

# Highlands Historical Society

Winter 2016

To preserve and promote the rich heritage of Highlands

Highlands, N. C.

## DO YOU REMEMBER???

### WHAT HIGHLANDS LOOKED LIKE THREE DECADES AGO

A mere thirty years ago, life in Highlands, North Carolina, was quite different from the way it is now. There was a time when Highlands actually had a variety store. A person could go shopping and actually buy sparklers for 50 cents. According to Angie



*Anderson's Drug Store*

Jenkins, the store was located on The Hill and was run by Alan Lewis, who took it over from his father-in-law, Charlie Anderson, in 1957. Anderson bought the land and built the store and a drug store in 1938. Both the variety store and the drug store were in business until 1983. The drug store came under different ownerships but later became Highlands Pharmacy, located in Wright Square and run by Sherry Sims. The Variety Store was the closest thing to a general store that could be found for miles around but fell victim to cut-rate stores in the Franklin area.

After shopping you might have gone across the street for a hot dog or sandwich at the Tastee Freez. This later became Coach's Corner and later still Hill Top Grill. Or you may have gone to Dunfergot's.

On Main Street you may have gone to the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation when the part now called the chapel was the church itself. Next door to the church was the Hudson



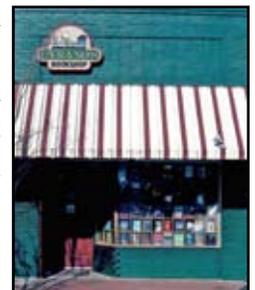
*The Hudson Library*

Library housed in a wooden building since 1915. The old library was replaced by a new library in 1985. This building shared space with the Bascom-Louise Gallery. The Bascom is now housed on the other end of Main Street in its own space. When the Episcopal Church expanded in early 2000s, the old library was moved to its present location in the Historic Village on Highway 64 next to the Recreation Park.

Walking across Fifth Street heading toward the center of town you may have shopped on the lawn, which was home to the craft fairs on weekends. The land was later developed as a shopping area and Wolfgang's expansion. Wolfgang took over Hildegard's in the 1980s, both known for their delicious German dishes.

Blue Ridge and later Main Street Pharmacy would have been open back then. The drug store was a place that had a soda fountain and sold magazines, toys, and drugs. Home to the Dry Sink now, there was plenty of room.

Once you crossed Fourth Street you would see the wonderful book store called Cyrano's. Opened in 1978 it packed a generous amount of good reading into the small space provided. Ran Shaffner was the knowledgeable owner. Just going in there was an education. Ran knew more about what was worth reading than anyone around. This bookstore thrived before the onset of huge discount book stores and buying books online. Ran could find out-



*Cyrano's Bookshop* of-print books, best sellers, and books that were going to be best sellers. His store is missed.

The Highlander Restaurant might have been your next stop. The food there was based on Helen

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## A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

To the friends of the Highlands Historical Society:

I am pleased to be the new president of the Society. First, I want to thank Brian McClellan for his leadership over the past two years. He is leaving things in good order.

Next, in looking back, there have been some very positive things to report to you:

- The major work on refurbishing the exterior of our signature exhibit, the Prince House, was completed. This involved replacing the weather damaged south- and east-facing siding and repairing the accompanying windows.
- Our archivist, Ran Shaffner, has submitted our application to have the house placed on the National Historic Register. You'd be amazed at how detailed this document has to be in order to be submitted for consideration. This was facilitated by the precise way the house was refurbished.
- A major concern has always been to let more folks know about "The Historic Village." As a first step, a rack brochure was designed and printed for distribution throughout the Highlands Community. It is a handsome piece and competes visually with other points of interest on the Plateau.
- We now have a staff docent at the museum on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the season. Pat Griffin does a wonderful job guiding our visitors through the many exhibits located within the Prince House and the Museum. She takes such ownership in her position.

Looking forward to the New Year, we have four strong new board members replacing the great members rotating off. The Society is in sound financial position and has momentum in continuing our mission which is "to Preserve and Promote the Rich Heritage of Highlands for Present and Future Generations."

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the Highlands Historical Society. I wish for you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year. It will be a pleasure to serve as your president for the coming year.

/S/ Obie Oakley

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

- Osborne "Obie" Oakley, President
- Bill Edwards, Vice President
- Glenda Bell, Corresponding Secretary
- Brian McClellan, Recording Secretary
- Linda Clark, Treasurer
- Tommy Chambers, Sally Caffery,
- Mary Ann Hardman, Fran Leftwich,
- Eric Nielsen, Bob Trevathan, and Judy Taylor.
- Archivist and Ex Officio Director, Ran Shaffner
- Associate Archivist, Sue Potts
- Assistant Archivist, Anne Sellers
- Glenda Bell, Newsletter Editor

### RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

We hope you will renew now.

Family \$50 • Individual \$35 • Sustainer \$100  
Business \$250 • Promoter \$500 • Preserver \$1,000  
Protector \$2,500 • Highlander \$5,000

And we hope you will add a donation, as many of you have done so generously in the past.

To join or renew membership by check or credit card, visit [highlandshistory@netv.com](mailto:highlandshistory@netv.com).

Highlands Historical Society

P. O. Box 670, Highlands, NC 28741-0670

### A Heartfelt Thanks

#### to our 2016 Contributors

Thanks and gratitude to these special people. **Mountain Findings:** thanks to you we have a wonderful Kelsey Kids program with the children of Highlands learning to appreciate our lovely town and the people who have make it that way. **Cullasaja Womens Outreach:** you have been a lifesaver to our physical plant over the past two years when our Prince House needed new windows, siding, and paint. Without your generous donation the work could not have been done. **Our Dahlia Patrons:** you have made a great deal of difference in our ability to reach out to the community and educate our visitors. **Pat Griffin:** our weekend docent has learned everything she can about our museum and has shared it with all the visitors who come to the Historical Society

A special thanks to Kent and Alice Nelson for their extraordinary contributions to the Historical Society over the years, including 2016, and to our supportive membership, whose generous donations have sustained us since our establishment in 1999.

### DAHLIA PATRON PARTY DAZZLES !

The Dazzling Dahlia Patron Party was held on September 8th at Highlands Falls Country Club and was a HUGE success! Many guests arrived dressed in festive Mexican attire, which lent even more festivity to the delightful evening. Penny Pollock enthralled and entertained guests in her role as an effervescent Carmen Miranda.



*Penny Pollock with Bill and Mary Ann Hardman*

Chairpersons Mary Ann Hardman and Raya McArthur and a team of dedicated volunteers transformed Highlands Falls Country Club into a Mexican fiesta with music provided by the Joe Gransden trio. Tables were festooned with brightly colored linens and generous bouquets of dahlias gathered from area gardens. Guests enjoyed a Mexican-themed buffet while sipping margaritas and mojitas.

Corporate sponsorships were a welcomed addition this year. We sincerely appreciate the generous support of Highlands Decorating Center, Tom Chambers Builders, and Wilson Gas Service.

Several artists graciously donated their original works for a silent auction. We are appreciative of Carroll Peacock, Jill Wolfe, Ruthie Watts, Katherine Bell McClure, and Dr. Murphy Townsend for their generosity of talent and time.

The Wheelbarrow Raffle reached epic proportions this year due to the efforts of Sally Caffery and the generous merchants of Highlands! Congratulations go to an ecstatic Linda Edwards who took home the gold!

### KELSEY KIDS DAY CAMP JUNE 13-17

Since 2010, the Kelsey Kids program has been giving Highlands children a way to learn history in a fun and interactive way. Linda David, a Highlands local, gives the children a week free of charge in June to show them how things were done in the “old days.” Field trips are taken, delicious lunches prepared, and activities provided, enriching the lives of our youth.

Gary Wein, Executive Director of the Highlands-Cashiers Land Trust, led unforgettable hikes, giving our children botanical and educational information about Satulah Mountain and the Kelsey Trail. Jennifer Schmitt let the children come to her farm, where they learned about milking cows and what it takes to have your own bee hives and gather honey. Jack Conway and Martha Gleaner welcomed our kids to Sue Blair’s horse farm and shared their knowledge of horses and their care. Leroy Parr shared his musical talent on the dulcimer. Jennifer Cunningham, director of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, guided the kids through Highlands to see and learn more history of our town.



*Front Row (L-R): Gavin Knight, Abby Vanderwiele, Jessica Thompson, Chloe Billingsley. Second Row: AJ Sellino, Aniah McKim, Jaylin Raby, Katie Earp, Olivia Thompson. Third Row: Cambridge Collany, Jacob Knight, James Earp, Back Row: Nathan Thompson, Caspian Collany.*

This past year the participants planted dahlias and entered them into Highlands Historical Society’s annual Dahlia Festival to compete for ribbons. All of it was in good fun.

**DO YOU REMEMBER, from page 1**

Thompson’s recipes. It was known for such delicious food as homemade buns, apple in a dish, and buttermilk pie. If you went around back, the Thompsons had Big John’s Scotch and Sirloin Room.

Down the street was another restaurant called the Mountaineer. It was called by other names through the years, but by the 80s it was the magnet for hungry Highlanders. Their fried chicken was the tastiest in town, wonderful yeast rolls, all the vegetables on the side that would fit on your plate, and a berry cobbler with ice cream that would make your mouth

SANDWICHES	
"OUR POPULAR MOUNTAINEER HAMBURGER" Large and good with French Fries .....6.95	
Club .....	5.95
Country Ham .....	4.95
Grilled <del>meat</del> <b>Cheese</b> .....	2.75
Hamburger .....	4.50
Cheeseburger .....	4.95
Bacon Cheeseburger .....	5.50
<del>meat</del> .....	4.50
Turkey .....	4.95
Chicken Strips .....	4.25
Grilled Chicken .....	5.25
Southern Fried <del>meat</del> <b>Chicken</b> .....	5.25
Baked Ham .....	4.25
Ham and Egg .....	4.25
Ham and Cheese .....	4.25
Bacon and Egg .....	4.25
Egg Salad .....	2.95
Egg .....	2.95
B.L.T. ....	4.25
Tuna Salad .....	4.25
Fish .....	4.25
Peanut Butter and Jelly ....	2.50
*All sandwiches are served with chips. With French Fries extra 1.25	
BEVERAGES	
Soft Drinks .....	1.10 / one free refill
Coffee .....	.95
Brewed Decaf .....	.95
DESSERTS	
Buttermilk Pie .....	2.50
Cobbler .....	2.50
	with Ice Cream ..... 2.95

**Mountaineer Restaurant Menu**

water just to think of it. The Mountaineer closed in December of 1999—a very sad day. If you want to read an appropriate eulogy written by one of its most enthusiastic customers to this wonderful affordable restaurant, read Mr. Shaffner’s heartfelt one on page 427 in *Heart of the Blue Ridge*, 2nd edition. The Mountaineer represented the “old way” and was the center of town for many of us.

Another fond memory of thirty or so years ago is the movie theater called The Galax on the shady side of Main Street and presently Annawear. The movies shown in that theater were often the only activity in town after dark, so it drew quite a crowd in spite of the fact the film would often break mid-movie and have to be spliced to restart. Crowds of moviegoers would

gather before and after the show to socialize. Some remember this theater as being a baby sitter and remember lines of cars waiting at the entrance to the Galax waiting for their children to emerge.



**The Galax Theatre**

Turning back to the center of town you may remember The Central House Restaurant, which is now Madison’s. That was more of a dinner at night place and served good food. The Old Edwards Inn was attached to the Central House and of course is now known as “OEI”—seriously upgraded.

The Bird Barn, now Acorns, was next door to the Presbyterian Church, which had not at that time added the wing. The Child Development Center is behind the church in the location of the old Mountain Findings, but for years was located in the brick building next to the Presbyterian Church.



**The Bird Barn**

Then there was Tate’s Market where you could walk in and order a sandwich to go. Tate’s, also known as Pott’s at another time, was located where Mountain Fresh is today. A good idea expanded and enhanced.

Next door was Potts lawn and garden store which has been removed to make way for Falls on Main. If you needed garden supplies there were many to buy. Steve Potts usually was at the counter.

Most of the changes to Highlands have happened gradually over the years with stores, restaurants, and other places of business coming and going. Signs of the times are sometimes hard to take. The simple life has been replaced by a more sophisticated and elegant lifestyle. We are a destination for weddings, parties, and leafers. All of this is certainly good for business. Sometimes, though, the old way of life, not so many years ago, brings feelings of intense nostalgia.