

Welcome Neighbor!

Please consider this the *SECOND CALL* for the Brentsville One-Room School Reunion to be held on September 8, 2007, starting at 11:00am. Personalized invitations are being prepared and should be in the mail very soon. If you have items of memorabilia from your school days, please bring them. We will have a "show and tell" session to share those memories with everyone present!

With this issue we are trying to get back to the "old" format that includes one of the Brentsville buildings. As you will see, the buildings we feature are not necessarily "old" but each has its unique information and, after all, the combination of the old and the new is what makes Brentsville such a wonderful place. If you know of a special building about which you would like to learn more, please let us know and we will attempt to get the details for you.

On July 7th there was a wedding in the Union Church with around 75 guests. How wonderful to see this grand old building used once more! And the church bell sounded especially lovely as the bride and groom walked through the doors to begin their new life together. A new beginning for them and a new beginning for the site with a promise of many more events to come. Just a reminder, if you have a group that would like a guided tour of the courthouse buildings and grounds, you may contact the site manger, Rob Orrison at 703-365-7895 or you can contact Morgan at 703-791-5524 and he will assist in arranging the tour for you.

So, DID YOU KNOW that August is . . . National Catfish Month, National Golf Month, National Eye Exam Month, National Water Quality Month, Romance Awareness Month, Peach Month, and Foot Health Month (didn't they already have this?).

Very best wishes, Nelson & Morgan

This month:

- A Brentsville Building The Hedges' Home -----pages 2, 3
 At Home in Brentsville by Nancy Hedges -----pages 4, 5
- > Where Wild Things Live ----- pages 4 & 6
- ➢ From the Brentsville Courthouse -----page 6
- Flashback! ----- page 7

A Brentsville Building The home of Larry & Nancy Hedges

As is the case with almost every home built along what we now call Izaak Walton Drive (formerly called the Donovan Road), this property was originally part of a joint ownership between Richard Donovan and Solomon Spitzer of property acquired from J.P. Leachman, et al., by deed of March 1, 1899 (DB47/50-1). This partnership later split with Richard Donovan taking the property in the Cedar Run loop while Solomon Spitzer kept the property in Brentsville and vicinity. Solomon died in his home in Brentsville on March 12, 1928, and in his will left all of his property on the right side of the Donovan Road from the Cooper Place to the Donovan Farm to his daughter, Tracie I. Whetzel, wife of Jesse J. Whetzel. (WB2/110)

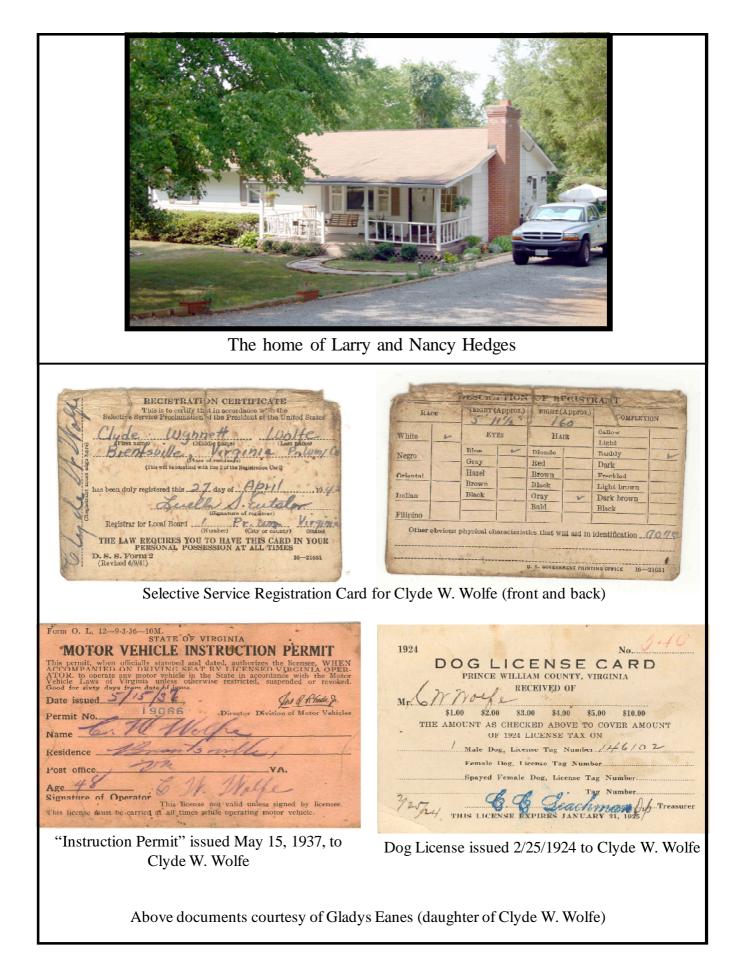
On February 13, 1947, Tracie and Jesse Whetzel sold +/- 20 acres to R. Lee Molair. (DB124/65-6) Included was the right of ingress and egress over the Donovan Road to Virginia State Route 619. Also included was the right to use, for domestic purposes only, a small spring in a common area but it was clearly stated that he may not pipe water from the spring or any other use that would interfere with the common use (of the spring) thereof. (DB124/65-6)

Less than a year later, on November 18, 1947, Lee Molair sold 3.2800 acres of land to Orlan D. and Ruth S. Falck . (DB128/460). After three years, Orland & Ruth Falck sold this property on October 12, 1950, to John L. & Elizabeth F. Meyer. (DB147/401) The Meyer's wanted more property to farm so on January 24, 1951, they obtained from Lee Molair an additional 10.6761 acres. (DB149/ 429-30) There is a "Plan of Land owned and to be acquired by John L. Meyer" located in DB149/431. This plat shows 10.6761 acres along Donovan Road which borders with O'Neil, Dickens, and Dickens and a second plat of 3.2800 acres acquired by DB128/460.

After 8 years, John & Elizabeth Meyer sold their 13.1840 acres on September 13, 1955, to Edward A. Stuart, Jr., and his wife, Edith R. Stuart. (DB191/130) They must have regretted this action because almost exactly one year later, on September 5, 1956, they purchased the same property BACK from Edward and Edith Stuart. (DB206-338-9) They remained on the farm an additional 16 years until on December 14, 1972, they finally started to divide it by selling one acre to Gilbert S. and Alice B. Counts (DB663/721-2) who built a house and made this their home.

Four years later, on March 4, 1976, Gilbert and Alice Counts sold their one acre and house to Larry R. & Nancy M. Hedges who still make this their home. See Nancy's story on page five.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.



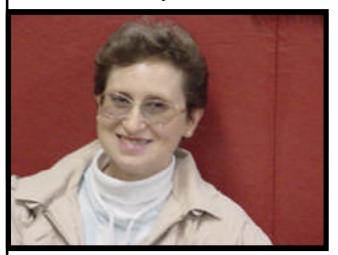
-3-



Nancy at the Courthouse, May 3, 2003



Nancy and Fran Hibbs volunteering at the Courthouse, September 29, 2002



Nancy in the one-room school, March 9, 2002

Where WILD things live..



Rubus idaeus Red Raspberry See page 7



Catherine Counts Corner Celebrating 80 years! July 14, 2007

At Home in Brentsville by Nancy Hedges

The Hedges family has been in and around what is now Prince William County since the late 1600's. But they didn't settle in Brentsville until March, 1976 when Larry and Nancy purchased a home on Izaak Walton Drive. This house was built by Gilbert Counts and is located at the end of Izaak Walton next to the old Donovan farm. When we moved here it was still a farm with cows and pigs. I grew up on a farm in Highland County, VA

and it was fun to be talking to Mom on the phone and say "Hey, there're cows in the garden" or horses or pigs. (And they thought we lived in the city!) After we had been here a few years, the farm was bought by Jim and Charlene Creech. They let our family use the land most anytime we wanted, for ball games, sleigh riding, fishing and just wandering. We kept watch on a fox family one year,

over near Cedar Run. Another time we gathered paw paws. Then they sold out to a developer...

Mark was four when we moved to Brentsville and David was born in 1979. Mark and I started attending the Brentsville Presbyterian Church and when David got old enough, he came with us. One day David started talking about the "Sunday School Grandma." It took awhile to figure out what he was talking about and who. In his young mind, any nice lady with white hair was a grandma and his Sunday School teacher was a nice lady with white hair - so Lucy Hartman became his Sunday School Grandma.

When the church decided to sponsor a 4-H club, about 1984, I became a co-leader. Mark was a very active member, growing mums, competing in the consumer bowl, and completing many other projects. The club toured the White House and attended the Highland Maple Festival. One summer day, Agnes Webster gave our club a tour of the Brentsville Courthouse, the jail and school.

> She told us the story of the hanging tree- actually she said she didn't know where the hangin' took place but it could have been from one of the trees in the front lawn. At that time the Park Authority was using the buildings for office space and Agnes was looking forward to the day when they moved out and the buildings could return to community use.

Both Mark and David attended school in Nokesville from kindergarten thru grade 12. They liked school and enjoyed taking part in many activities, especially sports. They played little league baseball, basketball, cross county and track. Mark was a clothespin in the fifth grade play, *Once upon a Clothesline*. David was a Beatle singing *Yellow Submarine* in the Brentsville Follies. They both enjoyed entering and working at the county fair. Mark continued his education at Mary Washington College, graduating in 1995. He currently works for ATCC in Manassas. He is married and lives in

(Continued on page 7)



Where WILD Things Live

The **Raspberry** or **Red Raspberry** (*Rubus idaeus*) is a plant that produces a tart, sweet, red composite fruit in summer or early autumn. In proper botanical language, it is not a berry at all, but instead an aggregate fruit of numerous drupelets around a central core. In raspberry, the drupelets separate from the core when picked, leaving a hollow fruit, whereas in blackberry the drupelets stay attached to the core. The **black raspberry**, also called a **blackcap**, is not the same plant, being a variety (usually) of *Rubus occidentalis*, a North American species.

It typically grows in forest clearings or fields, particularly where fire or wood-cutting has produced open space for colonization by this opportunistic colonizer of disturbed soil. The raspberry flower can be a major nectar source for honeybees. As a cultivated plant in moist temperate regions, it is easy to grow and has a tendency to spread unless cut back. This is the wild-type summer bearing, that produces an abundance of fruit on second-year canes within a relatively short period in midsummer.

Leaves of the raspberry cane are used fresh or dried in herbal and medicinal teas. The leaves have an astringent flavour and in herbal medicine are reputed to be effective in regulating menses. Leaves are found in groups of 3 or 5 and the undersides are silver-white in color. Blackberries have similar looking leaves but the undersides are green.

Raspberries contain significant amounts of polyphenol antioxidants, chemicals linked to promoting endothelial and cardiovascular health. Xylitol, a sugar alcohol alternative sweetener, can be extracted from raspberries. They are considered a highfiber food at over 8 grams dietary fiber per cup. They are an excellent source of vitamin C and manganese, a good source of vitamin K and magnesium and contain some calcium and iron.

From the times of ancient Greeks and Romans raspberry was used not only as food but also as medicine. In Armenian medical practice the raspberries were used against flu, chronic rheumatism and other

Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me, I want people to know "why" I look this way. I've traveled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved. diseases. The concentrate of the fruit with honey was used against rubella. The fruit is widely used against gum diseases, anemia, and stomachache, as well as for easing digestion and for sobering from drunkenness. In the scientific medicine raspberry is known as sweat generating, fever reducing means, it is also used for medical flavoring (especially for kids' medicine).

Raspberry fruits are very delicious. They are used fresh, as well as with sugar mixed with milk. Raspberry jam is also very delicious. The fruits are widely used in pastry production, as well as liquor and vodka production. They are frozen for long term use.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raspberry

From the Brentsville Courthouse



At a County court continued and held for Prince William County, on Tuesday the 8th day of September 1891 Present, Hon. William E. Lipscomb, judge of said court.

Cahill & Company vs H.H. Love - On Removal

This day came the parties by their attorneys and the defendant pleaded nil debit to which the plaintiff replied generally and thereupon came a jury to wit:

J.L. Wise W.H. Breeden R.A. Keys W.A. Buckley Jno. W. Hall S.B. Sanders E.T. Wright John L. Wright Jno. G. Taylor B.W. Storke George G. Tyler J.R. Sullivan Who being sworn to well and truth, try the issue joined and after hearing the evidence and argument of counsel returned a verdict in these words. "We the jury find for the defendant." Thereupon it is considered by the court that the defendant recover against the plaintiffs his costs by him, in this behalf expended, thereupon the plaintiffs by their attorneys moved the court to set aside the said verdict & grant them a new trial and also motion in_ of judgement, which motions the court overruled; to which ruling the plaintiff exempted.

Source: PWC VA 1890-1891 Court Minutes, © 2003 by Ronald Ray Turner

Flashback

Letter from Brentsville Manassas Messenger January 30, 1947 (Abbreviated)

Well, from about 7 a.m. Saturday until Monday morning Brentsville was isolated from the world by some eight inches of snow. (We went out and measured it carefully with a poker.) A few rugged souls like Ben Shoemaker made the attempt to get through to Manassas, but in the main we stayed home and tended our fires, living on the proceeds of last summer's canning. There was no visiting and the only week-end guests were those who were trapped and couldn't get out, like Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Breeden and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wells, of Yorkshire, who were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Benny Breeden.

P.F.C. Bill Brown was home on leave over the week-end, and also Sergeant Johnney Bigelow.

Sickness is with us, we learn via the telephone; Mrs. James Burdette, who has been quite ill at the home of her mother, Mrs. Joe Keys, is reported as being much improved.

On Monday Mrs. Nelson Bradshaw spent the day in Alexandria, visiting her father, Mr. J. J. Owens.

Mrs. Wister Stephens spent Friday visiting her sister, Mrs. Nalls, in Alexandria.

A note has been received from Patsey Ann and Gary Keys, and Jedd Lankford, expressing thanks to all their friends in Brentsville who sent flowers and paid last respects to their mother, the late Mrs. Helen Keys.

> Best Regards, Agnes Webster

Catlett. David graduated from George Mason University in 2001. He married and was working for Fauquier County Government before losing his short battle with cancer in March, 2006.

Larry spent 37 years working for the phone company in Fairfax. When he wasn't there he was working around the house or yard or garden and spending time with his family, going to all the sporting events they were involved in - which meant many late nights coming home from away games. And fishing. He retired in 2001 at the same time David was finishing college. They joked that I was the only one working. I have been working part-time at the Nokesville Neighborhood Library since 1993 and have spent a lot of time volunteering for different organizations.

When the boys were young we thought of moving out of Prince William but neither one wanted to go. They liked living next to the farm, they liked their school, they liked living in Brentsville. And we still do.

Recently I asked Morgan to give a private tour of the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Center to The Nokesville Homemakers Club. The members were so impressed with the tour and Morgan's presentation that the Nokesville Library asked for a tour for their staff and volunteers. And Morgan has very generously agreed...

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation.

As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son.

"Yes, Dad, what is it?"

"Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife...."

Brentsville Neighbors

Information About Brentsville Shared Among Neighbors Contact us via e-mail on: MorganBreeden@aol.com

Please note: If you receive your copy damaged or with missing pages, PLEASE let us know and we will replace the copy right away.

Brentsville Neighbors c/o Morgan Breeden 9721 Windy Hill Drive Nokesville, VA 20181 In GOD we Trust

