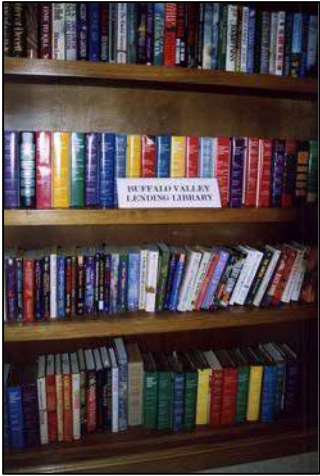


# Buffalo Valley Library Center

## Open House

Sunday May 2, 2004  
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.



## Buffalo Valley Community Center, Buffalo Valley, TN



For Inquiries:  
931-510-1516 or  
931-520-0042 (WThF)

Directions: From Cookeville, TN I-40  
Exit 268, turn right, (1/2 mile)  
Then second right into the  
Buffalo Valley Community Center.



**Books for Buffalo Valley  
Putnam County, Tennessee**  
By Jill Thomas - Herald-Citizen Staff  
[www.herald-citizen.com](http://www.herald-citizen.com)



Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN  
Published February 05, 2004

New library reawakens memories of the  
community as it used to be.

Before there was Cookeville, there was Buffalo Valley. There are people at the western tip of Putnam County who would like to see the little town rise again.

At least the first step is being taken. The community is about to get its own permanent library for the first time in more than 30 years.

All thanks to state funding cutbacks.

*Buffalo Valley library organizers, above, Carolyn Huddleston, at left, Char Wanser and Barb Markel are packing up the books from the old five-shelf bookcase that has served as home to the lending library since August. Next month they will open the large comfy well-lighted room in the community center that has room for books, comfy chairs, tables and computer and scanner (should one be donated). Putnam County workers at right, have been getting the room ready for the books, bookcases, furniture and readers who will be coming to the library. Tommy Palk, at left, Johnny Gentry, and Josh Tayes make sure that everything is primed, painted and ready for a grand opening in a couple of weeks.*



"Buffalo Valley used to be the hub of the county," said Carolyn Huddleston who grew up a couple miles from the town's center and still lives a few miles from the old post office.

"Buffalo Valley was the big city to me," she laughed. "It had so many cars and horses and activity that it scared me when I was little.

Miss Carolyn remembers the shipping port on the Caney Fork River, tobacco warehouses, mills and stores.

"It was a village. It's hard to believe how it looked before the interstate went through and the road to Center Hill.

"The town was divided into two parts and there were two barbershops, a variety of stores, grocery stores, furniture and clothing stores, and a very popular bank. The town was bigger than Cookeville. There was a train depot where you could catch the train to Nashville or Cookeville. Cookeville had a movie theater back then and I can remember my mother taking me there by train so we could have lunch and see a movie," she said.

But people came to Buffalo Valley as well as to Cookeville to be entertained.

"We used to have concerts in the old school house. The Carter Family would come out here and so would Flatt and Scruggs," Huddleston said.

Were there restaurants?

"Well, many of the stores sold fruit and would make you a sandwich. You could buy a six-ounce Coke for five cents. They were so good and would bubble right up your nose," she laughed.

Some of Miss Carolyn's recollections were passed down by her parents and some are her own memories.

"When the Depression hit, the bank closed. But I understand that people got their money back eventually. We had honest bankers," she said.

"But people began to leave because there were no jobs. Everything was pretty well gone by the time I-40 was built."

That was in the mid-1960's, and now Huddleston may have the means to collect and show off more Buffalo Valley memories from other folks who grew up in what is now the edge of Putnam County.

For the past 30 years, the only library in Buffalo Valley was the Regional Library's Bookmobile which came twice a month and parked by the post office.

Last year, budget cuts resulted in Buffalo Valley's losing access to the Bookmobile.

Three women in the area decided that Buffalo Valley needed a library. So Carolyn Huddleston, Char Wanser and Barbara Markel worked with postmistress Helen Edwards to set up a five-shelf bookcase in the post office to serve as the lending library.

That was last August.

They've already outgrown the little bookcase and next month a permanent Buffalo Valley Lending Library will open its doors to a 700 square-foot room in the old 1927 schoolhouse, the same schoolhouse that showed off the talents of the Carter Family and Flatt and Scruggs and now currently houses the community center.

The building is Putnam County property and new Putnam County Parks & Recreation Director John Dyer was happy to see the old schoolhouse serve a new purpose.

"John has really been supportive of this. That room is going to be beautiful," said Miss Carolyn.

Workmen from the county have been cleaning and painting and installing new flooring for the library which should be ready to open by March.

The room is big enough to accommodate several areas including a children's corner with rugs and comfy, child-sized chairs and pillows, a senior section which will have adult-sized chairs and coffee and a history table where people can read about and contribute to area history.

Eventually, Huddleston hopes the community library will include a computer and scanner so they can make files of people's photos and stories of the old Buffalo Valley.

But for now the three women who have worked so hard to bring the library to pass are elated that it's actually going to happen. They are thankful to everybody, the Parks & Recreation department, people who donated books, people who have donated furniture and people who have donated other items.

"We still have a wish list, though," Miss Carolyn laughed.

"We have very little money, so everything needs to be donated -- more shelves, more books, especially children's books, a relatively up-to-date computer and scanner and volunteers to work in the library on the three days a week it will be opened.

There's even a mural that is a reminder of Buffalo Valley as it used to be that needs to be repainted by some artist, Huddleston said.

"We couldn't pay them right now but we're willing to get some fund raisers going for this," she said.

For Carolyn Huddleston this is the first step in reviving memories of Buffalo Valley as it used to be. She knows, too, that when the trains start running again, as they may at some time in the future, it could be further impetus for Buffalo Valley.

To volunteer to help with the library or to donate books or items for the library, call Barb Markel at: (931) 858-4876 or Carolyn Huddleston at (931) 858-2486.

Published February 05, 2004 11:35 AM CST

Hugh Wayne of GA wrote: 6 February 2004:

I remember going to see Mama Maybelle and the Carter girls, June, Helen, and Anita back in the 40's. Also remember going to see movies in the auditorium in the BV School. I remember most of the rest of the stuff she is talking about.

**SOURCE: USGS**

NAME	LAT	LONG	QUAD	DESCRIPTION
Buffalo Valley School (historical)	360828N	0854657W	Buffalo Valley	School

**Quick Facts**

City: **Buffalo Valley**

State: Tennessee

County: Putnam County

Zip Code: 38548

Area Code: 931

Population: 51373

Latitude: 36.163921

Longitude: 85.533995

**BUFFALO VALLEY LIBRARY CENTER**

**P.O. BOX 93**

**BUFFALO VALLEY, TN 38548**

**931-858-4876 OR 931-858-2486**

**WORK WITH-NOT SIMPLY FOR-YOUR COMMUNITY!**

19 Jan 2004

Barbara Markel

Audrey, exciting news from Buffalo Valley. Carolyn and I have started a Buffalo Valley Lending Library! Right now it is still in the Post Office (1 bookcase). Our book mobile was discontinued so we took it over and have had a great success with donations of books. We are getting a room at the Community Center (old school building) and it has to be painted, floors refinished, heat, etc however we hope to be in by the first to middle of February. We are going to have a genealogy section and hope you can come help us get that part started. One project we want to do is get all the old cemeteries mapped out with names, etc. Could you, would you, be able to set up a web page for Buffalo Valley? We could post what we have and add new things. We are SO excited and have so many plans.

5 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Audrey, got your message yesterday--yes, yes, we'll be glad to get the book about Temperance Hall! Look in today's Herald-Citizen (2-5-04), a story and picture is in it about "our Library" also showing the men working on the room--it's over 700 sq feet with ceilings 12 feet or more, so they put a hang down fan and lights hanging down--when they get the floors sanded and finished it will be something else--we also hope to get it registered with the Historical preservation whatever --in other words hoping to restore it back as much as possible--it's hard to believe that Buffalo Valley was once the HUB of the count--more activity going on there than in Cookeville in the 'ole days.. Thanks for everything--keep us informed about any ideas you might happen on. Love to both, Carolyn & Ted, too.

8 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Audrey, we've created alot of excitement making the front page & a lengthy article. I'm hearing from people right & left--even books from Nashville. The reporter did such a good job, we've decided to let her do a book when we get the materials together--then thought we should do a movie while we're at it????? Tell everybody to send their pictures in or good copies (not the ten cent variety). and also memories of the by-gone days..Pete Nichols is compiling a list of the people he remembers living up the hollers and hills and valleys. Do you want me to send you a copy of the Herald? We look like we're ready for Hollywood--we expect Oprah to call us any day now. Barbara & Char are so much fun to work with and it's fulfilling a dream I had about 12 years ago, I had a list of people and things to gather up but I couldn't get any interest going.. I wish someone could put pictures & write ups together like you have in your 3-ringers. Maybe Char can, she's pretty good with the computer. I haven't learned to form paragraphs yet--but who cares? The message is all the same. Our love to you & Mike I appreciate the notes others are sending you--glad you're passing them on. Carolyn

12 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Audrey, while you were so busy watching CNN you should have seen FOX news. So far we have \$600.00 --an unbelievable amount of books--working on getting meals on wheels at the center and all of it will be legit--Walmart will come across big time maybe a \$1000.00 when we get all the tax no's in.

13 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

I was a clerk at the P.O. from 1975-77 when the Office went to 3rd class because we had a business come in "Love Valley Farms" operated by Ernie Onks & family from near Nashville--Ernie was an Attorney--they brought in mail by the big wash tubs full--it was a cattle farm down in Love Valley down on the River--we'll go there when you come back. It went under--he went to Cookeville and resumed his Law practice--and the P.O. reverted back to 4th class as it was called then--so I lost my job as Clerk.. but when the Postmistress retired in 1983, I came back as Postmaster Relief and stayed there until 1998. Take care, Carolyn

17 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Audrey, you're amazing! If we had you down here and Pete Nichols we could have a Book of BV completed in six weeks. Thanks for the Donation We're going to have as many books as the Mormon Library. We're having a blast with this.. Our room should be finished by next week--we hope to get moved in sometime next week. Take care and keep the BV news rolling in! Love ya, Carolyn

19 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Audrey did I tell you that I got the packet with all the funny things and the serious Check? So much is happening that we're going to have to hire a Secretary and an armored car--we got a check from Marietta GA today from someone who had read the article on the Internet. THANKS! THANKS for being a

CHEER LEADER. Occasionally we have negative remarks. Tomorrow we are going to make a meal for the workers doing the special room. Then we hope to get it (the School House registered with the Historical Society). Barb really knows what to do to keep all the workers going strong--we're both going around in circles--I even lost your check for about four hours and then there it was. Anyway it's fulfilling a dream I had about 12 years ago but I couldn't get anybody fired up--thanks for Barbara! Take care of Mike and we're looking forward to seeing you all whenever. Love, Carolyn

25 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

We're coming right along on "our" room at the school--They're going to put a new roof on and repair the chimneys and let them stand--it will be metal, probably red.

27 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

I think I made my bronchitis worse one day by going outside to video our dog, Bonnie playing with a rat, just like the cat does while the cat looked on--they go hunting together--one day the cat climbed a tree to try to get the squirrel and guess who was waiting under the tree--I sorta think the cat caught the rat, however Bonnie does well bringing our Breakfast up sometimes mouse or two, maybe a mole--we have choice meats--they're our entertainment. We had our first memorial donation last week--a woman from FL called to see if we were set up to take such--sure! Her husband's Aunt had died in Nashville and instead of sending flowers they wanted to give the Library money --I made a mistake she was from Ga. Don't know how to go back and correct my mistakes--when Adam comes again he'll have to advance my studies.. We had a 5 inch snow yesterday--wet and heavy--broke trees across the power lines--we were without electricity for 6 hrs--we have gas heat downstairs--I can't tell you how much I enjoy you stuff you send. Love, Carolyn

28 Feb 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Audrey June, I hear you're about ready for your journey to India--wouldn't your Grandmother be proud! We've been seeing some programs on the poorer people of India--Benni Hinn had a healing crusade there--he called them beautiful people--he's rather dark himself--do you know who he is? In a way it's sorta entertainment. We got our 1st memorial gift for the library from the people in GA--Gerald & Jean Stamps Mitchell--he being from Silver Pt, and she Cookeville. I don't know who Billie Jo (Jared) Lyell is--she died last wk in Nashville in her 80's--Her parents were Clive & Velma Jared (Clive was a native of Buffalo Valley) she said--There was some Jared's who lived up near Gentry but I didn't know them. Billy Jo Lyell's daughter is Jane.

1 March 2004

Barbara Markel

Dear Audrey,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$100.00 to the Buffalo Valley Library Center.

We have great plans for preserving the past in stories and pictures. We would be most interested in any memories or pictures you wish to share.

With the generous support of people like you, we will be able to begin working on our projects and hope to take our community back to a time of neighbors caring about and helping each other and having great pride in their community. **Our motto is: WORK WITH-NOT SIMPLY FOR-YOUR COMMUNITY!**

Thank you again for your support and we certainly hope you will stop and visit us in Buffalo Valley, TN soon!

Sincerely,  
Barbara Markel



**Source:** Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank of Cookeville, TN: pgs. iii, 219 & 224.

Old Buffalo Valley School during the flood of the 1920's. Courtesy of Jim Heard.

James "Jim" Heard is a native of Putnam County who attended Algood High School. He is an award-winning photographer and a renowned portrait photographer who worked as a photographer for a local newspaper for several years. Mr. Heard also served in the Navy during WWI and then enlisted in the Air Force and served twenty-one years. He presently owns and operates a portrait studio in Cookeville, TN.

This school was lost when I-40 was built and a new school was built in a different location.



Buffalo Valley School, Putnam Co., TN

### **Buffalo Valley library revived**

Jill Thomas

Herald-Citizen Staff

Published August 25, 2003 2:04 PM CDT

Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

From the 1970s, the Regional Library's Bookmobile served as the Buffalo Valley lending library. It would come twice a month and park at the post office.

Readers could browse through its shelves and take out books. At the same time, the Bookmobile staff would rotate the books on the five-shelf bookcase located in the post office.

But state cutbacks forced the Regional Library to give up one of its two Bookmobiles and Buffalo Valley was one of the places cut from the large van's scheduled stops.

"Usage at Buffalo Valley had gone down considerably," said Betty Jo Jarvis, the director of the Regional Library.

"There were other areas, like Chestnut Mound, which were using the Bookmobile more than the people at Buffalo Valley. We hated to do it but we had to set up a priority list and the less-used adult centers got cut.

"When it came to the van, we decided that the most important thing for us to do was to continue to provide books for children, so we made sure we scheduled the Bookmobile to be sent to Headstart and daycare centers.

"Our second priority for the van was to serve nursing homes and assisted living centers if they have residents who want to read," she said.

So recently, the shelves of Buffalo Valley's donated oak bookcase in the post office have been bare.

Enter Barb Markel, Carolyn Huddleston, Char Wanser and postmistress Helen Edwards who all thought there were enough readers in Buffalo Valley to warrant a permanent lending library.

"We thought a lot of people used the Bookmobile and we hated to lose it," Edwards said.

"We called the Regional Library to see if it was okay to set a little library up, and they said it was fine," said Barb Markel.

"We thought it would be a shame to let that beautiful bookcase go to waste," said Edwards.

"The library has always been in the post office, so it seemed logical to keep it here," she said.

But Edwards won't be 'in charge' of the library. Her duties as postmistress prevent that. Instead, the library will be set up on the honor system with readers simply signing out each book they borrow and bringing them back.

"Most places like this are on the honor system," Edwards said.

One of the volunteers will act as custodian to keep track of what's been signed out.

The women met with Nelda Stewart of the Putnam County Library in Cookeville who gave them suggestions on how to set up the labeling system and where to get library supplies.

So for weeks Markel, Huddleston and Wanser have been collecting books and pasting in the library envelopes and labeling each book according to library standards. They have nearly 300 books and will store the extras at the community center.

"We should get our rubber stamp today or tomorrow," Markel said enthusiastically.

"And then we'll be ready to go."

They hope the library will be open this week. It will have the same hours as the post office: Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 11 a.m. and from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. On Saturdays the library will be open from 7 until 11 a.m.

Those who would like to volunteer to help with the library or donate books to it should call either Barb Markel at (931) 858-4876 or Carolyn Huddleston at (931) 858-2486.

17 March 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Don't remember exactly when you said you'd be back--we're still making the news--March 15 & 17th. A Book store in Cookeville went out of business & gave us all 20,000 of their books & shelves if we would come get them past Monday--what a day!! The women took the books off the shelves & the men unscrewed the shelves off the wall --we're just about all set now--it's not exactly like we want but it all

happened so quickly, we'll re-arrange later--wish I had been in India and you here????? Anyway, we have been so excited, I just had to share with you. A couple in GA have another truck load ready to bring up in April.

### **SUDDENLY BUFFALO VALLEY HAS BIG LIBRARY!**

**Jill Thomas**

**Herald-Citizen Staff**

**Published March 17, 2004 12:57 PM CST**

**Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN**

Six weeks ago the Buffalo Valley Library was a five-shelf bookcase in the Buffalo Valley post office. Today it contains more than 20,000 books, a computer, printer and scanner, shelving, its own 700-square-foot room in the community center and enough volunteers to keep the library open three and a half days a week.

"This has been an incredible outpouring of support from so many sources, I can't begin to thank them all," said Barbara Markel, one of the three women who felt the community was ready to have its own 'real' library for the first time in 30 years and got the ball rolling last August.

Markel, Carolyn Huddleston and Char Wanser began by donating their own books and working with postmistress Helen Edwards to stock the five shelves at the post office when the Upper Cumberland Regional Library could no longer afford to keep Buffalo Valley on its bookmobile route last summer.

But even as they were working on stocking the five shelves at the post office, the three woman suspected there was enough interest in Buffalo Valley to support a true lending library.

They were right.

"When the story of what we were trying to do came out in the paper, people responded from everywhere!" Markel laughed.

"Writer Todd Jarrell of Cookeville saw the article in the Herald-Citizen and did a radio segment with us. Through that, we got a lot of book donations from Nashville.

"One lady from Shelbyville is bringing out her 20-year collection of best sellers. I've made two trips to Knoxville to pick up donations. People have dropped off boxes and bags of books at the post office. A wonderful woman from Cookeville has donated a computer, printer and scanner," she said.

The Buffalo Valley Library has received donations of books and money from people as far away as Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Michigan.

Closer to home, Cornerstone Elementary in Baxter donated books and volunteers to help move the books into the new location.

Hooper, Huddleston & Horner and Whitson Funeral Homes have donated money. First Tennessee Bank has donated a check, Union Planters Bank donated a desk and Citizens Bank has donated computer keyboards and monitors.

Joe Woods of Woods Investment Group and Don McCaslin of Farm Bureau Insurance have made financial donations as has the Cookeville Book Lovers' Club.

But the latest donation came from Helping Hands, a non-profit property broker which had been handling thousands of books from the closing of a used book store in town.

"They called us and said we could have the books if we could get them out of the old building that day," Markel said.

"I called as many people as I could and we brought trash bags and boxes and we loaded my husband's trailer. In 10 minutes we had a caravan and seven volunteers -- all over the age of 60! We worked for hours and now the books are all at the community center. Today we're organizing and shelving them," she said.

Markel wants to thank the Upper Cumberland Library and Nelda Stewart of the Putnam County Library for their help in answering questions about setting up a library, plus the Putnam Parks & Recreation Dept. which prepared the new library room at the community center.

"And I want to thank County Executive Kim Blaylock and our county commissioner, Bill Rodgers, for their support," she said.

With enough books on hand and enough volunteers at the ready, Markel and the library enthusiasts are working to get everything organized, shelved and recorded. When that is done, everyone is hoping this spring the library will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. And if there are enough volunteers, the library will even be open Saturday mornings.

"Then we want to be able to open it at least one night a week. We want to get some programs in and maybe even some speakers. We want this to truly serve this community," Markel said.  
To volunteer or find out more about the library call (931) 858-4876.

Date: Sat, 07 Feb 2004  
From: Bill Morrow  
Subject: Buffalo Valley

Hi Audrey,

Thanks for the article about the Buffalo Valley Library. I had no idea that Buffalo Valley had been such a "thriving community" in the past although I was aware there was "commercial shipping" done on the Caney Fork.

My late cousin Hazel Carlen Bates was postmistress of the Buffalo Valley Post Office for 50 years.  
Bill Morrow

**Source: Social Security Death Index Search Results**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>DEATH</u>	<u>LAST RESIDENCE</u>
HAZEL E BATES	18 May 1911	15 Feb 2002 (V)	38548 (Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co, TN)

<u>LAST BENEFIT</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>ISSUED</u>
(none specified)	409-01-8965	TN

US Post Office  
Buffalo Valley

18545 Buffalo Valley Road  
Putnam Co., TN

Buffalo Valley, TN  
(Date Opened) 1868

(931)858-4812



**Sharing their love of books.**

Book Lovers Club members Carolyn Thomas, president, left, and Patricia Leonard, president-elect, right, present donations to, from left, between them, Diane Duncan of the Putnam County Library, Carolyn Huddleston, Char Wanser, Barbara Markel of the Buffalo Valley Lending Library and Elinor Ross of Reading is Fundamental (RIF). The Book Lovers Club was founded in 1922. Although the club has supported many civic causes during the past 82 years, providing books and promoting reading has been the major focus of the 30 members who meet monthly to hear or present a book review.



### **First Tennessee gives to new library:**

Marlette Stephens, right, representing First Tennessee Bank, presents a check to Barbara Markel, Char Wanser and Carolyn Huddleston, from left, founders of the new Buffalo Valley Lending Library. The three women started using their own books to fill the shelves at the Buffalo Valley Post Office that had previously been filled by books from the bookmobile. They received so many donations that they have moved the library to a room in the Buffalo Valley Community Center. There are now nearly 20,000 books. Herald-Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 31 March 2004.

27 February 2004:

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

June, I need the dates of Tim & Geraldine birth & death years--also Mr Virgil & Mrs. Audrey--We have memorial tiles for the wall (sorta like they use outside using bricks) Barbara has already done one with Floyd & Ora--she does them they are ten a piece but she said since you have given a donation yours will be free --let me know soon! Time is running out--we're picking up flowers from the florist, etc. We're so excited we're about to wet our pants--J.B. Leftwich who wrote for the Tennessean (he's past 80 now) but he's gonna put an article in the Tennessean on Sunday about what we're doing--he's giving us alot of his articles pertaining to life in the hills here over the years. He's coming, so is his daughter from Knoxville--It's surprising how little interest the local people have--but we live on the encouragement from people "afar". Another writer who sorta got us started Todd Jarrell , who featured us on his web site and had an interview with us at the Library in the P.O. which was on public broadcasting out of Nashville--All the big wigs have been invited, including the Governor and Dolly Parton. I will answer your questions later--I print your letters off so I can read them again. take care and wish us LUCK Carolyn

*\*See & hear the audio at the WPNL Nashville Radio Station Website: <http://www.wpln.org/news/library/>*

*Buffalo Valley Library: Interview at the Buffalo Valley Post Office about the discontinued bookmobile & the library.*

26 March 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

June, I'm so excited to know you're back! I missed you but glad you told me all or part of the trip. I printed it all off so I could read & re-read about it --I'm so glad you've got so much adventure in your spirit. You hit on a topic that I'm getting serious about and making plans for the Jared cemetery. Also the Tabernacle at the Smellage--I have a man who wants to work with me on it so rain won't blow in--looks like it will have to be pull down doors for special occasions like the luminary service we held at Xmas & during the Winter--I'm like your Aunt Minnie, I want to have my casket made with some of this wood get has in the barn that came from the farm and then have a service at the Tabernacle and then other people will probably follow--Funerals have gotten like these expensive Prescription Drugs, outrageous, don't you agree? Wish you lived near? You don't have a subscription to the HC do you? If you don't I will send you one for your Birthday. Thanks for everything and all your good ideas. Our Library has been so exciting especially for the newcomers and those who are away but have connections here. have been having just for the asking. Love you both, Carolyn & Ted

26 March 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Audrey, Miriam said you wanted a picture from the newspaper of our 55th Anniversary? I will send you one --We had so many sent to us--it was a political time so we heard from them , too. Did you get the one of our first ones that showed us unloading Books? And what about the front page in color, showing all three of us ? And the one about the Book Lovers club presenting a check, they came with \$200.00 and we didn't even have to ask. Our next one was the long one where Barbara told a wonderful story. Then the last one hasn't come out yet , made at our Library with a local girl, Marlette Jared Stephens, from the 1st Tenn back presenting us with a check (\$50.00). Let me know and I will send you copies of all of them. One of them about covered the front page and was in color--it seems that we're the #one story right now. Carolyn

27 March 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

I didn't finish what I was going to tell you how we got our first start on the Library. Todd S. Jarrell who is a writer (Print, Audio, Video) is on his card, lives in Cookeville what time he's not on his Sail boat traveling around the world. He did an interview of us at the P.O. because he heard our Book Mobile had been shut supposedly because of lack of funds, which he says the money will be used on something else. So we were on Public Broadcasting over a station in Nashville with his interview and then we appeared on his Website for awhile. This is his email: tjarrel@hotmail.com & www.slowdancewiththeplanet.com He plans to feature a story in the Tennessean at a later date--I guess I told you the Woodmen of the World are having us to Dinner the 6th of Apr for a presentation of a Flag, & Pole? and then the 13th, we have been invited to have lunch with the Kiwanis Club at the Holiday Inn for a presentation from them and one of the Bank's will also do something let you know. Love ye both, Carolyn and Ted , too

22 April 2004

Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Got your messages--glad you're enjoying your paper--do you get the Sunday's paper? too? June, we have so many books as you have heard and I know alot of them are probably valuable age wise, etc. How can we get a list of wanted books? Eventually we will have to go thru them after the open house and maybe use the money to keep operating--is there any way you could find out. We have Nat'l Geographic's in their wrappers that have never been used--there used to be collectors for those--but with the Net things have changed--We have Encyclopedias galore--Hard back Geographic's --one was the 25th Anniversary. Vinette Ward was placed in a Nursing home and her cousin brought her books to us--she was a teacher--some were very old they had been stored in a outdoor bldg. I will get back to you later. Love Carolyn

30 April 2004:

I am so excited for your library grand opening that I might just wet my pants too!!! Hope you have great weather and a big turnout!!! Tell Barb thanks for the tiles.....

Let me know just who J.B. Leftwich is - his family line. I would like a copy of his stories for my website.

I looked on the internet for Todd Jarrell and found a site that advertises a talking book called: "Slow Dance with the Planet. This account of sailing life on the tall ship Picton Castle recounts sea passages and time spent ashore with fascinating people and disappearing cultures. Originally broadcast as a series on National Public Radio member WPLN of Nashville, these narratives are told against a rich backdrop of actual sounds recorded on the journey. Cost: 15.99. Is this the Todd Jarrell you are talking about ????

I wish you the best of luck on the grand opening. Kisses to you and everyone involved in your project...

Audrey June

1 May 2004:

Carolyn Huddleston

Thanks for all the info--yes, Todd Jarrell is the one who sails around the world and he's kin to the Jared's in Rock Springs--he's bringing his Mother with him he said--hoping she will get to see her kinfolks. We can make do with the writers and Dolly & Phil???? Lots of love to both of you ! I love people who like to do interesting things and be a help instead of disagreeing with everything and thinking it "can't happen". Carolyn & Ted , too

2 May 2004:

Carolyn Huddleston

WHAT A DAY!!!!!!! It turned out perfect!! Don't know how many people yet, some didn't sign the guest register--we had 4 florists to give flowers--we had music, an older man, retired minister from Monterey brought his autoharp & played and sang, then one of the politicians who was so generous, (he replaced their roll around chairs) and gave us 7 that matched our decor not knowing of course and he played our piano that was given us on the last "wagon train" --I don't know if I told you about the room full of furniture that was given to us by a lady from Michigan who came down to close out her cousins estate (she was placed in a rest home) The cousin was giving us books and asked if we would like to have the furniture and she threw in the piano, too because she needed to get back to MI to her family--The lady, Venitte Ward was a teacher in the Putnam county system many years , mostly a Librarian--Barbara put a plaque on an

easel on one of the end tables with her name on it and we made pictures of the setting to send her. Todd Jarrell showed up with his elderly, lively Mama, who wanted to know our hours, so she could come down and read and sit in the Party room and yes, he is the Todd Jarrell , you read about .. He had his camera, and was getting info from the older people, and especially recorded the man playing and singing with the Autoharp. Well, it was a smashing success, and the rain lifted with the sun shining before the day was over. Barb got the tiles on the wall for your parents, and Grands--and hopefully the names of all who donated anything but this thing has mushroomed until I think we will have to hire a Secretary, Ha, Ha. The building smelled good for the first time ever, usually it was all musty, now on to the next room, the exercise room and have a book sale some day with the leftovers. I'll send photos, some day Love, love, love you both Carolyn & Ted & the Gang

3 May 2004:  
Audrey J. Lambert

Hi,

Sounds like you had a good turnout and a wonderful time. Great!!!

Now you have music, furniture, books etc at the new library. You could open up a few rooms in the back with beds and make some eggs and toast at your house and open a Bed and Breakfast at the Library. Come sleep and eat at the historic Buffalo Valley School - Library. HA!

When Ted gets the old civil war house finished you guys could open a big tourist stop in the valley!!

I found the website of the Nashville radio station:

WPNL:

: <http://www.wpln.org/news/library/>

Buffalo Valley Library: Interview at the Buffalo Valley Post Office about the discontinued bookmobile & the library. I taped the audio on my handheld tape recorder and copied the pictures he had posted on the website. That must be Todd Jarrell doing the interview with you girls.

Thanks again for the tiles for my parents and grandparents - I am excited to see the library and tiles when I come in October.

11 May 2004  
Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

Hi, June, We had our 1st newsy person to come to the Library on Fri--Fowler Stanton who was a music teacher & band leader in the school system mostly in Jackson Co & Smith. He was born in 1920 and is in poor health--on a walker from recent battery re-charge on his back. Anyway, he sang a song at Mama's funeral because she liked him, and he went back thru the Jared-Carr (Kerr) family and he was once an excellent singer. Anyway, he said he sang his first song on the stage there at the age of 7 (Carolina Moon) he tried to sing it but his voice was rather weak.

Some funny things he told us, Barbara was taking notes, but she got hysterical. His Uncle Virgil Stanton married Lola Hughes, and she was a clown but she got alot done!! This one: Aunt Lola got on the bus, (she lived at Gentry & they rode the Bus, whereas we rode the train) with some chickens tied together (maybe taking them to sell or to someone) the chickens got loose and she was down on her hands and knees trying to catch them & let off gas that made a "Pop", A soldier on the bus said, "That's the way to go,, lady, if you can't catch 'em, shoot 'em." and another one, Virgil had a store, and was always sitting on the porch (Fowler said, "letting off gas") but he never did talk much and nothing excited him but Lola talked and did another for 3 or 4 people. Fowler took him to the Courthouse in Cookeville where he was a member of the school Board, a phone call came for Virgil and Fowler took the call and came back and said, "Uncle, Aunt Lola got shot" and Virgil said, "WHERE?" It turned out that her son Joe Beverly had been hunting and unloaded the casings on the floor, Lola swept the floor and the casing went in the fireplace and exploded coming back on Lola. You have my permission to use these jokes, or he said they were true, but please change the names to protect the innocent?? We're back at it again--we rested up for a week or at least I did We were disappointed that more pictures weren't put in the paper--she made one of the Sampley , retired Minister, playing the Harp, and one of the crew and the people who gave us the contents of the Book store,

however, the one that was used was good. They were digital, and she said we couldn't get copies of the others--we would have liked them for a display. Take care, . Love, to you and Mike CSH

Jill Thomas  
Herald-Citizen Staff  
5 May 2004  
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN



**'Everybody' came to library opening  
Grass-roots Buffalo Valley project blooms;  
open three days a week**

Relaxing with a good children's book -- Visitors to the Buffalo Valley Library open house took a few minutes to relax on the comfy couch in the reader's corner of the renovated room. \* H-C Photo/Camille Fliss

Last Sunday the new Buffalo Valley Lending Library was officially opened. And a funny thing happened. Everybody came.

"It went better than any of us dreamed," said Barbara Markel, one of the three women who started the library last August as a five-shelf unit in the Buffalo Valley Post Office and then found that they weren't alone in wanting a library for the community. By late fall they had far too many books for the little post office shelves and began making plans to move into the Buffalo Valley Community Center.

"We thought people would just sort of dribble in in one's and two's, but we had over 100 people sign the guest book and we know that many more were here who didn't sign. And they didn't just come in and take a look. They came and stayed," she said.

"Even Wayne Nabors (Putnam County clerk) came. He played the piano and sang some songs for us," Markel said.

Some of the visitors were folks who had grown up in Buffalo Valley and were curious to get a peek at the old 1929 building that had been a school until the late 1960's.

"One man came and said the building looked better than when he attended school here," Markel said.

Another man brought a book with him to the library.

"It was an 1874 edition of 'The History of Methodism in Tennessee' and it looked like it had never been read," Markel laughed.

"It had the words 'Buffalo Valley Library' hand written in the back. He asked us how much the fine would be! -- and then he gave us a \$100 donation."

Others who came either had connections to the area or wanted to be part of the growing library.

"One 89-year-old lady drove here herself and volunteered to help organize the books. Another woman, who is 97, came in with family members and checked out some romance novels and also wanted to help," Markel said.

In fact, at the moment many of the volunteers are seniors.

"Most of our support comes from the older section. They have given money, encouragement and gratitude -- in almost equal amounts," Markel said.

But the library is built to accommodate readers of all ages. It has a readers' corner that contains a comfy couch and chairs. That's where the children's story hour will be held for school-aged kids on Saturday mornings.

Preschoolers, on the other hand, won't have to wait until Saturday to hear a good story. The library will always be manned by two volunteers so that one will be free to read stories to any interested child.

And now that the library is open three days a week there is a question to be asked: Is the work of Barbara Markel, Carolyn Huddleston and Char Wanser finished?

Markel laughed.

"We stay awake nights thinking of new things to do," she said.

Already activity at the library has generated interest in the community center which had been limping along for years.

"We have fundraisers here every so often. We rent the building out to family reunions and the like, and we have an excellent Rook card playing group that meets every Friday night at 6," said Carolyn Huddleston.

"But that's about it."

The old school house still has its 100-seat auditorium (with vintage ads still painted on the stage backdrop). Markel sees that room as one with lots of potential.

"They used to have talent shows here, and groups like the Carter Family would come out from Nashville to perform here. I don't see why, instead of American Idol, we couldn't have our own Buffalo Valley Idol talent show," she laughed.

In fact, the first community center program will take place on May 18, not as a talent show but as a more serious presentation by Putnam County Deputy J. R. Scott and Children's Services social worker Betsy Dunn who will talk to folks about the dangers and presence of methamphetamine in their community.

Markel is hoping someone will come forward to volunteer to be a program director to develop a regular series of programs for the little auditorium.

The community center will also offer an exercise room and a separate music room which already contains a donated upright piano.

"We'd like to have someone who could give piano lessons here at some point," Markel said.

Markel and Huddleston and Wanser are grateful for all the volunteers and donations that have continued to come in.

They're especially grateful to the Putnam Parks & Recreation Dept. which prepared the new library room and has promised to put a new roof on the building and even build a walking trail around the outside of the center.

This week the women are taking a break after all the preparations for the open house. Next week, it's back to work as they focus on getting the 10-member board of directors in place so the library and community center can get a 501(c)3 non-profit status.

And, of course, there are always books to organize and donations to be picked up.

Markel laughed enthusiastically at the idea of doing more for the community center.

"Someone told us recently, 'This started as a grass roots movement and it's turned into a prairie fire!'"

\* The Buffalo Valley Library hours currently are 9:30 until 2:30 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Published May 05, 2004 12:49 PM CDT



### Club News

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Friday, 14 May 2004: Living: pg. 10

Donation to new library

Buffalo Valley Library Center representatives Carolyn Huddleston, Barbara Markel and Char Wanser, in the middle, from left, accept a donation from Kiwanis Club members Jimmy Hull, president, left, and Marlette Stephens. The library recently opened, and this donation helped with its start-up.



First National Bank recently presented a contribution to the Buffalo Valley Library. On hand for the presentation from left to right, Jimmy Hull representing First National Bank, Barbara Markel, Carolyn Huddleston, Char Wanser, Jennifer Bryant and Larry Garrett both representing First National Bank.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN  
14 May 2004



### Anna Mai Smith Obituary

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

29 May 2004

**BAXTER** -- Funeral services for **Anna Mai Smith**, 90, of Silver Point will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday from the Baxter Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Burial will be in the Cookeville Cemetery.

The family will receive friends after 2 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Mrs. Smith died on Friday, May 28, 2004, at NHC of Cookeville.

She was born June 7, 1913, in Silver Point to the late Will J. and Mary Ceva Watkins Julian. Mrs. Smith was a **graduate of Baxter Seminary** and Tennessee Technological University. She was a **retired school teacher, having taught over 30 years at Buffalo Valley, Boma, Silver Point and Baxter Elementary Schools.** She attended the Silver Point Church of Christ.

Her family includes a daughter, Mary Snowden of Lebanon; two sons and a daughter-in-law: William (Bill) T. Anita Smith, and James (Jim) W. Smith, all of Silver Point; four grandsons and three granddaughters-in-law: Lionel Smith, Phillip and Daka Smith, and Forest and Susan Smith; a granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Lorna and Shea Lee; three great-grandchildren: Danika and Colton Smith, and Elliott Lee.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Smith was preceded in death by her **husband Lionel D. Smith**; two sisters: Carolyn Julian and Lois Alcorn; three brothers: Earl, Will and Lloyd Julian; and a granddaughter, Ann Snowden.

Active pallbearers will be Lionel, Phillip and Forest Smith, Shea Lee, Clyde Clemons, Byrd Clemons, Jr., Brian Sears, John Tom Alcorn, and Gerald Julian.

Honorary pallbearers will be all former teachers who worked with Mrs. Smith, and former students, Danika and Colton Smith and Elliott Lee.  
Bro. Johnny Fox and Bro. Don Chaffin will officiate at the services.



#### **Dropping by one more time:**

Several people who used to be part of the Buffalo Valley School and Community Center revisited the 1929 building which housed both and now contains a new library. Annie Duke, graduate of the Buffalo Valley School, is at left, then her daughter, Vestie Hancock who was a student in the 1960's, Shirley Puckett who graduated in the last class in 1965, Peter Mikitka who taught ceramics at the old community center, Erlene Mikitka, who was director of the center from 1974-1980 and Clara Jared who was principal and girls' basketball coach of the 1941 Division Champions.



Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, August 19, 2004 – Page 5.

Ice Cream Social: Buffalo Valley Community Center will have a free ice cream social on Saturday August 21, at 6:30 p.m. Live music by One-Eyed dog. Everyone welcome. Sponsored by Buffalo valley Community Library.

Wed, 21 Jul 2004 20:14:47 -0500 Sat, 10 Jul 2004 14:10:54 -0500 Carolyn & Huddleston to Audrey J. Denny Lambert

I want to tell you more about the Library. The school building is large with 4 large classrooms, a nice size kitchen (modern) and 2 restrooms where the school library was in its heyday--they even had a Librarian

(paid I suppose by the county). And of course a huge Auditorium with a big stage. I think we counted 32 windows and 24 of them are long. The room we fixed up for the library was being used for storage (junk!!!) and probably the smallest of the 4 rooms but still it was 700sq feet with 10 foot ceilings.

We had a luncheon there today for one of the women who is moving to OK Thursday, she was connected to the Bed & Breakfast--three of the women ran it but age caught up with them and they found more interesting things to do, so they sold it. A couple from FL bought it--8 BRs and 9 Baths 4 up and 4 down. We invited people around who knew this lady and only 12 said they were coming and guess how many showed up? 28--so we happened to have ham and a few slices of ham to make up more sandwiches to go with the chicken salad, etc. Anyway, we had a great time so just maybe this thing may open up and everybody will get acquainted.

Happy Hollow Bed & Breakfast  
5428 Medley Amonette Road  
Buffalo Valley TN 38548  
Phone: +1-931-858-3528  
Fax: +1-931-858-0155  
Toll-free: +1-800-887-3155



**Buffalo Valley Renovation**  
Herald Citizen Newspaper  
7 July 2004  
Front Page

Artist Tina Gantenbein is renovating the old curtain at the back of the stage at the Buffalo Valley Community Center. The ads went up sometime in the 20's and have almost faded away. Gantenbein is going over the lettering but leaving the background of each ad in its original state.

Sat, 10 Jul 2004 14:10:54 -0500 Carolyn & Ted Huddleston to Audrey J. Denny Lambert

Did you see the last picture on the front of the HC of the advertising mural? They will do another picture when the artist's work is complete. The First Nat'l Bk then is the First Tenn now and the Citizen's bank back in the 30's is what is known as Union Planters now. Anyway, this is part of our restoration of the Center. Oh yeah, we got alot of Books from a bldg that was going to be torn down on a Monday--and we were notified on Thursday night that they were to be out by Fri 4:p.m. A metal school (private ) which had been in existence for 7 yrs was going to be bull dozed down--so we got our crew together--and got many new books, alot for children on the Christian theme and many others, plus shelves, shelves that held more than the ones we had, plus two commodes, 2 urinals, 2 wash basins , better than the ones we had and many other things, we could have gotten the play ground equipment but it would be very hard to put back up--so we passed on that and I guess it was all done away with--what a waste!!!!!! Take care, Carolyn

21 July 2004: Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

My computer is acting up--I'm finding it hard to get into my e-mail. I depend on Adam for that. It seems like I have to go around the world--I attempted to send you a message today--don't know what happened to it. I was just going to tell you more about the Library. The School bldg is large with 4 lg classrooms, a nice size kitchen (modern) and 2 restrooms where the school Library was in its heyday--they even had a Librarian (paid I suppose by the county). And of course a huge Auditorium with a big stage. I think we counted 32 windows and 24 of them are long. The room we fixed up for the Library was being used for storage (junk!!!) and probably the smallest of the 4 rooms but still it was 700sq feet with 10 foot ceilings.

We had a Luncheon there today for one of the women who is moving to OK Thursday, she was connected to the B & B--three of the women ran it but age caught up with them and they found more interesting things to do, so they sold it. A couple from FI bought it--8 BRs and 9 Baths 4 up and 4 down. Any way, we invited people around who knew this lady and only 12 said they were coming and guess how many showed up? 28--so we happened to have ham and a few slices of ham to make up more sandwiches to go with the chicken salad, etc. Anyway, we had a great time so just maybe this thing may open up and everybody will get acquainted.

Kenneth's place will sell and the Household things , too. He will go live near his son in a Mobile Home. He's got a 90th Birthday coming up with a party at the Rose Garden. Send him a card (Buffalo Valley will get it to him)

Love to both CSH

I'm working on the list for you of the new part of Smellage Cemetery.

28 July 2004: Carolyn Shanks Huddleston

We are having a flag raising Monday--The Woodmen of the World gave us a Pole (\$500.00) and had us up for Dinner, we presented our case about not having a flag or Pole , we took Ted to explain that we had a good place to put it near a light. So we're still having fun--wish you were here. I told you about the school giving us Books, shelves, etc. otherwise it would be Bulldozed down the next day. What a life!!! Such waste. I'm still working on the list of the new part of the cemetery--I'm trying to add more relatives to the people who are dead. Love to both of you. Carolyn

Thu, 05 Aug 2004 20:51:31 -0500 Carolyn & Ted Huddleston to Audrey J. Denny Lambert

We're still working in the Library, re-doing shelves that were better than the first ones. I noticed we had another photo in Wednesday's paper that was made back in May--the Flag Raising went well with 3 County officials there. Lemonade & cookies on a table under the tree--they are working on the trail around the outer edges for a walking path--several times around and a few pounds will disappear.

Carolyn



*\*See & hear the audio at the WPNL Nashville Radio Station Website:*  
<http://www.wpln.org/news/library/>

*Nashville Public Radio:*

*Buffalo Valley Library: Interview at the Buffalo Valley Post Office about the discontinued bookmobile & the library. Pictured left is Todd Jarrell.*

Transcription of the tape: WPNL: Buffalo Valley Library - 12/08/03

Farm houses dot the hills of Buffalo Valley seem to anchor fields that were first tilled in the late 1700's back when buffalo still roamed this land. Near Interstate 40 but miles from any town this community benefited for sixteen years as a regular station for the bookmobile, but no longer

"Last summer the state had major cuts and they identified the bookmobiles as a expense they would never be able to replace," said library director Betty Jo Jarvis. Library director Betty Jo Jarvis oversees the 60 outer stations and 17 libraries of the Upper Cumberland Region. One Hundred and Fifty-Nine bookmobile stations closed in the state cuts including all in Jarvis' nine county area.

What remained was a single van delivering books to stations on quarterly rounds but says Jarvis deeper cuts were needed still. "And so we reviewed our public stations and identified the ones that were being least utilized and had to make the decision to cut those stations," said Betty Jo Jarvis.

*People talking in the Buffalo Valley post office....*

Inside the lobby of Buffalo Valley small brown brick post office neighbors catch up in cheerful conversation. The main feature here is a large oak bookcase which had served as the bookmobile station that is until the bookcase was emptied by local resident Barbara Markel. "It was like someone broke into

your house and stole your books,” said Barbara Markel. One of Barbara’s neighbors is Char Wanser a former teacher’s aid of seventeen years who compared the disappearing books only half jokingly to Ray Bradbury’s futuristic tale of censorship. “Fahrenheit 451 where they burned all the books that made me think someone has taken all our books out and burned them or done something with them, and that is not acceptable, *laughing*....that is not acceptable to me,” said Char Wanser.

Every day Buffalo Valley’s postmaster Helen Edwards waited on locals who lamented the laws of the small library, they wanted books funding cuts or no. “So therefore we decided why not just have our own library because a lot of people have books lying around, you know,” said Helen Edwards. So that’s what they did, Wanser and Markel along with amateur local historian Carolyn Huddleston were granted permission to take over the library. The three stocked the bookshelves with personal collections seeking organizational tips from the Cookeville public library.

“Well basically at the beginning we just put out what we have and then we are going to rotate get together and decide when to rotate and if something hasn’t been used we’ll take it off maybe every two months. Kinda like the bookmobile did we are going to try and do the same thing,” said Barbara Markel.

*Lots of chatter and laughing....I want this book and I will check out another one when I’m finished....*

Janet Wallace lives near by and dropping in on a postal errand she picks up books for herself just as she did for many years with her two daughters. “We really are thankful it’s here we checked out lots of children’s books here and now one’s a CPA and both graduated and we owe it partly to our regional library,” said Janet Wallace.

Ironically regional librarian Betty Jo Jarvis says now that Buffalo Valley is out of the system it has come full circle a mirror to the library minded efforts of earlier times. “Historically that is how they started was a group of typical concerned women would get together ask for donations and put them on the shelf in a public place,” said Betty Jo Jarvis. Perhaps two dozen people a week check out books now with more expected as word spreads. Plans include another bookcase and the ladies are seeking suitable signage for out front.

Above all they want people to read because Barbara Markel says they believe firmly in the power of books to improve and empower. “It feels so much better to walk in and see books than to see wanted poster and just your generic post office stuff .....*laughing*....and maybe this can prevent that somewhere along the line and gain knowledge,” said Barbara Markel.

They hope to offer much at the Buffalo Valley Library and they ask for little in return except as always no books overdue. For Nashville Public Radio I’m Todd Jarrell.

### **GET JOB REVIVING BUFFALO VALLEY**

Letter to the Editor, Herald Citizen Newspaper, Tuesday, 10 August 2004 – Opinion: Page 4

I want to personally thank and commend the Herald-Citizen for the write ups and exposure that you have given the Buffalo Valley School and Library. You have done a great job.

I am a native of Buffalo Valley and I really love what Carolyn Huddleston and the two other ladies have done. More local residents need to participate more in order to get Buffalo Valley back on the map.

Working together as a community can accomplish a world of things.

I have been gone from Tennessee for 52 years but I always come back for visits and I will be buried in those hills because I love them and the great people. To me, that is ‘God’s Country.’ PETER “PETE” NICHOLS, Lutz, FL.

8 August 2004:

Look in today's paper, Sunday, 8th and see what you think about The Governor and "Dolly" with their "Imaginary" Library??? Can you imagine him giving her thousands to put a book in every home with a 1st grader and cut our Book Mobile out? And ours is all volunteer workers even the janitorial duties  
Love, Carolyn

### **BOOKS & BEANS**

Letter to the Editor, Herald Citizen Newspaper by Audrey J. Denny Lambert  
Herald Citizen Newspaper  
Att: Editor  
1300 Neal Street  
Cookeville, TN 38501

To: Our Readers Speak Out

BOOKS AND BEANS: *Mailed to the Herald Citizen Newspaper, 19 August 2004 – never published.*

Cornbread and beans takes the back seat to steak and potatoes. As usual the little guy loses to the bigger guy in the war of politics.

After listening to an interview conducted by Todd Jarrell on WPNL Nashville Public Radio Station: Website: <http://www.wpln.org/news/library/> about state funded services that were cut because of budget adjustments I was appalled when later I read about the same budget cuts being supported by Governor Phil Bredesen.

The interview with Todd Jarrell was conducted at the Buffalo Valley post office where the local residents used to go to check out books to read.

Quoting Betty Jo Jarvis she said:

“Last summer the state had major cuts and they identified the bookmobiles as a expense they would never be able to replace,” said library director Betty Jo Jarvis. Library director Betty Jo Jarvis oversees the 60 outer stations and 17 libraries of the Upper Cumberland Region. One Hundred and Fifty-Nine bookmobile stations closed in the state cuts including all in Jarvis’ nine county area.

What remained was a single van delivering books to stations on quarterly rounds but says Jarvis deeper cuts were needed still. “And so we reviewed our public stations and identified the ones that were being least utilized and had to make the decision to cut those stations,” said Betty Jo Jarvis.

Buffalo Valley was one of the stations that felt the cut of the politicians knife.

Every day Buffalo Valley’s postmaster Helen Edwards waited on locals who lamented the laws of the small library, they wanted books funding cuts or no. “So therefore we decided why not just have our own library because a lot of people have books lying around, you know,” said Helen Edwards. So that’s what they did, Char Wanser and Barbara Markel along with amateur local historian Carolyn Huddleston were granted permission to take over the library. The three stocked the bookshelves with personal collections seeking organizational tips from the Cookeville public library.

Ironically regional librarian Betty Jo Jarvis says now that Buffalo Valley is out of the system it has come full circle a mirror to the library minded efforts of earlier times. “Historically that is how they started was a group of typical concerned women would get together ask for donations and put them on the shelf in a public place,” said Betty Jo Jarvis.

Since the interview these ladies have managed to raise public funds to renovate the old Buffalo Valley Schoolhouse and Community center. They received books, building supplies, shelves and lots of community support from hard working citizens just so they could have a library. Books should always be

an option not everyone has the means to obtain information from the internet. The library in Buffalo Valley is for the people maintained and funded by the people.

The Herald Citizen newspaper ran many articles about the endeavors of creating a library for Buffalo Valley during its beginnings which was wonderful to spread the word to the community. I read the Herald Citizen every day even though I live in Michigan because I was born in Cookeville, TN and that is where my roots run deep. I like reading about what is happening in and around Putnam County. I find the Herald Citizen to be a good source of information highlighting the local community and its people.

I could not believe it when I read the article in the Herald Citizen on Sunday, 8 August 2004 on Page C-5. The article was entitled, UCHRA co-sponsors 'Imagination Library' local matching sponsorships needed. The Upper Cumberland Human Resource Agency's executive director, Phyllis R. Bennett, announced a partnership with Governor Phil Bredesen's First Books Foundation and Dolly Parton's "Imagination Library" to sponsor the First Books campaign in the 14-county region of the Upper Cumberland.

UCHRA will be teaming up with local county government, businesses, civic groups, private individuals and faith-based groups to sponsor participation in the program.

Sounds like a wonderful idea??? Isn't this what the community had before the state budget cuts? Before the cuts the community had libraries and the bookmobiles and the state decided that they were not needed. Now that Governor Phil Bredesen and Dolly Parton want to promote reading it is acceptable. Why not just give the community back its bookmobiles and libraries. Why spend money on new books for every child in the community when books can be brought for one central source such as a local library and unitized by many people and recycled over and over again.

According to the UCHRA article: Because of the challenge grant secured by the governor, the state government will pay 50 percent of the cost of providing books to children in the Upper Cumberland region. Local funds will also be needed to pay for a share of the cost of the books and mailing.

I have worked for the postal service for the last 31 years and would appreciate the money spent on the mailing of the books of Dolly's 'Imagination Library' the revenue would certainly help the postal service. But doesn't it seem silly to spend money this way? If a survey were conducted on the cost savings of mailing books vs local libraries and bookmobiles for the masses I believe that in the long run this process would cost less.

Libraries are the backbone of America for the people by the people. Libraries give the community the pride of ownership of the written word. Community libraries are personal reaching out to the cornbread and beans community. I believe the power of the written word through books and publications should be put back into the hands of the locals not the meat and potatoes. Funding of any sort should be given to the rural areas that want and need community libraries and bookmobiles. This is the way it was and this is the way it should be, why fix it if it isn't broken?

Audrey J. Denny Lambert, Sterling Heights, MI: [ajlambert.com](http://ajlambert.com)

P.S. I love the Herald Citizen read it everyday!

**Imagination Library begins here Wednesday**

Lindsay McReynolds  
Herald-Citizen Staff

A new program that Putnam County leaders hope will improve future literacy rates in area residents will begin on Wednesday at the Putnam County Library.

Beginning Wednesday, every preschool-age child in Putnam County will have the opportunity to receive free books thanks to a new program sponsored by several government entities and non-profit agencies.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library will kick off with a ceremony on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Putnam County Library on Broad Street. Afterwards, children can begin signing up for their free books.

Through the program, which was started by Dolly Parton in Sevier County and is now available in a number of counties across the state, every child from birth to 5 years old who is signed up will receive a free book a month from the Dollywood Foundation.

The first book children will receive is "The Little Engine That Could."

"I think it's an investment in the future of our county," Putnam County Executive Kim Blaylock said. "Reading is one of the most important skills anyone can have. It's a proven fact that the sooner kids have access to books and start reading, it helps them when they get into school. You're instilling in them the importance of it at an early age. A lot of these little kids, they might not have the opportunity to have books at home without having this."

When the program was proposed to Putnam County commissioners and Cookeville City Council members in December, Blaylock explained that the program would cost about \$73,000 per year for Putnam kids to participate.

The state legislature has approved money to cover half that cost, and Putnam County and the City of Cookeville were asked to provide money for the other half, about \$18,500 each per year.

Once city and county leaders agreed to participate, Putnam County Library workers and volunteers began working on all the paperwork involved to get the program rolling, according to Diane Duncan, library director.

The Upper Cumberland Human Resources Agency is the non-profit agency sponsoring the program, and other groups have also helped with the program including Putnam County Library Friends, Cookeville Noon Rotary Club and Tennessee Tech.

Duncan said that Cookeville resident Judy Titsworth has been her 'number one volunteer' with the program.

On Wednesday, Duncan said they're planning to have story time for children and then will begin signing up children for the program.

"In the following days, we will be delivering applications to area preschools, doctors' offices, health departments, the hospital, all libraries in the county and various other locations," Duncan said.

Duncan said the data entry of all the children expected to sign up will be the most difficult and time-consuming part of the whole process, so it may be April before children start receiving their books.

"We have to put all the names and addresses in a database and send it to the Dollywood Foundation," Duncan said. "They send it to the publisher, who sends out the books."

But Duncan said the community is excited about the program, as the library has received a lot of calls from organizations and individuals who are anxious to see the program begin.

"It's going to be a big deal," Blaylock said. "It's going to be their mail, and they're going to say, 'Mom, dad, read me this book.'"

"I think it's great that the city and county partnered on the funding to bring this together for our kids," she said. "It's good that we're working together."

"I think simply getting the books in the hands of children will help them when they start school," Duncan said. "It sounds funny to us who have read for most of our lives that there are children who don't even know how to hold a book."

"Of course, we can't make parents read to their children, but I think simply having the books in the home will be a benefit," she said. "There are a lot of homes that don't have books. I think down the road we'll see an improved literacy in the overall population because of the program."

Duncan said the Putnam County Library Friends are working on providing information to parents about how to read to their children.

"Hopefully that will get off the ground this spring," she said.

For more information about the Imagination Library, call the Putnam County Library at (931) 526-2416.

*Published February 28, 2005 12:50 PM CST , Herald Citizen, Cookeville, TN*

Thu, 02 Sep 2004 13:08:47 -0500 Carolyn & Ted Huddleston to Audrey J. Denny Lambert

Dear Audrey,

Ask, & it shall be given? A Bank called & said they were working up a package deal for us in return for making a picture for the Newspaper?? Barbara told them we would even pose. Imagine a new computer!!!! and a year of Internet free???????? and Lord only knows what else the package will contain--we hope. Our ice cream social was a smashing success!! Although it wasn't homemade but when it's free you can't be choosy.

Love , Carolyn

**Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert's 2004 Tennessee Research Vacation:**

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



On 23 October 2004 I attended a Chili Supper Fund Raiser at the old Buffalo Valley Community Center in Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN. Chili, hotdogs, desserts and beverage was served. Raffle tickets were offered for sale for a country ham, homemade quilt and several other items. The music for the event was a band called the One-Eyed Dog. They were set up on the old school stage with a wonderful restored background. Numbers were taped on the floor in front of the band and people would buy tickets for a chance to win a country ham and homemade cakes that local community people had baked and donated for the fund raiser. When the music starts the people are suppose to move

forward on a numbered square and when the music stops a number is picked and that person who is on the number picked wins the ham and/or cakes.

They had face paintings and a game called go fish to generate money. A basket was also passed for donations. The conference room was opened and so was the library for all to enjoyed and be proud of. The library was wonderful. Books were lined on shelves and all had official library check out pockets in the books. Handmade ceramic tiles by Barbara Markel lined one wall with the names of local people. At the door of the library was a check out counter and a bulletin board with pictures of individuals whose birthdays had been



honored. Nice big windows let the sunshine flow into the room and offered the visitor a view of a beautiful country setting. In the back of the room was a play area for the younger folks with children books to read and enjoy.



The conference room that used to be the classroom of the school had many large windows that allowed plenty of light to enter the room. This design was typical of a country school classroom so that the students would have lots of natural light to conduct class and read assignments. Plenty of tables and chairs have been placed in this room and a nice couch to relax on. An old piano is also in this room. On one wall two display cases have been installed. In the cases are lots of pictures of past and present community people. In this room is an entrance to the school's kitchen. The kitchen has plenty of cabinets and appliances to be used for community events. The kitchen has an opening

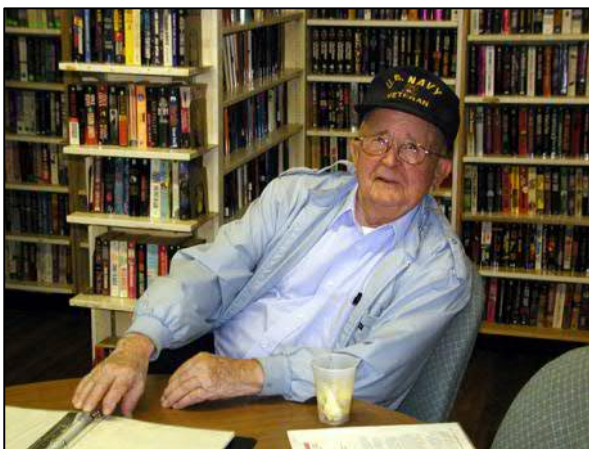
counter that is used to distribute food at the events and another room has lots of tables to be used during such events. Off the entrance is a bathroom for women and men. One other room towards the back of the school is used to store items and books that have been donated to the community center and library.



L to R: Barbara Markel & Carolyn Huddleston devoted community leaders of the Buffalo Valley Library and Community Center.

The Buffalo Valley Community Center & Library is a wonderful country place so full of country charm. I found it to be warm and inviting. The community people have done so much work on the building, interior and library they should be proud of their efforts. This is truly a team effort of the community that is run by volunteers that love their community. Wish I lived nearby and could help out, someday I might. Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert.

Some pictures from my visit:



Jephtha Tubb Askew, III: A local resident that is quite knowledgeable about the community and its past and present residents.



L to R: Teresa Poticher & Carolyn Huddleston. Teresa Poticher talks about Prettyman Jones and his family.

My ggg-grandfather was Lewis Jenkins "Jink" Jones. His daughter Charlotte "Lottie" Jones was my gg-grandmother. She was born February 1851 Jackson Co., TN and she married Jesse Houston Holly/Holley. Their daughter Senith Carolyn Holly/Holley was my g-grandmother. Lewis Jenkins "Jink" Jones, s/o Prettyman Jones Sr. & Sarah Hitchcock.

During my visit in October of 2004 the ladies of the Buffalo Valley Community Center and Library had the Center for Historic Preservation come to look at the old Buffalo Valley School. The Middle Tennessee State University sent Leslie N. Sharp, Assistant Professor of MTSU to evaluate the building and grounds.



Leslie explained the policies of the Center for Historic Preservation to us and gave her expert advise on how to go about getting the Buffalo Valley School on the historical register.

She was a very knowledgeable person and made suggestions on preserving the building keeping the original look. She explained that the building had the original windows and layout of an old

fashion schoolhouse. She pointed out that the design of the walls with the horizontal boards on the top and the vertical boards on the bottom was the typical design of the time. As she spoke the schoolroom came alive and I could imagine the children sitting at their desks talking to each other as the teacher tried to gain control of the classroom. The room was full of natural light from the big windows and high ceiling. I came back to the present when I thought I heard the teacher say, "Now class come to attention."

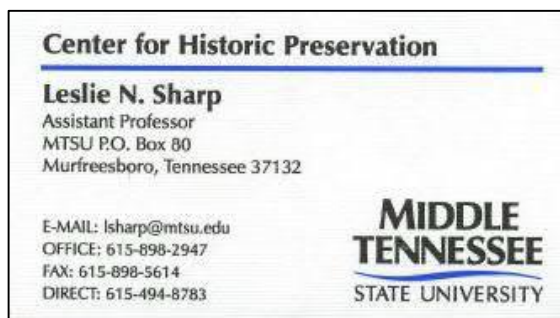
A man named Michael Gavens came with Leslie to measure each room in the schoolhouse and to draw up a floorplan. Michael's speciality was making recommendations on how to make the building stucture hold up to time without changing the original design. Leslie said he was a expert in his field. Michael showed Ted Huddleston what needed to be done to perserve the building.



Leslie took many photos of the school inside and out and was very pleased with the hard work the community had done on the building and grounds.

Leslie left with her notes and photos to show the Center for Historic Preservation. She would let the Buffalo Valley Community Center's board know their decision. She felt strongly positive about the outcome, this was truly an historical site that needed to be preserved for the future generations.

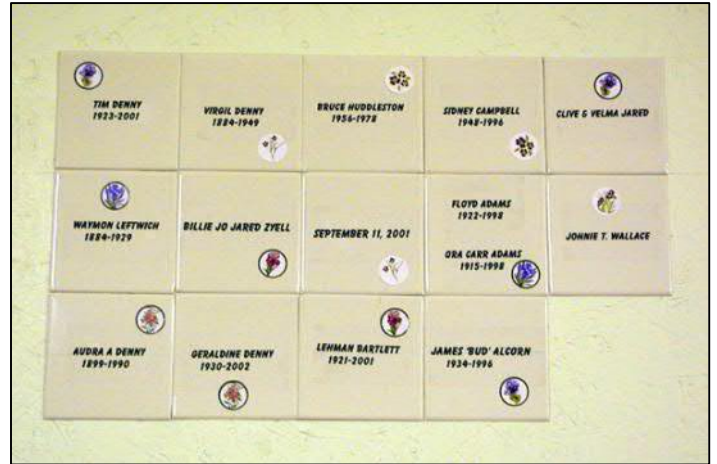
In attendance at the meeting shown in the above pictures were: Barbara Markel, Carolyn Huddleston, Char Wanser, Leslie N. Sharp and Audrey J. Lambert.



Pictured L to R: George Shanks, Michael Gavens & Ted Huddleston. Michael Gavens was taking a look at the old Luke Shanks farm.



The One Eyed Dog performs at the Buffalo Valley Community Center, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN.



Handmade memory ceramic tiles made by Barbara Markel to honor past and present members of the Putnam Co., TN community.



Audrey and Mike Lambert are showing Ted Huddleston a map of Putnam Co., TN. The map shows the locations of cemeteries in the Putnam Co., TN area.

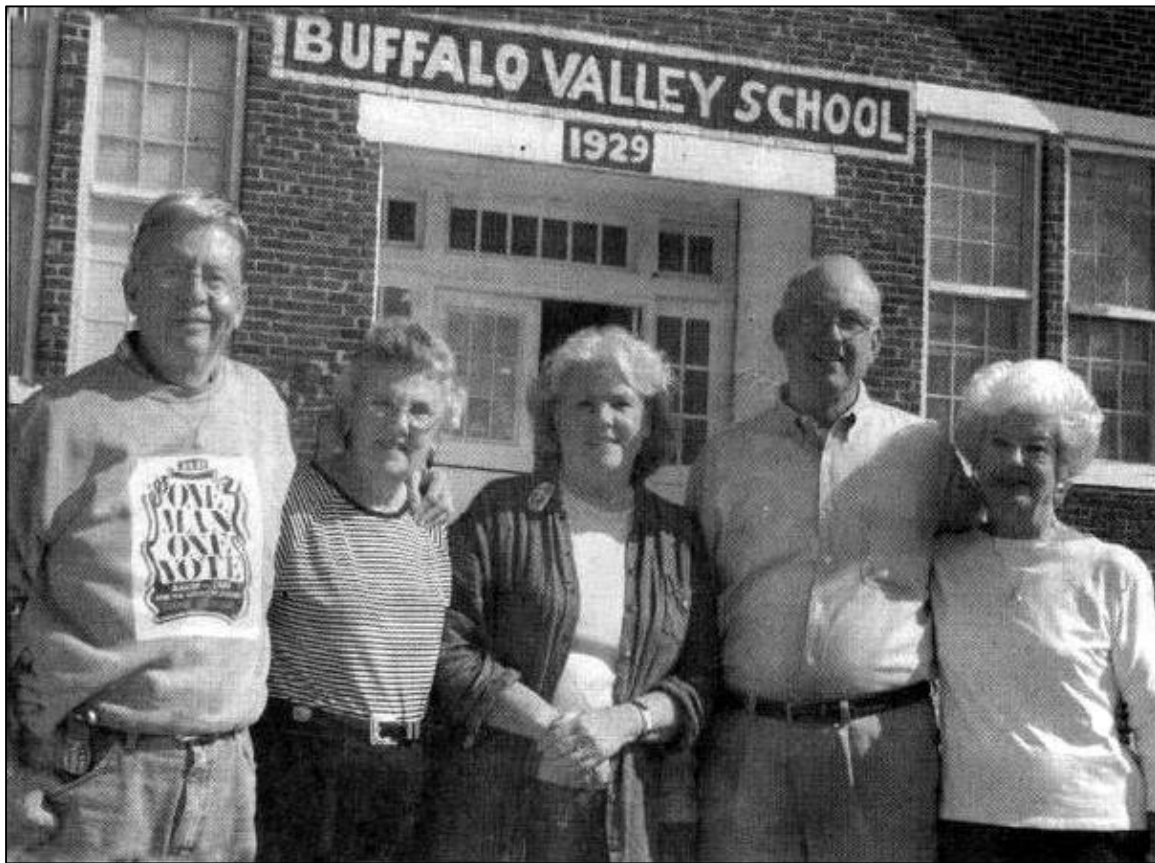
The map was made by Charles A. Reeves Jr.

These are county maps showing the locations of cemeteries, churches, cities, towns and communities, roads, waterways, and other significant landmarks. The intent is to help researchers locate cemeteries in the counties.

<http://www.reevesmaps.com/>

Charles A. Reeves Jr.  
 Cartography & Technical Illustration  
 10812 Dineen Drive  
 Knoxville, TN 37922-1809  
 reevesca@tds.net

We also purchased the map of Jackson Co., TN by Charles A. Reeves Jr. – an excellent research aid for cemeteries in Jackson Co., TN



**Family gathers to remember famous Tennessean**  
 Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 17 November 2004  
 Picture taken by Camille Fliss

The family of the late Joe Carr, Tennessee's Secretary of State in 1944 and 1977, met for a reunion on October 30<sup>th</sup> at Buffalo Valley Schoolhouse. From left are, Carr Grigg, Carr's nephew; Bettye Deathridge, his niece, who has worked for 34 years at the House of Representatives Engrossing Office; Carolyn Carr-Casparis, his daughter; Joe Carr Jr., his son; and Margaret Tollison, his niece, who has worked for 46 years in the Secretary of State's office. Joe Carr Sr. was involved in the groundbreaking, historic "One Man One Vote" supreme court case in 1962, known as Baker vs. Carr. Baker vs. Carr involved the apportionment of seats in state governing bodies – Tennessee was using 60-year-old district boundaries in electing members of its legislature, despite the fact that they no longer reflected the true distribution of the population. By keeping old election district boundaries, it allotted rural citizens greater proportional representation than their counterparts in the growing cities. In resolving this and other later cases, the Court eventually established the principle of equal representation: "One Man, One Vote."

**You can send donations to the library to help purchase books, supplies etc... to:**  
**BUFFALO VALLEY LIBRARY CENTER**  
**P.O. BOX 93**  
**BUFFALO VALLEY, TN 38548**  
**931-858-4876 OR 931-858-2486**

*A Contribution has been given  
 to the  
 Buffalo Valley Library  
 in memory of  
 Ronald Timothy Denny  
 by  
 Joan Dyer*

---

*which will be used for the primary purpose of purchasing books. A  
 memorial plate will be placed inside each book.*

*A Contribution has been given  
 to the  
 Buffalo Valley Library  
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 Ronald Timothy Denny  
 by  
 Judy Flatt*

---

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### WAL-MART GIVES

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Wednesday, 15 June 2005, pg. 11  
Buffalo Valley Library and Multi-Purpose Center

Carl Hoover, manager of the Algood Wal-Mart , standing in the back, presents a check for \$500 from Wal-Mart to, from left, Barbara Markel, Pauline Vogel, Char Wanser and Carolyn Huddleston of the Buffalo Valley Library. They recently held a bake sale that raised \$750 to purchase books and programs for senior citizens and children.

**Source:** Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 7 August 2005: The Regular Meetings Calendar: Recreation: Buffalo Valley Lending Library has a birthday party (for area residents with birthdays that month) 1 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the Community Ceneter. Free refreshments served.



### DEDICATING SWINGSET, WALKING TRAIL

A dedication service was held recently at Buffalo Valley Community Center focusing on a swing set in conjunction with a recently opened walking trail to honor the memory of Mildred Christian and Erlene Mikitka. The two women were instrumental in preserving and protecting the Buffalo Valley School building, which now serves as one of the more active community centers in the county and also houses a lending library. Among those attending are, from left, in the swing, James Christian, Sarah Stamps. Patsy Allison, Dylan Harville, Jackson Hargis and Hailey Hargis, and in back, Donna Ashburn, Janie Maxwell, Robert Christian, Dorothy Fonville, Deborah Clark (behind swing), Shirley Puckett, Kim Hargis and Audrey Stamps, Martha Sauceman and Woody Russell represented Mrs. Mikitka's family as dear friends. Dr. Wesley Henry, a longtime friend of the two women and their families, spoke at the service. Other friends and relatives shared memories as well.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 16 July 2006-Page C-5.

## HISTORIC SCHOOL DRAWS ADMIRERS WHO WORK FOR ITS PRESERVATION

**Lindsay McReynolds**  
Herald-Citizen Staff

Many Tennesseans can't recall a time when public education wasn't accessible, let alone free, but



those who saw the construction of the Buffalo Valley School in Putnam County certainly can.

(Photo: Carolyn Huddleston walks down one of the hallways at the Buffalo Valley School, which was recently named to the National Register of Historic Places. Herald -Citizen Photos/Ty Kernea)

The school, which sits on Buffalo Valley School Road just off Interstate 40's Exit 268 in Putnam County, was built with local labor in 1923 and

opened in 1929 with the help of funds from the state, county and Buffalo Valley community.

Its cultural significance as one of the state's earliest rural public schools as well as its well-maintained physical condition earned it a spot on the National Register of Historic Places last summer.

But ironically, the move to preserve it as a national landmark didn't come from those who spent their childhoods there.

"The first time I walked in, I loved it," said Putnam County resident Barbara Markel. "I went to a three-room school in Missouri, and it's no longer there. Most of us who took an interest in it are 'transplants.'"

Some of those transplants include Markel's husband, Vernon, and their friend Char Wanser.

Ted and Carolyn Huddleston also took an interest in the building.

A few years ago, the group started a library there to rejuvenate the building that was no longer used as a school, and only occasionally used for chili suppers or school reunions.

"We cleaned it all up," Markel said. "The floors were horrible. We sanded them for days and days."

The library is now tucked neatly into one of the schoolhouse rooms thanks to books donated by the community.

But the move to make it a national landmark began over a year ago, when the group contacted the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University and found historian Dr. Carroll Van West, who assigned the project to Bud Alley, a student who was performing an internship there as well as working toward a master's degree.

Like the others who took an interest in it, Alley too had no connection to the old building, but he soon became fascinated by it. And those who did know about the building weren't too hard to find.

Many of those who did share a history with the building still live nearby and were contacted to help tell the story of the Buffalo Valley School, including Luke Leftwich, Erlene Mikitka, J.T. Askew, Bud Maddux, Jack Williams and J.B. Leftwich.

Even in recent days, J.T. Askew, who is also known as "the mayor" among his friends, dropped by the school and recalled how the building came to be.

"Everybody wanted a big schoolhouse," remembered Askew, who noted that his father helped install the school bell there.

Askew said many Buffalo Valley residents donated money for the school, and Putnam County also helped pay to build the school.

In Alley's research, he discovered that Buffalo Valley was a product of the "progressive era" in education, when Austin Peay was governor.

"Austin Peay was for reforming education," Alley said. "Prior to that there were 'subscription schools,' where if a farmer wanted his son Johnny to read and write, he would go to a school and ask the school marm how much it would cost for Johnny to come there for 30 days.

"It was not a public education system," Alley said. "It was strictly a private thing. Of course, with Tennessee being such an agricultural, rural state, education is still an issue for us."

Beyond noting its symbolic contribution to education, the Buffalo Valley School also holds a cultural significance as well-known musical acts would perform on the school's stage while they were passing through to larger cities.

"Roy Acuff and Grandpa Jones came to play at the building," Askew said. "You could see them for 10 or 25 cents."

Ted Huddleston also recalls a performance of the Maybelle Carter Family, including then young comedian June Carter.

Alley said the school's auditorium is one of its unique features that remains intact.

"There's a mural on stage," he said. "It's a major piece of Tennessee folk art. We're seeing what we can do to get a grant and do some restoration. I think that the mural goes back to its early days. My research indicates it would go back to the early '30s time frame, what it tells story of, rural Americana. It shows how the community was put together and how the community supported education."

Alley and the Buffalo Valley residents seem to agree that the building's historical significance still carries on today as it continues to be used for community activities.

"It's a source of tremendous pride for that part of Putnam County, and today it is still a key link," Alley said. "It conveys that sense of place. They still have cakewalks, garage sales. It's a meeting place for people in the community. It's the centerpiece of Buffalo Valley."

Published December 14, 2006 11:33 AM CST: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN



Barbara Markel and Carolyn Huddleston talk outside the front of Buffalo Valley School. Photo: Herald-Citizen/Ty Kernea.



**BUFFALO VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER STAGE**  
Decorated for the 2004 Autumn gathering.

**BUFFALO VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER  
STAGE**

Decorated for the 2006 Christmas gathering.



**PETER MIKITKA OBT.**

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for **Peter Mikitka**, 93, **formerly of Buffalo Valley**, will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. Burial, with full military honors by the Veterans Honor Guard, will be in **Byrd L. Jones Cemetery**.

The family will receive friends from 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m. on Tuesday at Whitson Funeral Home.

**Mr. Mikitka died Saturday, June 6, 2009, in Veterans Hospital in Murfreesboro.**

**He was born Jan. 24, 1916, in Freeland, Pa., to the late John and Thresa Kost Mikitka.**

Mr. Mikitka was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, a member of the Knights of Columbus, an Army veteran and worked at the Dupont Company.

He attended and graduated from Diesel Engineering in Memphis. Mr. Mikitka served in the Army in Alaska for two years and was a Tech Sergeant when he left the service. **He was assistant director of the Buffalo Valley Community Center for 16 years and started the center with his late wife, Erlene.** He received several certificates for outstanding service from the State of Tennessee and Parks & Recreation.

His family includes a brother-in-law, Lytle Hodge of Smyrna; a niece and her husband, Jenny and Barry Sanders of Smyrna; two great-nieces, Ashley and Abby Grace Sanders; special friends Clifford Sauceman and Martha Sauceman of Silver Point, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Robichaud of Cookeville and friends and employees at Elmcroft Assisted Living in Lebanon; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his **wife, Erlene Mikitka**; brothers and sisters; and a sister-in-law, Marie Hodge.

Pallbearers will be members of the Knights of Columbus.

Honorary pallbearers will be Clifford Sauceman, Jeff Robichaud and Barry Sanders.

Father Chad Putoff will officiate at the services.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Monday, June 08, 2009

**Brenda Faye (Elrod) Holley Obt.**

**COOKEVILLE** -- Memorial services for Brenda Faye Holley, 64, of Cookeville, will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 23, at the chapel of Dyer Funeral Home.

Family will receive friends Thursday from 5 p.m. until time of services at the funeral home.

Mrs. Holley died Monday, Dec. 20, 2010, at NHC of Smithville.

She was born July 19, 1946 in Detroit, Mich., to the late **Willie Oscar and Willie Grey Watts Elrod.**

Mrs. Holley was a factory worker who made clothing.

Her family includes two daughters and sons-in-law, Vicky and Virgil Norrod of Morrison and Sondra and Bob Peltier of Baxter; three grandchildren, Steven Handy and wife Tasia, Kristan and Kaitlyn Harville; two great-grandchildren, Ramsey Snook and Rush Handy; a sister and brother-in-law, Peggy and Eddie Willis of Griffin, Ga.; and three brothers, Shelby Gene Elrod of Algood, **David Elrod of Buffalo Valley** and Bobby Elrod of Cookeville.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Holley was preceded in death by a son, Donnie Thomas; a brother, Jimmy

Elrod; an uncle, John Watts; and an aunt, Ruby Fields.

Dyer Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 22 December 2010

**Carolyn Naomi Shanks Huddleston Obt.**

Carolyn Naomi Shanks Huddleston, 88, of Buffalo Valley, Tennessee passed away to heaven Thursday, March 19, 2020 at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

Carolyn was born March 28, 1931 to Luke A. and Dona (Boyd) Shanks in the house across the creek from the house she has lived in since 1970 in Buffalo Valley. Carolyn attended Denny Seminary School as a young girl where she became self-taught how to play the piano at 6 years old. Carolyn attended Baxter Seminary where she graduated in 1949.



Carolyn married Milton (Ted) Huddleston Dec. 26, 1948 in Rossville, Georgia (a year shy of graduating high school). Her mother Dona (a school teacher) insisted she finish high school whereas she did. They were happily together and married for 71 plus years. They had 5 sons, David, Donnie, Gary, Bruce and Mike.

They lived in various locations until they settled in Old Hickory, Tennessee up until the move to Hendersonville, Tennessee in 1968 and back home to Buffalo Valley in 1970 to the house across the creek from the house she was born in. Carolyn had a "green thumb", everything she touched or planted lived a "happy life". She was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking family meals more than anything.

Carolyn attended the Buffalo Valley Presbyterian Church where at times she played the piano and organ. She was an avid geneologist and shared family history with so many, too many to name them all. **With the help of Barbara Markel and Char Wanser, they started the Buffalo Valley Library.** Carolyn worked as a clerk for a period of time at the Buffalo Valley Post Office. She loved helping people and encouraging them to be the best they could be at all times.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her son Bruce in 1978. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her sister, Miriam Gwaltney and brother George Shanks. Also, she is survived by sons, David (Kay) Huddleston, Donnie (Peggy) Huddleston, Gary Huddleston and Mike (Lisa) Huddleston; seven grandchildren, Dr. Leslie (Stephen) Franklin, John Huddleston, Jack Huddleston, Jennifer (Marty) Sauvie, Adam (Myiesha) Huddleston, Brian (Becky) Huddleston and Blake (Chrissy) Huddleston; and by six great grandchildren, Kate, Heidi, Carolyn Rose, Aubrey, Maya and Joey.

Visitation and graveside services are to be held Sunday March 22, 2020 with interment to be held at Smellage Cemetery. Due to the CORONA-VIRUS, all services are for immediate family members only PLEASE. Carolyn was beloved by all who knew her, everyone is encouraged to leave condolences and messages to her family on her tribute page at [hhhfunerals.com](http://hhhfunerals.com). A public celebration of life for Carolyn will be held at a later date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers, Carolyn's family asks that any donations be made to the Buffalo Valley Library.

"Let there be Peace in the Valley."

Carolyn's family wishes to express thanks and prayers to mom's caregivers Ashley, Belinda, Chris and Helen. They were as much as inspiration to her as she was to you. Also, special thank you Lisa and Tammy of Home Health for making her day each time you visited, as well.

Baxter chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. (931)858-2134. Share memories and condolences at [www.hhhfunerals.com](http://www.hhhfunerals.com).

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 22 March 2020

<http://www.ajlambert.com>