

# Memory Writers

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Elaine Overcash, a member of the Mooresville Senior Citizens Writing Group, sends us memory writings from her group that meets at the South Iredell Senior Citizens Center in Mooresville. The writings can cover recent events that concern the writers, or harken back to things of the past.*



Elaine Overcash, a member of the Mooresville memory writers' group shared her memories of "Papa Builds a Well House."

I don't remember learning to read. I don't remember moving to granmaw's and I don't remember discovering all the glories to be found in dirt. At about three years of age, my earliest memory was the time Papa built a well house. It was from trees grown, dried and cut just the same as the main house. There were plenty of trees and rocks, two natural resources we never seemed to run short of. Papa rented a sawmill to cut the logs into planking for this building.

This saw mill was a marvelous piece of equipment run with belts, wheels and assorted saws, bands, and guides. All of these things melded into a crucial belt that went around the wheel of our old T model Ford. The back of the car was jacked up,

a tire removed and the belt put in place of the tire. Removing the tire was no problem. It happened almost every time we rode for more than a few miles. When you cranked the vehicle, off went the saws, waiting for some one to load and cut lumber. I remember getting yelled at quite a few times when my curiosity got the best of me. I saw no reason to worry about safety, it was only whirling saws and flying slabs; not to mention saw dust, splinters, fumes and occasionally saw mill pieces hurled through the air in all random directions.

When the lumber was cut and the house was built, it was a grand thing to see. For an out building it was fairly large. In my eyes it was enormous. Designed for use, there was one big room with lots of shelves on two walls. Granmaw could put lots and lots of home canned goods and dried foods on all those shelves. There was a room

for animal feed, tools, plowing equipment and harness gear. There was even a cat hole in the door. The roof extended on the end closest to the house. Held up with two 4x4's it covered a hand dug and cement lined well. From the top of the roof hung a winch with a rope to pull and wind. On the end of the rope was tied a large metal bucket. The bucket had a hole in it with a leather flap over the hole.

When the bucket went into the water it was filled through the hole, when raised the flap would close. All this raising and lowering was done with a heavy metal bar bent into a crank. With some serious turning the big bucket would come to the top with fresh, sparkling water to be used inside the house.

I assumed the building was complete. What else could be done? I was awestruck when Papa opened some big cans. He dipped in a wide brush and began to spread beautiful stuff on the well house. White and shiny, it was a glorious transformation. When the summer sun got to be too much for Papa he went inside for a water break.

I remembered the mornings when Papa would shave his whiskers. White stuff was white stuff. I decided to shave. When Papa came back out I was standing over a bucket of oil based white outdoor paint, holding the brush in both hands, gleefully swabbing my face and hair with the wonderful stuff. The next thing I knew I was sitting on the kitchen counter, my granmaw muttering to herself as she anointed my face, hands and hair with turpentine. The main problem was removing the paint without removing the skin. I walked around for several days with a rosy glow from turpentine and shampoo. I almost got my first haircut but Granmaw's persistence prevailed. The head full of blond curls finally got back to normal. I learned a lot about chemistry that day. For instance, I will never again try oil paint for shaving lather, nor will I try to wash with turpentine instead of soap.

I also set about learning to take my own bath.



THE CELESTE HENKEL #2, THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE GIRLS TEAM JUST completed two years in a row as season tournament and Iredell County Champions. The team went undefeated and finished the 2008 season as the SIYAA regular and tournament season champions. They also competed against Ebenezer in the ICYAA vs SIYAA tournament to become the 2008 Iredell County Tournament Champions. Front row from left: Alexis Ross, Summer Brown and Tatum Boggs. Back row: Sydney Holland, Logan Hoffman, Lydia Sharpe and Tatiana Potter. Coaches, (not pictured) were Carmen Boggs, Mandy Swierad, Tammie Holland and Stephanie Hoffman.

## BBQ Chicken Dinner Planned

Monticello Baptist Church will hold its annual barbecue chicken dinner on Friday, April 11, beginning at 11 a.m. Plates include a one-half chicken, slaw, baked beans, roll and dessert. Plates are \$7.

The church is located at 3603 Taylorsville Hwy., Statesville, NC 28625.

All proceeds will go toward outreach missions. For information call 704-872-5838.

## Foxx Hosts Telephone Town Hall

WASHINGTON, D.C.- On Tuesday, April 15, Congresswoman Virginia Foxx will host a telephone town hall on federal taxes and spending for Fifth District constituents. Constituents can call into the town hall meeting by dialing 1-877-850-4133 at 7 p.m. and entering the password FOXX (3699).

a live conference call with Rep. Foxx and other constituents in the Fifth District when they call. After joining the call, participants can ask Rep. Foxx questions about the federal budget, taxes and spending.

The telephone town hall is open to constituents in North Carolina's Fifth District.

Constituents will be connected to

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## Gardening Program Set

Basic Vegetable Gardening will be featured in a meeting presentation and outdoor learning program Monday, April 14, 1 - 3 p.m. at the Iredell County Agriculture Resource Center at 444 Bristol Drive, in Statesville. Soil preparation, variety selections, pest management and water efficiency

will be discussed. The program features volunteer master gardeners and Dor Breedlove Cooperative Extension Service Horticulture agent. Persons interested in the public event should call the Cooperative Extension office at 704-873-0507 to register.

Sign Up For The Fun !!!

## Summer Dance Camps

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