

Celebrating and Remembering at Founders Day Fair

By Linda Anders

Whether one's family has lived in Transylvania County for five generations or five months, everyone who is a resident has benefited from the labor, sacrifices and love put into this land by the Founding Families. Why not join together to celebrate and remember them?

The Transylvania Heritage Museum's Mission is to "explore, promote, preserve, and nurture the historical heritage of Transylvania County and its families through exhibits, educational programs, collections of artifacts, and heritage/cultural activities."

All the different aspects of the Museum's Mission will come together on Saturday, September 5, from 10 am to 6 pm on West Jordan Street in Brevard. Besides the music, crafts, and food that are expected at a street fair, there will be some very special happenings.

Walking Tours of Historic Downtown Brevard will be led at 10:30 by Jack Powers, at 12:30 by Jill Chapman and at 2:30 by Susan Threlkel. One might think, what's so special or historic about downtown Brevard? Join the tour and be surprised, or take a stroll down memory lane on this 1-1/2 hour walk. Tours are limited to 15 participants, so early reservations are recommended. Call 884-2347 or drop by the Museum to get your name on the list. Donations will be taken at the end of the tour.

Inside the Museum, the regular exhibits will be replaced with artifacts and photographs brought in by descendants of the Founding Families. Some of those descendants will be on hand to share their family history. Even if one thinks they are not related to anyone currently living in the County, they might be surprised by how far the "kudzu vine" of Transylvania natives, and "cousins," has spread through the United States. Everyone is invited to come explore and possibly find a common history.

Children will enjoy the special area just for them. Games and contests are planned throughout the day to help them learn how children lived before television and computers. Jumping rope, playing jacks and marbles, carrying eggs on a spoon, and other simple pleasures from earlier times will be shared. Fun activities of pioneers often centered around work, so no Founders Day celebration would be complete without corn shucking and shelling. A schedule will be posted in the kids' area.

Walter Kluge, a skilled craftsman, will be demonstrating how dough bowls were made by the early settlers. The bowl he makes on Founders Day will be raffled off so that the winner may take it home to commemorate their day. Tickets will be available at the Museum's outdoor booth.



In memory of Paul Owen and G.H. Orr, who showed that children can always find a way to play, even if they have to use a stick for a baseball bat. Photo courtesy of their cousin, Linda Anders.

On the other end of Jordan Street on the same day, the Transylvania/Brevard Chamber of Commerce will be holding a Transylvania Farm Fair celebrating local producers from 9 am to 2 pm. One of the booths at the Farm Fair will be BusyBee Farm, owned and operated by Andy VonCanon and Brittany Whitmire. www.busybeefarms.com

The land they tend has been in Brittany's family over 100 years. Brittany and her father, Jimmy Whitmire, were interviewed earlier this year. The interview, discussing their Century Family Farm, will be premiered on Founders Day in the Museum. To show their support of the Museum, BusyBee Farm is providing coupons to be handed out in the Museum. Present the coupon and buy a BusyBee Burger at the Poppie's booth, and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Museum.

The Museum is also placing coupons at the BusyBee Farm booth that can be used to get a free drink or baked item at the Museum's Baked Sale booth with the purchase of a \$1 raffle ticket on the dough bowl.

The most special thing about the Founders Day fair is that all the crafters, musicians, food providers, volunteers—all involved—live in or have family roots in Transylvania County. To get a true sense of what Transylvania is all about, everyone is invited to come out and support the Transylvania Heritage Museum while having a fun-filled, family day.

The Transylvania Heritage Museum is run by the non-profit organization, Transylvania Heritage Coalition, Inc. For membership information, upcoming events or to make donations, please call 884-2347, visit the web site at www.transylvaniaheritage.org, or drop by the Museum at 40 West Jordan Street in Brevard, Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.