

Bland County Historical Society

PO Box 416, Bland VA 24315
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NEWSLETTER September 2012

September Quarterly
Membership Meeting
September 15th at 1:00
PM will be held at the
Lutheran Fellowship Hall

Instead of having a speaker at our quarterly meeting, we will host our traditional Bar-B-Que meal with all the trimmings. This is in appreciation of the support we receive from our members. Your membership dues help us keep the Society going. Please come and enjoy the fellowship and good food.

our website

<http://blandcountyhistsoc.org/>

our phone number

276-688-0088

June Quarterly Meeting



H. G. Richardson, Jr. (Buzz) was our guest speaker. He gave a very interesting tour of Bland.

As the group traveled up Main Street Buzz pointed out places where businesses had been located during the 1930s – drug store, hotel, Newberry Brothers Store and the Post Office, to name a few. He also pointed out a gap in Walkers Mountain and reminded the group that the Turkey Turnpike went through that gap, getting its name from the fact that people drove turkeys

across the mountain to Wytheville.

The courtyard around the courthouse would be full of people on Sunday afternoons. The women would come to get all the news and the kids would play together. He told about the Men's Bible Class of 1933 meeting in the courtroom, the wrought iron fence around the courthouse yard and about the cows and hogs in town. Sometime around 1945-46 a liquor car came through. They had a fan belt break going up the mountain and the police caught them. The liquor was confiscated but not all of it was poured out. Someone asked him if it was "recycled".

As they went on Courthouse Street by the old jail building (now used as the Historical Society's office, gift shop and research library) he told of Nancy the squirrel, the garden and chickens

behind the jail and a big barn and apple orchard where W&W NAPA is now located. Once some boys climbed up the Confederate Soldier monument.

Then on Jackson Street he told about the blacksmith shop where the Post Office is now located, the building where Jim Muncy printed the Bland Messenger on the first floor, with the Masonic Hall on the second floor. There was a barbershop owned by Buzz's uncle where he charged 10 cents for a shave and 25 cents for a haircut. Behind the barbershop was a hog pen.

All the roads in Bland were dirt and Jackson Street was called Back Street. There was a corn crib, a big barn, coal shed, wood shed, hotel, the Methodist parsonage (where Buzz was married), a billy goat and a big German Shepherd along the street. A 1932 Chevrolet roadster was parked on the street with the keys in it. It was stolen and found on Walkers Mountain.

Buzz gave information about the Raleigh Grayson Turnpike before turning back on Main Street and concluding the walking tour.

Buzz related several stories during the walk, and there are many more that he is willing to share with us. We plan to have him take us on another tour.

2013 Historical Society Calendar: Photographs have been chosen and the calendars will be ready soon.

New Ornament: The new ornament is in the works and will feature the Wolf Creek Bridge in Rocky Gap.

Membership:
Please renew for 2013.
Membership dues are \$5.00 per Bland County student, \$15.00 per individual, \$25.00 per couple, Lifetime memberships are \$150.00 per individual.

Members get 10% off all purchases in the Society gift shop.

2012 Board of Directors

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The Bland County Historical Society is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Donations, Memorials, and/or Donations in Honor of someone are greatly appreciated.