

# IN THE SHADOW OF HOGAN'S MOUNTAIN

By Dr. Warren Hollar  
whollar@charter.net

## Teenage Escapades of the 1960's

Teenagers of the 1960's had fewer entertainment sources than today's teenagers. Many teenagers, including those from around and near Hogan's Mountain, drove around the square in Taylorsville and stopped in the Trio lot to talk about major teenage issues. Country boys were prone to invent some interesting entertainment. A group of male teenagers from the Dudley Shoals area formed a quasi-club called the Dudley Dirt Daubers. Membership included the right to ride in an old converted milk truck owned by a set of brothers.

The group was known to create havoc for the spectators at the submarine races at the Wildlife Access Area, leave ladies' purses housing black snakes near the highway, attach fishing line to billfolds left on the highway, and arrive at the Thunderbird Drive-In movie with a dozen teenagers on board on \$3.00 a carload night. The milk truck became well-known near the mountain and often tweaked the interest of residents as to the next "tom foolery" of the group.

Club members were

## Shiloh Lutheran church events

Shiloh Lutheran Church NALC will be participating in Bethlehem Day events to be held on Saturday, September 17. A car and truck cruise-in will be held in the church parking lot from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at no charge. Shiloh will have hotdogs with all the trimmings for sale, as well as homemade baked items including persimmon pudding, cakes, pies, etc., and drinks from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the church parish hall at affordable prices. Bethlehem Day will include live music, arts and crafts, many booth vendors and events for all ages. All proceeds will go to Hospice of Alexander County.

Members of Shiloh are collecting items for the flood victims (to be delivered in September) as part of Christ United Lutheran Church's efforts. Anything useable will be appreciated. Call Shiloh for more information on drop-off times, etc., 828-495-7462 or any Shiloh member.

Voice of the Martyrs, a free conference, will be held Saturday, September 17, at Pitts Baptist Church, Concord, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Stories of persecuted Christians will be shared by speakers from Philippines, Iran, and China. The church is located at 140 Pitts School Road, NW, Concord. Call 800-747-0085 to register at no charge.

Carolinas Lutheran Women will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, September 17, at Faith ELCA Church, 205 South Main Faith St., Faith, N.C. Registration is \$8 which includes lunch. More information is available by calling 828-495-7462. All women are invited to attend.

Prayer meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, at 9:30 a.m. Bible study will be held at 10:30 am. and 6:30. You do not have to be a member of Shiloh to attend. Everyone is invited.

A special offering for Bethlehem Food Pantry will be taken on Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Services are held each Sunday at Shiloh with morning praise beginning at 9:15 a.m., Sunday School for all ages at 9:30 a.m., and the worship service at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion is celebrated the first and third Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

For more information, call 828-495-7462, or join them at 1011 Shiloh Church Road, Hickory. From Alexander, follow Hwy. 127 to Bethlehem, turn at traffic light, pass post office and library, and Shiloh is at the hill.

known to catch black snakes on warm summer days. On several occasions they placed the black snakes in a lady's handbag and left it next to the highway. One night, a big Buick with out-of-state tags passed the handbag, stopped quickly and backed up. The car doors opened and a big burley man picked up the purse and re-entered to car. The car began speeding down the road when all of a sudden the brake lights came on, all four doors opened, and the out-of-state residents exited the vehicle hurriedly, spouting some language that was definitely not common around Hogan's Mountain. This episode ended the snake in the bag activity.

On another occasion, a man's billfold was attached to a fishing line. The billfold with line attached was thrown over a power line and then placed in a very visible location on the edge of the highway. One end of the line was attached to a short fishing pole and manned by one of the dirt daubers hiding in the woods near the road. The object of the activity was to jerk the billfold away from any unsuspecting person who stopped to pick up the billfold. One man who got his hands on the billfold refused to release the billfold when it was jerked via the line. A wrestling match ensued with the man winning the battle. The line

snapped with a sound similar to a rifle shot. The dirt daubers thought the man was shooting at them and ran through the woods. This trip through the woods resulted in many scrapes from briars and limbs and several significant cases of poison oak.

After a discussion and planning session in the Trio lot in Taylorsville, it was decided that club members should have maneuvers in the parking lot of the Wildlife Access area. For some reason, local couples often went to this parking area to watch the submarine races in Lake Hickory. Club members brought along a large tractor tire, soaked it in kerosene, lit the tire, and rolled it down the road into Lake Hickory. Obviously, this caused quite a stir that resulted in a significant reduction in the number of spectators.

Drive-in movies were very popular for teenagers during my growing up years. A single fee per carload was in effect on certain nights during the week. The Dirt Daubers often took advantage of this opportunity. Instead of stuffing a Volkswagen, the milk truck was stuffed with teenagers who would spread blankets or folding chairs near the truck to watch Clint Eastwood, Robert Mitchum, and other stars in the movies of the mid-twentieth century.

Many teenagers chose to go to one of the drive-in food eateries in the Taylorsville or Hickory area to end their night's adventures before curfews sent them back to their homes. Who can forget the hamburgers and fries with cherry cokes at establishments such as East Side, Mano's or the Big Rebel Drive-in. McDonald's, Wendy's, and Taco Bell have their own atmospheres, but the charm of having one's meal presented on a tray attached to a side car window is a long-forgotten ambience.

Today's teenagers have their own activities to relieve their growing pains. Instead of drive-in movies, they go to movies with surround sound, stadium seating, and special effects. They also have malls, pizza parlors, video game stations, etc. to visit. Maybe the needs of teenagers today for a sense of belong are not all that much different from the teenagers of the 1960's. Parents then and now are concerned about the quality of their interactions and the impact of teenage indiscretions. Just as our parents were concerned with us, we must have faith that our young people will survive the growing pains to adulthood and have their own teenage remembrances to share with their children.

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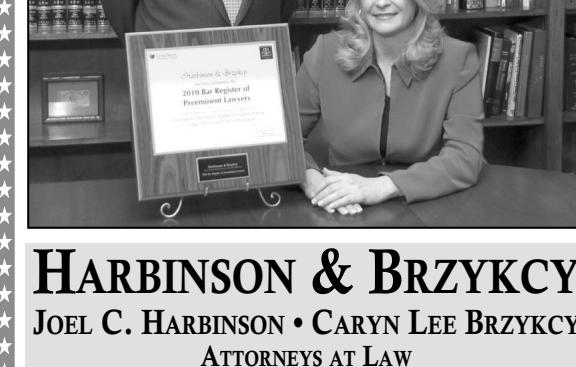
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