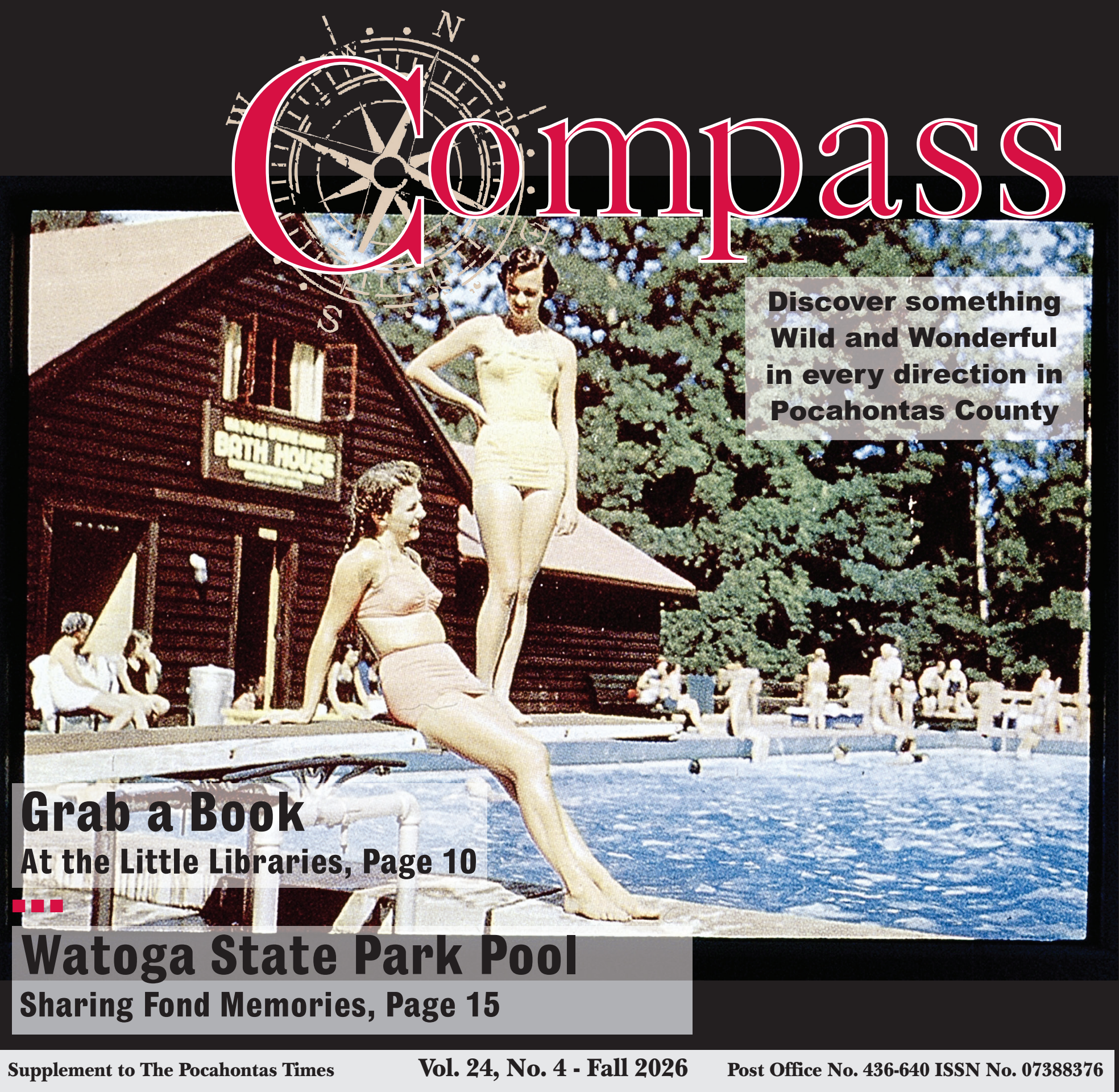




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At the Little Libraries, Page 10

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It's happening at the Opera House

Ryan Krofchek
Contributing Writer

Mystery, mayhem and a missing bride ~ 'Catch Me If You Can'

Things are rarely what they seem in the Pocahontas County Drama Workshop's fall production of "Catch Me If You Can," coming to the Pocahontas County Opera House September 11-13.

The mystery-comedy begins when Daniel Corban, a Michigan advertising executive honeymooning at a secluded mountain lodge, contacts police after his new wife suddenly disappears. Before investigators can make sense of the situation, a young woman arrives claiming to be the missing Elizabeth Corban. There is just one problem: Daniel insists he has never seen her before.

When a priest confirms the young woman's identity and supports her story, Daniel suddenly finds himself under suspicion. Inspector Levine must sort through contradictory claims, shifting alliances and an increasingly



Hammons Family Fiddle and Banjo Contest

strange collection of characters to determine whether a crime has actually occurred.

Robert Thomas' play mixes suspense, dark comedy and plenty of deception, keeping audiences guessing as Daniel struggles to prove that some-

thing is very wrong.

Nathan Dameron leads the cast as Daniel Corban, with Chris Curry as Inspector Levine and Joe Miller as Father Kelleher. Rachel Fanning plays Elizabeth Corban, Ashley Rit-

ter makes her Drama Workshop debut as Mrs. Parker, and James Spanglet appears as Sidney. The production is directed by Jeff Marcum.

The Pocahontas County Drama Workshop has long provided local actors, directors and volunteers an opportunity to bring community theater to the Opera House stage.

This fall's production continues that tradition with a story full of mistaken identities, accusations and enough twists to make trusting anyone a questionable decision.

Hammons Family Fiddle & Banjo Contest ~ September 25-26

Marlinton will once again fill with fiddles, banjos and traditional music when the fifth annual Hammons Family Fiddle & Banjo Contest + World Class Jam returns September 25 and 26.

Named in honor of the Hammons family of Pocahontas County, the event celebrates the family's lasting influence on Appalachian fiddle tunes,

banjo music, ballads and storytelling while keeping those traditions alive through today's musicians.

The weekend begins Friday, September 25, at 7 p.m. with a square dance at the Pocahontas County Opera House featuring Juanita Fireball & the Clifftop Pickers. No previous square-dancing experience is necessary.

On Saturday, the music spreads well beyond a single stage. The World Class Jam fills downtown Marlinton as musicians gather in local businesses and restaurants, under tents, along sidewalks and out on the street. Local players, visiting musicians and featured performers can sit down together, trade tunes and join jams throughout the day.

This year's special performances bring together some of the region's most

accomplished and nationally recognized bluegrass and old-time musicians, including Becky Buller and Ned Luberecki, the Bing Brothers featuring Jake Krack, the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys, Tessa McCoy and The State Birds, The Hunter Berry Band, Kanawha Tradition, Mudhole Control and The Kessinger Brothers.

The contest has also expanded this year, with the fiddle competition divided into traditional and bluegrass divisions for both adults and youth. Banjo players will compete in traditional and bluegrass divisions as well. First-place winners receive \$500, second place receives \$200 and third place receives \$100, with ribbons also awarded.

Hammons weekend takes place in conjunction

See **HOUSE**, page 5

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Cover: The Watoga swimming pool with the bathhouse that was completed after World War II. Note the swimsuit styles of the day. Photo courtesy of Preserving Pocahontas

We know where the bodies are buried!



Pocahontas County Genealogy Group has Cemetery Books for sale documenting more than 155 cemeteries:

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Books are priced from \$12 to \$20 each, plus tax.

Add \$5 for shipping.

Available at The Pocahontas Times
office, or by contacting Jan Orndorff
(rjorndorff@htcnet.org).



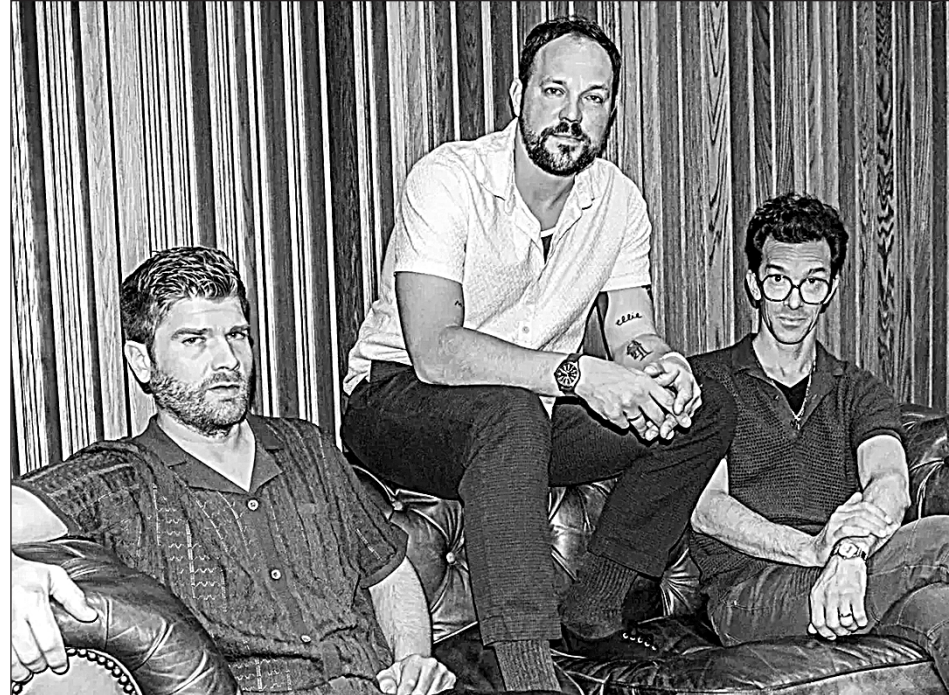
Kelton Boblits

HOUSE from pg 4

with the West Virginia RoadKill Cook-Off and Autumn Harvest Festival, bringing food, vendors, crafts and other activities to downtown Marlinton throughout Saturday.

More than a competi-

tion, the Hammons Family Fiddle & Banjo Contest + World Class Jam is a chance to hear some remarkable musicians while also becoming part of the music. Some of the weekend's best moments may happen away from a microphone, when someone



Pressing Strings

pulls up a chair, joins a tune and becomes part of the jam.

The event is presented with support from Pocahontas County Dramas, Fairs and Festivals and the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Hammons Family Fiddle & Banjo Contest + World Class Jam takes place Friday, September 25, and Saturday, September 26, in downtown Mar-

linton. Admission to the Hammons festival is free.

Kelton Boblits brings ragtime, blues and early jazz ~ October 10

The piano takes center stage at the Pocahontas County Opera House Saturday, October 10, when pianist Kelton Boblits returns to Marlinton for an evening of ragtime, blues, boogie-woogie, stride piano and early jazz.

Boblits takes a wide-ranging approach to the keyboard, drawing from

the rich sounds of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While ragtime provides part of the foundation, his program reaches beyond it into the rolling rhythms of stride, the grit and feeling of blues, the driving pulse of boogie-woogie and the swing of early jazz standards.

It was an era when a skilled pianist could essentially become an entire band. Bass, rhythm, melody and harmony all came from the same set of keys, and performers de-

veloped styles capable of filling dance halls and theaters without much help from anyone else.

That versatility is still part of the appeal.

**Pressing Strings
soulful roots rock ~
October 24**

Some bands settle comfortably into a genre. Pressing Strings seems happier moving between them.

The Annapolis, Maryland, trio comes to the Pocahontas County Opera House Saturday, October 24, bringing a soulful blend of roots, rock, blues and folk built around strong songwriting and an easy sense of groove.

Led by guitarist and vocalist Jordan Sokel, Pressing Strings also features drummer Justin Kruger and bassist Nick Welker. All three contribute vocals, giving the trio a full sound capable of moving from reflective ballads into energetic rock without losing sight of the song at the center of it.

Local music fans may already have caught the band this summer. Pressing Strings was part of the 2026 4848 Festival lineup at Snowshoe Mountain, putting its October Opera

See **HOUSE**, page 6

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HOUSE from pg 5

House appearance on the heels of a considerably larger festival stage.

The Marlinton setting offers something different. At the Opera House, only a few feet separate much of the audience from the performers. For a band whose music depends as much on songwriting and musicianship as volume, that makes for an especially good fit.

Pressing Strings has built its sound around the emotional grit of blues, the looseness of folk and the energy of modern rock. Rather than choosing among those influences, the band lets them share the same room.

Ouros and Danny Knicely find common ground between musical traditions ~ November 7

The Pocahontas County Opera House will welcome Ouros with Danny Knicely Saturday, November 7, for an evening that reaches from Appalachian roots to Spanish-language song, flamenco, jazz, Latin



Ouros and Danny Knicely

music and beyond.

Ouros brings together bilingual songs, rich vocal harmonies and a musical vocabulary drawn from a wide range of traditions. Spanish-and-English-language music mingles with influences from flamenco, bluegrass, jazz, Latin music and traditional American and European roots.

Joining that conversation is Danny Knicely, a multi-instrumentalist with deep roots in the old-time and bluegrass traditions of Virginia's Shenandoah

Valley. Knicely has spent much of his career using those traditions as a starting point for collaboration, connecting Appalachian music with musicians and sounds from around the world.

Together, the musicians approach tradition as something meant to keep moving. Mandolin, guitar, rhythm, voice and harmony become points of connection between musical cultures that might look far apart on a map but sound remarkably

comfortable sharing a stage.

For Pocahontas County listeners, the concert offers both something familiar and something unexpected. Appalachian roots remain part of the foundation, but the music continually reaches outward, showing how traditions



The Judy Chops

can change and grow when musicians listen to one another.

The Judy Chops brings a little heat to a November night ~ November 21

The chairs will be there, but The Judy Chops may make sitting in them optional.

The Shenandoah Valley band comes to the Poca-

hontas County Opera House Saturday, November 21, bringing a high-energy blend of swing, blues, rock, soul and Americana to the historic Marlinton stage.

The six-piece band has spent more than a decade building a reputation around its live performances. Electric and hollow-body guitars share the

See **HOUSE**, page 7

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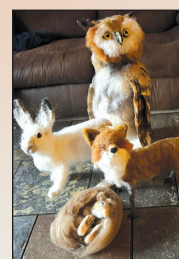
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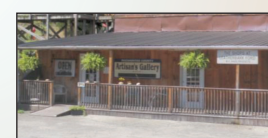
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stage with bass, drums, trumpet and baritone saxophone, giving The Judy Chops a sound that can move from rootsy Americana into something closer to a horn-driven dance band in a matter of measures.

The group grew from a Shenandoah Valley favorite into one of Virginia's established live acts by freely mixing modern and vintage styles. Swing, blues, rock and soul all make appearances, but The Judy Chops seems less interested in sorting those influences into separate boxes than finding out what happens when they all collide on the same stage.

That makes the band particularly well suited to the Opera House. There is plenty for listeners who want to settle in and pay attention to the arrange-

ments and musicianship, but a rhythm section and horn section also make a fairly persuasive argument for getting out of the chair.

Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys – continuing a December tradition ~ December 12

The Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys return to the Pocahontas County Opera House Saturday, December 12, for a December tradition rooted deeply in Pocahontas County music.

Led by Mill Point's Richard Hefner, the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys are widely recognized as one of West Virginia's longest-running bluegrass bands. For generations of local listeners, their music has been part of festivals, dances, radio programs, family gatherings and nights at the Opera House.

The band stays close to the traditional bluegrass sound, built around driving banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, bass and vocal harmonies. It is a style that has endured not because it has remained frozen in place, but because musicians have continued to play it, share it and make it their own.

That connection is especially strong in Pocahontas County. Hefner and the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys have been part of the local musical landscape for decades, making their annual December appearance feel as much like a gathering of neighbors as a concert.

The setting at the Opera House gives that tradition a fitting home. In a room where audiences sit only a few feet from the stage, the evening offers the kind of close-up bluegrass performance that has been part of the building's his-



Richard Hefner of The Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys

tory for generations.

Admission for all shows is \$10, with youth 17 and younger admitted free. Tickets are available online at pocahontasopera.com, at the door the night of the performance or at the 4th Avenue Gallery, operated by the

Pocahontas County Artisans Co-op.

The Pocahontas County Opera House Performance Series is presented with support from Pocahontas County Dramas, Fairs and Festivals and the Pocahontas County Convention and Visitors Bu-

reau. This project is supported with financial assistance from the West Virginia Department of Tourism and the National Endowment for the Arts, with approval from the West Virginia Commission on the Arts.



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'Fall' into adventure in Pocahontas County

Amanda Burns
Contributing Writer

It's hard to believe that fall is fast approaching. As the leaves begin to change, there's no better time to experience everything that Pocahontas County has to offer. Whether you're looking to enjoy colorful scenery, family-friendly activities, or unique local events – fall has truly got it all!

Fall, like every other season in Pocahontas County, is the perfect time to explore the outdoors.

Take a scenic drive across the Highland Scenic Highway, where vibrant fall colors stretch across the mountains. Lace up your hiking boots and explore nearby trails

or spend the afternoon leaf-peeping at breathtaking overlooks.

For more hiking, Watoga State Park, Seneca State Forest, Droop Mountain Battlefield and Beartown State parks all offer a variety of trails.

Late September kicks off with community favorites.

The annual Autumn Harvest and Roadkill Cookoff Festival returns September 26, bringing food, entertainment, local vendors, and plenty of Appalachian tradition to Marlinton.

The following day, September 27, you can enjoy the Cranberry Shindig and Music at Cranberry Mountain Nature Center, celebrating heritage with crafts, music, food, and fun in the heart of the

mountains.

If you love history, you won't want to miss Huntersville Traditions Days October 2 and 3, where you can step back in time through demonstrations, exhibits, and hands-on experiences that showcase the area's rich culture.

The Civil War Reenactment at Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park will take place October 10-12.

A trip to Cass Scenic Railroad offers unforgettable mountain views that are even more spectacular during peak foliage. Families can also make memories at CW's Corn Maze in Cass, where their seasonal activities make for the perfect autumn outing.

As November arrives, Yew Mountain Center in Hillsboro offers opportunities to learn sustainable gardening practices for fall. On November 14, the



Fall Planting Workshop and Forest Farming Planting Workshop invite participants to get their hands dirty while learning new skills.

So, whether you're looking for a weekend getaway or just a fun way to spend an afternoon,

Pocahontas County is full of unforgettable fall experiences. From interesting festivals to out-

doorsy adventures, there's something for everyone to enjoy this season.

For more information on activities and events, visit pocahontascountywv.com

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Photo by Suzanne Stewart

The Seneca Woodlands Women's Club stocks and manages six Little Libraries located throughout the northern part of Pocahontas County. The little library, above, is located at the entrance of the Boyer Campground next to the information kiosk.

Little Libraries have a book for everyone

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Driving through Pocahontas County, it's hard to miss all the barns alongside the road. There are so many that are still in use, as well as those that have seen better days. There are also six little red barns on posts that seem out of place.

Those barns aren't for livestock or storing hay, though. They are for books.

The Little Libraries in the northern part of the county were created by the Seneca Woodlands Women's Club. It all started in 2019 when retired Pocahontas County High School English teacher Lou Burner returned to her home of Cass.

Burner joined the women's club and brought

up the idea of having the little libraries sprinkled around all the small towns in northern Pocahontas.

"It sort of came to me as something in a rural area that people need," Burner said in 2019. "Even though we have a great library system here, wouldn't it be nice to walk downtown or walk down the road a little way with your kids to the little library and teach them about trading books and donating?"

Pocahontas County is truly blessed to have an amazing public library system – with libraries in Durbin, Green Bank, Linwood, Marlinton and Hillsboro – but they can't be open all the time, so the Little Libraries are there for locals and visitors alike who have a need to read.

The Little Libraries

rules are simple. The little red barns are filled with books for all ages and while it is suggested that when you take a book, you leave a book, it's not a requirement.

"They are there for anybody, anywhere, anytime," women's club member Tammy Hively said. "We like for them to put one in and take one, but if they don't have a book to exchange and they see one they've been dying to read, by all means, take it."

The women's club has received donations of books from people who have cleaned out their bookshelves or found some good buys at a yard sale.

They are always checking the libraries to make sure they are stocked for readers.

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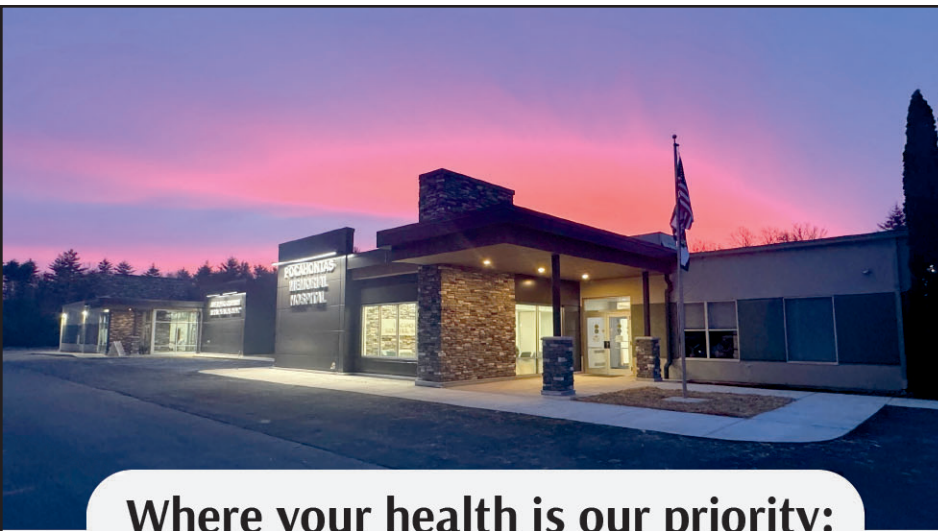
As a retired English teacher, Burner is passionate about supporting reading in people of all ages, but especially in children. Her hope is that the Little Libraries help encourage young readers to return for more free books to increase their literacy.

"The only way we're ever going to change the literacy rate and the educational level of a society is for them to be reading; reading all the time; read-

The six Little Libraries are located at Mt. State Cakes, in Dunmore; on Wesley Chapel Road, in Green Bank; at the Burner Homeplace, in Cass; Rt. 39 Stop, in Huntersville; Boyer Campground, in Boyer; and across from the town office, in Durbin.

Photo by Suzanne Stewart

The newest Little Library is located in Durbin, near the Bicentennial Trout Statue next to the Durbin Greenbrier Valley Railroad tracks.



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Huntersville Traditions Days harkens back to the past ~ October 2-3

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

Pocahontas County is steeped in history. Founded in 1822, while still a part of Virginia, Pocahontas County was a rough and tumble area with mountains on all sides and deep valleys where settlers saw potential.

Huntersville – a trading post for trappers and fur traders – became the county seat and the county flourished out from that center of commerce and government.

The town saw many changes including West Virginia becoming a state and Marlinton becoming the county seat. Despite losing its title as county seat, Huntersville never lost its history.

In 2001, Huntersville Historical Traditions was founded by a group of individuals who focused on restoring and recording the town's history and its buildings.

As a way to share that history and the town itself, the group organized Huntersville Traditions Day, a celebration where demonstrators and volunteers strip down their 21st century exterior and leap headfirst into the 19th



Photo courtesy of Huntersville Traditions Days

Music is a big part of the Huntersville Traditions Days celebration, along with square dancing. Above, Lou Maiuri, far left, of Summersville, calls the square dance while musicians, Jay Lockman, Jesse Milnes, Emily Miller and Paul Marganian provide the music.

century.

HHT opens its buildings – the Huntersville School House and cafeteria, Huntersville Jail and Clerks Office – as well as the local churches to visitors so they can experience history right before their eyes.

At the school, the first floor is still set up as a classroom, with desks, books and a large chalk-

board on the wall. Photos and artifacts are on display, and a volunteer is available to answer questions. In the cafeteria behind the school, quilters will hold an old-fashioned quilting bee among a large display of hand and machine sewn quilts.

Around the school and cafeteria, other crafters set up with their wares as they demonstrate oil painting,

pumpkin carving and more.

Beside the school, a wooden platform is set up for music, square dancing and clogging.

Among the demonstrators is a group of middle and high school students from Cabell County, led by Michael Sheets, formerly of Huntersville. The stu-

See *PAST*, page 13

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A young lady in 19th century dress demonstrates embroidery at the 2025 Huntersville Traditions Days celebration.

PAST from pg 12

dents are pre-Civil War era reenactors that Sheets has taught all about the era.

The boys are dressed as soldiers and farmers, and the girls are dressed as young ladies of the era. The students camp in authentic tents on the lawn of the Huntersville Jail.

This year's celebration will feature all these staples of years past, as well as a few new demonstrators.

"We're going to have some demonstrators over at the jail house this year," HHT president Tim Wade

said. "One of them is from the West Virginia Trappers Association. There's another man who is going to bring bird dogs and show how they train them."

You can't have Huntersville without hunters, so there will also be members of the Coon Hunters Association there as well.

There has also been a schedule change to Friday's events in hopes that more people will come out. The free meal that evening will be served with music by the Bing Brothers and Jake Krack, a well-known local band that

plays old-time and bluegrass music.

Sheets' group of students will be in attendance



Philippe Willis, a Marlinton artist, demonstrates how he tans deer hides next to his display of furs and pen and ink illustrations. Below, the school cafeteria is filled with locally made quilts – both hand sewn and machine made.

and will perform the Virginia Reel at 5 p.m.

After the meal and en-

tertainment, the famous pie auction will commence and those interested bet-

ter bring plenty of cash. The auction always brings in a large sum for the non-profit organization.

Saturday will be the big day of celebration with demonstrations all day long. To take visitors from place to place, there will be a horse drawn wagon, as well as a shuttle wagon with HHT member Floyd Hanna behind the wheel of the tractor.

Come rain or shine, the town of Huntersville will return to the 19th century on October 2 and 3. Visitors are not required to dress in period clothing but are more than welcome to join the demonstrators in the fashions of that era.



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CW's Corn Maze ~ A fall time classic

Suzanne Stewart
Staff Writer

When the wind begins to have a bit of a chill and the leaves start to change, there are many activities that come to mind as summer turns to fall. It's time for pumpkin picking, jumping into piles of leaves and, of course, the classic corn maze.

In its seventh year of operation, CW's Corn Maze in Cass is a fun fall destination for those seeking adventure on a farm. Owned and operated by Charles and Michelle Wilfong, of Dunmore, and named for their son, CW, the corn maze has grown from a suggestion to a fall and farm inspired fair-ground.

It began when Michelle was a teacher at Pocahontas County High School. Her students were talking about how they wanted to go to a corn maze, but the closest one was two or three hours away. Then they remembered their teacher and her husband owned and lived on a farm.

"They said, 'Mrs. Wilfong, you all have a lot of corn, so why don't you do a corn maze?'" she said, laughing. "They helped me with the planning process. CW – he was one year old at the time – so we wanted him to be able to experience a corn maze."

That first year we had the corn maze and a special week of haunted corn maze where Michelle's students helped add the spooky elements.

Through the years, the Wilfongs added more activities to the field, including a jump pad, culvert roll, gravity wagon basket-

ball, farm animal cutouts for selfies, swings, a sand pile, water pump racing for rubber ducks and a barrel train ride.

There is also a concession stand and produce store where visitors can grab a snack and enjoy it in a covered picnic area.

The maze has a different theme each year, and it's up to CW to decide what that theme will be. There have been dinosaurs, sea creatures and farm animals.

"He gets to pick the design every year and this year he wanted an eagle because he's really into eagles," Michelle said.

It was perfect timing for CW to want an eagle because it happens to be America's 250th birthday, so this year, the theme is "America." It includes an

eagle and the American flag.

The Wilfongs work with a friend who takes the design idea and once it is complete, he enters the information into his GPS system and cuts out the design with a zero-turn mower.

"He does it when it's knee high," Michelle said. "We plant the corn with a regular tractor and then he comes in with a zero-turn. The path is about sixty inches wide."

The maze is designed for visitors of all ages, with a smaller and easier path for youngsters and a more elaborate, longer path for adults and more adventurous kiddos.

CW's Corn Maze is open to individuals, families, school field trips and bus tours.



Photos courtesy of CW's Corn Maze

The theme for the 2026 CW's Corn Maze is America 250, with a large eagle and American flag design, as shown above.

CW's Corn Maze owners Michelle and Charles Wilfong and their son, CW, at the corn maze fall-themed "Love" sculpture made with hay, corn stalks and a pumpkin stand.

For more information 304-456-4642 or email on buying tickets and setting up a field trip, call wilfongfarms@yahoo.com



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Last one in is a rotten egg

Why people still speak wistfully about the Watoga State Park swimming pool

Ken Springer
Contributing Writer

Watoga State Park is the largest park in West Virginia, but that distinction alone doesn't capture all of the wonderful things harbored in this unique, beautiful park. An old-growth section of trees was discovered several years ago; shortly afterward, Synchronous fireflies were found in another part of Watoga. And then there is the restored Workman Cabin and cemetery, as well as the magnificent Ann Bailey Tower, which provides a stunning view of the Greenbrier River Valley and the mountains beyond.

These things and much more are found in the largest park, and, dare I say, best park in West Virginia. However, some former park features are now only memories. Many visitors and locals alike still wax poetic about the old restaurant once housed in the current park office.

Our very own "woman about town," Ruth Taylor, ran the restaurant, which she named The Cardinal Dining Room, from 1998 through 2000. She remembers those years when Watoga was the place to go for a delicious dinner in the heart of the park.

"We stayed open until just before Christmas and served many dinners during the fall

months. When I reopened the restaurant in May of 2000, the lake had been drained for repairs, and customers constantly complained to us in the restaurant and the gift shop," Ruth said.

Author's Note: As if Ruth had anything to do with draining the lake

"The Watoga Pool played an important role in staffing as well. Some of the teens worked the pool as lifeguards during the day and worked in the restaurant at night. Many people walked from the lake or the pool for a cone of hand-dipped ice cream. The new gift shop/office area is nice; however, I am still questioned as to why I don't reopen the restaurant."

Ruth recalls when she and her husband, Bob, ran Taylor's Service Station and Grocery on Route 219 just north of Seebert Lane, "We knew many of the guests who came to Watoga the same week, same cabin year after year. They often came in the store and said: 'We're back, this is our week.' As the older generations stopped coming, the children and grandchildren would come to the same cabin, same week. Watoga is one of the most beautiful places in West Virginia, and my experience there was 99% good. I wouldn't change it for the world."

The popular restaurant is now gone but not forgotten.

There is another feature, nearly one hundred years old, that tantalizingly exists in full view, begging to be put back into service: the fabled swimming pool.

One recent sultry morning, I finished working on the always delightful Busch Settlement and Bonnie Trails at Watoga State Park. I returned to my car, parked in the old swimming pool parking lot. After loading my dogs and gear into the car, I took a stroll around the pool and was struck by the silence; it was, as they say, deafening.

It wasn't so long ago that the swimming pool issued the summer sounds of joy, the splashing of water and kids shouting, "Last one in is a rotten egg." Now, this treasure, among the many treasures of Watoga State Park, sits mute on an August day, when nearly every cabin and campsite is occupied.

Construction on the swimming pool began in 1939 and was completed in 1940, and it represents the last major project of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). With World War II right around the corner, construction of the bathhouse had to wait until after the war.

But once the pool opened, it became a summer focal point for many visitors and locals. Today, only two swimming pools are open in Pocahontas County: one at Green Bank Observatory and

the Splitrock pools at Snowshoe Resort, both in the county's northern part. It seems "Nature's Mountain Playground" has a scarcity of swimming pools.

There is something almost magical about memories, particularly childhood memories. Many men and women's precious childhood memories include summer days spent at the Watoga pool.

The pool was also known for another attribute: its

frigid water. Before the Watoga State Park Foundation raised money to purchase a solar heating system, the water came from deep, cold aquifers and entered the pool unheated. One gentleman whose family came to Watoga every summer for over 40 years told me that he didn't need to join the Polar Bear Club as long as the pool was around.

Several years ago, I interviewed some people, both local and otherwise, about their memories of the pool in earlier years. Here is a sample of those reminiscences:

"In the 1950s, every summer at the end of Bible School at Marlinton's Presby-

terian Church, our minister, Mr. Melton, would load us children up in a cattle truck and take us to Watoga for a day of picnicing and swimming at the pool; such wonderful memories," *Judy Glum*

"I'm thinking early 1960s family vacation. Cold isn't the word- and that was at the kids' end of the pool. We lived in St. Albans then, and our grandparents had a cabin in Seebert, but the 1985 flood took it. My brother, Alan, would always test the pool. But I, on the other hand, there's no way; I am still cold from 1960." *Harry Stone*

"I worked in the Rec Hall in the summer of 1988. That

summer is still one of the hottest on record. No one cared that the pool was cold that year; it was packed every day. I often had to close the Rec Hall counter to work the pool counter so all the lifeguards could be on deck. One day it got so crowded that the head lifeguard came in, handed me a lifeguard shirt, and told me to close the counter and stand by the kiddie pool. When I replied, I can't swim," she said, "It's the kiddie pool. If anything happens, just pick up the kid and yell for me." *Scott Tripplett*

"I went swimming at the Watoga pool on our honeymoon on May 16, 1981. Notice that I said 'I,' not 'we,'

because my husband preferred not to swim, a little too chilly for him." *Shirley Murphy Weakly*

(Author's note: And Shirley obviously never let him forget it.)

"My parents began coming to Pocahontas County in 1948, staying at Graham's Motel in Buckeye. While fish-



The Watoga State Park was a favorite haunt for decades and visitors enjoyed it when it was back in operation in 2019.

Photo courtesy of Chris Bartlett



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Taken around the 1950s or 1960s, this photo of the Watoga State Park pool is filled with nostalgia.

Photo courtesy of Preserving Pocahontas

POOL from pg 17

ing in the Greenbrier River, they discovered Watoga State Park. When I was two, we began renting cabins at Watoga. At five years old, and while watching the lifeguard at the pool teaching someone to swim, I did everything he did. I learned to swim that summer. I can still swim the length of the pool underwater.'

'We vacationed at Watoga in the last week of August each year - a last hurrah before the beginning of the new school year. For many years we stayed in Cabin 20 (beside the swimming pool), and it was a child's dream. Swimming each morning when the water would take our breath but beating the crowds. By midday, the kiddie pool would warm up, so the lifeguards would always chase us out when we went over to warm up.'

'Today the big trees are gone. In my youth, shadows covered two-thirds of the pool all day long. We would buy frozen Zero bars at the pool each day. When the pool closed, we would walk the Lake Trail, fishing for bass; no trout in the lake then, but hundreds of bluegills.' *David Bott*

'About 25 years ago, I was a cabin cleaner for one summer. My family has a free pool pass, so my teenage girls spent almost every day there. I never got in the water - too cold for me - but I remember telling park employees how my uncle heated his pool by laying several garden hoses all over the top of his garage to heat his pool.' *Cheryl Nellis Stanley* (Author's Note: The park did try this method, but with limited results.)

'Nearly every Sunday Aunt Eula (Buckley) would load us in her Buick and take us to Watoga to

go swimming. Aunt Eula always wore a dress, sat on a bench in the shade, and never rushed us. On the way home, we stopped at the Watoga Commissary to get ice cream, chips, Cokes, anything we wanted. And I remember that nothing ever tasted better, and the sun was a warm welcome from the cold water of the swimming pool.' *Jaynell Graham*

'I spent many an hour in the pool with blue lips and chattering teeth. My grandad was in the CCC and would always make a family outing to the annual CCC reunion held there. I miss those days.' *Sadie Mae*

'That pool was freezing at times! I remember in the mid-70s, some of the lifeguards used to have rooms above the bathhouse where they stayed. My mother ran the restaurant there, and we stayed above the restaurant in the



Photos courtesy of Preserving Pocahontas
The Watoga swimming pool under construction by the Civilian Conservation Corps. At right, the pool and bathhouse was the last major project of the CCC at Watoga. This photo was taken in 1948.

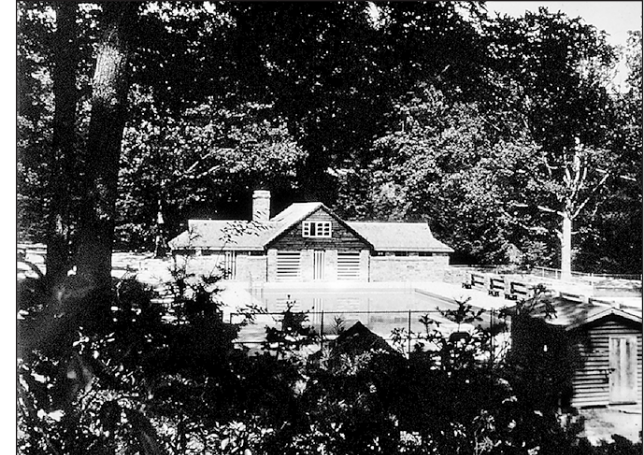
summer. I have great memories of Watoga. I would walk the Lake Trail to the pool every day. Good memories. *Chuck Angell*

'I remember the frigid waters during the 1940s when we had our family reunion at Watoga. For me,

it was the highlight of the year.' *Carol Evans*

'Many long hours of great times in the pool. I lived at Watoga as a child and spent my college summers working in the restaurant.' *Charlotte McKeever Emswiler*

See **POOL**, page 19



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Photo by Ken Springer

The Watoga State Park pool as it is today.

POOL from pg 18

Author's Note: Charlotte is the daughter of the much-esteemed former West Virginia Park's Chief Kermit McKeever.

I lifeguarded (at Watoga) in the summer of 1983. I guess it was an average summer. Some days it rained all day, some days you thought you would freeze to death. But on the 4th of July - look out- that pool was packed from end to end. Good times."

Karen Dean

Tom Workman shared

his memories of the Watoga pool with me. He said that when he was a child, he loved to dive in the pool but couldn't swim, and a lifeguard was always on hand to pull young Tom out of the water.

During Tom's college years at Marshall, 1970 through 1972, Tom worked summers at the pool plucking other little daredevils out of the water. He said the lifeguards had bunks on the top floor of the bunkhouse, and after the pool closed for the

day, they would head over to the old airstrip to watch the sports car races that ran there for several years.

As Tom told me his stories, I felt he was sharing some of the best years of his youth. I cannot begin to tell you just how many people have shared with me their personal stories about a distinct location on our planet that not only meant so much to them but was a defining experience in their lives - such is the power of Watoga State Park.

The deep end of the swimming pool just below the sliding board is starting to fill with fallen leaves, a somber scene to be sure. I can't help but hope that water (warm water) replaces those leaves again, and visitors can once again hear some exuberant child yell, "Last one in is a rotten egg."

A huge thanks to B.J. Gudmundsson for searching and finding the photos of the Watoga swimming pool on short notice.



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New 'In Loving Memory' Cemetery Book Available

Jan Orndorff
Genealogy Group

A new cemetery book, the eleventh in our series of cemetery listings for Pocahontas County, is titled, "Elk Mtn, Watering Pond Ridge, Allegheny Mtn, Camp Allegheny, "Old Pike", Buffalo Mtn, Thornwood, Travelers Repose, 2026," and is available for \$12.

This book includes all known cemeteries and burial sites from Rt. 28, Elk Mountain, Allegheny and Buffalo Mountains, Old Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike "Old Pike," Thornwood, and Travelers Repose areas.

Within this book are the following 29 cemeteries:

Elk Mtn Rt 28 - Lambert Cemetery

Watering Pond Ridge - Halterman and Watering Pond Cemeteries

Allegheny Mtn - Mullenax, Collins, Jacob Yeager, Varner, Confederate Civil War Cemetery, Mt. Hobert Church, John E. Wilfong, Yeager Cemetery,



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The Pocahontas County Genealogy Group continues its quest to find and record old cemeteries before the knowledge of those cemeteries is lost forever. Our current list of known cemeteries and burials within the county now totals 375. We have inventoried and documented 278 cemeteries, 251 of which have been

See **BOOK**, page 21

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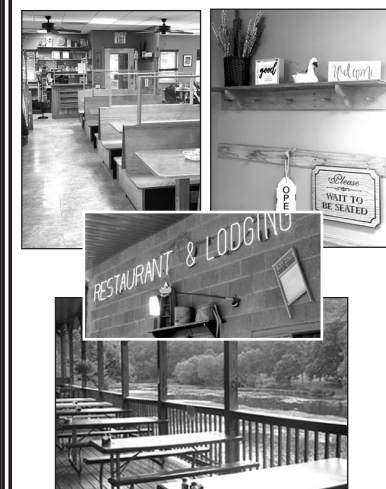
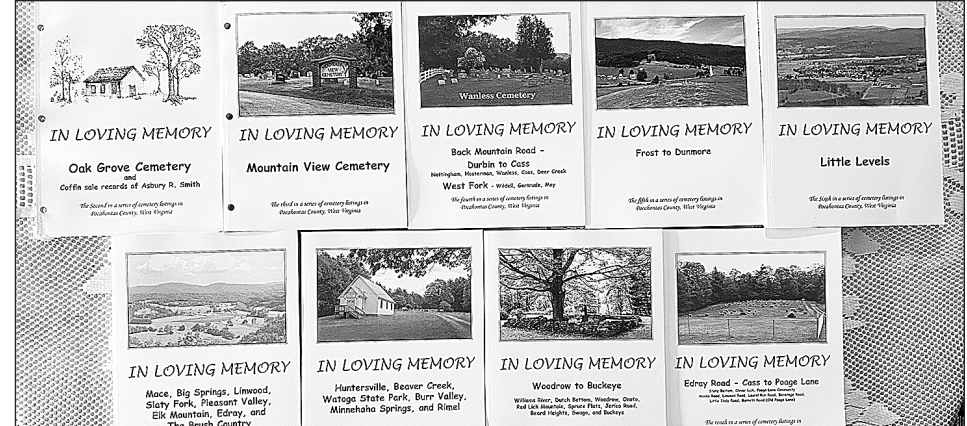


published in a series of eleven books titled, "In Loving Memory."

"In Loving Memory" cemetery books are available for sale at *The Pocahontas Times* Office in Marlinton or by contact-

ing Jan Orndorff (jorndorff@htcnet.org)

There are a total of 11 cemetery books, including those at right.



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The
Pocahontas Times

Hiking the Hills of Pocahontas County

Laura Dean Bennett
From the Archives

As autumn paints our mountain vistas with the colors of fall, Pocahontas County visitors, and residents alike, will have no trouble finding adventures aplenty as they mosey along the highways and byways of the county.

When we say we're "Nature's Mountain Playground, we're not foolin'!

If you're willing to venture just a bit off the beaten path, you can walk an easy few hundred yards or climb an adventurous trail, stop to picnic or rest along a whispering stream or hike out to a million-dollar view.

And, for those who are physically challenged or have little ones in tow, just know that there are plenty of "hikes" that are just a few hundred yards - and many are wheelchair accessible, as well.

From bike paths, and hiking trails to steep mountain bike ascents, the Greenbrier River Trail, our national forests, state parks, state forests, scenic overlooks and ski areas, Pocahontas County has everything one could ask for in outside enjoyment.

In addition to historical sites, and geological extravaganzas galore, we have thousands of acres of

forest, dozens of creeks and streams and hundreds of miles of trails just waiting to be explored.

If you're into a little outdoor adventure, why not explore some of our more out-of-the-way spots in addition to the usual destinations?

By planning a few day trips, you can be assured of getting as much outdoors into your itinerary as possible.

Get up early, pack a picnic lunch and you're all set for a day of adventure in the outdoors.

The Greenbrier River Trail has been named the Millennium Legacy Trail for West Virginia.

It is 78 miles of wide, winding, graveled and flat pathway which used to

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Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest
The view, such as at Gaudineer Knob, that greets one after a walk through the woods to an overlook is the payoff for the effort it took to get there. Don't forget to bring your camera and a picnic lunch when out exploring the overlooks of Pocahontas County.

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hold the railroad tracks for the train which carried logs and passengers from one end of the county to the other.

The GRT crosses 35 bridges, goes through two tunnels, and parallels the Greenbrier River, which is the longest free-flowing river in the east.

If you're looking for a variety of scenery - you'll find it along the Green-

brier River. From rocky shorelines to little sandy beaches, cow pastures, forests, swimming holes and fishing holes, the Greenbrier has it all.

No motorized vehicles are allowed, but you can hike, bike or horseback ride on the trail.

The trail can be accessed from several points, including the southern terminus in Greenbrier County near Caldwell and

the northern terminus near Cass Scenic Railroad State Park and several place in between.

The West Fork Trail, located in northern Pocahontas County, follows the old railroad grade 26 miles along the West Fork of the Greenbrier River, from the south trailhead in Durbin north to Glady.

The trail has a gentle grade and is exceptionally scenic with beguiling fall vistas. It offers access to an even more remote section of the Greenbrier watershed and provides an excellent backcountry experience.

The Allegheny Trail was West Virginia's first long-distance hiking trail.

In the north end of the county, it passes through the town of Durbin, winds past the Green Bank Observatory and brings you through the old logging town of Cass, Seneca State Forest and a portion of



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service, Monongahela Forest

Glorious sunrise and sunset views reward those who get up early or stay late for their hiking and overlook adventures.

Watoga State Park.

The Allegheny Trail is great for serious hikers and backpackers - those

who are really up for a good, long hike.

The Highland Scenic Highway offers 43 miles of easy travel, if you're one who likes to stay on the road, but if you're willing to get out of the car and step out onto a few paths, it also offers several hikes and overlooks that will be well worth your time.

Look for signs for Route 150 off Route 219 at the top of Elk Mountain, just a few miles north of Marlinton, or off of Route 39 west of Marlinton across from the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center on Kennison Mountain.

Before you head up the Scenic Highway to discover all its trails and overlooks, stop in at the Nature Center, where the entrance to a nice family-friendly hike is just waiting to be discovered, right next to the center's parking lot.

This trail is designed in a figure eight shape, with a left loop entrance and a

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right loop entrance and both paths are handicapped accessible, making these trails perfect for families traveling with little ones and grandparents, too.

The left loop is 880 feet in length and takes you past the Stamping Creek Overlook where you'll want to pause and "sit a spell" on the rough-hewn log bench or enjoy your lunch at a picnic table. After you've enjoyed the view at the overlook, the trail continues past a pollinator garden where you're liable to see butterflies, caterpillars and perhaps even a hummingbird moth.

The right loop winds along past the Vernal Pool and is a 1,200-foot walking path sure to please the eyes with bird sightings and the ears with the soft rustling of breezes in the trees and birdsong. It also offers benches and picnic tables for those who want to stay just a bit longer.

Before you leave, be sure to visit the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center to peruse the vast collection of books, enjoy the West Virginia reptile collection and mammal diorama and maybe do a little shopping.

It's a great place to pick up something special for the folks back home, and you won't be disappointed by the hospitality of the knowledgeable staff.

They will be glad to offer



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Forest Service, Monongahela National Forest

Whatever your skill or energy level, blue skies and panoramic views, like above at Smoke Camp Overlook, greet those who answer the call of the wild and venture out on the hiking trails of Pocahontas County.

advice about, and directions to, any hikes or outdoor adventures you may have in mind.

The Center is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and is only open through October 14. If you have

any questions about visiting or hiking anywhere in the area, they are happy to take your call. 304-653-4826.

Just down the road, five miles west on Rt. 39, you'll find the breathtaking Falls

of Hills Creek, a triple waterfall, which is the second highest in the state. After all the rain we had this summer, these waterfalls are really dramatic. Bring your camera, you'll definitely want to get some

pictures here. The upper falls are handicapped accessible. Steps descend to the three waterfalls that cascade 25, 45 and 63 feet. It's an easy climb down, but a bit of a challenge coming back up. The falls are beautiful in any season of the year.

From there, you are just a hop, skip and a jump

from Cranberry Glades, a botanical area where a number of unusual plant species flourish. A boardwalk encircles a portion of the glades area and makes for an easy and wheelchair accessible hike. Interpretive tours can be arranged through the

See **HIKING**, page 25



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The Highland County Arts Council is a nonprofit organization supported by contributions from members, friends, community foundations, and government organizations. Thank you to The Virginia Commission for the Arts, The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge, The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation, The Little Swiss Fund and of course, our loyal membership!



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Cranberry Mountain Visitors Center.

The Cranberry Wilderness Area, which straddles Pocahontas and Webster counties within the Monongahela National Forest, is one of the most unique and primitive areas in the region.

It has 60 miles of hiking trails tucked into 35,000 acres of dense evergreen forests, untamed mountains, charming valleys and clear mountain streams, which beckon you to stop, take off your shoes and socks and rest your feet in the chilly water.



Photos courtesy of U.S. Forest Service Recreation Staff
Williams River Valley Overlook is just one of the panoramic vistas which greets visitors on the Highland Scenic Highway in the Monongahela National Forest. Because of deep snow drifts, the road to this overlook is closed in winter, but during the rest of the year, this drive offers some of the best scenery in the county.

At left: Excellent views of rock formations are found on the High Rocks Trail. The trailhead is located on Rt. 150 – the Highland Scenic Highway.



And they don't call it wilderness for nothing. You're likely to encounter all kinds of birds and wildlife.

Like everywhere in Pocahontas County, there's a rich variety of wildlife here: eagles, hawks, grouse, turkeys, squirrels, otters, bobcats, deer and gray and red foxes and even a black bear, if you're lucky.

The forest features white and red oaks, maple, cherry and poplar trees.

Hemlock and red spruce grow at the highest elevations, for instance, at the top of Black Mountain, where the 4,600-foot elevation offers spectacular views.

The Cranberry Wilderness Area is open to hikers and birders, but there's no hunting. Horseback riding or mechanical travel is allowed on its trails.

Backtrack a little to Rt.

150 and head up the Highland Scenic Highway for more outdoor adventure.

There are several wonderful overlooks and hiking trails that branch off of the Scenic Highway.

If you're heading up Rt. 150 from the Cranberry Nature Center, you'll only travel four miles before you come to the trailhead of the High Rocks Trail.

High Rocks Trail is one of the most popular hiking trails in the area.

It's a moderate, 1.5 mile hike which takes you to a spectacular overlook view of the Greenbrier River Valley.

This isn't the easiest hike out there, but the view is well worth the effort, and it's especially nice during the fall.

A little way along the Scenic Highway, you'll find the Glades Overlook,

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another perfect spot for picture taking.

A little farther along the drive you'll come to Big Spruce Overlook then the Little Laurel Overlook and the Red Lick Overlook.

If these gorgeous views aren't a sight for sore eyes, I don't know what is.

While you're at the Big Spruce Overlook, look for the Black Mountain Trail.

This trail takes you on a mountain path and then onto a portion of boardwalk with interpretive signs, followed by a little

more rugged trail in a dense forest and then through the Cranberry Wilderness - which is more rugged still. There are no signs, just rock trail markers. This trail is for those intrepid adventurers looking for a real walk in the wilderness.

There are dozens more trails to explore in Pocahontas County - the Cow Pasture Trail, Honey Comb Rocks, Wyatt Nature Trail, Halfway Run and the miles and miles of trails in the Tea Creek Trail system.

And there are many

more scenic overlooks too - Gaudineer Overlook and picnic site, Mower Tract Overlook and Smoke Camp Knob Overlook.

I suggest you contact the Pocahontas Convention and Visitors Center at 304-799-4636 or visit them online at pocahontascounty.org or call the Monongahela National Forest Service at 304-799-4334, the folks at Cranberry Mountain Nature Center, 304-653-4826, or check them out on Facebook.

Happy Trails!

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Green Bank Turkey Trot

Mali Minter
Contributing Writer

This Thanksgiving season, the Green Bank Turkey Trot invites Pocahontas County residents and visitors to lace up, come together, and run for something bigger than a finish line. The annual event will

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Participants in the Green Bank Turkey Trot like to dress the part for the walk/run. Not only do they bundle up for the chilly weather, but also in a turkey theme like the "Trot Squad," above, left: Kristy Kane Rhea, Karley Dilts Stedman, Kim Dilts, J.T. Arbogast and Jonathan Arbogast. The Turkey Trot was founded to benefit the William Dilley Memorial Scholarship, in memory of Dilley, above, right, who was a track star at Pocahontas County High School and a beloved member of the community.

Photos courtesy of Mali Minter

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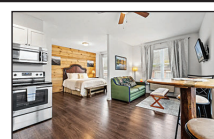
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take place Saturday, November 28, at 1 p.m. at the Green Bank Observatory. Proceeds benefit the Pocahontas County High School Track Team and the William Dilley Scholarship, helping support the athletes and the program that William cared about so deeply.

William Dilley was more than an accomplished track athlete. He was a friend, neighbor, father, mentor and steadfast supporter of young athletes in our community. During his time at PCHS, William was an exceptional runner. In 1978, his 4x4 relay team recorded the school's best time of 3:30.83, while William himself ran the 400 meters in 50.33 seconds, the second-best time in the state that year. He continued his track career at Glenville State.

But William's greatest legacy was not measured in seconds or records.

He continued to give back to the PCHS track program throughout his adult life, regularly helping with home meets and supporting generations of student-athletes.

The scholarship created in his memory honors the qualities that defined him: dedication, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Those values continue through the students who receive the William Dilley Scholarship. Past recipients have demonstrated not only commitment to their own success, but a willingness to encourage younger athletes and help their teammates along the way.

The Turkey Trot helps carry that spirit forward. In past years, proceeds have helped the PCHS Track Team with uniforms, transportation and other expenses that are no longer covered by the school. The long-term dream is even bigger. Someday replacing the aging PCHS track, which has been unsafe for home meets for more than a decade.

In the Turkey Trot, there is a distance for everyone. Participants can choose a 10K race, a 5K walk or run, or the 1K Gobble Wobble for children eight and under. And

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Photo courtesy of Mali Minter
One of the perks of participating in the Green Bank Turkey Trot in person is the view that you get. The trot takes place at the Green Bank Observatory and winds around the telescopes used by the astronomers. Above, Green Bank native Jake Sheets took a selfie with a telescope in the background as he did the trot last year.

TROT from pg 27

if you cannot make it to Green Bank, the virtual option introduced in 2020 is still available. Whether you run with us in person or from wherever you are, your participation makes a difference.

This Thanksgiving, consider working off that feast while helping build something lasting for Pocahontas County's young athletes.

Come run. Come walk.

Come cheer.

Most importantly, come be part of a tradition that honors a man who believed in showing up for his community and reminds us that the greatest races are the ones we run together.

Online registration begins October 1, 2026, at www.runreg.com/gb/turkeytrot26

Visit our Facebook Group: 2026 Green Bank Turkey Trot.

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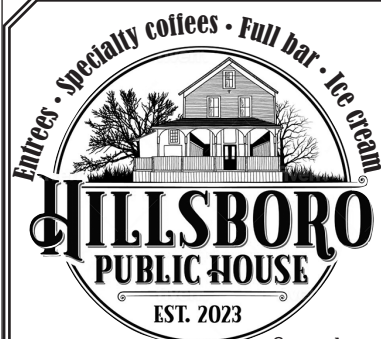
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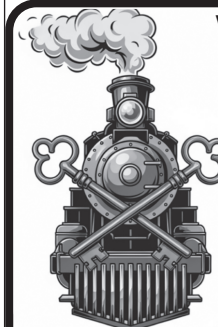
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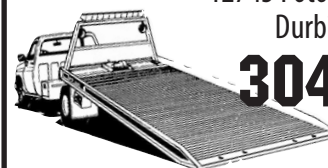
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Grandmother's day, 1870

By Vera Ritchie
From the archives of
The Pocahontas Times

In the years after grandmother married, about 1870, I made a listing of her housekeeping duties.

In summer, she made blackberry jam after picking the berries from the tall thorny vines; apple butter, dark and spicy, which means three or four bushels of apples had to be peeled and cut and cooked into sauce, then sweetened and seasoned with spices and cooked to a certain consistency; huckleberry jam, the berries were picked by going into the mountain and hunting around until the low growing bushes were found, then she usually killed two or three rattlesnakes which somehow always were near the huckleberries. In later years, my sisters

and brother and I went with her.

Easier to make was peach butter and pear marmalade. These trees were near the garden fence which also sheltered the beautiful current bushes covered with red berries, used for making jelly; her grape vines were always loaded with grapes, used for making jelly, as were the wild plum trees, each of these fruits made beautiful jelly; the grapes, a deep purple, the wild plums a fiery red.

Her raspberry patch was one of her prized possessions. She usually canned the blackberries and made preserves from the red ones.

Her back porch was covered with a vine called hops; this vine had thousands of cone-shaped yellow blooms. These she picked and boiled and thickened with flour and corn meal. This mixture was spread one inch thick on a clean cloth, left to dry for several months then cut in squares. Two cakes two inches square melted in sweetened warm water made three loaves of delicious home baked bread; all bread was home baked in those days – buckwheat flour for pancakes, cornbread; rye and whole wheat all grown on the farm.

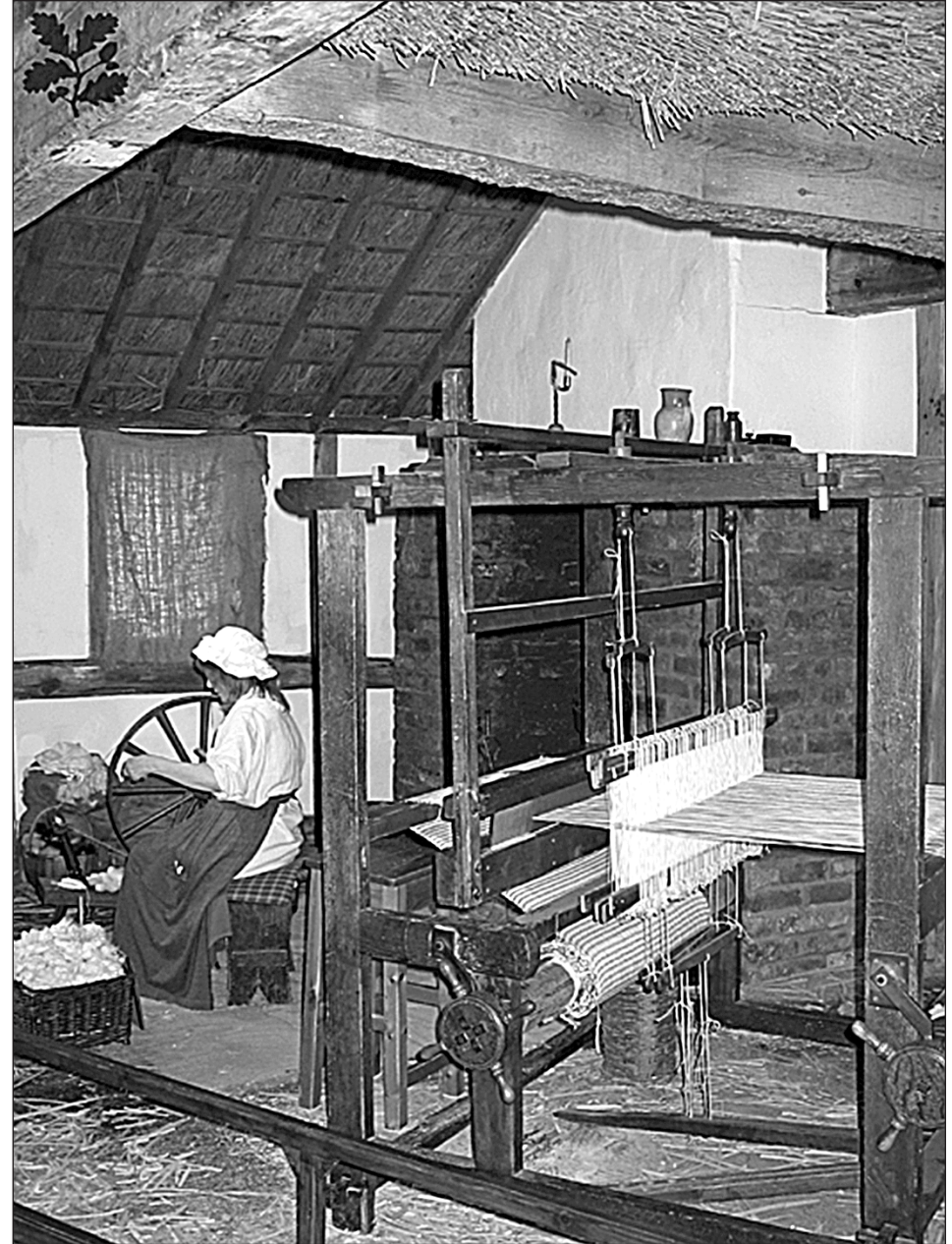
Vinegar was made by filling a wooden keg with apple cider. A hole was drilled in the end

of the keg, and a wooden stopper was made and inserted; to be removed each time the housewife needed more vinegar. It took the cider several months to get sour.

Every farmer used the same method of making do with available supplies. In his tool shed he had the necessary tools to shoe his horses, emasculate his pigs, lambs and calves. Amazing how the families managed to survive, no doctors – each family helped the other in childbirth, they made their own medicines. Cherry bark boiled and the liquid sweetened with honey for coughs, mint for sick stomach, camphor and whiskey for colds and croup.

In August, the cabbage was ready for making sauerkraut. One or two neighbors came to help, as they did to cut the apples for apple butter or to string white wax beans to be placed in a 10-gallon crock in salt brine. The cabbage was chopped fine and put into a 10-gallon crock with salt to taste. A stomper was used to start the juice for brine. This operation continued all day, because it takes many hours to finely chop two or three hundred heads of cabbage. When the crock was full, or perhaps two 10-gallon crocks, grape leaves were placed on top, A 20-pound rock was washed and placed on a board cut to fit the crock, to weight it down. After a few weeks a brine would rise, then the cut cabbage would sour and lo! And behold! delicious sauerkraut!

Every day of so, grand-

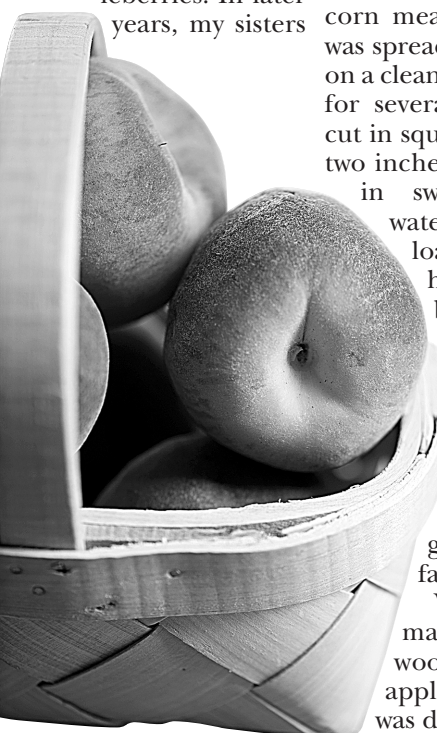


mother churned. This word “churned” would mean nothing to our youngsters of today, unless they lived on a farm, but in 1800 and through the early 1900s, it was a duty, a must, if the family wanted butter. The churn was handmade of wood, so was the dash. An up and down motion, using the dash, to quickly stir the cream began as soon as the sour cream was placed in the churn. After a half hour, beautiful yellow, creamy butter came to the top of the milk, to be lifted off and made into rolls or pats.

Buttermilk (a farmer's delight) was left in the churn; this was removed and chilled for drinking, also for making cornbread or biscuits. Leftovers were given to the chickens.

When I was a child, about 1910, I remember gypsies came on their annual forage through our section. Grandma had her wash on the line that day. The mobs of women who traveled with their husbands and children usually did the stealing. Four of them went to grandmother's kitchen and began baking bread. They baked all afternoon, used

a half barrel of flour, which was about one hundred pounds or more. Others of the group stripped the garden and cornfield of roasting ears. They also took quilts, blankets, sheets, towels and clothes. There was no way to stop them. They camped in tents about a mile away and every farmer for miles around was robbed. Cows were milked or butchered for meat. Rail fences were opened and the gypsy horses turned into the meadows. If they stayed all summer, fruit trees were



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stripped as were the grapevines and berry patches. There was absolutely no relief except in later years, after the county could boast a sheriff.

Then they loaded their wagons and began moving across the mountains to Knapps Creek where there were fresh supplies. None of the men ever seemed to help with the stealing or loading of the covered wagons. Sometimes one would stand close by, with a gun while the women grabbed anything useable, some of the women were Indians; they kept their babies in the pockets of the tent at night but strapped to the mother's back in the daytime. The first World War took the men, and, after 1916, we never saw them again.

FALL DUTIES

Her soap making was a marvel of ingenuity. Wood ashes were placed in a hopper (a handmade wooden box atop a chute) which when filled with water dripped very slowly into the chute which drop by drop was lye in grease cutting liquid. This liquid, boiled with lard, formed a soap that was the only cleaning agent of that day. In June, she sheared the sheep, the wool was washed and sun dried, spread over the back yard. It was then carded (a combing process to break up the tangles and make it ready for the spinning wheel) and spun into yarn. This yarn made mittens, socks and other garments by knitting. Her loom wove the wool yarn into blankets and carpets, colored by boiling bark or berries and dying them while the wool was still in hanks from the carding and spinning process.

Now, bedding was taken



care of in the fall, yards of heavy ticking were made into bed cases, filled with fresh straw and placed on the crisscrossed rope that was tied as one uses bed-spring today. The bulging straw tick was a foot thick. Atop this was another tick

filled with goose feathers. Every bed had its bolster, a long pillow the width of the bed, atop this sat two goose feather pillows. Then to make a pretty bed, hand woven bed-spreads of different colors were used throughout the

home. Hand embroidered or appliqued shams covered each pillow. These were starched until they were stiff enough to sit upright over the pillows.

Her well house near the kitchen door in later years contained her spinning

wheels, cowbells, sheep bells, sheep shears, garden tools, coffee grinder, candle molds, nutmeg grater, large copper and brass kettles. Her dinner bell atop a tall pole was nearby. She used it every day to call the men home from the fields

In the fall she made her clothes, skirts long and wide; blouses tucked, lacy and long-sleeved; hats, flowered with yards of ribbon. Her riding skirt, which covered her legs and the side saddle, and most of the side of the horse. A pair of saddle pockets made of leather was thrown across the back of the saddle; they were filled with proper wrapped eggs. She rode the three

miles in Huntersville to Buckley McComb's grocery store once a week. She got 25¢ for a dozen eggs, but mostly she went to talk to Buckley or whomever might be in the store.

Church on Sunday morning was the only break in the work week. She was a Presbyterian; she could not tolerate the shouting and hysteria of my father's Methodist church. I never saw her cry or even laugh out loud. She did not believe in any outward show of emotion. A gracious lady from her heart to her three-button shoes.

She was the youngest daughter of Col. Logan and was married to Samuel Hogsett, a grandson of Col. Bradshaw who once owned most of the land from Huntersville to Dunmore.

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