

MILK AND HONEY

Vol. 2, No. 11

The Craddock Center
(Enriching Lives through Service)

November, 2005

WAIT FOR ME, I'M YOUR LEADER

In the October issue of Milk and Honey, I mentioned that in January 2006 the Center would launch a campaign to get our Children's Enrichment Program for Head Start pupils underwritten with scholarships. It costs \$140.00 per year per child and we serve 1200 children. The scholarships will be for 3 years and supporters may provide one or more scholarships for that period and make payments monthly, semi annually or annually. All gifts are tax deductible.

That's all I said, and I did it in my usual quiet way; no pushiness, no in-your-face urgent appeal, no clever schemes, no guilt trips. In fact, it was only an announcement of an upcoming opportunity for everyone to share in enriching the lives of these children. I even gave the date: January, 2006. It seemed the fair thing to do so that you could decide on the number of scholarships, schedule of payments, etc. You know how things get during the holidays and at the end of the year, but I figured that a word in October although buried by the holidays might be resurrected by a letter in January and you would say, "Yes, now I remember!" I know it sounds a bit amateurish, but who can afford a development officer?



But what happened? Before November 1, pledges and payments began to come in. I couldn't believe it; I had not even begun to work my magic! And they continue to come in. What am I going to do with you people? I'll tell you this: I will not be thwarted by your early generosity. I will launch the program in January as though nothing happened. I have my pride, you know.

HERE'S THE DEAL ABOUT BRASSTOWN

The annual program of Songs and Stories ("Winged for the Heart") by Steve Darsey and Fred Craddock will again be presented on Sat. evening, Jan. 28, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. The program is without charge but an offering is taken to cover expenses (rent on the room, audio specialists, etc.) Because the room seats only 400, attendees must make reservations. This is done by contacting Meridian Herald (WingedfortheHeart@meridianherald.org, 404-525-4722) or the Craddock Center (craddockcenter@tds.net, 706-632-1772). All inquires about lodging or meals at the resort must be directed to the Brasstown Valley Resort, Hiawassee, GA. We anticipate all seats will be reserved by Jan. 14, so dilly not, nor dally.

AN UP DATE ON STEP UP

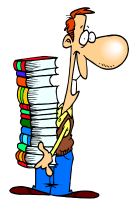
Our Step Up Program, as you remember, is an effort to secure from FEMA (of Homeland Security) 75 of the units of portable housing taken to Florida and then to the Gulf Coast. I say is an effort not was an effort because the project is delayed but not stopped. The needs of families in substandard housing are too great and too persistent to permit our abandoning the effort. When FEMA finds itself with hundreds if not thousands of units unused, we will renew our appeal.

I realize FEMA addresses emergencies and these families are in what the government classifies as "preexisting conditions". But what logic says that if you are homeless due to last night's storm you deserve help but if you have been homeless all your life you do not qualify? I am keeping alive the conversation with the offices of senators and representatives and remain hopeful. Join me.



HOME WORK

Do you know anyone who is a Melungeon? Have you even heard of Melungeons? That's what I thought. So I ask our official researcher, Sharon Meek, to provide for us a brief reading list so that we can bring some knowledge and greater interest to the Helen Lewis lecture on Friday, March 3, 2006. The lecture to be given by Darlene Wilson of Wise, Virginia is entitled "The Appalachian Metis: Melungeon Women in the Midst". The lecture, preceded by 30 minutes of genuine Appalachian music by Laura Boosinger of Asheville, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in the old court house in Blue Ridge, Georgia. The program is free and open to everyone.



Suggested Reading:

The following books can be purchased online through the Melungeons Heritage Association <http://www.melungeon.org>.

Walking Toward the Sunset: The Melungeons of Appalachia by Wayne Winkler.

The Melungeons: The Resurrection of a Proud People by Brent Kennedy.

Melungeons and Other Pioneer Families by Jack Goins.

How They Shine: Melungeon Characters in the Fiction of Appalachia by Katherine Vande Brake.

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I KNOW IT SEEMS A LONG TIME



Until March 6, 2006 and I hate to ask you to think past Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. But the plain fact is, registrations for the Spring Preaching Workshop at Cherry Log are already coming in, and I don't want anyone who wants to come to apply too late. Again, we will gather at Cherry Log Christian Church. Free continental breakfast is at 9:00 a.m.; sessions begin at 9:30 a.m., and a free deli lunch is served at noon. Call, write, or email the office and you will have a place. Our theme: "Preaching the Death of Jesus".

AND SPEAKING OF PREACHING WORKSHOPS

The idea of having small groups of ministers (not more than 12) come to the Craddock Center has caught on. We meet for 3-6 hours, discuss preaching, have lunch and share our common passion about the pulpit. Several groups have already come and 3 more are scheduled. Cost? Your lunch and the group makes an offering for the work of the Center. How large an offering? Now don't ask me that. If I set the amount too low you would be insulted; if too high, you would refuse to come. So, I suggest something between too low and too high. Now that we have that settled, let's negotiate a date.

WE THOUGHT YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR

What Head Start teachers and directors are saying to us about the Children's Enrichment Programs. Here are excerpts from two letters:

"The children go around singing the songs all the time and this is great for their language skills. They also get to use social skills by talking and interacting with the teachers. Parents tell us often that the children let them know when it is music day or if the storyteller is coming to visit.."

— Dawson County

"Our children's lives are greatly enriched by the music, dance and the drama of the storytellers. The only way you could improve would be to try to stretch our days a little longer! We both hear wonderful stories from our parents about their children singing and dancing and telling stories at home and in the car. So you are not just touching these little lives, but the whole family."

— Gilmer County



THE REPORT OF MY DEATH IS JUST A RUMOR

In fact, there have been two such rumors in recent weeks. One person who heard it did have the decency to call to see if it were true. But please, don't call the office; it is upsetting to Tammy. You see, some mornings I walk in the office feeling and looking borderline and it creates a climate of uncertainty, which is not a good working environment. In addition, there is not much job security working for someone who has passed away.



So, leave Tammy out of it. If you want to know, call me at home. If Nettie answers, ask for me, and if I come to the phone, there is a clue. If I don't come to the phone, then ask Nettie. She probably will know; she keeps up with where I am, pretty much.

IT IS NOW SETTLED

The theme for Appalachian Weekend (Sept. 30—Oct. 1) 2006 will be "The Role of Music in Appalachian Life". The Board decided to save for another year the theme "Cottage Industries in Southern Appalachia".



To explore the role of music in Appalachian life is to deal with music in the home, in the church, and in community life. It is to look at music as entertainment, as worship, and as a rallying force in efforts at social change. It is to listen to the words and to know the circumstances giving birth to the songs. We will invite not only performers of authentic Appalachian music but also persons who know the history of the music and its varied roles in the lives of people native to these mountains.

We will learn and we will have a great time.

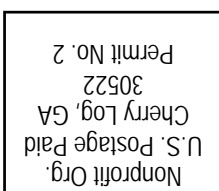
WE WILL BE SITTING BY THE PHONE

As you know, our Children's Enrichment Program reaches 1200 children each week. These children live in Pickens, Dawson, Gilmer, Fannin, Union, Towns, and Lumpkin counties in Georgia, in Polk County, Tennessee, and in Cherokee County, North Carolina.

But it occurred to me that outside the Head Start and Pre-K schools probably not many folk in those counties know we come to their children with this program. It also occurred to me that if they did know, they probably would like to encourage us with some support.

So — if a civic club or other community organization would like for us to provide a program about who we are and what we do, give us a call. We would love to come.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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