

THE ELSEGOOD CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016



Unlike other years we have not travelled as much. This was due to several factors. The first being two major exhibitions for the history association had to be created for the year. "Then I'll Come Back to You" the story of a Silent Movie made in the Pensacola Area in 1916. Pensacola in those days being larger than Burnsville and a logging centre with a Railroad and two or three large sawmills. Linda did all of the research and I was of course the designer. The exhibition consisted of 4 panels (8 sides) with photographic stills from the movie and cast, original book from 1915 and music sheet. Both originals tracked down and bought through the internet. A film canister from the era and advertisements and reviews

from the newspapers from across the country. Special boxes were created to keep the originals from being handled.

The second exhibition took us 8 months to create and produce. "Our Musical Heritage" the brainchild of Dr. Lloyd Bailey one of the original founders of the Yancey History Association. He set us a budget which he kindly donated and using all our skills, finding specials on print work, getting all the local musicians involved and getting donated and loaned instruments and prints from past and present musicians and their families.

We were lucky enough to also be donated the piano owned



by Lili Kraus the famous concert pianist which now on permanent display in the museum.

The grand opening saw a good crowd of guest who after seeing the exhibition enjoyed food and music on the McElroy House grounds.

The exhibition took its toll on us with Linda going down shortly afterwards with Shingles a few days afterwards.

Linda's shingles stopped her from being a part of any of our commitments until late October.... and she still has nerve damage that we hope will gradually dissipate. I learned how to be cook, bottle washer, housekeeper and nursemaid.

We did have a day out to Grandfather Mountain to see the colours and it was fantastic, the ride down route 80 onto the Blue

Ridge Parkway stopping at virtually every overlook.

The Blue Ridge Relay again was a highlight of this area with about 2800 runners, crew and white vans from 228 teams across the States. Set up time was 3:30am and the first runners passed our checkpoint at just after 4am. Only 5 teams did not make the whole 208 mile run which started in Virginia and ended in Asheville. We served breakfasts at both our churches with a donation of \$5 per breakfast which goes into our fund to help the needy of our area with fuel, health and funeral costs. It was amazing to know the results. The Asheville Team won the race by



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only 50 seconds after the 208 miles.

The Old Timey Fall Festival is always the last Saturday in September. We are on the organising committee of what I believe is its 21st anniversary of the event on the square. The weather was perfect, I helped set up at 7am and organize vendors as the put up tents to sell their goods or demonstrate.



as the helicopter with a water bucket passed overhead 14 times to help control the fire. We found out tourists who had rented a cabin had a fire in a fire pit that the had not been put out properly before



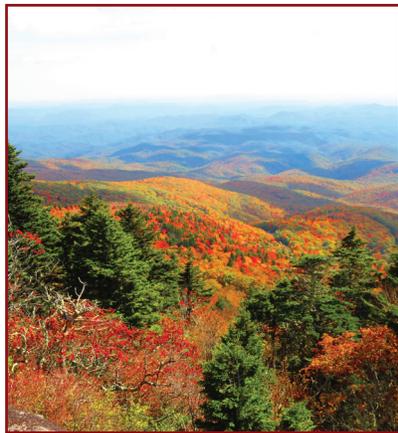
Dean Gates declared the festival open at 10am with the flag raising and national anthem. We had a full day of music and dance, children's games, adult competitions and of course the antique cars and tractors. The square was busy all day with record crowds and the food vendors including the Yancey History Association actually ran out of food early in the afternoon.



leaving the area and with the dry conditions it spread at an alarming rate.

We travelled down to Monroe in Louisiana for Thanksgiving to stay with Donna. Donna lives in an apartment complex only a stones throw from stores and major highways. It was a family Thanksgiving with Laura, Lauren and Freddie and daughters Olivia and

This year the weather has been dry but the fall colours this year were spectacular. We are now close to 15 inches below our normal rainfall and this has created problems with wildfires.



Evie (Donna's Son and daughter in law and grandchildren). A full house shared with the two cats who kept hiding most of the time. There was enough food to feed an army. We went to the Zoo, shopping to catch the Black Friday specials and Antique Shopping

About one month ago we had a wildfire only about 2 miles up the road which took the fire department and firefighters from other areas nearly a week to contain. We watched

at Antique Alley in Monroe a street of just antique shops.

The Monroe Zoo needs a lot of monetary help. It is trying hard to upgrade all their services. It has so much

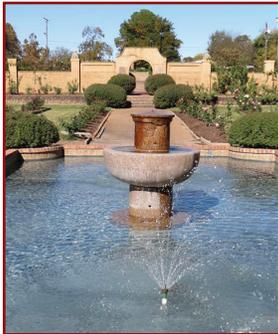


potential as the area they have is perfect for a zoo. We enjoyed the visit and I took lots of photos. I sent them all my photos in case they want to use them.

We rented a car for 4 days to visit friends in Many, Louisiana and



Chandler in Texas. We had a good journey down into Many to see Peggy, an artist and a good friend of Linda.



We stayed the night at Cypress Bend Hoel and Golf Club before traveling to see Linda and Wendell in Chandler. Linda and Linda were schoolmates and are both very creative. We had an outing to the Tyler Rose Garden and the Chandler



History Association (a small but excellent museum).

We returned to Monroe and handed back the rental. On checking my on-line account at the bank I noticed a purchase of \$700 on my Visa card for a scrap metal and salvage company in Pennsylvania that was certainly not mine. So panic set in. I called the Bank and the fraud department cancelled the card and set out to find out who it was. As I had only given my card over once during the trip and that was to the Hotel who wanted it for security



reasons, they are my first choice for the security breach. We even bought special wallets before the trip to avoid people scanning the cards whilst still in your pocket.

We are on duty today at the Santa Claus Parade to organise the floats into position. The crowd of families with children is always well attended. The

weather has turned cold but with no snow in sight.

We look forward to next year for a trip to France to explore some Chateaux and Castles and enjoy the French food. And later I will be attending Alan and Andrea's 50th wedding anniversary in Menston and hopefully see some friends in London and York. (details to follow)

We hope you enjoyed our 2016 newsletter and wish you all the best for the Holiday Season and New Year.

CAPTIONS:

PAGE 1 - Silent Movie Exhibit, Lili Kraus Piano, Our Musical Heritage, Mike & John during Blue Ridge Relay.

PAGE 2 - Old Timey Fall Festival, Lauren, Olivia, Donna, Freddie & Evie.

PAGE 3 - Linda, Wendell and Linda, Tyler Rose Garden, Linda, Donna and John, Monroe Zoo.