

Model of Dyer's 1874 airplane displayed at reunion

The rain didn't come until after the 200-plus attendees at the Dyer-Souther Reunion had finished a sumptuous meal on Saturday, July 20, 2013. It had stopped by the time the featured guest, Jack Allen, concluded his remarks about the model he built of Micajah Clark Dyer's 1874 flying machine and the model was presented to Mr. Ed Reed, Vice President and Past President of the Union County Historical Society, to be placed on display in the museum. The replica was on exhibit throughout the reunion, giving the public its first look at the remarkable work of Mr. Allen.

The reunion was held at the Choestoe Baptist Church Family Life Center located on the Micajah Clark Dyer Parkway (State Hwy. 180). This is a fitting site for the reunion since the Dyer and Souther forebears first settled in this valley shortly after Union County was formed in 1832 from a portion of the Cherokee Nation. Some other family names that appear on the earliest records of the Choestoe Church are Nix, Hunter, Collins and others who were related by marriage or had other family ties.

When the Scots-Irish settlers first moved into the area, there were five Indian trails that converged at this location: the Logan, Choestoe, Tesnatee, Trackrock and Enotah Trails. The intersection of these traffic lanes had already made the area into a thriving community. The new arrivals kept the same name the Indians had given the village, "Choestoe" which translates "the place where rabbits dance."

One of the youngsters who arrived with the first white settlers was 11-year-old Micajah Clark Dyer. Those who saw his many inventions throughout his life, the most remarkable of which was the flying machine, labeled him "a genius." After his death in 1891, his patent and airplane were sold, and the family had only stories handed down orally about his invention for more than a century. There were no cameras or newspapers available in the mountain counties during Clark Dyer's lifetime, and searches conducted by historians Ken Akins and Robert Davis in 1980 failed to produce any documentation about the airplane.

Then, in 2004, Steven and Joey Dyer, great-great-great grandsons of Clark Dyer, located the patent for the airplane



Jack Allen with his model

in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office. The patent office had loaded old patent files onto the Internet, which included Patent No. 154,654 issued on Sept. 1, 1874, to Micajah Dyer of Blairsville, GA for an "Apparatus for Navigating the Air." Later, more than a dozen 1875 newspapers, published in towns outside the mountain area, were discovered with articles about Clark Dyer's invention.

In recent years, the family has made efforts to gain recognition for the inventor. They make the case that this is not just for family heritage, but because it is an important historical event for the state, indeed for the nation, since no one preceded Clark Dyer in inventing a flying machine that was capable of controlled flight.

The model builder, Jack Allen of Blairsville, is a retired Delta Airlines mechanic. He has been building models since before his retirement from Delta. One of the best known of his models is a replica of the Telstar 1 Communications Satellite that hangs in the lobby of the BellSouth Tower in Atlanta. His model of that satellite is displayed in the Georgia Rural Telephone Museum in Leslie, GA.

Jack crafted every piece of Clark Dyer's airplane model to scale, working from the 1874 patent drawings and descriptions, which were silent as to dimensions, leaving Jack with the challenge of using coordinates to calculate the size of the many parts.

Family members agree that, truly, Jack has produced a remarkable replica of the 19th century aircraft and

proved himself to be worthy of the title "Master Builder."

Another reunion highlight was a tour of the restored Old Choestoe Schoolhouse, which has been relocated on Collins Road and is being converted to a community center. It is the second building that housed the Choestoe School. Originally, the school was in a two-story frame building, which housed the school on the first floor and the Choestoe Masonic Lodge on the second floor. That building was replaced with a new school building, which opened for students in 1936. It was a one-story frame schoolhouse consisting of two rooms and two teachers. As schools across the county were consolidated and student population dwindled, the school was modified to one room, and afterward one teacher taught all seven grades. The school was finally closed for good about 1954. Three teachers who taught at the Old Choestoe School were present at the reunion Saturday: Ethelene Dyer Jones, Louise Dyer and Blanche Hunter Swain. Former teacher, Mrs. Louise Dyer, age 94, was recognized as the oldest person present at the reunion.

Those who traveled farthest to the reunion were two sisters: Linda May Spivey Bjorklund of Baker City, OR, and Evelyn Sue Spivey of Gresham, OR. These ladies descended from Evaline Souther, daughter of John and Mary "Polly" Combs Souther, earliest Souther settlers to the Choestoe Valley. Evaline Souther (1826-1865) married Adaniram Spiva (1827-1898) in Union County, GA on March 12, 1850. NT043121DCA

Young Harris College Hemlock Project

The Oconee Chapter of the Society of American Foresters held its July meeting today "down on the river" in Towns County. The program for today's meeting was presented by Dr. Paul Arnold, biology professor at Young Harris College and Dr. Jim Wentworth, biologist for the US Forest Service. Both Paul and Jim are heavily involved with the Hemlock Project and discussed the work currently ongoing to find a solution for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA).

This is an excerpt from the YHC web site. The YHC Hemlock Project is a volunteer organization housed on the campus of Young Harris College. Dr. Arnold began the Hemlock Project in 2005 in an attempt to stem the growing infestation of a tiny bug called Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the hemlock stands of the north Georgia mountains. Community members and students volunteer their time to help raise *Sasajiscymnus tsugae*, a tiny ladybird beetle that is one of the few natural predators of the HWA. The organization works in conjunction with the Forest Service and the Georgia Forestry Commission to decide where to release the adult beetles. The HWA is an aphid-like parasite that feeds at the base of the needles of both the Eastern and Carolina Hemlock. The HWA withdraws vital fluids from the hemlock, eventually causing the needles to become yellow, die, and fall off. On average, once a hemlock tree is infested with HWA, it will die

within three to nine years.

A native of Japan, HWA was introduced into the Eastern United States in the 1950s. The HWA began attacking Eastern Hemlocks in Virginia and gradually spread northward into New England. Although the infestation was initially slow to gain a foothold, the tiny bugs began to cause a tremendous ecological damage by the late 1980s. In the Shenandoah Valley, nearly 80% of all Eastern Hemlock trees have been killed, leaving a landscape reminiscent of a forest fire. As HWA marches southward into Georgia and North Carolina, it leaves a path of ecological devastation that hasn't been seen since the Chestnut Blight of the 1920s and 1930s.

The HWA infestation has rapidly moved southward and westward from Virginia. The infestation entered Rabun County in 2002 and Towns County first received reports of infestation in 2004. Now the HWA infestation has become widespread in our region, leaving virtually all of the hemlocks in north Georgia moderately to heavily infested. The north Georgia Mountains are populated with stands of hemlock trees which shade trout streams, provide habitat and food for wildlife, and impart aesthetic beauty to these mountains.

Young Harris College is hoping to help preserve these trees from the damaging pest that threatens their existence. By raising the beetle that acts as predator to HWA, the Hem-

Executive Director of RC&D



Frank Riley

lock Project team works to counteract the destruction of hemlocks. When the beetles are ready to be released into the hemlock stands, Dr. Arnold and his team of volunteers rely on Forest Service and Georgia Forestry Commission personnel to perform most of the releases. These tiny beetles are completely dependent on the HWA in order to reproduce. It is hoped that the beetles will provide some protection of hemlock trees in forest ecosystems, since chemical treatment of acres of hemlock trees is economically and ecologically prohibitive.

The first release of beetles raised by The Hemlock Project occurred on March 15, 2006 and many thousands of adult beetles and eggs have been released on dozens of sites throughout northern Georgia and southwestern North Carolina since then. Can these beetles save our Hemlocks? Only time will tell!

For more information on this program or RC&D programs contact Frank M. Riley, Jr. - Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council. NT043127CA

Appalachian Duplicate Bridge Club news

On Monday, July 22, eleven full tables played a Mitchell movement at All Saints Lutheran Church in Blairsville, GA with the following results: First, North-South, Joe and Joan Lane; second, Susan Palmich and Debbie Foster; third, Kitty Tomkinson and Jim Bell; fourth, Patricia Quinn and Irene Schoetker; fifth, Chris Thompson and Lynn Flynn; and sixth, Mary Stoll and Marcia Schultz.

First, East-West, Mike Knowles and Frank Holland; second, Dee Short and Lorraine Klug; third, Barry Pressman and Richard Byers; and fourth, Carolyn Neighbors and Marge Schroeder.

On Thursday, July 25, seven and one half tables were in play. For this game, the Howell movement was used. First, Jim and Nancy Malte; second, Irene Schoetker and Patricia Quinn; third, Dolores Corsini and Gretchen Bryant; fourth, Kitty Tomkinson and Jim Bell; fifth, Karen Miller and Marcia Schultz; and sixth, Jim Shindholster and Lynn Melick.

The group gets together every Monday and Thursday at All Saints and begins play at 1 PM. If you are interested in joining in on the fun, call Susan at 706-379-9686 for more details. NT0431213gg

Monthly volunteer training

Georgia Mountains Hospice invites you to share your time and talents with our community agency serving people living with terminal illness. The training is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 9 AM in the Stencil Room of our building at 70 Caring Way in Jasper. Serving Cherokee, Pickens, Dawson, Murray, Gilmer, Fannin and Union counties since 1993. Please call 706-253-4100 or 1-800-692-7199 for details and directions. NT043121CA

Nailed Book Club reads on through the summer

Have you ever wondered what being a member of a book club is like? Our first and only area mystery/thriller book club, "Nailed" Book Club, is going strong and almost to capacity in membership, but currently still open. If you've ever thought you'd like to participate in rousing discussions about books that a group of like-minded folks read monthly and then discuss, then this would be just the ticket! When the club formed back in June, 2012, it began with four members. Since that momentous beginning, it has grown to a sizable group. We will cap our membership of regularly attending members soon and be going to a waiting list of potential new members, joining us as openings become available. We comprise different age, gender, educational, and area of the country origins. Each member brings something different to the group, but we all come together in a congenial and positive way to reinforce our love of this genre. Whether you grew up liking the 'who done it' type stories, or Alfred Hitchcock, Twilight Zone, Sherlock Holmes, The Hardy Boys and

Cunningham - Hutson wed



Mr. and Mrs. Brad Hutson

Jay Cunningham and Karen Hutson would like to announce the joining of their children, Katherine Elizabeth Cunningham and Brad Jamison Hutson in Holy Matrimony.

Katie is the daughter of Jay Cunningham of Kennesaw, GA and Jacquie Terrell of Colorado Springs, CO. She is a graduate of Harrison High School in 2001.

Brad is the son of the late Larry Wade Hutson and

Karen Faye Hutson, both of Blairsville. He is a graduate of Union County High School in 2002.

Brad and Katie were married on June 22, at Northstar Church in Kennesaw, GA. Marlon Longacre was the minister for the small wedding.

The couple plan on living in Blairsville, GA. They also plan on having a wedding reception in the fall for friends and relatives to attend. NT0431A4SH

Quilt guild program features contest winners



Leslie Boone, Program Coordinator, of Blairsville, GA.

Members of the Misty Mountain Quilters Guild enjoyed viewing the winners of the Keepsake Quilting "Challenge Quilts Competition" at the July meeting. Held at the

United Methodist Church of Blairsville, around 90 quilt enthusiasts were treated to seeing the quilts made by the first and second place winners. Keepsake Quilting is located in Center Harbor, NH, and sponsors the annual contest.

Participants are required to use four out of five assigned fabrics to come up with creative quilts.

The winning quilts are offered to Guilds across the United States in a traveling exhibit. For information about the Guild and the October Quiltfest, visit the website: www.mistymountainquiltguild.org. NT0431A5JSH

NASCAR 2013

By Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter

"ROCKET" RYAN WINS BRICKYARD 400

Ryan Newman won the Brickyard 400 in his 13th attempt.

Newman started on the pole and finished the race over three-seconds ahead of runner-up Jimmie Johnson.

"It's always been a dream of mine to win this," said Newman. "To win the pole and the race makes this a great day. Matt (Matt Borland, crew chief) made the right call when he decided I should stay out instead of coming in for new tires."

"It's hard right now to realize this happened to me. It'll take a couple days for it to sink in that I won at Indy."

Johnson led 73 laps of the 160-lap race, but on his last pit stop, his team had a mix-up on tires. The long pit stop allowed Newman, who did not pit, to gain a large lead.

"It's always disappointing to have something like that happen," said Johnson. "But that's racing. The car was good, but it was tough to drive at times. We had a good day, and we're very happy with where we finished."

Third-place finisher Kasey Kahne had an up and down day, but was running well near the end of the race.

"We kept getting behind so much that it was hard to make it back to the front," said Kahne. "We really got going near the end. The car just took off. I mean it was really fast."

Newman's car owner Tony Stewart finished fourth.

"I can't wait to congratulate him," said Stewart. "He did an awesome job, winning the pole and race."

Newman has said he plans to leave Stewart-Haas Racing at the end of this season, and currently does not have a ride for 2014.

Matt Kenseth finished fifth, followed by Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jeff Gordon, Joey Logano, Juan Montoya, and Kyle Busch.

Top-10 leaders after 20 of 36: 1. Johnson-740, 2. Bowyer-665, 3. Edwards-655, 4. Harvick-648, 5. Earnhardt-616, 6. Kenseth-615, 7. Kyle Busch-610, 8. Biffle-565, 9. Kahne-564, 10. J. Gordon-559.

"ROWDY" SURVIVES SCARE TO WIN AT INDY

Kyle Busch dominated Saturday's Nationwide race at the Brickyard, but Brian Scott gained the lead on the final restart, and Busch was forced to fight back in order to get the victory, and his eighth win of the season.

"It's pretty awesome to win here whether you're driving in Nationwide or Cup, sports cars, Formula One, MotoGP, or anything," Busch said. "It's cool to win at this place just because of the history of all the automobiles that have run on this surface before. I almost messed up and gave it away."

Scott finished second, followed by Joey Logano, Brian

Vickers, Kevin Harvick, Paul Menard, Matt Kenseth, Kevin Swindell, Michael Annett, and Travis Pastrana.

Top-10 leaders after 19 of 33: 1. A. Dillon-656, 2. Smith-650, 3. Sadler-643, 4. Hornish-642, 5. Vickers-628, 6. Allgaier-621, 7. Larson-612, 8. Scott-610, 9. Bayne-592, 10. Kligerman-589

ELDORA TRUCK RACE GOES TO AUSTIN DILLON

Austin Dillon won last Wednesday's truck race at the Eldora Speedway before a packed house at the half-mile dirt track oval. Kyle Larson ran second, followed by Ryan Newman, Joey Coulter and Brendan Gaughan.

Top-10 leaders after 10 of 22: 1. Crafton-393, 2. Jeb Burton-345, 3. Buesscher-342, 4. Ty Dillon-337, 5. Sauter-320, 6. Peters-320, 7. Gaughan-319, 8. R. Blaney-319, 9. D. Wallace-309, 10. Paludo-308.

NASCAR SIGNS BIG TV DEAL WITH NBC

The television package that NASCAR signed with NBC means bigger bucks for tracks, teams, and the sanctioning organization.

Will it bring more and better coverage of NASCAR racing to the fans?

NASCAR Chairman Brian France said he did not believe the sport was taking a risk by switching its races from ESPN to a different network.

"They have a robust lineup obviously without us and we're going to add to that in a significant way," France said. "From hearing from the leadership throughout the organization, they didn't just want to own sports properties; they wanted to integrate within all their assets."

"They're doing it right now. We don't have to guess about it. We're looking forward to it."

In a 10-year deal, set to run from 2015 through 2024, NBC will broadcast the final 20 Cup events of the season, with seven races on NBC and 13 on NBC Sports Network. The deal gives NBC the Chase for the Sprint Cup, including the championship season finale.

The 10-year deal is worth \$4.4 billion. The old package with ESPN and TNT was a combined \$2.74 billion over eight years.

With Fox paying \$2.4 billion over its eight-year (2015-2022) contract, the combined worth of NASCAR's two new TV packages is \$6.8 billion.

That's big money considering the deal is split, with 65 percent going to the tracks, 25 percent to the teams and 10 percent to NASCAR.

If you're counting, that's \$4.4 billion for the tracks and \$680 million over eight years just to NASCAR.

In layman's terms, it means each track will receive from 12-



Ryan Newman, Brickyard 400 winner. Furnished by NASCAR

15 million dollars per race, depending on how NASCAR pays each track. Tracks with higher TV-ratings get more money.

If it seems like NASCAR might be coming up a little short, don't worry. They charge each track a licensing fee, and tack on all kinds of extra charges.

Now, it's understandable why tracks don't have to fill their seats in order to make a profit.

Television is their cash cow.

The new deal, with ESPN and TNT, being replaced wasn't exactly met with universal praise in the television world. Some analysts immediately began comparing NASCAR to the NHL, which suffered after moving its TV deal from ESPN to NBC.

George McNeilly, a former ESPN publicist who now runs McNeilly Communications, tweeted: "Would anticipate much less Sports Center coverage after 2015 season. Regular season NHL fans know what I am talking about."

ESPN is still considered the major sports network. Some believe that if you're not on ESPN, you're not a big-time sport.

It's unknown at this point whether the coverage will be better or worse. But there's one thing for certain. If you want to get NASCAR's attention, put your money on the table.

Weekend Racing: The Cup and Truck teams are at the 2.5-mile Pocono, PA track, while the Nationwide teams travel to the seven-eighths-mile Iowa facility.

Sat., Aug. 3, Truck Series, race 11 of 22; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: SPEED.

Sat., Aug. 3, Nationwide Series, race 20 of 33; Starting time: 8 pm ET; TV: ESPN2.

Sun., Aug. 4, Sprint Cup, race 21 of 36; Starting time: 1 pm ET; TV: ESPN.

Racing Trivia Question: Which Cup team will Kevin Harvick drive for in 2014?

Last Week's Question: How many Cup wins does Jimmie Johnson have this season? **Answer:** He has four regular season wins (Daytona 500, Martinsville, Pocono, and Coke 400 at Daytona), plus the Sprint All-Star race at Charlotte.

You may e-mail the Racing Reporter at: hodges@race500.com. NT0431C1bc