

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024



Copperhead Road Landmark & Music Fest benefits the Museum!

We were thrilled to be a part of the unveiling of this unique destination in Johnson County and the launch of a new music festival over Memorial Day weekend.

A big thank you to The Waterfront Group who donated \$2,000 to the museum and gave us the opportunity to raise funds with a fun door prize drawing. As part of the celebration, Johnson County Bank/Skyline National Bank also presented the Museum with a \$1,000 donation check!

Between the corporate donations, door prize fundraiser and museum donations, we raised over \$5,000 that weekend!

What's new at the Museum!

Museum Improvements for our Guests with Mobility Issues are complete.

Thanks to a \$25,000 grant from the Tennessee State Museum, we have completed the addition of special handicap ramps and walkway for our visitors who may have mobility issues. As a reminder, the museum has wheelchairs available as well.

Our next project includes the addition of an annex building that will provide a safe place to archive museum artifacts and give us a workspace to create new exhibits.



Ice Cream at the Blue Bird Tea Room

Excerpt from Summer 2009 Newsletter



"Most everyone in Butler was familiar with the Blue Bird Tea Room. . . right next door to the post office. The tea room also served as the bus station and was the conveyance of choice and necessity for many residents of Butler who had employment at the Elizabethton textile mills (North American Rayon and Bemberg). My mother, Zella Ritchie was one of those.



One of the enjoyable treats available at the tea room was a BIG, Double Dip ice cream cone. This cost all of five (5) cents. Of course five cents wasn't all that easy to come by during the depression years of the 1930's. Occasionally, I and my friends would get a windfall and off for an ice cream cone we would go.

Uncle Oliver Neatherly's wife Ethel, was my grandmother's sister, and Uncle Oliver was very generous with his servings. On this particular day, three or four of us boys went in for our treat and then outside to perch on the iron pipes which separated the tea room from the post office. A good place to sit and enjoy the cone while we watched the traffic in and out of the post office.

As it happened, we were climbing into position and one of the crowd tipped his cone a little too far. He maneuvered into position and the double dip went ker-flop on the side walk. Now it just happened that Bingo, Forest Neatherly's German Shepherd was standing there waiting to see what we were up to in about two milliseconds, he slurped up the ice cream and looked to see if there was to be any more. Words can not describe the disappointment this unfortunate lad suffered as he evaluated what had happened.

Immediately this poor lad determined if was all Bingo's fault and for about 20 seconds the air turned blue while Bingo received his eternal judgment, and his genealogy was reviewed. Bingo didn't seem to mind, he just wagged his tail and looked as though he wanted to say, "that was good. . . lets do it again."

Needless to say there were many later occasions when we were more careful and were able to get the full enjoyment of our cone without having to share it with Bingo. We look back on these times as "the good old days."



The above photo is of the Watauga Class of 1947 in Old Butler.

If you know of a graduate of Watauga Academy, please let us know we are trying to compile a complete list.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Margaret Hogshead | Forrest Neatherly |
| Clark Irick | Elizabeth Parsons |
| Marie Laws | Nina Rainbolt |
| Edith Markland | Ray Sheffield |
| Murrell Matherly | Turner Triplett |
| Mary Matherly | Hillard Triplett |
| Claude Milsaps | Mable White |



contact us at
MuseumofButlerTN.org!

The Building of Watauga Dam



MR. AND MRS. LAWRENCE DUGGER - One of the three last families to leave old Butler. Mrs. Dugger received a gold tray on her retirement at the Watauga School Monday.

One of the First Families of Old Butler - also one of the last to leave.

The Butler and Watauga Heritage Museum is commemorating the 75th anniversary year of the completion of Watauga Dam. The dam is an earthen dam and the gates to the dam were closed 12:00 December 1, 1948 and the dam began to impound water. All families had to be moved out of the reservoir area by August of 1948. Blanche and Lawrence Dugger was one of the last families to move.



***In search of:
Museum ♥
Volunteers!***



Museum of Butler, TN

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Donations are tax exempt, as allowed by law.