

September 2019

SALISBURY

the magazine

DUTCH TREAT

Keshun Sherrill continues stellar
hoops career in the Netherlands

Big wheels

Clements have guided
Salisbury Motor Co. for 100 years

Well done

Salisbury diners line up
for The Smoke Pit

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Auto bond

Clement family, Salisbury Motor Co. have been synonymous for 100 years
by MARK WINEKA

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King of the court

Keshun Sherrill continues strong hoops career in Europe

by MIKE LONDON

On the cover: Former West Rowan High School star Keshun Sherrill now plays professional basketball in the Netherlands.

On this page: This 1950 Buick Super 8 sedan bears the Salisbury Motor nameplate. Salisbury Motor Co. is celebrating 100 years in business.

— Jon C. Lakey photos



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Kick the tires, take us for a spin

Whenever I have occasion to visit with Donny Clement, whose family has owned and operated Salisbury Motor Co. for 100 years, he usually asks me when will I write a book about his life.

I'm sure he probably puts this question to anyone who writes for a living. I'm not so special. I'm also positive any book about Donny Clement would be a page-turner.

There's another thing Clement is prone to say when he sees me. "Ask Lindsay (my wife) what color she wants," he says.

He means, of course, what color of car should he be putting Lindsay into next. He never misses an opportunity to sell you a vehicle.

I've spent some time recently with Donny and his son, D.C. (Don-Don), mostly to recognize — as this issue of *Salisbury the Magazine* does — the Clement family's amazing accomplishment of being in the car business for a century.

It was especially fun to hear Donny reminisce about his dad and granddad, the original Donald Clement, and growing up in the car business. Donny sat behind his cluttered desk, pulling many old business records from the drawers.

"My friends come in just to see this office," he said.

He recalled that Salisbury Motor Co. employees used to be paid in cash every Friday and how Christmas bonuses were based on the years of service you had with the dealership — no matter if you were the owner or the janitor.

There was a time, Donny noted, when you received two packs of bacon as a bonus if you were with the company a year. Twenty-five years translated to a \$100 bonus and a fruitcake.

Donny delighted in leafing through the old pages or telling me about the negotiations he had when he sold his first new Buick to Max Barker in 1973. Not everything in my notebook made it into the Salisbury Motor Co. story, so it's nice to share a few items here.

Elizabeth Cook also has shared with me a couple of things that didn't make her story about the love and perseverance Bill and Lee Bailey have put into their 1830s Fisher-Cruse House. One was

the old N.C. saying, according to Bill, that thanks God for 5V galvanized roofing, because it saved a lot of historic houses.

Over the years, the Baileys added two log structures to their property. "We were lucky," Bill said, "because we were hunting log buildings in the '90s. Today if you want a log structure, you're now competing with people in Aspen, Steamboat Springs, Jackson Hole — big ski resorts."

Elsewhere in this issue of *Salisbury the Magazine*, we called on

sportswriter extraordinaire Mike London to track down pro basketball player Keshun Sherrill, a western Rowan County product. London, like the player he writes about, delivers.

Contributing writer Kris Mueller explains why the lines are so long at The Smoke Pit. Deirdre Parker Smith visits with composer/musician Marc Hoffman, who has come up with a genius idea of putting your name to music.

Kathy Chaffin tells us about the Bullhole, the long-popular falls and swimming spot on the South Yadkin River. Andie Foley catches up with Salisbury's Dancing Queens (and maybe a Dancing King or two).

Our thanks go to Mark Brown for being this month's Rowan Original and Sue McHugh for her Salisbury's the Place art contribution.

Donny Clement will tell you this issue is like a showroom car. It has all the extras.



Mark Wineka,
Editor, Salisbury the Magazine



through the lens | by jon c. lakey

*A painted granite garage on
Long Street in East Spencer
speaks to a time gone by. The
mid-morning sun lights up
the texture of the bricks.*



Prizeworthy

These new novels already are nominated for top literary awards.

"The Water Dancer"

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

Coates' first novel, set in mid-19th century Virginia, is about a man born into bondage who develops a mysterious power after nearly drowning and joins an underground resistance with plans to escape.

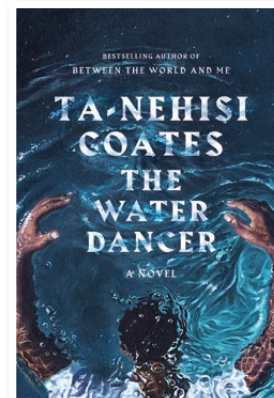
Young Hiram Walker's mother is sold away, leaving him with no memories of her. His escape begins a journey that takes him to dangerously desperate places, and to a sense of utopia in the North. He vows to rescue the family he left behind.

Penguin Random House describes the book as "the

dramatic story of an atrocity inflicted on generations of women, men, and children —the violent and capricious separation of families — and the war they waged to simply make lives with the people they loved. Written by one of today's most exciting thinkers and writers, 'The Water Dancer' is a propulsive, transcendent work that restores the humanity of those from whom everything was stolen."

The book is being praised for its imagination and musical prose, as well as Coates' racial and social analysis, capturing both brutality and bravery.

This book has been longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize. Available Sept. 24.



"The Testaments: A Novel"

By Margaret Atwood

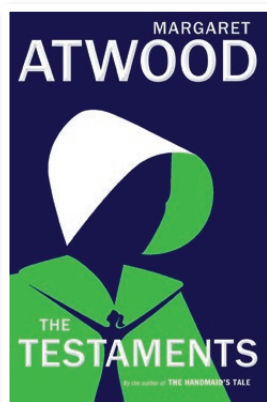
The sequel to "The Handmaid's Tale," Atwood's novel has already made the 2019 Man Booker Prize longlist. The Booker is the United Kingdom's top literary prize. The novel's contents remain a guarded secret.

The novel has already been called "brilliant," and it answers questions that tantalized readers who read "The Handmaid's Tale."

Atwood picks up the story 15 years after Offred steps into the unknown, with three female narrators from Gilead.

Penguin Random House is releasing this note from Atwood: "Dear Readers: Everything you've ever asked me about Gilead and its inner workings is the inspiration for this book. Well, almost everything! The other inspiration is the world we've been living in."

Available Sept. 10.



"Inland"

By Téa Obreht

Two storylines converge: Homesteader Nora Lark waits with her son and niece for her husband's return with badly needed water for their home in the Arizona Territory in 1893, and outlaw Lurie Mattie flees a warrant for murder.

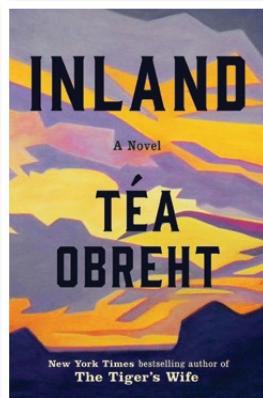
Lurie takes refuge in the Camel Corps, an almost-forgotten experiment to import camels as beasts of burden in the American Southwest.

Both Lurie and Nora speak to the dead. He sees ghosts, lost souls who want something from him, while Nora converses with her daughter, Evelyn, who died of heatstroke.

Nora's newspaperman husband looks for water, their sons have argued and left, and she watches their homestead dry to dust. She is convinced a mysterious beast is circling their home. Meanwhile, Lurie is dogged by a marshal and all are beset by the plagues of the untamed West.

The novel, from the author of "The Tiger's Wife," has been called "mythical, lyrical and sweeping in scope."

The concluding chapter, Kirkus Reviews says, "will take your breath away."



"Quichotte"

By Salman Rushdie

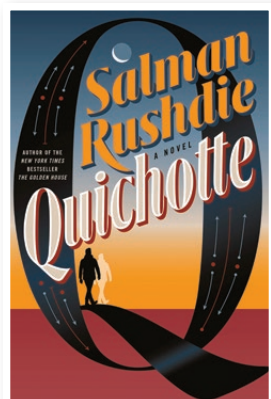
Inspired by the Cervantes classic, "Don Quixote," Sam DuChamp, mediocre writer of spy thrillers, creates Quichotte, a courtly, addled salesman obsessed with television who falls in impossible love with a TV star.

Together with his (imaginary) son Sancho, Quichotte sets off on a picaresque quest across America to prove worthy of her hand, gallantly braving the tragicomic perils of an age where "Anything-Can-Happen." Meanwhile, his creator, in a midlife crisis, has equally urgent challeng-

es of his own.

Just as Cervantes wrote "Don Quixote" to satirize the culture of his time, Rushdie takes the reader on a wild ride through a country on the verge of moral and spiritual collapse. And with the kind of storytelling magic that is the hallmark of Rushdie's work, the fully realized lives of DuChamp and Quichotte intertwine in a profoundly human quest for love and a wickedly entertaining portrait of an age in which fact is so often indiscernible from fiction.

Along with Margaret Atwood's new book, "Quichotte" has already been longlisted for the Man Booker Prize.



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Hitting the Mark

Multi-talented Brown revels in being part of museum's growth.

Written by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Media outlets across the state know Mark Brown as the go-to guy for news about the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer.

Brown has been the public information officer at the museum for 11 years. He oversees marketing and creates promotional materials, manages the website, oversees all the museum's social media accounts and writes press releases.

Many people in Salisbury and Rowan County also might remember Brown's eight years with WSTP Radio. For most of that time, he was the station's morning personality.

Brown, 41, grew up in Davidson County and is a graduate of West Davidson High School and Catawba College.

When Brown was 11, his mother earned her undergraduate degree, then added a master's degree in 2001. She recently retired after 30 years as a teacher.

His father started out as an automotive mechanic and service manager for car dealerships in Lexington and Salisbury. When Brown was 14, his father became a licensed contractor and operated a successful home-building business until his retirement.

"My childhood could only be considered idyllic, with two amazing parents and a pretty cool sister who took me to my first ever rock concert – Aerosmith, 1994," Brown says.

Brown married his wife, Marie, in 2014. Brown has a 9-year-old daughter, Shelby; three stepchildren, Kyler, 22, Kacie, 20, and Kaitlyn, 18; and three cats — Riot, Whiskey and Crybaby.

"The kids named the pets," Brown says.

Salisbury the Magazine recently caught up with Brown for a quick question-and-answer session.

Q. *Who were your major influences as a boy? Who were the people who made the biggest impact on you?*

As cliché as it may be, no one made a bigger impact than my parents.

Mom was the one who focused on education. For me, success in school was an expectation, not an option. That was a gift and led to a love of learning that I haven't given up. I still want to know more. And I don't plan to stop learning.

Dad, on weekends and during summer vacations, would take me along on various construction projects. We actually built the home they live in before he started his construction company, doing the framing, siding, sheetrock, carpeting, etc. — basically everything from the foundation to the shingles on the roof.

So, today, I can quote Shakespeare while replacing a bathroom subfloor. And I am equally proud of those aspects of myself.

What were you majoring in during school at Catawba College and what led you toward working at WSTP radio in Salisbury?

While I was already a pretty good guitar player, being a rock star wasn't really a mapped-out career path. But, I figured I could still have a music-based career as a radio DJ, so I majored in communications at Catawba. That led me to intern at WSTP, where I fell in love with radio in general, including talk radio. I was the host of Salisbury's Early Morning News for eight years.

How young were you then, when all of a sudden, you were the main morning man on WSTP radio, teaming with Howard Platt, who did sports? What did you like about that morning radio role?

I was 22 and fresh out of college. I had worked at the station a couple of years already and my predecessor, Kent Bernhardt, had done a spectacular job with the show. It was already mapped out, just a matter of inserting my personality, rather than Kent's.

Howard Platt is a force of nature, really — a truly independent guy. He was older, but more liberal, grumpy when the Redskins lost, and incessantly dedicated to sports (which I'm only somewhat interested in). Most of all, we genuinely liked each other, and that came across. We could argue like crazy and end it with a laugh. That's good radio.

I really liked doing radio news and put a lot into it. I thought I made WSTP a truly valid local news source and was proud of that. Feeling like I could make a positive difference, in some small way at least, helped make that a pretty good gig.

You made quite a career change, going from morning radio to communications and public relations for the N.C. Transportation Museum. Why did you make that move?

Finances dictated the move. Becoming a state employee with state benefits made a lot of sense. The radio industry was also shrinking and there were fewer "bigger and better" places to go.

Still, I saw it as more of a change in perspective. I really like writing, so instead of news stories, I started writing press releases. That might sound dry, but my job is to figure out why this

history is important and to communicate that to the public. And the N.C. Transportation Museum has some amazing stories to tell. Now, with the rise of social media, the enjoyable challenge is to get that story out through so many different types of media.

What's been the best part of your job at the transportation museum?

Watching the N.C. Transportation Museum grow, and being a factor in that growth, has been great. Times were really tough in the early 2010s when we transitioned to an admission-based facility, but since then we've opened the Back Shop, added staff, improved our exhibits, and the past two years have seen record visitation.

It's also really satisfying to put on a big spectacle. Seeing over 6,000 visitors in one day show up for the Fire Truck Festival, seeing over 50,000 people over 20 days attend THE POLAR EXPRESS™ Train Ride, seeing reports that the museum makes a \$20 million impact to Rowan County. I take a lot of pride in being a part of that.

I think music is a big part of your life. When and how did you first become involved with music and the guitar?

My mom always regretted not having had a chance to do more with music herself and wanted to give me a chance she never had. So, she threatened me with piano lessons. I argued for a guitar. Eleven-year-old me had just discovered Bon Jovi and they looked really, really cool. So, I took lessons until I could teach myself.

... I started performing in bands in my early to mid-20s and haven't stopped. It's really fun just to play. It's even better when you can make extra income doing it.

Sometimes it's fun to hear the names of some of the bands a musician has been involved with during the years. Please name your bands over time.

I played with Toll Free, which became Marble Alley. I was in Locked and Loaded, a Rowan County country band, and played with SugarSmaX for 11 years, playing four to eight gigs each month. I've done fill-in gigs with Perfect Strangers, Second Drink Band, and (my favorite band name) Tastes Like Chicken.

What are you doing music-wise these days?

SugarSmaX disbanded at the end of 2018, so I've been doing fill-in gigs and looking for the next long-term project. Thankfully, my wife is incredibly supportive, without which, playing music to the level that I've done simply would not be possible.

What's a big personal project you've been involved with lately? Do I understand you have been doing some major house renovations?

I own a house in Salisbury that was rented out until February of this year. The renter left the house a shambles, unfortunately. Marie and I moved there in May after four months of work, including an entire exterior wall replacement due to water damage (thanks to Dad for helping with that), refinishing all of the hard wood floors, replacing parts of two subfloors, some sheetrock work, and tons of scraping and cleaning. We are finishing up the kitchen now and painting interior walls next.

It is a fun project for Marie and me, mainly because Marie is incredibly awesome. Truly, a major renovation like this can test a couple's fortitude. But we genuinely like working together and we are loving the way this rundown house is slowly transforming into a beautiful home.

What two foods are usually in your fridge or pantry?

Does Diet Mt. Dew count as a food? That's the most consistent thing for me. Spicy chicken patties and hamburger buns are also a super quick meal.

If you could go back in time and give advice to a 21-year-old Mark Brown, what would you tell him?

That's such a quandary. As tempting as it would be to erase this mistake or that one, everything that I've lived has led to this point. I have an amazing wife. We have four amazing children between us. We have good jobs and fun hobbies and have created a pretty great life. I would never change any of that.

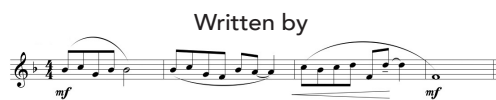
So, I'd probably just say, "Occasionally, it's going to be a bumpy ride. But it'll be worth it." **[S]**



*Framed above
Marc Hoffman's
piano is his Musical
Monogram for his
daughter, August.*

Signature pieces

Musical Monograms make their Marc.



Written by
(Deirdre Parker Smith)

Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**



Hoffman works in his music studio at home.

What do you sound like?
Not your voice, but your name?
How does it sound? Imagine what it
would sound like if it were music.

That's exactly what performer and
composer Marc Hoffman imagined.

Translating words to music isn't exactly an everyday thing. Setting words to music is, but Hoffman can play your name, can write your name in music, and once he came up with the idea, he quickly went to trademark and patent it, because he hadn't seen or heard anything else like it. It's called Musical Monograms.

Marc says it started in college, where he was working on a composition degree. "You study a lot of other composers and you see lots of different styles," such as 12-tone writing or serial writing, which has a lot of repetition. It's used for film music often, to fill space during the movie.

Marc also knew about Bach's interest in numerology. "He listed it one time, his interests in life, as numerology first, God, family and music. It was a sort of a plaything for him."

With these things in his mind, Marc put them on the back burner for a while.

Then six to eight years ago, he came up with an algorithm and composed three short pieces with his name, his wife Anne's and their daughter August's.

Anne asked him, "Is that something?" Marc said, "I think



THE ARTS

so.”

Because Marc is a performer and composer, he has to know about a lot of other things, such as who has the rights to what he writes, and what songs he can perform with his trio without paying a fee.

With those name tunes in mind, he called an intellectual property attorney. The attorney said he might want to find someone who handled trademarks and patents.

So Marc spoke to another attorney, who said what he had created, his Musical Monogram, was trademark-able and patent-able. Then followed a long period of complicated research and legal work, so Marc had to wait before he could share his brilliant idea with the rest of the world.

He also had the Musical Monogram trademarked as printed material and as audio. He had to pay a separate fee for each part he wanted trademarked.

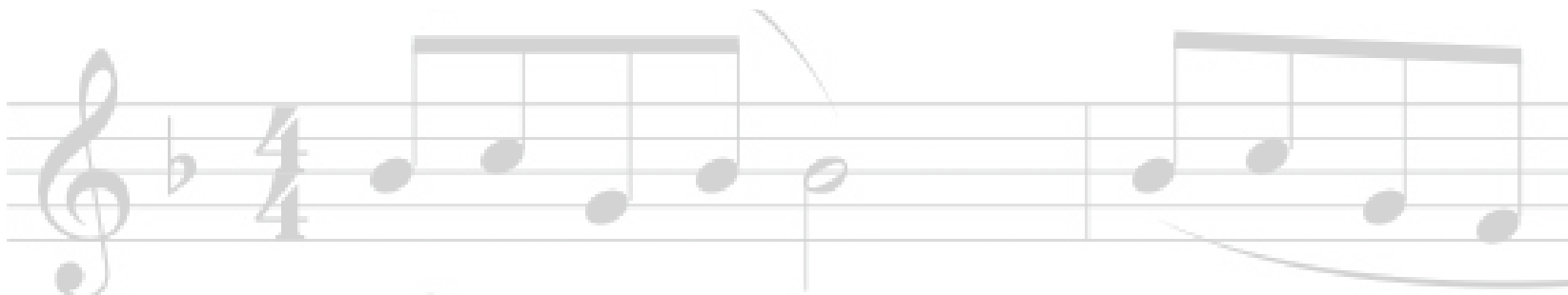
Finally, in spring 2019, he got the trademark. It takes about nine months to get a trademark and a year or more for it to become patented.

Marc and his attorney had to search to see if anyone anywhere else had done anything similar. Being a savvy businessman, which you have to be if you make your living as a musician, Marc bought every internet domain name he could think of that would relate to his invention.

The website went through three different designs before Marc was happy. He wanted it to be clean and classy, to make the Musical Monogram a very special gift.

Here’s how it’s explained on his website: “Your name, a friend or loved one’s name, birthdate, monogram or a combination, becomes a one-of-a-kind melody. A gift for life to yourself or a loved one or friend.”

Because the monograms are trade-





marked, and soon-to-be patented, Marc can't tell you exactly how it all works.

He's going to make a short video that will show how it happens, but not tell his secrets.

That leaves you to ponder the relationship between algorithms and music.

But Marc gets it, and that's all that matters.

The algorithm is one part of the composition, and about 50% of it is what he thinks about, what he creates.

"It could be mechanical with just notes," but he chooses how to phrase it. "I want it to sound like a piece of music."

He also creates ring tones of just a few notes that are part of the monogram.

Marc Hoffman gives a music lesson to Lylah Goforth, 10.

— Bernadine Hernandez photo

"It's really fun. If I have one to do, I try to do it in my head." He doesn't necessarily sit down at the piano. "It's more fun that way, but ..."

The monogram doesn't have to be piano music, but the piano is his forte.

He is a pianist and singer, performing with a trio and alone, and creating the Musical Monograms expands what he can do. His jazz trio is probably his favorite thing. He has recorded several albums and he's ready to put out four more — he has a backlog of music. It will be in

four different styles. "I've just got to have time to do it."

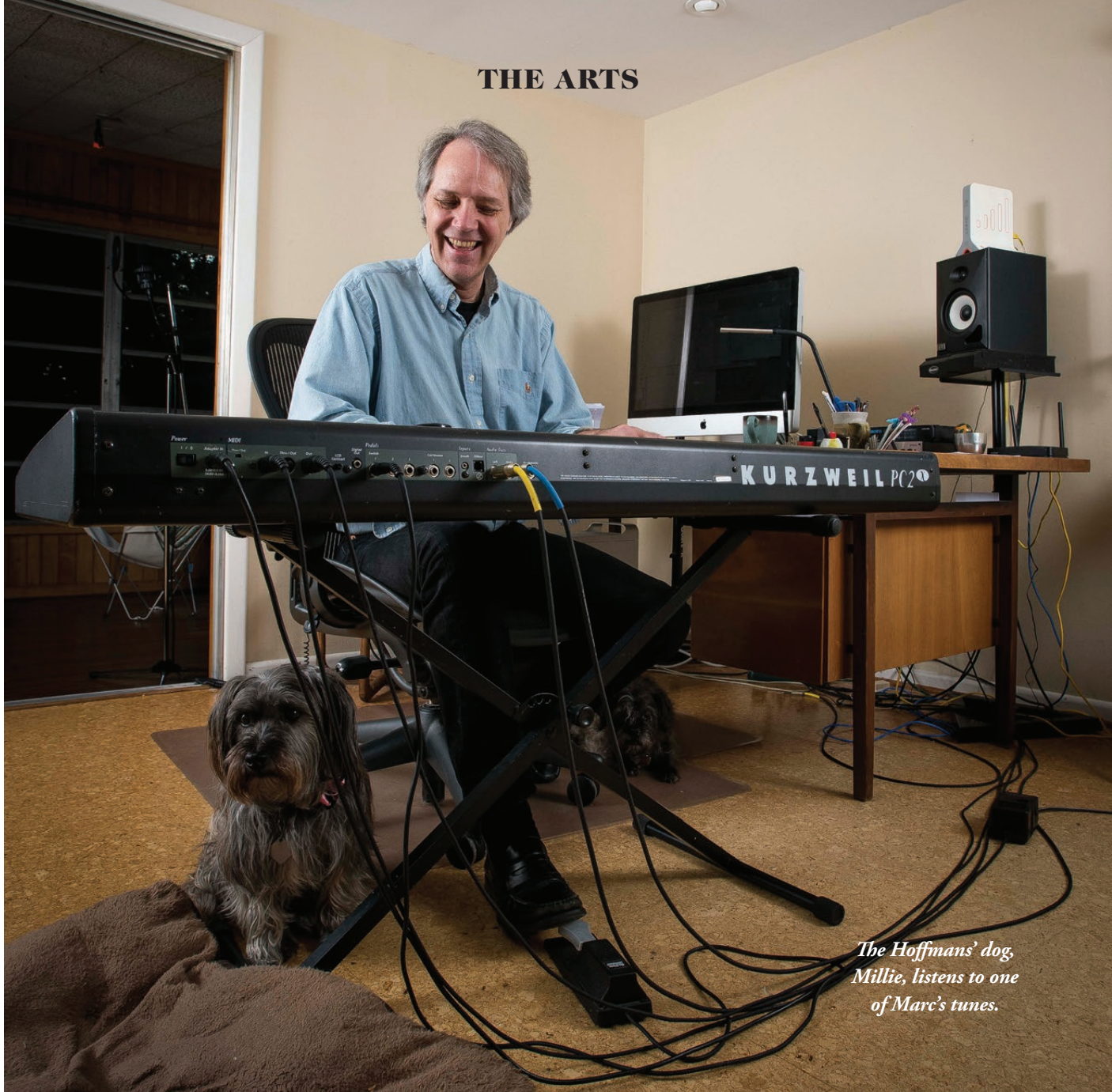
The monogram is a diversion, "but not trivial," Marc says. He's done "a lot" already, perhaps most often as a gift for a first grandchild.

But he has composed names, birthdates, anniversary dates, linked names, for a baby shower. One friend asked for a monogram to give to a doctor who had been important to him. "He loved it."

"The melodies suggest things to me," he says. One he created sounds very much like a hymn. Another person asked him for something that sounded like the Grateful Dead. You can't really rely on an algorithm for that.



THE ARTS



The Hoffmans' dog, Millie, listens to one of Marc's tunes.

But using the algorithm allows him to apply it to any alphabet, such as Korean, for a friend's monogram.

The melody of an algorithm is not always pretty. Marc changes notes to make it better. "It's a jumping off point."

Once you pay for your monogram, which starts at \$89, you can use it as you wish. He provides a printed notation on parchment as part of the sale. Stationery is also available. He might offer T-shirts one day, but he's not interested, at this point, in merchandising things like mugs and mousepads. It's all about the music.

The Musical Monogram could be franchised, or it could be a source of work and funds if

Marc decides to slow his performance schedule at all. He recently did five performances in four days, and that included travel. And once you buy the monogram, it is your piece of music, to use on your phone, a website, what have you.

But if you take your monogram and use it to score a film, well, Marc gets a cut of that.

The website, www.musicalmonogram.com, takes you through the process of getting your name or anniversary date in music form. You can simply fill out a form, or send a jpeg of your name or birthdate in your own handwriting for an even more personal creation.

The website also has examples of monograms

he has created that you can see and listen to.

Marc is a Salisbury native who graduated from the N.C. School of the Arts. He is also the founder and artistic director of Salisbury School of Music. He studied film composition and has written for several films or been the music supervisor.

One of his favorite projects was a children's book, "Sleep, Little Child," with a CD titled and based on an original lullaby. And he's written a book, with DVD, "Essential Worship Keyboard."

As busy as he is, though, he's having fun creating these signature pieces and trying to capture the music of you. **[S]**

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St. Louis spare ribs



Beef is king with Salisbury patrons at The Smoke Pit.



Sherri Vanderford delivers a pulled pork sandwich and sides.



Wood burns on the smoker.



Jeremy Beaver, left, and Joey Graham are two of The Smoke Pit's three owners.

Aroma therapy

The Smoke Pit reels you in with its smorgasbord of barbecue.

Written by **Kris Mueller** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

If you stand at the corner of Main and West Innes streets in Salisbury and catch the breeze blowing just right, you will detect a sweet, smoky aroma coming from the east.

Let your nose lead you to the source, and you'll find yourself at the front doors of The Smoke Pit restaurant, where even more enticing smells, flavors, and visions of barbecue will rouse your taste buds and tantalize your senses.

Since opening in January 2017, The Smoke Pit has drawn overflow crowds from Rowan County and beyond. On weekends, up to 50% of the restaurant's patrons come from outside the county, driving from

High Point, Winston-Salem and even Lexington (gasp!), long considered the capital of North Carolina's Piedmont or western-style barbecue.

When a new restaurant opens with a lot of buzz, it's not uncommon for diners to experience long waits for tables. Nearly three years later, The Smoke Pit is still serving up to 1,200 diners on Saturdays and they spill out of the building and down the sidewalk as they wait to be seated.



Jeremy Beaver prepares to open the smoker where the meat is slowly cooked.

What keeps the crowds coming? Delicious food that is heaped on the large aluminum serving trays, say customers on-site and in reviews posted on social media.

“Word-of-mouth advertising has been key to our success,” said Jeremy Beaver, one of the restaurant’s three owners. “We don’t have to advertise because our customers

A sample tray of nine meats; Alabama-style chicken quarters are finished on the gas grill in the kitchen.

do it for us. The event catering that we do in the area also helps serve as outreach to get people in our doors.”

“People get their money’s worth,” said Devin Barbee, another owner. “Nobody leaves hungry and most people take leftovers home to eat later.”

In 2014, Barbee and Joey Graham opened the first Smoke Pit restaurant in Concord next to Barbee’s meat market and butcher shop, The Stock Market. Beaver joined the partnership as they began building a catering division and locating a restaurant in Salisbury. A third restaurant was launched in Monroe in 2018 and a fourth will open in Gastonia by the fall.

The owners and their senior managers in Salisbury, Nick Love and Chase Irvin, are proud of their customer ratings on TripAdvisor, which range from 4.5 to 4.97. Of 131 restaurants in Salisbury, they say, The Smoke Pit currently is the top-rated, earning certificates of excellence in 2018 and 2019. Local citizens voted The Smoke Pit as the best barbecue restaurant in the Salisbury Post’s 2018



Above: Salisbury location managers Sherri Vanderford, Nick Love and Chase Irvin. Above right: Ribs move through the smoker.

RoCo Gold Awards.

“A majority of our servers in Salisbury have been with us since the restaurant opened,” Graham said. “Our clientele knows them and comes back to see them.”

North Carolinians have long agreed to disagree about the state’s favorite style of barbecue. The western part of the state pledges allegiance to chopped barbecue made from the pork shoulder and topped with a vinegar and ketchup-based dip. The eastern side of the state swears by whole-hog barbecue and dip devoid of anything red.

The Smoke Pit has sidestepped the issue by offering a regional smorgasbord of barbecue — Texas brisket, Alabama chicken quarters, Kansas City burnt ends, Louisiana-style Cajun turkey, St. Louis ribs with wet sauce, Memphis-style dry ribs, Midwest jumbo whole wing chicken, and Texas sausage. North Carolina pulled pork is a crowd favorite, but it’s made from Boston butt, not shoulder meat.

For each type of meat served, The Smoke Pit has created a unique rub that features multiple types of seasonings that give the meat its distinctive flavor. There are six barbecue sauces exclusive to the restaurant — Sizzling Sauce, South Carolina Mustard Sauce, Blueberry Sauce,



Buffalo Sauce, Alabama Sauce, and Southern Sweet Sauce. All the sides and cornbread also are made from scratch on-site.

Beef is king with Salisbury patrons, the owners said, with brisket and burnt ends being the top two sellers. Burnt ends are melted-down, fatty brisket with a smoky, crunchy exterior topped with Southern Sweet Sauce and caramelized onions. Monroe diners love their pork, while Concord patrons eat “everything,” Graham said.

“The Salisbury restaurant has a different

menu than the other restaurants,” Graham said. “We have extras on the menu — appetizers, Cajun turkey and burgers. We expanded the offerings so we could support more customers. We were worried about the meat smokers not being able to handle the amount of people that we would serve.”

The Salisbury kitchen is relatively small compared to the size of the operation. There are two 850-pound wood-burning smokers in the kitchen that can cook up to 3,300 pounds of meat overnight and each morning to serve at

FOOD



Above left: Servings of St. Louis spare ribs, pulled pork and chicken breast. Above: Nick Love slices the cajun turkey in the kitchen. Below: Salisbury restaurant co-manager Chase Irvin serves up a plate of appetizers.

lunch and dinner. The meat-cooking rotation is carefully choreographed — the brisket alone takes 16 hours to smoke to mouth-watering perfection.

The kitchen's limitations and the owners' rule of serving only freshly cooked food causes the restaurant to run out of some types of meat.

"The Salisbury location sells out just about every night of at least one protein and maybe two," Graham said.

The Salisbury restaurant is full service with customers ordering off the menu and being served at their tables. The Concord and Monroe locations are "fast casual" restaurants with patrons ordering at the counters.

The Salisbury restaurant is the only one located downtown and in a historic building. Renovation took a full year due to building codes for historic structures, installation of the smokers and hood systems, and extensive work done to remove part of a thick interior wall to connect the two dining rooms.

"We had 'Opening Soon' signs in the windows," Beaver said. "They were there so long that they deteriorated, and we had to replace them."

The Smoke Pit owners are watching other new businesses move into downtown, helping to boost the local economy, and are particularly



excited about the redevelopment of the historic Empire Hotel.

As long as The Smoke Pit "provides a quality product, positive staff, and great customer service," Beaver said, they believe that diners will continue coming through their doors.

And that means that the sweet, smoky aromas of barbecue may be part of the scent of Salisbury for many years to come. **S**

Kris Mueller is a freelance writer living in Salisbury.

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***Top:** The Fisher-Cruse House on East Ridge Road is typical of the farm homes built in Rowan County in the 1800s. A log cabin moved to the spot behind the house serves as a guest house. **Above:** A Bailey ancestor is photographed in his Union uniform. **Left:** Though the house is rustic, its craftsmanship includes classic details such as this Greek key design in the mantelpiece.*



Bill and Lee Bailey stand with Molly, one of two mules that live in the old log barn that once stood in the Shenandoah Valley.

Country music

Fisher-Cruse House stands as beautifully preserved example of state's agrarian past.

Story by **Elizabeth Cook** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

Relaxing in the shade of its thick-growing ivy, Bill and Lee Bailey tell the story of the rustic arbor behind their home on East Ridge Road.

The ivy has foreign roots, grown from cuttings Lee smuggled home from Europe, some from an Etruscan temple and some from Mozart's grave in Vienna.



Inside, the arbor's centerpiece is a granite well cap that Bill says he found on an abandoned plantation site south of Faith. Leo Wallace was preparing to develop the land.

"I called him, told him what we were doing in terms of reconstructing an arbor and said, 'You've got a great well out there, and boy I'd love to have that cap,'" Bill says. "And he said, 'Well, I'll gift it to you.'"

All Bill had to do was move it.

The cap was more than 4 feet square and 5 inches thick. Even now, Bill doesn't know how much it weighs.

Using boards and PVC pipes, he and mason John Woollette managed to roll the hunk of granite onto the back of John's pickup. They drove across the county, fearing they might get stopped for hauling such a heavy load. When they got to the spot where Bill was building the arbor, they rolled the granite off.

"If it's not straight, that's the way it is," Bill says. "There's no moving it."

As the Baileys prepare the 1830 Fisher-Cruse House for OctoberTour on Oct. 12 and 13,

they realize everything has a story — every table, every painting, every hunk of granite. Even the chimneys.

"That's the problem with all this stuff ...," Bill says. "When you're collecting it you're doing it for the aesthetic. When you get old it's memory lane. It reminds you of who you knew and who you lost and things you did."

Woollette, a master mason from Rockwell who worked on the Baileys' restoration, died in 2012. Also gone now are the many Cruse family members who helped the Baileys when the house was first on OctoberTour in 1990 and shared stories about its past.

But the modern day story — of how a couple hailing from Pennsylvania and Indiana became experts on this little corner of Rowan County history — is one for the books, too.



It was 1988. The Baileys were moving to North Carolina from Indiana as Bill took over as general manager for Washington Specialty Metals' southeast region. He and Lee, a teacher,

had already lived in an old Victorian house for several years and then in an A-frame they built. This time they wanted to return to historic charm but on a smaller scale.

They liked the simple style of the houses in and around Old Salem but not the prices, so they followed the advice of curator John Bivins and drove to Salisbury. When they asked a Main Street shopkeeper who could talk to them about older homes, she told them to wait right there. She called Ed Clement.

The founder of Salisbury's historic preservation movement, Clement soon introduced the Baileys to the house at 3850 E. Ridge Road.

The farmhouse had been in the same family for 140 years, built in the 1830s by farmer John Fisher, whose family had connections to Michael Braun of Old Stone House fame. One of the Fishers married a Cruse, and their descendants continued to live in the house decade after decade — until Lucy Lentz sold the property to someone who would protect it, Ed

Story continues on page 32.



Page opposite: Vines provide cool shade in the Baileys' arbor; the well cap is on the right. **Clockwise from top:** The porch of the log cabin includes an inviting chair. Bill Bailey looks over the joints of a log structure on the farmstead. A walking stick, ice pick and basket backpack represent Bill's love for mountain climbing.





***Clockwise from top:** The log cabin has the same red tin roof as the other buildings. In the dining room, meat hidden in the attic before Stoneman's raid in 1865 left stains on the ceiling below. Bill collects old whiskey jugs.*





Clockwise from above: Wood stoves keep the house warm in winter. The cabin, like the house, rests on granite piers. Bill made the pewter spoons displayed in the dining room. Flags wave on the ship in one of Bill's paintings. The mail box is affixed to a pillar of granite stones.



AT HOME

Clement.

Still, when the Baileys got their first glimpse of the house, they thought there was no way they'd buy it. The unpainted exterior — never painted, in fact — looked too far gone to restore. The siding was paper thin. Windows were coming out. The porch was hazardous.

"There were huge honey bee hives behind both chimneys, and they'd been there for years," Bill says.

Still, they decided to take a look inside to humor Clement — and found a different story.

The house was just as it had been built over a century ago. Unpainted heart pine floors, walls and ceilings were intact. Original mantels bore Greek key designs. Windows had wavy glass.

The Baileys made a downpayment before they left town.

Even now they marvel at owners who worked to keep the house up through the years. Fam-

ily members told them that, once a year, their ancestors used raw sheepskin to buff down the unpainted walls. And they never changed the house's simple layout.

"They didn't shellack it. They didn't paint it pink. They didn't do anything," Bill says. "And they maintained it the best they could with the money they had."

The Fisher-Cruse Homestead is an example of a farm seat common in the decades before the Civil War, with a Pennsylvania German family running a general farm of livestock and rotating crops.

"If they had slaves, it was one or two," Bill says. "The family members would have been working right alongside."

The Baileys don't know if any men from the farm served in the Civil War, but the living room mantel displays tintypes of two Bailey ancestors in Union blue. One was the first sol-

dier from Indiana to die at Vicksburg, Bill says.

Lee says before the house was on October-Tour in 1990 a woman who stopped by said she couldn't be in town for the tour and would like to take a peek. They said sure, come in.

"She saw the Civil War pictures and she went, 'My God, they're Yankees!'"

For the record, a picture of Robert E. Lee also is on display, purchased from a Virginia estate.

The Baileys are preservationists more than anything, and they want to encourage more people to save what Rowan has.

Old farmhouses like the Fisher-Cruse House don't seem to appeal to some Southern tastes, Bill says. He calls it the "Gone With the Wind attitude." People are drawn to grand homes with columns rather than the humble houses more typical of the region's agrarian past.

"If it were not through the vision and efforts



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of Ed Clement, this property would never have been saved,” Bill says.



OctoberTour visitors to the Fisher-Cruse House will find a two-by-two farmhouse with a living room and bedroom on the ground floor and two more rooms in the attic. It's attached to another structure that contains a dining room and kitchen. A log cabin behind the house contains two guest rooms.

Bill's workshop occupies another log building the Baileys brought to the property. They've also added an old Shenandoah Valley barn, home to mules Jaques and Molly.

Granite from a small quarry that operated long ago between the house and the Yadkin can be seen in pillars beneath the house and other structures.

During restoration, the house siding was re-

moved and in many places replaced with wood recycled from an old chicken coop. Insulation was installed. They applied paste wax to the bare wood floors, replaced WPA-era wiring, added heating and air conditioning.

“We snugged it up as much as you can snug up an old house,” Bill says.

The dining room ceiling, one of the few painted surfaces in the house, shows several stains. The story goes that as Gen. George Stoneman prepared to raid Salisbury in April 1865, his path was to bring Union troops right by the house. The family hid their livestock in the woods and stashed their salted meat in the attic above the dining room. Drippings caused damage that remains to this day.

“We haven't had the heart to paint it over,” Lee says.

The breadth of Bill's craftsmanship can be seen in the many items he has made — a curly

maple end table, a painting of a ship at sea, a tin chandelier on the back porch, the dining room table, a set of pewter spoons. He has even created several frakturs, birth certificates and other documents written in the old Pennsylvania-German style of calligraphy and illuminated with decorative motifs.

While Bill collects clay pipes, Lee has amassed an array of handmade baskets on display in the kitchen. Then there are the grinning Buddha figures that fill a cabinet top in the bedroom and peek out from other spots throughout the house and cabin. Lee, who grew up Episcopalian, says the Buddhas make her smile. Someone gave her one Buddha, which led to another and another and so on. As Buddha says, “The jug fills drop by drop.”

The home's furnishings reflect the Baileys' lifelong passion for antiques, from an 18th cen-



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Left to right: The living room has an antique settle or bench. A newer chimney includes blue-glazed bricks created by a local company for the owner of Victoria's Secret. A steady trickle of water flows from this feature atop the well-cap slab.

tury tavern table from Pennsylvania to an 1840 cupboard from Austria. They sleep each night in a bedroom furnished much as it was in the 19th century.

The Baileys long ago fell in love with the fine craftsmanship and — at the time — practical prices of vintage items.

"We have always collected antiques because we were married in college," Bill says. "You could buy a walnut Victorian commode cheaper than you could buy a Formica side table at Sears. That's kinda how we got started."

That was a lot of armoires, chests and deacons benches ago.

Bill, 76, retired from the steel business and found a new career making flintlock rifles in Old Salem. After 13 years, his Old Salem stint ended this year as he recovered from two rounds of back surgery. "It wasn't a job; it was just fun," he says.

Lee, 71, taught AG English at Knox and then at Erwin Middle School and later was a reading tutor at Woodleaf Elementary. She retired in 2016.

They stay busy keeping up the farmstead,

which includes their initial two-acre lot and tracts of 6 and 14 acres they bought later. That's far less than the 300 acres John Fisher had but more than enough for the Baileys.

One of the reasons they wanted to live in North Carolina was so Bill, an avid climber, could be near the Appalachian Mountains.

"Then we bought this property," he says.

"And it's been an ongoing project ever since," Lee says.

It's like dealing with an unappreciative teenager, according to Bill: "Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance."

Still, he says he can't complain. "I like that kind of work."



When Bill decided in 1992 that he needed a workshop, he advertised in the N.C. Agricultural Review for a log outbuilding he could move. A man just a couple of miles away on West Ridge Road offered a dismantled log building for free if Bill would get the pieces out of the man's barn.

Sold.

As the workshop was coming together, Bill says he turned down Woollette's offer to build a chimney for it. Bill told the master mason he couldn't afford him. He would build the chimney himself.

Bill tells this story as he stands beside the chimney.

"If you look closely, it's kind of wobbly," he says, looking at the bottom half. "It goes in and out and all around."

His struggle did not go unnoticed.

"John would come by each weekend to see how I was doing. And finally he said, 'I've had it. Just stand aside and I'm going to finish this thing for you, 'cause you're driving me crazy.'"

That's why, about two-thirds of the way up, the chimney's brick work becomes straight and precise.

Woollette did not go unpaid. Lee settled the bill with a spaghetti dinner and carrot cake made with black walnuts. "I could always bribe John." **S**

Elizabeth Cook is former editor of the Salisbury Post.



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ALL IN THE FAMILY

A century old and counting, Salisbury Motor Co. strives
to give customers a good experience.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



Donny Clement in his office at Salisbury Motor Co.

Donny Clement remembers how proud he was in 1973, selling his first car at Salisbury Motor Co. for \$300. By moving the used Chevrolet, Clement earned a \$15 commission.

He couldn't wait to tell his father, Don Clement Jr., the big news that same night. Donny will never forget his dad's response.

"Now you're cooking," he said.





GM certified technician Dave Krause and Service Manager Steve Whitley work under the hood.

Things actually have been cooking for Salisbury Motor for 100 years. The company stands as one of the oldest family-owned automobile dealerships in the United States, dating back to 1919 when Donald Clement started the business after coming home as a well-decorated captain from World War I.

His son, grandson and great-grandson have followed, selling thousands of cars over the past

century — most notably Buicks, a franchise Salisbury Motor Co. was synonymous with for 90 years. The company also sold its share of new Opels, Fiats, Peugeots, Dodges, Pontiacs and GMCs.

The secrets to staying in business 100 years aren't rocket science to the Clements. Donald "D.C." Clement IV, now president and general manager, says it's all about the customers and

treating them right, whether it's taking care of nails in their tires or selling them cars.

"We would not be here period without them," says D.C., also known as Don-Don. "That is what we're here for. I can get a car for your daughter, and I can get a car for your mother."

The company has always tried to offer customers a fair price, along with quality service



Above: Donny Clement points out his grandfather, Donald Clement Sr., in a photo from 1921 with all the North and South Carolina Buick dealers. **Below:** Donald 'D.C.' Clement IV, president and general manager.
— Bernadine Hernandez photo



and workmanship, he says, “and you’re going to have a good experience, even if you don’t buy a car.”

Owner Donny Clement lists many of the same business tenets you hear from his son and longtime employees such as salesman Bill Sides and service manager Steve Whitley, who have been with the company 48 and 51 years, respectively.

Word-of-mouth advertising, testimonials, service after the sale — all factor in, helping a company survive this long, Donny says.



Throughout its century in business, Salisbury Motor Co. has remained in the central business district, resisting the migration others made long ago to the more heavily traveled bypass of

Jake Alexander Boulevard.

Since 1946, the headquarters has been its two-story main office, showroom, service garage and parts department at 700 W. Innes St. From here, the company has offered new and used cars, vans and trucks on both sides of the street.

Salesmen — and customers — still cross West Innes Street regularly during the course



Above: Customer Loretta Barber talks with Donny Clement while her car is being serviced. Right: Clint Probst is one of two technicians in the service department.

of a business day.

The Clements have always seen a silver lining to their location, which Donny Clement says was considered “out of town” in 1946. Traffic goes slower on West Innes Street — and even stops sometimes for the Craig Street traffic light — giving drivers a better opportunity to glance over to the showroom and other cars on display.

Given its century in business, Salisbury Motor Co. has sold cars to three and four generations of customers within the same families.

“We have a lot of new customers, too,” D.C. says

It’s been 10 years since Salisbury Motor Co. has had a new car franchise, but it remains a busy place through its continued sales and leasing of



vehicles, the service work and parts department.

D.C. says Salisbury Motor Co. continues to be “a total automotive network.”

Today, most of the late-model cars sold at Salisbury Motor Co. come from dealer sites across the country. Donny Clement says the Salisbury dealership is particular about condition, mileage and having them inspected before ever thinking about putting them on the lot.

“We are very particular,” Donny says. “We get prime, pre-owned vehicles and give everybody a warranty. The factory warranty and our warranty work out very well.”

Four years ago, farther down the road at 1501 W. Innes St., Salisbury Motor Co. also established AutoXpress, where customers can go for oil changes, tune-ups, state inspections, new brakes and other quick services.

D.C. says AutoXpress has been “a very good endeavor.” Kate Tierney, D.C.’s sister, serves as manager.

“It didn’t take off at first as I was expecting,” he adds, “but it certainly has turned into a good business for us because of the team we have down there.”

■ ■ ■

A brother of Donald Clement Sr. carried the distinction of owning Rowan County’s first Buick in 1908. Maybe that’s what led to the family’s long attachment to Buicks and the formation of Salisbury Motor Co. in 1919 — a result of buying out H.A. Rouzer.

In the early days, Clement Sr. and others would travel by train to the Buick plant in Michigan, where they would pick up Salisbury



Don Clement Jr. in 2009. — Andy Mooney photo

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Business manager Lindsey Hinson opens the office window to get mail from the postal carrier.

The dealership started out at 122 W. Innes St. in an old livery stable across from today's Salisbury's Post. It later moved to Lee and East Innes streets before L.S. Bradshaw & Sons built the 1946 structure at 700 W. Innes St.

"When times got tough, my grandfather would diversify," Donny says. During World War II, for example, Donald Clement Sr. established Salisbury Delivery Service, which delivered goods for most of the furniture stores in Salisbury.

Donald Clement Sr., the founder, was 88 when he died in 1975. Many years prior to his death, he had passed the company torch

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Technician Dave Krause works on a customer's car in the service area.



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***Above:** Donny Clement talks with Service Manager Steve Whitley in the parts department. **Below:** Kate Tierney manages the AutoXpress on West Innes Street, which is a division of Salisbury Motor Company. She is the great-granddaughter of the founder.*

to Don Jr., a two-time state wrestling champion who became a tough-as-nails Marine. He fought for his life in hand-to-hand combat against the Japanese during the fierce World War II action at Guadalcanal.

When Don Jr. died in 2015, he had built a 70-year-association with the dealership, and in his 90s, he was still going to Salisbury Motor Co. a couple times a week to talk with customers.

A newspaper headline at his death described him as “impeccably honest.”

Looking back, Donny Clement says it was a unique blessing to work with his father for 42 of those years.

“We always saw each other,” Donny says. “What a phenomenal teacher. He had a way of getting things across in a way that you didn’t feel like you were being fussed at — but you





Salesman Bill Sides has worked at the dealership for 48 years.

didn't forget."



Parts of the main building at 700 W. Innes St. are like a museum.

Donny and his son treasure many of the artifacts from years past such as sales ledgers, the original company safe, an old cash register, promotional materials, ancient advertisements and photographs.

D.C. points to a second-floor shelf still holding the large glass bottles in which Salisbury Motor used to save customers' antifreeze.

Donny loves going through his desk drawers and the old records he and his father collected through the years. Much of it is in the handwriting of longtime employee "Miss Abby" Peeler.

Donny's first recollection of the business comes back to him in the smells of solvents, chemicals and oils from the garage — "the smell of the stuff we used that we can't use

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anymore," he says.

Donny remembers the 1950s, when the arrival of new cars at the Salisbury dealerships was a much anticipated event on the calendar, even for kids. Families would travel dealership to dealership to see the new models.

Salisbury Motor Co. offered entertainment, popcorn, soft drinks and door prizes. "That was a lot of fun," Donny says.

After going to college as a history major, Donny returned to the family business. His father demanded he learn every facet of the operation, until he eventually became general manager.

"We had good people working with us," Donny says. "They treated us right, and we treated them right."

One of them has been Bill Sides.



After driving a tractor-trailer for eight years, Bill Sides wanted a career change. He had always

loved selling. In elementary school, he was the kid who sold the most seeds. In high school, he led all students in the sale of magazines.

"I'm good one-on-one with people," Sides says. "I'm not good in a crowd."

So in 1971, looking to put his truck-driving days behind him, Sides went to Don Clement Jr. at Salisbury Motor Co. with a proposition.

"I believe I can sell cars," Sides told him.

"I believe you can, too," Don Jr. answered.

It's now 48 years later, and the semi-retired Sides continues to sell cars at Salisbury Motor Co., reporting for work every Tuesday and Wednesday. Sides explains it this way: "It gets in your system."

"I couldn't have hooked up with a better man," he adds of joining Don Jr. back then. "It was just something I wanted to do right."

Sides especially found a niche with Buicks — "Buick was my baby," he says — along with General Motors factory sales and program cars,



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which Salisbury Motor Co. bought with the factory warranties still intact. Sides became sales manager, and not once did Clement Jr. question his decisions.

Sides says he operated on three tenets: 1) Don't ever lie to your customer; 2) Make sure they receive good service; and 3) Always check on them after the sale.

He remembers a man who bought a new car from another Salisbury Motor Co. salesman back in the late 1970s. But Sides made a point in the years to come to say hello to the customer when he brought his car in for service. He learned to call him by name and make small talk with him every time he saw him.

The customer liked to buy a new Buick every two years, and one day he told Sides, "From now on, you're my car man." It turned out to be a great deal for Sides, who always sold the

man's trade-in to another of his customers. In turn, Sides sold that man's car to someone else.

"It was automatic — three sales," he says.



Sometimes to escape the hustle and bustle downstairs, D.C. walks the wooden stairs to the second floor, where he uses the same office his grandfather did. The frosted windows allow plenty of natural light to come in.

D.C. majored in marketing and advertising at Appalachian State University, but he says, "I could not wait to get out of school and back to the dealership."

D.C. started washing cars and sweeping floors as a kid at Salisbury Motor, the same as his 10-year-old son, Donald Clement V, is doing today. The family calls him "Nick" for nickel.

"Nick is more productive than I was," D.C. says. "They ask for him to come in."

D.C. says it's hard to put into words what being in business 100 years means to the family, all the customers it represents and all the employees who have worked for the company.

Donny agrees, saying it's the kind of thing you just have to sit down and contemplate, to realize all of what a century in business takes in.

And what about the future?

"I feel like the sky's the limit," D.C. says. "We've got room to grow here in the automotive industry."

And by the way, selling a car is still a pretty good feeling.

"When a man tells you, 'I'm going to take it,'" Donny Clement says, "those are the sweetest words in the automobile business." **S**



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Meet Percy!

WR



Keshun Sherill, a former West Rowan High and Augusta University standout, recently completed a second successful season in the professional Dutch Basketball League.





TAKING NOTHING FOR GRANTED

Pro hoopster Keshun Sherrill is 1.75 meters of remarkable.

Story by Mike London | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

MOUNT ULLA — He stands 5-foot-9, and he is succeeding in professional basketball.

Keshun Deion Sherrill understands the weirdness of that concept. He appreciates the length of the odds he's defied. He takes no days off and no days for granted.

"I reflect often on who I am and what I do for a living," Sherrill says. "For a short guy from Cleveland, North Carolina, to get paid to play basketball in Europe, well, that's pretty remarkable. How far my brother (6-foot-8 K.J.) and I have come because of the game of basketball is amazing. I'm grateful for what I have every single day."

Sherrill, who turns 25 in August, doesn't play in the NBA, where the average player is 6-foot-7, the average guard is 6-5, and even the average point guard is 6-3. The former West Rowan High and Augusta University standout has played the last two seasons in the Dutch Basketball League, the top professional organization in the Netherlands. He's relatively short in those modestly sized arenas, too, but he compensates for his lack of inches with extraordinary quickness, surreal court savvy and startling leaping ability.

He can dunk.

"When I first got to the Netherlands, everyone was like, 'That little guy? That's our new American import?' But that was nothing new for me. That's how it's been my entire life. Once I showed how well I could play, how well I could score, how well I could jump, they started liking me a lot more."

Sherrill has become quite popular in his two seasons as a combo guard (he rotates at both guard positions) for the Den Bosch New Heroes. Den Bosch is pronounced Den Boss. The English translation is "The Forest."

While he made the jersey No. 10 famous in his mind-boggling collegiate career in Augusta, Ga., Sherrill wears "73" as a pro. That's a football offensive lineman's number, but there's a perfectly valid reason for his choice of numerals, and that reason tells you a lot about who Sherrill is and what he represents.

"No. 10 wasn't available when I joined Den

Sherrill wears No. 73 to honor his grandmother, who died when she was 73 in 2012.



Bosch, so I asked for 73," Sherrill says. "Most people think it's because 7 plus 3 is 10, but it's not that. My grandmother, Catherine Carpenter, was 73 years old when she passed in 2012, and she meant a lot to me growing up. Every time I pull on that 73 jersey, I think about her, and I think about how happy she would be about me playing professional basketball. Then I go out and try to make her proud."

In the Netherlands, a flat country about the size of Maryland that is jam-packed with 17 million citizens, Sherrill's height is listed as 1.75 meters and his weight as 74.8 kilos. That's 165 pounds.

Sherrill likes the 1.75 meters designation. Somehow that sounds taller than 5 feet, 9 inches.

European basketball seasons are a grind —



*Sherrill practices his jump
shot in the West Rowan
High School gym.*



Sherrill poses with Mike Gurley, his former coach at West Rowan.

September practices, followed by regular season games that begin the first week of October. There's a comfortable break around Christmas, but once the season resumes, it extends all the way through April. May brings the playoffs for the top eight teams. Sherrill willed his team into the DBL semifinals last spring.

"It sounds long, but early in the season, we're only playing once or twice a week," Sherrill says. "Late in the season, it's up to two or three times."

Sherrill averaged 16.4 points and 3.6 assists in his first season in the Netherlands. In 2018-19, he averaged 13.1 points and 3.6 assists. He was efficient, shooting 50 percent from the floor, 83 percent on free throws and 38 percent on 3-pointers.

"My second season was easier than the first," Sherrill says. "We had a stronger team. I didn't have to score as much. It was a more relaxing year."

Sherrill knew early in life that basketball probably would be his thing. A lot of Sherrills in Cleveland had been athletes. His older brothers, Jamel Carpenter and K.J., showed him the way. The three siblings accounted for nearly 5,000 points for coach Mike Gurley's West Rowan Falcons.

"I remember being at Coach Gurley's basketball camp when I was 8 or 9 and I got my picture made with (6-foot-8 Division I player) Donte Minter. I had a good camp, and I remember starting to believe I had a chance to be pretty good at basketball if I worked at it."

He worked at it.

His high school career was close to legendary. Graduating from West in 2012, he scored 1,907 career points. Like K.J., who stands a foot taller than Keshun and plays pro ball in Germany, he was recognized as Rowan County Player of the Year by the Salisbury Post when he was a senior.



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Sherrill takes a trip down memory lane, looking at the many accomplishments of West Rowan High School basketball.

Despite a massive list of accomplishments and accolades, recruiting interest was luke-warm because of Sherrill's height. Le-noir-Rhynne University really wanted him, but Sherrill opted for a Division II school in Georgia that was then known as Augusta State. Gurley's college roommate at Belmont Abbey, Dip Metress, coached Augusta State. Gurley knew him and trusted him to bring out the best in Sherrill.

He did. Books could be written about his accomplishments at Augusta State, which became Georgia Regents University, which became simply Augusta.

After a redshirt season, Sherrill was Peach Belt Freshman of the year in 2014. In 2015, he made the Division II All-America team. In 2017, he was again an All-America pick and Peach Belt Player of the Year. He averaged 22.6 points as a senior and scored 33 against Division I Wichita State when Augusta took on the Shockers on the road and lost 73-67.

He scored 22 more points in the Division II All-Star Game.

All told, Sherrill amassed 2,333 points in his college career to become the leading scorer not only in Augusta history, but in Peach Belt Conference history — and the Peach Belt often is referred to as the ACC of Division II.





During a summer break from his pro team in the Netherlands, Sherrill returns for practice time at his high school gym.

Augusta named Sherrill Senior Male Athlete of the Year for all sports and retired his jersey at the sports banquet.

But there was one more major accomplishment for him at Augusta. Sherrill graduated. He owns a college degree.

"To tell you the truth, that diploma meant even more to me than the jersey retirement," Sherrill says. "I know that basketball will stop bouncing one day, and then that college degree has to take over. I can see myself teaching kids, coaching kids, mentoring kids, working with kids in some way after my playing days are done."

They aren't done yet.

He has enjoyed his time with the Den Bosch team. He gets the standard perks for key import players such as a car. He has zero housing costs, as the team takes care of that.

He's made friends with a family that cooks "American food" for him occasionally. He also has privacy and time for his favorite hobby — reflection — when he's off the court.

"It's not like I get recognized on the street, unless I'm out with some of the tall members of the team," Sherrill says. "People that see me don't even know I'm American until I start talking."

A high percentage of the population in the Netherlands is conversant in English, so communication isn't an issue. There have been a lot of pluses to playing in the Netherlands.

The door is open for Sherrill to play a third season for Den Bosch this fall, but there's also the possibility of adventure — playing for a new team, seeing a different country.

"I'll leave all that to my agent," Sherrill says. "Everything looks good, and I'll find out something soon. I'll enjoy playing basketball, no matter where it is."

He spends most of his off-season months in Augusta, a home away from home, where he's revered by the local population. He works out, stays in shape, plays ball and works a lot of camps for summer income.

He hands out sage advice at those camps.

Some of it has gone to current members of the Augusta team, who are trying to fill his big shoes and live up to his accomplishments.

"Augusta's point guard asked me not long ago how in the world I did what I did," Sherrill says. "I know it sounds really cliché, but what I told him was that it was just hard work. I took every day of practice seriously. I looked at each new day as a chance to get better. And every day, day in and day out, I did get better."

Winning has followed Sherrill around. His West Rowan teams were 80-34, while his Augusta teams were 89-34. The winning hasn't abated in the pro ranks.

Quite a few people asked Sherrill about women's World Cup Soccer during June and July. The final match in France was the USA's victory against the Netherlands.

"The Netherlands made me happy with how well they played, but I cheered for the home folks," Sherrill says. "I've gotten to see countries I never thought I'd see, but I'm proud to be from the USA." **S**

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The Dancing Queens and Kings practice with the students of Triple Threat Dance and Charm at Hall Gym. Ollie Mae Carroll, in royal blue, observes as her dancers prepare for an upcoming performance.

Lining up

Dancing Queens (and Kings) get their groove on.

Story by **Andie Foley** | Photography by **Bernadine Hernandez**

Ollie Mae Carroll has always been a mover and a shaker. She sits, perched on a sofa in her Old Plank Road home, recalling at ease these moments: a serendipitous venture into nursing and, later, the Air Force; an endeavor to build her grandparents the home in which she now sits; and a journey into continuing education.



Ollie Mae won't reveal her age ("Put it in the early 70s," she says), but these adventures from her young adulthood are peppered with nods to snubbed noses, to slammed doors and assumptions. An African-American, her career path was paved in an era of lingering segregation and federally mandated integration.

Ollie Mae's actions would, in turn, answer each "no," "you can't" and "you won't" with a simple two-word response: "Watch me."

The world has watched, evidenced by the newspaper clippings coating the walls of her cozy home, a stone's throw away from the campus of Livingstone College. The papers are an homage to her legacy of firsts: She was the first African-American to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's nursing program, the first African-American to teach at the Cabarrus School of Nursing, the first woman to become commander of

The Dancing Queens and Kings perform during the Juneteenth Festival behind City Hall. — Jon C. Lakey photo

a traditionally all-male American Legion post in North Carolina and the first woman to win the state's "Legionnaire of the Year" award.

And in 2017, another first was added to the list as she formed Rowan County's premier seniors-only line dance group, the Dancing Queens and Kings of Salisbury.

THE GROUP'S FORMATION

"I've always started groups," Ollie Mae said, fetching another memory from her wall, this a picture of a break-dancing group she started with her son. At the center of the windbreaker-clad cluster is her very own charming and confident grin.

Therein, a decision to start a line dancing group seemed a natural course of action as her doctor began prodding her with a need for exercise.



Above: The Dancing Queens (and King Lionel Rippy) practice new steps for an event on Aug. 3.

Below: The group listens as instructor Ebony Stockton, at front, explains new choreography.

“I had mental exercise because I ran the American Legion Post,” she said, “... I started the Dancing Queens and Kings for the simple reason of us seniors, our doctors are always telling us we’ve got to have exercise.”

An exploration of local options for those of advanced years left her unsatisfied, she said, pointing to humdrum, repetitive routines that barely created a sweat.

“Then, I went to Healthy Rowan, and they were saying that Rowan County is 27th from the bottom (in the state) in health outcomes. They asked each one of us there to take a project,” said Ollie Mae. “I said, ‘I’ll take seniors because seniors are the ones keeping us down.’”

So she wrote a proposal to the Salisbury’s Parks and Recreation Department for an exercise group



WELLNESS

dedicated to those 55 and over. At first, she said, she was met with those all-too-familiar closed doors.

"People told me to go to hell, they weren't coming out to exercise when they got plenty of exercise at (the senior center)," she said.

Dejected and at a loss as to how to attract membership and participation, Ollie Mae said the winning idea came to her as she searched for something with a draw: line dancing.

"The Parks and Recreation Department hired a young lady to assist me," she said. "Would you believe that within six months, I had about 30 women on the rolls?"

Thirty "queens," and two "kings," she later added, though one king driving from Mooresville would eventually withdraw. Lionel Rip-py, the group's current and only dancing male member, is now joined by the group's sound



Cynthia Pharr and instructor Ebony Stockton practice a new dance.

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WELLNESS

producer and honorary king, DJ Nelson Gerald: “Enough so that I can legally call it the Dancing Queens and Kings,” Ollie Mae said.

GROUP BENEFITS

Of his position as the lone dancing king, Lionel is quick to say with a wink and a nudge, “I knew what I was getting into.”

And perhaps he did. In 2018, just before the group celebrated its one-year anniversary of inception, Lionel and Dancing Queen Jean were wed.

Lone bachelor now spoken for, the benefits of the group still abound. The largest of these was evidenced as dancers Cynthia Pharr and Sandra Hughery exchanged a look during a recent practice.

“And I’m sweating,” Sandra said, the proclamation echoed with shared sentiments and laughter.

“Most of the girls say their blood pressure has gone down,” Ollie Mae said, adding with a laugh, “I noticed they’re supposed

to be losing weight, but they go to lunch together.”

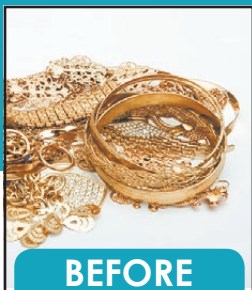
This, said Ollie Mae, is the biggest draw to the group, now ranging in age from 55 to 85 — though there were three honorary members that fell short of the age minimum.

“People are saying that now, they don’t have to just sit in their house and watch TV every day,” said Ollie Mae, “Now, they can come hang with other seniors.”

More than that, the group has also toured Rowan County and the state, performing at churches, health fairs, senior centers, arts councils and more, with each member serving in a coordinating capacity.

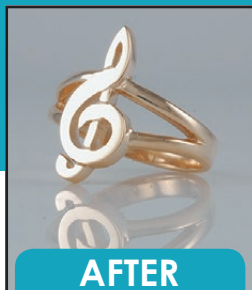
There’s a registration coordinator, T-shirt coordinator, hydration coordinator, sick and shut-in coordinator — the list goes on.

“When you’re dealing with people that age, who have lived a life like they have, you’ve got to give them a coordinating position,” Ollie Mae said. “They’ve got to be in charge of something. The Dancing Queens and Kings are not your typical seniors sitting at home sort of wasting away: they’re really getting involved.” **[S]**



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The RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls is also known as the Bullhole. The location is a popular spot for visitors who want to enjoy a public park at the river with little to no expense. Winter and spring flooding of the South Yadkin River deposits a large sand bank that makes a natural beach.

‘The Bullhole’

As years go by, visitors to RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls make it less of a secret.

Story by **Kathy Chaffin** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

“The sun is shining on my face, washing my cares away because I’ve been swimming down at the Bullhole.”

— Lyrics from Joey Shore’s song, “Bullhole”

COOLEEMEE — Once, when Joey Shore brought three of his work colleagues from High Point to the RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls — more commonly known to Davie and Rowan Countians as “The Bullhole” — one of them told him, “You guys don’t realize the treasure you’ve got down here.”

That may be true of some, but the six Cooleemee natives gathered for a group interview at one of the picnic

tables on the banks of the Bullhole all seemed quite proud to have grown up in the former thriving mill town built along the South Yadkin River.

And all of them had stories to tell about their adventures here, where water cascades over a 12-foot-high, 422-foot-wide stone dam erected more than a 100 years ago for the purposes of Erwin Cotton Mill No. 3.

“I used to sit on the rocks and think about who I was



Juana Esther Galan, from Statesville, sits in the water of the South Yadkin River during her first time at the RiverPark.



Randy Taylor fills up a pair of floats to take down the South Yadkin River



REMINISCE

going to marry and what my life would be like,” said Shore. “Now I sit out there and wonder what it would be like to be a kid again.”

Sandra and Walter Ferrell were fishing at the Bullhole on their second date when she landed a big catfish. “He was yelling, ‘Get it, get it.’” And she did. Years later, they’re happily married and still enjoy going to the Bullhole.

Growing up, Ron Bivins said parents would drop their children off at the swimming pool behind the Zachary House in Cooleemee. “And as soon as they left,” he said, “everybody would leave and head to the Bullhole.”

Bivins said one way their parents could tell what they’d done was by the mud on their cut-off jeans and underwear, so they started taking an extra pair of each and hanging them in a tree to put on before they went back home.

Cooleemee residents are a tight-knit group, and it doesn’t take long to realize how much the folks gathered for the interview — “The Keepers of the Bull Hole,” if you will — treasure their memories at the beautiful falls.

It used to be a haven known almost exclusively by savvy Davie and Rowan residents — the river serves as the boundary line between the counties. Today, however, because of websites, social media and the RiverPark at Cooleemee’s inclusion on several lists of waterfalls and tourist destinations, people drive long distances to enjoy the beautiful spot tucked away in the woods.

When Post photographer Jon Lakey and I were here on July 4th, people from all over were setting up grills and picnics on the banks of the Bullhole, including a group of students from the North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. We talked with only one family from Rowan County walking in on the trail as we were going out.

Visitors also come to swim, ride the little rapids, fish, kayak, canoe and sunbathe on a sandy beach created naturally from flooding.



Old photos from the Bullhole on display at the Zachary House.



There are benches along the trails, picnic tables, public restrooms and a shelter available to rent for things such as family reunions and church outings.

Old tennis shoes are recommended. Moss growing on the bedrock bottom can be slippery, and people swim and splash around the dam at their own risk. There is no lifeguard on the site.

Visitors drive to the RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls from the Rowan County side, and the park itself takes in about 30 acres. For GPS-finding purposes, the address is 645 Erwin Temple Church Road, Woodleaf, but make no mistake, this is a Cooleemee attraction.

“We see from 300 to 500 people on the weekends and holidays,” said Cooleemee Town Manager Steven Corriher.

Hours are from 8 a.m. to dusk, and regular law enforcement patrols enforce the park rules.

For anyone who has never been to the Bullhole, it’s a place of natural beauty and serenity. It’s a perfect setting for a family picnic or cook-out, a fun date, a quiet place for making major



Aremivar Cruz runs the grill as Alex Cruz moves in for a taste.



REMINISCE



Sabrina Difoggio and her dog, Cash, from Kernersville, enjoy the water below the dam.

decisions, emotional healing, marriage proposals or a renewal of appreciation for the natural wonder all around us.

According to a story passed down through the years, the Bullhole got its name around 1900 when Erwin Mill and the dam were being built. Using a pair of oxen — or was it just one? — an older man was dragging logs for construction purposes across the river when the animals were caught in a hole of swirling water.

At least one of the bull oxen drowned, despite the owner's attempts to save him, and from that time on, people have called this area the Bullhole.

Joe Jordan, who grew up on Main Street in Cooleemee, has fond memories of fishing here with his father, Loman Jordan, starting around the time he was 8.

"It was kind of grown up more then," he said, "but a lot of people went over there to fish. At one point, he said, the Bullhole attracted a rough crowd that would leave behind beer bottles, "but now it's more like a park."

As local residents began making efforts to



clean up around the falls, Jordan said more and more people also showed up to hike on the surrounding trails.

The RiverPark at Cooleemee Falls started to become a reality when this new century began, thanks to a River Task Force.

In 2001-2002, more than 77 acres of land (out of a projected 80 acres) were purchased or donated on the Davie and Rowan sides of the South Yadkin. Nearly all of the wooded land will remain protected.

The hard-working task force set a fund-raising goal of \$1.1 million to cover the cost of Phase 1 of the park's development. Key contri-

butions came from the following:

- The Margaret C. Woodson Foundation (\$50,000);
- The N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund (\$127,000);
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (\$300,000);
- The county of Davie (\$250,000);
- The town of Cooleemee (\$25,000);
- A donation of 18 acres of "Bullhole" land by Claude Horn of Mocksville;
- A Community Funds Campaign, which included church groups, businesses and school students donating their pennies saved in fish tanks and community supporters, purchasing \$10,000 worth of "deeds" to The Bullhole at \$100 each.

After 16 months, the park officially opened in 2003.

Over the years, town officials have held fund-raising events at the Bullhole, including a fish fry every October and the annual Great Bullhole Duck Race in July. Prizes are given out to the three top finishing rubber ducks in the



From left, Ron Bivins, Joe Jordan, Teresa Bivins, Sandra Ferrell, Walter Ferrell and Joey Shore.



Noah Trexler, 9, from Rockwell, rides on the water like a water slide.

REMINISCE



race: \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place.

Trent Miller walks across the remnants of a wall for the old swimming pool that was fed by the South Yadkin River at the dam.

Vendors and food trucks also participate. Every year, the number of people participating in the race seems to grow.

For more information on the RiverPark at Cooleme Falls, go to its Facebook page or the Town of Cooleme's website.

Directions to the park — From the Rowan County side: Take N.C. 801 from Woodleaf, heading north. Before reaching the South Yadkin River, turn left onto Needmore Road, then right onto Erwin Temple Church Road. Keep going until you reach the parking area. After parking, follow a short walking path to the Bullhole. **[S]**

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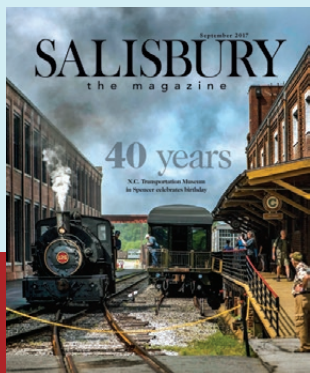
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Rick Lewis and son Scott Lewis were hits as Choo-Choo and Gambol the Clown.



Chris and Brynne Beal with their children Patrick, Kellen, Brendan, Arden, Colleen and Augustine.



At Farmers Day, it's never a bad idea to find a seat and some shade, while enjoying ice cream.

China Grove Farmers Day

For the annual Farmers Day, hundreds filled the streets of China Grove to enjoy a farmers market, food, antique tractors, 200-plus vendors, crafts, a street dance, kids games and activities, a vegetable contest, free parking with a trolley shuttle, live music, story time with a farmer, the Little Miss & Mr. Farmer Contest and fireworks.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



From left: Derek Graber, Porter Graber, Parker Graber and Susan Urbaniak; Tindlee Richmond and Bristol Benton sport their freshly painted faces; Charlie Perrell and Wyatt Perrell; Matt and Ree Drye



Olivia Mattord, 2, sits astride a pony provided by the Horse Protection Society of North Carolina.



A street magician draws a crowd.



Pam Eilum holds the trophy her husband Randy's antique John Deere tractor earned at Farmers Day.



Jake Murphy and Ken Pethel take a break from the heat.



Dolores and Hercules Shannon



From left: Evan Clayton, Frances Clayton, Marian Hough and Austin Clayton; Tucker and Tessa Rummage; Robbie and C.J. Sihler watch their zucchini race cars make their way down the Grace City Church track.





Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard members carry flags as they walk in the Faith Fourth of July Parade.



Carolina Pickers wait to line up for the parade.

Faith Fourth of July Parade

Sporting the patriotic colors of red, white and blue, thousands of people gathered from across the state and beyond to participate in Faith's 73rd annual Fourth of July celebration. People packed Main Street to view the roughly two-hour-long, mile-and-a-half parade and partake in the daylong festivities — one of the biggest Fourth of July celebrations in the state.

— Photos by Bernadine Hernandez



Jackson Hon-eycutt, 2, gives McGruff a fist bump before the parade. Mike Brady dressed as McGruff and his son David Brady dressed as Safety Pup for Kids.



East Rowan High band members relax before the parade.



Above: Zoey Zemanich, 6, sells lemonade at her stand. Right: Rowan County Commissioners Chairman Greg Edds places a flag on the Corvette before the parade.



A Spencer firetruck heads down the parade route.



Left: Members of the Rowan County Veterans Honor Guard relax before the parade. Right: Parade-goers line the streets in Faith.



Left: Jacee Eudy, top left, hugs her dog Jingles. Above left: N.C. Sen. Carl Ford waves to the crowd. Above right: Julie Smith speaks before the naming of the pageant queen.





Above: Potter Brent Smith takes a turn at the wheel. Right: The Huepa Culture & Arts Institute dancers provide a colorful performance.



Alana Hughes applies henna designs.

Waterworks' Multicultural Fun Day

Waterworks Visual Arts Center's Multicultural Family Fun Day enjoyed good attendance and received accolades for accomplishing a goal of bringing people together to learn more about each other and cultures other than his or her own. The Art Creation Stations were particularly popular this year. The performers were outstanding, and two of the center's exhibiting artists, Jamaul Smith and Gliser Fuentes Mena, attracted onlookers as they demonstrated their talents.

— Photos by Holly Zemke



Left: An appreciative audience takes in some of the entertainment.



Right: Jackie Black, left, teaches origami and dragon puppets.



Keith Holland & Friends N Christ perform at the F&M Trolley Barn.



The Dancing Queens & Kings perform before a crowd.



Brent Smith starts forming some clay for an attentive audience.



Kids receive instructions on making Mexican mirrors.



Above left: At an Art Creation Station, artist Gliser Fuentes Mena helps children make a Colonel Valdes, a colonel in the Cuban Liberation Army who fought for independence of the island in the 19th century against Spanish colonialism.

Above right: Artist Jamaul Smith started the day with a blank canvas.

Left: Meek sings an inspirational tune.





Beth Meadows, left, presents the Volunteer of the Year Award to Maddie McDaniel.



Back row; Samantha, Chasitee, Britton, Aubree and Kaylee Front row: Gustavo, Jayden, Evalynn, Dominic and Max.



Novant Health's booth: Caroline Waller, Dr. Abayomi Agbebi, Joanie Reeder, Melanie Trantham and Traci Preston.

Salisbury Pride Festival

In a rainbow of colors and near-perfect weather, people attending the ninth Salisbury Pride Festival celebrated diversity and the LGBTQ community. More than 100 vendors were staged in the downtown venue. The main stage was host to singers and drag performances. The Salisbury Pride Board presented two special awards at the festival — its Ralph Ketner Ally of the Year and also its Volunteer of the Year. Salisbury-Rowan PFLAG gave out scholarships to nine high school graduates.

— Photos by Tim Coffey



Above: Lauren Alexander-Persse, Robert Jones and Cindi Graham. Right: Pride allies enjoying the day and giving out free hugs.



Robert Ring, Samantha Haspel, David Garling and Frank Labagnara



Salisbury City Councilwoman Tamara Sheffield, Salisbury Mayor Al Heggins and Beth Meadows



John Calvin Presbyterian Church: Michael Brooks, Emily Riggs, Kate Morrison, Eric Bailey and Steve Lamb. In front: Amy McCachren and Katherine Lamb.



Tony Land, who performed as Cierra Nichole, and Kevin Grant.



Scott Teeter and Heather Hopkins-Teeter



Salisbury City Councilman David Post and Mike Miller



Pride board member and festival hostess Jamie Monroe greets the crowd.



First United Church of Christ: Robert Propst, Julian Clark, Carol Hallman, Greg Alcorn, Lizzie Roy and Jeff Smith.



Above: Maggie Blackwell, right, with granddaughter Mia Lewis. Left: The Mendia family: In back, Jose, Sammy, Joshua, Zee and Lily. In front, Luka and Bash.



Salisbury Pride Board members, standing, include Lina Drinkard, Maryja Mee, Shawn Edman, Athena Moore, Tamara Sheffield and Becky Lane. Kneeling are Beth Meadows, Tim Coffey and Heather DePalma-Spivey. Not pictured: Kim Porter, Tony Land and Jamie Monroe.



Thomas the Tank Engine makes his way along the tracks at the N.C. Transportation Museum during the 'Day Out with Thomas' event on Oct. 2, 2016. This year's event is Sept. 27. — Wayne Hinshaw photo

5 Hefner VA Community Mental Health Summit 2019

Sept. 5: Hefner VA Medical Center, Building 6 - Social Room, 1601 Brenner Ave., Salisbury — 8:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The Mental Health Summit is meant to enhance the mental health and well-being of veterans and their family members through increased collaboration between the VA and the community. An information fair will also take place in conjunction with the Mental Health Summit. Register for free online at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

6 Alive After 5 Downtown Cruise-In

Sept. 6: Central Avenue, Landis — 5-9 p.m. All classic cars, antiques, hot rods, muscle cars, trucks and bikes are welcome. The town of Landis will provide refreshments and music, and local vendors and merchants will also be on site.

6 Brian Free and Assurance

Sept. 6: First Baptist Church, 223 N.

September 2019

Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

Fulton St., Salisbury — 7 p.m. Brian Free and Assurance will be in concert.

7 Over the Rainbow: Broadway with a Twist

Sept. 7: The Norvell Theater, 135 E. Fisher St. — 7:30 p.m. Benefit concert for Salisbury Pride's youth and educational programs and Novant Health Rowan Medical Center Foundation's Emergency Fund for HIV/AIDS patients. Tickets at www.salisburypride.com.

7 Night Fever: 1970s at the Shops

Sept. 7: N.C. Transportation Museum,

Spencer — 7-11 p.m. Disco balls and dance floors will set the scene as the Back Shop swings from steam locomotives to Studio 54. The gala fundraiser will feature live music from The Tonez, dance contests, party games and awards for those working their best 1970s attire.

14 Kannapolis Cruise-In

Sept. 14: North Carolina Research Center, Kannapolis — 1-7 p.m. Come see hundreds of classic cars at the monthly cruise-in that happens the second Saturday of every month.

14 Walk to End Alzheimer's — Rowan-Cabarrus

Sept. 14: Village Park, 700 W. C St., Kannapolis — 9-11:30 a.m. Walkers can wear purple for Alzheimer's awareness with their exercise shoes as they participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. To sign up as a walker or team captain, or to learn more about becoming a sponsor or volunteer, call 800-272-3900.

14 A French Soiree: 'Antique & Modern' French Doll Luncheon

Sept. 14: North Carolina Museum of Dolls, Toys and Miniatures, Spencer — This "Antique & Modern" French Doll Luncheon will be a special cultural and doll-themed luncheon. Registration is \$75 and includes displays, helpers, door prizes, luncheon, museum tour, programs, souvenirs and sales tables. Extensive French doll exhibits will be on display and French foods available to sample. Deadline to register is Sept. 10.

14 Let's Ride Rowan!

Sept. 14: J.F. Hurley YMCA, 828 Jake Alexander Blvd. W., Salisbury — 10 a.m.-noon. Participants at this free event will learn the basics of balancing on a bike and how to progress to pedaling. For seasoned riders, a bike rodeo course and lessons on the "rules of the road" will be available. Attendees are encouraged to bring a bike and helmet, although there will be a limited number available. The session is open to kids and adults. Registration is required and can be done by calling 704-638-5289, emailing sclar@salisburync.gov, or online at www.salisburync.gov/play.

14 Genealogy Workshop — Land & Taxes

Sept. 14: Rowan Public Library Headquarters, 201 W. Fisher St., Salisbury — 10 a.m.-noon. Buying, selling and settling land leaves a trail we can follow to find our lineage. This class explores land and tax records. It is open to the public, but registration is suggested. Contact Gretchen Witt at 704-216-8232 or visit www.RowanPublicLibrary.org.

17 Carolina Artist Expo

Sept. 17-21: Salisbury Civic Center, 315 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. — Artwork available for public viewing from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. on Sept. 18-20, and from 10 a.m.-noon on

Sept. 21. The reception for awards will be held Thursday, Sept. 19, at 6 p.m.

20 Rowan County Fair

Sept. 20-28: Rowan County Fairgrounds, 1560 Julian Road, Salisbury — Rowan County's annual agricultural fair also has carnival rides, games, food, arts, crafts and exhibitors. Go to rowancountyfair.net for times and details.

20 Deutscher Abend (German Evening)

Sept. 20: 770 Old Stone House Road, Granite Quarry — 6 p.m. This annual fund-raising dinner also features a speaker for Rowan Museum. The cost of \$50 includes admission to Germanfest, which is held the next day.

20 Bikers, Blues and BBQ 2019

Sept. 20-21: Tilley Harley-Davidson, 653 Bendix Drive, Salisbury — Enjoy free admission, vendors, music and a BBQ competition. The event is open to the public from noon-10:30 p.m. on Sept. 20 and from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Sept. 21.

21 Germanfest

Sept. 21: 770 Old Stone House Road, Granite Quarry — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A celebration of Rowan County's German heritage, mixing Colonial and modern German traditions on the grounds of the Old Stone House. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students.

21 Antique Automobile Club of America Car Show

Sept. 21: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sponsored by the Furnitureland Chapter of the AACA, this show will feature AACA members' vehicles, but the public is invited to see the collection on display. The show features antique cars of all makes and models.

20 Downtown Salisbury Brewbury Fest

Sept. 20-21: Downtown Salisbury — Come a celebrate craft beer with a crawl on Sept. 20 and a beer festival on Sept. 21. More details available on downtownsalisburync.com/events or the Downtown Salisbury Facebook page.

26 'Kimberly Akimbo'

Sept. 26-28, Oct. 3-4: Lee Street

theatre, 329 N. Lee St., Salisbury — 7:30 p.m. Lee Street theatre is putting on a production of 'Kimberly Akimbo,' a hilarious and heartrending play about a teenager with a rare condition causing her body to age faster than it should. When she and her family flee Secaucus under dubious circumstances, Kimberly is forced to reevaluate her life while contending with a hypochondriac mother, a rarely sober father, a scam-artist aunt, her own mortality and, most terrifying of all, the possibility of first love.

27 Day Out with Thomas

Sept. 27-29, Oct. 4-6: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — Day Out with Thomas provides an opportunity for kids to take a ride with their favorite tank engine, Thomas, and his little green friend, Percy. Visitors can meet the railway controller, Sir Topham Hatt, have fun in Imagination Station, and more. Live music and magic will also be featured. Purchase tickets online at TicketWeb or by calling 866-468-7630. Find more information by contacting the Transportation Museum at 704-636-2889 or at nctrans@nctrans.org.

28 Chicken and Pickin

Sept. 28: 308 North Main St., China Grove — 6-8 p.m. Homemade chicken and dumplings for sale to benefit China Grove Roller Mill events. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids.

28 Gold Hill Founder's Day

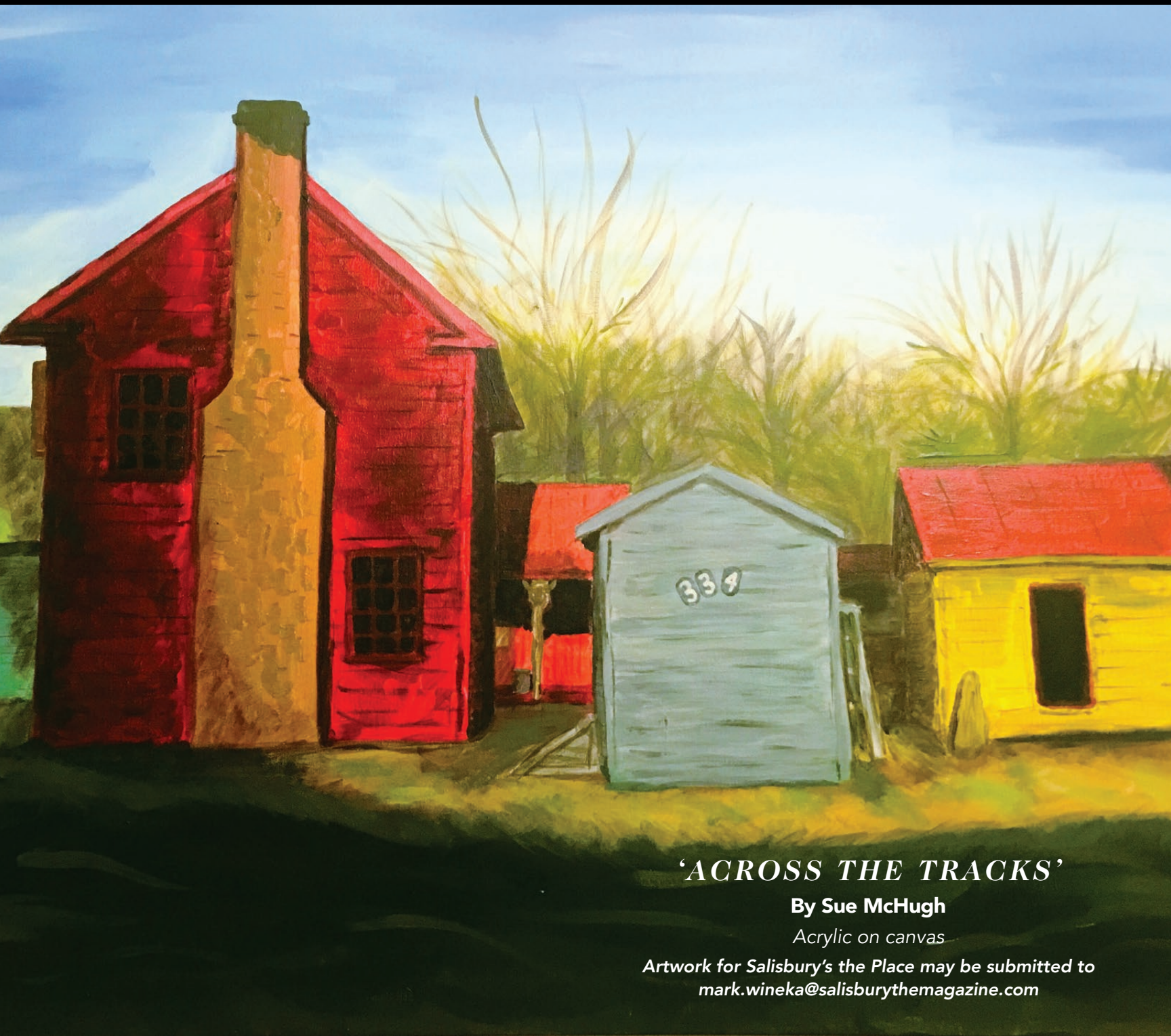
Sept. 28: Gold Hill Mines Historic Park, 753 St. Stephens Church Road, Gold Hill — 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Founder's Day will feature an arts and crafts festival, history tours, hayrides, live music, food, games and gold panning.

28 Fire Truck Parade & Safety Festival

Sept. 28: Laureate Center, Kannapolis — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Come to learn about fire safety and prevention and to see the fire truck parade.

28 BBQ, Bands & Boots

Sept. 28: F&M Trolley Barn, 125 E. Liberty St., Salisbury — It's a night of food, music and fun on behalf of the Rowan County Crosby Scholars program. This event raises funds for need-based Last Dollar Grants. [S]



'ACROSS THE TRACKS'

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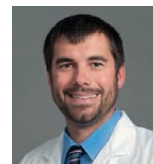
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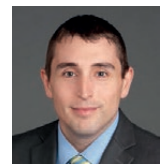
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