



The

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NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND FRIENDS OF THE LODGE AT OLD TRAIL

Bears and the Bees

Old Trail residents are buzzing about bears. Frequent reports of recent black bear sightings are being posted on social networking websites. The bears are, of course, attracted to food which they find in pet dishes and in garbage cans and dumpsters when berries are scarce. Lodge owner David Hilliard has found they are attracted to bee hives, too. His hives were decimated over the winter by bears salivating for their content, and, contrary to popular expectations, eating the bees and leaving the honey! But Hilliard, while disappointed, is undaunted. He has established new hives; this time they are different.

The new hives are not unlike typical beehives, but a smaller version. They are called Nuc hives and contain an established bee colony, created from a larger colony, that rapidly expands into a larger population. The smaller space and smaller colony make it easier for the bees to control temperature and humidity that is so vital for brood production. Hilliard says there is still no guarantee they are bear proof.

We mustn't forget, however, the importance of flowers to bees, and for that matter, the importance of bees to flowers. Bees depend on both the nectar and pollen of flowers for food. Flowers depend on bees and other pollinators to transfer pollen from plant to plant so they can produce fruit and more plants. In other words, bees and flowers are continuously trying to exploit one another.

According to researchers, a lot is known about nectar foraging by bees, but little about pollen foraging. Bees actually spend a lot of time learning how to extract the nectar that flowers try to conceal. Must they also learn how to forage for pollen? Or do they instinctively vibrate their thorax and wings to jar loose the pollen held by defensive plants in tube-like structures? "We are just scratching the surface when it comes to pollinators interacting with plants," says researcher Avery Russell at the University of Arizona.

Here's hoping bears find lots of berries and bees find plenty of flowers because we look forward to more of that pure, delicious Lodge honey.

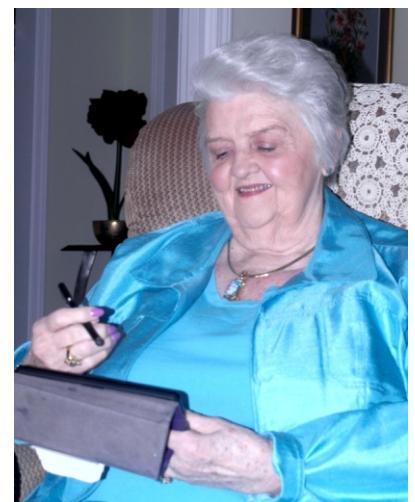
RESIDENT FOCUS

If Agnes Anderson's father intended his four daughters to be farmers, it was not to be. Agnes and her three sisters were expected to perform chores on their father's large turkey farm where they grew up near Farmville, Virginia. But they all became educators. Agnes can include another rather unusual occupation on her vitae: funeral home associate. She managed to cram years of part-time funeral work into her busy lifestyle. Because of a recent fall and injured femur (thighbone) she moved to the Lodge in 2015. Despite reduced mobility and sometimes pain, she continues with the paper work for the family-owned Anderson Funeral Services in Crozet as its secretary-treasurer.

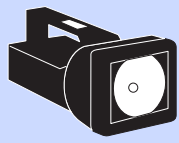
Agnes could not have foreseen owning and helping to operate a funeral business in Crozet. She attended Montreat College in North Carolina where she graduated with a degree in business education. A serious alto vocalist, she traveled with the college choir several times to sing at the Billy Graham Crusade in Charlotte, North Carolina and was soloist at weddings. Graham lived near the college and often spoke to the student body.

Soon after graduation, Agnes met John Walton Anderson whom she married while he was completing his education at Presbyterian College in Maxton, North Carolina. That's when the handwriting was on the wall. John had a part-time apprenticeship at a funeral home which convinced him he had found his profession to be; so much so that he enrolled at the esteemed Cincinnati

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Among Agnes's activities are reading books and emails on her tablet.



STAFFER SPOTLIGHT

Oh how we all wish to have the positive outlook of Pam Jessee. Pam was named manager of all life enrichment activities at The Lodge in May, a new staff position that combines the previously separate staff functions for each of the three Lodge communities under one leader. She could not be more enthusiastic over the new arrangement, explaining that her staff of one full-time and four part-time workers assures residents of many more enrichment choices.

She started working as enrichment coordinator for the memory care community at The Lodge in 2014. "Nobody in Ridges or Piedmont knew me then," says Pam, "but now, everybody works everywhere." She says her team has more time to be with residents and through group interaction is able to generate lots of new ideas. Already in the works are plans for a dress-up party and a bingo night. She and her team are thinking of having something special at least once per month.

Pam came to The Lodge from Our Lady of Peace assisted living facility in Charlottesville where she gained extensive experience in caring for those with dementia. Before that, she attended Piedmont Virginia Community College and worked as a certified x-ray technician. Another of her other jobs was driving a school bus, part time employment with full

time benefits and a perfect work schedule, says Pam. She passed the test for the required Commercial Drivers License on her first try. "My husband failed on his first and only attempt!"

Pam knows intimately what patient care entails and she learned how to meld that awesome responsibility with caring for her three children while also remaining employed. For 20 years, she was the primary care provider for her husband who suffered primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC), a disease of the liver. Her husband died peacefully at UVA hospital in March of this year, 28 years after their marriage in 1988. Two of her three sons attend Western High School in Crozet and the other is employed in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Pam finds time to squeeze playing the piano at weddings and funerals into her busy schedule, too. Her piano playing began in earnest when her father unexpectedly offered her as the replacement pianist at the church they attended in Free Union, her home town. "I was only 11 years old and could only play the keyboard with one hand, but my father insisted one morning that I go up front to play," recalls Pam.

You give us the inspiration we need to reckon with life's difficulties, Pam, and we wish you every success in your new managerial position.



The Needleword Show in May attracted a variety of lovely creations by Lodge residents and family members. Here is a sampling photographed by Lodge resident Marjorie Hanawalter.



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The Homegrown Business That Morphed Into A Major Industry

The huge piles of logs visible from Route 250 near Interstate 64 are the raw materials that keep the sprawling R. A. Yancey Lumber Corporation in business. Partially hidden behind a forested buffer, the sawmill is one of Albemarle County's largest industrial enterprises and was founded in 1949 by R. A. Yancey, Sr., a member of one of the county's founding families. The mill continues to be family run and because of its strategic location produces an enormous volume of lumber products virtually unnoticed by most Crozet area residents.



*Retired sawmill president
Richard Yancey, Jr.*

Richard Yancey Jr., son of the lumber mill founder and retired president of the firm, says his father got started in lumbering by debranching the long, straight trees he harvested and sold as pilings. "I suppose he was looking to make a better living when he began cutting up the logs into lumber," says Yancey.

At the time there were 30 small sawmills in the area around Albemarle. Yancey's father built his mill from scratch on a piece of the

land his family had accumulated. Today it stretches across 36 acres and employs 70 workers. Most of the other mills are out of business.

Yancey remembers first working for his father when he was 13 years old. His younger brother, Dan, and sister, Sarah, now serve as president and treasurer of the corporation. The Yancey family has lived in Albemarle County since 1765.

The unincorporated village of Yancey Mills across the road was named for a Yancey ancestor who operated a store and grain mill in what was called Yancey's Mill 200 years ago.

In its early years the mill produced hardwood lumber for the furniture and flooring industries. By 1986, however, the mill had converted entirely to pine wood products. The switch to pine was a result of hardwood production becoming so highly competitive.

Donny Rose, jack-of-all trades at the mill, serves as the general manager with 34 years of sawmill experience, 17 of those years at the Yancey sawmill.



An aerial view of the Yancey sawmill with its supply of logs in the foreground and Route 250 to the left.

Rose says he is happy with the exclusive use of loblolly pine—it is much easier on the equipment that he must maintain and repair.

The equipment is immense with what seems as miles of conveyors moving the green wood through saws where it is cut, edged, trimmed, and planed. As many as 5,000 logs pass through the mill on a typical day to make 20,000 or more pieces of dimensional lumber: the familiar 2 x 4, posts up to 6 x 6 size, and a variety of other sizes. Wholesale-buyer trucks load up with the bundled stacks of lumber to continue on their way to construction jobs, lumber yards, and treatment centers.

Rose says that the huge inventory of logs that can be seen from Route 250 would be eliminated in less than three weeks if it were not for the continued flow of deliveries the mill receives from area tree farms.

Like so many other industries, the mill has become increasingly computerized. After getting debarked at the beginning of travel through the mill, each log is scanned and a computer tells the primary saw how many pieces to rough cut the log into based on size and maximized

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As many as 5,000 of these pine logs pass through the mill on a typical work day.

Homegrown Business (cont'd)



Mill manager Donny Rose.

value of the final products. Other computers help to automate the succeeding steps to prepare the finished green lumber before it is dried in massive kilns and exits the plant.

Scaling the lumber, however, continues to be mostly hand-done. Trained workers will inspect the wood for blemishes and knots, ranking the best as premium and others are given grades from one to three.

The modern R. A. Yancey Lumber Company is also a model of efficiency, utilizing all by-products to completely eliminate waste. The stripped bark is ground into mulch and left-over wood fragments are reduced to uniformly sized chips. The chips are used as pulp by Weyerhaeuser and can often be seen loaded in trailers by the roadside waiting to be hauled away. The wood dust by-product from cutting and grinding, pumped through a long series of pipes to a 60 foot high concrete silo, is used as the fuel to fire the boilers that heat the kilns.

Looking to the future, Yancey acknowledges that sawmill operations will continue to be further automated in the interest of efficiency, and he says "they will be around as long as houses continue to be built."



Top, logs being conveyed to a scanner and first cutting. Above, bundled lumber ready for transport to end-users.

Resident Focus (cont'd)

College of Mortuary Science to complete his formal training in the funeral profession. John passed away in 1998.

While John worked in funeral homes in North Carolina, Agnes began teaching high school classes to begin her 34-year career in education. They moved to Charlottesville when John went to work for Hill and Wood Funeral Service and Agnes took a teaching job with Rock Hill Academy, a private school established during the state's "massive resistance" to integration.

After three years at Rock Hill, Agnes snagged a coveted teaching position with Albemarle County schools. She taught at county high schools for a total of 32 years before retiring in 1991. "I loved my teaching career in Albemarle, placing students in jobs they stayed with until retirement! I never go out that I do not run into former students."

Itching to establish his own funeral service in the area, John picked Crozet because of location. Location was especially important since a private ambulance service was their first venture in Crozet. The ambulance business grew to a fleet of as many as 15 vehicles and 30 drivers, transporting mostly non-emergency customers to places as far away as New York and North Carolina. Agnes remembers substituting in the driver seat when on-call drivers were unavailable and serving as an EMT in the back seat. The Andersons sold the ambulance business in 2001.

Crozet offered more than just location; an attractive 12-room house built and owned by a member of the Barnes lumber company family who was eager to sell. After some renovations, Crozet Funeral Services on St. George Avenue opened for business in 1967. John and Agnes lived on the second floor before moving to another Crozet neighborhood.

After John died, Agnes's sons John, Jr. and Robert took over the business. They are both certified funeral directors and embalmers. Her sons, daughter-in-law, and three grandchildren all live in the area.

With knitting needles, a Kindle tablet, or a cross-word puzzle in her hands, Agnes never seems to slow down. "My mother produced crochet doilies like a factory," says Agnes who learned only to knit and needlepoint. She values books on her tablet, now that shelf space is limited, by novelists Danielle Steele, Debbie Macomber, and others.

Agnes and a sister have taken annual cruises for 17 years to places ranging from the Caribbean islands to Hawaii and Alaska. "I guess my travel is over, but my sister says I will travel again." Her sister is probably right. Agnes's doctor said she might not drive again, but she has been driving for the last two months and continues to improve.

"The Lodge has been wonderful to me," says Agnes. "Just do not break your femur because it is a long time until you recover."



John and Agnes, 1985.



The Anderson Funeral Home.