

# 213 TALES

by the late  
Michael Dale Profitt

During the summer vacation from Ravenna Elementary School, the family would do a lot of different things. We would go over to Cob Hill and stay sometimes with Grandmaw. After she passed away, we would stay with one of our uncles, John or Clinton Patrick. I stayed some with Uncle Clinton and Aunt Mertie. I had to sleep on a shuck mattress once. You move around and it would make a lot of noise. It was made and filled with corn shucks in a mattress tick. They weren't that comfortable.

My sister Margie would come get Angela and me to come stay with her on vacation in Winchester. Sylvania shut down two weeks in the summer. She lived in an apartment building. She would take us to Dairy Queen to get ice cream and things to eat. I'd never eaten there before. The Dairy Queen was on Lexington Avenue next to the C&O Railroad tracks. I would watch the trains go by sometimes. You had to order your food from the outside through a window. Their chairs and tables were outside and had a big umbrella on the tables. The food was really good. The Dairy Queen closed a few years ago. The railroad tracks have been gone about 20 years. We would stay a week with Margie and some with my sisters Lucille and Lorene. We would have a lot of fun there. Then, they would bring us home.

Mom would go to Ohio or Tennessee sometimes in the summer. Dad would take a vacation from work. She also would go to Virginia to see Aunt Myrtle. Mom would go to Winchester and catch a train on the C&O Railroad until the 1960's when they quit running. I never did go with her on the train.

My older brothers would work in hay during the summer. They would get 50 cents an hour when they first started. Finally, they got up to \$1.00 an

hour. It was hard, hot work. They would help Fred Ginter on Millers Creek and Clay and Darrell Tipton. Clay and his wife Lillian Neal Tipton lived around Highway 52 from us.

Clay Tipton started carrying the mail up there then. Terry Neal who was Clay's father-in-law had retired. We had to move our mail box two or three times. First it was on Highway 52 on one side. I think we had to move it to the other side. Then, later on, we had to move it to the end of Highway 213 where we would have to wait until they went all the way to Furnace before we got our mail.

We then moved back out to the old farm when I was in the fifth grade. My teacher was Mr. David Akers. He was a minister at Providence Baptist Church at Winston. He was really nice to the children.

We moved back out to the old farm and things were different now. We played a lot with the Abneys across the road. Ova "Toad" Abney had five boys, we would play with them all the time. We would go everywhere. We would walk over to the McKinney Pond and fish a lot. We would catch little fish and cook them on a stick over an open fire. We acted like we was starved to death or something. His dad, Lennie, had retired and James now pumped the McKinney lease.

James would always joke with me. I had met him at my cousin's store. He was dating his future wife then. One day James came by the pond where we were fishing. We would cut a pole and put a line and hook on it. We didn't have rods and reels. He was joking like he was going to throw me in the pond; then, I caught the biggest fish I had ever caught and I about hit him with it pulling it in. It was a two or three pound Big Mouth Bass. I was proud of it.

James got married and they moved into the old McKinney house. It was a large two-story log house and they told tales about it. They said it was haunted. They claimed a salesman had come there and someone killed him and hung him upstairs. They said when it rained, you could see blood in the upstairs floor. His dad, Lennie, had moved to the Elzie Baber house next to the

Gum Springs Church. It's a large two-story white house.

We would go out to the store of my cousin, Madalene McIntosh Wasson's all the time. You could get three pops for 25 cents and a candy bar for 10 cents. We would go out there during the day.

One family that lived in the McKinney Hollow would have dogs that would have big knots on them from where the dogs would hunt snakes and they had gotten bitten. One dog was named "Old Red" and was reddish brown. They were Marion Gray's sons' dogs. The sons' names were Marion Jr. "Moon Dog," Lonnie and Lenville. They had a little sister that I was struck on. I thought she was so pretty. The Gray brothers would help the oil field workers work sometimes. They were always 'something else.' (exceptional)

My other cousin, Carl McIntosh,

lived down behind the store in an old, white house. We would help him do things. I would mow the grass and other things. He would pay us sometimes but mostly, I would ride his go-cart. It was really fun! Sometimes, I would pay him to ride. He had just gotten married to his wife, Teddy, and had a little baby girl named Carla. Carl worked in Lexington on construction. There was some rhubarb plants out from the house. We would cut it and take it home. Mom would make rhubarb pies. It was like blackberry cobbler but was real stringy. I loved it and could eat it all the time.

There was a house above Carl's house. Doc and Ora West Adams lived there. Their baby boy was a year older than me. His name was Cleveland "Doc" Adams. He would come down to Carl's, too, and ride the go-cart and other things.



Wasson Grocery, photo dated May, 1967. Left to right, Annagay Wise with Roger Dale and Viola Lynn, Mary Profitt McIntosh and Madalene Wasson.

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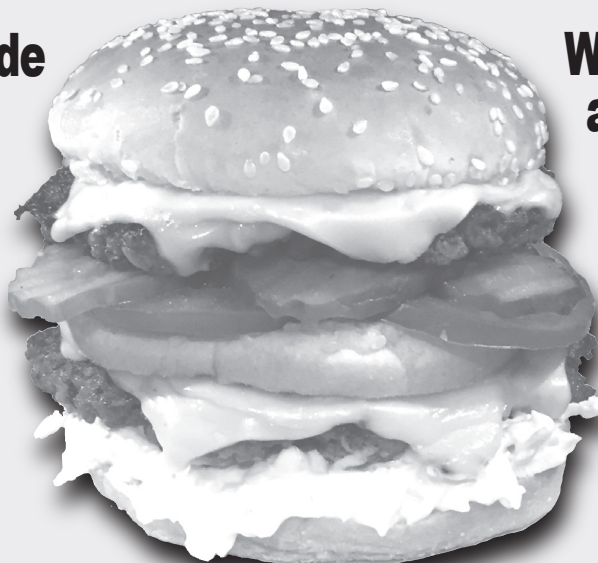
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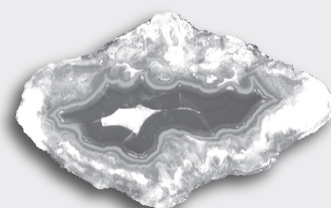
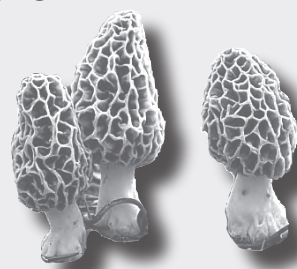
## Mountain Mushroom Festival Theme — "Rather Be Shroomin" Weekend of April 27-28

Sat., April 27: 9 a.m. — 7 p.m. (booths/shows),  
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Sun., April 28: 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

More information available at website:  
[www.mountainmushroomfestival.org](http://www.mountainmushroomfestival.org).

- Mushroom Market
- Mushroom Cooking Demonstrations
- Mushroom Cook-Off
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- Fungus 5K/2K
- Grandstand: Live performances (various genres of music)
- Parade
- KY Agate, Gem & Mineral Show
- Artisan Booths
- Community/Educational/Health/Specialty Food Booths
- Antique Gas Engine & Tractor Show
- Pancake Breakfast
- Car Show
- Motorcycle Show
- Oleika Shriner Engineers' Train
- Historical Society Museum — The Archaeology of Eastern KY's Historic Iron Industry 1790-1890 and Blacksmithing Demonstration
- Student Art Show
- Photography Contest
- Health/Vision Screenings
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