

A TOUCH OF HISTORY

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

APRIL, 2000

Published by the Botetourt County Historical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 468, Fincastle, Va. 24090 0468

SIGN TO WELCOME AND INFORM ROUTE 220 TRAVELERS



Digging

Leveling

Finishing touches



Sign Design Completes Installation
(Wysong Blacksmith Shop and Park in Background)

Thanks to those travelers, who just happened to stop in Fincastle for a break and visited the Botetourt County Historical Museum. They suggested that we have a sign down the hill on Route 220, and the seed they planted grew.

Thanks to all who contributed the funds to cover the cost of this project: Historic Fincastle, Inc., the Town of Fincastle, the Bank of Fincastle, Moore Investments, Fincastle Pharmacy, Cahoon's Florist, R & B Foundation, Art Images and Fincastle Galleries.

Landscaping will be done by the students in the Horticulture Class at Botetourt Technical School. For information regarding boundaries of the Fincastle Historic District, see Pages 6 and 7.

**"Gone, But Not Forgotten"
Meaning of Early Gravestone Art
by Cynthia Cain Buskirk**

(Printed in the Jackson County Historical Society Newsletter - Ripley, WV-July 99)

- Handshake.....farewell to earthly existence
- Lamb.....symbolic of the Lamb of God, innocence, and the fragility of a child
- Doves.....the soul; purity
- Crossed Swords..... high-ranking military person
- anchors & Ships.....seafaring profession
- Flying Birds.....flight of the soul

- Sheaves of Wheat...time; the divine harvest, a symbol of the fulfilled life
- Willows..... earthly sorrows
- Butterfly..... a symbol of Resurrection and eternal life
- Heart...a symbol of understanding and love
- Ivy..... a symbol of comradeship, friendship, and memory
- Olive..... a symbol of peace
- Urn or draped vase.....a symbol of sorrow
- Pineapple..... friendship

- Hand with the finger Pointing Upward...a symbol of the hope of heaven
- The Weeping Willow.....Symbolic of sorrow and mourning
- Open gates..... A symbol that one has gone from this life to eternity through the gates of heaven

- The eye.....In early art works the eye of God was seen enclosed in a triangle which was used to symbolize the Trinity
- The torch.....symbolic of life and truth
- The Cross and Crown...Represents the promise of eternal life
- Sun..... the resurrection
- Urn with flame.....Represents the eternal spirit of man

- A broken column.....Symbol of life cut short
- A scallop shell.....Symbol of life and birth

- The Cross.....symbolic of faith
- Fish.....symbol of Christians
- Angels.....childhood innocence
- Praying hands.....faith in God

TRIBUTE TO A TREE THAT'S GONE

TREES

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

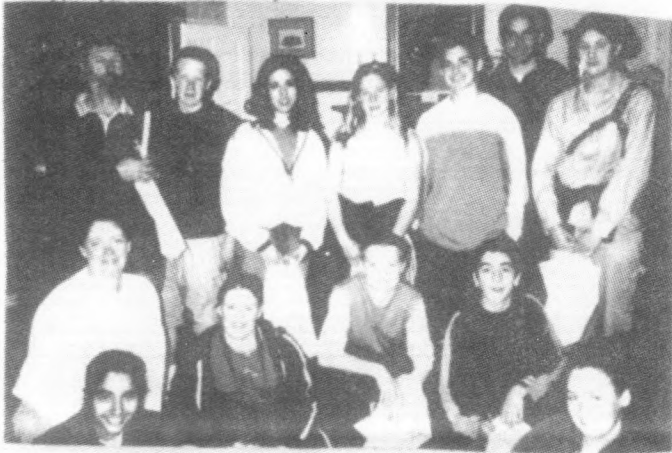
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.
Joyce Kilmer



EXCHANGE STUDENTS VISIT THE MUSEUM

Students who were 13 to 14 years old from Alloerton School, Leeds, England, were in Botetourt County for about three weeks. They stayed in homes of local school students and were taken on tours and visits by their host families to Williamsburg, Jamestown, the frontier village near Staunton, Explore Park near Roanoke and Fincastle. The highlight of their visit?? Going to the Malls! About six weeks after their visit, a group of our students went to the United Kingdom. The highlight of their trip?



NEW SIGN LANDSCAPED

Students in Jan Hensley's Horticulture II class at B-TEC helped landscape around the new sign on US 220 and Main Street in Fincastle that directs people to the Botetourt County Historical Museum and into Fincastle's Historic District. Funding for the sign and landscaping material came from Historic Fincastle, Inc. (HFI), The Town of Fincastle and area merchants.



From left are students Ryan Noble, Matt Croy, Amanda Gilbert, Chris Carr, Roger Valle, Amanda Garrett, Adrienne Linkenhoker and Instructor, Jan Hensley.

IT ISN'T THE TOWN,

IT'S YOU!

If you want to live in the kind of
a town
That's the kind of a town you
like,
You needn't slip your clothes in
a grip
And start on a long, long hike.

You'll find elsewhere what you
left behind,
For there's nothing that's
really new.

It's a knock at yourself when
you knock your town:
It isn't your town---it's you.

Real towns are not made by men
afraid
Lest somebody else gets ahead

When everybody works and no-
body shirks

You can raise a town from the
dead.

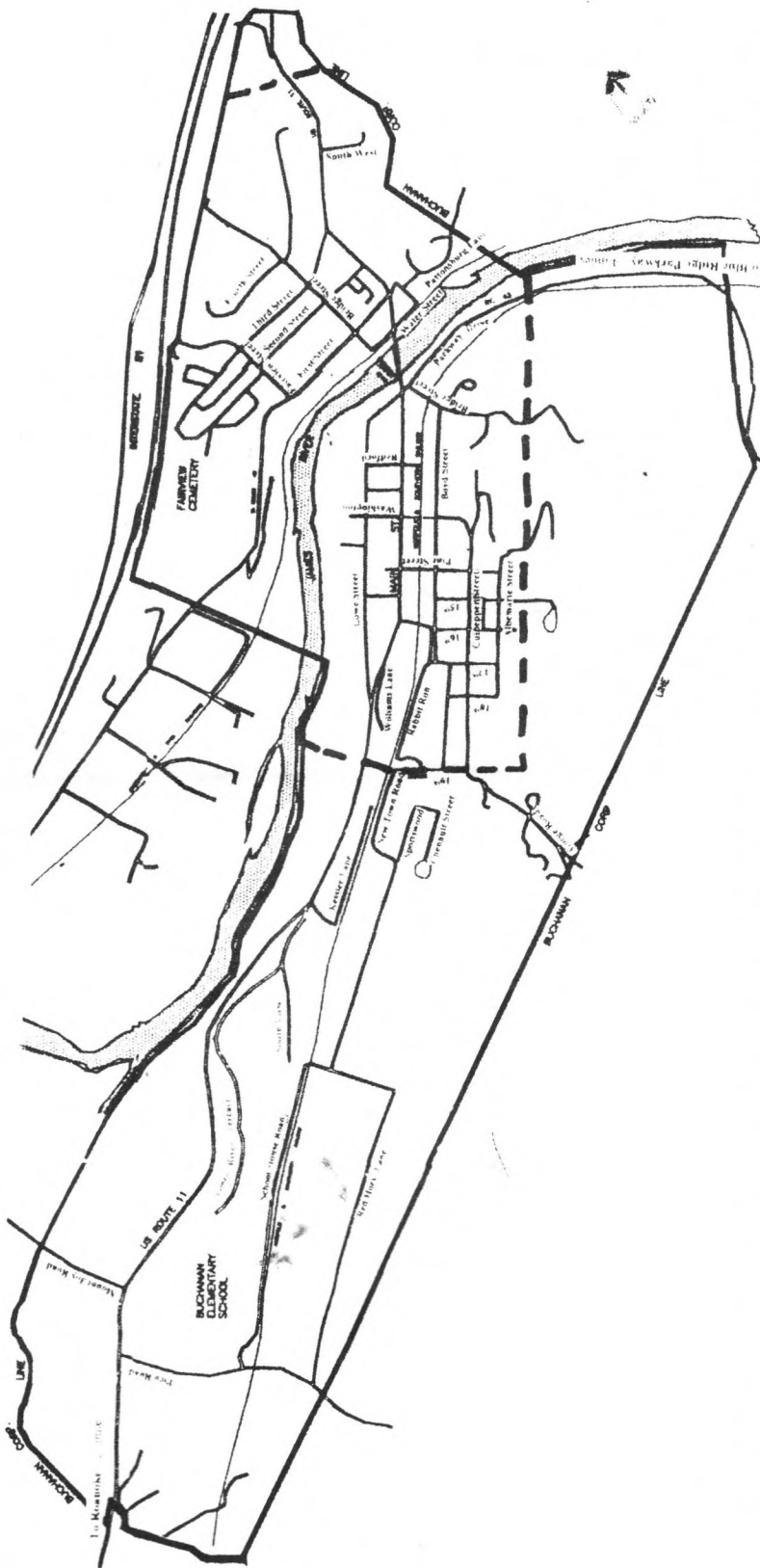
And if while you make your
stake,

Your neighbor can make one,
too,

Your town will be what you want
to see,

It isn't your town---it's you.

(This poem was written by R. W. Glover and printed in a booklet compiled by the students of the 7th Grade, Moody School - 1956 - Alleghany County and City of Clifton Forge.)



The following excerpts are from an invitation to the dedication of the new facility on Saturday, August 17, 1974 for the Buchanan Volunteer Fire Department, and the Buchanan Volunteer Rescue Squad.

“In the early 1740’s, settlers from the old world descended into this great valley through the corridor and across the river. This crossing subsequently became a ferry, and settlements when Botetourt became a County in 1770.

The Town’s growth and development continued and in the middle 1800’s it became the Western terminus of the famous James River and Kanawha Canal. Towards the close of the century, the railroads superceded the canal and, after a temporary boom, the Town settled into the life of a serene, rural community.

Legend has it that during Spanish-American War days, a group of civic-minded citizens assembled monthly at the old Central Hotel in Buchanan for the purpose of maintaining an organization to serve the townspeople in emergencies. With the coming of the water system in 1900, a hand-drawn reel with fire hose was added. This primitive system was used and improved upon until 1926 when the first piece of mechanized equipment was procured. There are some members whose service dates back to World War I and today’s (1974) membership includes approximately 30 highly trained volunteers.

Beginning in 1953, the Buchanan Volunteer Rescue Squad began to develop as a separate entity but in conjunction with the Volunteer Fire Department. Since 1971 the Botetourt County Board of Supervisors and the State Highway Safety Division have assisted the squad in obtaining up-to-date rescue vehicles and equipment. There are currently 25 volunteers (1974) serving the Squad.”

Today, July 2000, there are 36 Senior members, 7 Junior members and 12 life members in the Fire Department and 19 members and 16 assistant members in the Rescue Squad. Each year a week-long festival is held the week of July 4th to raise funds for new equipment and operating expenses.