

The Jack Tales

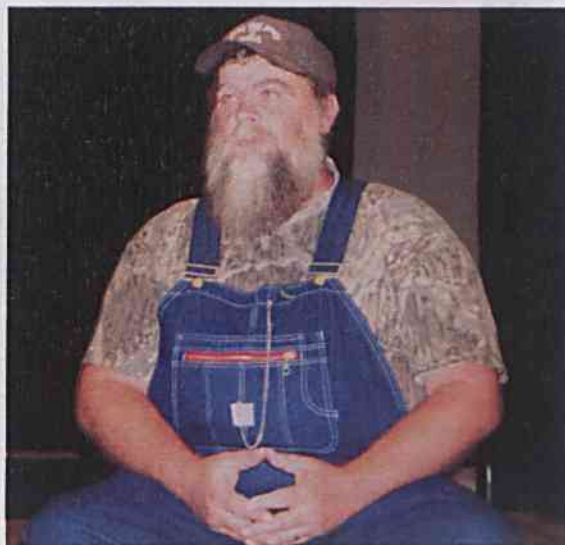
By Kelia Adams

Orville Hicks performed his Jack Tales Tuesday evening in the Pit at Wilkes Community College. Orville has a whole big sack full of Jack Tales and has been telling them for about twenty some years. Orville's tales are all about this 16 year old boy whose name is Jack. Jack is always getting into some sort of mischief. Orville relates a lot to Jack because when he was a young boy, he got into his fair share of trouble. Orville used to lay out of school and go to Rex Hicks' house in the woods; he definitely preferred the woods over school. Orville recalled an old childhood memory: when a teacher asked him who signed the Declaration of Independence, and he replied with I don't care. Then Orville's teacher became angry and called Orville's father. When Orville's father arrived at the school, he said to Orville, "Orville, if you signed the thing just tell her." I thought that was so hilarious!

The Jack Tales were passed down to Orville from his loving mother. Orville and his ten other siblings would string beans and shell peas while their mother told them these fascinating and entertaining Jack Tales. Orville's tales are excellent, and he has the most wonderful laugh I have heard. Orville is now keeping this incredible folklore tradition (his family tradition) alive.

Orville grew up in a different world than the children of today. In Orville's day, his family did not have luxuries, such as a television or electricity. Orville's family had everything they needed in life, so therefore, they stayed in the comforts of their loving home, the holler. This one time, his family finally did obtain electricity, and Orville remembers his father worrying about how they were going to come up with the money for their \$3.00 power bill. Orville's family came up with the money by collecting leaves, collecting herbs, and collecting other free gifts from Mother Nature. Orville's father was a Baptist preacher and he was very strict. His father made all of his children go to sleep at 7:00 and if they spoke, the switch would strike upon their skin. Orville's father did not allow his children to play cards, and they were only allowed to read the bible and school books.

Orville and his wife Sylvia now reside in Deep Gap, North Carolina. Orville and Sylvia have two sons, have one grandchild, and have been married for thirty two years. Orville sells his comical and entertaining Jack Tales, so if you are interested in purchasing one you can go to a search engine such as Google and type in Orville Hicks, and this will allow the purchase of some Jack Tales!



Orville Hicks, Storyteller

College Calendar

November 25-26	Thanksgiving Holidays
November 29 thru December 3	Early Registration for Spring Semester
December 16, Thursday	Last Day of Classes
December 22 thru January 4	College Closed
January 6	Registration Day
January 10	First Class Day
January 12	Late Registration Day Ends
January 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

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