

MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 1, No. 4

The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

May, 2004

NEVER BUY A VAN OFF THE RACK



If my mother said it once, she said it 100 times: "Never buy a van off the rack." Sure, you may save a few dollars shopping for one in a discount store which is loaded with hundreds of them, all the same style and color. But when, on the way home, you meet three dozen exactly like yours, you will be sick at your stomach.

And if you are buying one for the pleasure of children who never have anything new or special, you face a no-brainer: order one special and when it arrives, customize it.

That is exactly what we did. On April 29, we put in the order: white Sprinter Cargo Van, not the small, not the medium, but the large, with the tall ceiling. If it carried passengers, it would seat 15, but it will not carry passengers. Transporting the children would be a major liability, not to mention insurance cost. We will transport singers and storytellers along with books, CDs, tapes, and musical instruments. The Story Express will pull in, be parked, the back doors opened wide, and children will come in, sit on the floor of the van, and enjoy. I can hardly wait.

When, then, will the van be delivered? I am not sure. A nationwide search is on for one already available, but the search may not be fruitful. But, no matter; the manufacturer will create what we want. And when will we get it? "This summer" is the only answer I can give you now.

And the price? About \$36,500. And how much money do we have? In cash and pledges, \$12,000. Then did we not order it prematurely? Oh, no. You do the math: \$12,000 + friends like you = \$36,500.

See, I told you.

THE POETRY OF DON WEST

The following is from West's first collection of poetry entitled *Crab-Grass* published in 1931.

Prayer

They said I didn't pray,
The people in the church...
I saw a silver spray
Bathing a slender birch,
Saw a sycamore tree
With white leaves caressing
Pools colored like the sea,
Deep blue and blushing.
I saw cows quiet feeding
On the sweet pasture grass,
Saw birds at the mating
And a lad and a lass.
An old farmer working,
Digging weeds from the corn,
Heard his daughter singing
At the birth of the morn...



Feeling these, I bowed, and stayed,
But they say I never prayed.

If you'd like to read more of Don West's poetry, pick up a copy of *No Lonesome Road* by Jeff Biggers and George Brosi, University of Illinois Press.

If you'd like to hear Mr. West's poetry beautifully read, plan to attend Appalachian Weekend September 25-26 when Jeff Biggers of National Public Radio will be our guest.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
CRADDOCK CENTER BOARD IS AT 7:00 P.M.,
JUNE 1ST, AT THE CENTER

IT'S NOT TOO SOON

To reserve a space for the display and/or sale of your art and craft at the Appalachian Weekend, September 25-26 to be held in the Kiwanis Building at the Fairgrounds in Blue Ridge. We especially welcome arts and crafts that have long been practiced in Southern Appalachia. Displays will be open from 10:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 25.

Since we are having to rent the building, we are for the first time charging a fee of \$10.00 for each space. The number of spaces is limited, so contact the Center to make a reservation. It is not too soon.

WITH THE SCHOOL YEAR COMING TO A CLOSE

It is appropriate that we thank again those who have represented the Center as volunteer readers to Head Start/Pre-K children in Fannin and Gilmer Counties.

SCHOOLS OUT

Readers this year have been: Wilma Fordham, Bill Harrison, Nancy Midkiff, Floyd Hale, John Garceau, Kay Vanderhooft, Kay Zimbrick, Ron Zimbrick.

If you would like to be a reader the next school year, please say so to Betsy Doty. We think you'd enjoy it!

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Dr. Fred B. Craddock, Director
Kay R. Zimbrick, Administrator

THERE WILL BE NO SLICK OKRA IN HEAVEN!



That is the truth; otherwise it would not be heaven but "the bad place." If that is not the truth, then I have suffered in vain. And suffer I have. For reasons that still escape me, I was fed slick okra as a child.

As punishment? I think not; I was obedient to my parents and said my prayers at night. As spiritual discipline? I think so, but such medieval practices must end.

For this reason, I will stand sentinel watch on Saturday evening, September 25, when all who desire will share dinner at Appalachian Weekend. It will be a bring in, covered dish meal. Do not worry; there will be plenty for guests and travelers from afar. In other words, don't bring lime Jell-O in the trunk of your car from Topeka. Those who do bring food will bring enough to share.

But do be warned: covered dishes will be uncovered, so do not try to smuggle in slick okra. Fried, yes, and black-eyed peas, collards, lima beans, corn on the cob, fried apples, cheese grits, squash, fruit salad, brussel sprouts, green beans, even broccoli: none of these are contraband. But slick okra? You and your okra will be stopped at the door, and you will be cast into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.

A PLACE TO HANG YOUR HAT

We know that many of you will be coming from distant and exotic lands, like Florida, North & South Carolina, Tennessee, etc. to help us celebrate Appalachian Weekend, September 25-26, so we thought it might be helpful to list a few lodging options for you:



- Black Bear Cabin Rentals:** 888/902-2246;
www.blackbearcabinrentals.com; blackbear@tds.net
- Simpler Times Cabin Rentals:** 352/795-0197
- Days Inn/ Blue Ridge:** 706/632-2100
- Douglas Inn & Suites/Blue Ridge:** 706/258-3600
- Ramada Limited/Blue Ridge:** 706/632-4444
- Best Western/Ellijay:** 706/515-1500
- Budget Inn/Ellijay:** 706/635-5311
- Stratford Motor Inn/E. Ellijay:** 706/276-1080

For more information about the area, contact the Chamber of Commerce in Fannin County: 800/899-6867; www.blueridgemountains.com; in Gilmer County: 706/635-7400; www.gilmerchamber.com.

WE WANT YOU TO MEET

Judy Wyndham: Judy is already a busy volunteer. She writes grants and works with Pam Lindsey in planning budget and coordinating the music program in the Head Start Pre-K schools we serve. Now she takes on the additional duties of preparing news releases and radio spots, and in general, keeping the Craddock Center before the public. The mark of a real volunteer is willingness to do work for which one is overqualified. Judy is a real volunteer.



Carla Self: Carla is a Licensed Occupational Therapist (Master of Science degree) with years of experience working with all ages, infant to elderly. Occupational therapists do evaluations of ability to function effectively at home, at school, or at work, and help clients lead productive and satisfying lives. Their work is especially vital for those recovering from surgery, for those injured, and for those who are dealing with a physical or mental impairment.

Carla is offering her services as a part time volunteer. Please contact the Center and we will put you in touch with her.

And not incidentally, Carla has an antique shop in Blue Ridge with 5% of her proceeds coming to the Craddock Center.

Carla, for your gifts of service and money, thank you.

WHAT DO I DO WITH MY OLD SERMONS?

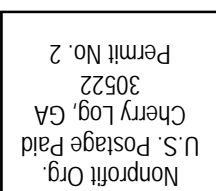
This is the topic for the Fall Preaching Workshop to be held on Monday, October 11, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Cherry Log Christian Church. The topic must be of interest since registrations are coming in earlier than ever. The limit is 85. Since a free continental breakfast and lunch are served, we need to know if you are coming.

By the way, I mentioned the topic, "What Do I Do with My Old Sermons?" to a number of lay folk and they had some interesting suggestions. Out of concern for the care and nurture of the clergy, I am requesting that those lay folk not show up.

In a subsequent issue of *Milk and Honey*, we will publish the schedule of activities for Appalachian Weekend.

We are grateful for the favorable comments about *Milk and Honey* and for those who pass along their copies to others. If you know of someone who might enjoy

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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(Enriching Lives Through Service)
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