

\$2.00

"RELAX -- IT'S JUST GOOD NEWS."

Augusta Country



Middlebrook,
Virginia 24459

1799 BICENTENNIAL 1999



Down on the Farm
Pages 10-11

Summer 1999 Vol. 6, Issue 8

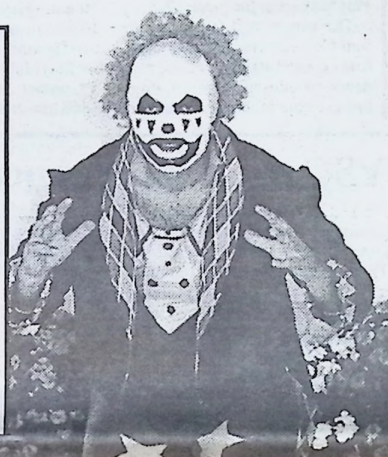
P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459



**Bronc'n bulls
and wrestl'n
clowns --**

**Get ready for
the Augusta
County Fair**

Pages 8-9



**Waynesboro
native broke
ground for
African
Americans**

Pages 6-7



**Fort
grad
keeps
trail
tidy in
Ramsey's
Draft**

Page 3



**Join a 90th birthday
celebration in
Middlebrook**

Page 18

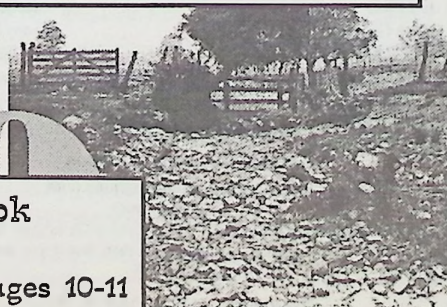


**Take a bike ride through
Tidewater**

Pages 6-7

**Drought of 1930 took
toll on farmers**

Pages 10-11



ShenanArts launches new program for youth

VERONA — Area youth will have new recreational opportunities this fall thanks to ShenanArts. Modeled after its popular Summer Youth Theatre Camps, ShenanArts is holding Saturday Stages Youth Theatre Camps in three locations beginning Sept. 11. Two sessions based on age will be held each Saturday for eight weeks. TheatreFirst is for ages 4 through first graders. PlayMakers is for grades 2-4.

The camps will focus on the four Cs — creativity, concentration, cooperation, and confidence in oneself. Story-telling, basic acting technique, and fun

will be emphasized as children create a one-act play to be performed for family and friends at the closing session. These new programs are open to all and are recommended for students who wish to participate in future All-youth productions. Camps will be held at Clymore Elementary in Fort Defiance, the Staunton Naval Reserve Center, and Stuarts Draft Elementary. TheatreFirst sessions are from 9-10 a.m. Playmakers meet from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The tuition for TheatreFirst is \$60 and \$75 for PlayMakers.

Contact ShenanArts at 248-1868 to register. ---

VSC plans three concerts for 1999-2000 season

STAUNTON — Valley Symphonic Concerts will hold three concerts in its 1999-2000 season. The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra and the Richmond Symphony Orchestra will bring to Staunton an outstanding group of musicians for three performances.

The Richmond Symphony Orchestra will open the season Nov. 21 with a concert featuring selections by Rossini and Sibelius. *Rossini's operatic overture to The Barber of Seville* is counter-balanced by the epic sweep of the Sibelius Second Symphony. American composer Samuel Jones' essay on the ancient deity Janus makes a unique bridge between these disparate worlds. Barbara Yahr will be guest conductor.

The Roanoke Symphony Orchestra will perform twice during

the season, March 5 and April 9. Alfred Savia will be guest conductor of the March performance and will lead the orchestra in Berlioz' *Symphonie Fantastique*. Pianist Michael Sitton will solo in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 4, a work noted for its balance between emotion and form. Aaron Copland's famous Fanfare for the Common Man will open the concert and salutes the 100th anniversary of Copland's birth.

In the April concert, Roanoke's resident conductor David Wiley returns to Staunton to lead the orchestra with a guest performance by Australian violin virtuoso Adele Anthony in Brahms' Violin Concerto. Also on the program will be Wiley's new Work for Children's Choir & Orchestra as well as Vaughan Williams' Symphony

Jazz in the Park concerts set through Sept. 2

STAUNTON — The Jazz in the Park concert series continues to run weekly on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. All concerts are held at the bandstand in Gypsy Hill Park rain or shine. Upcoming concerts include:

Aug. 5, The Fred Hughes Trio — Maryland-based pianist Fred Hughes and his exciting trio have performed at festivals and clubs throughout the northeast for the past five years. True improvisers, the fine group presents a mix of both originals and creative interpretations of standards. Area jazz fans will be pleased to see drummer Keith MacMichael back at J.I.P. The concert is sponsored by the City of Staunton.

Aug. 12, Sound Direction — One of last season's most well received groups, this eclectic vocal sextet is comprised of three couples — Betsy and Keith Dishman, Kim and

David Tate and Bettie and John Tindall. Although they normally perform a capella, they will be joined on this occasion by East Coast Jazz Festival winner pianist Wells Hanley, bassist Lew Morrison and drummer Gary Talor. The concert is sponsored by Mill Street Grill.

Aug. 19, The Red Hot Smoothies — "Nobody swings like the Smoothies" is what their brochure says and Charlottesville bandleader/saxophonist Nick Page and his guys can back it up. Together since 1985, this quintet is a busy dance band playing jazz standards and featuring versatile Tom Harbeck on guitar and Greg Nossaman on piano and Hammond organ. The concert is sponsored by Kisamore Lumber Co.

Aug. 26, John D'earth Octet — This internationally acclaimed trumpeter is a virtual jazz institution with credits that include Buddy Rich, Lionel Hampton and Tito Puente. His long-running Thursday night gig at Miller's in Charlottesville has achieved legendary status among

jazz fans. This is that very group — Jeff Decker, Bobby Reed, Jamal Milner, Robert Jospe, Bob Hallahan, Pete Spaar and Dawn Thompson. The concert is sponsored by Valley Crane and Rigging Inc.

Sept. 2, Joe Estock and Friends — A long-time favorite on the Virginia music scene, this veteran sax/flutist is making his first appearance at J.I.P. Featuring Heritage Guitar Co. artist Vince Lewis and popular Atlanta-based vocalist Becky Grandey along with bassist Lew Morrison and drummer Marlon Foster, this quintet will serve up a whole bunch of familiar standards. The concert is sponsored by Guy C. Eavers Excavating.

There is no admission charge to Jazz in the Park. The concert series is supported entirely by proceeds from the concession stand and through donations. Tax deductible contributions for Jazz in the Park may be mailed to 143 Bellview St., Staunton, Va. 24401. For more information about upcoming concerts, call 540/885-5854. —

SUBSCRIBERS!!! Check your mailing label. If the numbers 6/99, 7/99 or 8/99 are printed above your name, your subscription is due for renewal.

"Relax -- it's just good news."

Augusta Country

Don't delay! Renew today!

It's as easy as

1 - 2 - 3

to renew your subscription to Augusta Country!

① Check your mailing label for your subscriber number and expiration date.

Subscriber number Expiration date

John Jones
467 Regent Way
Staunton, Va. 24401

1435 7/99 C006

② Write your subscriber number on your \$16 check.

③ Send your check to Augusta Country, P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459.

Filling out and enclosing the form printed below with your check will insure that you are credited for payment.

Name _____
Rt. or St. no. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Subscriber number _____

Augusta Country

is published 11 times each year by
See-KWA! Publishing

P.O. Box 51 Middlebrook, Va. 24459

Subscription rate: \$16 per year

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

Betty Jo Hamilton
Chris Marrs
Leslie Scheffel
Cherie Taylor
Becky McMannes

Staff writers

Jeff Flint
Mark Gatewood
Vera Hailey
Betty Jo Hamilton

Roberta Hamlin
Penny Plemmons
Deborah Sensabaugh
Sue Simmons

Nancy Sorrells

Call 540/885-0266 or 1-800-884-8248

for publication information.

Email: augustacountry@juno.com

Copyright 1999©

If you see something in *Augusta Country* you want to copy and make a buck off of, we'd rather you wouldn't do that. But if you want to copy an article for your scrap book, that's O.K.

Please recycle ♻️

Subscribers!!!

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

Waynesboro Kroger
IGA — Churchville
Staunton —

Kroger
Young Hardware
Gitchell's
The Bookstack
Once Upon A Time

Colonial Staunton Mall —
Books-A-Million

Augusta Co-op —

Staunton
Weyers Cave

Pappy's Place —
Buffalo Gap

IGA — Craigsville
Craigsville Toxaco

Stuarts Draft —

The Candy Shop
Justa Toucha Nature

Rosen's Garage
— Middlebrook

Maintaining wilderness area keeps Fort grad busy

By SUE SIMMONS

RAMSEY'S DRAFT — While some college kids spend their summers flipping burgers at fast food restaurants or flagging traffic on highway construction, Matt Lenker has found the perfect summer job — camping, hiking, and talking to folks who like to camp and hike.

Matt works as a wilderness ranger for the U. S. Forest Service in the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness area.

"I watch over 6,500 acres from Ramsey's Draft to the Shenandoah Trail, back to Hiner Springs, and from there to Tear Jacket and Bald Ridge," Matt explains.

The son of Dr. Leon Lenker of Mt. Sidney and a 1998 Fort Defiance High School graduate, Matt is majoring in environmental resource management in the department of forestry.

It was through the Student Conservation Association that Matt found the job. "A career counselor alerted the students to the College of Forestry and

Wildlife Management's website. I did a search for jobs in Virginia backcountry and Ramsey's Draft came up," he said. "A big part of the job involves meeting the public and educating them about the wilderness area, the environ-



MATT LENKER

ment and hazards they might encounter on the trail."

Chief among the hazards this summer is the low water level and the necessity to purify drinking water.

Matt also maintains trails in the area by pruning back branches that overhang the trail and cutting steps into fallen trees too large to move. "I can't use any mechanized tools," Matt offers. "Everything I do has to be low impact, a minimal alteration to the environment."

People from as far away as New York and Colorado have been hiking in Ramsey's Draft this summer. Word of the wilderness area has spread by word-of-mouth and recent articles in two magazines, *Men's Journal* and *Backpacker*.

"Most people I've met are true hikers and very friendly," Matt commented. "But some self-proclaimed naturalists, who don't like the forest service, aren't as friendly," Matt hastens to add that even those hostile to the government agency charged with care of the wilderness area seem to appreciate the fact that he is a "wilderness ranger."

According to Matt, Memorial Day weekend saw the highest visitation. "The heat seems to have kept many people out of the woods. Often hikers would start up the trail but in no time I'd see them heading out," he said.

Matt also notes that a number of hikers bring their dogs along. "I guess they feel safer."

Matt is not intimidated by being out in the woods day and night. "Sometimes I get spooked," he says. "On a dark, overcast day on parts of the trail where the foliage is close, it can be spooky."

Asked about the wildlife, Matt says he has seen numerous deer but no bear. "I started to keep a tally of the snakes I saw," Matt laughed, "but there were so many I gave it up." The count includes black, water and garter snakes as well as copperheads and rattlers. Although he hasn't had any close encounters of the reptilian kind, he once stepped over a fallen log under which a rattlesnake was stretched. "It rattled once at me but by that time I was past it."

Matt enjoys his time in the woods, snakes notwithstanding. He likes being outside and doesn't seem to mind the solitude. "Everyone needs some solitude at times. It gives me time to think about things — like college — everything." He adds that he enjoys working with people who share his values and that the job has really helped his public speaking skills.

Because he lives locally, he has not needed to establish a base camp. He does, however, spend Saturday and Sunday nights camped in the woods because he feels that he needs to be there. "Before summer ends, I want to stay out an entire week."

Matt isn't sure he'll be able to return as a wilderness ranger next summer. His work is unpaid; the forest service provides food, equipment, and mileage but no money.

"Next summer I may have to get a real job..." with a shrug of his shoulder, Matt's voice trails off. Something in his manner says he'll be back in the woods, at a perfect job, if there is any way he can be. —

Middlebrook Ruritans honor Hanger, Rosen

AC staff report

MIDDLEBROOK — Frank Hanger of Arbor Hill and Irvin Rosen of McKinley have been honored by the Middlebrook Ruritan Club with Outstanding Service Awards. Dennis Clemmer, club president, made the presentations during the club's July meeting. Hanger's years of outstanding service to the club and community

include 23 years serving as treasurer of Augusta County. His volunteer service over the years has included transporting cancer patients for treatment and serving as treasurer of the Augusta Heart Association.

A charter member of the Middlebrook Ruritans, Hanger has amassed 59 years of perfect attendance at 708 consecutive club meetings. His activities as a Ruritan

include working to bring a physician to the Middlebrook community and participation in fund-raising events including the club's annual horse show and apple butter sales. Hanger is a member of Mt. Taber Lutheran Church.

Rosen's award also commended his outstanding service to the community and the Middlebrook Ruritans. For 30 years, Rosen taught woodworking at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind. He has served as clock curator for Monticello and is a fellow of the National Watch and Clock Association. Among his woodworking abilities has been the preservation of the art of ripple molding.

Rosen is a historian of woodworking tools and guns, and for many years he has been the "unofficial" historian of the community of McKinley. Rosen's knowledge has been shared through a variety of programs for educational television and publications. He is a mem-

ber of McKinley United Methodist Church and for many years has shared his musical talents through the church's choir. In 1952, Rosen was instrumental in helping the Middlebrook Ruritans earn a National Attendance Award. —



Dennis Clemmer, far right, president of the Middlebrook Ruritans, presents Outstanding Service Awards to Frank Hanger, far left, and Irvin Rosen.

AC staff photo

THE TIRE MART

Your Complete Home & Auto Center

Est. In 1973

STIHL®

FS 36

- 1.84 cubic inches; 10.8 lbs. without cutting head and deflector
- Flow-through primer
- Large easy-access air filter
- Built-in hanger/stand
- Adjustable loop handle
- Two-year warranty

\$139.95

STIHL®

\$299.95

Stihl 029 Super

- Great saw for chores around the home, farm or ranch
- Smooth-running
- 3.47-cubic-inch engine
- Anti-vibration system for comfort
- Side-access chain tensioner
- Lifetime electronic ignition warranty

Located Across Street From Wal-Mart Supercenter Richmond Rd. Staunton, VA

Store Owner and Manager, David Surritt

885-8141

1-800-223-6460

the TIRE MART Inc.

Pat's Antique Mall

Enjoy a Delightful Collection Of Shops In A Friendly Atmosphere

OPEN!
Thursday
through Sunday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Located On Rt. 11
At Exit 227 Off I-81
North of
Verona, VA 24482
(540) 248-PATS
Pat Griffin, Owner

Retail Baron

Shop from the comfort of your home!

www.retailbaron.com

Over 500 gift items with secure on-line ordering!

SPECIAL PROMOTION: Buy 3, Get 1 Free

Web Hosting 150 Megs \$22.95

If you do not have Internet access, call for your FREE catalog.

Customer Service Toll Free 1-877-493-2176

Visit to South Africa is life altering for Staunton's Mary Ann Hammer

By NANCY SORRELLS

STAUNTON — In every sense of the word, South Africa is a land of contrasts according to Staunton's Mary Ann Hammer who just returned from a six-week Rotary International Group Study Exchange to that country.

The purpose of the trip was to foster multicultural awareness and international understanding. In addition to Mary Ann, who works as a job training program manager, GSE team members included an attorney and an extension agent from Tazewell, and an optometrist from Big Stone Gap. Bill Gilmer, a Wytheville Rotarian who manages a printing company, was team leader and the fifth person.

The group prepared for the trip through a series of meetings in the months before the April departure date. Included in the preparation was a crash course in the history, climate, food, etiquette, and other customs of the southernmost country in Africa. A slide show describing each team member's occupation, family and region was also prepared. While in South Africa, they presented their program more than 20 times to Rotary groups.

The trip was glorious and exhausting all at once. "We visited 14 different locations in almost six weeks. Sometimes we stayed only two days with host families. Host families are very excited about having a GSE team member and the brief stay was often disappointing to them and us. Just when you felt connected to a family, you left," Mary Ann explained.

The Virginia team found a land just beginning to shed the stigmatism of apartheid that isolated it from the rest of the world for so many years. But, as Mary Ann points out, the country still faces a host of lingering problems despite having ousted apartheid and instituted one of the most undiscriminating, democratic governments in the world.

"Every person we met brought



Mary Ann Hammer of Staunton returned recently from a six-week trip to South Africa. She was among a delegation, sponsored by Rotary International, to visit the country. Hammer is holding a painted ostrich egg and behind her hangs a tapestry, both souvenirs of her trip.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

up racial and political issues. Sometimes you just wanted to talk about less controversial topics. Blacks and whites are still very divided over the effectiveness of the new ANC-controlled government....We observed the decline of medical care, road conditions, funding of service agencies, etc. Unemployment and crime are skyrocketing. However, we found that representatives of the new government were very concerned about education and the opportunities afforded to South Africans. In a nutshell, we found pros and cons about the new government," she explained.

Although racial harmony has a long way to go in the country, the GSE found a unanimous admiration for Nelson Mandela as the leader who helped launch South Africa's

new beginning without civil war. As they visited rural areas, townships, and big cities, the group saw blacks and whites working together almost for the first time in the country's history. And they visited interracial schools and saw Rotary clubs with new black members.

Although no longer segregated by law, many areas are still segregated by tradition. "There is very little interaction among whites and blacks," she explained, adding that integrated Rotary clubs were the exception.

"One of the more interesting people I met was George Massepoia. He was a black South African who is the president of the Vryburg Rotary Club. He owns his own taxi and bus company and is

very successful. He expressed that he wants to continue to live in the township (segregated living areas set up by the old government) in order to mentor other people there. He has a very nice home in a very poor area. Because of this, some of his neighbors initially accused him of 'selling out' and of cheating the blacks in the township. However, over time, everyone realized that he operated his business with integrity, and also was committed to helping people in his community."

While in the country, Mary Ann and her team visited the Free State, Northwest and Eastern Cape Provinces, as well as cities like Capetown, Kimberley, East London, and Port Elizabeth. "We spent time in the mountains as well as the coast. The land is very diverse, with coastal regions resembling the California coastline, mountainous regions, and desert-like terrain called the veldt. Sometimes the land can seem some-

what barren, since we traveled in some areas that were sparsely populated. I remember being amazed at the vastness and flatness of the land, and the blue, blue sky."

Whether it was day or night, the sky continued to amaze the Virginians. Mary Ann is of the opinion that Virginians definitely have the "cheap seats" when it comes to a view of the Milky Way. "The view of the stars there was amazing. For the first couple of nights, our hosts laughed at us because we were constantly looking up at the sky."

They were treated to the sight of traditional African animals as well: zebras, elephants, and giraffes. "We were on a night game drive and encountered a group of giraffes who were sleeping. I'll never forget seeing them rise up as a group, silhouetted against the night sky," she added.

As exciting as the amazing night sky, scenic landscape and African animals were, it is the people who stand out in Mary Ann's mind. "The people are wonderful!" South Africa has 11 official languages, including many tribal tongues, so communication through speech with many of the blacks was diffi-

See AFRICA, page 5

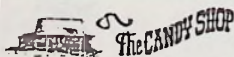


Group Study Exchange team members Mary Ann Hammer of Staunton, far left, John Blankenship, Bill Gilmer, Stan Botts, and Karel Ryan take a break from sightseeing while in Capetown, South Africa.

Photo courtesy Mary Ann Hammer

Please patronize our advertisers and tell them you saw their ad in Augusta Country.

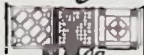
We have Piecemaker's Calendars -- 1999-2000



- Local Outlet for Hershey Products
- Hershey Gift Tins & Mugs
- 12 Varieties of Sugar-Free Candies
- Marlan Heath Cards
- Christian Books & Music
- Unusual Gift Items
- Quality Outdoor Furniture

540/337-0298

Fern's Fabrics



- LOCALLY MADE QUILTS
- Fabrica - Sewing Notions
- Quilting Materials & Supplies

540/337-0297

Located On Rt. 608 Near Traffic Light,
At U.S. 340 & 608 Intersection
Open Mon. - Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Henry
Funeral
Home, Inc.**

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

- Full Services, including pre-need and cremation
 - Ample Parking
 - No Steps
 - Entrance for the Handicapped
- Robert M. Corbin
President

**Stuarts Draft
Antique Mall**

- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Fine Used Furniture

540/946-8488
1-800-455-8488

OPEN DAILY 10-5, SUN. 12-5
INTERSTATE 64, EXIT 94, (WAYNESBORO),
4 MILES SOUTH ON U.S. 340,
STUARTS DRAFT, VIRGINIA

Visit Our Website

http://www.cafecorona.com/booths/booth-170



**Dixie
Gas & Oil
Corporation**

- Propane
- Fuel Oil
- Heating Equipment
- Whirlpool/Kitchen Aid

540/248-6273

1-800-40-DIXIE

Africa

Continued from page 4

cult. However, they always tried their best to communicate with us, and were very warm people with a great sense of humor. They were also very physical in their communication style, meaning they often got very close to you or touched you a lot while communicating," she said.

The whites, who are descended from European settlers, are more formal in their interactions, but no less hospitable, she added. She also described the evening ritual of these people locking themselves inside their houses at night because of the country's soaring crime rate.

One of the most amazing scenes witnessed by the group involved the diversity of people within the country. "We went to a city council meeting in Welkom. The council meeting was simultaneously translated in five different languages. It was great to see the people have the opportunity to express themselves in their native languages, while still being clearly understood by others," she said.

Many of the people she met during her visit are now counted as life-long friends. "I'm corresponding with most of my host families. In particular, I'm keeping in touch with a family that is sending its daughter to the U.S. on youth exchange. I'm also in touch with two black college students on a daily

basis. They are very interested in EVERYTHING about America," she said.

When all was said and done, the team had certainly witnessed a country filled with change and contrasts. From the flat farmland to the mountains, the oceans and the desert, the land is certainly full of variety. The people are filled with those same contrasts. "From the poor townships to the affluent white residents, the tribal traditions to the European traditions, there are sharp contrasts. However, one thing that unites all of the South African people is a fierce love of their country," she added.

As she processed her experiences, Mary Ann had two other things on her mind, things which she had missed while visiting another continent -- eight hours sleep a night and plenty of glasses of iced tea. The end result was not a relaxing vacation -- in fact, it was quite the contrary -- but rather a life-altering experience. "The last week was tough. The lack of sleep and rigorous agenda started catching up with me. But you just keep pushing yourself because you don't want to miss anything. Through this exchange, I have a better understanding of South Africa, and believe I have helped my friends there understand America more fully.

"Personally, through staying with several families and speaking to over 20 groups, I have experienced personal growth. I definitely lost my fear of public speaking! Also,



Mary Ann Hammer joins in a dance with some South African school children.

I know that in order to develop true understanding of yourself and others, you have to open yourself up to others regardless of fears and biases. I don't believe I've

fully processed the impact of this trip on my life. I do know that I've made some lifelong friends that I really miss. I can't wait to go back," she concluded. —

Helping You in the Comfort of Your Home

ACC
AUGUSTA
COMMUNITY CARE

Augusta Home Care
and Care Nursing
332-4900 or 932-4900

AHC Hospice of the Shenandoah
332-4909 or 932-4909

Community Wellness
332-4190 or 932-4190

Care Home Medical
332-4959 or 932-4959

Care Home Medical
Retail Stores
332-4979 or 932-4995

Only one name in Home Care has been in
our Community this long...

CARE HOME MEDICAL

64 Sports Medicine Drive • Fishersville • 332-4959 • 800-952-0137

Specializing in Home Respiratory Therapy & Home Medical Equipment



Retail Stores:

420 Commerce Road, Staunton • 332-4979
2624 West Main Street, Waynesboro • 932-4995

AHC AUGUSTA
HEALTH
CARE



Rotary GSE team members suit up for a visit to a gold mine in Welkom, South Africa.

STATIONERY • BALLOONS • PICTURE FRAMES • JELLY BEANS • JOURNALS

CELEBRATE!!

CARDS * STATIONERY * GIFTS

Welcome Back Mary Baldwin Students!

134 E. Beverley Street Staunton, Va. 24401 540/885-0300

Across from the Dixie 4 Cinema

CELEBRATE!! HAS CARDS FOR ALL SEASONS AND ALL REASONS

Don't
miss a
single
issue.

Renew
today.



Notes from the road

In this issue, Augusta Country staff writer Nancy Sorrells takes us to Virginia's Tidewater for a bike ride through some of the state's most historic countryside. And you don't even have to pedal to enjoy the ride!

Bike 'vacation' meanders through Virginia's Tidewater

By NANCY SORRELLS

My husband insists upon calling my annual "bike vacation" an oxymoron. And although he enjoys cycling, he refuses to take time off from work to participate in what can be, at times, quite painful. You know what an oxymoron is, don't you? It's a combination of words that appear to be ridiculously opposite yet are used together, like jumbo shrimp, military intelligence, thunderous silence, or...bike vacation.

But tradition demands that my friend Sue Leonard and I participate in a bike vacation every year. For the last dozen years or so, ever since we teamed up with two other women and naively bicycled

across the state of Virginia, we have ridden somewhere on a trip usually lasting five days and covering at least 200 miles. Sometimes other people have joined us, even, in fact, my husband on two occasions. This year we were joined by 1,700 of our closest cycling friends because we signed up for an organized trip called Bike Virginia.

A Bike Virginia vacation means that the riders are supplied with mapped-out routes, are provided with rest stops, and their luggage is trucked from campsite to campsite. The participants still have to do the hard part: i.e. ride the bike through the sweltering heat or pouring rain and then find your luggage (can you say 1,000 green

army duffel bags?) and set up a campsite each night after spending the last seven hours on a bike.

This year's ride meandered from Richmond, to Franklin, Hampton, Williamsburg and back to Richmond. I say meandered because as the crow flies it shouldn't take five days to travel this route even under two-wheeled power. But on a bike vacation the riders are directed along every backroad and long-way-around that is humanly possible while still keeping to hard-surface roads.

Termed the James River Odyssey by Bike Virginia personnel, this year's trek was defined by the state's most powerful river. We See BIKING, page 7



Some of the 1,700 participants in Bike Virginia's James River odyssey prepare to set out on yet another leg of their journey.

Hampton University Museum houses African art collection of Waynesboro native Sheppard

By NANCY SORRELLS

HAMPTON — Question: What Waynesboro native was a famous African explorer, Presbyterian missionary, and cultural ambassador? That same man was named a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society in London, England, was quoted by Mark Twain, and assembled one of the first collections of African art in the world.

Answer: That man was William Henry Sheppard (1865-1927), the great-uncle, incidentally, of prominent Staunton educator Arthur Ware. Sheppard was born Nov. 25, 1865 just months after the conclusion of the Civil War. He was the son of a barber and a barmaid, and at the age of 15 he entered Hampton Normal and Agriculture Institute, now Hampton University.

Sheppard only completed two years of the three-year course at Hampton because he soon answered a higher calling. While at Hampton he began to work with the school chaplain to minister to the "poor, destitute and forgotten people" of the neighborhood. As he labored with the less fortunate, he felt called to the ministry. Thus, he left Virginia, and applied to the Presbyterian Theological Institute, now



Photo courtesy Hampton University Museum

DR. WILLIAM SHEPPARD

Stillman College, in Tuscaloosa, Ala. There he earned a degree in theology and was ordained.

While studying for the ministry, he kept alive another interest which had been sparked at Hampton — that of African culture. Several educators at the Virginia school felt the importance of exposing the young African-American students at Hampton to Africa, its missions, culture and missionary work. At

the same time the school was founded, 1868, a curiosity room (as museums were then called) was also formed. The purpose of the room was to lead students to an understanding of the world's cultures, particularly Africa. Once introduced to the subject of Africa, young Sheppard became fascinated.

Thus, it seems no surprise that when Tuscaloosa Institute and the Lexington Presbytery in the Valley asked him to go to Africa as a missionary, he responded, "I would go, and with pleasure."

While working with a church in Atlanta, Ga., Sheppard appealed to the Southern Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board to send him in 1887. He did not get an assignment for three years, however, because the segregated South could not bring itself to place an African-American in charge of a mission even if Sheppard was from the Valley and was Presbyterian.

Finally, in 1890, a white minister named Samuel Lapsley was located to head the mission and the two ministers took their families to the Congo Free State in west central Africa (now Zaire). Even if he was not technically in charge of the group, Sheppard made history by being the first African-American

missionary to be sent to Africa by Southern Presbyterians.

Sheppard was immediately at home in Africa and, in addition to spreading Christianity, he became a personal ambassador between Africans and African Americans,

and worked hard to educate each culture about the other. With that goal in mind, he wrote the president of his old school, Hampton, advising them that he had begun a collection of "many spears, knives,

See SHEPPARD, page 7

'99 TOYOTA CAMRY

Auto, AC, Tilt, Cruise, Power Options

\$17,995 or \$229

mo. lease

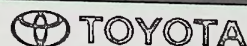


Stock No. 1815

36 MO. TMCC PREMIER PROGRAM LEASE WITH APPROVED CREDIT. \$1,479 DUE AT SIGNING, INCLUDES REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT. TAX, TAG & \$69.50 PROCESSING FEE EXTRA. 12K MILES/YEAR. 10 CENTS/MILE OVER 36,000 AT LEASE END. RESIDUAL \$12,301.

McDonough Toyota

886-6201



I love what you do for me.

Biking

Continued from page 6

crossed it four times, including an historic crossing on the James River Bridge that ends at Newport News. Our crossing of the 5-mile-long bridge marked the first time ever that bicyclists have been allowed on the bridge. To accomplish this feat, the Virginia Department of Transportation closed one lane of the four-lane bridge and for five hours cyclists traversed the span.

On Day 4 of our tour we crossed the James again, this time by ferry from Jamestown to Surry County. Once ashore we rode to Chippokes Plantation State Park where we saw the oldest continuously farmed property in the U.S. The plantation, which was left to the state by the last owners, has been turned into a state park. However, the donors stipulated that the land must continue under cultivation just as it has since the 17th century. Thus, every few years, local farmers bid for the right to lease the land and farm it.

We passed a number of other historic sites in our travels, including Yorktown Battlefield where the upstart American rebels defeated the British to end the American Revolution, and several Civil War sites. On the last day we stood on the plateau where the Civil War battle of Malvern Hill took place in 1862. The cannonading was so fierce along this plain that people



Cotton grows in a field near Chippokes Plantation State Park in Surry, the oldest continuously farmed property in the U.S.

in Augusta County heard its roar. When the day was done, 9,000 men were dead, wounded or missing. The sight of the dead and dying strewn across the battlefield gave the ground the "singular effect of being alive with worms" according to one observer.

On a less gruesome note, we also stopped by to visit several plantations along the James, including

Shirley Plantation which has been in the same family since 1613, and Sherwood Forest, the home of President John Tyler. An interesting bit of trivia on Tyler, who died in 1862, is that the home is currently lived in by Tyler's grandson! Not great-grandson or great-great-grandson. Yes, the current resident of Sherwood Forest had a grandfather who died in 1862. How is this

possible? Well, President Tyler had 15 children, eight by his first wife and seven by his second, much, much younger wife. The 15th child was born when Tyler was almost 80! That child repeated his father's pattern of marrying twice and having many children. His last child, born when he was 81, is the current owner of Sherwood Forest AND is President Tyler's grandson.

In between historic rest stops on the mostly-flat route through Tidewater, were many miles of rural countryside. Here the farmers grow small grains, soybeans, tobacco, and corn, but the real king is the peanut. The sandy soil and hot, dry conditions are perfect for growing goobers and for producing Smithfield hams from pigs fattened on peanuts. Rest stops along the way provided both peanuts and pork for us to sample. In fact, the Chamber of Commerce motto for the town of Smithfield is "Hams, history and hospitality."

Anybody with an agricultural eye also noticed another crop competing with the peanuts and soybeans for dominance in the countryside. The newest crop of importance here is cotton! For several hundred years, Virginians in the southeastern part of the state have played with cotton, but with limited success, especially before the invention of the cotton gin. Thomas Jefferson even recommended



Nancy Sorrells and other Bike Virginia cyclists pedal across the James River Bridge at Newport News.

that all Virginians grow a small patch for the home production of textiles, but his words of advice were evidently not heeded by his fellow farmers.

However, the local farmers told us that in the last 10 years King Cotton has made inroads into the peanut scene. The crop requires the same type of soil and growing conditions and is good to plant in rotation with peanuts, tobacco and vegetables. A few statistics off

See COTTON, page 13

Sheppard

Continued from page 6

idols, etc. saving them for the curiosity room at Hampton."

By 1891 the team of Sheppard and Lapsley had established the American Presbyterian Congo Mission, serving a region far inland from the coast. They purchased livestock, two houses, and nine acres of land on which they laid out a small village of two cross streets named Pennsylvania Avenue and Boulevard de Paris.

The missionaries were not ready to rest on their laurels, however, especially when their curiosity was raised concerning a group of African traders they had observed from the kingdom of Kuba. The pair decided to journey to Kuba, but Lapsley died before the expedition had been launched. Ironically, after waiting three years to get a white minister to oversee his activities, Sheppard now found himself as an African American in charge of a new mission without white supervision!



The museum at Hampton University holds African artifacts collected by Waynesboro native Dr. William Sheppard.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

Always the explorer, Sheppard decided to forge ahead despite dire warnings from European traders about the consequences of foreigners venturing into the Kuba Kingdom. The Kuba rulers were isolationists who forbade their own citizens to give directions into their land and who beheaded foreigners who arrived anyway.

Fully aware of the difficulties, this Virginian resorted to cunning and intellect. For five months he worked his way from villages at the edge of the kingdom to the capital in the interior. Along the way he learned the Kuba language and customs. When he arrived at the capital, the astonished rulers found a man, dark-skinned like themselves, who could speak their language. Despite protestations from Sheppard, the Kuba people decided that this man was no foreigner at all but a reincarnation of a member of the royal family. Thus, Sheppard became not only the first westerner to enter Kuba lands, but a close personal friend of the ruling family.

Sheppard's entourage stayed for

the next four months and the Presbyterian minister recorded what he saw in great detail. His prolific writings today are considered valuable resources which record the Kuba people at their cultural height before corruption from Western influences altered their civilization forever.

The Virginia missionary remained in Africa almost 20 more years before he left in 1910. During that time he recorded much, collected hundreds of African artifacts, mostly from the Kuba people, and became a great admirer of the African culture. In his later years he successfully protested the mistreatment of Africans at the hands of European colonists. In 1908 he published an article highlighting such abuses and as a result was sued by a Belgium-backed trading company. Not only did he win his trial, but the furor it sparked brought international attention to bear on the problem.

Upon his return to America in 1910, he continued to educate people about Africa through lectures and the written word. In 1911, Hampton Institute purchased Sheppard's African collection of more than 400 pieces for \$500. Today that priceless collection forms the nucleus of the school museum's African gallery. The collection has personally linked the Kuba people to Hampton, Va., and members of the ruling family have journeyed to the university campus to visit.

Because of his important explorations in central Africa and his

See KUBA, page 13

ARMAND'S STEAKHOUSE

Featuring **CHUBBY'S Sports Bar**

Located next to Gypsy Hill Pharmacy

Open nightly. Come enjoy your favorite games on our 15-foot television.

Your Neighborhood Pharmacist is a Valued Resource!

Gypsy Hill Pharmacy

Owned and operated by Danny L. Ray

1310 CHURCH HILL AVE., STAUNTON

885-9784 • M-F, 9-6; SAT., 9-1

"Where price and service make the pill easier to swallow"

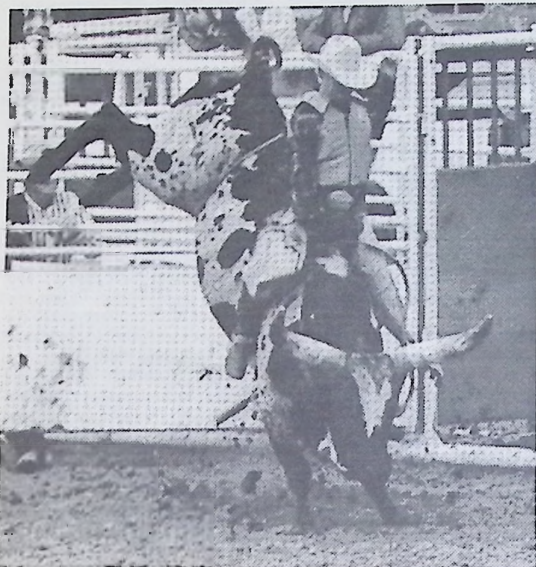
1999 Augusta County Fair filled with exhibitions, music and more

AC staff report

FISHERSVILLE — Five days in August will be filled with a virtual extravaganza of activities and events appealing to a wide range of ages and interests. The 1999 edition of the Augusta County Fair, to be held Aug. 10-14 at Expoland in Fishersville, promises family fun and a whole lot more.

Fair organizers have planned entertainment and events for this year's exposition which will be sure to draw crowds through the gates at Expoland. As in past years, gate admission covers the cost of most entertainment at the fair. Advance ticket prices are \$2 for all ages. Passes for the week are \$10. Advance tickets are available at the Augusta County Extension office. Admission prices at the gate will be \$4 for adults, \$2 for youth 6-15. Children under 6 are free.

Tuesday and Wednesday are Jack and the Beanstalk nights at the fair. In the spring, bean seeds to plant were distributed to all elementary students in Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. Youngsters who bring some of their "bean crop" to the fair on the first



The David Martin Rodeo will feature more than 30 bull riders when the show comes to the Augusta County Fair, Aug. 13 at 7 p.m. at Augusta Expoland in Fishersville.

Join cloggers in shuffle and slide at Fair

By PENNY PLEMMONS

Just hearing the names... chicken shuffle, barnyard slide, shoe fly swing, and the buttermilk churn... lifts yours spirits and makes your feet want to fly. And that is exactly what Ginny Guertler of the Mountain Heritage Cloggers loves about clogging.

The music and the traditional dancing "just gives folks a lift and makes them feel happy," Ms. Guertler stated. The Mountain Heritage Cloggers, who will be performing at 8 p.m. Aug. 13, at the Augusta County Fair, resulted from students in clogging lessons under Ms. Guertler's tutelage back in 1988.

"Interest was and still is high," Ms. Guertler said. Although, nowadays the group could use a few more boys and men. Ms. Guertler, the senior member of the group, commented, "if your knees and back are in good shape then you can clog. It really keeps me fit." Ms. Guertler was first introduced to clogging by her son who joined a folk dance troupe at James Madison University. "I had never seen it before," she said. "And I just fell in love with it."

Ms. Guertler got her start just like everyone else. She took beginner lessons from the Staunton-based Shenandoah Cloggers and performed with the group for five years. Ms. Guertler then moved to Manassas and started teaching

lessons with the outcome being the creation of the Bull Run Cloggers. As fate would have it, Ginny and her family moved again, but this time, back to the familiar Augusta County. She once again started clogging lessons and the Mountain Heritage Cloggers.

Along with the familiar traditional clogging, the group also performs a more modern style of dance that is set to contemporary music. According to Ms. Guertler the original Appalachian clogging used little or no arm movement.

Today's group, adds choreographed movements that incorporates the arms. With Ms. Guertler as show director and choreographer the dance company has won numerous clogging competitions in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. They also have done very well on several occasions at the International Clogging competition in Nashville, Tenn. Ms. Guertler, in individual competition, has won first place at the Nashville competition.

"We have always come away with some sort of award," the veteran



The Mountain Heritage Cloggers will perform at the Augusta County Fair at 8 p.m. August 13.

Photo courtesy Mountain Heritage Cloggers

two nights will "pay" their admission to the fair with their beans.

Entertainment at the fair begins Tuesday, Aug. 10 with opening ceremonies and the crowning of Miss Augusta County Fair which will be followed by the Miss and Master Beauty Pageant in Expo Hall. The pageants begin at 6:15 p.m. For those interested in the livestock exhibition, these events begin at 6:30 p.m. with the Barnyard Olympics. The popular and entertaining Obstacle Course will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Adding even more thrills to the fair's first night will be the Street Truck and Farm Tractor Pull set to get under way at 6:30 p.m. The Midway will open at 6 p.m. on the fair's inaugural day.

If the roar of engines isn't exactly your cup of tea, then perhaps Tuesday evening's entertainment provided by Kamp Kreatures magic show will suit your fancy. The 45-minute show features puppeteers from Mechanicsville and their performance will begin at 7 p.m. each night of the fair with an additional 4 p.m. show on Saturday.

Livestock exhibitions go into full swing on Wednesday, Aug. 11 with

the Open and Junior Sheep Show. For those seeking a different variety of entertainment, Ultimate Championship Wrestling will begin at 7:30 p.m. In addition to ringside huffing and puffing, Wednesday's events also include the Western Augusta Steam and Gas Antique Tractor Pull set to begin at 5 p.m.

Flower exhibits will be received Wednesday morning and judged in the afternoon. Entries will be on display in the Beam Annex.

Livestock exhibitions continue Thursday, Aug. 12 with the Market Lamb exhibition, and Sheep Leadline, Costume and Showmanship contests beginning at 1 p.m. More displays of the four-legged variety will be provided when the Showmanship and Junior Beef Show gets under way at 5 p.m.

The crunch of metal on metal and revving engines will fill the air in the night's other entertainment when the Demolition Derby roars into action at 7 p.m. "Kid Power" will be centerstage at 7 p.m. Thursday with the popular Pedal Power Tractor Pull. A second Pedal Power Pull will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday.

For folks attracted to the thrills and chills of the midway, the 1999 fair promises an all new midway with World Wide Entertainment providing the main attractions. The midway will open at 6 p.m. on Tuesday night. Rides go into motion at 5 p.m. Wednesday through Friday. The midway will open at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Livestock exhibitions continue Friday, Aug. 13 with the Open Beef Show at 10 a.m., the Dairy Show at 1 p.m., and the always-popular Livestock Dressing at 6 p.m. The Mountain Heritage Cloggers will perform

See FAIR, page 9



MIDDLEBROOK LIVESTOCK 4-H CLUB

Stop by the Middlebrook Livestock 4-H Club food booth at the Augusta County Fair Aug. 10-14 in Expo's R.L. Coffey Pavilion for the best eats in the Valley!

SERVING A FULL DINNER MENU EACH NIGHT INCLUDING:

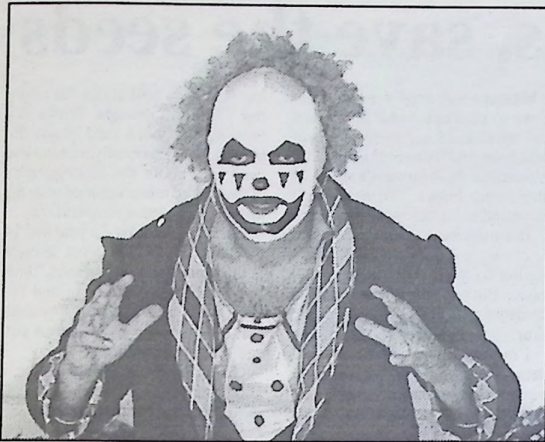
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Ribeye steak	Western Ham	Sliced pork tenderloin
sandwich	Baked Apples	Green beans, Potatoes
Baked beans	Green Beans	Baked apples
Coleslaw	Rolls	Rolls
Friday	Saturday	
Ribeye steak	Barbecue chicken	
sandwich	Green beans	
Baked beans	Coleslaw	
Coleslaw	Rolls	

Drink Included with dinners.

Fresh-picked corn on the cob will be served if it rains enough to make it grow.

Breakfast and lunch also will be served.





"Doink" the wrestling clown will be on the card when the Augusta County Fair hosts Ultimate Championship Wrestling at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11.

•Fair

Continued from page 8

at 8 p.m. Friday. Among the Mountain Heritage Cloggers are the Grand Champion male, female, duet, and line dancers from the Virginia state competition. The group has won numerous first-place trophies in various age divisions. They have performed at the Virginia and West Virginia state fairs, the Pavilion in Washington, D.C., as well as numerous festivals and conventions throughout the country.

Fair organizers have packed Friday's events with yet more excitement. The David Martin Rodeo with 30-plus bull riders returns this year to the fair. Last year's show proved to be popular with fairgoers who cheered the bronco busters and trick riders. Rodeo clowns kept the audience amused and entertained between events. Admission to the rodeo, which begins at 7 p.m., is \$5.

Friday evenings activities continue with a Barnyard Swing sponsored by the Augusta County 4-H Honor club. The dance is open to all ages and admission is \$2.

The fair's final day, Saturday, Aug. 14, promises to be a day filled with entertainment of all varieties. Horse enthusiasts will get an early start with the fair's horse show beginning at 9 a.m. The show will be split into three categories — Hunter, Draft, and Western — and should appeal to a wide range of interests. The Hunter division will open competition at 9 a.m. and will

be followed by the Western horse exhibition around 1 p.m. Draft horse classes will begin at 9:30 a.m.

For horse enthusiasts of another kind, the Draft Horse Pull will begin at 6:30 p.m. Competition at the livestock pavilion will culminate Saturday with the Stockman's Contest set to begin at 9 a.m. Livestock exhibitors will compete in the Supreme Showmanship contest at 4 p.m.

A new event for the fair this year will be a "fun" dog show to be held Saturday at 11 a.m.

For musical tastes, Saturday's fair activities include two performances by Flashback, a popular local Top 40s band, at 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Featured in Expo Hall throughout the week at the fair will be commercial exhibits from various businesses and organizations. Commercial exhibits will be open 5 p.m. through 10 p.m. each weeknight of the fair. Expo Hall will open at noon on Saturday.

Among other displays of interest at the fair will be the many entries in the home arts, crafts, floral, crop, and vegetable contests. Home arts, crafts and floral contests will be on display in the Beam Annex. The crop and vegetable exhibition will be in the Coffey Pavilion. Livestock exhibited at the fair will be on display throughout the week in the barns adjacent to the Coffey Pavilion.

Fair catalogs are available at the Augusta County Extension office and locations of the Augusta Cooperative Farm Bureau. —

-- Fun for the whole family --



AUGUST 10-14, 1999
AUGUSTA EXPO • FISHERSVILLE, VA.

FEATURING:

Ultimate Championship Wrestling
Western Augusta Antique Tractor Pull
Street Truck and Farm Tractor Pull

ALL NEW MIDWAY by World Wide Entertainment

FRIDAY NIGHT

David Martin Rodeo -- 30-plus bull riders

Admission: ADVANCE TICKETS -- All ages, \$2; Week pass, \$10

GATE ADMISSION -- Adults, \$4; Youth, 6-15, \$2; Under 6, free

Advance tickets available at the Augusta County Extension Office.

Price of admission includes all entertainment inside fair gates except Midway rides, concessions, David Martin Rodeo and Barnyard Swing.

Fair schedule

Tuesday, Aug. 10

7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
4 p.m.

Commercial exhibits set up
Exhibits received
Exhibits judged
GATE OPENS
(Jack-and-the-Beanstalk Day)
Commercial exhibits open
Midway opens
Opening Ceremony
Beauty Pageants
Street Truck and Farm
Tractor Pull
Barnyard Olympics
Kamp Kreatures magic show
Obstacle Course

Wednesday, Aug. 11

8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
4 p.m.

Flower exhibits received
Flower show judging
GATE OPENS
(Jack-and-the-Beanstalk Day)
Open and Junior Sheep Show
Western Augusta Steam-Gas
Antique Tractor Pull
Commercial exhibits open
Midway Open
Kamp Kreatures magic show
Ultimate Championship Wrestling

Thursday, Aug. 12

10 a.m.
1 p.m.

Sheep weigh-in
Sheep leadline, Costume,
Showmanship, Market lambs

4 p.m.
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
5 p.m. - until
5 p.m.
7 p.m.
7 p.m.
7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 13

10 a.m.
1 p.m.
4 p.m.
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
5 p.m. - 11 p.m.
6 p.m.
7 p.m.
7 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 14

8 a.m.
9 a.m.
9 a.m.
11 a.m.
Noon
1 p.m. - until
4 p.m.
6 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
7 p.m.
9 p.m.

GATE OPENS

Commercial exhibits open
Midway opens
Showmanship / Junior Beef Show
Demolition Derby
Pedal Power Tractor Pull
Kamp Kreatures magic show

Open Beef Show

Dairy Show
GATE OPENS
Commercial exhibits open
Midway opens
Livestock Dressing
Kamp Kreatures magic show
David Martin Rodeo
(Admission: \$5)
Mountain Heritage Cloggers
Barnyard Swing (Admission: \$2)

GATE OPENS

Stockman's Contest
Horse Show:
English, Draft, Western
Dog Show
Commercial exhibits open
Midway opens
Kamp Kreatures magic show
Pedal Power Tractor Pull
Draft Horse Pull
Flashback (two shows)
Kamp Kreatures magic show
Exhibits released

PETTING ZOO OPEN ALL WEEK

Hamrick Funeral Home

Jeffrey O. Hodge -- Manager



- Professional Dignified Service
- Courteous Staff
- Cremation Services
- Pre-Planning Services

Serving the area in times of need since 1865

18 West Frederick Street, Staunton, Va.

540-886-2363

-- FOR INFORMATION, CALL 245-5627 --

When life gives you lemons, save the seeds

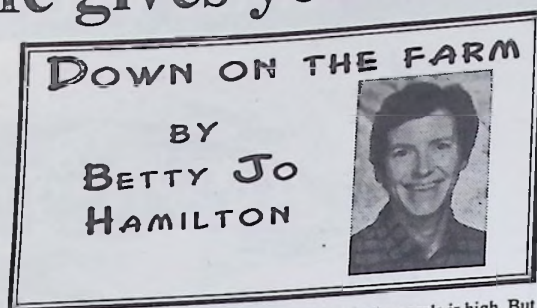
Down on the farm we're thinking about what's to be done.

What's to be done when it stops raining and there's no pasture for livestock? What's to be done when you've already started feeding from winter feed stores? What's to be done when regardless how much you feed, livestock remains discontent and forces its way out through fences for even the littlest nibble at some green grass? What's to be done when you're head to head with the second worst drought of the century?

These are troublesome times down on the farm because there are no easy answers to the questions above. And any solutions which float to the top may yield barely satisfactory results.

Part of the equation is mental — trying to convince ourselves that the circumstances of the drought are beyond our control. I think it was Will Rogers who said, "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it." We can't make it rain. If we could, we surely would have maximized this option long ago.

Having to concede that the farm operation may have to be shut-down or cut back — albeit temporarily — for some of us spells only one word, failure. Nobody wants to fail and nobody likes to fail. We spend most of our lives trying to avoid failure. But when failure comes despite our best efforts and through circumstances beyond our



control, the specter of failure looms large in our mental processes. We see only the failure and are unable to remain objective enough to make necessary decisions.

A friend of mine said to me not long ago, "I don't know much about farming, but it seems whenever I hear farmers talk, they're complaining about something." It wasn't a comment made as a criticism, it was simply an observation. And my friend is right to a certain degree. We'll take an informal Augusta Country poll — all you happy-go-lucky, haven't-a-care-in-the-world farmers out there raise your hands... one, two, two-and-a-half. Yeah, that's about what I figured — 2.5 in 100 farmers state that they are happy-go-lucky and haven't a care in the world.

Of course the other side to this coin brings to mind something a former serviceman said one time. "When the troops are complaining

(not his word), morale is high. But when they stop complaining (again, not his word), that's when you start to worry." So I guess when we hear farmers complaining, that's a good sign. But I haven't heard farmers saying much of anything recently — they've not been saying much at all unless it relates to how they're hoping and praying for rain.

This is what we've been doing around here for some time, a long time — hoping and praying for rain. We've gotten some rain, every drop an answer to our prayers. But a drop here and there or an inch here and there will mean only a very slow recovery for pastures and may be too late altogether for this year's corn crop.

With our pastures reduced to stubble and dirt and our feed stores dwindling, we are forced to face the dilemma of what steps to take to sustain the farm operation in some fashion. Perhaps the more difficult task is reconciling ourselves to

what steps will need to be taken in order to accomplish this goal. Each day takes us closer to decisions in which we find little comfort. Mother Nature has dealt farmers a series of staggering blows, and she hasn't hesitated to hit below the belt.

It would be nice to be able to come up with some witty, pithy saying to make all this go down easier. But wit and pith provide little comfort and only a brief distraction from the situation.

I'm sorry, but it's trite and understated to say, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." It's real easy to say this to somebody who finds himself in dire straits. It's particularly easy to say something like this when you're not the person having trouble. It's barely applicable to farmers. If you were to alter the sentiment to help farmers out at all you'd have to say, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade and save the seeds." Because a farmer isn't happy — truly, happy — unless he has the opportunity to grow something.

What we've got right now is the biggest bowl of knotty, sour lemons you've ever seen. And we don't have much sugar to put with the juice to make it go down any easier. But once the lemons are gone, if we save the seeds, we might have something with which to start back.

Down on our farm, the prevailing attitude has changed — suddenly, in fact, over night. Up until a few days ago, practically nothing

had been said about the ongoing 13-month drought. Practically nothing had been said about the searing heat. Practically nothing had been said about the consequences of the lack of rain combined with the higher than normal temperatures.

Then on a Saturday, a year and 14 days into the second worst drought in this century, my father said, "This dry weather has about gotten the best of me." And that was all he said. But then it was a Saturday, so you couldn't expect much.

On the next day, Sunday, a year and 15 days into the second worst drought in this century, he informed me we would have to start sending cattle to market in the week ahead. This two-sentence pronouncement was a virtual filibuster for my father. And on a Sunday, too.

On the next day, Monday, a year and 16 days into the second worst drought in this century, my father said, "It's all over for this corn." This six-word diatribe may have little meaning to many folks, but the fact that it was my father saying it — and before noon on a Monday to boot — made it seem like crashing thunder in the midst of a raging storm.

If you've met my father, you know he doesn't have much to say about anything. If you've never met my father, you should be getting the general idea that he doesn't often have much to say about anything.

Once we seemed to have crossed the threshold from tolerance/denial

See 98-99, page 11

Drought of '30, depression sent farmers reeling

By NANCY SORRELLS

Most farmers in the area just shake their head in disbelief at the drought we've experienced in the last 12 months. "We've NEVER seen the likes of it before," some say, while others suggest global warming and in quiet undertones suggest that this weather pattern might be here to stay for a long while.

But even as some declare this drought the WORST EVER, some of the really old-timers tip their hats back on their heads and pause for a moment, deep in thought. You see, they can remember the Drought of '30.

That "dry spell" came after a decade of plummeting farm prices and just a year after the beginning of the Great Depression. Who could imagine a tougher time to be a Valley farmer? The drought that year wiped out corn and hay crops, forced farmers to sell livestock, and in the wake of total garden failures, sent farmwives to the grocery stores to stock their larders for the winter.

The year-end report by the Augusta County Agricultural Extension agent summed it up nicely: "Work in agronomy has not been at all satisfactory." He added that farmers had spent a great deal of

time in 1930 reseeding fields and grass plots and also in filling out government loans and rebates for feed and seed.

The list of crop failures for the year was long. Practically all spring crops failed which meant that crop rotation plans were out of kilter for the rest of the year. Clover and grass sowed in the spring of 1930

failed, but timothy sown in the fall of 1929 did hold its own. Red clover was a complete failure as well.

As for the old standby of corn — farmers were lucky to harvest 10 percent of the crop and no seed corn was saved meaning that seed corn would have to be purchased in 1931. Oats were only a little better. Twenty percent of the normal

yield was harvested, but with difficulty because the stunted, stubby plants made them hard to harvest. And potatoes? Well, the Extension agent wrote that "Farmers are not digging any more than they planted." He estimated that county residents would have to buy two-thirds of their potatoes from outside the area during the next year.

The one crop that did well was wheat, probably because it was planted the fall before, and there was a normal crop of apples although no peaches survived the drought.

As the year 1930 drew to a close, the outlook was grim. Much of the landscape was bare. In many places the grass in the fields was dead. "It will be very difficult and expensive to get

these pastures back to normal," wrote the Extension agent.

Unfortunately the shortage of pasture coupled with the nearly complete failure of the corn and oat crop meant that feeding animals through the winter was a gamble. As a result, farmers began taking animals to market. "At the present price of milk and butter fat, (farmers) could not buy feed and make any money, so hundreds of our common cows and some of our good ones have been sold," said the agent of the dairy herds. In addition to dairy cattle sales, many train loads of beef cattle were shipped out of the county.

To get through the winter, area farmers chipped in and purchased

See 30-31, page 11



This U.S.D.A. archive photo, taken May 14, 1931 in Liberty Mills, Va., shows a herd of Jersey cows which were suffering the effects of the 1930-31 drought, the worst on record of this century. Current conditions rank second to the 30-31 drought which created the infamous midwestern dust bowl.

**AUGUSTA
MUTUAL
INSURANCE
COMPANY**

Augusta Insurance Agency

Steve R. Marshall
Staunton office
540/885-5127

Jerry Coffman
Fishersville office
540/949-4000

All lines of insurance --

•Home •Farm •Business
•Auto •Life & Health

•98-99

Continued from page 10

to exasperation/acceptance, I felt we were ready to move forward — in my thinking move forward with some plans to cope with our present situation. In other words, I was ready to make lemonade and strain out the seeds.

So we spent all day on a Monday (the "It's-all-over-for-this-corn" Monday) sorting through cows, calves and replacement heifers, separating cows from calves, rematching calves with cows, hauling cattle from one farm to another, combining cattle to be sold in one place. This was not easy work and decisions about which cattle to keep and which to let go were not simple. We cull our cows about twice a year and we have been trying to increase cow numbers in the past few years. So we probably haven't culled as closely as we should have. I wasn't looking forward to the task of culling the cattle, but then I remembered all those times when I wished I had an absolute and compelling reason to eliminate a cow from the herd. This thought magically made some of the decisions much easier.

Any cow I couldn't see over top of — sayonara. Any cow shorter than a tall pig — see you later. Blind in one eye — good bye. Gimp in the hip — time to take a trip. No calf — hasta la vista, baby. Let's face it. Cow-calf producers, present company included, don't always do the best job of culling their herds as they ought to. If we can't look at our present situation in any other way, at least we can look at it as a way to improve the herd. It doesn't have to be a no-win situation.

After working all day we had managed to cut the cow herd almost in half by pulling out 20 cull cows and 33 older cows with calves — cows that would probably be sent to market in the next year or so anyway. And, perhaps most unfortunately, we cut 22 replacement heifers — these meant to replace the older cows soon to be culled — effectively eliminating an entire generation of seedstock from the herd. What remained in the herd were 65 mostly young, very good cows and 10 replacement heifers.

The work of going through the



Cattle culled from the herd await a ride to town. Local livestock yards report numbers of cattle coming to market are greater than usual for this time of year. Dry weather conditions creating a shortage of feed have forced cattle producers in some areas to cut back their herds.

Photo by Betty Jo Hamilton

cattle is extremely arduous. It is work which we particularly avoid in hot weather because it's so hard on humans and animals. However, we were left with no choice on this occasion. I will give the cattle some credit for being compliant with the effort. But we rarely have trouble getting the cattle to comply to our demands when they are hungry.

At the end of this very long day of working through the cattle and after having amassed some 75 animals to be sold, my father (remember him, he's the quiet guy) said, "Well, I guess we'll take eight or

10 to market tomorrow to see how they do." This seemed to indicate to me that the prevailing attitude had slipped back across the threshold into denial. I was a little more than put out since we easily could have picked out eight or 10 without having to go through every animal on the place. It seemed a lot of energy had been expended to achieve little progress toward solving our dilemma.

Because we didn't have lots to keep the different types of cattle penned separately, it meant mixing

them together in one big holding area. The next morning, a Tuesday, all the cattle which had been brought together the day before had to be sorted through again to pull out the cull cows. These 20 animals were put in a pen to themselves and the remainder were turned back into the holding area. We managed to fit nine of the cull cows onto the trailer. My father asserted that the remainder of the cull cows would be taken to market another day.

It seemed to me a reality check was in order. I told my father I was taking the load of cattle to the stockyard and challenged him to make a decision (I should say, make THE decision since I was of the opinion there was only one conclusion at which to arrive.) about what to do with the remaining 11 cull cows by the time I returned from the yard. I reminded him that every day we kept the cows was another day we would have to feed them and, although I didn't say it, that much less feed we would have for cattle we wanted to keep.

My father crossed back over the denial/acceptance threshold before I had time to get to the stockyard. When I arrived there, I was told my father had called to let the yard know there would be 18 or 20 cull cows coming in. I was challenged then to return home quickly and get more of the cull cows loaded before my father retreated past the denial threshold again. After three trips to town,

the 20 cull cows were delivered to market relieving us of the need to keep their stomachs full. (Two of the cows weighed 1,450 pounds so you can just imagine how much those canal horses were eating.)

We're not completely happy with this forced sell off. We'd rather be able to do it according to my schedule but present circumstances do not allow this. If the weather doesn't make a change soon, the cow herd will have to be cut back yet again. We hope this won't be the case. We manage to cheer ourselves up a little by admitting that while things seem bad now, there are ways it could be worse.

But even in the worst situations, there is reason to hope for better times. Presently our spirits are buoyed by the generosity of neighbors and relatives who have offered us pasture to keep some cows while we continue to hope and pray for rain to restore our pastures. So we've sent some of the herd off to "grass camp" for awhile with the hope we can bring them home permanently before too long.

In the meantime, I'm reconciled to making lemonade and saving the seeds. We haven't much taste for lemonade, down on the farm, but with a few good seeds we'll have a place to start a little further down the road. Maybe the next crop of lemons will be more juice than pulp, tangy rather than bitter. We know there are better days ahead. —

•30-31

Continued from page 10

400 traincar loads of hay and feed. Some farmers planned to carry their stock through the cold season on a mixture of straw, molasses and cottonseed meal, while others cut their corn and left the nubbins of ears on the stalks. These were then feed to the animals.

In 1930 the drought not only hit the farmers in their pocketbooks, it hit them in their stomachs. Compounding the difficulties in that "dry spell," was the almost total failure of the home gardens which, in normal years, stocked the family dinner table and produced some surplus for sale at the curb market.

Although early garden crops did okay, virtually nothing was harvested out of the gardens from mid-summer until fall. "This has hit the rural people the hardest of any one thing," noted the agent. He added that in the coming year the farm families would "have to live out of

a tin can," meaning they would have to purchase supplies.

By fall some of the gloomy statistics were rolling into the Extension office. From September to November, for instance, 400 permits for rebates on feed were issued to farmers in Augusta and Highland. The women focused on gardening in their home demonstration projects in order to combat the drought's effects. Any excess produce squeezed out of their pitiful gardens was taken to Staunton's curb market and sold. "Small fruits and vegetables (on the curb market) were very scarce this year, but in spite of that the rural women kept coming and the town women have kept buying," noted the agent.

The harsh reality of the situation was told in the numbers of preserves the women put up in 1930. Approximately 250 reported canning 6,224 quart jars of fruit; 3,207 quarts of vegetables; 1,102 quarts of meat; 1,637 quarts of jelly; 2,036 quarts of preserves; 395 quarts of

fruit juices; and 938 quarts of pickles. This becomes even more telling when one looks at the 1931 statistics when the gardens again flourished. In 1931 the women canned the following amounts: 43,854 quarts of fruit (up 37,000); 16,513 quarts of vegetables (up 13,000); 201 quarts of meat (down 900); 9,233 quarts of jams, butters, etc. (up almost 6,000); 872 quarts of fruit juices (up almost 500); and 8,457 quarts of pickles (up over 7,000). Perhaps the reason the meat preserves were up in the drought year is because farmers were butchering animals that they knew couldn't be fed through the winter or because livestock supplies were so low from having been sold off the previous fall.

By the spring of 1931 the drought was over and a bountiful season had come to the Valley. Even the weather gods smiled upon the farmers by holding off on frost until well up in the autumn. "Work in agronomy has been very satisfactory this year," noted the agent.

For the first time in years, the county had a corn surplus in the wake of the largest corn crop in five years. The wheat crop approached record levels as well. Oats thrived. In many places fields that were planted in the fall of 1930 failed and so oats were drilled in those fields in the spring of 1931, adding to the plentiful supply of oats.

As if to pay farmwives back for their abysmal gardens of the year before, the gardens of 1931 were lush. The large supply of preserves

put up by that fall gave families, which had been stretched thin the year before, cause for relief. "There is no danger of Augusta County families starving. More foodstuff has been preserved this year than ever before," noted the Home Extension agent who was in charge of the women's side of rural work. Many of the women's clubs chose gardens as their projects and experimented with special spring and fall crops that had never been grown before. Many planted kale, salsify, spinach and carrots in their fall gardens for the first time.

To be sure there were lingering effects from the 1930 dry spell. One hundred and seventy loans totaling \$40,000 were issued to area farmers. This would equal \$382,534 in 1998 money. Much time was spent reseeding pastures and getting them back to normal. Despite the fact that the 1930 apple harvest had been good, the drought had killed many trees so work was spent planting replacement trees. Some crops still did poorly in 1931 including potatoes and red clover. However sweet clover and alfalfa did well.

All in all 1930 was one for the record books. Fortunately memory of that year faded in the bounty of 1931. Despite a better year, however, it should be remembered that the entire nation was still locked in the depths of the Great Depression and farm prices were still rock bottom. Yes indeed, times were hard everywhere, but as farmers in 1999 can tell you, good precipitation makes living a little easier. —

WANTED

Old wrist & pocket watches, unusual clocks, music boxes, watchmakers tools & watch parts.

ONCE UPON A TIME

25 W. Beverley St.,
Downtown Staunton
Next to the Clock Tower

885-6064

Hammond & Foster, Inc.
Insurance

AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE
• HEALTH • ANNUITIES

*Dedicated to Serving
our Customers*

886-0500

1750 Greenville Ave.
STAUNTON, VA. 24401

Goshen's Graham earns BIF Pioneer Award

ROANOKE — The Beef Improvement Federation honored Joe Graham of Goshen with the Pioneer Award at the 31st annual convention on June 18 in Roanoke.

Graham was born and raised near the village of Goshen in Rockbridge County where he currently resides and has lived most of his life. He graduated from Goshen High School in 1938 and from Virginia Tech with a degree in animal husbandry in 1943. His services with the U.S. Army 1943-1945 took him to the Pacific where he served with the Sixth Army and later the Ninth Corps during the occupation of Japan.

Graham's career has been totally in the livestock industry. From 1947 to 1952 he managed two purebred Angus herds in Virginia before returning in 1952 to Goshen to start farming and developing a purebred Angus herd for himself. In 1954 he joined the Division of Markets of the Virginia Department of Agriculture as a livestock grader and served in this capacity until 1973. From 1973 to 1975 he managed

Roanoke Hollins' Stockyard at Hollins, served as a fieldman for Staunton Livestock Market from 1974-1986, and in a similar capacity with Staunton Union Stockyard from 1986 to present. He served as an official classifier for the American Angus Association for three years.

In 1955, the first State Beef Cattle Improvement Association in the country was organized as the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association. Graham was employed on a part time basis to do the field work and cattle weighing and grading on farms with this work continuing well into the 1980s.

Graham probably had more to do with getting the newly established Virginia BCIA performance testing program accepted and expanded in Virginia than any other one individual. He was looked to by breeders as "Mr. Virginia BCIA" for many years because he visited most of the farms where he weighed and graded calves and yearlings. In addition to his field work on the farms, he was a very important figure in

establishing the central bull test stations at Culpeper and Red House. Until about 1990, he served as a grader and evaluator of bulls tested at Virginia central test stations.

The Virginia BCIA Performance Testing Program was built in large measure based on Graham's expertise and cattle knowledge and his ability to work with purebred and commercial breeders and producers. As a result the Virginia program attained wide acclaim and served as a forerunner for national breed association performance testing programs.

In August 1947 he married Ellen Bennett, and they have a son, Joseph B. Jr., and three daughters, Ellen, Mary, and Lucy, and a total of eight grandchildren. Graham continues to breed seedstock Angus cattle. He is a lifelong member of Goshen Presbyterian Church where he teaches Sunday School. His chief joys are his church, people, and livestock. —

Information for this article was provided by Scott Grenier, Virginia Tech Extension animal scientist.



Joe Graham and his wife Ellen reside in Goshen and raise Angus seedstock. Graham was honored recently by the Beef Improvement Federation with its Pioneer Award.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

Mossy Creek Farm wins BIF Producer honors

ROANOKE — The Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) honored Mossy Creek Farm of Mt. Solon as a winner of the Commercial Producer of the Year Award at the 31st annual convention held recently in Roanoke.

Mossy Creek Farm, owned and operated by Ernie Reeves, is a multi-generational family farm. The 2,500-acre operation supports a 650-plus commercial cowherd and a 2,000-head backgrounding enterprise. The Angus-based cowherd calves in February and March with roughly 40 percent serving as surrogate mothers for a custom embryo recipient service. The two year-old heifers start calving two weeks later than the cowherd in an appropriate 45-day calving season.

A rotational grazing program is used for all females with harvested feed needed approximately 90 days per winter. Calves are weaned in late September to early October and then enter the backgrounding operation.

Purchased calves come directly from other producers and are cormingled and sorted by sex and size into uniform lots of 65-100 head for the growing phase until they reach roughly 750 pounds. At that point, 80 percent are sent to custom feedyards utilizing individual cattle management for finishing with the balance sold as feeders through Virginia Cattlemen's Association sponsored sales. Health and performance data is shared back with the producers of purchased calves. In 1998, 442 calves were fed and 70 percent graded choice and 67 percent were yield grade 1 and 2.

Reeves also practices several soil conservation and environmental management techniques



which led to Mossy Creek Farm being granted the NCBA Region I Environmental Stewardship Award in 1997.

Co-winner of the Commercial Producer of the Year award was Giles Ranch Co. of Ashland, Kans., which focuses on improving the end product. The century-old ranch uses leading edge technology and innovation to keep in step with changes in the beef industry. The family operation includes a commercial cow calf herd, stocker and feeder cattle, farming and lease hunting.

The Giles Ranch also focuses on constant improvement of the natural resources. Land and water management practices have enhanced the efficiency of the cowherd and have increased wildlife populations allowing for the development of the lease-hunting program. —

Information for this article was provided by Scott Grenier, Virginia Tech Extension animal scientist.

Ernie Reeves of Mossy Creek Farm in Mt. Solon stands alongside the stream for which the farm is named. Mossy Creek recently won the Beef Improvement Federation's Commercial Producer of the Year award. The farm also has won a number of environmental stewardship awards.

AC file photo

FARM CREDIT



FOR ALL YOUR RURAL FINANCE NEEDS:

- Part-time & Full-time Farms
- Rural Homes
- Farm Improvements
- Operating Needs
- Cattle & Equipment

"Your Farm & Country Lender of Choice"

Farm Credit
State Route 792, Staunton
Toll Free -- Dial '1' & Then

886-3435
800-559-1016

The Best Attitude
In Town.

IF YOUR
FAVORITE SONGS
ARE
"GOLDEN OLDIES,"
OUR ULTIMATE
50 CHECKING
WILL SOUND LIKE
A HIT.

COMMUNITY
BANK

38 North Central Ave. • Staunton
540-886-0796

250 East (Richmond Rd.) • Staunton
540-886-5816

2934 West Main St. • Waynesboro
540-943-5000

Corner of Rt. 340 & 608 • Stuarts Draft
540-337-1514



Member FDIC

Augusta County 4-H Livestock Judging Team successful

The Augusta County 4-H team consisting of 25 members started off the year strong placing second in the Block and Bridle Contest held in Blacksburg in March. The team of Neal Buchanan, Carrie Heizer, Amanda Hemp and Jonathan Coleman were members of the second place team.

In the Northern Area 4-H Senior Contest the team of Carrie Heizer, Neal Buchanan, Amanda Hemp and Jonathan Coleman placed first in sheep, third in swine, first in cattle, second in reasons and was high team overall. Individually Buchanan placed second in reasons, and fifth in sheep. Heizer

placed third in reasons, first in sheep and 10th in swine. Hemp placed sixth in cattle and reasons, third in sheep, eighth in swine and second overall. Coleman placed fifth in cattle, seventh in sheep and eighth overall.

The Augusta B team consisting of Matt Hickey, Jason Arehart, Thomas Lail and Jeff Hewitt placed second in cattle, third in reasons and fourth in sheep. Hickey placed eighth in sheep, first in reasons, seventh in swine, first in cattle and was high individual in the contests. Augusta C team members were Cole Heizer, Jonathan Riley, Jimmy Crosby and Emily Curry.

Rachel Swortzel and Byron Phillips competed on an individual basis.

In the Northern Area junior contest, Augusta's A team consisted of Jeff Buchanan, Kaitlyn Amber, Will Earhart and Robert Grogg. This team placed third in sheep and fourth in cattle. Earhart placed seventh in sheep. Grogg placed sixth in swine.

Augusta's B team consisted of Garrett Irvine, Hannah Burtner, Isaac Swortzel and Jessica Rohrbaugh. This team placed fourth in sheep. Rohrbaugh placed eighth in swine and eighth overall. Swortzel placed seventh in cattle. Chris Hughes competed individually and placed fifth in swine.

At the State 4-H Contest held in June at Blacksburg, The senior A team placed third in swine, fifth in cattle, third in reasons, second in sheep and second overall. Buchanan placed second in sheep and swine, sixth in reasons and eighth overall. Heizer placed eighth in sheep and 10th overall. Coleman placed fourth in cattle and 15th overall.

The senior B team of placed sixth overall. Curry placed fourth in sheep and sixth overall. Arehart placed 10th in cattle.

The senior C team of Rachel Swortzel, Jonathan Riley, Josh Smith and Jimmy Crosby placed fourth in swine. Swortzel placed

seventh in sheep, eighth in cattle and fourth overall. Crosby placed 17th overall.

Rachel Swortzel, Neal Buchanan, Carrie Heizer, Emily Curry and Jonathan Coleman will proceed to compete for the National 4-H team.

The junior A team consisting of Robert Grogg, Garrett Irvine, Will Earhart and Jessica Rohrbaugh placed second in swine. Rohrbaugh placed third in swine. Irvine was seventh overall. The junior B team consisted of Kaitlyn Amber, Jeff Buchanan and Isaac Swortzel. The teams are coached by Shirley Kaufman. —

•Kuba

Continued from page 7

descriptions of the Kuba people, Sheppard was named a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society in London, England. A few years later, Mark Twain wrote a satire on the European colonists in Africa and he included lengthy quotations which were taken from Sheppard's writings on the subject.

Sheppard died in 1927 and few people in the Valley remember his name. But anyone who travels to Hampton or to Tuscaloosa will be reminded of who he was. Both places consider him among their most important alumni. Much is written about him in the Hampton museum where the exquisite pieces from his collection are on display. Travel to Stillman College in Alabama and you will discover that the campus library is called the Sheppard Library.

Not bad for an African American born in Waynesboro just as

the country was getting over a Civil War that helped decide the fate of his people. He went on to become a minister and missionary, educator, explorer, anthropologist, and humanitarian. —

Those who wish to learn more should read "A Taste for the Beautiful: Zairian Art from the Hampton University Museum" by Mary Lou Hultgren and Jeanne Zeidler. Much of the information in this article was taken from that book and from signage at the Hampton University Museum. A visit to the museum is an easy trip for anyone from the Valley. Founded in 1868, the Hampton University Museum is one of the older museums in the country and THE oldest African-American museum in the U.S.

In addition to the African Gallery which has at its heart the Sheppard collection, there is a Fine Arts Gallery, Native American Gallery, Asian and Pacific Gallery and a Hampton History Gallery. All is

housed in the newly renovated brick Huntington Building which is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. The museum is closed on all major holidays. To get there, take I-64 east to exit 267/Hampton University. Follow signs to the museum which is located on this historic campus. For more information, call 757/727-5308.

•Cotton

Continued from page 13

Virginia's agricultural page on the internet bear this out. In 1990 only 5,300 acres of cotton were planted in the Old Dominion, but by 1997 over 100,000 acres were under cultivation and 159,000 bales (each bale is 480 pounds) were grown.

Cotton is still limited to a few Tidewater and Southside areas and one county on the Eastern Shore. Only 11 cities or counties list it as a crop, but we bicycled through some of the most prominent including Southampton which is top on the list with over 40,000 acres of cotton under cultivation. Isle of Wight, another county we cycled through, is ranked second, while farmers in Surry, Greenville, Brunswick, Charles City County, Prince George and Northumberland are some of the other innovators in this new Virginia endeavor.

So you see, maybe a bike vacation is not really an oxymoron after all. Over the years we have made adjustments to make it easier on our bodies (after all we were in our 20s when we started doing this and now we are in our 40s). We no longer carry all our luggage on bicycle, we have air mattresses in our tents, we carry cell phones, and we are thinking of bagging the camping and going strictly the motel route on future excursions. We do have fun, we do learn something, and we even spent an evening at Busch Gardens riding the most thrilling, chilling, twisting, and turning of the new rides. None of this was accomplished, however, without pedaling for 287 miles with temperatures in the 90s, and spending almost 23 hours in the saddle. Oxymoron or just a plain, old fun vacation? You decide. —



David Quillen, center, and Kirk Quillen, far right, of Waynesboro Nursery, talk with Del. Vance Wilkins, R-Amherst, at a Virginia Agribusiness Council meeting held recently in Waynesboro.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

Waynesboro Nursery hosts Ag Council

By PENNY PLEMMONS

WAYNESBORO — The Virginia Agribusiness Council held its quarterly meeting in Augusta County and toured several agriculture-related businesses. According to Council President Donna Pugh Johnson, the group meets in the various agriculture districts in order to get a better understanding of the agribusiness needs.

Delegate Vance Wilkins, R-Amherst, encouraged members of the council to rally support for the state's apple and peach industry. Wilkins told the group that farmers across the state need to adopt the attitude of the legendary Three Musketeers, "all for one and one for all," and speak out for upcoming legislation to provide a farmer's market for apples and peaches in the Piedmont area of the state. The market would enable state growers to compete against giant fruit producing states such as Washington.

Waynesboro Nurseries hosted the group and provided a nursery tour. Located on 1,000 acres in Amherst County, the nursery supplies the wholesale market and land-

scaping contractors with a variety of field and container trees, shrubs and plants. The nursery became Waynesboro Nursery in the early 30s when E.M. Quillen purchased an existing facility. The business was passed down to sons Ray and Max and is now being operated by a third generation of the Quillen family. The nursery also raises black Angus cattle and grows a few field crops.

According to Kirk Quillen, vice-president of sales, the recent drought has caused plant growth to slow. "We are only able to irrigate just enough to keep the plants alive," Quillen commented. He said that although spring sales were good, lack of rain has the potential to adversely affect future sales.

In other business the council gave an update on the Ag Initiative 2000 program. The initiative, co-sponsored by the Virginia Farm Bureau, lists agriculture and forestry issues of importance to the Commonwealth's agribusiness community. These issues were mailed to candidates for the state legislature requesting endorsement. —

•STIHL® FS 36•



Two-line TapAction Autocut head, balanced for comfort, free protective glasses.

STIHL®

\$139⁹⁵
MSRP

Cohron's Hardware
220 N. Main St., Stuarts Draft
337-1241 1-800-219-3167

Schoolhouse News

BMMS ag-science instructor named outstanding in state

By PENNY PLEMMONS

CEDAR GREEN — Parents of children at Beverley Manor Middle School might be surprised to hear their middle schooler talk of llamas in the school house or aquaponics as a method to grow vegetables without soil. These experiences and others like them are all a part of the daily lessons learned in Sally Shomo's agriscience classes.

For 10 years, Mrs. Shomo has been teaching BMMS students that agriculture is more than "cows and plows." Through innovative classroom projects and practical application of agricultural technologies, Mrs. Shomo, brings real-life experiences into the classroom to help students understand the diversity within the agriculture community. This unique focus caught the attention of the National Future Farmers of America and earned Mrs. Shomo the title of "Virginia's 1999 Agriscience Teacher of the Year." Mrs. Shomo, who grew up on a dairy and poultry farm stated, "I have known since the 10th grade that I wanted to be an agriscience teacher. When I should have been in the house helping my mother, I was outside working on the farm. Farming is just in my heart and I love what I teach."

Mrs. Shomo's enthusiasm from childhood reaches into the classroom where she teaches the curriculum that she helped write for the State Board of Education. The foundation principle that Mrs. Shomo relies on is her definition that agriculture is the production, harvesting, processing, transportation and sale of food and fiber. Students participate in hands on activities that teach the partnership between agriculture and science.

"I want my students to move away

from the stereotype that agriculture consists only of cows and plows and get them to realize how varied the field is and how many job opportunities there are," Mrs. Shomo said.

Fields of study in Mrs. Shomo's classes include food production, wildlife and animal exploration, horticulture, forestry, environmental stewardship practices, mechanics and engineering sciences. Mrs. Shomo's classroom is a workshop with large tables for woodworking and project creation. A small greenhouse is right outside the door and in the spring holds plants for sale by FFA students for whom Mrs. Shomo is the adviser.

Tilapia, a species of exotic Mediterranean fish, swim in a 180-gallon fish tank and are part of the aquaponics study where students learn that vegetables will grow in nutrient rich water supplied from the tank.

"Children are fascinated with fish," Mrs. Shomo commented. "The aquaponics unit is one of their favorites."

Integrated into every lesson are practical ways that agriculture touches people in daily life. "Did you know," Mrs. Shomo queries, "that bone china is named so because it actually has ground up pieces of animal bone worked in? Or that film used for picture taking is made up of beef parts."

Mrs. Shomo also is conscious of Virginia's newest Standards of Learning and looks for ways to complement core subject areas. Several times a year, Mrs. Shomo

goes outside the classroom to get her point across. Students study the trees that grow around the school yard. The school's FFA and Mrs. Shomo host an Agricultural Producers Career Day which has attracted the attention of State Agriculture Commissioner Carlton Courter and local legislators. Each year, Mrs. Shomo and FFA students attend the four-day FFA state convention in Blacksburg where this year's group won the junior livestock judging competition. And each January FFA students attend the Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Mrs. Shomo says that she stays involved and active with her students because she loves the middle school years. "The students are so enthusiastic, willing to learn new things and have great imaginations," she said. Mrs. Shomo's other achievements include twice being named Adviser of the Year from the National Young Farmer Educational Association, Inc., BMMS Teacher of the Year award and recognition as being the founder and adviser of the Augusta County Young Farmer Women's Association.

As Virginia's Agriscience Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Shomo moves on to compete for a national title. Four finalists will be chosen and awarded \$500 in cash, a plaque and a \$1,500 school grant to purchase agriscience equipment. In the final FFA competition in October, one finalist will be chosen as the nation's Agriscience Teacher of the Year. —



Sally Shomo, agriscience instructor at Beverley Manor Middle School, holds one of the fish in the school's aquaponics project. Mrs. Shomo was named outstanding agriscience instructor in Virginia during the state FFA convention held recently at Virginia Tech.

Photo by Penny Plemmons

JOHN'S
COMPUTER
SERVICE

UPGRADES • REPAIRS • SALES & SERVICE

JOHN RILEY

•540/886-2195, home
•540/851-6465, pager
•540/471-6130, cell

References provided upon request.

ShenanArts
Growing Stages

Together with Augusta County
& Staunton Departments of
Parks & Recreation

Saturday Stages
Youth Theatre Camps

TheatreFirst
AGE 4 - FIRST GRADE
9 - 10 AM
TUITION \$60

PlayMakers
GRADES 2 - 4
10:30 AM - NOON
TUITION \$75

CLAYBROOK ELEMENTARY, F.L. DUFFANCE
STAUNTON NAVAL RESERVE CENTER
STAUNTON DRAFT ELEMENTARY

September 11 - October 30
8 week session
Call 248-1868

United Way

AMP

Justa Toucha Nature

Candle & Gift Shoppe

Featuring Williamsburg, Bridgewater, A.I. Root, and Colonial Candles of Cape Cod. Consignment Arts and Crafts

50% off Craft Supplies

U.S. 340 S., Stuarts Draft

540/942-9556

Located Immediately Behind
Stuarts Draft Antique Mall

ATTENTION MIDDLEBROOK/SWOOP-AREA LANDOWNERS

An agricultural-forestal district is being created in the area of Augusta County southwest of Staunton. 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.

RHS students participate in national conference

BOSTON, Mass. — Eight members of the Riverheads High School Chapter Future Homemakers of America recently attended the National Leadership Meeting in Boston.

With the theme, Gateway to the Future, the 5,300 youth were involved in sessions that promoted national programs such as Families First, Career Connection, and Power of One. The new membership campaign, Quest 2000, was introduced. A pilot program, Stop the Violence, was also spotlighted. Workshop activities allowed members to set goals for personal and chapter accomplishments, while stressing leadership skills.

All of the Riverheads members were state winners in STAR Events (Students Taking Action with Recognition) and competed on the national level. Jennifer Ishee, Jennifer Seaman, and Kelly Watts entered the Chapter Showcase event, earning a gold medal. Stacey Bower and Jami Daugherty were silver medal winners in the Skills for Life event. Rachel Bernier was awarded

a silver medal for her Illustrated Talk presentation. Kathleen Fornadel and Crystal Smith brought home a silver medal in the Focus on Children category.

Watts and Ishee are 1999 graduates and will remain active as alumni and associates members. Seaman will be leading the local chapter as 2000 President. All other STAR Event participants will have an active role in the Riverheads chapter in the upcoming year.

Conference participants took part in a history-making business session in which the organization name was changed to FCCLA — Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America. This change is in keeping with the focus of programs, activities, and leadership opportunities offered on the local, state, and national level of the student-led organization. Each conference attendee also took part in Destination Outreach, a community service project assisting agencies of Boston, by donating over 12,000 needed items.

Chapter advisers Roena Barbre and Kathleen Buchanan accompanied the group. Mrs. Buchanan was presented a certificate for 20 years of FHA advising. In addition to conference functions, students took part in a harbor cruise, trolley tour to historical points of interest, sampling of New England cuisine, shopping at Faneuil Hall Marketplace, and viewing the nationally televised July Fourth celebration, while listening to the Boston Pops Symphony.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America is a dynamic and effective national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders as they address current issues through family and consumer science education. The organization has 220,000 members and 8,000 advisers from all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. For more information on national programs visit the group's website at www.fhahero.org.



Participants in National Conference display medals earned in FHA STAR Event competition. Students are (front l-r) Stacey Bower, Jennifer Ishee, Crystal Smith, and Jennifer Seaman. Back row (l-r) Jami Daugherty, Rachel Bernier, Kelly Watts, and Kathleen Fornadel. Photo courtesy Riverheads FCCLA



J. RILEY HEIZER IRVINE CROSBY HICKEY R. RILEY



LYLE CURRY HOLSINGER GLENN AREHART BUCHANAN

FFA members win honors at convention

BLACKSBURG—FFA members from Augusta County's high and middle schools attended the State FFA Convention held in June at Virginia Tech. State judging contests were held with various teams from local schools participating. State degrees and proficiency awards also were presented to FFA members. Augusta County FFA members receiving awards included the following:

The livestock judging team from Beverley Manor Middle School placed first in the junior contest. Team members were Jonathan, Riley, Cole Heizer, Garrett Irvine and Jimmy Crosby. Irvine was second high individual, Crosby was sixth high and Heizer was 10th high.

The BMMS dairy judging team composed of Audrey Fuller, Brandon Waldron and Zachary Waldron placed fifth in the junior division.

Sally Shomo, BMMS FFA adviser, was selected to represent Virginia as the AgriScience Teacher of the Year for 1999.

BMMS FFA members also participated in the AgriScience Technology Mechanics Contest; Plant, Seed, Fruit Identification Contest and the Small Companion Animal Contest. Receiving blue participation ribbons were: Cole Heizer - AgriScience Technology Mechanics; Emily Conroy - Plant, Seed, Fruit Identification; and JoEllen Pederson - Small Companion Animal. Receiving red ribbons were: Jason Shultz - AgriScience Technology and Plant, Seed, Fruit Identification; Brad Hewitt - Plant, Seed, Fruit Identification; Emily Conroy

- AgriScience Technology Mechanics; Heather Kisamore and Kimberly Law - Small Companion Animal; Gina Smith - AgriScience Technology and Plant, Seed, Fruit Identification.

Matt Hickey of the Buffalo Gap FFA chapter was elected Northern Area State Vice-President. He is the son of Linda and David Hickey of Rt. 10, Staunton. A state officer has not been elected from the Gap chapter since 1976.

The state winning environmental and natural resources team hailed from Stuarts Draft High School and was composed of Rodney Nice, Michael Harmon, Mindy Roth, Corey Abshire and Daniel Coffey.

State proficiency award winners from local chapters included: Buffalo Gap — Rosalea Riley and Colt Lyle, diversified livestock; and Emily Curry, beef production; Stuarts Draft — Briana Flowers, equine; Fort Defiance — Beth Blackwell, equine, and Danny Lauro, ag processing; and Wilson — Greg Holsinger, dairy production. State proficiency winners advance to national competition.

State degrees were awarded to the following individuals: Buffalo Gap — Matt Hickey, Jenny Keith, Dixie Stoutamyer, Doug Britt, Chad Craun, Aaron Ramsey, Jeremy Hunter and Scott Talley; Stuarts Draft — Rodney Nice, Kendra Weaver, Daniel Coffey, and Mindy Roth; Fort Defiance — Wes Begoon, Beth Blackwell, Morgan Croft, Amanda Gilbert, Ashley Gutshall, Wes Hilbert, Kenneth

See FFA, page 17

Mill Street
GRILL

Introducing
The Newest Star in Town
Our Ribs

Also Starring
Prime Rib with Cajun Spices
Barbequed Baby-back Ribs
St. Louis Style Ribs
Barbequed Beef Ribs
Barbeque Platter

1 Mill Street • Staunton, VA
(540) 886-0656

Appearing Nightly

Springdale Water Gardens
Virginia's Premier Grower of
Water Lilies and Bog Plants

1-800-420-LILY

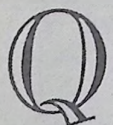
FREE SEMINARS:
Aug. 14, 7 p.m.
Lighting Your Pond
and Landscape
Aug. 14, 10 a.m.; Aug. 15, 2 p.m.
Sept. 11, 10 a.m.; Sept. 12, 2 p.m.
How to Build a Pond and Waterfall

•Personal Attention •Free Catalog Available
OPEN 7 DAYS
Mon.-Sat., 9-5; Sun. 1-5; Closed July 4

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

The Hitching Post

Trim hooves regularly to avoid serious foot problems



Q: How often does a horse need to be shod? Do I have to put shoes on my horse? How do I know whether or not to shoe, and if I do, how often?

J. S. (Staunton)

The best way to discuss this is to start with basic hoof care. All horses' hooves should be trimmed on a regular basis, roughly every six to eight weeks. Trimming keeps the toes from growing too long which in turn causes hoof care problems such as cracking and chipping. It also helps with the horse's movements to prevent tripping. This is an inexpensive approach to hoof care for riders who have back yard horses or are not interested in competitive riding.

The next consideration is the actual hoof. Appaloosas have the most durable hoof because of their white and black stripes. The "white" hoof is very soft and does not hold up well. The "black" hoof

is very hard and when it breaks can cause serious cracking. The white and black stripes characteristic of the Appaloosa horse is a blend of both which makes a good strong, durable hoof. In understanding this characteristic it is possible to see that hoof material is important to its care. Many Appaloosa owners who ride on a recreational level can get by with regular trimming. I have a friend who is a lesson horse and does not need shoes because of this trait. If your horse has a great deal of "white" in the hoof wall you will need to protect the hoof with shoes. If the horse has a predominantly "black" hoof you will need

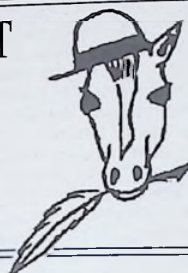
less protective care and mostly general maintenance.

If you are a recreational rider with limited competitive requirements you will probably need to keep shoes on your horse's front feet. The front feet carry a majority of the horse's weight and protecting them from damage is great preventive maintenance.

If you are into serious competition then you will have to shoe all four feet and it is possible your farrier will advise you to use different shoes for different disciplines. A saddlebred owner will shoe his horse with pads and different weights in order to encourage the action and high stepping animation needed in competitions. A reining owner will need special shoes on the rear feet to accommodate the sliding stops and spins required of his horse.

One way of looking at this is to consider YOUR own sport world. A tennis player will wear a different shoe than, say, a golfer. A football player will use a different shoe than a person who bowls. Competition in horsemanship is much the same. Different needs and requirements have made farriers specialists in their fields. This means the real question of shoes for your horse will come down to competitive needs. If

I.B. HOOFINIT
From
the
Horse's Mouth



you are not competing then regular maintenance is the best care and prevents many problems.

Many times I have seen neglect in horse care in shoeing and I encourage all horse owners to care for their horses properly. Regular trimming and worming is important to our health and happiness. If you do not ride your horse on a regular basis consider a schedule every two months for a trimming and a worming. Trimming keeps cracking and chipping to a minimum and allows us comfortable gaits. Worming keeps our feeding program effective for proper weight maintenance and good health. Connect

the two in a preventive program and you will find your horse will stay in good shape regardless of how often you find time to ride.

Take it from the "horse's mouth" — we are dependent on you for most of our needs. My "Education Before Ownership" approach asks that understanding proper horse care is part of the responsibility of ownership. Preventive maintenance is the best way to care for your horse. Small problems are usually signs of bigger ones to come. If you can learn to "see" the little things and make adjustments as you go, you will find horse care less of a burden and more of a pleasure. —

I.B. Hoofinit is a fictitious horse character developed by Chris Marrs as a service to teach horse care. Questions to I.B. Hoofinit may be submitted to P.O. Box 2955, Staunton, Va. 24402. Questions become the property of Chris Marrs, and answers are subject to editor

approval. Information provided in this column is meant to be taken as general advice. Each horse, rider, owner, and situation 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.

GUIDED HORSE TRAIL RIDES **Star B Stables**

Barterbrook Road, Staunton, Va.

Youth, Groups, Families,
Scouts welcome

Reservations: 540/885-8855

THE
HITCHING
POST

A business
directory to
area equine
supplies
and services



VIRGINIA FRAME
Builders & Supply, Inc.

EXPO ROAD, P.O. BOX 56
FISHERSVILLE, VIRGINIA 22939

FARM, COMMERCIAL AND
RESIDENTIAL RELATED BUILDINGS
- SINCE 1975 -

'HORSE BARNS A SPECIALTY'

PRESSURE TREATED LUMBER
POSTS AND POLES

TREATED WOOD AND WIRE
FENCING MATERIALS

YELLOW PINE AND SPRUCE
FRAMING LUMBER

PEACHTREE WINDOWS
AND DOORS

540-337-4369 540-942-5279
1-800-942-5279

ONCE UPON
A TIME

DOWNTOWN
STAUNTON

Kroger

In Waynesboro

Books-A-Million

Colonial Staunton Mall

Kroger

in the Statler
Square Shopping Center

Young ^{TRUE} ^{VALUE}
Hardware

on Central Avenue in Staunton

**Augusta
Cooperative
Farm Bureau**

Staunton, Weyers Cave

Augusta Country is for sale on newsstands at...

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*!

Who Am I? I was a famous television horse. My rider was one of America's most famous motion-picture cowboys. He started making movies in 1910. One of his motion pictures was *Riders of the Purple Sage*. Who was my rider and what is my name?

The answer to last month's Horses in History question is the famous Pony Express. The Pony Express carried United States mail from April 3, 1860 until Oct. 24, 1861. The route took approximately eight to nine days to ride and was 1,960 miles long. The Pony Express route was 12 to 14 days shorter than the regular route used by stage coaches. One six-day record was recorded in November 1860 which carried the news of Abraham Lincoln's election.

There were 190 stations, 400 station keepers and assistants, 400 horses, and 80 riders. Riders rode at top speed from one station to the next. The keeper brought out a fresh saddled horse and the rider would dismount, grab the mail bags, switch horses and be off in

only two minutes' time.

Each rider rode approximately 75 miles. If the next rider was unable to ride the first kept going. Each station was approximately 10 to 15 miles apart. Riders usually only carried two revolvers and a knife and often defended themselves against attacks from Indians and bandits. The mail pouches they carried never weighed more than 20 pounds.

The Pony Express was short lived, but famous for its high paid riders, sometimes earning as much as \$150 a month. With the telegraph connecting the east coast to the west coast, the Pony Express was no longer needed as a fast method of postal service. The Pony Express is remembered for its famous Horses in History. ---



PUBLISHED BY:
I.B. HOOFINIT CO.
NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH YOUR LOCAL
TACK SHOP OR BOOK STORE.

Don't delay.
Renew today.
See page 2 for details.

•FFA

Continued from page 15

Hyden, Travis Knicley, Steve Marshall, Wes Marshall, Josh Shoemaker, Danielle Tourje, Erin Wiseman, Jason Roller, Daniel Lauro, Ashlie Karicofe, J.T. Begoon, and Mary Hylton; Riverheads — Chapman Williams, Andrew Glenn, David Archart and Neal Buchanan; Wilson — Adam Ellinger, Danny Sheets and Chris Shifflett.

Other local FFA members participating at the state convention included the following individuals and teams:

Buffalo Gap

Meats Judging team: placed fourth in the state — Rosalea Riley, second overall in state; Tina Wilson, Amanda Coyner, and Matt Hickey

Livestock Judging team: placed sixth in state — Emily Curry, -- 11th overall in state; Jason Archart,

Thomas Lail, and Jeff Hewitt

Dairy showmanship — Scott Talley, placed third in the state; Colt Lyle, Hockaday Jones

Dairy judging — Jenny Keith, Mandy Robinson, Jeremy Nance, and James Ramsey

Talent Contest — Danielle Gayhart

Fort Defiance

Junior Public Speaking — Wendy Slusher, second; Ag Sales, state winner — Wendy Slusher,

Lee Roadcap (4th), Erin Houff, Jenny Driver (3rd); Ag Marketing,

state winner — Val Floyd, Kenny Hyden, Danielle Tourje; Jr. Mechanics, state winner — Matt

Arey (9th), Chris Houff (3rd), John Shirkey (4th); Dairy, 3rd place Jr. team — Tommy Tourje (6th), Eric

Sauley (7th), Aaron Tamie, Adam Hostletter, (5th); Dairy Showmanship — Eric Bailey; Livestock, 8th

place team — Robbie Hinckle (8th),

Byron Phillips, R.W. Scott, Tyler Wilson; Horse, state winner — Val Floyd, Lindsey Cline (10th), Lee Roadcap (6th) Amy Dove (2nd).

Riverheads

Livestock judging, 4th place team — Amanda Hemp, Carrie Heizer, Neal Buchanan (5th), Jonathan Coleman; Dairy judging 13th place team — Stephanie Branch, Philip Myrtle, Carrie Brown, Franklin Dull; Dairy Showmanship — Justin Fravel (2nd), Todd Jarvis, James Shippe, Angela Hinton; Crops judging, 8th place team — Jason McIlwee, Aaron Root, Andrew Glenn, Colby Irvine.

Chapter awards presented to Buffalo Gap included public relations and a superior overall rating. Chapter awards presented to Riverheads included a superior chapter award, silver public relations award and 100 percent membership award. —

New Hope FCE learns about arranging dried flowers

NEW HOPE — The New Hope FCE Club (Family Community Educators) held its June meeting at New Hope United Methodist Church with a program by Pat Ewers on dried flower arranging.

Ms. Ewers grows and dries most of her flowers which is less expensive than buying already dried ones. She explained about different methods of drying, varieties of flowers to dry, equipment and tools needed to get started in drying and arranging flowers. One can use almost anything to make an arrangement including wreaths and containers like vases, tins, crocks, baskets — just use your imagination. Ms. Ewers had many dried arrangements on display for members to enjoy.

The study of the month was St. Francis Catholic Church on Au-

gusta Street in Staunton. This church was established in 1850 and is of Irish ancestry. The present church was completed in 1897 and has a membership of 500 families. St. Francis operates a school (Guardian Angel) for grades K through high school.

Members were reminded about the meal to be served at the Extension Office. This will be a fund raiser for the club.

Also held in June was the club's Cultural Arts contest with the following winners. Items marked "state" will go to the State FCE Conference in September at the 4-H Center at Smith Mountain Lake.

Knitting, Christmas stocking, — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Crochet, Christmas stocking — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Soft Sculpture, Raggedy Anne, doll — Helen

Stogdale, first, state; Smocking, girl's dress — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Clothing Children, girl's jumper — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Clothing Adult, dress/jacket — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Crafty Creatures, stuffed elephant — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Crafty Creatures, angel — Linda Howdyshehl, second; Christmas Craft, Santa — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Christmas Craft, angel — Judy Grove, second; Christmas Craft, tin — Wilhelmina Gaddy, third; Jewelry, angel pin — Judy Grove, first; Wreath, Christmas — Helen Stogdale, first, state; Applique, T-shirt — Helen Stogdale, first, state.

A covered dish luncheon was enjoyed by members before adjourning. Anyone interest in joining FCE may call 363-5932. —

ADDRESS CHANGE?

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

Thank you

42nd annual Middlebrook
Ruritan Horse Show
Middlebrook Community Grounds

Saturday, Aug. 7 -- Afternoon classes begin at noon,
Evening classes begin at 6 p.m.

Barbecue chicken dinner



Planters Bank

YOUR FINANCIAL PARTNER FOR THE FUTURE.

MEMBER FDIC

Country Crossroads

Reflecting pool reflections

June 1999

Dear LuLu,

Everyone enjoyed your letter with the news of what is happening there in our nation's capital. It is always fun for us to hear about all the things you do. All that heat and humidity and streets of tourists don't seem to daunt you at all!

We especially enjoyed hearing about your adventures on the day of your friend's surprise birthday party for her husband. It had to be exciting to go to the National Press Club — it sounds like such an attractive place.

It was no surprise that you had to go shopping before the party — I really think that you will do anything for the excuse of buying a couple of nice outfits! Knowing you as well as I do, however, I find it hard to believe that you actually intentionally went to work in a skirt in which the elastic was completely gone. It is a shame that you went into such a panic and cut into the waistband to tighten everything up, for the elastic could have been replaced. The skirt sounds so pretty, why don't you bring it home and I will give it new life? But your assault on un-cooperative elastic and the unsatisfactory results certainly gave you a very legitimate excuse to go shopping. (You must have gotten your shopping habits from your mother. She

went out just last week and came back with two pairs of shoes, three blouses, some skirts and shorts and one Sunday dress. All in one day! She said she needed a pair of sandals. That's what started it all.)

Back to your shopping spree, however — what I could never have done (thinking of those bills that arrive every month) is buy two complete outfits, just in case the weather happened to change and there was rain during the afternoon. What would you have done if it suddenly had turned cool? Dash back out into the nearest shop and buy a silk suit and blouse as well? I know that those summer sales are tempting, but, really, LuLu, you should be more careful about your money.

It sounds as if the party at the Press Club was a lot of fun and the food very nice. However, you know, Washington is not the only place in the world where parties are held. We spoke of you often just recently here in Middlebrook at a birthday party for Miss Jimmie. She has just turned 90 and there was a nice big party in the neighborhood to celebrate. She looked so pretty, and certainly not as if she could be the age she was claiming to be. (Just think, if you or I manage to live to be such an active and happy 90-year-old, what a wonderful time we can have! Think of all the gardens

I can plant, and more especially, how many more outfits you can buy!)

Those fancy cheese trays and fresh vegetables at the Press Club party could not have been nearly as delicious and beautiful as all the food brought by the guests at this party. We had wonderful smoked salmon spread, sent by one of her friends, all beautifully decorated with capers and dill, cream puffs filled with shrimp salad and more filled with cucumber spread. There were cookies and zucchini bread and cakes and Maids of Honor. You would have added back a few of those pounds you lost while running about from store to store if you had been here with us.

All of us here at home are as excited as you are about the upcoming August Congressional recess. If there are no sessions of Congress and the members are all away on vacation, then they can't pass any of those crazy bills you keep telling us about and which you have to keep up with. So spend your time cleaning up your desk, instead of wandering through all of those sale racks, as we all look forward to having you with us for a nice long visit. We might even surprise you with a party!

Love, Maude



By Roberta Hamlin

Middlebrook's Jimmie Webb celebrates 90 years

By NANCY SORRELLS

MIDDLEBROOK—Jimmie Webb was waist-deep in mud in the middle of cleaning out the spring when representatives from the Staunton-Augusta Chamber of Commerce pulled up in their automobiles to inform her that she had been named Mother of the Year in 1961.

Those who know Elizabeth "Jimmie" Webb would not be surprised to hear the above story. After all, the Jimmie Webb they

know celebrated her 90th birthday on July 13 by getting her driver's license renewed and then driving some friends to a church dinner. Later in the week this matriarch of the Middlebrook community, who still lives alone and operates a small sheep farm, was honored at a garden party crowded with many of the 48 members of her immediate family as well as friends from church and the community.

The story of how a New Jersey city girl came to the South, raised a

family and ran a farm is a testament to the spirit and personality of Jimmie. Not only has she succeeded with style and grace, but she has plowed new ground for women by doing and accomplishing things women weren't supposed to be doing.

She was born in 1909 in Bayone, N.J., a community just outside of New York City. Growing up, she was surrounded by an extended family whose members schooled her in some of life's most valuable lessons

and showed her what intelligence and ingenuity could do for women.

"It's all very interesting for you to know who you are and where

you came from, but it's what you do with your own life that counts," one grandmother would tell her. Jimmie also watched an aunt become one of the first five women to own her own business in New York City. From her she learned how to be a pioneer by doing what needed to be done in whatever situation was thrust upon her. And from her own mother, Jimmie learned never to brag about what successes came in life.

The independent-minded Jimmie, who earned that nickname from playmates who thought Elizabeth was too feminine a name for their tomboy friend, graduated early from high school at 16. True to her character, when it came time to choose a college she picked a place far away where she could be her own person. That school happened to be Madison Teachers College in Harrisonburg.

At her birthday party, Jimmie's eyes twinkled as she explained how that strong-minded choice of schools set into action a chain of events that changed the course of her life. "My roommate was John Sproul's sister, Katherine. That first Thanksgiving it was too far for me to go home, so I came down to Middlebrook to her house. There I met John Sproul and my fate was sealed. Ten years later I married him!"

In between the meeting and the wedding, was graduating from college with straight As, a school teaching job in northern Virginia, work for an advertising agency in New York City, and graduate work. But the romance with John

Sproul continued unabated and on March 27, 1937 he came north to New Jersey and married his Yankee sweetheart.

With that, Jimmie went from wearing a hat and gloves to work everyday as she commuted to work on the subway, to farm life in the country. "I spent summers in the country when I was growing up, so I wasn't completely ignorant about the farm," Jimmie said of those early years.

Soon she was the business manager of Briar-moor Farm and helped her husband prepare agricultural lessons for World War II veterans returning home. The Sprouls had six children, five girls and a boy, who pitched in on the farm. The oldest two girls were in college and the youngest girl was in first grade in 1959 when tragedy struck. John Sproul died, leaving Jimmie with six children to raise and educate and a farm to run.

"There was a lot I didn't know, but because of John teaching agriculture, I knew where to ask the right questions and I wasn't afraid to ask," Jimmie recalled of taking over the farm. "I wanted to stay on the farm because the children needed the stability," she recalled. So she relied on her inner strength and the help of Herman and Helen Benson who helped



Jimmie Webb prepares to blow out the candles on her birthday cake during a party held recently in her honor. Photo by Nancy Sorrells

her run the farm and household for more than 30 years.

Most people would have thrown up their hands in despair at the prospect of being a widow with six children and attempting to run the family farm in the 60s, a time when farming was difficult no matter who you were. To Jimmie, however, this new direction in life was something to face with determination.

See JIMMIE, page 19



Jimmie Webb at her home near Middlebrook with lambs from her flock of sheep.

Photo courtesy Elizabeth Ross

Tomato variety becomes treasured family heirloom

By NANCY SORRELLS

MINT SPRING—Family traditions come in a lot of shapes and sizes. For Robert Funk and his family, one tradition comes in the shape of a pale, yellow tomato.

The low-acid, thin-skinned yellow tomato which gets as big as a softball has been grown in Funk family gardens for generations. The roots of this particular garden fruit and of the Funk family go back to the Rockingham County community of Singers Glen.

"Some call it a German tomato, but I call the tomato 'Liz,'" explained Robert Funk. "I named it for my aunt, Elizabeth Gray, who was born and raised and still lives in Singers Glen. She's the one who gave me the seeds."

"When I was a kid, that tomato was one of our favorite tomatoes," he recalls of the family tradition. About 10 years ago, Aunt Liz brought one of the tomatoes to a family picnic and her nephew took the seeds home and started them for his garden the following year. A decade later, Funk has a mini-tomato factory going. Every year he starts the seeds for 'Liz' as well as a num-

ber of other tomato varieties and other garden plants inside his house on top of the refrigerator. Once the shoots break the dirt's surface, he

moves them to his greenhouse and then eventually to his garden and gardens of his friends and family.

"I usually plant 500 tomato

plants, but I give most of them away. In my own garden I plant 23 or 24 plants, but only five of them are yellow tomatoes," he said.

How long this particular tomato has been in the Funk family and the community of Singers Glen is anybody's guess. "I have no idea," said Liz Gray, the woman for whom the tomato has been named. "It was something we always raised at home and we saved the seed every year. Sometimes the seeds would be passed around. I am sure it has been passed down a couple of generations," said the 77-year-old matriarch whose great-grandfather, Joseph Funk, founded the community.

Liz added that the yellow tomato was best straight out of the garden. "I like the taste of them and they are low in acid. I don't can them by themselves, but I like to can them with red and orange tomatoes," she explained.

"It has always been just a good tomato and it has never failed yet," she said. Regarding the matter of her nephew naming the tomato for her, she just laughed. "I think that's an honor," she said.

As for Robert, he says that the tomato, like anything else over the

generations has evolved. "On the bottom there is now a slow red blush that sometimes goes up through the center. When sliced, some of the tomatoes are all yellow and some have that red blush through the middle. "I am sure that tomato has evolved. It's an heirloom and has just been handed down," he said. Another quality of 'Liz' that sets it apart from other tomato plants in the garden is its very fine leaves.

Every year, Robert chooses one tomato from which the tradition of 'Liz' will be carried on to another season's garden. But long before thoughts turn toward preparations for next year's harvest, the Funk family enjoys the fresh bounty from this year's garden. According to Robert, the best way to enjoy the fresh yellow tomatoes he picks are as tasty tomato sandwiches. Nothing beats a juicy section of the tomato on a fresh slice of his wife Janice's homemade bread, he says.

"Oh gosh yes. Tomatoes are my favorite thing fresh out of the garden," he says with a twinkle in his eye. For the Funks of Singer's Glen and Augusta County that has been the case for as long as anyone can remember. —



Liz Gray of Singers Glen shows tomatoes she picked from vines in her garden. This particular variety of tomato has become a family heirloom, the seeds having been passed down through the family from one generation to the next.

Photo by Nancy Sorrells

Hot walk is worth it for the sight of some asters

By MARK GATEWOOD

It's 10 a.m., 92 degrees in the shade, and The Dog and I are walking up the side of North Mountain. We're on a forest service road that I like to walk during the growing season for its variety of native plants. Even in this heat the trip makes perfect sense; I've got to see how the whorled wood asters are doing.

Whorled wood aster isn't much on looks. It's a stubby little thing with jagged leaves and an off-white flower that looks like someone started playing, "She loves me, she loves me not" with and then gave up. It won't even be in bloom yet; like most asters, it will bloom late in the summer and into the fall. It's not beauty, then, but two other attributes that make me want to check in with *A. acuminatus*. First, in our area, it's only found at higher elevations, usually above 2,500 feet. Second, it's one of the few aster species which is distinctive enough in appearance to let you identify it without question.

The aster family, some 21,000 species strong worldwide, has



come to represent Everyman's Everyflower. Sometime in adulthood, we may learn that many of our favorite flowers belong to this family: daisies, asters, mums, black-eyed susans, sunflowers. But when we're just starting out in this world, the first flower we draw as children is a typical aster family flower: just a circle with finger-like things radiating from its edge.

The simplicity of the child's drawing, though, can help us understand the complexity of the aster plan. Pick a daisy or a sunflower. Carefully pull one of the "petals" from the edge of the circle. You'll notice that the end where it attached to the circle tapers to a tube. Looking closer, you can see

stamens protruding from the tube. This "petal" is one complete flower — a ray flower, in aster terminology. Now, using a knife or tweezers, attack the circular part, called the disc, and separate out one of the smallest structural units. It's another tube with protruding stamens, one of probably hundreds of tiny individual flowers that make up the yellow "eye" of the daisy. This is a disc flower. What we see as "a flower" is actually a composite of many disc flowers surrounded by a few ray flowers.

If your plant books are a few years old, you may not find mention of "the aster family," until recently, it was called the composite family because of this composite flower structure. It's a mere formality which won't hurt the usefulness of older field guides.

Last year about this time, I urged you to get out and enjoy our native goldenrods. Now I'm saying the same for asters, that is, the genus *Aster*. The northeastern United

States claims some 60 species and, like the goldenrods, they can be difficult to sort out. The popular field guides will often leave you scratching your head, but if you take some time with it, you'll be amazed to find so much diversity among a group of plants. Asters bloom in woods, fields and roadsides from late summer through the first couple of killing frosts. Many are white — that is, the ray flowers are white — but most display a range of blues from light blue through deep blue to purple.

Our best local aster observatory is the Forest Service wetland at Augusta Springs. The boardwalk and trails give access to asters in wet meadow and upland forest habitats. The Shenandoah Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society did a plant inventory there in 1996 and logged eight species of asters. The species there are fairly easy to distinguish and the selection makes a good introduction to our local asters.

There's one other aster that I

should point out to you. It's distinctive in appearance but it's also attractive and fairly easy to get to. It's stiff aster, so called for its narrow, stiff pine needle-like leaves. In fact, it looks like a Virginia pine seedling with a deep blue aster flower on top. Stiff aster is pretty cosmopolitan; I've found it on the lower end of the Brown's Gap fire road in Shenandoah National Park and on the Shenandoah Mountain trail south of the Confederate Breastworks. It's worth a walk on a nice September day.

Oh, and the whorled wood aster? We found them in numbers, not in bloom yet, in a cool — relatively — and damp — again, relatively — ravine at about 2,800 feet. By that time, The Dog was more interested in the few remaining pools of water in the creek. When I tried to make a few notes, the sweat on my hands just matted the pages of my notebook. We called it quits and descended. See you in September, asters. —

•Jimmie

Continued from page 18

"If something's a challenge, then it's a challenge and you do what you can to get it done," said Jimmie of those times and of life in general. And, despite the fact that she ran the farm and the household, she never lost her femininity despite the boyish moniker. She almost invariably wore skirts (and still does) when going about her farmwork and can deliver a lamb, rewire a household appliance, give a sick animal an injection, cook wonderful meals, or entertain a la-

dies group at tea all with equal ease. Briamoor Farm commands a mile-long view of Middlebrook Road and when Jimmie saw visitors on the way, she had just enough time to change from her barn dress to a fresh dress and be ready to greet people.

She was simultaneously a member of the Tuesday Club and Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Cattleman's Club — the latter of which she was the first female member. She still chuckles about the first cattle association dinner meeting she attended. "I was the only woman member and I took my

daughter to the meeting," she said. "The men said afterward they cleaned up the jokes just for us!"

She blazed other trails for women as well, but not because she wanted to be a pioneer. Rather, these were things that needed to be done. She was the first woman elder at Bethel Presbyterian Church, and she took over her husband's seat on the hospital board after his death. She also served on the board at the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace.

In the course of those years, she

See YEARS, page 20

Evers Family Restaurant

RL 11 North, Mt. Crawford 433-0993

Serving lunch Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

2 entrees, hot vegetables, salad bar & dessert...\$4.99

Beverage - 85 cents extra

Serving dinner Monday through Thursday, 4 - 8 p.m.

3 entrees, hot vegetables, salad bar & dessert...\$6.99

Beverage - 85 cents extra

Closed Labor Day

Hours: Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.;

Sun., 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Tea steeped with talents of British actresses

Before you go see *Tea with Mussolini*, it is important to know that it has a happy ending. Movies with Nazis, fascists, and tanks usually don't, but this one does, so you can relax and enjoy it.

Tea with Mussolini is purported to be a pseudo-autobiography, a slice of director and co-writer Franco Zeffirelli's life in 1930s Florence. Luca, the character based on Zeffirelli, is a deadbeat Italian clothing manufacturer's illegitimate son. The boy's mother is dead and the father hires Mary, a British expatriate, to care for his son and school him in English. Played by Joan Plowright, Mary pulls the boy into her circle of friends, all British matrons of a certain age who tutor the boy in manners and art and give him the love he craves.

Nicknamed the "Scorpion," these eccentric expatriates carry on a collective love affair with Florence

yet doggedly cling to all things British. Led by Lady Hester Randdom (Maggie Smith) — the widow of the former British Ambassador and fundamental snob — the group includes Mary, Arabella (Judi Dench), Georgie (Lily Tomlin), an archeologist and Elsa Morgenthal (Cher), a garish wealthy American who collects art and husbands. As the movie opens, life is comfortable for the Scorpion but there are clouds on the horizon. Brown shirts terrorize the streets and target Brits in particular.

A distraught Lady Hester, at one point, dashes off to Rome where she has tea with Mussolini. He assures her that the Italians and British are friends and that he will guarantee her safety. The political winds change, however, as Italy and Britain move closer to war. Luca's father ships him off to Austria where

he can learn to be a good German. He reappears later, but not before Italy and England are on the brink of war. When "the hand that held the dagger" finally plunges it into the back of England, the English women who remain in Italy are interned in the mountain-top City of a Hundred Towers.

Luca, by this time grown into a young man, comes to his old friends' aid in his own fashion. So does Elsa Morgenthal who anonymously uses her vast wealth to pay for the women to live in a hotel rather than a barracks. Having never been fond of Elsa, Lady Hester of course blithely maintains that Mussolini is simply keeping the promise he made at tea. Elsa, a Jew, has sadly married the wrong man and needs a little protection of her own. If this is getting hard to follow it's because *Tea with Mussolini*

has more subplots than plot, more anecdote than drama. But it works. An outstanding cast manages to conceal the film's weaknesses.

Maggie Smith, Joan Plowright and Judi Dench deliver top notch performances — although Dench doesn't seem to have enough to do. You would think the three British divas would chew up a lightweight like Cher. But she is perfectly cast in this role. A nomination for best supporting actress wouldn't be a surprise. Lily Tomlin is fun too, but she is really just a background character, as are Charles Lucas and Baird Wallace who play Luca as a boy and teenager. Oddly enough, the Zeffirelli character serves as a lens for the story rather than its reflection.

Tea for Mussolini is not for everyone. It is a bit too long; patience is a must. If you are willing not to



demand too much from the movie, just enjoy what it is and ignore what it isn't, then do come to Tea.

Hannah's mom gives *Tea for Mussolini* 3 bananas. The film is rated PG, for thematic elements, mild violence, some language and implied nudity. ---

•Years

Continued from page 19

has led a family that now numbers nearly 50, counting the 17 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. For that bunch and for the larger Middlebrook community she is truly the matriarch.

"We still refer to her for advice. We call her for advice and she always has the answer," said Jimmie's second daughter Lucy Carlson.

"She just has drive like nobody ever had drive," says John Sproul, Jimmie's son. "She always has the energy to tackle anything that came her way," he said. After saying that, he then thought for a moment and added: "Maybe instead of drive, you should say push. She sent six kids through college. She still gets up at 5:30 in the morning, and she's the only person I know who you can call at 6:15 in the morning and the phone is busy. Every Saturday morning I go to her

house and she makes me sourdough pancakes from starter that's been passed down in the family for at least 50 years."

At 90, declare her children, Jimmie is rolling along with the vigor of someone at least 10 years younger. When she was 70 she married Ted Webb. The couple enjoyed three years of happiness before he died and Jimmie was widowed again. Since then, she has lived alone on her farm, keeping a small flock of sheep, a dog, multiple cats and a llama named Max.

Although she doctors and delivers sheep on her own, her son John pops in to provide help when necessary. "I remember in the '93 blizzard that Mom called me about helping to feed the sheep. I told her that I couldn't get there but that the sheep would be all right for a while because they were in the barn. Of course, she didn't listen to me. The snow was drifted to the tops of the fences so she laid boards over the fences and

climbed over on her hands and knees to feed the sheep," John said with a shake of his head.

Jimmie was only 83 then! She has perhaps slowed down a half step, but "she can still outwalk us at the mall and outshop us too," says Virginia Downing, her youngest child. "She is also a wonderful story teller. She loves telling stories about dating and about driving when she was younger. In order to drive, you almost had to take the car apart and put it back together again, which she did," added Virginia. All of the children noted that their mother not only outwalks and outshops them but that she outrides them in the car. She is known to be a very good driver with a wee bit of a lead foot.

Jimmie has never allowed herself the time to feel old. A recent operation stopped her for a few days, but a week and a half later she took a trip to North Carolina to see her daughter Elizabeth Ross' art show. "The doctors gave her Tylenol for

pain after the operation," said John, "but she wouldn't take it because she said it was too strong!"

In every way the Middlebrook party was a celebration of Jimmie's life and love. "She gave us a wonderful childhood," said Elizabeth who gave each of her siblings a "birthday present" at Jimmie's party. The gift was a photo of their mother at the barn with her sheep and dog. The picture shows the strength and character of the woman they love.

Jimmie's daughter Linda Brown was unable to make the party because she is in Kiev on missionary work. Instead she used the internet to send some thoughts about her mother. "How does one describe in a sentence or two a lifetime of love, faithfulness, generosity, resilience, and so much more? Perhaps the quality which stands out in my mind is my mother's ability to look forward with hope, even when life brought hard times. Her

life has been a demonstration of trusting that God holds the future in His hands. Mother has been our encyclopedia of information on everything from world geography, genealogy and historical insight, to recent world events. There is seldom a place or an event that she can't describe. We have been blessed to have such a wonderful mom."

When asked about her accomplishments in life, Jimmie shrugs her shoulders, bows her head a little and downplays it all. "One nice thing about being 90 is that I have gone through so many marvelous changes in living. But, really, I think life hasn't changed all that much," she said.

What keeps her rolling along after nine decades? In her own words, it's what she has done best all along: taking care of family, friends and beasts on the farm. "What keeps me going? It's the sheep saying baaaaa, I'm hungry. When you have something depending on you, then you know you'll get there and get it done." ---

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.

Aug. 10, 1882 — Sandusky, Ohio, noted a four-minute snow squall during the

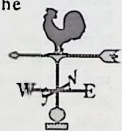
morning, frost was reported in the suburbs of Chicago, and a killing frost was reported at Cresco, Iowa. Aug. 21, 1983 — The temperature at Fayetteville, N.C., soared to 110 degrees to establish a state record. Aug. 27, 1964 — Hurricane Cleo battered Miami and the South Florida area. It was the first direct hit for Miami in 14 years. Winds gusted to

135 mph, and the hurricane caused \$125 million damage.

Sept. 4, 1986 — An unusually strong dust devil moved across the Flagstaff Pulliam Airport.

The dust devil blew open the doors of the National Weather Service office scattering papers and bringing down a ceiling-mounted light fixture. Sept. 15-17, 1965 — A storm produced a band of heavy snow across parts of Wyoming. Totals of 23 inches at Rawlins and 20.7 inches at Lander easily surpassed previous snowfall record totals for so early in the season.

Sept. 27, 1816 — A black frost over most of New England kills unripened corn in the north resulting in a year of famine. —



Augusta Country

Subscribe now! ONLY \$16
Saves you 25% off the retail price!

Name _____
Rt. or St. no. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

To subscribe mail this form along with your \$16 personal check to Augusta Country, P.O. Box 51, Middlebrook, Va. 24459.