
Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association

Pioneer Connection



itpa

Issue 24-05

November 2024

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PIONEERS HELP AFTER HURRICANE HELENE

Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Big Ben region of Florida on September 26th. The 8th named storm and the 5th hurricane of the 2024 hurricane season, Helene struck the Big Bend area at its peak intensity, slamming the area with winds of 140 miles per hour. This devastating storm brought widespread destruction along the coastline and much inland, with numerous fatalities across the southeastern U.S.

Helene is strongest hurricane on record to strike the Big Bend region in Florida and the deadliest to strike the United States mainland since Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Helene caused devastating storm surges in the Florida and Georgia coastal areas and its sheer wind force and deadly flooding left a path of destruction stretching more than 500 miles from Florida to the southern Appalachians. Many areas in Western North Carolina received more than a dozen inches of rain; the southeastern portion of Yancey County received more than 30 inches. Communities were cut off, left with no power and no contact as many roadways were washed away. Helene caused at least 227 deaths, making it the second deadliest hurricane of the century. Property losses of \$47.5 billion have been estimated.

ITPA Pioneers were among the first citizens to respond to needs in their communities. Shown below, Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Hannah Lancaster volunteered with friends to serve food to hurricane victims in South Carolina.



A Carotel Pioneer helped neighbors fill a large SUV with new and gently used clothing items that were delivered to Columbus Baptist Church in Columbus, NC (near Lake Lure and Chimney Rock), for distribution to community residents who lost all or most of their personal belongings. The neighbors also donated \$200 to Samaritan's Purse for the relief work that organization is undertaking in Western North Carolina.

Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers donated \$600 for disaster relief in North Carolina and Tennessee, and Carotel Pioneers donated \$2,700 to Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse, headquartered in Boone where some of the worst flooding occurred, had staff and volunteers on the ground immediately after the storm subsided providing critical help to flood victims.

The following from one of our Pioneers exemplifies the 'boots on the ground' approach taken by Samaritan's Purse volunteers. The home of one Boone family was structurally intact after the storm but was filled with about two feet of water and the crawlspace was packed with mud and wet molding and insulation. Early in the week following the storm, the family went out to find fresh water and came across volunteers from Samaritan's Purse. The Samaritan's Purse team asked how the family was doing and what they needed. Within two hours, twenty Samaritan's Purse volunteers were knocking on the family's front door immediately began cutting out dry wall, pulling out wet insulation, and shoveling mud from the crawlspace. The home was far from completely restored when the Samaritan's Purse team left the family, but they were able to live in their home while waiting for remaining repairs to be completed.

To the many other ITPA Pioneers who donated time, talents and money to help with disaster relief efforts, thank you for exemplifying the Pioneer spirit.

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. Aesop

Club/Chapter News

Buckeye State Chapter (Ohio)

Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers held their fall gathering in the Sugarcreek, Ohio area on October 18-20. What a busy, fun weekend they had! Members and friends from across Ohio plus guests from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee laughed, visited, and shared memories. The group ate good food - Friday night carry-in meal and Saturday evening at Dutch Valley Restaurant.



The group awarded three \$500 scholarships to grandchildren of Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers:



Left: Sue Lehmkuhle presents scholarship to Skylar Bashada, granddaughter of Pat Whalen, on right.



Right: Sue Lehmkuhle presents scholarship for Olivia Mattes to grandparents Candy and Donald Bankey, who accepted on Olivia's behalf.



Left: Roger and Flo Brown accepted scholarship presented by Sue Lehmkuhle on behalf of their grandson Carson Sybert after which Roger read a thank you letter from Carson to Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers.

In addition to awarding scholarships, the Pioneers played bingo and held raffles to raise \$600 for disaster relief in North Carolina and Tennessee. The group also raised \$110 and donated a carload of supplies to Rewired School in Newark, Ohio. The Pioneers had previously helped the school earlier in the year.) The Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers also made donations to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the Alzheimer's Association, an ITPA national project.

Comporium Pioneer Club (South Carolina)

In October, Comporium Pioneers held their annual Pantry Collection for the soldiers and their families of the 178th South Carolina National Guard and assembled "Flood Buckets" that were delivered to individuals affected by the recent devastating flooding. The Comporium Pioneers donated enough cleaning supplies and money to fill thirty buckets!



In early October, Comporium Pioneers prepared and served lunch for clients served by the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen in Rock Hill, SC. The Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen serves a hot lunch daily Monday through Saturday to anyone who comes in need of a meal. The number of clients served daily varies from as few as 30 to more than 100.



Above: Back Row: Jerisa Barnes, Melinda Niday, Cammie Brazzell, Fred Jordan, Ayesha Rawlinson, Cindy Downing, Rene Restfear, Front Row: Brittany Murphy, Tami Walker

Comporium Pioneers also recently participated in the "Dogs for Dogs" fundraiser in October, raising \$2,200 for the Rock Hill Police Department's K-9 unit. Pictured below are volunteers who were instrumental in



Above: Kyle Anderson (club president) Daniel Barnhardt, Brittany Murphy (Vice President), Laura Lawson, Leon Yard, and Melinda Nida with Rock Hill Police Department officers and K-9s.

Club/Chapter News (Cont'd)

MidSouth Chapter President Ali Alexander Phillips presented scholarship awards at the 2024 Broadband Association of Alabama and Mississippi (BAAM) Summer Symposium in Sandestin, FL. The scholarship was established in Mr. Billy D. Young's memory to support fellow telecommunications workers who are employees of member companies of either the ITPA Mid-South Chapter or BAAM in educating their children.

The scholarship is made available through the Mid-South Chapter and is supported by the following sponsors: Wade H. Creekmore, Sr. Pioneer Club; Farmers Telecommunications Coop.; TEC; and Arriva. The Chapter's annual golf tournament, pheasant shoot, and silent and live auctions also contribute to the scholarship fund.

Consideration for the scholarship included academic achievements, community involvement, sports, clubs, employment, and other extracurricular activities, and each student submitted a 1,000-word essay.



Above: Left to right, Scholarship recipient Molly Grace Powell, Mid-South Chapter President Ali Alexander Phillips, and Scholarship recipient Makenzie Belle Williamson.

Eighteen scholarships were awarded this year by the Mid-South Chapter and BAAM.

Congratulations to Molly Grace Powell (Haynesville Telephone Co., AL), who was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. Congratulations also to scholarship recipients Easton Cole Fesmire (Power & Tel, TN) and Makenzie Belle Williamson (Arriva, MS), each of whom was awarded a \$3,000 scholarship.

Congratulations to the following students, each of whom received a \$1,000 scholarship:

- Savannah Gracelynn Arnold, ITG Communications, GA
- Adyson Faith Bailey, Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative, AL
- Emily Grace Bowen, Camellia Communications, AL
- Danyaile Artery Bradley, Arriva, MS
- Jaeden Ashton Calender, TEC, MS
- Ethan Clark Coleman, Franklin Telephone Company, MS
- Shiyan Wenyi Collier, TEC, MS
- Reagan Kade Davis, Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative, AL
- Marissa LaReu Fairley, Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative, AL
- Abbie Lee Herring, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, AL
- Andrew Ray Herring, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, AL
- Addison Ann Hussey, Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, AL
- Payten Nicole Siebenberg, ITG Communications, GA
- Miranda Kate Wilks, Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative, AL
- Aaron Kevin Woods, Franklin Telephone Company, AL

We wish each of these students all the best as they continue their academic endeavors.

The MidSouth Chapter invites you to our 3rd Annual Pheasant Hunt Fundraiser! The event is our biggest fundraiser of the year, regularly bringing in over \$15,000/year. The date and location are TBD, but it will be in the Birmingham/Montgomery, AL area in February. Please check our website at <https://www.midsouthitpa.org> for updates.

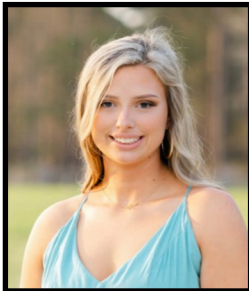
Club/Chapter News

Tar Heel Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairperson Carol Harrell recently announced the 2025 recipients of college scholarships awarded by the Tar Heel Chapter of the National ITPA. These scholarships are awarded annually to family members of Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers.

The **Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship** is awarded to Sarah Lawrence Adcock. Sarah is enrolled in the Savannah College of Art and Design and is majoring in Fashion Marketing and Journalism. Sarah is the granddaughter of the late Joe Lawrence, who was instrumental in establishing the scholarship fund that allows the Tar Heel Chapter to assist students.



Through the Tar Heel Chapter's *General Scholarship Fund*, four additional scholarships were awarded.



Kassie Davis is enrolled in the nursing program at the College of Coastal Georgia and she earned a spot on the President's List of Scholars this past year. Kassie is the daughter of Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Alissa Moss.

Aidan Outlaw is continuing his academic studies at North Carolina State University and is pursuing a degree in Business. He has continued to exhibit academic excellence. Aidan is the grandson of Pioneers Mike and Jean Outlaw.



Dawson Cashwell graduated early from Midway High School and enrolled in the work study program at Sampson Community College where he is now enrolled as a full-time student pursuing a degree in Information Technology. Dawson is the grandson of Pioneer Ronnie Cashwell and the son of Pioneer Ron Cashwell.



Scholarship recipient Mykenzi Cashwell will pursue a degree in Dental Hygiene at Fayetteville Technical Community College this fall. A member of the Beta Club and CTE Honors Society in high school, Mykenzi graduated near the top of her graduating class. Mykenzi is the granddaughter of Pioneer Ronnie Cashwell and the daughter of Pioneer Ron Cashwell.

This year's scholarship recipients were recognized during the recent Tar Heel Chapter's Annual Assembly by Scholarship Committee Chairperson Carol Harrell, shown above. Scholarship recipient Kassie Davis was in attendance and accepted her scholarship. Kassie spoke briefly to the Pioneers in attendance and shared a bit about her academic aspirations. Kassie also worked behind the scenes to help make the chapter's annual meeting fun and enjoyable for those in attendance. She sold raffle tickets, took photos, and helped with decorations. Whatever the need, Kassie could be counted on to help!



Congratulations!

Club/Chapter News (Cont'd)

Tar Heel Chapter News (Cont'd)

Every August when the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers convene for their annual assembly, they bring non-perishable food items and toiletries that are donated to charities. Non-perishable foods were donated to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina — Sandhills Branch. Toiletry items given by assembly attendees were donated to The Life Center of Davidson County, an organization that provides high quality daytime care to older and impaired adults and helps improve the quality of life for those individuals and their caregivers by offering support, relief, respite, and counsel.



ITPA Mascot Hunny Bunny helped collect food and toiletry items

This year, the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers added a third component to their annual community service projects by inviting Patsy Cline and the King of Rock and Roll to Scotia Village, a retirement center in Laurinburg, NC. Patsy crooned her tunes to an enthusiastic audience, after which Elvis serenaded the audience with some of his greatest hits.



Above left: Patsy Cline (aka Janet Holliday-Cashwell) visits with her fans after the show.



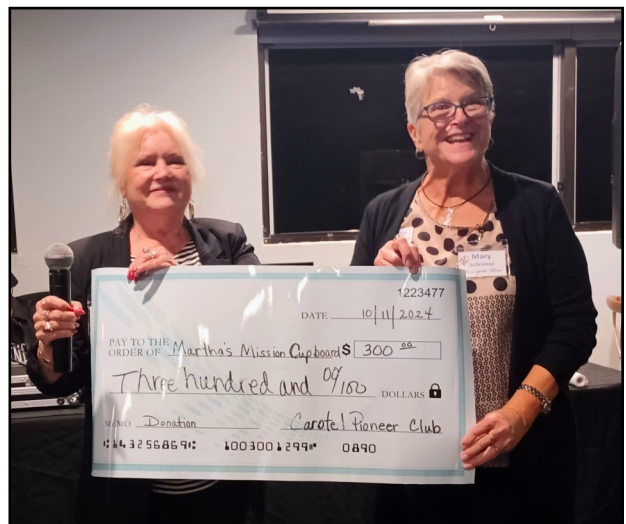
Above right: Elvis visits with an enthusiastic resident.

Carotel Club

The Carotel Club awards the *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship* annually. This year, the \$1,000 scholarship was split between two deserving recipients. Mykenzi Cashwell and Dawson Cashwell, grandchildren of Carotel Pioneer Ronnie Cashwell, were each presented with a \$500 scholarship by scholarship committee chairperson Carol Harrell. Congratulations scholars.



During the annual Carotel Convention in October, Pioneers donated non-perishable foods and toiletries to Martha's Mission Cupboard and presented a \$300 monetary donation to the organization's Executive Director Mary Schronze, who attended the convention as a guest speaker.



Carotel Pioneers also donated numerous auction items, the proceeds of which were earmarked for hurricane relief efforts in Western North Carolina. In total, through donations and the club's silent and live auctions, Carotel donated \$2,700 to Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse, which is headquartered in Boone, NC, where devastating flooding resulted in loss of life and property. Samaritan's Purse mobilized staff and volunteers to assist residents in western NC as soon as they could safely assist residents.



Club/Chapter News (Cont'd)

Tom Griffith Chapter (Iowa)



Each year the ITPA Tom Griffith Chapter supports and provides volunteers to host a Telephone Pioneer's Museum at the State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa.

Although the Tom Griffith Chapter is no longer an active club, each year these Iowa Pioneers volunteer for the entire ten day run of the Iowa State Fair. Forty volunteers work four shifts daily from 8am until 8pm. Not all of the volunteers are Pioneers but all are affiliated with various Independent Telephone Companies across Iowa.



The enthusiastic volunteers are dedicated to this project every year. They entertain more than 500 visitors annually and the number of positive comments they receive from museum visitors makes their hard work worthwhile.



To have your club/chapter events published in the February 2025 Pioneer Connection, please e-mail details of your event to bdnterry@outlook.com.

December 12, 2024

Otto Wettstein, Jr. Pioneer Club
Retiree Christmas Luncheon at Venetian Gardens, Leesburg, FL
All retirees welcome.
Contact Joann Esposito at espogirl56@yahoo.com for information.

February 2025—date TBD

MidSouth Chapter
3rd Annual Pheasant Hunt Fundraiser
Birmingham/Montgomery, AL area
Details available soon at:
<https://www.midsouthitpa.org>

February 6-9, 2025

Tar Heel Chapter Super Bowl Party/Winter Gathering
Monterey Bay Suites, Myrtle Beach, SC

October 10-11, 2025

Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

Last Wed. of Every Month—NEAREA Telecom Pioneers gather for breakfast (Dutch treat) from 8:30 am-10 am at Lakeside Skillet, Harvey's Lake, PA. Come for breakfast or just to visit.

All clubs and chapters are encouraged to utilize the ITPA website that includes a page specifically dedicated to club and chapter news and events. Information such as scholarship applications, registration forms for annual assemblies and conventions, and more can be shared at <https://www.nationalitpa.com/news>. To add your club/chapter updates, send an e-mail to our Public Relations Chairperson, Darlene Terry at bdnterry@outlook.com. Please add "Club/Chapter News for Website" to the subject line of your e-mail.

Foundation News

Charitable



The Charitable Foundation is again sending a donation for the purchase of ten wreaths that will be placed at the Warriors Walk located at Ft. Stewart (near the ITPA's national headquarters).

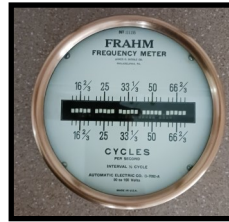
Bruce Muncher, co-founder and vice president of *Wreaths for Warriors Walk* will coordinate placement the wreaths in remembrance of deceased veterans at noon on December 14th, the date on which wreaths will be placed across the nation on veterans' graves.

The ITPA Charitable Foundation collects and distributes funds to a variety of charitable causes. The Charitable Foundation works in conjunction with ITPA to support the volunteer efforts of local phone companies on a national level. Since its beginning, the Charitable Foundation has supported a multitude of programs such as Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Children's Shriners Hospitals, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Red Cross, and the American Health Assistance Foundation. Through donations made by ITPA members, the Charitable Foundation donates annually to a program that supports our heroes injured in battle and to the Alzheimer's Association in hopes of one day finding a cure for this disease that affects more than 5 million Americans. The Charitable Foundation also provides emergency disaster relief grants to clubs, chapters, and companies to assist victims of natural disaster. In recent years, the Foundation has provided emergency disaster relief grants in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida.

Make the choice to embrace this day. Do not let your TODAY be stolen by the ghost of yesterday or the "To-Do" list of tomorrow! It's inspiring to see all the wonderfully amazing things that can happen in a day in which you participate.

- Steve Maraboli

Historical



This handsome Frahm frequency meter was recently donated to the ITPA Telephone Museum by Mr. Dave Schoonover. It was removed from an Automatic Electric office in Pennsylvania during a digital conversion from SXS (step-by-step) in the 1980's.

The meter was used in a telephone exchange that would have used either decimonic or harmonic frequency ringing. Frequency tuned ringers were deployed in each subscriber's telephone set, and each customer had a unique ring tone, allowing the telephone company to serve up to 10 parties on a single twisted pair.



The 7 lb. meter measures 7" in diameter and 4-1/2" deep. When in use, it was mounted in an office supervisory frame and panel. The central office technicians used the meter to test and verify the frequency of the ringing generators which were also mounted in the office supervisory frame.



National Office News

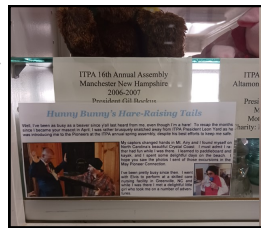
By Andrea Wick

When I'm wrapping up tours, I show our guests the mascot display case and tell them how the mascots travel year-round with different Pioneers and that at the end of the year we post videos on our website, YouTube, and Facebook of everywhere they've been. I inform guests they can look us up if they would like to view the videos and offer them a museum rack card with the ITPA website information.

I mention how we had the ITPA Annual Assembly in "Mayberry" - many of the guests are fans of the Andy Griffith show and even mentioned the show on the tour, telling me how they remember Sarah the operator. For those who aren't familiar, I give them a little background on Mt. Airy NC and how the fictional town of Mayberry was based on Andy's hometown.

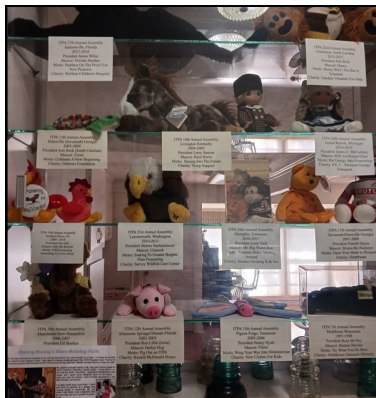
I show guests Leon Yard's picture as ITPA President with Mr. Big Muhn-Kee and tell them how a size limit had to be implemented after this mascot choice.

Guests enjoy the story of Hunny Bunny's kidnapping so much I posted a photo so they can see "Elmer Fudd" in action. Guests find it hilarious when I tell them of Elmer Fudd hunting "wabbits" and how Ryan completed the infamous bunny-napping.



I advise museum patrons that the mascots are ransomed off during the "presidential begging" each year and that the President's charity of choice receives all proceeds raised.

Guests are usually curious why we have these toys on display and delight in the background story, especially seeing all of the different charities we give to - the kids love pointing to their favorite mascots as well, and of course, they want to take some home also.



Thanks to Mr. Tyrone Ellington, our Telephone Museum and the ITPA in general has just received some additional attention. Tyrone, who is from Hinesville, Georgia served in the U.S. Army and was deployed four times, twice to Iraq and twice to Afghanistan. After being wounded in Afghanistan, he retired from the Army. Tyrone has long been interested in learning about ancient civilizations and their gods. As he recovered from his injuries and began adjusting to retirement, he decided to share some of what he has learned from his years of reading and researching. To do that, he created the website <https://www.rebirthoftheword.com>.

Through that website, Tyrone hopes to learn from others through their shared opinions on assorted topics. Tyrone said of this effort, "If we all take our pieces of the puzzle and put them together, there is no telling what picture we may see."

Tyrone is currently writing his first book as he continues his learning experiences. He has been visiting local museums, and is sharing his learnings through his website, YouTube channel, and Spotify. He recently visited the ITPA Telephone Museum, and he has included a review of the museum in the "Communication" section of his website at <https://www.rebirthoftheword.com/communication>, along with an informative overview of the history of communication. Tyrone also has some additional videos on various topics posted on YouTube at: <https://youtube.com/@rebirthoftheword7099?si=SZPsDSQK4Ms2f1T1>

We hope to be seeing more of Tyrone at the museum. He has expressed interest in scanning our museum library books with a high-tech book scanner and is genuinely interested in the ITPA Pioneers. Thanks to Tyrone for visiting our museum and for sharing it and his learnings with others through his communication platform.





Honey Bunny's Hare-Raising Tails

When you last heard from me, I had been bunny-napped yet again and was heading to the Appalachian Trail. Well, let me tell you that was one "hare-raising" journey.

The trip began well enough; it was warm and cozy at the point where we checked in.

But then we hit the trail and it was an entirely different story.

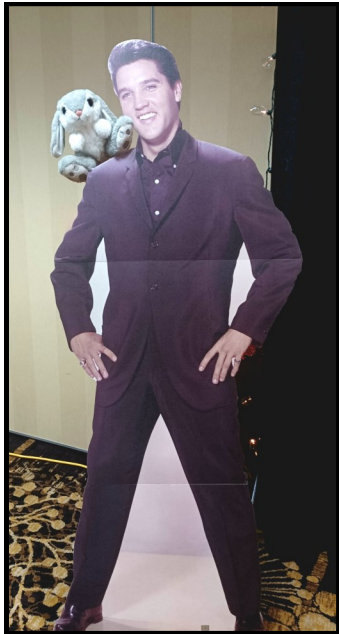


We had to be on the lookout for bears! Yes, bears! At one point my captor suggested I climb onto a tree for a photo opp. I didn't realize until later that I was posing with a warning sign about bears!

Staying dry during the long hike was my biggest challenge. It was a hard journey with lots of rock scrambles, alpine bogs, and very few marked trails. Despite the obstacles, we only got lost twice and had to backtrack to get on right trail. I've got to admit, when we reached some milestones, such as getting to Mt. Washington Summit at an elevation of 6,288 feet it was worth the hardships we endured! After that trip, I needed a nice long rest. My rest was short-lived because shortly afterwards I was off to Aberdeen, NC to visit with the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers.



Honey Bunny's Hare-Raising Tails (Cont'd)



The above photos are from the Tar Heel Chapter's Elvis themed assembly in August. I met some new friends and reunited with some old friends (Elvis and I go way back). From there, I was off to Pine Knoll Shores, NC to attend the Carotel Club's Paris-themed annual convention. Everyone thought I was adorable in my custom-made beret. Imagine my excitement when my cousin Funny Bunny showed up. We rabbits showed that group how to have a good time!



Member Spotlight

*This month our member spotlight shines on Region 3 Pioneer **Bill Joiner**.*



Bill has been a Carotel Club Pioneer for as long as most of our ITPA Carotel Pioneers can remember. Bill worked for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company for 37 years, during which time he spent many hours volunteering as a Pioneer and serving his community.

A native of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, Bill became a permanent North Carolina resident in 1964 after having served in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years. Bill continued his military service until his E-8 military retirement, having served 3 years in the N.C. National Guard and 23 years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

After retiring, Bill wasn't nearly ready to slow down and he ran for town commissioner of Trent Woods, NC where he and his wife Judy have resided for more than 39 years. Bill still serves as a town commissioner and some residents say that if the town's children could vote, he'd be guaranteed to hold the office for life. Bill has lived his adult life volunteering to help others, particularly if children are the ones being helped.

Those who know Bill may have wondered about his Santa-like beard. In fact, Bill is a long-time Santa Claus, having begun his Santa tradition years ago at a local elementary school.

He kept his naturally white beard trimmed for most of the year, and for years during the holiday season he made Santa appearances across multiple county events hosted for foster children and other events. He has also suited up for Santa events at Temple Baptist Church, Garber United Methodist Church and Asbury United Methodist Church. Bill said of his Santa experiences, "You let a four-year-old hug your neck and you're hooked. If you don't love children, something's wrong with you." A Scottish Rite and Yor Rite Mason and Shriner, Bill has appeared in many parades over the years with the "Cooligans," the Sudan Shriner's parade unit, of which Bill is an original member.

There was a time not too long ago when Bill greeted many of the Trent Woods children every morning and afternoon on their way to and from school, and they happily greeted "Mr. Bill" by name each time they saw him.

Greeting the children was easy since Bill's volunteering efforts included serving as a crossing guard. When Bill was approached by the town's Police Chief to serve as a crossing guard for Bangert Elementary School, his response was, "I volunteer for everything else, so I may as well." When Bill was interviewed about his service to the town of Trent Woods, Bill said of his crossing guard experience that it was only after he agreed to do it that he found out he would actually get paid for the gig. The kids showed Bill how much he meant to them when, at the end of a school year, the Bangert Elementary School children honored him by dedicating the "Spirit Rock" outside the school for a week in his honor. One of the second graders who participated said of Bill, "Mr. Bill is so nice and loves us all." Bill served as a crossing guard for 8 years.

Bill was dedicated to helping kids long before his crossing guard duties. He volunteered for 20 years as a referee for youth basketball and as an umpire for youth baseball. In his younger years Bill coached Babe Ruth Baseball and Little League Baseball. His dedication, however, extends to both the young and old. After helping the New Bern-Craven County Jaycees run the fairgrounds for several years, he was selected as "N.C. Jaycees Outstanding Senior." Bill also served as a volunteer firefighter for 20 years and he now serves on the Retired Firemen's Board. He is an active member of Tabernacle Baptist Church, and he serves on the "Town's Citizen Emergency Response Team" and the local Community Watch program.

Bill and his wife Judy have two daughters and four grandchildren, ages 13, 15, 19, and 21 years old. Bill's eyes twinkle when he talks about his children and his four grandchildren, and he has a unique story about and a special love for each one of them.



Above: Bill (third from right) with fellow Shriners.

Pioneer Passions

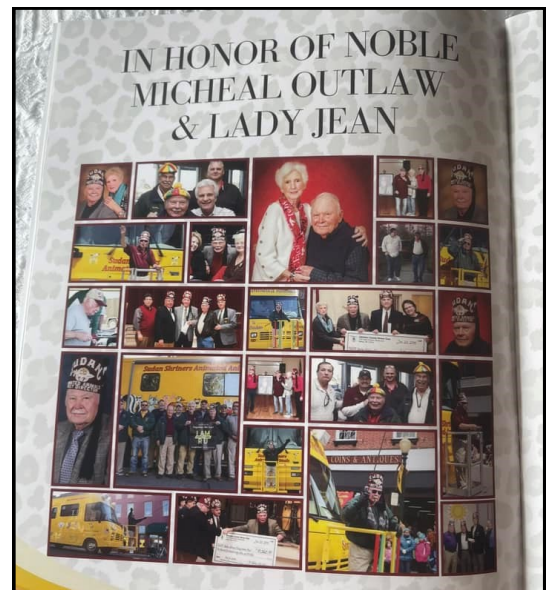
*In this Pioneer Passion segment, we congratulate **Mike and Jean Outlaw**, who were recently honored by the **Johnson County, NC Shrine Club** for their long-time public and community service on behalf of the Sudan Shriners. The Johnson County Shrine Club's annual Spring Ceremonial was dedicated to honoring the couple.*

Mike and Jean are long-time Pioneers and are integral members of the Carotel Club and Tar Heel Chapter in Region 3. They've devoted numerous hours to community service projects over the years. We could wax on about Mike and Jean's contributions as Pioneers, but this recognition is dedicated to their selfless service as Shriners.

Mike became a Sudan Shriner in 1975 and remained an active member of various Sudan clubs due to several relocations during his career with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. When Mike and Jean moved to Smithfield in 1980, Mike joined the Johnson County Shrine Club and the Sudan Animated Animals. Mike and Jean have devoted themselves to Shrinedom since 1975. Mike served as the Johnson County club's president in 1983 and as Director of the Animated Animals from 2000 to 2005.



Mike and Jean's children and grandchildren surprised them by attending the ceremony, making this special day even more festive for the couple. Congratulations Mike and Jean on this well deserved honor! We are grateful for your service through the Sudan Shriners and through your Pioneering work with Carotel, the Tar Heel Chapter and the national ITPA.





Pioneer Passions (Cont'd)

Sudan Shriners have been “having fun and helping others since 1917.” This fraternal organization is comprised of men who are dedicated to fun and fellowship and who also share a serious philanthropic commitment. They support what has been called by some as the world’s greatest philanthropy, the *Shriners Hospitals for Children*.

Shriners Hospitals are comprised of a network of 22 pediatric specialty hospitals, operated and maintained by the Shriners. All children, up to 18 years old, may be eligible for treatment at Shriners Hospitals if they, in the opinion of the hospital’s chief of staff, could benefit from the specialized care available at Shriners Hospitals. Eligibility is not based on financial need or relationship to a Shriner.

Before becoming a Shriner, a man must first become a Mason. The fraternity of Freemasonry is the oldest, largest, and most widely known fraternity in the world, dating back hundreds of years. It began when stonemasons and other craftsmen began gathering in shelter houses or lodges. Over the years as formal Masonic lodges emerged, members were not necessarily bound together, not by trade, but by a desire to make a difference for others as fraternal brothers.

The fraternity itself is complex. At the base level is the Blue Lodge, where members earn the first three Masonic Degrees known as the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and then the highest degree of Master Mason, or the Third Degree. Once a member becomes a Master Mason, he can petition to become a Noble of the Shrine of North Carolina.

Shriners support their hospitals in many ways. Shrine Temples and clubs across the country often help arrange and pay for transportation for children and parents to the hospitals, and thousands of Shriners spend many hours of their own time driving families to the hospitals and entertaining the patients.

In 2015, Shriners Hospitals for Children became a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network, a national network of organizations committed to better serving patients and their families through physician collaboration. Later, the Shriners Hospitals for Children was rebranded as *Shriners Children’s*, adapting to current nationwide trends in health care, with an emphasis on outpatient care, and some locations becoming clinics or outpatient centers.

Shriners individually support the hospitals financially through an annual \$5 assessment to the hospitals. Shriner temples and clubs also hold fundraisers to help support the hospitals.



Even though this is a fraternal organization, spouses are welcomed and encouraged to participate in social and philanthropic activities. Through Jean’s participation with the Sudan Shriners, she earned the title “Lady Jean” which pairs nicely with the honor that was bestowed upon Mike as “Noble Micheal Outlaw.”

To learn more about the Sudan Shriners and the philanthropic work they do, visit [Sudan Shriners - New Bern, NC](#)

This and That

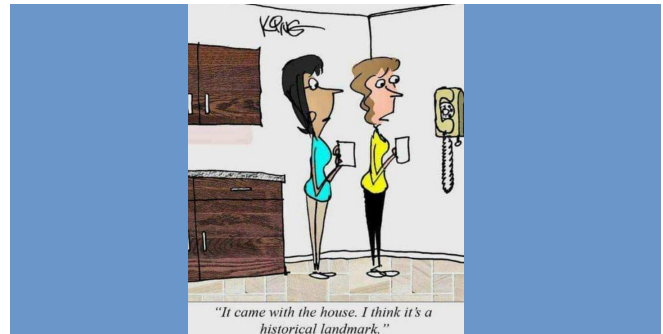


French artist Jean-Luc Cornec created these unique sculptures using old rotary dial telephones and telephone cables. These sheep are on display at the Museum of Communication in Frankfurt, Germany. The installation is intended to remind visitors of simpler times while raising awareness of the problem of electronic waste.



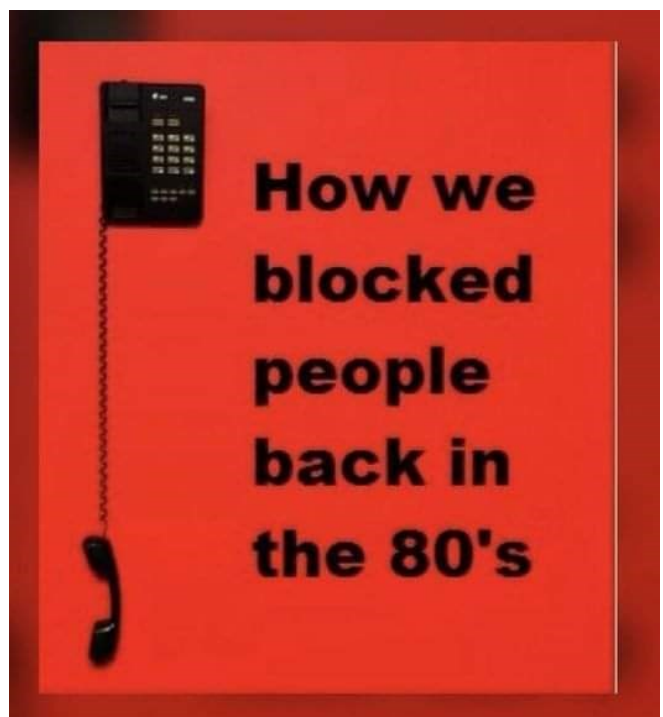
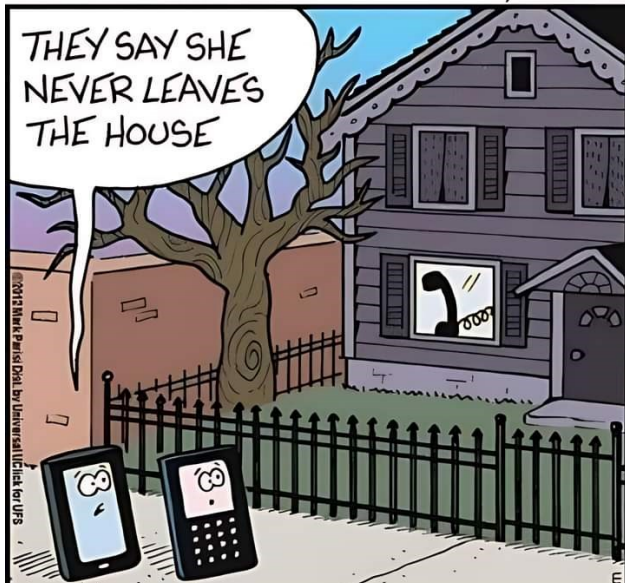
A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best prayer positions, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is the best way to pray," the priest said. "No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." "You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor." The repairman could not contain himself any longer after listening to their conversation. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best praying that I ever did was when I was hanging upside down from a telephone pole."

Michelle Lindsey



off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



RECIPE EXCHANGE

Ohio Shredded Chicken Sandwiches

*From Darlene Roll, Mid-Ohio Club
This recipe comes from a friend who lives in Bellefontaine, Ohio. It has 5 ingredients (including buns) and is so good and easy! We still believe there are people in the U.S. who don't know about this Ohio sandwich!*

Ingredients

- 1 28-ounce can of canned chicken
- 1 10 3/4 ounce can Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 10 3/4 ounce can Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 box dry Stove Top stuffing mix (crushed)
- Package of hamburger buns

Directions:

Add chicken, with juices, to a cooking pan and warm over medium heat. Shred chicken with a fork. Add both cans of soup and stuffing mix. Heat thoroughly for at least 10 minutes while stirring. Serve with buns.



After heating you can transfer the mixture to a pre-heated crockpot. Allow to warm thoroughly in the crockpot on low heat and then turn to warm setting.

This recipe is often used for get-togethers, usually by doubling the amounts.

Ohio Buckeye Candies



Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups peanut butter
- 1 cup butter, softened
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups sifted confectioners' sugar, plus more as needed
- 4 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- toothpicks

Directions:

Beat peanut butter, butter, and vanilla together in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in 4 cups sifted confectioners' sugar until dough is stiff, firm, and dry with no lumps; adding more sifted sugar as needed. Roll dough into about sixty 1-inch balls and place on wax-lined cookie sheets. Press a toothpick into the top of each ball and chill in the freezer until firm, about 30 minutes. Place chocolate chips in a double boiler or in a bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water. Stir frequently until melted and smooth. Hold the toothpicks and dip frozen peanut butter balls into the melted chocolate, leaving a small portion of peanut butter showing at the top. Return to the cookie sheet, remove and discard the toothpicks, and refrigerate until ready to serve. Enjoy!



RECIPE EXCHANGE (Cont'd)

Apple Jack Dessert

From Darlene Roll, Mid-Ohio Club

My husband cared for a small orchard and recipes that included apples were on our meal menus quite frequently once fall arrived in Ohio. I don't know where he got this particular recipe but it's still popular with our friends. Even today someone suggested I make this for an upcoming party.

Ingredients

- 4 medium apples, peeled and sliced (our favorites were Northern Spy)
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- Cinnamon
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 Tablespoons butter, margarine, or drippings (we always used butter)
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Put apples into an 8-inch casserole/baking dish. Pour the first amount of sugar evenly over the top. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Mix second amount of sugar, butter, and egg together in a mixing bowl. Stir in milk. Add flour, baking powder, and salt. Mix well and spoon over apples. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes, until apples and cake-top are cooked. Enjoy!

Coming soon...Recipes from around the world!



We're still collecting recipes for a future International Recipe Section, which was suggested by one of our readers. We LOVE the idea, and hope you do too! But we need your help to make it happen. Do you have recipes that have been passed down through the generations in your family? Perhaps your grandparents immigrated from Ireland or Greece, or South Africa...did they bring recipes from their homelands? We're collecting international recipes now and we invite all clubs and chapters to submit recipes, along with the history behind those recipes.

Once we have enough submissions for a future Recipe section, we'll publish them. Please send your entries to bdnterry@outlook.com.

You Can't Get that Here!

The August Pioneer Connection featured “Cheese Biscuits,” a delicacy found primarily only in eastern North Carolina. We asked other Pioneers to share some delicacies from their regions that others may not have heard of. Our Ohio Pioneers are pleased to introduce you to Ohio’s official state candy, the Ohio Buckeye and to Ohio shredded chicken sandwiches.

Ohio Buckeyes are peanut butter fudge candy balls that are partially dipped in chocolate. Buckeyes are similar to peanut butter balls or peanut-butter-filled chocolate balls, except that buckeyes are only partially dipped in chocolate to leave a circle of peanut butter visible.

These delectable candy balls are called “buckeyes” because they look like the nuts that grow on Ohio’s state tree, the Ohio Buckeye. Buckeye nuts, by the way, are poisonous when raw, but they’re safe to eat after they’ve been cooked. Don’t worry, though, because Ohio Buckeye candies do not actually contain Buckeye nuts.

We don’t really know how long Ohioans have been enjoying Buckeyes since the candies are often made in home kitchens, with family specific recipes having been passed down through the generations. We do know that three women commercialized the sale of Buckeye candies in 1919 when they opened the Buckeye Candy Company in Brooklyn, Ohio.

Ohioans enjoy Buckeye candies year-round, consuming more than six million pounds each year. Buckeyes are a particular favorite of football fans. Ohio football fans pass the candies out to game-day visitors hoping to give their home team supporters a taste of good luck and bring the team good luck on the field.



The Ohio shredded chicken sandwich is a much-loved comfort food in Ohio, particularly in the northern and central regions of the state. This classic Ohio dish has been around for generations, but its exact origins are unknown. Some believe this sandwich came to be simply as a way to use up leftover chicken. Others think the sandwich is a carryover from the days when everyone had chickens and you didn’t butcher them until they quit laying eggs. By the time a chicken was put on the table, it was so old and tough that all one could do was make creamed chicken and serve it in buns or over biscuits.

The sandwich gained popularity in Ohio during the 1960s, and it quickly became a staple at school lunches, dairy bars, and church gatherings. The Ohio shredded chicken sandwich continues to be a unique Ohio tradition, and it is often a featured item at potluck dinners, parties, and local diners.

This sandwich is made by first cooking and shredding chicken, and then mixing it with a creamy base, such as chicken broth or condensed chicken soup and binding agents such as breadcrumbs, flour, or crushed potato chips. The mixture is then seasoned and served on hamburger buns.

If you don’t believe Ohio has dibs on this unique sandwich, just search the internet for “Ohio shredded chicken sandwich,” and you’ll be convinced. This month’s recipe section features a recipe for Ohio Buckeyes and Ohio’s shredded chicken sandwich.

If you have enjoyed this series, please help us keep it going! We need to hear from Pioneers in other regions. What food do you crave but can’t find when you travel outside your locality or state? We want to hear about it! Please send your food story (with photo(s) please) to: bdnterry@outlook.com. We look forward to sharing your stories.