

June 23, 1911- June 6, 2011

By Jane Harrell

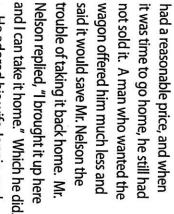
Jud Nelson was a blacksmith... and a character. He loved to tell a joke, the same joke, about Elvis Presley. He would laugh so hard, everyone around would join in, even though we had heard it many times before.

I can't remember when 'Mr.
Nelson' (we never called him Judd)
came to Prater's Mill Country Fair
as an exhibitor, but it must have
been in the early seventies. He was
a master blacksmith and would
bang away on his anvil to entertain
people as he made beautiful
crosses, fireplace sets, and just
about anything out of metal.

Mr. Nelson was also a regionally recognized woodworker and his ability to construct complex Crown Molding was certainly deserved. He made many pieces in wood.



When he went to the Smithsonian, he took a small stagecoach he had made, correct to every detail. He



He adored his wife Jennie, and did everything to please her...even keeping his jug in his blacksmith shop in Sugar Valley.

Judd Nelson served in the United States Navy and was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida. He said he gave up shoeing horses and mules because he got kicked once. That was enough.

A shed was built for Mr. Nelson to demonstrate his blacksmithing at Prater's Mill and is still used by the Artist Blacksmith Association of North America which he founded.

Mr. Jud Nelson, Sugar Valley blacksmith, and one of the finest men I have ever known. ■



hero. By all rights she had enough medical problems to stay in bed but she refused. Instead, she inspired us all with hard work and good humor.

with great cheering from all of us. to make it too. Make it, she did Journey but she made up her mind bodied people should attempt the Road. Betty knew only ablesunken roadbed of the Old Federal way through the woods to the the other side and walk a long over a red clay hill, climb down only way to get there was to climb Hole on private property. The members to a guided tour to the the Haunted Blue Hole in Varnell Georgia Trail of Tears Association determination was the trip to The Prater's Mill folks treated the A good example of Betty's

Whenever something was going on at Prater's Mill, Betty was

PRATER'S MILL CORNBREAD
1 cup Sufering flour
14 cup Sugar
14 teaspoon Salt
1 cup Commeal, sifted
1 cup Milk - 2 Eggs
1/4 cup Bacon drippings, melted
1 cup Bacon drippings, melted
1 day B

right there. We called her "Boss." Usually a clan of

Quinns came with her, especially her husband Leonard, their children, grandchildren, a sister and her son. Theresa her daughter said, "Our family wants to carry on mother's tradition of volunteering at Prater's Mill."

You can help with that tradition by buying a Coca-Cola at the fair from the Coke trailer nearest the mill. Proceeds from that booth go toward a historical marker for Prater's Mill. When erected, that marker will be dedicated to our hero, Betty Jackie Quinn.

