



News from the Blue Ridge



Claire & Lorin Cranford

Volume 2

March 1999

Issue 3

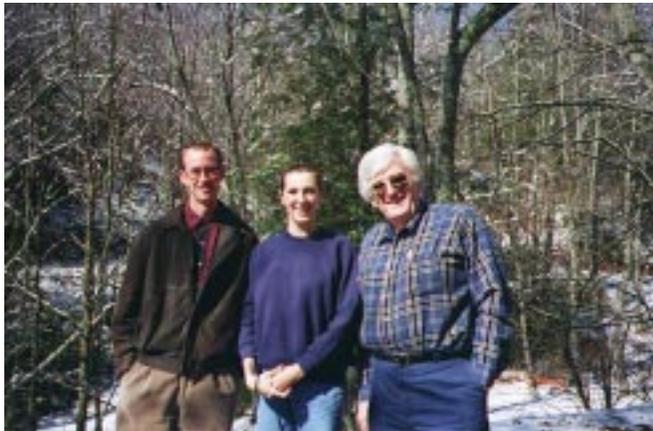


Family Events:

This month's newsletter is devoted to some light hearted materials to help you laugh and chuckle about teaching and history. To be sure, a bit of family news below but mostly just fun stuff!!!

For some snapshots our our new home in Boiling Springs go to the web page, <http://www.shelby.net/cranford/home.htm>. We are thoroughly enjoying getting settled into the home. Very deliberately no pictures of the gargage are included where there's still a mountain of unpacked boxes. The comfort and beauty of the home provides a real retreat from the hectic pace of daily schedules.

The highlight of Febrary was the weekend of 18-21 when Carrie and John drove out from Texas to spend a few days with us. We had a wonderful time getting acquainted with John and doing things together. Claire went with them on Friday to Chimney Rock but inclement weather prevented the full experience. But Saturday more than made up for Friday. The four of us drove up to Linville Falls in the mountains north of our house and hiked through about 5" of snow to the waterfalls. The weather was fantastic, about 40° and no wind, enabling us to throw some snowballs etc. while walking to the falls area from the parking lot.



From there we traveled up to Grandfather Mountain and then on to Blowing Rock. The snow and the views from the high mountains were unbelievable! This is a thoroughly enjoyable small mountain town just loaded with stores, coffee houses, restaurants etc. along with nearby ski slopes. It definitely isn't our last time to visit there. On the way home we wound up in Gaffney, SC, to eat supper at the Sagebrush Steak House, where one cracks the peanut shells then tosses the hulls onto the floor -- a fascinating experience.



University Happenings:

From the current NC edition of *The Historical News* comes a piece I think you'll enjoy:

Pioneer Weddings

A pioneer wedding was a special time of fun and celebration. They were major social events for everyone. The settlers always enjoyed a house-raising for newcomers or newlyweds. The men stopped working on the house now and then to drink whiskey, run races, or hold wrestling bouts or shooting contests. After the job was finished, everyone celebrated with a gay feast. The women prepared plenty of food, and after eating, everyone sat around telling stories. As a rule someone brought a fiddle, and dancing and singing went on until late in the night. The pioneers played tricks on a couple that was about to be married. Perhaps the women "kidnapped" the bride while the men rode off with the groom. Of course, both managed to escape in time to be married. The wedding feast, provided by the grooms' parents, lasted all night. Daily tasks were set aside. Some wedding parties continued for three days and nights, often the wedding vows were heard by a justice of the peace.

The party began at the bride's home when her father placed a jug of whiskey on his doorstep. Male guests positioned themselves one mile from the house. From there they raced to seize the jug. The winner carried the jug to the groom, who took the first drink. Around 9:00 o'clock in the evening, the female guests carried the bride to a bed in her parent's cabin. Later the male guests brought the groom to the bed. Guests would continue their party outside the cabin, often looking in on the newlyweds. The next morning the couple led a procession of the groom's parents.

Another long party or "infare" followed. On the third day the newlyweds moved into their own cabin. In the evening a "shivaree," or housewarming took place. Guests surrounded the cabin with noise making devices.

On a designated signal, the woods erupted in a din of noise. The newlyweds opened their home for yet another party that generally ended near dawn. This party marked the end of the wedding celebration.

Those early settlers in the Carolinas certainly knew how to do things up right when tying the knot in matrimony! Most current American practices seem somewhat tame in comparison. I also find it fascinating that certain aspects of the early American pioneer wedding customs had much in common with the pattern of the wedding feast among the Jewish people in the time of Jesus and early Christianity.



☺ **Claire's Musings:**

The Top Ten Signs That You Work in Education

#10 You want to slap the next person who says "Must be nice to work 8:30 to 3:00 and have summers *free*."

#9 You can tell it's a full moon without ever looking or going outside.

#8 When out in public, you feel the urge to snap your fingers at a child you do not know and correct their behavior.

#7 You think people should be required to get a government permit to reproduce.

#6 Marking all A's on the report cards would make your life so *much easier*.

#5 You can't have children because there's no name you could give a child that wouldn't bring on high blood pressure the moment you hear it uttered.

#4 You believe "shallow-gene pool" should have its own box on the report card.

#3 You believe the staff room should be equipped with a Valium salt lick.

#2 When you mention "vegetables" you're not just talking about a food group.

#1 You believe in the localized aerial spraying of Prozac.

Interesting Tidbits of History

The NC town of Waco in Cleveland county is named after Waco, Texas. George Washington Kendrick, who grew up in Cleveland County NC moved to Texas for many years and then returned back home in the 1880s to settle in what is now known as Waco, NC.

Many of the early settlers in Texas came from Gaston, Lincoln and Cleveland counties in North Carolina, including David Crockett and James Henderson, the first governor of the State of Texas.

Continued from Right Column

Real teachers never plan discussions for first period or co-operative groups for seventh period during an evaluation.

Real teachers know secretaries and custodians run the school.

Real teachers know the rules don't really apply to them.

Real teachers hear the heartbeats of crisis; always have time to listen; know they teach students, not subjects.

SNUFFY SMITH



✌ **Lorin's Musings:**

HOW TO TELL IF YOU'RE A REAL TEACHER

Real teachers grade papers in the car, during commercials, in faculty meeting, in the bathroom, and (at the end of the six weeks) have been seen grading in church.

Real teachers cheer when they hear April 1 does not fall on a school day.

Real teachers drive older cars owned by credit unions.

Real teachers clutch a pencil while thinking and make notes in the margins of books.

Real teachers never sit down without first checking the seat of the chair.

Real teachers are written up in medical journals for size and elasticity of kidneys and bladders.

Real teachers have been timed gulping down a full lunch in 2 minutes, 18 seconds.

Master teachers can eat faster than that.

Real teachers can predict exactly which parents will show up at Open House.

Real teachers never teach the conjugations of "lie" and "lay" to eighth graders.

Real teachers know the best end of semester lesson plans can come from Blockbuster.

Real teachers never take grades after Wednesday of the last week of the six weeks.

Real teachers never assign research papers on the last six weeks or essays on final exams.

Real teachers know the shortest distance and the length of travel time from their classroom to the nearest rest room.

Real teachers can "sense" gum.

Real teachers know the difference among what must be graded, what ought to be graded, and what probably should never see the light of day.

Real teachers have their best conferences in the parking lot or grocery stores.

Real teachers have never heard an original excuse.

Real teachers buy Excedrin and Advil in bulk quantity at Sam's.

Real teachers will eat anything that is put in the work-room / teacher's lounge.

Continued in Left Column