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April 30-May 13, 2020

## The mail order groom

BY KAY WILLIS BURNS

The first permanent settlement in America was Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. The settlement consisted mostly of men, given that English women were deterred by the stories of danger, disease, shipwrecks, and death. Men wanted wives, but even after ten years, women were even more scarce, and men were leaving the settlement in record numbers. So, in order to recruit women who would risk life and limb to sail from England to Jamestown, they were promised free transportation, shelter, food, clothing, linens, other furnishings, and a plot of land. And last but not least, the women were given the right to select their own husbands, a kind of foreshadowing of future mail order grooms to come.



Joseph Nikle Duquette

Approximately 300 years later in 1911, Miss Lena Kay of Honea Path, SC was thumbing through a catalogue. But it wasn't just any catalogue. She was shopping for a husband.

Matrimonial clubs like 'The New Plan Co.' based in Kansas City, Missouri was a matrimonial club that claimed more than 32,000 members during its 1911-1917 existence. According to its handbook, the club served singles, both women and men. Ladies especially, whose

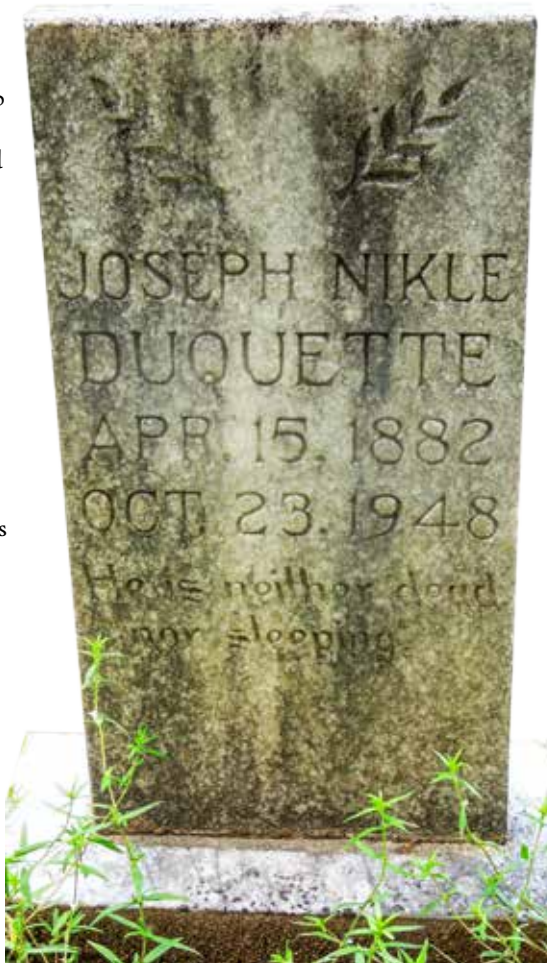
opportunities were somewhat limited as to forming acquaintances were encouraged to take full advantage of its catalog of eligible mates. Applicants agreed to pay a \$5 fee if membership led to matrimony. Club organizers did require a \$1 application fee to be deducted from the \$5 dues, payable at the time they married.

"This small fee, which is hardly to be considered as a factor," the catalog explained, "keeps away all frauds and curiosity seekers and is a guarantee to us that all persons joining the club are in earnest and not triflers, and this knowledge is certainly beneficial to all members."

Once their application fee was paid, members received a certificate good for 12 months. For an additional \$1 the club sent out a recent catalog, which contained the name and address of every

matrimonially minded man or woman who had sent in an ad. Bachelors and bachelorettes were encouraged to be quick about sending in their own personals, before someone else snapped up the person of their choice. "If you know a good thing when you see it, you will lose no time in quickly taking advantage of

SEE GROOM ON PAGE 2



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# OSPREYS ON THE NEST

BY ANN K. BAILES

I could sense my friend's excitement even in her text. "We think we've got a bald eagle nesting in the cell tower near our house!"

Knowing the nests that are present on several cell towers in our area, I suggested to her, "Are you sure you're not looking at an osprey?" Soon she sent another text: "You're right, we used our telescope and can see it's an osprey." She may have been a little disappointed, but she needn't have been. An osprey may not be a bald eagle, but it's still an unusual nature observation. And they are large and beautiful raptors.

These birds, which used to be known as fish hawks, are about six to eight inches smaller than eagles and have white underparts, as compared to mature bald eagles which are all brown except for their heads and tails.

Ospreys are known to mate for life and often return to the same nest, adding to it each year.



After hatching, the 2-4 nestlings are cared for by their parents until flight occurs at about seven weeks. Young birds can be observed strengthening their wings by flapping until they rise above the nest and then sink back down.

A really fortunate observer at the lake can see an osprey swoop down and catch lunch or dinner. We've seen that happening while enjoying the Galley Restaurant for our own dinner. When an

osprey spots a fish, it hovers over the water, then plunges feet first to catch its meal in its talons. The male usually does the fishing to bring food back to the nest when young are present.

I know of at least four cell towers or high platforms in Anderson where ospreys nest, and more are no doubt around. This is a relatively recent phenomenon for which we can thank the presence of Lake Hartwell (and the DDT ban).

Ospreys used to nest only near the coast; however, they have followed water routes and are now nesting inland. If you can safely pull over when you pass a cell tower, look to see if you see messy sticks poking out around the top. If so, you are probably looking at an osprey nest. And if you're lucky, you'll see birds, either adults or maybe little ones as well. The nests are so high that you'll need binoculars to get a good look. The cell tower nest at the corner of Highway 24 and Alice Drive is a good one to study, because a pull-off provides a safe spot where watchers can park and observe the activity.

Looking up and seeing an osprey nest, and following the progression of the little ones as they mature, is a wonderful experience for my friend, who is now watching the nest near her home. She's getting a great education in nature study. And now that ospreys nest in our area — you can, too.

## Groom

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

their most liberal proposition," the club advised.

Actual ads of The New Plan Company included the following:

I am a lonely, unencumbered widow, age 48; weight 165; height 5 feet 6 inches; big blue eyes; brown hair; fair complexion; American; religion, Methodist. I have property worth \$30,000, and a sunny disposition; considered very good looking. Would like to hear from some good businessmen. Object, matrimony.

A winsome miss of 22; very beautiful, jolly and entertaining; fond of home and children; from a good family; American; Christian; blue eyes; golden hair; fair complexion; pleasant disposition; play piano. Will inherit \$10,000. Also have means of \$1,000. None but men of good education need to write from 20 to 38 years of age.

Boys, I am a lonesome little girl, alone in the world and earning my own living and am tired of doing so; my age is 20 years, weight 145, height 5 feet 3 inches, blue eyes, dark hair, good housekeeper; am considered good looking, have some means, also piano; common school education; prefer country life; will marry if suited; no Catholics need to write.

Despite the occasional mismatch or short-lived union, historians at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., concluded that mail-order matches resulted in a high percentage of lasting marriages, primarily because the seekers were candid and direct in their explanations of

THE PRESS AND BANNER, Abbeville, S. C.		THREE	
640—James Childs	Abbeville	707—Samuel Lane Hill	Abbeville
640—Abbie Levi Brumley	Abbeville	708—James Rowland Kirby	Abbeville
641—Ben Bayley	Abbeville	709—Andrew Jackson Green	Abbeville
642—Governor Cowan	Abbeville, Blue Hill	710—Hermon William Clark	Abbeville
643—Joe Meadows Crowell	Abbeville	711—Mark Lee	Abbeville
644—Walter Robinson	Abbeville	712—Nicholas Serraw	Abbeville
645—Jann Landrath Wilson	Abbeville	713—James Frank Singleton	Abbeville
646—John Lester Swartz	Abbeville	714—John Robert Bewie	Abbeville
647—Lewis Jackson Johnson	Abbeville	715—Alvin Luther Bradberry	Abbeville
648—Charles Owen	Abbeville	716—Theresa A. Lewis	Abbeville
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650—William Thaddeus Norrell	Abbeville	718—James Erwin Meyer	Abbeville
651—Gilbert Goodwin	Abbeville	719—James Thomas Crowell	Abbeville
652—John Wilson	Abbeville	720—Allen Kist	Abbeville
653—Luther Thomas Hammond	Abbeville	721—Wm. Fisher	Abbeville
654—Prem White	Abbeville	722—Luther Ligon	Abbeville
655—John Thomas Norris	Abbeville	723—Walter Hunter	Lowndesville, Rt. 2
656—William Henry Maynard	Abbeville	724—Andrew Eakin McCord	Hodges, Rt. 2
657—James Thomas Cox	Abbeville	725—William Beaulieu Ashley	Hodges, Rt. 1
658—James George Owens	Abbeville	726—Lafayette McCord Nickles, Jr.	Donalds, Rt. 2
659—William Benjamin Godfrey	Abbeville	727—Thomas Eakin Nickles	Abbeville, Rt. 3
660—John Foster Minor	Abbeville	728—Claude Forrest Vermillion	Hodges, Rt. 1
661—James Neal Hunt	Abbeville	729—Thomas Eakin Nickles	Abbeville, Rt. 3
662—William M. Langley	Abbeville	730—William Franklin Radcliffe	Abbeville, Rt. 3
663—Lemuel F. Norrell	Abbeville	731—William M. Spruell	Hodges, Rt. 1
664—Jas. Holt, Calhoun Ashley	Donalds, Rt. 2	732—William Andy Davis	Abbeville, Rt. 2
665—Alice May C. Bacon	Honea Path, Rt. 3	733—James Andrew Butler	Abbeville, Rt. 2
666—James Augustus Murdock	Honea Path, Rt. 3	734—William Eakin	Abbeville, Rt. 2
667—Robert Lee Crawford	Honea Path, Rt. 3	735—James E. Butler	Abbeville, Rt. 2
668—Richard Lullin	Honea Path, Rt. 4	736—John Allen Wilson	Abbeville, Rt. 2
669—Robert Wilson Rigby	Honea Path, Rt. 2	737—John Allen Wilson	Abbeville, Rt. 2
670—Robert C. Rigby	Honea Path, Rt. 3	738—Replee Franklin Allen	Donalds, Rt. 2
671—James William McClure	Honea Path, Rt. 4	739—Lillian Kist	Abbeville, Rt. 2
672—James Harrison	Honea Path, Rt. 4	740—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
673—Malvin E. Ashley	Honea Path, Rt. 4	741—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
674—William Luther Hart	Honea Path, Rt. 4	742—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
675—Charles O. Rigby	Honea Path, Rt. 4	743—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
676—John E. Seaton	Honea Path, Rt. 4	744—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
677—John Walker Vaughn	Honea Path, Rt. 4	745—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
678—James Henry Caldwell	Honea Path, Rt. 4	746—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
679—Joseph Nickles Duquette	Honea Path, Rt. 3	747—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1
680—Joseph Nickles Duquette	Honea Path, Rt. 3	748—James David Hagan	Donalds, Rt. 1

exactly what they expected and wanted from a prospective spouse. And, if requested, the prospective brides and bridegrooms might be asked to send in accurate photos of themselves along with further background information. The safeguards didn't end there. Often, when the pair met, the groom-to-be signed an agreement (witnessed by three upstanding members of that locale) not to abuse or mistreat the bride-to-be. The prospective bride then signed an agreement (also witnessed) not to nag or try to change her future husband.

So, on February 5th, 1911, Miss Lena Kay of Honea Path wed her mail order groom, Mr. Joseph Nikle Duquette of Canada. Duquette was 6 ft. 1 inch tall, with black hair and blue eyes. Duquette was a farmer and a devout Catholic, and he held true to his faith and attended the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Abbeville, built in 1885. The couple remained in Honea Path the rest of their lives, except for the times Mr. Duquette's wanderlust inspired

him to visit various and sundry places via a spiffy car Lena had purchased.

Mr. Duquette's love of speed became legendary in Honea Path. Even to the present day, many residents remember stories of Duquette's 'need for speed' near the Keowee section where he lived. Although some residents still believe, erroneously, that Mr. Duquette died in a car crash, the street moniker 'Duquette's Curve' lives on.

In 1918, when World War I drew nigh, Duquette signed up for the draft. However, he wasn't drafted, most likely because he was older than most of the other men who signed up.

On October 13, 1943, Joseph Nikle Duquette of Honea Path became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America.

Five years later, Joseph Nikle Duquette passed away and was buried in the Kay Cemetery on the Donalds Highway.

The mail order marriage representing two different countries lasted 37 years.

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# HARTWELL LAKE

BY RICH OTTER

It would be difficult in this day to visualize the County of Anderson and South Carolina without Hartwell Lake. Its development has changed the very complexion of the County and State. But its development was a very controversial issue in the 1950s and rolling into the early 1960s.

There would be family farms destroyed after a lifetime or several lifetimes of invested effort. Clemson University facilities would

be inundated and its future expansion deemed inhibited. Research facilities were endangered. Valuable free flowing watercourses would be lost for industrial development. It was a socialist undertaking by the government to acquire private property. It would create great mud flats and harm wildlife. It was opposed by Clemson University, the Chamber of Commerce, Duke Power Company and the business community

generally. It was said Duke Power had planned a dam in the same location.

The prime mover for the project was Wilton E. Hall, the owner and publisher of The Anderson Independent and Anderson Daily Mail who was divisive but one of the most prominent individuals of the time. The project was opposed by many who had been at opposite poles with Hall individually and politically. It was claimed an economic disaster.

One representation of the feeling was a large map of the area that Tom Milford, the owner of Clemson Printers, had on his office wall. It showed a snake swimming up the Savannah River toward Clemson. The snake was identified as Wilton Hall.

G. Carey Hayes, Jr., who worked for Hall during the Hartwell quest, said the Charleston Courier argued if Congress appropriated the money for the project it would bankrupt the country. They wanted the money for the Charleston Navy Yard. The Greenville News wanted the funds spent on Donaldson Air Force Base.

Hayes said Hall was the backbone in the construction of Hartwell Dam working along with Louie Morris, the publisher of the Hartwell Sun, Congressman Paul Brown from Elberton, Georgia, and Congressman William Jennings Bryan Dorn from South Carolina. Hayes said Hall did not personally make a nickel from Lake Hartwell, nor did Louie Morris. They just saw it as a grand economic opportunity.

G. Ross Anderson, Jr., Hall's attorney, said

Wilton Hall paid for his own studies out of his personal pocket and presented them to Congressional committees, having made numerous appearances. But he said it wasn't the public appearances so much as it was behind the scenes maneuvering with Congressmen Paul Brown and Bryan Dorn and Senators Olin Johnston and Burnet Maybank.

Roy Arthur Ethridge, Sr. who had worked for Hall and was later the editor

of The Anderson Free Press, an opposition newspaper to Wilton Hall and his newspapers, said that a lot of people just hated to see so much land under water, but, in the final analysis, it was probably one of the main economic boosters for western South Carolina and northeast Georgia. Ethridge said: "Had it not been for Mr. Hall, Hartwell Dam probably would not be here now."

With a last gasp after realizing the inevitable, the Clemson Club unsuccessfully pushed for the reservoir name to be Lake Seneca.

There are many of us who have had serious disagreement over the years with Wilton Hall for many and varied reasons, but there is no question that his persistence and vigorous fight for the development of Hartwell Lake resulted in a great benefit to the surrounding counties and the State of South Carolina.

It should always be possible to have disagreement with individuals while still recognizing what they may have otherwise accomplished. Wilton Hall certainly made a major contribution with regard to Hartwell Lake against considerable opposition.



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## CARES Act offers help for investors, small businesses

As we go through the coronavirus crisis, we are all, first and foremost, concerned about the health of our loved ones and communities. But the economic implications of the virus have also weighed heavily on our minds. However, if you're an investor or a business owner, you just got some help from Washington – and it could make a big difference, at least in the short term, for your financial future.

Specifically, the passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers, among other provisions, the following:

**Expanded unemployment benefits** – The CARES Act provides \$250 billion for extended unemployment insurance, expands eligibility and provides workers with an additional \$600 per week for four months, in addition to what state programs pay. The package will also cover the self-employed, independent contractors and "gig economy" workers. Obviously, if your employment has been affected, these benefits can be a lifeline. Furthermore, the benefits could help you avoid liquidating some long-term investments you've earmarked for retirement just to meet your daily cash flow needs.

**Direct payments** – Individuals will receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200; this amount is reduced for incomes over \$75,000 and eliminated altogether at \$99,000. Joint filers will receive up to \$2,400, which will be reduced for incomes over \$150,000 and eliminated at \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. Plus, taxpayers with children will receive an extra \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 17. If you don't need this money for an immediate need, you might consider putting it into a low-risk, liquid account as part of an emergency fund.

**No penalty on early withdrawals** – Typically, you'd have to pay a 10% penalty on early withdrawals from IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement accounts. Under the CARES Act, this penalty will be waived for individuals who qualify for COVID-19 relief and/or in plans that allow COVID-19 dis-

tributions. Withdrawals will still be taxable, but the taxes can be spread out over three years. Still, you might want to avoid taking early withdrawals, as you'll want to keep your retirement accounts intact as long as possible.

**Suspension of required withdrawals** – Once you turn 72, you'll be required to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions for 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis.

**Increase of retirement plan loan limit** – Retirement plan investors who qualify for COVID-19 relief can now borrow up to \$100,000 from their accounts, up from \$50,000, provided their plan allows loans. We recommend that you explore other options, such as the direct payments, to bridge the gap on current expenses and if you choose to take a plan loan work with your financial adviser to develop strategies to pay back these funds over time to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals.

**Small-business loans** – The CARES Act provides \$349 billion to help small businesses – those with fewer than 500 employees – retain workers and avoid closing up shop. A significant part of this small business relief is the Paycheck Protection Program. This initiative provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain payroll during this emergency. Significantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers use the loans for payroll and other essential business expenses (such as mortgage interest, rent and utilities) and maintain their payroll during the crisis.

We'll be in a challenging economic environment for some time, but the CARES Act should give us a positive jolt – and brighten our outlook.

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# MOTHER EARTH

BY MARGARET SMITH

Fifty years ago a young married Margaret Niver Smith decided to have a garden. This young woman was me, and I knew nothing about gardening. I loved to eat, so how hard could it be to grow a few vegetables? I planted a little corn next to the house and a few green beans in the back. My corn got about seven inches tall, but it did tassel! I had a little better luck with the beans; Jim and I had enough for about 8 beans each. Gardening was not hard, but it did require a little know how and research.

A year later Jim and I moved in a house with a big yard outside of Anderson; a perfect place for a garden. Even better, the house came with a tiller. I bought a few garden tools, a few seeds, a few tomato plants, and a South Edition of All About Vegetables for \$2.95; it is still my go-to book. The garden produced a lot of wonderful vegetables. I was hooked.

The next year our family grew as well as my obsession. If I could grow beans, squash, and tomatoes, surely I could grow fruits and berries. Some thrived: apples, peaches, plums, and blueberries; cherries were wonderful for a few years; boysenberries and strawberries were not worth the trouble. I still have organic blueberry bushes that are over 40 years old and are producing like crazy. Blueberries love our acid soil.

As the years passed so did my understanding of food and what went into our supply. I wanted to feed my family food that did not have preservatives or added colors. ADHD was something new that was linked to these. Now that I look back, I went overboard. I made my cakes, cookies, bread, yes, even hamburger buns, canned over 100 quarts of green beans a year, canned squash, made ketchup which tasted like BBQ sauce; all food was made from scratch. My youngest daughter at the age of five asked Santa for a store bought loaf of bread. I was mortified; she got it. How deprived my family was!

I taught Earth Science at Southwood Middle School and at Lakeside for many years. It was during this time I realized how I wanted my students to understand and protect this wonderful planet we call home. We composted, planted trees, made short trips to the edge of the woods observing how alive soil is, and even hung plastic bags in sunny windows to see how long they would hold up. I talked a lot about hydrogeology and how it would be a great career choice; I wonder how many remember this. It was during



this time I met and got to know so many wonderful friends, Ginny Fretwell was one of them. It was here that I was teased and given the name Mother Earth; a name I am proud of.

After I retired, I noticed there were very few bees around my yard and garden so I started researching honey bees. Naturally, I was hooked and became a beekeeper in 2011. Last winter we lost a hive to wax moths and the bees in the remaining hives absconded, leaving all the honey. Many other beekeepers had the same problem. Why? It is a mystery, but it was a very sad season. This spring we have started over with two new hives. Recently, during a hive check, I saw eggs, larva, nectar, pollen, and many bees. This made my heart sing knowing I am helping protect the pollinators and the work they do to bring us food.

Gardening brings so much pleasure. Mistakes happen but we all learn through them. Gardening is something that can be done alone or with others. When I work in my soil and see how rich it has become over the years, I know I am doing a little that honors our earth and I feel that God is smiling.

I just realized the first Earth Day was 50 years ago; the same year I planted corn and beans for the first time. Little did I know how important gardening would be to my happiness and health. We live in a beautiful planet that gives us so much. Lets all do our part to give back and protect Terra, our planet.

# A girl's guide to working from home

Over the last month many of us have found ourselves working from the confines of home, with our loved ones becoming our coworkers. I am now a weeks-long veteran of the home office, and I'd like to offer my tips on turning your oasis into your office.



Kim von Keller

## CREATE YOUR ENVIRONMENT

The first tip is to carve out a dedicated work space. As my husband and I are both working from

home, I let him use the dining room as his office, and I make mine in the kitchen. Because he works a longer day than I do, I wanted him to have the bigger table and more floor space for his files and more natural light. Also, I wanted to be closest to the snacks. When you're about to send an email and your connection gets dropped because your rural internet is powered by hamsters running in a tiny wheel, it's important to be able to reach the pimento cheese and crackers quickly. Or the Ghirardelli dark chocolate peppermint bark from the Christmas of 2017. Or the crumbs of the beef jerky at the bottom of the bag that fell between the refrigerator and the wall. The last thing you want is to get hangry and tell your new "coworker" that all his work calls don't have to be conducted ON SPEAKER PHONE!

## KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

You're working, so keep up your appearance as if you were in your normal working environment – at least for a couple of days. I started out following my regular routine: shower, hair/makeup, casual office attire. By Thursday of the first week, my makeup

was collecting dust, and by Friday, my hair was doing its own thang without benefit of product. (The way I figure it, my natural face is good enough for God, and He invented the scrunchy for a reason.) My work uniform has devolved into blue jeans, sneakers, and an old t-shirt from a Sting concert. If it's a Zoom meeting day, though, I go right back to my regular routine. I could probably get away with PJ bottoms, gym shorts, or my favorite 14-year-old track pants, but I can never tell when my "coworker" might interrupt to grab something to eat and I might have to jump up to hide the Funyuns.

## ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

This is probably the most important thing. Like a lot of people, I'm now entering my fourth week of working from home. In dog weeks, that's 28. In pandemic weeks, it's a bazillion. I miss the comradery of my coworkers. I miss the office dogs. I miss a home life that's separate from work life. But the truth of the matter is, I still have a job. I get a paycheck. And while I'm whining about Chex Mix, there are plenty of people who are unemployed and worrying about their next meal.

Even though we are practicing social distancing, there are still things we can do to help those most seriously displaced. We can buy gift cards from our favorite small businesses. We can contribute to the James Beard Foundation Food and Beverage Industry Relief Fund. And when we're buying groceries to contribute to our local food bank, we can make sure to include some fun stuff with the peanut butter, tuna fish, and canned soup. Sometimes, a piece of chocolate, some beef jerky, or a handful of Funyuns can go a long way toward making your house feel like it's still home.



They bark....she parks. Mobile Dog Grooming



YOUR DENTIST CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

# Sleep is vital to your health — particularly now

Having been in practice many years, I can tell you one of my greatest rewards is helping my patients achieve optimum oral health and by extension overall good health. It requires regular checkups, plus a healthy diet and regular exercise.

Often overlooked, however, is the importance of good sleep habits — and why I have added this treatment emphasis to our practice. In order to fight off infections — like coronavirus — your body needs adequate sleep. Studies show that people who don't get enough quality sleep are more likely to get sick after being exposed to a virus. Moreover, lack of sleep can affect how fast you recover if you do get sick. During sleep, your immune system releases proteins called cytokines which

can help promote sleep. But that's not the whole story. Cytokines need to increase when you have an infection or inflammation, to help keep you healthy. Sleep deprivation may decrease the production of these protective cytokines — plus actually reduce infection-fighting antibodies in your system. On top of this, lack of sleep increases your risk



**Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick**

of obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. If you have been keeping up with this pandemic, you know these are underlying health conditions

that can increase the risk of fatality.

Make this your goal. Aim for 7-8 hours of good quality sleep each night. The operative word is quality. More isn't necessarily better. Poor sleep for 10 hours is not as effective at boosting your immune system as 7 hours of quality sleep where you stay asleep — not tossing and turning on the edge of wakefulness. What's more, wakening several times through the night is detrimental to people's positive moods. And we all need to keep our spirits up — knowing this too shall pass. If you are having difficulty sleeping there are natural solutions that can help without resorting to medication. I know, personal demands can make it tough to relax and get enough sleep. Nevertheless, here are natural solutions that can help: Minimize Light and Sound. Darkness causes your brain to release melatonin for a sleepy effect. Don't expose your eyes to light from smartphones or TVs right before you go to bed. Stick to a Routine. Get up and go to bed at the same time every day. Keep Your Stress Level Low. Use meditation or prayer if it has a calming effect. You can turn off the news. And don't let others dictate how much stress you have. Right now,

more than ever, it's important to do our best to keep ourselves healthy. And quality sleep is... essential. Our practice is experienced in helping patients with sleep issues. Call us if you have questions. We are always here for you and your family. Think of us as your hometown resource for guidance and support.

*Dr. Gabrielle F. Cannick is the owner of Grand Oaks Dental, located at 3905 Liberty Highway in Anderson. A strong believer that dental fear and anxiety should not prevent any patient from receiving the highest quality dental care, Dr. Cannick has received extensive training in Sedation Dentistry and is a certified member of the Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation. She is also a member of the South Carolina Dental Association, the American Dental Association, the Academy of General Dentistry, and the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine.*

*For more information about Grand Oaks Dental and the services provided, please call 864-224-0809, or click to [grandoaksdental.com](http://www.grandoaksdental.com) or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GrandOaksDental>.*

## Give the gift of reading

It is a well-known fact that reading to young children (even babies!) can have a remarkable impact on their ability to perform well in almost every phase of life. For many years, research psychologists have stressed that, "what happens in the first few years will set the stage for the rest of the child's life." Studies have repeatedly revealed that children who are consistently read to develop better communication skills, patience, empathy, social skills, literacy, creativity, a love for reading, and have a greater thirst for knowledge

As a teacher, I know this to be true. However, as a mother and a teacher to small children, I realize that accomplishing this daily routine is sometimes easier said than done. To put it mildly, young children are not programmed to sit still quietly for 20 or 30 minutes while a chapter book (with no pictures) is being read aloud to them. A few adjectives that come to mind are fidgety, squirmy, looking around/appearing unfocused, arguing with each other, etc.

The good news is, I have recently found a solution that has made a big difference with my story-time experience, and hopefully you will find it help as well. While discussing this with a friend, her advice was, "Since small children find it hard to sit still and concentrate on a story for long periods of time, allow them to work quietly on something fun while you are reading to them." While this sounds simple, it really works. A few quiet activities you may want to try are drawing or coloring, Magnatiles, Legos, Lincoln Logs, and Play Doh.

Although a bit hesitant at first, fearing that they wouldn't really be listening to the story, I decided to give it a try. After collecting their drawing books and colored pencils, they both climbed into bed with me. As I read to them from a chapter book, they quietly sat beside me and began to draw. To my amazement, my girls enjoyed the experience as much as I did.

They'd stop drawing every so often and ask me questions about what I was reading, or to express their thoughts about what was happening in the story. Over the next several weeks, we repeated this process until all twenty-eight chapters were read. The lesson learned for us was clear, "As long as their hands are busy, their ears will remain open."



**Katie Laughridge**

Below are a few book suggestions to get you started:

- The Vanderbecker Series by Karina Yan Glasser
  - Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
  - Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling
  - Roald Dahl books: Matilda, The BFG, and The Witches
  - Little House on the Prairie Books by Laura Ingles Wilder
  - Magic Tree House Series by Mary Pope Osborne
  - The Boxcar Children Series by Gertrude Chandler Warner
  - Henry Huggins and Ramona Series by Beverly Cleary
  - Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie, Like Carrot Juice on Cupcake, Like Bug Juice on a Burger books by Julie Sternberg
  - How to Train Your Dragon Series by Cressida Cowell
  - American Girl books
- I hope you will enjoy the "magic" of reading with your child as much as I do!
- "I will defend the importance of bedtime stories until my last gasp."
- J.K. Rowling



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# How to avoid running out of money in retirement

## Part 1: How much money will you need?

### Ask Fred

According to a survey conducted by Primerica, the number one fear for 43% of Americans is “running out of money” before they die. Only 25% said that “death” is their biggest fear. How likely, then, is it that the fear of running out of money for aging Americans is a viable concern? Unfortunately, research from the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) found that 40.6% of all U.S. households headed by someone aged 35 to 64 are projected to run short of money during retirement (i.e. based on a 2014 study involving 27 million 401(k) participants and IRA account holders). When evaluated closer, the picture becomes even more worrisome. The EBRI projects an average savings shortfall of \$12,640 for widowers, \$15,782 for widows, \$24,905 for single men and \$62,127 for single women. Those with longer life spans face a retirement deficit equal to 10.2 times that of

retirees with the shortest lifespans.

The logical question is: How can I avoid running out of money during my retirement years? There are in fact many feasible options to effectively save for the future. The right



**Fred Reid, R.Ph.**  
Senior Insurance Advisor

solution for one individual may not be the best for another. The important thing is to thoroughly evaluate your potential future financial needs and implement a plan that will adequately provide for them. A few of the important financial concerns that should be considered include:

How much more money will you need during retirement (in addition to your social security and pension checks)?

Will you have any existing loans?

What plans do you have for how to pay for weddings, college and buying cars for

your children?

Will you have funds to cover expenses related to a critical illness (i.e. cancer, heart attack, stroke)

Will you have money to pay for Long Term Care or Assisted Living (if required)?

While it is not possible to know what the future holds, we can take proactive steps to ensure that money will be there when we most need it. Possible savings and investment strategies that can be utilized for this purpose include: Personal Savings Account, Bonds, Stocks, Mutual Funds, Annuities, Roth IRA, 401(k), 403(b), IRA, and a variety of life insurance policy options. Deciding which one will work best to produce the return on investment you require can be a daunting task. Many important factors should be considered before deciding which one is right for your situation. These include (among others):

How soon will you need the money you decide to invest? Do you have a separate “emergency fund” to take care of financial needs- should they arise?

What is the likelihood that you will need

money for Long Term Care, Assisted Living, or expenses related to a critical illness?

How risk tolerant are you to fluctuations in the stock market?

Part 2 of this series will discuss the pros and cons of relying on investment strategies that are directly tied to stock market performance.

Please contact Fred Reid at 864-940-6113 if you have questions or need assistance identifying the Medicare plan that best meets your healthcare needs or would like to discuss viable financial options for retirement planning. I am happy to meet with you in your home (or by phone) at your convenience. Also, please connect with me on Facebook (search for “Fred Reid-senior insurance advisor”).

Please contact Fred Reid at 864-940-6113 if you have questions or need assistance identifying the Medicare plan that best meets your healthcare needs. I am happy to meet with you in your home at your convenience. Also, please connect with me on Facebook (search for “Fred Reid-senior insurance advisor”).



NIBBLE & SIP

# A mocktail party with the new coworkers

When we reach the end of a work week, the last thing we do is turn off our computers, switch off the lights, and close the doors behind us. Those practices delineate our work life and our home life, marking the beginning of a couple of days at home to kick back and enjoy ourselves.

Making that transition is a little harder now since, for many of us, our new commute home is just a short walk down the hallway.



Kim von Keller

COVID-19 has changed the way that many of us are working now. Our homes have become our offices, and our new “coworkers” are often our children, who are homeschooling alongside us. So how do we mark the end of a work and school week when we’re sheltering in place and our normal delineations are gone?

The Mocktail Party.

When it’s finally Friday afternoon, instruct the family to change into party clothes – pajamas, onesies, that sparkly dance recital costume – and gather in the kitchen for a Nibble and Sip. The drink is non-alcoholic, and appetizer is kid-friendly. If soda and onion dip are in your refrigerator, go for it! The family Mocktail Party isn’t an episode of “Top Chef.” But if you have the time and the ingredients, try Bacon Cheeseburger Dip and Shirley Temples. It’s a family-friendly combo that lets everyone know the weekend has arrived.

## Bacon Cheeseburger Dip

- 6 slices bacon, diced into ½-inch pieces
- 1 cup diced yellow onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 6 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon ketchup
- 2 teaspoons mustard
- Diced tomato, chopped scallions, chopped dill pickles to garnish
- chips or crackers to serve

Place the bacon in a 10-inch cast iron skillet and cook on medium heat until crisp. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the bacon to a plate lined with paper towels and set aside. Pour off all but 1 tablespoon of the bacon fat from the pan.

Add the onion to the pan and cook over medium heat until translucent, 3-4 minutes. Stir in the garlic and cook an additional minute. Add the ground beef and cook thoroughly until brown. Pour off any remaining fat in the pan.

Turn off the heat under the skillet. Add half of the mozzarella cheese, half of the cheddar cheese, cream cheese, sour cream, mayonnaise, Worcestershire sauce, ketchup, and mustard. Stir until the cheeses melt. Add half of the reserved bacon and stir to combine.

Arrange a rack 4 inches from the broiler, and heat the broiler to high.

Smooth the dip in the skillet into an even layer, then sprinkle with the remaining cheeses. Place the skillet under the broiler and broil until the cheeses are browned and bubbly, 1 to 2 minutes.

Remove the skillet from the broiler and sprinkle with desired garnishes. Serve with chips or crackers. Serves 8-10.

## Shirley Temple

- 1 T. grenadine
- 4 oz. ginger ale
- 1 maraschino cherry

Place grenadine in a tall glass, fill with ice, and add ginger ale to fill. Garnish with a maraschino cherry. Makes one.



Rita M. Davis



Adrienne W. Cole



Alesia A. Hunter

# Women leading the way

## Davis promoted to chief financial officer

Ms. Rita M. Davis, CPA, has managed day-to-day finances of the County since June 1997. For more than 20 years, it has been a well-known fact that Ms. Davis is the lady in charge of all the money at Anderson County, and, following a recent staff reorganization, her job title now fits what has been the reality for a long, long time: Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Anderson County Government.

Over her many years of dedicated and trustworthy service to the County, Ms. Davis, a certified public accountant (CPA) and certified government finance officer (CGFO), has earned the absolute trust of the County Council in managing taxpayer dollars with integrity, wisdom, and prudence through good times and bad. Ms. Davis holds a bachelor’s degree in Accounting from Cal State University San Bernardino and a Master of Professional Accountancy from Clemson University, and she has used her expertise to martial financial resources efficiently, achieving County Council’s goals while maintaining the County’s top credit rating. Under her leadership, the County receives clean audits year after year after year.

Ms. Davis is equally known in the Anderson community for leading a life of dedicated service to others, especially those in need. A retired U.S. Air Force staff sergeant, Ms. Davis has, during her more than two decades of involvement at Shalom House Ministries, helped hundreds of women with addictions and their families. Ms. Davis first helped Shalom file its nonprofit paperwork with the IRS in 1997, and she has been involved with the ministry every day since. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and volunteers every Friday night, driving the Shalom Center ladies to a recovery meeting at a local church.

Local journalist Greg Wilson recently said it best, “Add to [all her professional accolades] an astounding humility and an incredible servant’s heart as big as the historic courthouse, and it’s hard to imagine our community without Rita Davis.”

## Cole promoted to Civic Center manager

Adrienne W. Cole is an enthusiastic and innovative professional with extensive experience in business, administrative resources and management. She is passionate about event planning and will tap into her knowledge of event planning to develop, coordinate and manage meetings, corporate events and other events held at the Civic Center and other County venues.

Adrienne has been with Anderson County for 23 years this August. She started her career in 1997 with Register of Deeds and then moved on to work for the Purchasing Department as an Administrative Assistant in 1998, then moved up to a Buyer position and then in 2008 to the position of Assistant Purchasing Manager. In 2016 Adrienne moved to the Civic Center where she was the Business Manager/Event Specialist. She was named the Civic Center Manager in February 2020.

Adrienne is also co-chair for the “Celebrate Anderson” event held each year the Sunday before Labor Day. She is also one of two head elves at Christmas to make the town square tree and other County buildings festive for the season.

Adrienne believes one of the many traits that put her in this position was her ability to work well with others and to love people in general. In the business of running a venue as large as the Civic Center you must LOVE people and she greets each of them with a smile and a hello each time there is an event there.

She holds an Associate of Liberal Arts Degree 1993 from Anderson College. She also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business 1996 from Anderson College. She is a certified manager in food protection by the National Restaurant Association. Adrienne is a member of IAVM (International Association of Venue Managers).

She is married and the mother of one son, two doggies and four cats. In her spare time she loves to spend time

with her family, fishing, singing, traveling, and working on craft projects.

## Hunter named county planning, development, and building director

Anderson County Development Standards Manager Alesia Hunter was recently named as the County’s new Director of Planning, Development, and Building. In her new role, Alesia will be overseeing all planning and permitting functions, including subdivision approval, comprehensive and community planning, codes enforcement, zoning administration, and several other activities related to the development of the County’s built environment.

Alesia began her professional career in 1991 as a Planner at Pickens County Planning & Development and was responsible for all aspects of development during her 16-year tenure. During that time, she undertook numerous roles within the Pickens County Administration and Planning & Development. Following successive promotions, Alesia joined Anderson County in 2007 as Development Standards Manager. Her first initiative was to transform the department into a “One Stop Shop” for all aspects of development within Anderson County, placing a strong emphasis on streamlining the development process. In her new position Alesia will be the main staff person for several County boards, including the Planning Commission, Board of Land Use Appeals, and several zoning advisory groups.

Alesia’s strong background and numerous years of experience in her profession will allow her the opportunity better serve her community by contributing her expertise to the planning, development, and building code disciplines and her professional career with Anderson County.

Alesia studied at the University of South Carolina as well as South Carolina State University. She is a Certified Zoning Administrator (CZA), Certified Building Codes Director, (CB0) and Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM).



THE GARDEN SHOP

# Surviving and expanding



**SUSAN TEMPLE**  
master gardener

It's been a great spring so far with cool temps and nice rain. A few weeks ago, I was little discouraged due to my extreme budget cuts and being put on restrictions. Gee whiz, I haven't been put on restrictions since the 70's. It was much much worse then. I couldn't go skating for a week. A WHOLE WEEK!! But I survived. I also survived standing and looking at empty pots, just waiting for their annuals. For the past several years, I've added more perennials to these pots so I didn't have to buy so many annuals each year. Plus, the perennials add winter interest. I wouldn't tend to winter annuals enough worth planting plus deer wouldn't let me have them. Various sedum, ornamental grasses, rue, rosemary, creeping jenny, verbena, etc. keep the pots looking nice

enough in winter. Empty pots were filled with things for the master gardener plant sale. Which by the way, we'll have our first ever fall sale on October 10. These plant sale babies won't provide blooms all season but a maroon Japanese maple, some boxwoods, evergreen Solomon seal, ajuga, and cosmos filled those empty pots just fine. A really big pot on the breeze-way that is usually filled with coleus was scaled back too with just one maroon type and two very bright peachy fuchsia new guinea impatiens. The rest of the pot was decorated with a birdhouse that normally sits beside the big pot. My snake plant has needed repotting for a couple of years. I finally got around to that and sat that pot on the pot. Voila. Re-done good enough for only nine dollars. I will miss chartreuse coleus in my copper pot. It's very old and has a wonderful green patina and that chartreuse color in it is great. But I'll get over that too.

With no gardening budget, I've also gotten around to moving a few things that I've thought about for way too long. One of those is a clump of native Baptisia

(Baptisia australis). A garden idea did not pan out and this little guy was left behind. I've tried to divide a yellow variety, Carolina Moonlight, a few times and succeeded. But not without difficulty. The native variety was even more difficult. As Mama would say, those roots go to China. They were very deep. I couldn't chop them with the shovel and ended up getting the loppers to cut them. No wonder this plant survives any weather. I've read it resents being moved. Blue flower spikes in early summer turn to black seed pods. The pods dry and stay nicely on the plants. If cut soon enough, they look great in arrangements. Left on the plant, they rattle in the wind. Pretty cool. Baptisias are host plants for butterflies and great for bees. I was going to put it in the front garden but couldn't find a place. I have to face it; the front garden is full. One end is being prepared for expansion by covering Bermuda grass with cardboard. This has worked well in another section so I'm doing it again. The Baptisia was added next to the pathway at the other end. Now, to proceed with meeting in the middle.



Baptisia australis blooms

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MUSINGS OF AN OLE BALL COACH

# Wishful thinking and happy talk won't do the trick

On July 2, 1963, Robert E. Lee reined in his mount, Traveller, outside the field tent of his second in Command General James B. Longstreet. "Ginral," he proposed, "I would like for you to inform General Packett to prepare an assault on the Union forces on Seminary Ridge."

"Sir," Longstreet (from Edgefield, S.C.) countered, "Don't you think the yanks have an impregnable position there?" Lee answered, "It will be difficult sir, but nevertheless I propose to have Pickett attack at ten hundred hours in the morning".

The Union, indeed, commanded the high ground from a Lutheran Theological Seminary. It was the third day of Gettysburg, which most historians called the turning point of America's Civil War.

Gettysburg, was Lee's second offensive in the North. Antietam was his first and he gained no victory in America's single day's costliest battle. Pickett's charge was to be

his last ditch effort to salvage a victory at Gettysburg.

The charge was doomed from the start. 15,000 rebel soldiers in parade formation,



Jim Fraser

banners waving, drummers playing marching across several hundred yards into the withering fire of the Union forces entrenched on the ridge.

Pickett's charge was the high watermark of the Confederacy. General Lee marched back to Virginia without victory, although the war would last almost two more years. The Union victory was sealed.

In warfare, lives are a commodity. The Sgt. tells the Captain, "I can defend the bridge, but it'll cost us a least three men." The Captain must then make the determination whether or not the bridge is worth the loss of three lives.

Those in command must make these decisions constantly. That's why no one has ever been able to improve on Sherman's assertion that, "War is hell."

President Harry Simpson Truman had to make that horrendous decision in the waning months of WWII in 1945 whether to spend the lives of upwards to 500,000 to a million troops in an invasion of the Japanese homeland or unleash atomic power on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. You know the answer.

Those in power must decide when to open the economy back up in order to spend the least amount of lives. Sadly, the horrifying tentacles of the Coronavirus will force many of our front line doctors and nurses to face these same decisions whether to pull an available ventilator from one who is in the sunset of their life, and also underlying health problems and give it to someone who happens to be younger, healthier and more robust.

While disdaining to "point fingers," we must nevertheless try to determine why we were so ill prepared, and so reluctant to mobilize our medical expertise and manpower at the first onslaught. Bill Gates had thrown one hundred million dollars into an effort to be ready for #19 as early as 2015.

Someone said the "price of liberty is eternal vigilance," obviously wishful thinking and happy talk won't stave off one of these medical juggernauts.

Jim Fraser was the athletic director and head football coach at T.L. Hanna High School from 1968-1985. He was also a full time member of the faculty who taught U.S. History.



## Adrift 1974

The boat was a 21-foot tri-hull with an inboard Chevy V-8. It would pop up six skiers as easily as one. A real party boat with a large built-in ice chest and an 8-track player with waterproof speakers.

The plan was to pick up some friends for some early glassy lake skiing while heading to Katherine's Kitchen for biscuits. I unhitched from the dock and walked to the captain's chair to start'er up. I never knew how loud silence could be until I turned that key. I tried again, and only heard a faint click that was louder than the silence before. "HELP", I screamed into the abyss of Hartwell Lake, only to see birds flying away and not a soul in sight.

The dock was growing smaller and for a second I thought of abandoning ship. "HELP!" The little wooden paddle barely reached the water and after a few strokes, I

realized the futility of trying to paddle the large vessel. "HELP!" I rummaged around in the storage compartments and found one of those canned air-horns. I held it high and pushed the button, "Pfffft", was the only sound. "HELP!" The sun was getting higher and hotter and my thirst for water and rescue seemed slim. The theme from Gilligan's Island started playing in my head and I wished the Professor was here to rig a coconut-powered contraption to get me out of there. I heard a boat in the distance. Yes, there it was, pulling a skier. I was jumping and waving as it got closer, "HELP", only to see it turn and head away.

What should have been my first thought, was my last, I prayed. Coincidence? I don't think so, but the wind got up and was blowing the boat toward the shore and after a while, right into the dock of Buck Fulp. I tied the white whale to the dock and just before disembarking, I tried the key. The boat started. Would it have started before the wind blew? I'll never know, and until now, no one knew of my 3-hour tour, my 3-hour tour.



Neal Parnell

## Continue to take care of yourself during lockdown

We have been on lockdown for over a month now and while it can make us all stir crazy and we're feeling all the different emotional aspects. One thing that makes me feel sane is beauty products. There are days when I don't even feel like putting forth any effort but on days that I do, I feel better and more human again.

Here are a few things that make me feel more alive during stay at home. Nail salons are not open of course so I do my own manicure and pedicure at home. I'm really loving press on nails by a company called Kiss. They're so easy to apply, affordable and really pretty. They make every length and are very comfortable to wear. They actually stay on for about a week. Definitely give them a try, I love them. You can order online or get them at your local CVS.

Another product I can't live without is dry shampoo. It's not a good thing to constantly wash our hair every day, even though I like to because it revitalizes me. Instead try to use dry shampoo as often as possible. I love Salon Grafix Invisible dry. I can spray it on my roots, brush through, then use a blow dryer for a minute or so to really make the product work. It also makes my hair voluminous and not brittle feeling like most dry shampoos.

I love lipgloss. I have to constantly have something on my lips. While I may not feel like doing my normal lip routine, I am obsessed with Burt's Bees lip shine and the color Whisper. It gives you gorgeous glossy

lips that aren't sticky or confining feeling. I like doing more the natural approach during all of this. Too much makeup around the house I find is a little unnecessary so I usually just do a simple make up routine.



Kristine March

I also love BB Creams. It feels much lighter and less cakey than my regular foundation. I love the Taste brand. Plus it has SPF and gives you a glow. Speaking of glow it doesn't look like I will be at the beach as quickly as was I hoping so I love self tanner. I'm really loving Jergens Mousse. It's so easy to apply and lovely on the skin. I apply it with a glove. It's steak free and at only twelve dollars, it's become my favorite self tanner out there. It comes in different shades to match your skin tone. It also smells nice as opposed to some other ones I've tried.

I could write an actual book on the products I love and use. During this time take care of yourself. Do what makes you happy. Some days are better than others and it's okay to not be okay everyday. Do the best you can and try to remain positive. I hope some of these beauty secrets that I love make you feel good about yourself. Stay strong and most importantly stay safe y'all.



# LOVE YOUR HOME



Bill Ducworth

The Electric City News was so very fortunate to have Bill Ducworth on our staff for almost 10 years. Bill's encyclopedic knowledge of everything from fabrics to art to table settings to arrangements made from backyard sticks to German potato salad to Aunt Ruth's silver platter was exceptional and enlightening, entertaining and humorous and of course honest. So in honor of our dear friend, we have decided to revive Bill's articles from years past. We hope you enjoy them, again, as much as we have.

## There's still something to be said for silver

The mother of a friend of mine recently died and left a vault's worth of silver — good Victorian heavy things right down to more modern stuff from the 1940s and '50s. I'm guessing there are three or four generations of sterling flatware, coffee and tea services, epergnes, vases, jam jars, even a sterling powdered sugar shaker for French toast or a fancy cake. It's enough to make you feel like Audrey Hepburn eating a bagel on Sunday morning at Tiffany's.

There is great wealth in sterling silver. There's also a security blanket that comes with collecting a pile of things that may never be used. It seems that

silver was the most important part of the household since the silversmith came into being. We Southerners joke about the silver buried in the backyard to protect it from the Yankees. In many cases that was probably true, but I'm thinking it's just an excuse because the ancestor was just too poor to own any to hand down.

Thomas Jefferson had a special sterling spoon he carried everywhere because he never knew what the utensil du jour would be. Our forefathers also thought that silver was more antiseptic (they didn't know that word). That's probably true, having seen some of the flatware I inherited.

I do love a table set with a lot of silver, but, alas, I'm most assuredly in the minority. The younger generations simply don't want or care about their grandmamma's silver. Too much work, and who in the world would ever need a sterling toast holder anyway? It's sad to see these once cherished and beloved items become burdens in our current aesthetic.

But just like everything else, we are in the I-don't-like-sterling period of history. It will come back in the future and all those tarnished silver treasures will come out of the closet to once again say, "look at me, I'm worth the trouble."

Love your home, and your silver.



There's something to be said for a table set with silver.

## PENDLETON BULLDOGS

# Simpson growing into standout for Bulldogs

BY BRU NIMMONS

PENDLETON — Since baseball season should be in full swing, I've decided to highlight one of the top young players in the area.

Conner Simpson has done everything asked of him in three seasons with the Pendleton Bulldogs baseball team, starting in his eighth-grade season, when Simpson became an occasional starter for the Bulldogs' varsity squad.

While his youth was on display with some struggles in the batter's box, he still managed to be a key contributor alongside his star brother, Cole Simpson, as the Diamond Dogs won the District 1 championship.

With Cole leaving to play baseball at the Citadel, Conner had some big shoes to fill entering his freshman season in 2019.

Now a full-time catcher and member of the Pendleton pitching rotation,

Simpson started off well before he was forced out of action for two weeks in late March.

While his play suffered upon his return, he found his groove on the mound against Tallwood, picking up a career-high eight strikeouts.

Simpson's bat got on the right track as well, with him going 3-9 with four RBIs heading into the playoff race.

However, the Bulldogs couldn't reach the peak of the previous season,

being eliminated in two postseason games to end their year.

Simpson finished the season batting .241 with 8 RBIs and managed a 4.47 ERA with 17 strikeouts in 30.2 innings pitched.

Simpson's star continued to rise entering the 2020 season, as Diamond Prospects named him the fourth-best catching prospect in the state of South Carolina for the class of 2022. He proved worthy of the rank with his play early in the season.

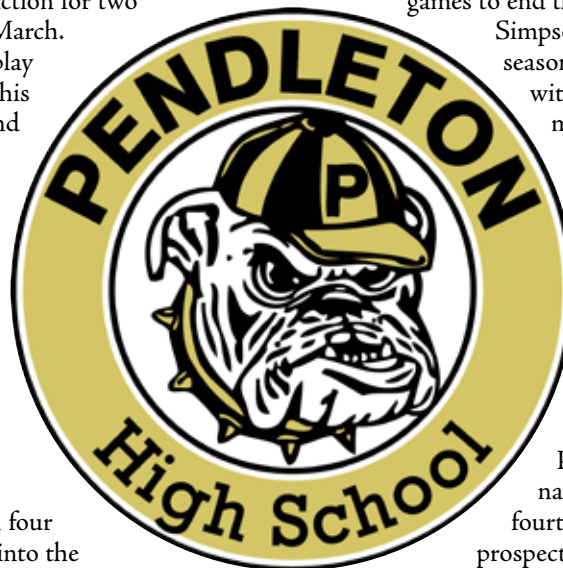
Switching between pitching, catching and shortstop, Simpson started off with a bang, going 4-6 in a doubleheader against Emerald and Chesnee on March 6. In addition to that, he also managed to throw a complete-game shutout against Chesnee in the bottom half of the doubleheader.

Simpson returned to the mound against Liberty on March 11, going the distance and matching his career best with eight strikeouts in a 3-0 loss.

Then, in his last three games of this season, he got back to mashing, going 4-9 from the batter's box with 3 RBIs.

All told, Simpson finished his sophomore season batting .444 with 3 RBIs, while also managing a 1.93 ERA on the mound with 13 strikeouts in 14 innings.

With the consistent improvement he has already shown, expect Simpson's numbers to continue to grow in his junior and senior seasons.







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