

Jud Nelson

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

had a reasonable price, and when it was time to go home, he still had not sold it. A man who wanted the wagon offered him much less and said it would save Mr. Nelson the trouble of taking it back home. Mr. Nelson replied, "I brought it up here and I can take it home." Which he did. 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. ■



Betty Jackie Quinn

By Judy Bryant Alderman

March 25, 1939- July 4, 2011

Betty Jackie Quinn was our 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.

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

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



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.

PRATER'S MILL CORNBREAD

1/4 cup Self-rising flour
1/4 cup Sugar
3/4 teaspoon Salt
1 cup Cornmeal, sifted
1 cup Milk - 2 Eggs
1/4 cup Bacon drippings, melted

Mix dry ingredients. Add eggs, milk, and bacon grease. Beat until smooth. Pour into 9x9x2" pan. Bake at 425° for 20-25 minutes.

Y'all Come Back Now!

Prater's Mill
Established 1925

COUNTRY FAIR
ANNUAL VOLUNTEER

2012
October 13th & 14th

706.694.MILL • Prater'sMill.org