this tension is then transferred to the animal. Exhibitors should be relaxed and easy going with their livestock.

"Think about the thing you're doing in the ring and you'll be fine," See *SHOWING*, page 12

Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show and Sale

May 5&6
Staunton Union
Stockyard
New Hope Road

May 5, 3:30 p.m.
Show dedication
Lamb Show
May 6, 8 a.m.
Swine Show
9:30 a.m.
Steer Show
6:45 p.m.
Parade of Champions
7 p.m.
Market Animal Sale

Call 245-5750
for information.



Nuts and bolts of cattle production give Verona Elementary student financial savvy

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

VERONA — Buying, selling, marketing, handling finances, bookkeeping, and keeping an eye on market trends are skills one develops in order to be successful in business. These are skills that some folks spend years honing before they can reap the benefits of their work.

But Will Earhart, an 11-year-old fifth grader at Verona Elementary School, is already beginning to show that he's pretty savvy when it comes to these business skills — skills which he has developed through involvement in the Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show.

Last year Will decided he wanted to raise a steer to exhibit in the county's annual livestock event.

"I heard about it (the show) from somebody at my school," Will said. "I thought it would be a good opportunity to learn about animals."

Will admits that he knew little about cattle prior to his experience last year. "My dad had a few cows," he said of his parents' — Chris and Becky Earhart — dabbling in the beef cattle business. Will's mom admits she was a bit surprised when Will expressed an interest in raising a steer, considering the family's suburban background. The Earharts live just a mile west of downtown Verona.

"He's really enjoyed working with the cattle," Mrs. Earhart said. "It's a neat bunch of kids he's involved with. We certainly want to encourage it."

Will's interest in cattle led him to choose membership in the Middlebrook 4-H Livestock Club. The club draws members from distances beyond Middlebrook's borders and has become a haven for 4-Hers interested in developing their skills exhibiting livestock.

"Everybody has been real good to help," Mrs. Earhart said. "It's like a big extended family. The competition is there, but everybody helps out."

In addition to his 4-H interests, Will also plays soccer in the fall and sings in the choir at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Staunton. He also is a member of the Augusta County 4-H Livestock Judging Team.

Will's cattle business interests have mushroomed since he began his project work for the 1998 show. Having completed the project last year by selling his steer, Will promptly went about opening a checking account with the proceeds from the sale of his steer. The fact that young Will has his own checking account is a slight point of contention in the Earhart household because Will's 13-year-old sister has yet to begin a checking account.

Will is conscientious with the use of his livestock proceeds.

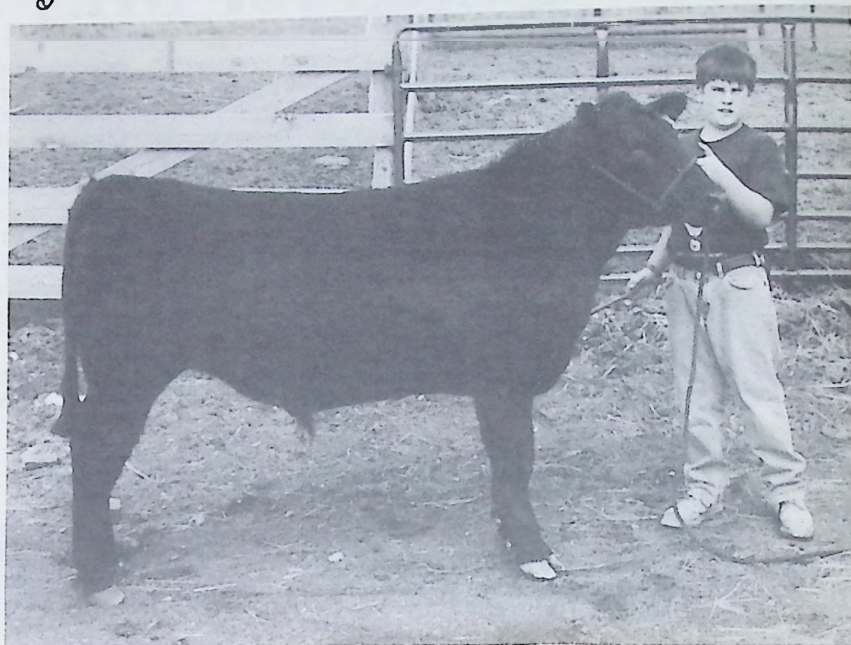
"I use the money I got last year

to pay for the feed I'm buying this year. I write my own checks to pay for the feed," he said. "I use the checking account for bookkeeping. It helps with the recordbooks."

The recordbooks Will speaks of are the mechanism club members use to keep track of their expenses and profit or loss on their livestock projects. A recordbook for each animal raised must be kept and turned in to club leaders in order to complete the project work. Recordbooks contain information such as the purchase price of livestock, feed costs, animal health expenses and supplies purchased. Recordbooks are judged by a committee which determines how well individuals keep up with the financial end of their project work.

Beyond the business end of the livestock projects is the nuts and bolts, everyday care required to take care of the animals. This year Will has two steers to exhibit in the show and he goes to the barn each morning before school to feed the animals. They are fed again in the afternoon when he gets home from school. On weekends, additional chores are completed including cleaning out the steers' pens. The steers have been halter broken and taught to lead. His first year's experience provided Will with the tools he needed to embark on the project for a second year.

"I learned how to halter break them



Will Earhart of Verona shows one of two Angus steers he will exhibit at the Market Animal Show May 5 and 6 in Staunton.

Earhart, the son of Chris and Becky Earhart, is a student at Verona Elementary School.

Photos by Betty Jo Hamilton

and fit them and the different types of feed to use," Will said. "You want to feed them so you don't get just

all fat on their bodies."

Will explained that his two steers are eating a grain mixture which includes oats and other small grains. He planned to add some corn to the mixture before show time. The cattle also eat hay which Will said aids the cattle's digestion.

Will purchased his black angus steers from Ivy Dell Acres in Weyers Cave. The steers were checked in for the show on Nov. 7 and weighed 599 pounds and 699 pounds. Will said he is shooting for a show-date target weight on the steers "probably over a 1,000 pounds." Will's steers are well within reach of this goal, one having already passed the mark. At the end of March, the steers weighed 1,025 pounds and 910 pounds. Halter breaking the animals was no easy task.

"The bigger one at first you had to pull him real hard," Will said, "but he's started to move better now."

The steers also must be washed in preparation for the show.

"Washing them is hard," Will said. "You have to get out all the soap and dry them. Washing is not bad, but drying is the hard part."

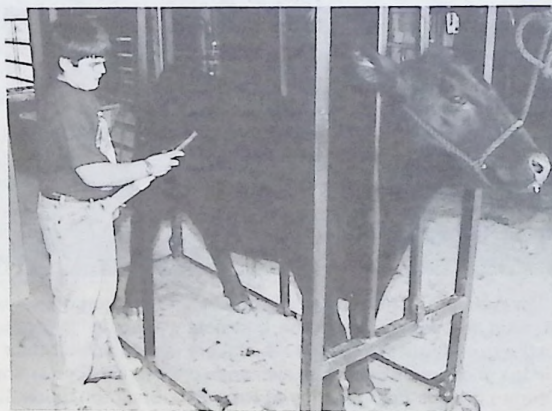
Taking care of half-ton steers is no small task for a 90-pound youngster, but Will routinely sees to his project work.

"He does 95 percent of it himself," Mrs. Earhart said.

Will's plans include a bit more than just buying and selling steers for his project work. On the same day he weighed in his steers for the 1999 show, Will purchased two purebred Angus heifers.

"The heifers are a year old right now," Will said. "I wanted to show at the county fair and do a little bit more than one show a year." He also revealed that he had another goal in mind when he decided to purchase the heifers. The

See WASHING, page 12



Will Earhart uses a "steer-sized" hair dryer to dry his steer off after washing the animal.

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Gap FFA member reaching for brass ring in swine exhibition at Market Animal Show

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

MT. SOLON — Competitors at the Augusta County 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show know to keep an eye on Emily Curry. This 16-year-old junior at Buffalo Gap High School has shown what it takes to compete successfully in the annual county-wide livestock event.

Since she began exhibiting in the event seven years ago, Emily has demonstrated a thorough knowledge and knack for her livestock project work. Among her peers, she has consistently set the standard by which others are judged.

Even though Emily exhibits all three species — steers, lambs and hogs — at the Market Animal Show — she readily concedes she prefers to invest most of her energies with her swine project.

"I like hogs personally," she said. "They're easier to show. Steers and lambs have to be kept under control and hogs you just get out there and they basically show themselves. You're out there and just chase your hog around. Everybody out there is just more relaxed than in the steer and lamb shows."

Although Emily gives the hogs much of the credit for showing themselves, she admits there are some fine points of which a successful hog showman must be mindful.

"You don't want them running around," she said. "You want them to move around a little bit. You have to keep eye contact with the



Emily Curry of Mt. Solon lathers up a hog in preparation for the Augusta County 4-H & FFA Market Animal Show. The Buffalo Gap FFA member will exhibit two hogs, two steers and two lambs in the show.

judge and keep the hog between you and the judge. You want them to stand still just a little bit, but mostly keep them moving."

It sounds simple to hear Emily describe the process of exhibiting a hog in the show, but anyone who has ever seen the swine exhibition at the Market Animal Show knows that hogs want to do pretty much whatever they want to do. Some come in the ring, plop down in the middle and refuse to move. Some come in the ring and streak off across it as fast as they can. Some come in the ring and, as hogs are

prone to do, pick a fight with another hog being exhibited. It's not a vocation for the faint of heart.

Beyond the knowledge of what it takes to show a hog — as is most probably the case with what it takes to work with any animal — there are those who just seem to have a knack, a natural inclination to be able to do it. Emily's preference for hogs may have something to do with her natural ability to work with the animals. She and her brother Chris have consistently demonstrated their inclination for success in swine exhibitions.

In 1995 Emily won champion honors as the junior hog showman for the Market Animal Show. That same year Chris exhibited the grand champion pair of hogs. The following year, Chris was named the show's top senior hog showman. Last year, Emily took two top honors at the show, exhibiting the reserve grand champion pair of hogs and winning top senior hog showman honors. In her rookie year as an exhibitor, Emily won the Alton Lewis Award which is presented to the show's top first year exhibitor. In addition to her success with swine exhibition, Emily proved last year that she is a capable lamb and steer exhibitor by winning the R.L. Coffey Junior Achievement Award. This award is presented to the individual who earns the most points exhibiting lambs, hogs and steers in the show. Points are tallied according to how animals place in their respective classes.

With all the success she has experienced, however, Emily is still reaching for the brass ring in the hog exhibition.

"To be able to show the grand champion single and grand champion pair," she said referring to a dream goal she keeps in mind. It's something to strive for and keeps her focused on her work with the hogs and other animals.

Taking the hog show's top two honors has been achieved before, however a rule change this year will reduce Emily's chances of being able to win both singles and

pairs competition. In past years, each 4-H and FFA member was permitted to have three hogs to exhibit in the show. This gave members the opportunity to have one hog to show as a single and two others to show as a pair, one of which also could be shown as a single. This year each exhibitor will be allowed to have only two hogs for the show. The same rule change has been made for the lamb exhibition.

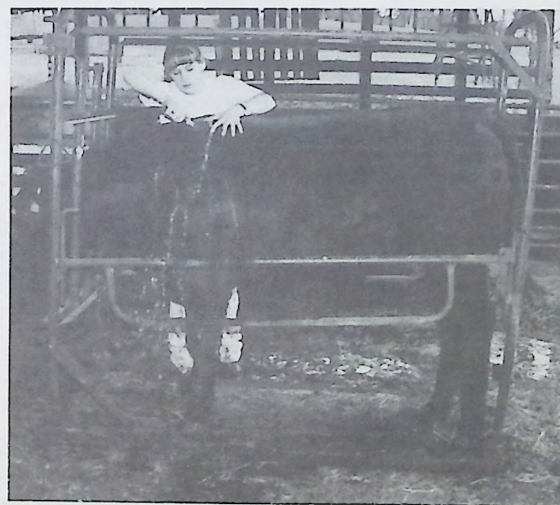
Emily has surpassed another milestone in her lamb project work. This year she will exhibit two lambs which she raised from the flock of sheep she owns. In 1996, Emily purchased 13 Suffolk-Dorset cross ewes and since then her flock has grown to 15. Lambs born last fall will be used for this spring's show.

"My family had been in the sheep business a long time ago and got out and I really enjoyed it. I like having them around," Emily said explaining her re-entry to sheep production.

"The lambs, I guess, are easy to show since they are mine. I raised the lambs since they were born. I've used my own lambs (for the show) the past two years," she said.

Just as any eastern shepherd has learned in the past several years, Emily has learned about the hard part of keeping sheep. Although several lambs were born in the fall, coyotes claimed some of them leaving Emily only three candidates for this year's show.

Exhibiting steers for the 4-H and See CURRY, page 12



When bath time comes at the Curry farm, it means something entirely different than for most folks. Emily Curry begins washing one of her two steers for the Market Animal Show.

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See page 2 for details.

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Buyers reap benefits of supporting 4-H and FFA projects

By BETTY JO HAMILTON

Supporting an Augusta County 4-H or FFA member is as easy as raising your hand or nodding your head. Because that's all it takes to place a bid on market animals which will be auctioned May 6 at Staunton Union Stockyard as the culmination of the 4-H and FFA Market Animal Show and Sale.

Area businesses and organizations have always been supportive of the county-wide event in which 4-Hers and FFA members raise and then sell livestock for their projects. But there's always room for additional businesses or organizations to become involved.

For those who are unfamiliar with the sale of livestock, the process can be a little confusing because bids are made in cents per pound. In an effort to simplify things, here are a few examples. A 100-pound lamb that brings a final bid of 85 cents a pound is bought for a total of \$85. A 1,000-pound steer that brings a closing bid of 85 cents a pound is bought for a total of \$850. A 250-pound hog that brings 50 cents a pound is bought for a total of \$125.

Businesses which support 4-Hers and FFA members by buying their animals at the Market Animal Sale may declare part of this

expense as advertising. After all, what better way to advertise a business than to have its name called out before several hundred parents, members and supporters of the two youth organizations at the livestock sale? And organizations don't have to take responsibility for the animal once it's bought if they don't want to.

Here's how it works. Before the sale begins, the auctioneer sells the "floor" on the lambs, hogs, and steers. This "floor" price is established by packers who bid just as they would if the sale were any other regular livestock sale. The "floor" price reflects the current slaughter market on livestock being sold.

Most of the animals at the Market Animal Sale are then sold individually. Buyers, most of whom have been solicited by the 4-H and FFA members to bid on their animals, place bids on the animals. When bidding is complete, the buyer has two options — take responsibility for ownership of the animal or the buyer may "floor" the animal.

In the first of these two options, the buyer is responsible for taking the animal away from the stockyard or having it sent to a local packing house for processing. The buyer is responsible for making these arrangements, although some area

meat processors offer to haul livestock to their facilities if the buyers choose to do this. Also, in the first option, the buyer is responsible for the full purchase price of the animal.

For instance, if a buyer purchases a 100-pound lamb for \$2.20 a pound, then he pays \$220 for that lamb. However, the buyer may claim as advertising expense the amount in excess of the "floor" price on the lamb. So if the "floor" price on lambs is 85 cents a pound, the difference between \$85 and \$220, or \$135, is what the buyer may claim as an advertising expense. But the buyer pays the whole \$220 to the stockyard for the lamb.

In the second option where the buyer chooses to "floor" the animal, the buyer has no further responsibility for the animal. By "flooring" an animal, the buyer automatically turns responsibility for removing that animal from the stockyard to whichever packing company bought the "floor" on the livestock.

For instance, a buyer purchases a 1,000-pound steer for 92 cents a pound. This makes the total purchase price of the steer \$920. However, the buyer decides he wants to "floor" the steer which turns it over to the packing company which bought the "floor" on the steers. The "floor" price established at the

beginning was 64 cents a pound. The buyer who chooses to "floor" an animal only pays the difference between the "floor" price on the animal and the amount he bid — in this case, the difference between \$640 and \$920 or \$280. The buyer may declare this \$280 as advertising expense for his business and does not have to be concerned with taking responsibility for livestock once it has been sold.

The second option also relieves the buyer of the out-of-pocket expense for the entire purchase price of the animal. The buyer only pays the portion in excess of the "floor" price. The packer pays the balance on the animal, in this case, the additional \$640.

There is a third way for area businesses and organizations to be involved in supporting the 4-H and FFA members' projects. The Market Animal Sale Buyers' Committee accepts donations from area businesses and organizations in any amount. Then, come sale time, this money is pooled and used to make bids on livestock at the sale.

Members of the Buyers' Committee place these bids and relieve businesses and organizations of the need to have a representative present at the auction. When the Buyers' Committee buys animals,

the names of businesses and organizations which made contributions to the Buyers' Committee fund are announced. This gives recognition to businesses who choose to participate in this manner regardless of the amount they donate to the Buyers' fund.

If all of this is still too complicated, just try to keep in mind that it's all for a good cause — supporting Augusta County 4-H and FFA members in their efforts with their livestock. These young people put in many long, hard hours preparing animals for the show and sale. It is a worthy endeavor for each of them and the experiences they gain in these projects stay with them throughout their lives. Many local business and community leaders claim some of their earliest lessons in responsibility and perseverance from raising livestock for 4-H and FFA project work. As many will testify, these lessons last a lifetime.

Any member of the Market Animal Sale Buyers' Committee will be glad to assist a business or organization which wishes to support the sale of livestock. Call the Augusta County Extension Office at 245-5750 for information about buying livestock at the Market Animal Sale. —

•Curry

Continued from page 11

FFA event may be the most challenging category in which to compete. Members must start with their steers in November prior to the show and the animals must be halter broken and trained to lead. It is a six-month commitment of time, energy, and finances which sometimes proves more than some members can handle.

"The steers I have to tie up, brush and talk to them, wash them and work with them," Emily said. "There's more work to do in order to show the steers." She got a little bit of a break this year because one steer was halter broken when she purchased it.

Emily is preparing a total of six

animals for the show — 2 hogs, 2 lambs, and 2 steers.

One steer is an Angus-Maine Anjou cross and was 750 pounds at the November weigh in. It was purchased from a West Virginia cattle producer. Emily's other steer is an Angus-Limousin cross and its start weight was 630. It is a Bath County product.

Because Emily had to look no further than her own backyard for her lambs, she was able to spend additional time finding just the right hogs to use. Emily, like most swine competitors, prefers not to reveal her source of show animals. Her HampshireX and YorkshireX hogs were purchased in early February and their start weights were in the 80- to 90-pound range.

Each of the three species has its own specific feed program. The steers are eating a custom mix 12 percent protein ration and some hay. The lambs are on a pelleted ration at a creep feeder and hay. And the hogs are luxuriating on a special show diet — an 18 percent protein pre-balanced ration — which was recommended by the breeder. The hog's feed ration has to be special ordered.

Each species of animal comes with its own particular set of challenges for Emily. Just a few weeks prior to the show, she was strategizing on how to grow out her lambs and steers and hold back her hogs. Steers must pass the state grader's critical eye in order to show; lambs must weigh at least 95 pounds and no more than 130 pounds. Hogs must weigh at least 210 pounds and no more than 260 pounds. Emily is hoping her steers and lambs will gain the correct amount of weight and put on the right amount of finish to be ready for the show. Her hogs, on the other hand, have performed well on their special ration. They will need a watchful eye until show time to prevent them from exceeding the weight limit. This leaves Emily with some extra work to do on the hogs.

"I'll run them, exercise them and hold their feed back," she said.

Emily is a member of the Buffalo Gap FFA chapter and its livestock judging team. She began judging livestock as a junior 4-H member and the knowledge she has gained through this pursuit has helped her in selecting animals to show.

"For the lambs, I chose the ones

which had the thickest and longest loin, were structurally correct and had muscle. The hogs, you look for leanness, ones that are structurally correct, have growth potential, and thick rumps. You want them to gain weight, but not put it on as fat, put it on as muscle," Emily said. Likewise in choosing steers, Emily looked for growth potential, frame and muscling.

Emily is focused on success with her livestock project and she knows that part of this success has a lot to do with the bottom line.

"I want to break even," she said. "It's hard to pay for the feed, vet bills, and animals. Then to break even is the toughest thing." In order to make sure her income will exceed expenses, Emily will write letters to prospective buyers encouraging them to bid on her animals at the Market Animal Sale. She estimates she will write about 20 letters soliciting bids for her animals.

Emily is the daughter of Charles and Betsy Curry. She is a member of the North River Community 4-H Club and Augusta County 4-H Honor Club. She has been a 4-H member for seven years and an FFA member for three years. This

will be her seventh year exhibiting at the Market Animal Show.

Emily's extracurricular activities at school include S.C.A., Bison Against Drugs, girls' varsity basketball, and AAU basketball. She played softball at Gap two years previous, but decided to sideline herself this year. She attends Mt. Zion United Methodist Church and types the bulletin for weekly services.

With six animals to get ready for the May 5 and 6 show, Emily will have her hands full. The lamb show begins at 3:30 p.m. May 5. The hog show is set to begin at 8:30 a.m. May 6 and will be followed by the steer show. In addition to the top awards for livestock, each exhibitor in the event will be vying for the Champion Showmen awards. The champion junior and senior showmen in each species will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond. These awards are sponsored annually by Augusta County.

The Parade of Champions opens the evening's activities with the sale of all animals to follow. For information about buying animals at the event, call the Augusta County Extension Office at 245-5750. —

•Showing

Continued from page 9

Ashby said. Time in the showing is brief. Many months of preparation come down to just a few minutes exhibiting the animal for the judge. Exhibitors must concentrate on what they're doing with their animals. All the work of many months is reduced to a few moments of concentrated effort in the show ring.

"And the No. 1 thing," Ashby said, "is to have a good time. Do not make this a chore." Ultimately, that's what it all boils down to. Only a few animals can win the few top spots in the show. But all exhibitors can be winners by concentrating on their animals and doing their best to complete their club or chapter project work in the showing at the Market Animal Show. —

•Washing

Continued from page 10

plan is to breed the heifers this summer which would put them on schedule to deliver their first calves in the spring of 2000. Will hopes to be able to raise calves which he can exhibit in the Market Animal Show rather than hav-

ing to buy them for his project.

Will's project work will not be complete until he finds a market for his steers. In order to do this, he will be writing letters to prospective buyers whom he hopes will come to the sale and bid on his animals.

"I have to write letters to buyers to get bids," he said. "I'll maybe write six letters for each steer."

This is Will's second year in 4-H and exhibiting in the Market Animal Show, the 54th annual event of its kind. The show will be held May 5 and 6 at Staunton Union Stockyard on New Hope Road. Will's steers will be exhibited on the morning of May 6 and the event culminates with the sale of livestock that evening.

The Market Animal Show is sponsored annually but the Staunton-Augusta and Waynesboro Chambers of Commerce and area Ruritan Clubs. For information about purchasing animals at the Market Animal Sale, call the Augusta County Extension Office at 245-5750. —

Following the trail of a century-old diploma

By STACEY BAKER

Many times at public auctions, I have noticed folks leaving with items that I wondered what in the world they could possibly use them for. This time, it was me that left with an unusual item, when I came home with a bachelor of arts diploma from the Normal College, of the City of New York.

What caught my interest was the date, 1904, and the name, Grace E. Currie — a woman, in 1904, with a bachelor of arts. As there were few people at that time with college degrees, and even fewer women, I decided to try to find out more about it.

I am fortunate to have a set of encyclopedias from 1926. To these I went, and there it was, the Normal College of the City of New York.

An Irish immigrant named Thomas Hunter founded the college in 1870 in rented rooms above a carriage shop on Broadway in New York City. It seems that any school or college with the word "normal" in the name means educating potential teachers. The purpose of this college was to train women for teaching positions in city school systems.

By 1873 a new building had been constructed on what is now

Park Avenue. When Grace Currie graduated from the Normal College in 1904, there was also a model high school, elementary school, and the first tuition-free kindergarten in the United States. These schools gave the college students practical teaching experience before graduation.

The name was changed to Hunter College in 1914, in honor of the founder, Thomas Hunter. The student population had grown to 1,400, with 121 faculty members.

On closely observing the diploma, sure enough, there was Thomas Hunter's signature right in the center, though the blue ink had faded. He also signed it again near the bottom, in black ink, as a member of the school's executive committee.

There are a total of 22 signatures on this diploma, most by professors, with the subjects they taught. Ms. Currie must have had a rigorous academic schedule, with classes in math, physics, natural science, ethics, English literature, Latin, Greek, French, music, and something called pedagogy. This one I had to look up — back to 1926. Instead of a one-sentence definition, I found three and a half pages! To keep it simple, it merely means the education of children.

I had heard of Hunter College, and knew it still existed in New York City, but that was all. So, abandoning my vintage information source, I turned to a more modern research tool, the computer. Hunter College indeed had a web site, and it was a

wealth of information.

Hunter College now has over 18,000 students, from over 80 nations. It has been co-ed since 1964, with education still one of the most popular majors. Two of their graduates, Rosalyn Yalow

and Gertrude Elion, won Nobel prizes in medicine.

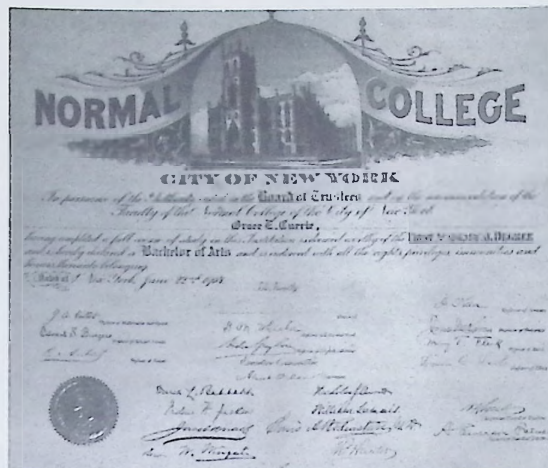
But what of Grace Currie? I was afraid records from 1904 might no longer exist, but it was worth a try. I wrote to Maria Terrone, the director of public relations at Hunter. She informed me that, as I had feared, there were no records that far back. She did send me some historical information on Hunter College, and passed my inquiry on to their archivist. How the diploma ended up here is still a mystery. One might conclude Ms. Currie had no descendants, and the diploma has traveled from antique dealer to auction, to other dealers, migrating down to Virginia. Hopefully, Ms. Currie had a long successful career teaching in the public schools of New York.

Ms. Terrone did write back about one bit of information on Grace Currie. They had found her name in a 1904 yearbook, after which this was his quote:

"There is sweet music here that softer falls,

Than petals from blown roses on the grass."

Perhaps Grace composed this verse herself in honor of her impending graduation. One of those little pieces of human history we may never know. —



Items which show up at estate auctions may come from a variety of sources. This City of New York "Normal College" diploma was found recently among a box of miscellaneous items purchased at an auction.

ShenanArts plans youth camps

VERONA -- "Mom, I'm bored!" The refrain starts about the second day of that long-awaited summer vacation. If this line is delivered with high drama, your child is definitely ready for theater camp. With the coming of vacation, ShenanArts has a summer full of activities ready for the whole family.

Summer Youth Theater Camps offer daytime fun with games, music, movement and acting at Pennyroyal Farm. The young participants in each camp will have fun creating a 30-minute play which they will perform for family and friends at the end of the week. Three different camps will be held this year.

"Theater First" for preschoolers age 4 through kindergarten, June 7-12 and 14-19; "PlayMakers" for grades 1 through 5, June 21-26 and July 12-17; and "All the World's a Stage" for grades 6 through 8, July 19-24.

Tuition is \$75 for one camp, \$130 for two camps, \$65 each for two or more children per camp. A limited number of work-study fellowships are available. Call 248-1868 for registration information.

Summer Youth Theater Camp is jointly sponsored by the Augusta County and Staunton Departments of Parks and Recreation and is funded in part by the United Way, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, and AMP, Inc. ---

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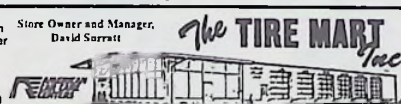
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Schoolhouse News

Beverley Manor Ag Day brings farming to students

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CEDAR GREEN—Sixth graders at Beverley Manor Middle School recently spent the day with some unusual classmates. Llamas, bees, fish and emus occupied classrooms as part of a hands-on experience for the school's annual Ag Day Celebration.

Outside exhibits included a variety of farm equipment, a sheep shearing demonstration, an equestrian presentation, and animal and feed exhibits. The live animal exhibits and farm equipment were the highlights of the day, as boys and girls petted the animals and sat behind the drivers' seats on farm machinery.

Event organizer and Agriscience teacher Sally Shomo commented, "The reason for Ag Day is to stress and impress upon students the importance and diversity of agriculture in Virginia and in Augusta County."

Local agriculture producers, from

the familiar beef and poultry industries to the unfamiliar ostrich and llama producers, spoke to students about their operations and career possibilities. Harry Crosby, owner of Cros-B-Crest Nursery, told the middle schoolers about numerous job opportunities for nurserymen around the state.

Beef producer and Augusta County Agriculture Extension Agent Rick Heidel encouraged students to pursue an agri-science major in college. Many hands were raised when Heidel asked for a show of students who live on farms. He commented, "Most students pursuing agriculture studies at Virginia Tech do not have farming backgrounds. Those of you who do will have a head start in understanding animal and plant production."

Throughout the day a varied exposure to the many aspects of the agriculture community enhanced

the students' understanding of agricultural production and career opportunities. The students learned facts such as the importance of the American farmer to their daily lives and that the county in which they live, Augusta, is the second largest ag producing county in Virginia with Rockingham County being first. Augusta County School Superintendent Gary McQuain and Del. Vance Wilkins (R-Amherst), briefly addressed the class. Other special guests in attendance were Del. Creigh Deeds (D-Warm Springs) and representatives from the offices of Sen. Emmet Hanger (R-Mt. Solon) and Del. Steve Landes (R-Weyers Cave).

Deeds commented on the event: "This is a wonderful and much needed opportunity for these students. This is teaching at its best." —



Beverley Manor Middle School students get a close look at a Percheron draft horse. The animal belongs to Ray Kisamore of Lone Fountain and was on display at the school's Ag Day sponsored by the BMMS FFA chapter.

AC staff photo

Fort FFA members earn honors

FORT DEFIANCE—Members of the Fort Defiance Future Farmers of America celebrated their accomplishments over the past year during an awards banquet held recently at the high school.

The chapter's Leadership Award was presented to chapter president, Ashley Gutshall. The Huffman Scholarship was presented to senior Beth Blackwell. The award for outstanding achievement for a non-officer went to Kenny Hyden who also was named the chapter's Star Agri-businessman.

Wes Marshall was presented the award for Star Chapter Farmer.

Scholarship awards were presented to Blackwell, senior; Carolyn Michael, junior; Shannon Huffman, sophomore; and Wendy Slusher, freshman.



GUTSHALL BLACKWELL

HYDEN MARSHALL

Area proficiency award winners were Danny Lauro, ag processing; Jason Via, beef production and diversified livestock; Blackwell, horse production; Randall Lambert, forage production; Jeremy McCary, landscape management; Byron Phillips, oil crop; and Wes Hilbert, turf grass.

Receiving awards for record

books were Chris Houff, junior and Carolyn Michael, senior. Public speaking awards were presented to Blackwell, senior & extemporaneous and Wendy Slusher, junior. Joe Harris was presented the award for senior mechanics.

Chapter proficiency awards were presented to the following individuals.

Kenny Hyden, agriculture me-

chanical technical systems and ag sales and service; Joe Harris, ag processing; Wes Marshall and Cotton Eavers, beef production; Calvin Lambert and Spud Hester, dairy production; Donald Smith, diversified crop production; Wes Begoon and Billy Young, diversified livestock production; Chris Michael, feed grain production; Amanda Gilbert, forage production; Mark Carroll, forest management; Ashley Gutshall, home and community development; Wes Hilbert, landscape management; Byron Phillips, oil crop production; Bill Skelton,

poultry production; Bryan Glass, sheep production; Danielle Tourje, small animal care; Wes Marshall, soil and water management; Lynn Shaver, swine production; and Scott Cash, turf grass management.

American Degree Candidates are J.T. Begoon, Mary Hylton and Daniel Lauro. State FFA Degree candidates are Erin Weseman, Amanda Gilbert, Ashley Gutshall, Beth Blackwell, Danielle Tourje, Josh Shoemaker, Kenny Hyden, Morgan Croft, Steve Marshall, Travis Kniceley, Wes Marshall, Wes Begoon, and Wes Hilbert.---

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Gap students pen scripts on current issues

By PENNY PLEMMONS

BUFFALO GAP — The Buffalo Gap High School Drama Club presented its spring production, *New Voices* to the community in March.

Held at the school, the program consisted of eight scripts written by the school's drama students and a brief from Shakespeare's *Midsummer's Night Dream*.

The original short-takes focused on teen issues in the 1990s and evoked an array of emotions. Drama teacher Chris Cleary commended the students for their descriptive writing and expressive acting.

"The students started at ground zero with a blank sheet of paper," Cleary said. "This production is the outcome of their very own personal work. It is truly their scripts, their doings."

Skits on dating and first kisses gave patrons a peak into the often times frustrating yet humorous ex-

periences of growing up. The spoofs, *The Mary Ringer Show*, *The Clueless Files* and *Luke Skywalker* were comedic spin-offs from *The Jerry Springer Show*, *The X Files* and *Star Wars*' Luke Skywalker.

The Missing Money, revolved around losing an article and the exasperating quest to find it. Woven between the satirical acts were sobering scripts on teen drug abuse and the turmoil surrounding AIDS. *The True Life of Drugs* dramatized the tremendous effect that peer pressure has on drug use. The skit portrayed the persuasive argument that drug use is cool, pleasurable and provides an accepting peer group for teens who feel like they have millions of problems and no place to take them. Unfortunately, as in real life, the outcome of the play was one of tragedy, loss of life and childhood innocence.

The one-act drama *If Only*

grappled with the possibility of being HIV positive. The skit provided a sobering look into the rollercoaster of emotions that faces those waiting for the results of the HIV test.

Cleary is extremely positive about future productions at the high school. This production received strong support and help from other areas of the school such as the building of props by the agriculture department and students willing to participate on the set and tech crews. Cleary stated, "We have a firm esprit de corps. I expect that as student awareness of our activities increases so will our drama enrollment."

The Gap community needs to be on the look out for upcoming productions because as Cleary said, "Gap has the raw talent, commitment and energy to continue to provide quality entertainment for the area." —



Buffalo Gap High School students Kevin Carlini, Kyle Barss and Joe Siron practice a scene from Shakespeare's *Midsummer's Night Dream*.
Photo by Penny Plemmons

DAR honors area students

AC staff report

MT. CRAWFORD — Four area high school seniors received the Daughters of the American Revolution Citizenship Award and were honored by the Thomas Hughart Chapter of the DAR with a luncheon at Ever's Family Restaurant in Mt. Crawford.

The honorees were Michael Gilbert of Grace Christian School, Carrie Heizer of Riverheads High School, Lauren Plemmons of Buffalo Gap High School and Emily Sue Wampler of Fort Defiance High School.

The recipients were selected by their peers for upholding the ideals of the DAR which include devotion to God, home, community and country. Each award winner competed on a regional level with individual essays entitled, "Our



GILBERT PLEMMONS

American Heritage and Our Responsibility to Preserve It."

Jean Y. Wilkins, chair of the Good Citizen Committee, noted the many accomplishments of these students.

Michael Gilbert is a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), secretary of the Student Government Association, delegate to Boys State, varsity basketball

player, and a representative to the Rotary Club Youth Leadership Conference. Gilbert will be entering VMI in the fall and plans to pursue a degree in the medical field.

Carrie Heizer is a NHS member, class officer, Future Farmers of America officer and recipient of the FFA Positive Attitude Award. She is active in the Augusta County 4-H Honor Club and participates in livestock judging. Miss Heizer plans to pursue a career in agriculture at Virginia Tech.

Lauren Plemmons is a NHS member, president of Bison Against Drugs, recipient of the William and Mary Leadership Award, Rotary Club Code of Ethics Award and Gap representative to the Rotary Youth Leadership Conference. She has a varsity letter in basketball

See DAR, page 20

Computers link RHS to world

By BECKY McMANNES

GREENVILLE — Technology is the key word in today's society. People all over the world communicate with one another. That is why Augusta County decided to connect its schools to the world.

The technology plan for Augusta County is scheduled to take five years. This plan consists of wiring all Augusta County schools for computers and other technological things such as televisions and cameras in every room.

"This plan involves bringing computers and software to each school in the county. It is done in a process of circles within each school. First, the Riverheads library was wired for the internet and programs that are needed in the library. Next was to wire the

computer labs for software that will advance students in their studies. The newest addition was bringing computers to the classrooms. Eventually the circle widens to the world," explained Susan Wilk, librarian Riverheads High School.

Charles Bishop, RHS principal, said that students need materials that are available for research.

"The technology plan has classroom computers as a priority for students to have access to research materials. The county takes all the schools on a rotating basis to replace the computer labs with new equipment and updating the software," he said.

Eventually each classroom at Riverheads will have three to four computers and, hopefully, printers to accompany them.

Mrs. Wilk was one of the students. See RHS, page 20

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References provided upon request.

The Hitching Post

Consider options to get in more riding time



I am 14 years old and have been a lesson student for almost three years. I ride once a week in lessons and do not own a horse yet. I would like to ride better, but do not have a horse to ride and practice on. How can I become a better rider?
- a horseless rider

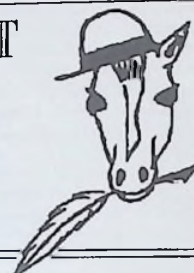
There are different options that you can consider in order to reach your goal. First of all, consider the lesson stable where you take lessons. Do they have opportunities for you to "school" horses? If you have been a lesson student for almost three years then you should have some idea of what your instructor expects, a general knowledge of the lesson horses and their personalities, the stable's rules, and the riding basics. Many lesson horses need "schooling" on a regular basis. This means a constant re-training of the basics to undo problems often caused by inexperienced lesson students. Talk to your instructor about continuing lessons on a regular basis, but adding some "schooling" time, too.

Another option you can look into is to find a co-lease situation. This means you share some of the responsibility and expense of a horse with another owner. Co-leases can work very well with owners who are busy and still want to own a horse. You can work out a plan that shares time with the horse in riding as well as in feeding and stable management. This usually involves a lot more than riding. If you are only looking for riding time then sometimes owners will let you "school" their horse. Schooling in this case just means keeping the horse fit to ride. Horses are creatures of habit. For example, if a rider rides me every day then I come to expect to be ridden every day. It becomes a habit. This means that

if a busy owner has a light riding schedule his horse might be difficult to ride when the time is finally found. The horse is not in the "habit" of being ridden. Having another rider school a horse can keep the horse accustomed to being ridden on a regular basis.

The best way to begin finding horses to ride is to start by asking your instructor. If you have a difficult time finding horses to ride you might consider adding another lesson into your riding program. Lesson are a low cost alternative to horse ownership. Considering the expense of ownership, taking lessons can give you riding experience, exposure to lots of different horses, and instruction in problem correction. All this builds up your reputation for recommendation when you do find a horse to ride. Owners are usually very careful about who rides their horses because poor riders can cause problems. Learning to correct the problems associated with lesson horses can help you learn to prevent these problems later in other horses.

I.B.HOOFINIT
From
the
Horse's Mouth



My last bit of advice to you is to talk to people in the horse industry. They will help you get started in the right direction. If you have good riding ability and a basic un-

derstanding of training psychology then you should be able to find a horse quickly. If you lack the basics, then adding in additional lessons might be the best answer. —

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

Can you identify the horse and rider 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*!

Last month's history horseman and mount was Gen. George Armstrong Custer and his cavalry horse.

Gen. Custer won notoriety as an Indian fighter of the west. In 1876 the army planned to round up the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and bring them into reservations. Custer's regiment joined the expedition commanded by Gen. Alfred H. Terry. Terry ordered Custer to find an Indian village in the Montana Territory. Four days later, on June 25, Custer reported the village was about 15 miles away. It lay in a valley along the Little Big Horn River.

Custer ordered an immediate attack. He divided his regiment into

three columns, one under Capt. Frederick W. Benteen, one under Maj. Marcus A. Reno, and one led by himself. Benteen was ordered off to the left to search the mountain villages for Indians. Custer ordered Reno to charge ahead across the river and attack the Indian village.

Custer's column was to take the bluffs to the right presumably to attack the side or the rear of the village. Custer believed there would be only about 1,000 Indians who could be rounded up easily by the 650 men in his regiment. Actually between 2,500 and 5,000 Indians were in the camp. It was the largest gathering of hostile tribes in Western history.

Who am I?

It is the year 1948. I have already won the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and am ready for the final jewel of the triple crown, the Belmont Stakes. My rider is a famous jockey. He won his first race in 1932 when he was 15 years old. He rode 4,000 winners and won over \$23 million in purses. Five of them were Kentucky Derby wins. He collected two triple crowns. The first triple crown was on Whirlaway in 1941. The second was on me in 1948. Who am I and who is my rider?



After bloody fighting in the valley, Reno retreated across the river and up the bluffs. Benteen's column joined Reno's men. The soldiers held out until Terry arrived on June 27. About five miles away, sometime during the fighting in the valley and the first shooting on the bluffs, the Indians wiped out Custer and his entire column. The battle of Little Big Horn was also known as Custer's Last Stand.

Custer's horse was named Vic. It

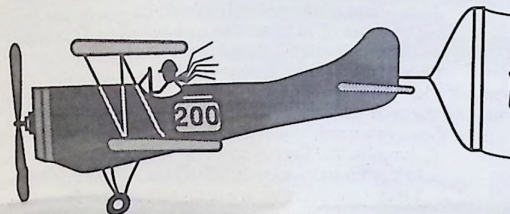
was a blaze faced sorrel with white stockings. Some confusion exists on whether it was a mare or stallion.

Libby Custer stated it was a Kentucky thoroughbred "found dead beside his beloved master." Some native accounts state Vic was captured and mustered into service with the Sioux.

Other sources show that "Vic" was a mare. She had an easy gait, and was not easily excited, which

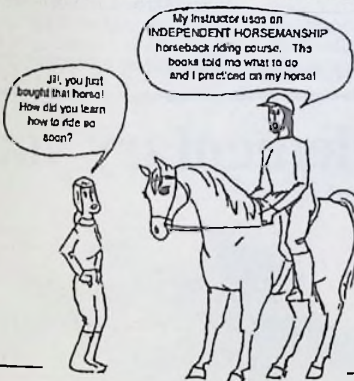
made her a good "war horse." Apparently she also was a tough horse on the trail.

Custer's other famous horse was "Dandy," a stallion, which Emanuel Custer, the general's son, rode in parades in Monroe, Mich., after the general was killed. Dandy was buried in the back yard of the Custer farm in Michigan after he died, according to Dr. Lawrence Frost. —



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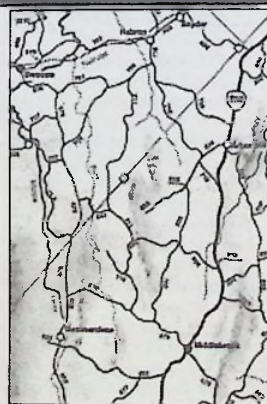
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An agricultural-forestal district is being created in the area of Augusta County southwest of Staunton shown on the map at left. If you own property within this area and would like to learn how to include your property in the ag-forestal district or if you would like information about ag-forestal districts, you may call the Valley Conservation Council at 886-3541. Information also may be obtained by calling 885-0266.

Country Crossroads

Reflecting pool reflections

April 1999

Dear Maude,

As I sit here with a much larger pile of work on my desk than I will ever get finished, I decided to send just a quick note to say "hello" to you and all the folks at home.

Needless to say, since I drove Mama back to Virginia, my days have been quite busy. There was much work which was postponed when she was here and also a larger work load than usual. When there is news, news, news about pending legislation, then our days are not so hectic. If there is a big bill before Congress in which the media is interested, then finding information is easy. It is those times when little bills are being shuttled about from committee to committee, and little deals are being made behind closed doors, that our days can get quite crazy.

At a time like this in the legislative year, we get calls and requests from clients to find out just what the wording is in some obscure bill which deals with one thing but (always) has some other totally unconnected thing slipped into the language. At times there may be actually some hidden clause in a piece of legislation that is proposed, but most of the time it is only that someone is afraid that there may be something they won't like included. It makes our life rather frustrating.

Well, there isn't much gossip on the Monica front any more, but I did hear some that was certainly more interesting to me. One of my friends on the hill told me the other day that dear old Dylan was off to the state to be a liaison for the congressman's constituents, and to work in the district office. It seems that he took that sexy blond lobbyist to lunch one too many times to suit her husband, who just happens to be a good friend of his boss. Poor

Dylan — he thought he was going to be so important and now off he goes back home. I thought about calling and telling him to have a good trip but changed my mind. At least now he is not where I will have to deal with him at all. I do feel a little sorry for him, for he never quite realized what was happening to him. Like so many workers here who love that feeling of power, he felt as if he were too important for the office to run without him. Perhaps a few months at home cooling his heels may help him to become again that nice guy he used to be.

My friend Paul called the other day to invite me to a fund-raiser for a former hill staff member who first went into the private sector, and now is running for office in his home state. (It is a familiar pattern for staff members and yes, I am afraid all that election stuff is beginning again!!)

The fund-raiser was fun though. Paul also brought a young man about my age who works with him. His name is Jimmy and we had a wonderful time comparing Washington experiences. We had so much fun, in fact, that he asked me to go to dinner with him last week. We decided on Friday, since it was a holiday for most people.

Because of the special NATO meeting in Washington all of the government workers in offices near the meeting were given the day off to get them out of the way, and others were encouraged to take leave time. With no government workers, not much work would get done, so our boss let us have the day off as well. Jimmy suggested a popular restaurant downtown, near the restricted area. We could drive as far as K Street and then had to walk the rest of the way because they had heavy barricades across many of the streets.

We decided on an early dinner and went down in the late afternoon. The city was beautiful — all quiet — and

the many little parks were immaculate and bright with springtime colors. There were no grumpy cab drivers blowing the horns of their cars, no newsmen doing obscure interviews on street corners, no politicians. The beauty was marred, however, by the appearance of policemen with dogs at every corner as we got nearer the restaurant. Then we noticed armed men on the roofs of the buildings. We also had been told that we would have to have identification on us even to get into the area where the restaurant is located. After that first hushed beauty as we came into town, we suddenly were in what seemed like an armed camp.

Jimmy said that in all of the years he had been in Washington, he had never seen anything like that. The next week, one person I talked to said that it reminded her of the days after the 1968 riots. It was a very strange feeling — I could not decide if I was glad to be so protected, or frightened that I was in a time and place where such protection was needed. People in other parts of the world would probably think little of such security, but for those of us so spoiled with almost total freedom of movement, it was a little sobering. I doubt if any of us truly appreciate how free we really are.

But Jimmy and I had a wonderful dinner in spite of all that security. Now all of those important world leaders have gone back to their countries, we have had to return to our jobs, and the politicians can again cook up little schemes for us to uncover. Life is back to normal.

I hope that everyone at home is well and that the gardens are beginning to take shape. Be sure to plant an extra tomato plant or two for me.

Love, LuLu



By Roberta Hamlin

American Cancer Society sponsoring Relay for Life

STAUNTON -- For 24 continuous hours -- from 6 p.m. June 4 until 6 p.m. June 5 -- relay teams will be walking around Gypsy Hill Park

in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Walkers are soliciting donations from sponsors to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

The event also will include luminaries as night falls on Friday evening. The entire park course will be lined with candles which may be lit in memory

or in honor of a loved one for a \$10 donation.

As participants walk through the night, the luminaries will serve as reminders that the fight against cancer is about real people in our community.

A team from Bethel Presbyterian Church will be among those participating in the relay. To make

donations or to have a candle lit in someone's honor or memory, call the church at 886-6041. Donations should be made by May 30.

Information about Relay for Life also may be obtained by calling the American Cancer Society at 886-1709. ---

FFA program sends farm message to elementary youth

By PENNY PLEMMONS

BUFFALO GAP — Buffalo Gap High School's "Future Farmers of America" held its annual "Food For America Day" on home turf for the first time in the event's history.

According to FFA adviser and agriculture teacher, Shirley Kaufman, the chilly and rainy weather did not dampen interest.



"The 800 or so children had a lot of enthusiasm and interest for the exhibits," Kaufman stated. "We also liked being closer to home." The event taps into area agri-businesses to provide a diverse barnyard learning experience.

FFA President Matt Hickey stated the intentions of the day.

"We want to educate children about agriculture and to encourage

Third grade students from Jackson Via Elementary School in Charlottesville make friends with Clyde the llama during Buffalo Gap High School FFA's Food for America program.

Photos by Penny Plemmons

them to support farming," Hickey said. "It is important for children to grow up understanding that the farmer supplies their food and without the farmer there is no food."

Preschoolers and elementary students from as far away as Charlottesville attended the animal fair.

"At last year's event, State Commissioner of Agriculture Carlton Courter encouraged the FFA officers, President Mat Hickey, Vice-President Rosa Lee Riley and Treasurer Jenny Keith to take the Food For America message outside the rural community and into the city," Kaufman noted. "Matt, Rosa Lee and Jenny were the ones solely responsible for organizing and ensuring that not only our area children attended the event but students from the city of Charlottesville had the opportunity as well." Gap's FFA seized the opportunity to give youngsters more than just

See FOOD, page 20



Jackson Via Elementary School students try out a farm tractor during the Food for America program.

Stress opens door for plant disease

I have determined that whoever came up with the phrase, "April showers bring May flowers," did not live in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It's too bad wind does not attribute to healthy plant growth. We certainly have had our share of blustery days. I hope May brings us that much needed rain.

Lack of moisture, poor soil, and lack of fertilizer are all conditions that may cause your plants stress. That's right, not even your plants are safe from the terrible condition of "stress." Plant stress is the most important contributor to plant health. Any plant — whether it be the shrubs in front of your home or tomato plants in the garden — can't be kept disease free if stressed. Disease and insect damage to plant material occurs 85 percent of the time to plants that are already under stress. Healthy plants have their own defense mechanisms that automatically protect them.

When a problem does occur with your plants (disease or insect), diagnosing the problem is a most important first step. Diagnostic problems with landscape plantings can be much more complex than those associated with agricultural crops. A lot of landscape gardens are all grown at the limit of their tolerance (a.k.a., urban/city landscapes). Most plant problems can almost be predicted depending on climatic conditions.

Likewise, most plants have a pattern of care or symptomatic conditions throughout their life. A rhododendron's new growth may wilt on days above 92 degrees. The plant is healthy but cannot take water into its roots as fast as the heat and wind dry the leaves

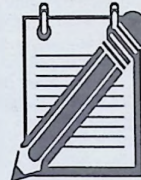
out which causes wilting. A pyracantha's new growth may wilt during a warm, wet spring. This is probably a result of fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*). Infected tips should be promptly removed. Just knowing what the weather conditions are (and season) helps make this diagnosis easy.

Sometimes it is necessary to take a more systematic approach to disease identification. These can be easily classified into three distinct categories: injury, noninfectious disorders, and infectious diseases.

Recently I was doing some landscape work in a large subdivision in Stuarts Draft. I could

Lawn & Landscape checklist for May

- If new growth on your plants is looking wilted or discolored, aphids may be the culprit. A hard blast of water or insecticidal soap are both safe measures to battle the aphids.
- Now is the time to remove the spring annuals (pansies, etc.) and start planting summer bedding plants. It is important to go ahead and plant now to allow time for rooting.
- May is clematis planting month. A well drained sunny spot with the roots shaded — that's the secret — will do nicely.
- Apply lawn fertilizer making sure the spreader settings are correct. Never apply straight fertilizer to wet grass if the daytime temperatures are above 90 degrees. It may burn the grass.
- Powdery mildew and downy mildew may affect your cucumbers and melons in the garden as well as lilacs in the landscape. Pick resistant varieties such as "hybrid burpless" cucumbers and "tams honeydew melons."
- Any shrubs you may have planted in the early spring may need another feeding. A light dose of 5-10-10 or Miracle Gro will help.
- Fill gaps in spring bulb gardens by marking the empty spots now and filling in this fall.
- Spray roses for blackspot.
- This is the ideal time to seed a new lawn or over-seed an existing lawn.



Lawn & Landscape

By
Jeff Flint



not help but notice how most of the large existing trees in this development were dead or dying. After talking with the homeowner, he informed me that the trees (mostly oaks) had borer problems and spraying with chemicals (Lindane) was not effective. The borers in the trees were actually a secondary problem. The forest had been cleared to put in the streets and houses in the development leaving only street trees here and there. Damage to the roots and trunks of the trees during construction stressed the trees. The borers saw an opportunity and attacked the trees. No amount of spray is going to correct this problem and unfortunately the trees are doomed.

If you are unable to identify a problem your plants may be having and would like to seek professional help, make sure you collect the following information: 1) a sample of the plant tissue, 2) information about current growing conditions, 3) history of the planting and age of plants, and 4) any treatments you may have already applied.

Armed with this information most plant specialists can help you correct the problem. —

Terry

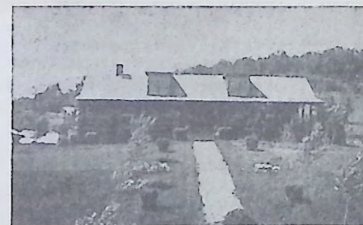
Continued from page 6
in 1957, and were together 33 years until his death in 1990.

These days Elizabeth stays busy with the Skyline Chapter for the Deaf and the Blue Ridge Senior Citizens for the Deaf. The world

has changed a lot since Elizabeth Terry walked to a tiny rural schoolhouse, rode a pony into VSDB, and raced horses around the Gypsy Hill track, but one thing hasn't changed a bit. Elizabeth Terry is still going strong. —

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An old advertisement shows the lodge at Crafton's Park

Courtesy Elizabeth Crafton Terry

Crafton

Continued from page 7
during the war and made enough to finish paying for home," he wrote. He did lose some money in the deal though when 5 train cars loaded with pigs got sick and "died like flies" with cholera. He continued in the livestock business for many years.

Probably the best-known business deal concocted by Charles Crafton was the recreational park and social center he opened up just outside the Staunton city limits along Middlebrook Road. In 1927 Charles and his brother Harry

purchased 145 1/2 acres of land from A.W. Tate. There they built a dance hall, a spring-fed swimming pool, log cabins, a horse barn, a baseball diamond, and later a miniature golf course. There were also picnic grounds, campsites and swings. It opened in 1928 "with a bang" according to Charles' diary.

Early advertising flyers attest to the appeal of Crafton Rustic Park. "Idle a while in rustic style," said the ads. For a whole generation of youth in the 1930s and 1940s, Crafton's was the "hangout" of choice. After eight years, Harry Crafton lost interest

in the venture and sold his portion to Charles who then sank \$1,000 into the golf course. All the family helped with the park. John Marshall helped run the pool and golf course, and Elizabeth painted signs and lived in a cabin that was sometimes rented out for private parties.

The park was eventually sold to Erskine Furr and then his son, Joe Furr, inherited the property and opened a livestock business. A drive out Middlebrook Road today will take visitors past the old lodge that still stands, and a road sign preserves the name of Crafton's Park for posterity. —

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Bonjourno Princepessia! La Vita e Bella!

Roberto Benigni's *Life is Beautiful*, is now playing at the bijou. It is an unforgettable story about love, family, and commitment. The film (this is no mere movie) is a story in two acts. The first borders on Chaplin-esque comedy; the second is bittersweet comedy that makes you laugh and cry at the same time.

It is 1940 in Italy. Guido (Benigni) and his cousin arrive in town to make their fortune. Guido falls madly in love with Dora (Nicoletta Braschi, Benigni's real life wife), a beautiful school teacher whose path he always seems to suddenly and unexpectedly cross. Dora, and nearly everyone else it seems, can't help but love Guido, despite his antics and clownish ways.

Make no mistake. Guido is a clown. Life is too beautiful to be taken too seriously. Besides, Guido knows his wit and charm will get him a lot farther than his looks. Guido lovingly and innocently

manipulates people and situations to win what he wants, especially the lovely Dora. His family and friends adore him. Perhaps his only real enemy is the fascist to whom Dora is engaged. It is late in the first act that we learn Guido is a Jew.

Guido overcomes all and wins and marries the lovely Dora. Five years pass in an instant and Guido, now the owner of a bookstore, and Dora dote on their beautiful son Giosue (Giorgio Cantarini). The family is happy despite the ugliness and hate swirling around. Eventually events catch up with them; Guido and Giosue are deported to a death camp with the other Jews in the town. Dora, who is a gentle, cannot bear to be spared so insists on going with them.

Guido knows immediately he must go to great lengths to somehow keep his son alive. He constructs an elaborate game to comfort and protect. He tells Giosue that

who ever gets 1,000 points in the camp wins a real tank. He makes up rules like "you lose 50 points if you cry for your mother or ask for a lollipop." With a child's enthusiasm and trust, Giosue does all that his father asks him to do. To tell more would ruin the story.

Life is Beautiful has been criticized from all sides. Italian right-wingers reject the whole idea of the Holocaust. And then there are those who object to making a comedy about the Holocaust. There is no logical argument for those who deny the events of the Holocaust; to argue it elevates the entire subject to a debatable issue, which it is not.

To those of the latter group, I would argue that the movie is not about the Holocaust, rather it is set in a concentration camp—a fine line perhaps, but an important distinction nonetheless.

Any moviegoer knows real life Guidos and Giosues would not

have survived but this is not what the movie is about. It is about family and the love and commitment that make a family work. It is about the sacrifice of which true love is capable. It is about for better or for worse. It is about all the things that make life beautiful.

Roberto Benigni deserved every Oscar he won as director, writer, and actor. He deserved more. While his antics at the Academy Awards could easily earn him a reputation as an Italian Jerry Lewis, don't be too quick to write him off. While he is a slapstick comedian, he reminds more of Charlie Chaplin and like any good comedian, he possesses an ethos that transcends the pratfalls. Nicoletta Braschi turns in a fine performance as Dora but it is Giorgio Cantarini as Giosue who wins your heart.

Life is Beautiful. This film is beautiful too. It is in Italian with subtitles. It only takes about 10

FLICK



FLAK

A movie review by

Hannah's mom, Sue Simmons

minutes to get accustomed to reading, so don't let that deter you. There has been talk of dubbing the movie, but I think it would lose some of its charm and impact.

Hannah's mom gives *Life is Beautiful* four bananas. There is nothing objectionable at all in this move although the concentration camp scenes can be disturbing. If you have a child who is a good reader and you would like to introduce him or her to foreign film, this would be a great first. —

•Food

Continued from page 18

a petting zoo experience. Members manned each exhibit and were available to answer questions and encourage discussion. Each animal exhibit was designed to help children who grow up outside a rural community gain a better understanding of livestock.

Children from Charlottesville recognized most of the animals, but with the exception of the beagle puppies, many of them had never gotten close enough

to touch a calf, sheep, or duck. Third grade student Derek Belew from Jackson Via Elementary School in Charlottesville was excited to see the pool of rainbow, brook and golden trout.

"I've never seen one up close before," he explained. Children were excited to see Beth Rowe, from Forest Hill Llamas in Arbor Hill, roaming the expo area with Clyde the llama. Mrs. Rowe explained that although some countries use llamas for meat, the Rowes raise them for their fiber.

Kaufman credited her FFA officers with the event's success. The chapter adviser also noted that the three officers have been effective in implementing an FFA Pals Mentorship program to a Charlottesville High School. This student-led program uses agriculture to enrich math and science skills for high schoolers in urban areas. Kaufman noted that this year's FFA program has been extremely strong and energetic. "The officers have been effective leaders and next year's group looks just as strong." —

•DAR

Continued from page 15

and softball, having been chosen to second team all county softball. Miss Plemmons intends to seek a business/communications degree.

Emily Sue Wampler is also a NHS member and vice-president of the Key Club. She is a member

of Fort's concert and symphonic band and was honored as first chair in the all county band. She is captain of varsity basketball and soccer. Miss Wampler has attended Girls State, the Central Valley Regional Governor's School and was named as a National Merit Semi-Finalist. She plans to be a history teacher. —

•RHS

Continued from page 15

pervisors of the Netday that was held at RHS on March 13. This was done as a volunteer program.

"Bell Atlantic has a group of retired employees called Pioneers. They use the skills they have acquired to do community service work. These people were the group leaders for the students, teachers, and parents who came to help out," Mrs. Wilk said. Without the help of the Pioneers, the process

of wiring the computers would have cost \$25,000 for labor alone. The cost of the actual wiring, computers, and hardware was \$10,000.

Thanks to the volunteers at Bell Atlantic, students, faculty, parents and the Augusta County school board, everyone at Riverheads will be able to access the world and research materials by using computer technology while in school. This will assist with studies and enable students to get experience with computers. —

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.

May 1, 1854 — The Connecticut River reached a level of nearly 29 feet at Hartford (the highest level of record up until that time). The record height was reached in the midst of a great New England flood which followed 66 hours of steady rain.

May 5, 1930 — The temperature at College Park, Va., soared from 43 degrees to 93 degrees to begin an exceptional heat wave.

May 9-10, 1977 — A late season snowstorm hit parts of Pennsylvania, New York State, and southern and central New England. Heavier snowfall totals included 27 inches at Slide Mountain, N.Y., and 20 inches at Norwalk, Conn. At Boston it was the first May snow in 107 years of records. The heavy wet snow caused extensive damage to trees and power lines. The homes of half a million persons were without power following the storm.

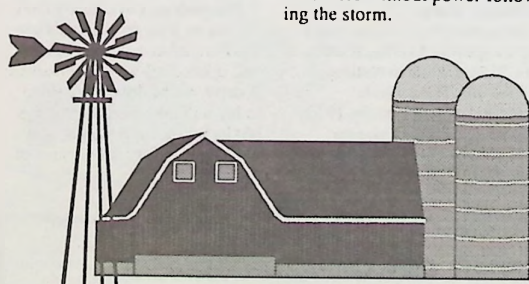
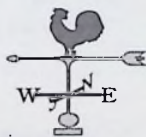
May 19, 1780

— The infamous "dark day" in New England tradition. At noon it was nearly as dark as night. Chickens went to roost, and many persons were fearful of divine wrath. The phenomena was caused by forest fires to the west of New England.

May 24, 1894 — Six inches of snow blanketed Kentucky. Just four days earlier as much as ten inches of snow had fallen across Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia. Six days earlier a violent storm had wrecked nine ships on Lake Michigan.

May 27, 1988 — Sunny and warm weather prevailed across much of the nation to kick off the Memorial Day weekend. Afternoon thunderstorms in southern Florida caused the mercury at Miami to dip to a record low reading of 69 degrees.

May 31, 1941 — Thunderstorms deluged Burlington, Kans., with 12.59 inches of rain to establish a 24-hour rainfall record for the state. —



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

Augusta Country

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