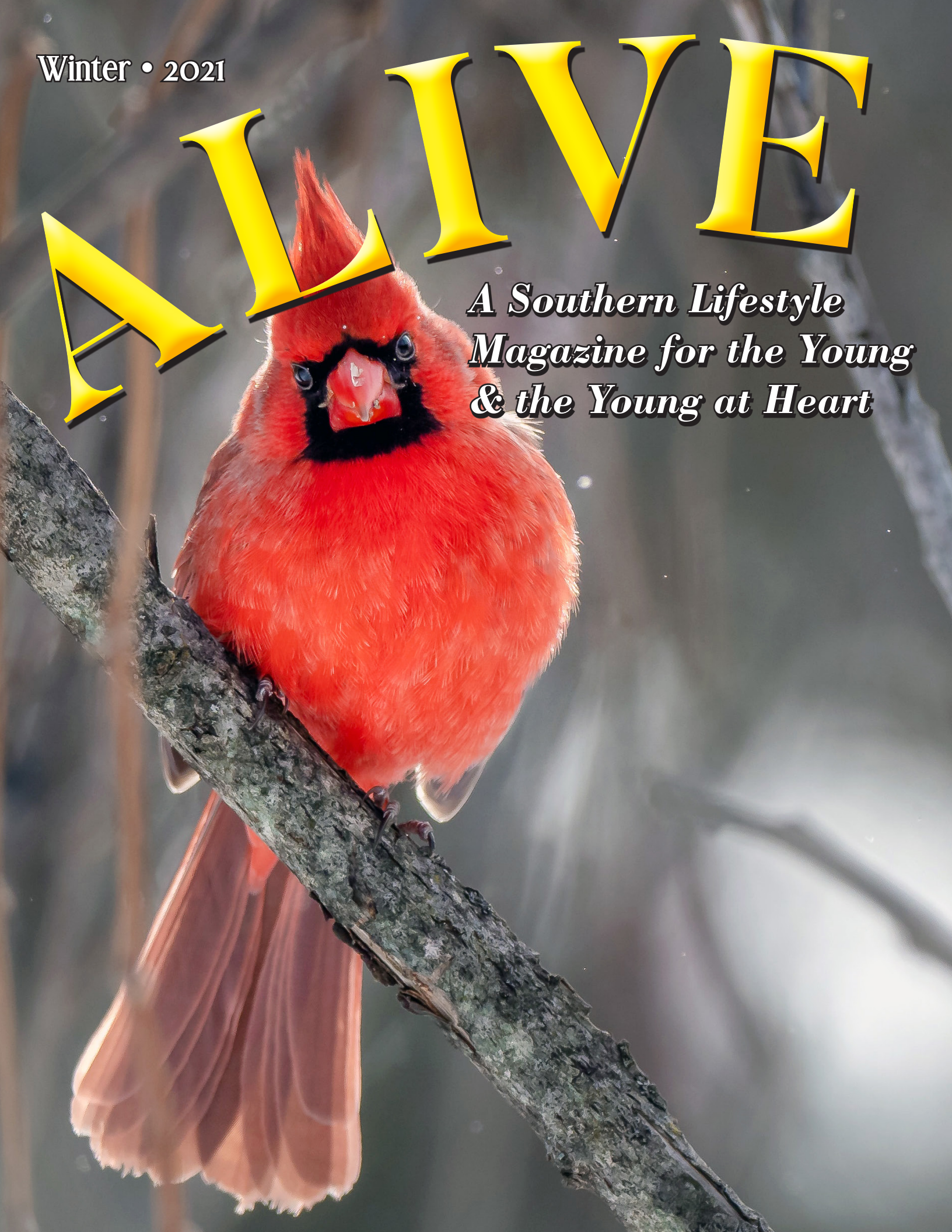


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As the new year approaches, we always hope it will be better than the last. Here the last couple of years that hasn't really been too hard to do. But with a lot of love and cooperation with one another we can get our homes back to as normal as they used to be. As you look over our magazine, please know that we filled it with time, energy and love. We truly hope that you take some time for yourself, sit back, relax for a bit and enjoy our efforts. We wish you an amazing and blessed 2022! - John Wambles, Publisher

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The BICENTENNIAL of HENRY CO. & the CITY OF PARIS is here!

written by: Jennifer Wheatley

Carl Holder and Jackie Jones are a dream team, like watching a baseball pitcher and catcher who can read each other's signals perfectly and know, almost intrinsically, how to proceed. It's no wonder the duo were asked to serve as chair and secretary of the Paris-Henry County Bicentennial Planning and Coordination Committee.

Holder is the former Paris City Manager and Jones is a City Commissioner.

Henry County's 200 year birthday occurred in 2021 and City of Paris'

actual bicentennial will be in 2023, so the party started in late 2021 with a Founders Day and will carry on until 2023 with a series of events. Jones says both the desire for the city and county to work together and "celebrate everything," and Covid concerns helped define the dates. She also wants to see "all the communities in the county" have their moment to shine.

Henry County, Tennessee – Family History Book is being printed by Acclaim Press as a key part of the festivities. Jones

says it will feature "families, businesses and churches". The sale price will be \$59.95 and it is being pre-sold now as narratives are being collected. Family histories, not to exceed 500 words, and one family photograph may be submitted for free to Henry County Family History Book, PO Box 535, Paris, TN 38242, or digitally to Hcbicen200@gmail.com. The information may also be dropped off at the Henry County Archives, 215 Grove Boulevard, Suite A, in Paris. Hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 am to 3 pm and

Tuesdays, 9 am to noon. For more information about this history book, contact Stephanie Tayloe at steppyrt@att.net.

While the commemorative edition will have submissions from local citizens, the Planning Committee will also have some space to share stories. Holder is especially excited about the history of “African American quilts passed down from slavery to the 1930s,” each with a special meaning.

The Paris-Henry County Heritage Center at Cavitt Place, where Holder served two terms as board chair, is the focal point of the planning. Other committee members include David Webb, co-chair and County Commissioner and Historian; Kasey Meunch, Paris-Henry Chamber of Commerce; Stephanie Routon, Henry County Archives; Lucy Presson, PSSD and Henry County Schools; Kathy Ray, Downtown Paris Association; Suzy Herron, Heritage Center; Kathy Collins, WG Rhea Library; Daniel Williams, Paris Post-Intelligencer; Marsha Vanaswitz, Puryear native; and Shannon McFarlin, author.

A series of Lunch and Learn events will be staged at the Heritage Center as part of the Bicentennial, including:


Friday, January 14 – The Puryear Story, History and Lore, told by Gary ‘Peanut’ Paschall

Friday, February 18 – The Existential Nature and Life of the Negro Spiritual, told by Kenneth Humphreys



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Friday, March 11 – The Story of Henry and Its Kissing Cousins, told by Charlotte Barnes

Friday, April 1 – The Lore of Buchanan, Its Story, Then and Now, told by Dr. Jeffrey Morris

Friday, April 22 – The Charming Name and Charming Story of Cottage Grove, told by June Kemp

Friday, May 20 – Treasure at Our Feet, the Intriguing Story of an International Industry Created from West Tennessee Ball Clay, presented by Phillip Boyd

Saturday, June 4 – Unsung Heroes – The Story of a Local Firefighter Whose Initiative Changed Firefighting Forever and Other Stories of Valor, told by Suzanne Richter

Each luncheon will have limited seating of 25 and reservations may be made by calling the Heritage Center, 731.642.1030. A suggested donation for each lunch is \$20.

Another special event will be based on African American music, “From the Motherland to Modern Day,” at the Krider Performing Arts Center on February 25, with Andre Richardson.

While funding for the two year celebration is primarily being provided by the City of Paris and Henry County, other partner organizations include the Henry County Fair, the Paris-Henry County Arts Council, WG Rhea Library, BPU’s Project Roundup, Helping Hand and the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. The Arts Council sponsored a fiction writing competition and the Library installed a storybook trail at Eiffel Tower Park.

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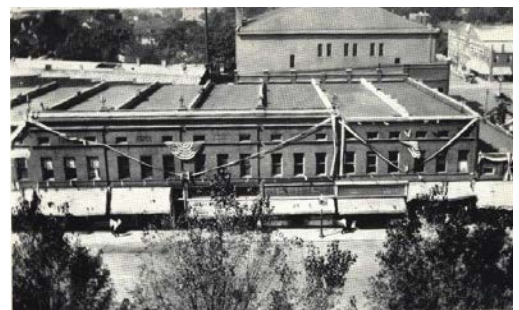
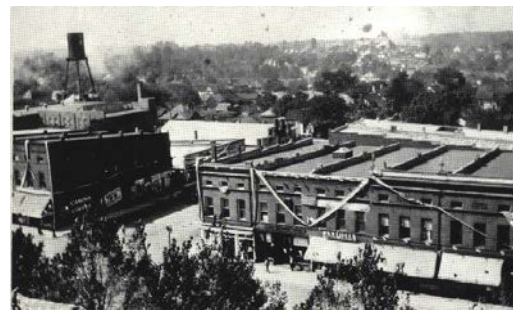
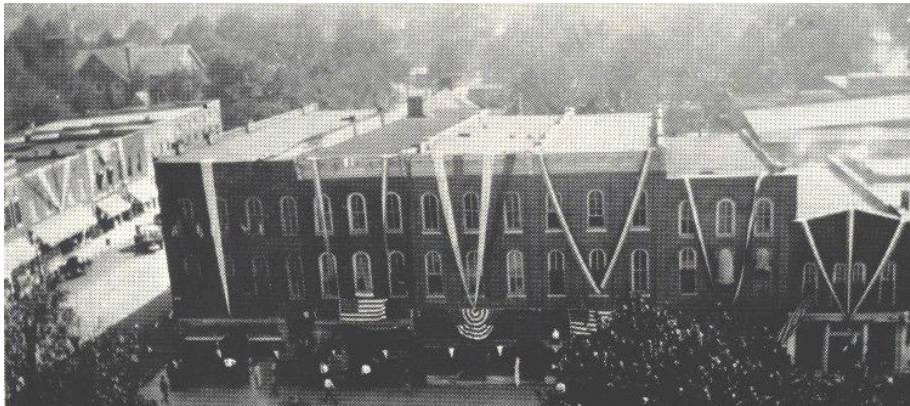
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t-shirt or baseball jersey. All the commemorative clothing, along with a stainless steel drink container, are available at the Heritage Center, Lura Lee's and Bo and Co.

put from students, everything from coloring contests to essay writing” and Jones says the committee remains open to suggestions and “always needs volunteers.”

While a great deal of planning has already gone into the Paris-Henry County Bicentennial, Holder still hopes to see “in-

For more information, check the group’s Facebook page, local media outlets or www.parishenryco200.com.



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WINTER

Is Not The Time

To Neglect Your Garden & Plants

written by: Alsey Gwinn Wheatley

Chores. They are a necessary part of being a good gardener, but if you're anything like me then they're also something you promise yourself you'll get around to and then forget about entirely. Oh sure, I put my pruners and my spade away for the winter in their proper place every year, and bundle up the bean poles

for reuse in spring. But there always seems to be a handful of tasks I struggle to get around to once the weather turns truly cold and the comfort of my fireplace calls.

One of the most egregious tasks that I struggle to accomplish is tree trimming. Generally speaking, I only bother to

go out and trim branches when they droop too low for me to get under while on the mower. But like all rules there are exceptions, and right now I have exactly three of them. There are two apples and an impressively large pear tree in our front yard that were planted long before I ever came to live in my house. Unfortunately

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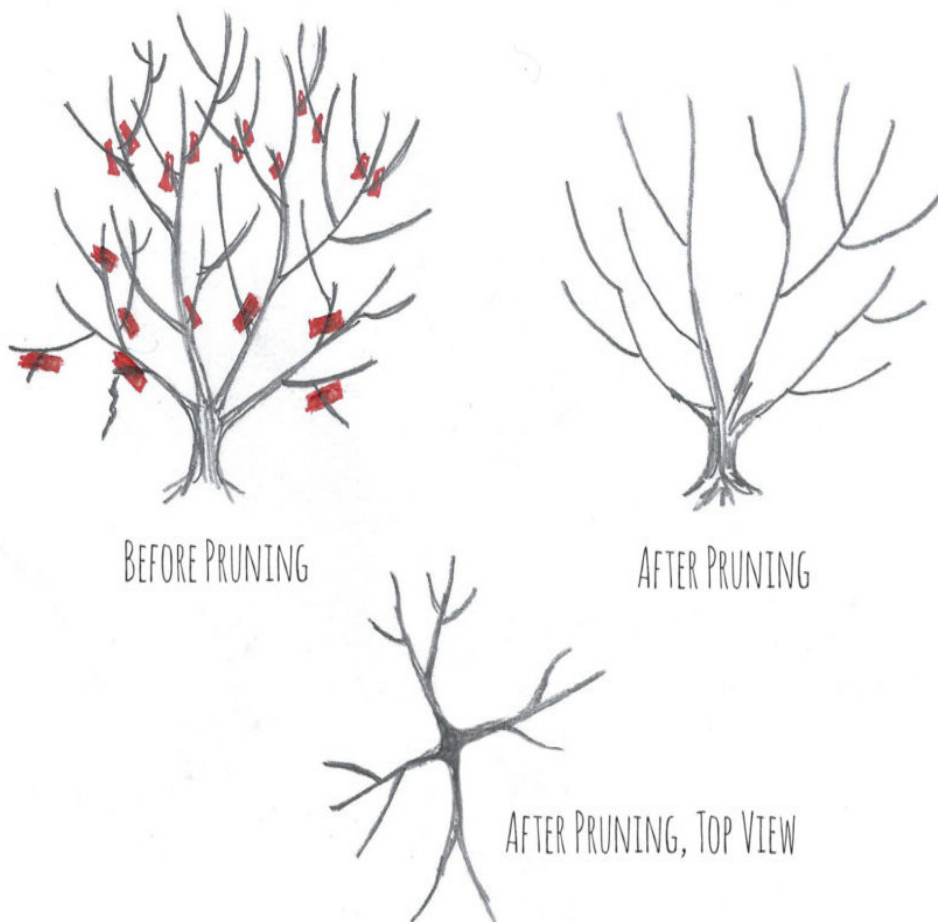
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their age shows in how massively overgrown they are.

Ideally, fruit trees are managed so that they grow in a goblet shape. This shape has a number of benefits for both the tree and the gardener. The tree gets more air flow between its foliage, which cuts down on diseases like rust or fungus. It also opens the tree up so that it receives the greatest amount of sunlight, which allows it to grow better without having to let it grow its canopy wider and larger. This shape is also ideal for the gardener, as the goblet allows for the most pollinator access to the tree's flowers, gives you the greatest fruit production for its size, and allows for more even ripening of said fruit.



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That does, however, necessitate trimming said trees. As soon as the subject is brought up every gardener has the same worrisome thought cross their minds; will I trim too much and hurt my tree? While this is absolutely possible, there is a very easy industry standard to follow that will keep you from doing so. Fruit trees should never be pruned down more than roughly a third in a single year to avoid damaging them. Personally, I find it safer to aim for around half that much so that there is plenty of room for error. That figure can certainly be frustrating for gardeners like me, who prefer a job be finished once it is started. However, it's important to keep in mind that a well tended tree can live for decades. There's no rush to create the perfect goblet shape all at once. In fact, giving your tree time to grow new branches between annual or biannual prunings can result in both a healthier tree and a more even goblet shape.

The question then is how does one achieve this shape. It's not an overly difficult process, for all

that it can be a time consuming one. The idea is to have a trunk that comes up and then splits into forks, which then branch out away from the center trunk. From that point it's relatively simple to trim away the growth that bends back towards the center of the tree to achieve the proper shape.

An additional step that is very practical is to also manage the height of your trees. It's not strictly necessary for their health, but I find that it is for my own. Preferably, my fruit trees would only be as tall as I could manage while standing on the ground. I'm not as young as I used to be, and despite my best efforts I'm becoming resigned to the fact that I'll only get older. With a toddler to keep an eye on as well, it's simply impractical to have to climb a tree in order to responsibly care for it. A ladder would be an option worth considering, but it should also go without saying that yards are hardly the most even surface to use one on. Though it's many years too late for my current fruit trees, any others I plant will be kept to a very strict height limit; anything that grows taller than I can comfortably lift my arms to reach will have to go.

Though at the time of writing I have still shamefully put off trimming my own trees, I encourage you to be more proactive than I am. A good pair of cutters, and perhaps a tree saw for the more stubborn branches, should get you started nicely. So long as you are trimming during a stint of a few days of above freezing conditions there is little risk to your tree, and the benefits of completing this chore make it's tediousness well worth it.



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Don McLain, the builder of baby doll beds, toy tool boxes and foot stools, in his favorite place at home, his workshop!



Don has built more than 900 baby doll beds since he started two years ago.

Barbara Wambles, Don's helper, can find people all over the place to give baby doll beds to. These ladies were at her son's wedding.



Don taking a break at one of the Ronald McDonald Houses that he delivers to in Pensacola, FL.



After the wedding, Barbara found some workers at the hotel that had kid's at home that would love some baby doll beds.



Gracie Medlin, of Camden, giving Don the thumbs up because she loves her doll bed.



Wanting A Change

- Leads To A -

New Career

written by: **Jennifer Wheatley**

Deanna Webb Montgomery, Lexington, has been selling items on eBay, off and on, for the past 22 years, but it became a full-time career about two years ago. After four car wrecks and two back surgeries, she wanted something different than her work as a merchandiser or mystery shopper. Her eBay store, Aunt Dea's Treasures, currently has about 1100 items listed, primarily women's clothes, shoes and purses, and she has approximately 3500 more ready to go. She estimates that she could go a year without acquiring any more items to sell, but she doubts she will. Deanna thinks "the hunt for the deal" is the best part of running an online store.

She is also a big fan of keeping her own hours, being available if her parents, children or husband need her, and not reporting to a boss. She has mitigated the downside of entrepreneurship because her husband's full-time job provides family insurance and she dedicates enough hours every week to keep her paycheck steady. Which is not to say working exclusively online is easy. She is very aware of eBay's algorithms and knows she has to



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run auctions, set her prices correctly and ship out items she sells quickly. She is also very mindful of her customer satisfaction rating and has remained at 100% consistently. Selling women's clothing also means lots of work prior to listing the items. She measures every piece, because sizes are not the same brand to brand. She also steams every item before it leaves her house.

Organization is a huge factor with an online store. All of Deanna's listings include a number. The listed items are stored in corresponding clear bin in her garage, as she learned the hard way that solid bins are a good way to lose items. Unlisted items, those which still have to be checked and photographed, are in a separate storage building outside. She ships outs about 10 sold items a day.

So where does she get all of these items to sell? Deanna started with her own closet, then moved on to her mom's and her sister's. She also buys clothing from the folks who buy storage units at auction. She says "They usually don't want to deal with the clothes." But clothes are Deanna's thing, and she wants to buy as many as she can in one purchase, frequently offering yard and estate sale vendors a price to take all they have. Buying in bulk is her strategy for making money. She has usually paid about \$1 for each item she sells and most sell for \$15 – 20. But buying it all, sometimes unseen, has its downfalls. She donates "at least half" of everything she buys and keeps both "donate" and "needs washing" bins in her storage building. A recent purchase resulted in her donation of 200 pairs of shoes.



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While networking with her contacts within the reseller community is her favorite way to acquire merchandise, sometimes she goes out on a limb, buying the storage unit items herself. She once chose a unit that seemed to have an unopened printer and a Nike box. It turned out “boxes can be deceiving” and neither box contained those items. She did get a bag of rice.

Deanna says the items which sell best for her are jeans and pants, size 12 and up, and that she can sell “Walmart as well as Calvin Klein.” New items with tags are especially easy to move. Like other sellers, she tries not to keep an item over a year and will begin the process of marking down to clearance to donation to make room for new merchandise in her store. Plus sizes sell better than regular sizes and she generally declines any size small clothing, as they don't seem to sell.

While she has her niche, sometimes items just find their way to her, like a big collection of 1960s romance novels. Curious even though it wasn't

her usual fare, she listed them and learned that there were lots of interested buyers, but that the books only sold when grouped together in lots of ten. She also learned that some brands have particularly loyal followers, such as Harley Davidson. A vintage Harley t-shirt, which she labeled as being in bad condition, sold for more than 25 times what she paid for it.

Deanna's husband, Richard, also sells some items on eBay, mainly electronics. Two of her sons also dabble in re-selling.

While re-selling is Deanna's full-time job, she is especially careful not to take advantage of anyone. She won't ask for a better deal if she visits a yard sale and finds high quality items. Like when she struck a bargain with a woman she encountered recently. Deanna paid \$10 for a small bin of purses and discovered later that several were designer bags, which she had authenticated. Deanna reached back out to the woman and offered to split the profits on the bags with the seller because the woman ‘didn't know what she had.’

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Got something to sell? Contact Deanna at her Facebook page Aunt Dea's Treasures. That is also the name of her store on eBay.



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Simpler Times
by Bonnie Lill

Aunt Rose's Donuts

Aunt Rose, if she were alive today, would be shocked that she and her donuts would be the subject of a Southern magazine article.

“Heavenly days!” she would exclaim, throwing her hands up in the air...and then she would get back to deftly rolling, cutting and frying the delicious treats that screamed “Christmas” to those in my family.

When you think of Aunt Rose’s donuts, don’t think of Dunkin or Krispy Crème. While tasty, those lack the charisma and staying power of Aunt Rose’s donuts, which are meant to be a meal and are born to be dunked. Aunt Rose’s donuts have a delicate, unique flavor that does not need additional sugars or frostings. They are good as-is.

Indeed, this iconic holiday staple was nearly lost to history save for the efforts of her brother-in-law, my grandfather.

Back in the day, there was no written recipe for Aunt Rose’s donuts. For years, she just mixed them up as she always had, when she was young and her mother was ill and died; when her father sent back to Ireland for her mother’s younger sister, whom he subsequently married; when four more siblings eventually came along to keep the three from the first marriage on their toes. After all, the family and the farm hands had to eat, and no food is more substantial than Aunt Rose’s donuts.

During the Great Depression, when the family left the farm and moved into town, donuts vacated the realm of the everyday and became holiday fare. For many years, the sisters gathered early in December to spend the day making many batches of donuts. Some would always make their way to suburban Chicago so our holiday season could officially commence. My grandmother always used the last bits of dough to fashion donut turtles that would go in our Christmas stockings.

Aunt Rose was elderly when my grandfather showed up at her door on donut day, little black manual typewriter in hand, to record her recipe. (He had the beginnings of Parkinson's, and his handwriting was too wiggly to be read easily.) She graciously tried to measure the ingredients as she prepared the dough, and he valiantly recorded every component and each sacred action. He kept recording through the cooking process, asking questions until he was sure he had it down correctly.

That day marked a milestone in the family. We now had the tool to carry on the tradition. Eventually, my mother began making the donuts each

year as the elder sisters passed away and my own grandmother lost her sight.

Each year still brings the quest for the perfect donut – the one that doesn't split along the outer edges and is still cooked through. Hours have been spent debating how thin to roll the dough, the proper way to cook them (cast iron on a gas stove works best), what kind of fat to use (shortening is easier, but lard makes a lighter and less greasy confection), and how to prepare the mashed potatoes – yes, you heard correctly, mashed potatoes – that are the secret ingredient to Aunt Rose's donuts. While you can just cook a spud and mash it, I prefer leftover mashed potatoes from supper, full of butter and milk and salt, but no pepper.

While my siblings and I and some of our children have made Aunt Rose's donuts, two family members have emerged as the current donut queens: my sister Elaine, who is nearing the age of Aunt Rose when she imparted the family recipe, and my younger daughter Katie, who still has 30 years



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to go to meet that mark. Thanks to their culinary efforts, the fame of Aunt Rose's donuts has spread far and wide. Everybody wants in on this tradition.

Donut day at each home finds family and friends of all ages gathered for the amazing production. Some mix, some roll, others cut, still others cook, and the remainder sample for quality assurance. Christmas carols are playing, but they often can't be heard over the conversations and laughter. The last bits of dough are used to fashion pig heads with unpredictable snouts (use the donut cutter as usual but leave the donut hole in, pinch up a couple of ears, then fry. The donut hole becomes a snout!). Finally, an easy supper is shared, and the donuts are packed up and divvied out.

Aunt Rose's donuts are delicious, but more importantly, they are a food that links one generation to the next. One year when Aunt Rose was still on the farm, the donuts fried up looking like cookies rather than donuts, but they tasted fine. No one could ever figure out why that happened. That one donut incident has created a shared story that has been passed down. That's just one demonstration of the significance of tradition.

Alfred Lord Tennyson said, "I am a part of all that I have met." Now that you have met Aunt Rose and her incredible donuts, it would be unconscionable of me not to give you the recipe, so they can be a part of you, too, although hopefully not on your waistline. Feel free to try, to tweak, and to take Aunt Rose's donuts as part of your own terrific traditions!

Aunt Rose's Donuts

3 eggs	2 cups flour to start with
1½ - 2 cups sugar	1 rounded tsp. baking powder
1 cup mashed potatoes	7 Tbsp. lard or shortening
1½ tsp. Vanilla	½ cup buttermilk
¼ tsp. Nutmeg	½ tsp. baking soda
A little salt	

Beat eggs slightly, add sugar, potatoes, vanilla, nutmeg, 2 cups flour, baking powder and melted shortening or lard.

Add soda to buttermilk and add to above ingredients. Mix well. Then add enough flour to make a medium stiff dough. Roll out and cut with a donut cutter, frying in deep hot fat 375-400 degrees. Fry donuts and holes separately unless you are making pig faces.

When you drop the donuts into the grease, turn it as soon as it comes to the top to prevent it from splitting open. Turn several times until browned.

Makes about 40-55, depending on how thin you roll the dough.



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A Little History

Explaining the Mystery of

Valentine's Day

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Remember decorating a shoe box or paper sack so your friends could give you a little St. Valentine's Day card in elementary school? Your name had to be big and clear. Now we know that everybody gave everybody a card, so it wasn't quite as important as it seemed, but back then it really mattered. We all knew that while we were at home signing all the cards, addressing one to each and every classmate, that maybe we cheated a little, drew a heart or added a sticker for our BEST friends. We certainly looked through the box of 30 and picked out the sweetest messages or coolest photos for the people we really liked and used the ones that weren't so special for that boy who tormented us on the playground. A few years later we were desperate for that same boy to send us flowers or buy a box of candy. Even later, St. Valentine's Day is a traditional time to propose or even have a wedding. Little did we know that our notes were part of the over 145 million that are sent every year!

A day for more than just candy & commerce

Retail sales related to the day exceed \$17 billion annually. But how did we come to celebrate love and affection in the middle of February?

St. Valentine is the name of at least three Catholic saints. One of them continued to perform marriages as a priest even after they had been banned for young men in Roman Emperor Claudius II's army. Another signed a note to a young woman who had been kind to him while he was imprisoned "From Your Valentine". The timing may be based on the death or burial of one of these saints, but it is also closely related to a Roman fertility festival called Luperci, celebrated on February 15, in honor of Romulus and Remus, the mythical founders of Rome.

The spread of Christianity led to Pope Gelasius, around 500 AD, declaring the holiday for St. Valentine. Some of the confusion about the holiday's origins also begin here, because Normans were participating in Galatin's Day at the same time. Galatin means "lover of women." Mid-February was also believed to be the beginning of mating season for birds, as acknowledged in a poem by Chaucer.

Written Valentines came later, around 1400, and England's Henry V is said to have hired a writer to help him woo Catherine of Valois.

Lots of countries besides the United States participate in all the love, including Mexico, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and France. Finland and Estonia take a different path, recognizing platonic love on Friends Day, rather than romance.

Printing presses led to mass produced Valentine's Day cards, but Esther Howland was making them by hand in the 1840s, using lace, ribbons and pictures. Esther probably would have never guessed that the day of love and romance would eventually have to share the calendar with SAD – that's Single Awareness Day. SAD is an alternative encouraging those not attached to celebrate on his/her own.

Ever heard of a "vinegar Valentine"? It's the opposite of a sweet message. Popular during the Victorian period, they were sent to people who were NOT loved. Here's an example: "Because I love another, there is no chance for you!" Not cool.

Secret gifts were popular in Europe in the 19th century, but flowers have emerged as the gift associated with Valentine's Day. Florists often have to submit orders by Thanksgiving of the previous year to lock in prices. The only day that generates more flowers being sent in the US is Mother's Day. Austrians have added a twist to the flower giving though, part of their custom is that the young man has to learn his beloved's favorite flower and send a bouquet – he has to get it right! The traditional dozen roses won't work.

The Italians also have a special Valentine's Day custom. Available young women can get up early and stare out their windows. The first man who passes by, or someone who looks like him, will propose within the year. Did you get that? Doesn't necessarily have to be that exact man, just someone who looks like him!

A celebration is truly culturally pervasive when it is recognized by fictional characters, even dolls. Barbie officially broke up with Ken on Valentine's Day 2004. They got back together on February 14, 2011. According to Mattel, this reconciliation was achieved after Ken offered "a series of grand gestures that included everything from personalized cupcakes ...to billboards professing his love."



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