

Across The Savannah

The Parking Lot of the Dead

By TOM POLAND
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Even in death they cling to dignity. Left to rust, they bless the rare visitor with awe and mystery. Just how did old trucks and cars end up in a cemetery of sorts, “the graveyard of the rusted automobiles,” as Steve Goodman put it in “The City of New Orleans?” “The parking lot of the dead” as James Dickey wrote in “Cherrylog Road.” We’re not talking junkyards though. We’re talking tree-concealed, vine-covered, limb-fallen abandonment.

Each time I discover a gathering of forsaken cars and trucks it strikes me. How did this potter’s field come to pass? It sets me to thinking. First coming to me is a sense of déjà vu. “I’ve been here before,” I think, and I have. A walk through my granddad’s pasture was a stroll through a minor junkyard. Was it the easy way out? To heck with selling them. Just drag them into the pasture and let mice, wasps, and snakes take up residence. Or did he wrest a water pump, a door, or handful of spark plugs from some?

I’m sure the older generations kept some for parts but I sense something else, and this is where it gets complicated. Could they not part with them? Was some sort of love affair or relationship at work here? After all, it had not been that many years since the cars replaced horses and buggies as some of the ghostly “gone to their maker” owners of the vehicles knew all so well. I have no doubt they loved their miraculous, noisy, fast conveyances. They and their ancestors didn’t put their mules and horses out to pasture. Well, of course they did, but they continued to look after them. Maybe that’s it. The sense of affectionate husbandry they felt for farm animals transferred over to cars and trucks. And we can’t overlook nostalgia.

“That ol’ truck? Took me and



Like so many others this olive truck ended up in, “the parking lot of the dead.” (Photos by Tom Poland).

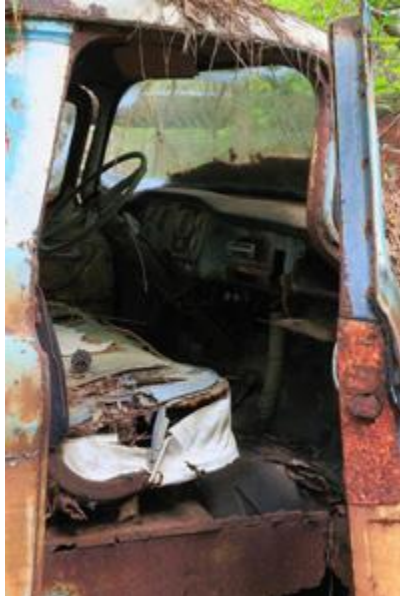
my wife to the hospital for our first born.”

“That rusty Chevy? Your granddad died of a heart attack in it.” (It’s true. He did.)

“That back seat? My first. Fell in love there. Yes sir, I did.”

Memories ... good and sad.

All these many years later? We



A walk through my granddad’s pasture was a stroll through a minor junkyard.



Even in death they cling to dignity.

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Baseball’s Best

Remembering an American hero

By LAMAR GARRARD
Baseball historian



“Lou Brissie is one of my all time favorites. When he came back from service, we could not imagine he could ever pitch again. He went on to be very successful. But I admire him even more for all the contributions he has made for his fellow man. No wonder he could pitch again as he is a man with a determination of steel.” — Letter from George Kell, member Baseball Hall of Fame, 15 years in the majors with a lifetime batting average of .306.

On June 23, a beautiful clear sunny warm summer day, I enjoyed a pleasant one-hour drive to the quaint little town of Ware Shoals, S.C. Upon arriving in this hamlet of 2,100 residents, I got the feeling of going back to better times. The peaceful streets were sparse with people and only a few vehicles were in my path as I approached Ware Shoals School. I had an 11 a.m. appointment with Dr. Fay Sprouse, Superintendent of Greenwood District #51 which is the Ware Shoals school system.

Probably the town’s most notable citizen was World War II hero and former major league pitcher Lou Brissie. Lou Brissie grew up in Ware Shoals and the house where he lived is still there. There is a tribute to Lou at their veterans park right in the center of town. Lou attended the beautiful school built in 1926 which is the oldest original school in South Carolina that is still operating. The building has been intentionally preserved and well kept.

Lou Brissie’s miraculous story is told in author Ira Berkow’s book, *The Corporal Was A Pitcher*. Brissie was an outstanding pitcher for the Ware Shoals Riegels in the South Carolina Textile league when he was a teenager. Striking out 22 batters in a game while pitching for Monaghan of Greenville one day, Lou caught the atten-



In 2013 the town of Ware Shoals, S.C. paid tribute to Lou Brissie with a ball field dedication.

tion of the scouts.

The Philadelphia Athletics signed Lou to a contract but before he could play pro ball WWII broke out and he enlisted in the Army. At the time he was pitching for Presbyterian College.

Lou was a 19-year-old Army squad leader in the Apennine mountains in Italy when his life took a tragic turn. An enemy shell exploded at his feet causing him to be severely wounded and he almost lost his left leg. After almost two years of hospitalizations and operations and rehab, he started his slow climb back to the majors.

Eventually he successfully pitched for the Philadelphia A’s and the Cleveland Indians. He made the 1949 National League All-Star team.

In November of 2013, Dr. Sprouse, along with other school officials, alumni, and Ware Shoals government members paid tribute to Lou Brissie with the ball field

being dedicated to Mr. Brissie. A new baseball scoreboard with “Lou Brissie Field” on it, along with a first class bronze plaque and column markers on the field entrance were all part of the dedication festivities.

A letter from Dr. Bobby Brown, heart surgeon, former Yankee third baseman and President of the American League is typical of how players felt about Lou: “Lou Brissie has always been an outstanding person, and despite the wounds of his left leg, was a terrific pitcher,” he said.

Over the years during my friendship with Lou Brissie, I had collected close to 20-plus letters from major leaguers who had played with or against him in the big leagues.

It was gratifying for me to donate those letters from the Greatest Generation to Lou’s school for preservation for future Ware Shoals students to learn of their hometown American Hero.

UGA CAES serves as a source of local produce and goods

By Courtney Cameron
for CAES News

Athens, Georgia, is known for three things — University of Georgia football, music, and food. Food is as much a part of the Athenian identity as the Bulldogs. Every weekend, football or not, restaurants around Athens are filled with both locals and students enjoying the communal environment a good local dish or beverage can offer.

While food is a big part of the Athens social scene, there is a more subtle connection beyond UGA-affiliated patrons filling local venues. Two popular food and beverage institutions in Athens use products grown or produced by UGA’s College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (CAES).

Renowned local restaurant Mama’s Boy serves breakfast sausage made by the Meat Science and Technology Center (MSTC) in the Edgar Allen Rhodes building, which is also home to the Regenerative Bioscience Center.

Colin Mays, the executive chef for Mama’s Boy, worked with MSTC coordinator Ryan Crowe to perfect the recipe for the breakfast sausage served at the local hotspot’s two locations.

The mission of the MSTC is to help CAES support the state’s livestock industry and provide hands-on learning opportunities for students through the processing of livestock animals. Cows, pigs and lambs are brought to the MSTC, where students learn the humane and precise process of creating consumer-demanded meat. One of the products students learn to make is the breakfast sausage found on breakfast and brunch plates at Mama’s Boy’s two Athens locations.

Creating the sausage recipe was a multistep process with the help of Colin Mays, the executive chef for Mama’s Boy, and Ryan Crowe, coordinator of the MSTC.

“I was fortunate enough to meet Ryan Crowe at our Oak Street location, before we opened up the Falls of Oconee store. We talked several times about what he does at UGA and how we could build a partnership that would benefit both of us,” Mays said. “He started bringing us samples of the breakfast sausage. We went back and forth a couple times and tweaked the recipe so it was what we were looking for and that was it ... We’ve been getting it ever since and I couldn’t be happier with it. Using products that come through the university is a win for both of us. We get a quality, local

product and the students in (CAES) are able to see their work all the way to the table.”

Across town, the iconic Creature Comforts brewery has become a staple of the Downtown Athens scene. Ever since Thor — played by actor Chris Hemsworth — was caught with a Tropicália in “Marvel Avengers: Endgame,” Creature Comforts appears to have grown in popularity. Their menu hosts a diverse number of brews throughout the year, with one particular unique saison beer that contains tulsi, also known as holy basil, an Southeast Asian herb that is related to basil.

Tulsi beer featuring UGArden grown herb in cooler at Creature Comforts brewery

Tulsi beer, brewed with herb grown at UGArden, in cooler at Creature Comforts brewery in Athens.

The tulsi Creature Comforts uses in its brew is grown at UGArden, the university’s student-run organic garden. Noelle Joy is one of the founders of the medicinal herb garden at UGArden. A master’s degree graduate in horticulture and current doctoral candidate in the CAES Department of Horticulture, Joy’s research focuses on holy basil, and the herb has become a cornerstone of the garden as an ingredient in their signature teas and other products. The unique opportunity for UGArden to collaborate with Creature Comforts has helped support the garden.

“Working with UGArden has been wonderful. Their commitment to education and the community are two great reasons to admire the work they do beyond the wonderful crops they grow,” said Emily Sabula, marketing communications manager at Creature Comforts. “We’ve enjoyed adding their herbs to many of our beers over the years and look forward to continuing the partnership into the future.”

Experiential learning — applying skills and knowledge outside the classroom — has been a central tenet at CAES since its inception. The ability of CAES students to see their hard work become part of something greater instills an appreciation for collaboration and, in these cases, strengthens the connection between CAES and the local community.

For more information about CAES, visit the college website.

Courtney Cameron is a digital marketing intern for the UGA College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Office of Marketing and Communications.

take cars and trucks for granted. They’re part and parcel of our lives, giving some needy souls a status symbol, a look at me thing. Things are changing, however, as they always do. Now and then I meet a young person who has no car or truck. “A car? I don’t need one. I Uber.” That’s the new cool taxi-like way to get from A to B.

Some of us would never Uber. We drive and drive. Then, “Well, the miles are high now. Time for a new ride.” We won’t park the old trucks or cars in some bare spot and wait for a forest to overtake them. We trade up for newfangled technology—hybrids, GPS, satellite radio, Bluetooth cell phones, all sorts of safety features, and some of you—not me—can’t wait to have a car that drives itself. Good luck with that.

No, people don’t hang onto ’em like they once did. They trade ’em, hand ’em down to relatives, and such. It pleases me that the also-dead owner-drivers of yesteryear kept their old rides and workhorses. Their parking lots of the dead, their graveyards of the rusted automobiles, left us museums of sorts. Still, so few of us visit them. Every time I come across one awe and mystery well up within me. It’s as if some rusting metal spirit missing an eye of a headlight speaks with a gas-burnt grasp through chrome grills that gleam still.

“Thank you for visiting us. It’s been many years since we’ve had company with one of y’all, a long time since a human touched us. If you come again, I promise you we’ll be here. As you can see our days of drinking gas and rolling and feeling the wind on windshields are long gone, gone with the wind. We sit and sit and sit. Parked forever you could say.”

Assessors board to meet

The following dates are for the 2021 regular scheduled meetings of the Lincoln County Board of Tax Assessors. All meetings are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Lincoln County Tax Assessors Office located at 182 Humphrey Street.

Any changes in meeting, dates, and times will be posted on the bulletin board of the Lincoln County Courthouse, and the front door of the Tax Assessors Office. When time allows, we will also notify the Lincoln Journal.

Tues., July 20; Tues., Aug. 17; Tues., Sept. 21; Tues., Oct. 19; Tues., Nov. 16; Tues., Dec. 21.



BENTON CUNNINGHAM Benton Cunningham earns Doctor of Education degree from Augusta University

Benton W. Cunningham recently received a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Innovation with a concentration in Educational Leadership from Augusta University on May 13, 2021 at the Evans Towne Center Park in Evans, Georgia.

Cunningham’s dissertation was “A Mixed-Methods Study on the Experiences and Beliefs of Teachers in Professional Development for the Implementation of Visible Learning.” Prior to the commencement exercises, Cunningham, along with eight members of the Class of 2021, participated in a doctoral hooding ceremony that took place at the James Brown Arena in Augusta, Georgia.

Cunningham began her career as a middle grades teacher with Lincoln County Middle School in 2003. She later served as the Director of Teaching and Learning for the school district and is currently employed with the Columbia County Board of Education as the Digital Learning Specialist.

Cunningham is married to Keith Cunningham, and they have a daughter, Harper. She is the daughter of Joe and Brenda Willis.

Clark benefit fund at FSB

A fund to benefit Joy Clark had been established at Farmers State Bank. Donations are needed to help Joy with medical expenses as she has been diagnosed with liver cancer. Donations can be made at Farmers State Bank or mailed to PO Box 99, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

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