

NEWSLETTER OF THE HARNETT COUNTY LIBRARY
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the BOOKBAG

Vol. 25, No. 1
Winter Issue 2002

Melanie Collins, Editor



Governor's Award Recipients at a reception held in their honor at Fayetteville State University on November 15, 2001. Mrs. Mike Easley, presented them with their awards. Mrs. Easley, Jackie Johnson, (the Library's Volunteer winner,) John McNamara, Andrew Milton, Miriam Stewart, Debbie Turner, and Nancy Clifton, RSVP director.

WELCOME BARBARA

Barbara MacLean is our new reference librarian. She is a native of Stockton, California, but has lived in Fayetteville since 1978. Before she moved to Fayetteville she lived in Germany for three years and was able to travel around Europe some.

She has a son, Philip, and a daughter, Marianne. Philip is in college studying computer science; Marianne is a junior in high school. Barbara attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel; she has an undergraduate degree in Modern European History and her library science degree is from Chapel Hill also. She previously worked for six years at the Robeson County Public Library as their reference librarian. In her spare time she likes to travel and garden.

Please stop by the reference desk or the circulation desk and introduce yourself to



Barbara. We are very fortunate to have her on our library team.

New Periodicals

-Jackie Frye

Each year we try to add a few new titles to the serial collection. With the growing interest in genealogy and local history in mind Melanie chose several for the Local History Room; *Heritage Quest*, *The Highlander* and *North & South*.

Heritage Quest will help with genealogical education and research guidance. This is a nice looking periodical with full color pictures, indexes and lists of historical books for sale.

The Highlander reports on activities of the Scottish societies in the United States and Canada. This publication covers the highland games, piping, dancing and other Scottish events with features on famous Scots, clans, genealogical information and historical events that have shaped the Scottish heritage.

North & South: The Magazine of Civil War Conflict contains Civil War history as well a new material based on original re-

search.

These new publications are a nice addition to our collection of serials in the local history room. While you are here check out some of the other serials we have *Recall: The North Carolina Military Historical Society*, *Researcher*, *The Family Tree*, *Federation Bulletin*, *Forsyth County Genealogical Society Journal*, *Harnett County Historical Society News*, *Three Rivers Chronicles*, *Lee County Genealogical*, *Moore County Geological*, *North Carolina Scottish Ancestry*, *American Spirit*, etc. As you can see there is a nice collection at your library.

Not all the new titles are in the local history room. Look for *Reason*, *Poptronics*, *Morningstar Fundinvestor*, *Oxford American* and *Explore* on the shelves.



Tax time at the library

—Jackie Frye

The tax forms are arriving daily thanks to the IRS and UPS. The library provides taxpayers with a convenient means to obtain tax materials. Campbell's Lundy-Fetterman School of Business will be volunteering again this year to assist people with tax forms. VITA will be here on Wednesdays, 10:00AM - 2PM, Jan. 30 - Feb 27, Mar 13 - Mar 27.

Remember library staff cannot give tax advice. Most individual tax forms and a notebook to use for copies are available at the Library. Sorry folks, copies are \$.10 each even for tax forms. The key word is *individual*. Tax forms for employers are not available at the library; they can be ordered directly from the IRS or purchased at most office supply stores. For more information please call the Federal Internal Revenue Service 1-800-829-3676 and NC Department of Revenue 910-893-3574 for forms and information.

Forms are available on the web
<http://www.irs.gov>

<http://www.dor.state.nc.us/forms/index.html>

Now there are fewer reasons for not doing income taxes. You have forms available and even someone to fill in the blanks for you _ Don't wait until the last minute.

**Don't Let TAX TIME
Put the SQUEEZE
on You.**



ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR

Buffalo Valley – Debbie Macomber.

If you've already met the people of Buffalo Valley, then return with us for the fourth book in the series. If you've never been to Buffalo Valley, then welcome. Buffalo Valley — it's a small prairie town, but big time business has its eye set on the place some call home. With the threat of a move-in by a retail conglomerate, residents and local businesses in the quaint North Dakota community are prepared to fight for their town—and their livelihood—as independent business owners. Also going through changes is Vaughn Kyle. Fresh out of the Army and waiting for his reluctant fiancée to set a date, Vaughn decides to visit an elderly family friend in Buffalo Valley. But when he arrives on a snowy day, he

finds Cassie Henderson instead. Vaughn quickly begins to fall in love with Buffalo Valley..and Cassie..and is ready to fight for them both. Will he find peace this holiday season?

A Kiss To Remember – Teresa Medeiros

Laura must marry by her 21st birthday or be cast into the streets. When she stumbles across a mystery man with no memory, she convinces him he is her fiancé. But has she fallen for the devil himself?

No Man's Mistress – Mary Balogh

When Lord Ferdinand Dudley comes to claim the estate he won in a card game, he is confronted by feisty and beautiful Viola Thornhill. Viola can't afford to lose her home. But marriage is out of the ques-



tion. And so an intimate competition begins.

In My Wildest Dreams – Christina Dodd
Celeste Milford knew she was socially

beneath Ellery Throckmorton, the man of her dreams. Four years at an academy for governesses changes that, but now it's Ellery's intriguing brother Garrick who awakens her desires.

Midnight Bayou – Nora Roberts

It was an inexplicable impulse. Declan Fitzgerald breaks off an engagement, leaves a successful law practice and turns his complete attention to restoring Manet Hall, a dilapidated mansion on the outskirts of New Orleans. Only alluring local barkeep, Angelina Simone seems to understand what Declan's been experiencing at Manet Hall: visions of days from a century past. Now as they try to uncover the secrets of a tragic romance from a century ago, passions erupt between them. Because not only does Angelina hold the key to Declan's heart, but she also holds the key to Manet Hall's haunting history.

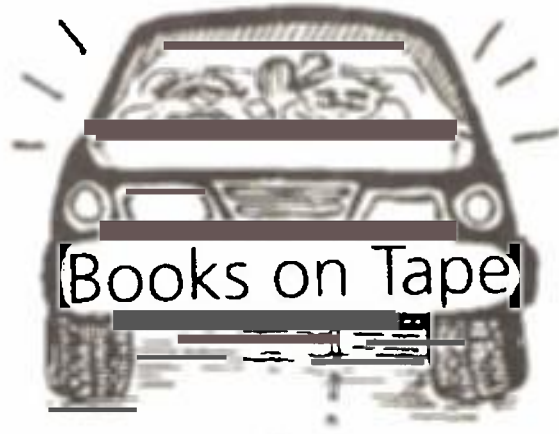
(Editorial Reviews from BOT
www.booksontape.com)

Travels in Alaska – John Muir

John Muir came to Alaska in 1879, twelve years after the territory had been purchased by the United States, and revisited it four times before writing this book. Muir's ability to set down his sensory impressions is little short of amazing. With a clear eye and a burning mind, he recorded all he could perceive about the glaciers, the hardy plants, the northern lights, and the Arctic stars. He was responsible for the discovery of Glacier Bay and the John Muir Glacier, the largest Alaskan tidal glacier. He let himself in for many dangerous scrapes, but he was not a thrill seeker; rather, in this book, Muir is suffused throughout with a joy of discovery, and a pleasure in the wilderness so intense that little else matters.

Fever – Katherine Sutcliff

From the bayous of the American



Reading on The Roll

South comes a rush of steamy, lavish prose culminating in forbidden, passionate romance. A penniless orphan, Juliette Broussard is picked out of her isolated convent school by her godfather, Max Hollinsworth, to marry his lazy son Tylor - so that her family's run-

down sugar cane plantation, BELLE JAROD, would be his. She is against marriage, until she falls in lust with her prospective husband. However, the plantation's overseer and Max's illegitimate son, Chantz Boudreaux, saves Juliette from the raging waters of the

Mississippi and immediately falls in love with her. Together, they attempt to restore her ancestral estate, despite betrayal and plague.

Fire – Junger, Sebastian

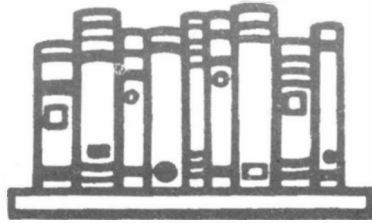
In *Fire*, Sebastian Junger does for forest fires, terrorism, and war what he did for water in *The Perfect Storm*. In his initial essay, Junger takes the reader to the heart of an Idaho forest fire burning in precipitously walled canyons. He makes the reader feel the full force of what nature can throw at man. The firefighters use all their skill and technique to combat the flames, but the overwhelming primal power of fire is almost too much for them. In *FIRE*'s other essays, Junger shows the equally destructive force of man. It is man who propels the murderous diamond trade in Sierra Leone, and makes genocide in Kosovo. Junger's writing about the conduct of guerrilla war in Afghanistan is particularly timely.

FROM THE REFERENCE DESK

—Barbara MacLean

Those Christmas bills are starting to come in, tax booklets are arriving in the mail, your savings account is the only thing that's looking thin these days - how do we get into this mess every year anyway? Your library has hundreds of great books to help you get your financial house in order. We have recently prepared a new bibliography on Personal Finance and Investing and copies are available free at the library. This guide includes only a small sample of the many books we have on personal financial management and investing but covers a wide range of topics - everything from how to take control of your spending to how to invest for your retirement.

We have also recently begun to receive a new monthly subscription to the highly regarded *Morningstar Fund Investor*. This



publication seeks to help investors select mutual funds appropriate to their unique needs by analyzing and rating the 500 largest funds in each category, as well as "rookie funds" (those with less than 3 years' performance), and more than 130 *Morningstar* Analyst Picks. A recent issue included a page of Fund News; a page devoted to Red Flags - value funds you should avoid; and a feature on "High-Cost Bond Funds Are for the Birds." The *Morningstar Fund Investor* is available for browsing on our Index Table.

New Genealogy Titles

For those folks doing research for our surrounding counties of Wake, Johnston, Sampson, and Cumberland, the library has a few new titles that will surely reveal a gem or two for your genealogy search. *Wake County, NC Census and Tax Lists 1830 and 1840*, by Frances Holloway Wynne —her title pretty well sums up the contents. We also have the *Cumberland County 1755 Tax List*, small but useful. Elizabeth E. Ross and others have produced some fine work in the following titles: *Sampson County Will Abstracts, 1784-1900*, *Marriage Registers of Johnston County NC, Vol. I, 1867-1880, Vol. II, 1881-*

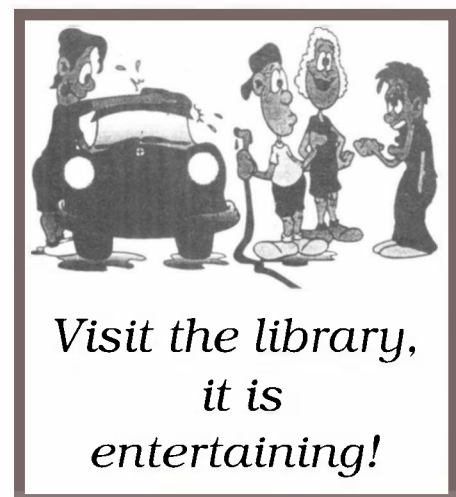


The very
best place
to start.

1900; *Index to Johnston County NC Loose Estates 1771-1962, Will Abstracts 1746-1870, Vol I & II Revised edition*; as well as both volumes of the *Record of Estates of Johnston County*.

Picture Party

We still have about two hundred of the Talbot McNeill Stewart photo collection that we need to get identified and cataloged. We are going to get together and have some fun reminiscing and remembering the good ol' days on February 27th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. You bring the memories and we'll bring the food! If you had your picture made by Mr. Stewart, or know some folks who did, and you want to help with this project, call the library and get your name on the Party List! 910-893-3446.



Pet Memorials

—Cathey Clifton

The library is continuing to receive many memorials in honor of family friends. When you donate to this fund in your pet's name, the money will be used to purchase a book about animals and their care. A bookplate will be placed in the book with your pet's name.

You can also contribute to this fund on behalf of a friend who has lost a pet. A card will be sent to the owner acknowledging that you have made this kind gesture. Contact the Harnett County Library (910-893-3446) if you are interested in this program.

Staff of the Lillington Veterinary Hospital and others placed the following memorials in the Harnett County Public Library in the past quarter.

Pet Memorials

"Amber" Greenwood
"Bee Bee" Davis
"Buddy" Edwards
"Buddy" Pollard
"Charleston" Zich
"Comet" Harland
"Crook Tail" Rosser
"Daisy" Cummings
"Dixie" Frye
"Fritz" Johnson
"Gretchen" Liljequist
"Kallis" Reeves
"Kiesha: Moore
"King" Pearce
"Martin" Hawkins
"Milo" Haywood
"Pepper" Magda
"Rocko" Stevens
"Savannah" Leone
"Sparky" Langston
"Zack" McCauley

Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
George & Jacqueline L Frye
Lillington Veterinary Clinic
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Jackie Frye
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
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Lillington Veterinary Hospital



Computer workshops

The monthly computer workshops return after a break in December and January. In February we will offer Microsoft *Word* introduction on Wednesday February 20th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and Thursday evening from 7:00 -9:00 p.m. You can also take an introduction to the Internet (not e-mail) on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. or Thursday afternoon from 1-3 p.m.



Come by the library and sign up. Registration is limited to ten participants per class.

Friends Programs

Forrest Gump's mama was right; the programs that the Friends of the Library sponsor are just like that proverbial box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get until you bite into it. Of course, they're all chocolate-covered, so none are ever bad. But this year has been an especially delectable box of surprises.

Programs included a talk by Dr. Martin Sellers, who showed the audience that Harnett County is the center of the Universe: The Triton High School Barbershop

Quartet entertained the audience with early songs, sung a capella. Phillip and Susan Morrow shared favorite show tunes; Dr. Douglas Kelly told us about our Scottish heritage. Then we had *Reminiscence*—a trio of piano, sax (and sometimes clarinet), and drums. This local group mesmerized the audience with old favorites like "Marie," "Stardust," and "Night Train."

The programs at the library are always followed by genial fellowship around the punchbowl. The public is welcome and invited to share this wonderful candy.

—Georgette Dempster

Reading the news always gives you the latest information. Sure there are other sources for information, television, radio, magazines, and the Internet. But somehow I still like to read the news. Just recently, I read an article that the Salem Witches (remember the notorious Salem Witch Trials) all five of them have been cleared of witchcraft charges. This has only taken our court system a couple of hundred years. I guess that isn't too bad. If we had to be tested by these methods of yesteryear probably a lot of us would be found guilty.

Years ago, the judges would come up with ancient ideas (by our standards) of trials by ordeals. If you passed these

tests, you were certainly a witch, and you were punished by law. If you didn't pass these tests, not only were you found innocent, but you were probably dead. In English medieval courts truth was tested by ordeals of fire and water. Judged on the basis of truth, a person would be protected by God. A person suspected of lying would have to carry a red-hot iron bar for nine paces. Or he could have the choice to walk across nine red-hot plowshares. Either way, if the person was burned then this was proof that he was lying. And of course he could be promptly hung by the neck until dead.

Other courts went for trial by water (as in the Salem Witch Case). The per-

son accused of lying or such crime was put into a sack and thrown into a pond. If the accused person sank this showed he was innocent (but you would have drowned in the process). If the person floated away this was taken as proof that this person was lying and guilty of the crime, thus he or she would be hung by the neck until dead. I am glad these practices were outlawed.

For more information on this topic get the book *The Salem Witch Trials* written by Karen Zeinert. Or just for information purposes, look into *The Encyclopedia of Witchcraft* by Rossell Hope Robbins.



Dates To Remember

February 2002 Library Lover's Month. This is a great time to familiarize your kids with the workings and wonders contained in your library. Challenge them to a scavenger hunt. To start, make a list of things—both fun and practical for them to seek out. Younger kids, for example, might look for a video on their favorite animal, a book by Dr. Seuss, a list of library program times, and of course, the librarian. For older kids, you can expand the search to include books on a specific subject or in a particular genre (such as science fiction, nonfiction, or fiction chapter books) and research tools like the dictionary, an encyclopedia,

atlases, almanacs, and magazine indexes.

When they've found their items, check out their favorite titles, head home, and snuggle up on your couch for a fun family read-aloud. Once your children get a taste of what the library holds, they will be well on their way to becoming lifelong library lovers. (FamilyFun Magazine)

March 2002 Read Across America-March 2 - watch the papers for more details.

National Library Week- April 14-20
Theme: @ Your Library

Digitization Project

In 1978, the Town of Lillington acquired the photograph collection of Talbott McNeill Stewart, a Harnett County resident. The Town promptly decided that the library was the perfect place to keep this valuable history of Harnett County and Mrs. Margaret Randall had the foresight and wisdom to accept them. Her staff at that time promptly began to sort, identify and catalog more than 600 photographs. She, along with Nina Pierce Bethune, Janet Hood Johnson, Melanie Collins, and others in the community, cataloged more than 500 of these pictures by 1980. They have been filed in the library local history room, receiving only a mild interest and brief perusal from time to time by local genealogy enthusiasts. Now we have the technology to share this heritage with anyone who has access to the Internet. This collection has been digitized and is accessible on our library's catalog at www.harnett.org/library —Look for the Digital Collection on the GeoWeb Main page. Call the library if you can't find it.

His daughter, LaFay Stewart Pickard, of Sanford shared this excerpt from the *Daily Record* that was written after his death in 1982.

Talbott Stewart was The Daily Record's first photographer and Harnett's first full time press photographer. He pioneered the field in this county. He died Saturday, July 17, 1982 at Wake Memorial Hospital in Raleigh after several years of poor health. He had been in and out of the hospital several times. A member of a well-known Harnett family, Mr. Stewart was a native of Harnett, son of the late Lewis F. and Jane McNeill Stewart. Mr. Stewart had been a professional photographer for years, taking pictures throughout Harnett County. He

made wedding pictures and school pictures, and all school sports events and anything else of interest in the county. When the *Daily Record* was established in 1950, he became the paper's first photographer. He headed the newspaper's photographic department until his retirement. For many years, he was a familiar figure throughout Harnett as he covered all the important events for the *Record*.

In addition to being a crack photographer, Talbott was a man of many talents and hobbies. He loved to dance, fly airplanes and loved people. Never met a stranger either. Among other things, he was a good machinist, a promoter and avid fisherman. Talbott was an honorary member of the Dunn Moose Lodge and a member of the Lillington Baptist Church.

Talbott was married to the late Laura Ellen Sloan of Sanford, one son, Cyrus Franklin Stewart of Lillington, (deceased in 2000) and a daughter, LaFay Stewart Pickard of Sanford.

Book sale in April

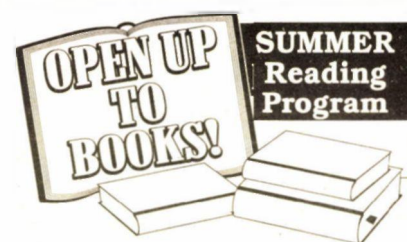
The Friends are sponsoring a book sale on Saturday April 20, 2002. They are looking for the perfect spot to have this great sale. It will culminate a week of celebrating National Library Week. If you have books you would like to donate, please bring them to the library. If you have books you want to buy, keep your eyes peeled for the location.

Anderson Creek Notes

—Georgette Dempster

In June and July 2002 we have an extra extraordinary Summer Reading Program planned here at Anderson Creek. Our opening program will begin with Al Yountz from Winston-Salem area. He will do a program on Harry Potter. We are very fortunate to get him. During the month of February 2002, he will appear on the Montel Williams Show.

At the end of June we have Ron Jones, who will take the youngsters to a very special adaptation of "Exercise your Mind," which by the way is the theme for this year Summer Reading Program.



Our Awards Program that will be held in mid July and will feature Kim Johnson, who is a noted Children's author. I am sure this pleasant smiling personality will delight and entertain your mind with a lovely children's story. Ms. Johnson has written the "Itty Bitty Frog Series".

Of course we have other wonderful programs lined up for the children this summer. We look forward to seeing you here. For more information on dates, times and place give us a call at 814-4012. And remember the library is the very best place to start.

Gifts to the Library

—Cathey Clifton

The Harnett County Library acquires a number of books and other materials through tax-exempt gifts. Such gifts can be given as a memorial to someone who is deceased or as a tribute to a living person you wish to honor. These gifts are noted with a nameplate, listing the person to be memorialized or honored and the person making the donation.

In Memory of:

Alfonso Stewart
Arline Frye Hamilton
Arline Frye Hamilton
Cornelia McLaughlin
Gary Wayne Stewart
Lois Byrd
Mildred Marshbanks Johnson

In Honor of:

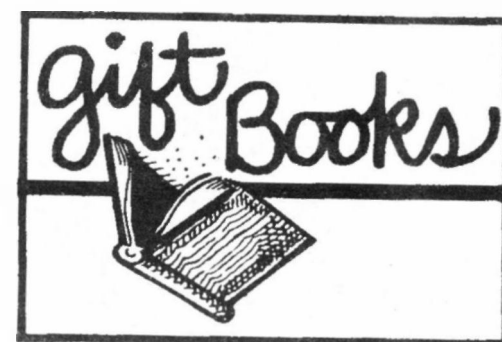
Annette Rhodes
Susan Hendricks
Lillington Veterinary Hospital
W.A. Johnson

Boone Trail Class of 1938
Robert and Alice Coleman
Harnett County Board of Commissioners
Tea and Topics Book Club
Harnett County Board of Commissioners
Tea and Topics Book Club
Mac and Anne Byrd

Roxann L Granger
Roxann L Granger
George & Jacqueline L Frye
Mac and Anne Byrd

Donations by the following library users

Gloria Gullede
Kelly Bain
Dorothy Elizabeth Pope
Willis Harvey
Phyllis Gould
Bill Creel
Emily Graham
John Troy McDonald
Mark and Matthew Davis
Diane Cowan McLaughlin
Jackie Frye
Cheryl Culpepper
Peter and Alene Goolsby
Kenneth Little
Debbie Jo Jackson
William Stacy Culpepper
Joyce Oliver



The Other Civil War

—Jackie Frye

Until I married George, I lived my life in the flat lands of southeastern Georgia. I grew up sitting in the shade of 200 year-old live oak trees draped in Spanish moss listening to the old folk talk of the "good old day." There were tales of cooling watermelons in the creek and swimming with alligators and snakes. The dreaded enemy was the "Yankee," who had moved in after the war and bought up all the property. I never dreamed that such a short distance away the "good old day" would be so different.

My first trip to West Virginia was when George took me home to meet his parents. I envisioned driving past a small country store such as Ike's, among rolling majestic hills to a large old white house where life was simple and everyone said goodnight to their family just before the lights went out. My anticipation grew as we drove into the tunnel that separated Virginia from West Virginia. I leaned forward in my seat ready for my first glance of West Virginia.

These were not the rolling hills I remember from television. These mountains were rugged with large boulders jutting out over the road and a sharp drop off on the other side. Where were the quaint winding roads through the forest of my vision? Things were not clean with a fresh coat of white-wash as I imagined. The buildings were all dingy and covered with a black film, later I learned the black film was coal dust and it was everywhere.

We soon arrived at our destination, Roderfield, a small town in McDowell County. We had turned off onto a dirt road that could at best describe as a cart path up into the hollow, pronounced "holler", to get to a place surrounded by tall white oak trees, white barked sycamore, bent green pines, fragrant pink peony and lavender rose of sharon. The expectations of white picket fences were replaced with the wonder of the beauty of such a wild, rugged terrain. It was so quiet and peaceful. I soon learned it had not always been peace and quiet in McDowell County. The tales of the "good old days" took a different turn.

Mom was brought up on the top of this

very mountain. Her father died when she was young leaving a widow and seven orphan children. With no government assistance, they lived off what they grew and found in the woods supplemented by wild meat left on the porch by kind hunters. They did not expect handouts, everyone was poor and often went to bed hungry, but neighbors helped each other when they could. When Mom's younger brother, Andy turned 12 he went to work in the mines to support the family. Andy was the man of the family and considered grown with a job to support them. He did not work for money but for one pound of pinto beans for a 12-hour day of labor. They were no longer hungry they had beans, seldom did you ever visit a home without a pot of beans simmering on the wood-burning stove. Many people today cannot stand the sight of pinto beans because it is a reminder of how hard times were. Andy did not live to see his 21st birthday; he was killed in mine accident leaving the family without a source of income. The children were all grown and married leaving only their mother. She lived out the rest of her life on findings in the forest and the kindness of others.

McDowell County was the home of the Hatfield and McCoy feud that lasted over 30 years in McDowell County. It is documented who died and who won in court but who really wins in a 30 year battle?

To me this feud took back a seat to the Matewan massacre. When George and then later Pa told me tales of this, I could not believe it. My father-in-law and his father fought in the largest insurrection this country has had since the Civil War along with 10,000 West Virginia coal miners. This battle was between the Union and the coal companies with miner's lives at stake known as the Coal Mine Wars. Before it was over, three West Virginia counties were in open rebellion, much of the state was under military rule and bombers of the U.S. Army Air Corps had been dispatched against striking miners. Can you imagine the U.S. Army dropping bombs on U.S. Citizens?

The coal companies resisted the union with a vengeance, when a miner joined the

Union; he was immediately fired from his job. If he lived in a company-owned home, as most did, he was forced to move out, often by gun-bearing Baldwin-Felts men. Move out did not mean move to another house, they moved to the woods taking only the belongings they could carry. A few lucky families were provided tents by the Union. When the miners protested the evictions or tried to prevent the scabs from going to work the company men simply shot them down in cold blood. Pa told tales of picking up pales of brass from around the gattling guns over the mine openings. The law did not always penetrate back into these hills and hollows, people got by the best they could. When the law did make it to these remote areas, usually they sided with the company and the life of a miner was not worth the time to investigate. The life of a miner was worth less than a company owned mule. The mule lived in a better house and was treated much better than the minor.

Matewan was different. The police chief, Sid Hatfield, of the Hatfield and McCoys, cared about the people and went to any lengths to protect them. On May 13, Baldwin-Felt men arrived to evict miners and their families from their homes. This led to a battle in the street of Matewan that left seven detectives, the Mayor and two miners dead or dying. A few months later Hatfield was murdered on the McDowell County courthouse steps by Baldwin-Felt men, this started the Coal Mine Wars. Ma told me she was how they all went to see the blood on the steps.

Once the union came along miners were paid in US currency. Ma told me they were finally able to purchase land when Pa was making \$2 a week. They had reached the American Dream of owning property.

We all struggle at times and have to fight for what we want, but the fight is not life threatening. This was a battle that family members I knew took to the woods with guns to fight for a better life. Would I every have the courage to do that?

To learn more about this forgotten war check out the movie *Matewan*. We saw

this movie years ago before my in-laws passed away. They told me that it was a pretty good version of the story. A movie could never compare to the hardships and horrors they was in person by being there. Another resource for information is *Thunder in the Mountains: The West Virginia Mine War, 1920-21* by Lon Savage. This is a historical account of the Matewan Massacre and the Battle of Blair Mountain both as much a part of our heritage as that of the Alamo or Gettysburg. Just for fun you might try *The Unquiet Earth* by Denise Giardina, this novel spans from the 1930s to the 1980s in Blackberry Creek, WV. Denise Giardina should have a pretty good idea of how people lived; she was born in Bluefield, WV and grew up in a coal camp. Check out the web site for stories and historical information, <http://www.matewan.com>.

Children's Programs at the Harnett County Library!

—Laurel Jones, Children's Librarian

The New Year is bringing a variety of events that will be held in the Children's Area of the Harnett County Public Library. The first of these will be a presentation for our middle and highschoolers on the new money, the Euros of Europe.

This will take place the first week of February, and include several actual Euros in bills and coins that can be viewed at the library!

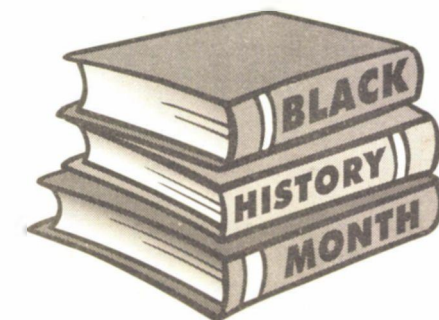
We will also be honoring the Valentine holiday and Black History Month with two special events. Valentine's Day itself will be honored with an after school craft workshop on February 14th.

In addition to the ongoing displays that mark Black History Month, there will be a Celebration of Black Inventors Day on February 21st. This after school event will allow our children to experience the great variety of products that were invented by African-Americans.

As our fifth celebration of Dr Seuss's birthday, the "Read Across America" campaign comes around, we are inviting local university to share in it. There will be several readings from his books, and an author's birthday treat for all.

The rest of the month of March will be marked by a return visit from our canine friend from the Sheriff's Department K-9, and two celebrations of the March holiday. The Children's Area will host a St. Patrick's Day after school event on March 14th, and a special Easter Puppet Show, to be performed by the children, on March 29th.

Watch for our Upcoming Events, and we will See You At The Library!



Dumb Things or ~Feeding winter birds and cats, etc.

The snow in January reminded us that wildlife doesn't cope well with snow any more than we humans do in these parts. There were so many small winter birds in my yard that I decided that even though I had not done so previously, it was time to feed the birds. It was convenient, there was a two-pound bag of sunflower seeds in the sunroom that Charlie and Cassie would not eat and a gallon of hamster food that was no longer useful to our household. Besides, the birds landing on my deck provided a calming view—what more could you ask? It was a picture postcard scene—the snow falling and the birds looking for something to eat. The male cardinals were the most colorful, but the wrens were probably the most determined.

Jackie called me to talk about snow and work and about feeding the birds—she told me how she fixed suet treats and hung them in her trees. She also said she probably put out twenty pounds of birdseed in her feeder.

While Jackie did it "by the book," I had a little different method that proved deadly. And for all the bird and cat lovers I know, I apologize profusely.

You see, our Christmas tree was still green and lovely and I could not bear to have it tossed on the brush pile or into a pond just yet. So when Curt cleaned up after the holiday, I told him to set it out on the deck, and leave it in the stand. It provided a beautiful backdrop. As the snow fell, it decorated the tree again, naturally, and put about a foot of snow on my deck.

Well, this southern gal couldn't (wouldn't) put her shoes on to go out and sweep the deck off—it was too beautiful and frankly, just too cold for me. The best I could do was toss handfuls of sunflower seeds and hamster food out on the deck—and the ground, depending on my aim. I tossed a few seeds into the tree, too. This invited a deck full of brave little wrens and cardinals come to eat.

Bruce Wayne, our bat cat, was fascinated as well. He watched them from the patio door in the den for a while, and then he came upstairs to watch them from the sunroom window for a long time. It was too cold for him to go outside, too. Little did I realize what he was plotting. Bruce had just about enough of watching the birds through the windows. After two days of

this confinement, he wanted to go out in the snow, never mind my warning that it was too cold, too wet, and too deep for his little footsies. Ha, my words went unheeded, and out the door he minced. It was deep and cold, just like I'd said. However, he found a perfectly dry spot under that tree to lie in wait for the hapless birds. Naive me, I thought he liked bird watching from a different angle. More like, he was waiting for a victim to come too close to his lethal claws.

Curt and I were standing at the door, watching the snow and the birds and with our own four eyes (well, eight if you count two sets of glasses) and saw that fiend devouring a poor little wren. It was disgusting—a cat with more food in the house than he could eat was munching on a bird wing. So, that was what his diabolical plan had been all along. You can well imagine that I stopped feeding the birds immediately, and whacked the cat with the broom. Dang that cat—that was the one and only meal of fresh game he caught with my help! Next year, I'm putting up a birdfeeder and doing it right.