

## ARDA LEE FOUNDER OF HIDDEN HOLLOW

Herald-Citizen Staff: Herald Citizen Newspaper, TN  
Charles Denning  
Published July 26, 2004 12:52 PM CDT

Arda Lee, the grand old man of Hidden Hollow, has died.

Death came Saturday at Cookeville Regional Medical Center where he had been hospitalized about two weeks. He was 88.

In the 35-or-so years since he opened his quiet, quirky little day-resort to the public, Arda had become Putnam County's most widely known ambassador, considering himself a friend to the tens of thousands who had come from near and far to picnic at Hidden Hollow, to wander through the dazzle of a million colored lights at Christmas, to bring the kids to feed the ducks, to fish -- or even to get married in the wedding arbor he had contrived.

You'd leave Highway 70 just east of Cookeville, wind through the community of Poplar Grove, cross Falling Water River a couple of times, take the gravel road up toward Macedonia church -- and there'd be the big rustic archway with Hidden Hollow spelled out overhead in rough-cut wood.

Inside the gateway, as you approached a small covered bridge, lights would flash from a sign that read: "Smile! You're on Candid Camera!"

This was only the first joke in a place studded with simple jokes and oddities, clues to Arda's buoyant, child-like sense of humor and the optimism that had powered the dream of his lifetime -- turning this beautiful 86-acre cove, on the other side of the world from the bustling small city of Cookeville, into an off-the-beaten-path attraction.

It was a dream known only to Arda during the time he'd spent in California working in a pottery factory during the Great Depression and the months he'd lain in a sanitarium recovering from TB; the years he "shot rivets" on a Lockheed Aircraft assembly line in Burbank, helping make World War II fighter planes, finally completing 31 years and retiring from Lockheed in 1972 as a tool-and-die engineer at its Marietta, Ga., plant.

Arda had been born on Lee Mountain in White County. One of his uncles owned what was then called Hyder Hollow after Frank Hyder who operated a grist mill there, its machinery turned by water that still gushes from a huge spring in the hillside. Arda bought the cove or hollow in 1952 and slowly, over the years, making trips up from Georgia on weekends, his hands began to give form and substance to the vision he had drawn in his imagination.

Standing near the head of the hollow in 1960 was a stone chimney, the last remnant of Frank Hyder's pioneer cabin home from half a century past. Arda decided to keep it, he told the Herald-Citizen in an interview in 1976.

He would turn it into a barbecue pit, the beginning of what he would rename as 'Hidden Hollow.' He built some forms around the old chimney and ordered some concrete from town.

The workmen delivering the concrete drove their truck across a pasture field and up to the chimney. As they poured the concrete into Arda's forms, he overheard one of them say, "Who is this fellow? He must be rich or he must be crazy."

Arda laughed as he told the story. "Well," he said, "I'm certainly not rich... I just like crazy stuff."

A lot of people liked Hidden Hollow.

Arda Lee was a genius at self-promotion or the promotion of Hidden Hollow -- they were, in reality, the same thing. You couldn't divide the two.

He never seemed to tire. It was his life.

Beyond the flashing "Candid Camera" lights -- and that was not, in fact, a joke. He'd rigged up a closed-circuit TV with a monitor in his living quarters so he could see who was passing over the bridge and coming up the lane toward the snack bar. He loved gadgetry, the engineer in him coming out.

Arda would stand outside the sandwich bar/grill greeting all comers and exchanging chit-chat, inevitably friendly, inevitably cheerful, taking \$1 a head for visitors.

He had pavilions and tables and barbecue grills. He had volleyball courts and other games.

He had a 19-foot waterwheel that he'd discovered for sale in Greeneville, Tenn., trucked to Hidden Hollow and installed under the waterfall from the spring.

He had a fountain lighted from below by shifting, colored lights, a device he'd designed and built.

He had a wishing well, of course.

He had stuffed animals -- and real living animals, domestic ones such as rabbits and ducks and peacocks but also wild one such as deer and groundhogs and snakes, something that got him arrested by agents of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency a dozen years ago, a case that never came to trial. "Didi," his favorite deer, died some years ago at age 22 -- old for a deer -- and Arda had him stuffed and placed on exhibit.

Up on a steep hillside overlooking everything, he had built a chapel and on its roof, a lighted 52-foot cross beneath which he sponsored sunrise services each Easter. Motorists on I-40 could see the glow each night as they came down the mountain from Monterey.

What Arda Lee lived for, from year to year, was Christmas. The child in him loved the bright lights and the symbolism, from Santa to the Nativity. Thousands would drive through his Hidden Hollow wonderland, streams of cars, night after night, before and after December 25th.

His visitors would write and tell him how much they enjoyed Hidden Hollow, and Arda posted these hundreds of fan letters in thick notebooks that he proudly showed his guests. "That makes it all worthwhile," he would reflect.

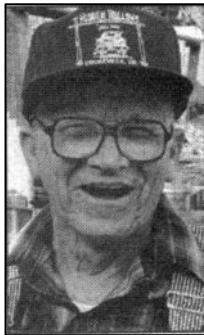
He never rested except when snow fell and clothed Hidden Hollow in motionless white silence. He would call the H-C and say, "Why don't you come on out and see the snow. It's so peaceful out here."

Funeral arrangements for Arda Lee were pending at Whitson Funeral Home this morning.

Published July 26, 2004 12:52 PM CDT

### Arda Eldridge Lee Obituary

Published July 28, 2004 10:36 AM CDT: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN



**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for **Arda Eldridge Lee**, 88, of Cookeville will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 31 in Poplar Grove Baptist Church. Burial will follow in West Cemetery. (**Four miles south of Cookeville, just off Burgess Falls Road**).

The family will receive friends at the Hidden Hollow Chapel from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, July 29, from 6-9 p.m. on Friday, July 30, at Whitson Funeral Home and from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday at the church.

Mr. Lee died Saturday, July 24, 2004, in Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

**He was born on May 9, 1916, in Putnam County to the late Eldridge and Nora Lollar Lee.**

Mr. Lee was the owner and operator of Hidden Hollow since 1952 and worked at Lockheed Aircraft from Aug. 16, 1940 to 1972, as a tool design engineer.

He was a former troop leader of the Boy Scouts of America and was a member of the Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity.

His family includes a daughter and son-in-law, Jeannie and Jimmy Richardson of Wilmington, N.C.; a sister and brother-in-law, Winnie and James Peterson of Cookeville; five grandchildren, Jinjer, James, John and Jeffrey Richardson and Joy-Lee Richardson and five great-grandchildren, Savannah, Joshua, John Jr., Kaitlyn and Maggie Elizabeth Richardson and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by **step-mother, Dora Dimple Wright Matheney Lee**; a brother, Ernal Lee; two sisters, Rosetta Howard and Winona Harris and **former wife, Willie Neva Sapp Lee**.

Pallbearers will be James, John and Jeffrey Richardson, Bristol Harris, Alan Baker and Tony and Tim Briggs. Honorary pallbearers will be current and former employees of Hidden Hollow.

Bro. Larry Self and Rev. Jim Rogers will officiate at the services.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hidden Hollow Memorial Fund, c/o Am South Bank, 105 S. Willow Ave., Cookeville, 38501.

- A page-one article on Arda Lee and Hidden Hollow was published in the Monday, July 26th, edition of the Herald-Citizen.

E-mail Sun, 16 Jan 2005 12:47:28 -0600 from: **Winnie E. (Lee) Peterson**

My brother, **Arda Lee, owner of Hidden Hollow, is buried at West Cemetery four miles south of Cookeville, just off Burgess Falls Road.** There are three West Cemeteries in Putnam County. One about 8 miles down Burgess Falls Road. **Our West Cemetery four miles down Burgess falls Road turn left on West Cemetery Road at Colonial Market, go about a mile and turn left on John West Road and go up the hill. There you will find our West Cemetery sitting on a picturesque hill top.** Then there is the one about 10 miles north of Cookeville which has my step-grandmother's family buried in it. Our West Cemetery has my Grandparent, **Nathan Augustus Lee** and wife, **Melissa Catherine Myatt Lee** buried down near the huge spruce trees; that look so beautiful near the middle of the cemetery. Nathan has a brother, **John Mathias Lee** buried about two or thee rows closer to the spruce trees, with his second wife, **Ruth Ann Maxwell Lee (Ruthie)**. We never knew what happen to Ruthie or who she was but when I did the West Cemetery book on the people buried there, someone gave me the old record of the cemetery from the beginning of approximately 500 graves to about 1943 of people buried there. In there we found

Ruthie's death date and was able to declare that she is dead and buried with him. He is the great -father of **Arleta Smith Hunter**. He had three children, 2 girls and a boy. His first wife, **Julie Hyder**, died when the last child was born, **Dib Lee**, and is buried at Rocky Point Cemetery and Arleta's mother is one of the descendants from one of the girls. Ruthie never had any children and her family is buried at Maxwell Cemetery near Baxter.

I created a book on the Cemetery and donated the sale of the books to the cemetery for upkeep of the cemetery. The book was priced at an affordable price, \$20, so all the families, rich or poor, could afford the book. I enjoyed every minute of the work I did on the book.

I am the last surviving member of Arda's family. **Arda** was a loner and so we left him be, to his dream. I have a son that is just like him and shares that dream with Arda. I was 12 years younger than Arda. **Winona Lee Harris**, one of his 3 sisters, Creator and owner of Winona Motel at it's beginning; married **Frank Harris** from Baxter. They built and owned the motel for about 20 years and then sold out and followed their son and daughter to Florida to live. **Bristol**, their son, worked at Cape Kennedy as Engineer and Leann, the daughter, worked at Disney World as one of the artist that created designs and painting for the park. **Frank's father was Rev. Joseph Daniel Harris, a graduate Methodist minister** from a college in East Tennessee, near Chattanooga. One of Bristol's daughters graduated from that college not too many years ago. He and **Van Nunnally** had to dream to build a school for children of families who could not afford to go to high school and so they started the planning and beginning of the school. It was a school where children could live in and work at the school to earn their keep while getting an education. Rev. Harris was the one that got **Dr. Upperman** to come to Baxter and take over the school, after they got it started. Dr. Upperman is the one given the full credit for the school but it was **Van Nunnally** and **Rev. Harris's** dream to create the school and they did it! **Rev. Harris was the minister at Baxter Methodist for several years before retiring to live near Frank and Winona Harris in Cookeville.** Why does the county allow folks to distort the hard work of the sincere folks in the county who were the instigators of such a great thing? I know several families that have told me they could not have attended high school if it were not for Baxter Seminary. Some lady did a thesis on Baxter Seminary because she wanted to get the record straight about it. It is in the Tennessee Room at the Cookeville Public Library; if you want to check it out. It was where she received her education in her high school days.

Arda and I have a sister, **Rosetta B. Lee Howard** buried in Forest Lawn Park, in West Minister, Ca. also a brother, **Ernal D. Lee** buried in a Catholic Cemetery in Long Beach, Ca. Arda, (our mother's pride and joy) is buried between his mother, **Nora Evangeline Lollar** and her last born infant son, who died at birth. Our father, **Eldridge Lee** is next to our mother. Our step-mother, **Dora Dimple Wright**, is buried next to our Dad. The empty lot between her and the road is reserved for a member of my family. We have lots reserved for myself and my husband in the row just before my parents row. Across the road from them lies our father's sister and her husband, **George** and **Naomi Lee Hitchcock**, and next to her is my Dad's sister-in-law (my other mother), **Zela Farley Lee** and next to her is her husband and my father's brother, **Everette T. Lee**. Next to him is his second wife, **Kate Gentry**. About half way down, between our Dad and his parents is a row with daddy's brother, **William Carrole Lee** and first wife, **Ova Bray Lee**, a several of their children and then comes the grandparents of the family, **Alexander** and **Elizabeth Cardwell Myatt**, parents of **Melissa Catherine Myatt Lee**. John West the creator of the cemetery is grandparent to my father's step-mother, **Hailie West Lee**. She is buried on the right of **Nathan Augustus Lee** and next to her is the baby brother of our father, Clinton Lee. One the left of Melissa Catherine Myatt Lee is a son, **John H. Lee** who died as a young man about 12 and next to him is a daughter to Nathan and Melissa that died as a baby. Next to her is **Jackson Lee** who is son of Nathan and his second wife, **Hailie West Lee**. So you see why I call it "our cemetery".

I have enjoyed your web site immensely and admire you for doing it. It sure did help me a lot to learn who was who. Thank you so much. Hope to hear from you. **Winnie E. Peterson**

**Census Place: 1880      District 16, Putnam Co., Tennessee**

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275    Page 114A

Dwl: 317 Family: 321 Line: 7

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
<b>Robbert HARIS</b>	Self	M	M	M	39	TN
	Occ:	Farmer	Fa: VA	Mo: VA		
<b>Harret HARIS</b>	Wife	F	M	W	35	TN
	Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
Rebecca HARIS	Dau	F	S	W	11	TN
		Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
<b>Daniel HARIS</b>	Son	M	S	W	9	TN
		Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Martha HARIS	Dau	F	S	W	5	TN
		Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Mary HARIS	Dau	F	S	W	3	TN
		Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Harret HARIS	Dau	F	S	W	10M	TN
		Fa: ---	Mo: ---			

**1900 census: 18<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 28 Family: 28

**Harris, Robert** Head M W July 1841 58 Married (26 yrs. md) Farmer TN TN TN

**Harris, Harret** Wife F W May 1844 56 Married (26 yrs. md) TN TN TN

Harris, Monrough Son W M April 1881 19 Single TN TN TN

Harris, Marget Dau F W March 1886 16 Single TN TN TN

Harris, Robbert Son M W December 1884 15 Single TN TN TN

Harris, Rosey Dau F W February 1887 13 Single TN TN TN

**1910 census: 20<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Buffalo Valley Road, Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 73 Family: 74

**Harris, Dan "Joseph Daniel"** Head M W 39 Married1 (19 yrs. married) Gospel Minister TN TN TN

**Harris, Martha E.** Wife F W 36 Married1 (19 yrs. md) (7 children born, 6 children living) TN TN TN

Harris, Jessie M. Dau. F W 18 Single TN TN TN

Harris, Herman J. Son M W 16 Single Newsboy Streets TN TN TN

Harris, Thurman D. Son M W 14 Single Newsboy Streets TN TN TN

Harris, Willard M. Son M W 11 Single TN TN TN

Harris, Robert M. Son M W 7 Single TN TN TN

Harris, Creola Dau. F W 2 Single TN TN TN

**Gentry, Gertrude** Cook F W 23 Single Cook Private Family TN TN TN

**1920 census: 20<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist., Baxter, Putnam Co., TN**

Dwl: 85 Family: 85 Line: 4

**Harris, Joseph D(aniel)** Head M W 48 Married Gospel Minister TN TN TN

*Rev. Joseph Daniel "Dan" Harris*

**Harris, Gertrude** Wife F W 32 Married TN TN TN *Gertrude Harris nee Gentry*

Harris, Willie Son M W 11 Single TN TN TN

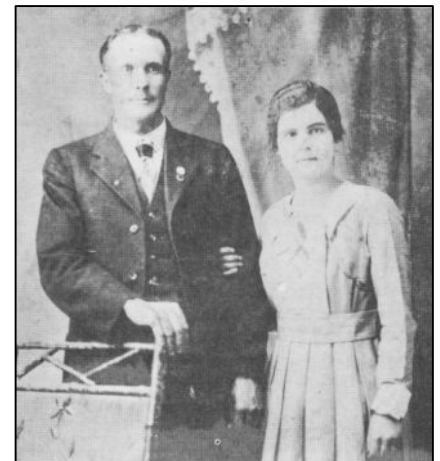
Harris, Orville Son M W 6 Single TN TN TN

Harris, Frank Son M W 1 8/12 Single TN TN TN

**Crest Lawn Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN**

**Rev. Joseph Daniel "Dan" Harris** – b. 28 June 1870 - d. 18 February 1959

**Gertrude (Gentry) Harris** – b. 24 March 1887 – d. 29 October 1971



George W. Hitchcock. George and second wife, Naomi Lee Hitchcock. George and his first wife, Martha Lollar Hitchcock, had three sons: Arson Hitchcock, Harison Hitchcock, and Lawrence Hitchcock.

Picture courtesy of  
Winnie Lee Peterson

**WEST GRAVEYARD**, located on the west Graveyard Road, approx. 1 & ½ miles east of Burgess Falls Road, First Civil District. It has been reported that the land for this cemetery was given by a John West. A small group of graves were reportedly moved out of the path of Interstate 40, just west of Burgess Falls Road. Recorded 24 November 1977 by J. Hobart Bartlett, up-dated October 1980 by Jane K. Wall. There are many graves marked with unlettered stones.

**Infant Lee** – b. 1931 – d. 1931

**Eldridge Lee** – b. 8 February 1890, TN – d. 12 March 1975

(*Eldridge Lee, f/o Arda Lee. Eldridge married 1<sup>st</sup> Nora Lollar*).

**Nora Lollar Lee** – b. 28 April 1894, TN – d. 3 March 1936 (*1<sup>st</sup> w/o Eldridge Lee*)

**Dimple Wright Lee** – b. 14 May 1905 (*2<sup>nd</sup> w/o Eldridge Lee*)

**Arda Eldridge Lee** – b. 9 May 1916, TN – d. 24 July 2004, TN

(*Arda Eldridge Lee, s/o Eldridge Lee & Nora Lollar Lee*).

**Nathan Augustus Lee** – b. 8 January 1861, TN – d. 23 July 1948

(*Nathaniel "Nathan" Augustus Lee, f/o Eldridge Lee*).

**Malissie Catherine Myatt Lee** – b. 19 February 1863, TN – d. 11 August 1916

(*Malissie Catherine Myatt Lee, m/o Eldridge Lee*).

**John H. Lee** – b. 24 July 1897 – d. 5 November 1897

**Everette Thurman Lee** – b. 29 January 1895, TN – d. 12 March 1975

(*s/o Nathaniel "Nathan" Augustus Lee & Malissie Catherine Myatt*)

**Zella Ann Farley Lee** – b. 16 October 1894 – d. 4 May 1958

(*1<sup>st</sup> w/o Everette Thurman Lee. Zella A. (Farley) Lee, d/o James Dalton Farley & Oma Cartwright*)

**Kate M. Gentry Lee** – b. 24 January 1910 (*2<sup>nd</sup> w/o Everette Thurman Lee*) (*Kate M. Gentry, d/o Robert "Bob" Oscar Gentry & Eliza Arilla Carr*)

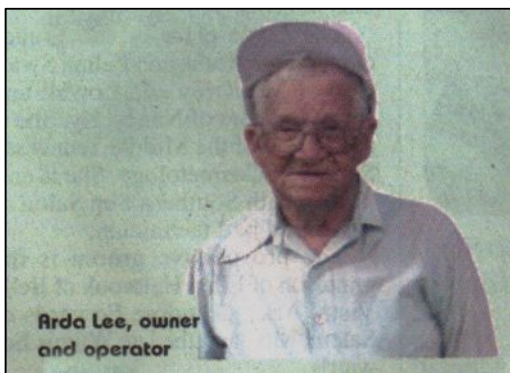
**John Mathias Lee** – b. 6 November 1875 – d. 4 March 1926

**Rutha Ann Lee** – b. 25 June 1866 – d. 22 April 1930 (*w/o John Mathias Lee (nee Maxwell)*)



Everette Thurman Lee and wife, Zella Ann Farley. He was the son of Augustus Lee and Malissa Catherine Myatt Lee. She was the daughter of James Dalton Farley & Oma Cartwright Farley. They were the parents of three sons: Edward Lee, J. Clinton Lee, and Hargis A. Lee. Everette Thurman Lee worked for the railroad and farmed. The family lived on the Buffalo Valley Road near Cookeville.

Picture courtesy of Winnie Lee Peterson, d/o Eldridge Lee and Nora Lollar.



#### **A LAST VISIT WITH ARDA LEE**

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 1 August 2004: Letter to the Editor

Something told me I needed to go and see him. I knew he hadn't been feeling well for quite some time. So one afternoon, about five or six weeks ago, I took my son and we paid Arda Lee a visit at Hidden Hollow.

It was a beautiful day and I brought my camera along. I really didn't expect to see Arda standing out front, collecting money, but there he was, just as friendly and personable as he ever was.

He didn't recognize me at first or he would have refused to take my money. For years we used to spend five minutes fighting over one or two dollars. He always insisted that I be his guest. I always insisted that I pay like everyone else and do my part to help out. Sometimes I won, sometimes he won.

But after I parked he'd follow me and my son into the building with the games and load us up with quarters so that we could play as long as we liked, and we'd pick out several songs from the jukebox. This was our ritual and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Arda Lee had been a friend of my family for as long as I can remember. I grew up at Hidden Hollow through picnics, family reunions, first dates and sometimes last dates. My sister grew up there, and when my son was born, he was the next generation to grow up experiencing the many wonders of Hidden Hollow. But for me, it was more than just a park; it was a place of refuge. If I was having a bad day or needed some time to myself, I would go to Hidden Hollow. It was a place of peace.

Arda Lee was more than just a man who built a park and kept animals. He loved those animals. He cared for them and protected them as if they were his children. His pet deer, Didi, followed him every day as he did his chores and feeding like Arda was his mother. This deer was devoted to this man until the day he died, and I thought for awhile we were going to have to bury Arda with him, but he carried on.

I only saw him angry one time. He'd found a deer in the woods with a broken leg. He took it to the vet and the leg had to be amputated. He said that it was a little fawn and that she could get around just fine on three legs, so he named her Tripod. But a few weeks later, someone shot her. "Who could do such a thing?" he asked. There were no words.

I regret that as I've grown up, I didn't get to visit him as much as I would have liked. I'm so glad I went to see him the last time. Something told me it might be. I went inside to see him and he remembered me but was shocked to see my son who had grown so big and tall after all these years.

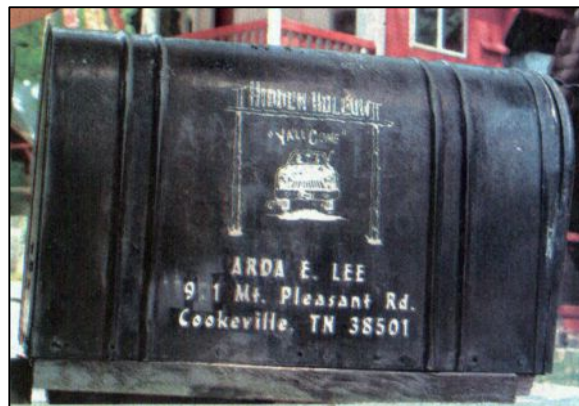
He asked about my family and we had our pictures made together. As my son took our picture, Arda put his arm around me and jokingly told my son to "take all the time he needed." I hugged him and told him he never changed.

Before we left, he said he hadn't been feeling very well. "I'm getting old, you know. I'm 88 now." I told him he didn't look a day over 65 and we just as handsome as ever.

He told me to come back soon, and I told him I would bring my pictures back when I got them developed. I never got the chance to do that.

I can't imagine Hidden Hollow without Arda Lee. The world was a better place with him in it, and I know he touched the lives of many, as he touched mine.

God bless you, Arda Lee. By: CRISTINA MILNER of Cookeville, TN



1900 Census, 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 65 Family: 66

**Lee, Nathaniel** Head 39 M W January 1861 Married1 (17 years married) Farmer TN TN TN

**Lee, Mallisa C.** Wife 37 F W February 1863 Md1 (17 yrs. md)(6 children born, 6 children living) TN TN TN

Lee, Elesander Dau 16 F W February 1884 Single TN TN TN

Lee, William C. Son 13 M W January 1887 Single TN TN TN

**Lee, Eldridge** Son 10 M W February 1890 Single TN TN TN

*(Eldridge Lee md Nora Lollar Lee. Parents of Arda Lee).*

Lee, Alfred Son 7 M W November 1892 Single TN TN TN

Lee, Everett Thurman Son 5 M W January 1895 Single TN TN TN

Lee, Leona Dau 1 F W March 1898 Single TN TN TN

1910 Census, 2<sup>nd</sup> Civi Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 38 Family: 38

**Lee, Eldridge** Head 20 M W Married1 (0 years married) Farm Laborer Working Out TN TN TN

**Lee, Nora** Wife 16 F W Married1 (0 years married) TN TN TN

1920 Census, 2<sup>nd</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 273 Family: 277 Line: 41

**Lee, Eldridge** Head 29 M W Married Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

**Lee, Nora** Wife 25 F W Married TN TN TN

Lee, Ernal Son 9 M W Single TN TN TN

Lee, Rosetta Dau 5 F W Single TN TN TN

**Lee, Ardie** Son 3 7/12 M W Single TN TN TN *(Arda Lee md W. Neva Sapp)*

Lee, Winona Dau 4/12 F W Single TN TN TN

1930 Census, 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN- Thompsonville & Buffalo Road

Dwl: 15 Family: 15 Line: 77

**Lee, Eldridge** Head 40 M W Married (19 years old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

**Lee, Nora** Wife 35 F W Married (15 years old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) TN TN TN

Lee, Rosetta Dau 16 F W Single TN TN TN

**Lee, Artie E.** Son 13 M W Single TN TN TN *(Arda Lee md W. Neva Sapp)*

Lee, Winona Dau 11 F W Single OK TN TN

Lee, Winnie Dau 2 F W Single TN TN TN

**MANY MEMORIES FROM HIDDEN HOLLOW**

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN:

13 August 2004

I write a letter to remember the late 'Uncle' Arda Lee.

My first visit to Hidden Hollow was when I was 10. I remember a school trip that took my classmates and me to a place far off the beaten path but still close enough to the real world that I could see the interstate from Hidden Hollow chapel.

I had often wondered what and where exactly that bright cross was located when I traveled with family up and down the mountains on I-40 from Monterey when I was a child. When I finally found out, it was a special place to be!

I practically grew up at Hidden Hollow. When I stayed the night with my friends, Chris, growing up, his dad, Butch, would take us down there, it seemed, every weekend. We would fish, play hide-and-seek and case rabbits till Ada told us to stop.

The adults would play game after game of volleyball, and as I got into my teens, I couldn't leave Hidden Hollow until I played a few games myself.

I remember the son from the 80's that old jukebox would send blaring throughout the park. Arda once let me borrow a few of those old records to record onto a cassette tape for myself.

As the 90's came around and I hit my 20's, Hidden Hollow was a great place for dates (of course in the evening!). A few years ago as I helped Arda load up some Christmas items into that old Chevy truck to be taken up to the barn, he told me, "I hate to rope off the old archery range now-a-days cause it's a good place to kiss a girl."

Indeed, Hidden Hollow played a key role in my 'love life' as it is where I proposed to my wife in August 1997.

So many stories I, personally, could tell about Arda and his park, if only the editor had a full page to spare. Nonetheless, Arda Lee will always remain my 'Uncle' Arda, and Hidden Hollow will always remain a special place to me, my family and my friends.

So from 'Mr. Monterey,' as he always called me, I say: 'God Bless Uncle, Arda Lee.'

By R. Brent Walker, Cookeville, TN

**ARDA LEE NICE, WILL BE MISSED**

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville  
11 August 2004

My name is Abigail and I knew Arda Lee ever since I could walk. Arda Lee was a nice man, especially to me and the other children and visitors who went to Hidden Hollow.

Now, I am going to tell you a story about Arda Lee – how nice he was to me. He let me pet a python snake name Josh. He was the biggest snake I ever saw. Arda was holding the snake's head and he let me in the cage with it for Mommy and Daddy to make a picture of me, Arda Lee and the snake and I was petting it.

Then, we went inside where Arda fixes the food and he told me to come around the counter and he let me fix my own snow cone. Arda would show me his stuff on the counter that made a lot of funny noises.

My mommy and daddy took me to Hidden Hollow ever since I was a little girl to see Josh the snake and Arda Lee.

He will be missed by his visitors and the children. He will be missed and thought of by ever child that visited Hidden Hollow. I know I will miss him very much.

He was a nice and friendly man to everyone. He was a good man to me and my daddy and mommy. I hope every child will think about him every time they go to Hidden Hollow. I know I will think of Arda Lee every time I go there.

I will miss you, Arda Lee.

Thank you for being nice to me.

By: Abigail Thomas, 7-year-old, Cookeville, TN

## **Hidden Hollow needs help**

Jill Thomas



Herald-Citizen Staff: Herald Citizen Newspaper: Published September 01, 2004 11:34 AM CDT: H-C Photo/Shawn Sidwell

**Jeannie Lee Richardson** inherited Hidden Hollow from her dad, **Arda Lee**, a few weeks ago.

But inheritances aren't always what they appear to be. Time and disuse has worn out much of the property that has been open to the public for decades and includes a swimming hole, fishing pond, picnic areas, animal exhibits and even an old water wheel as well as buildings for reunions and weddings.

In addition, water for the property which had been provided by a private well and water pump, is being tested by the state and the Richardsons are faced with expensive solutions - either get hooked up to Cookeville lines, or rebuild the old water distribution system.

New pipes for Hidden Hollow: Jeannie and Jimmy Richardson continue to lay new PVC pipe for the water lines that are intended to connect to Cookeville's water supply. It's just one of the projects going on to renovate Hidden Hollow.

So, Arda Lee's daughter needs help, and a lot of it, to continue her Dad's vision of a family fun place.

She's asking anyone who would like to see Hidden Hollow continue to volunteer this week-end or next week-end to help fix up the buildings, and clean the ponds, and paint the fences.

"Bring brushes, tools, shovels, trimmers, any tools that you can use," she said.

"I've been so impressed and grateful for the volunteers who have already come out and helped. It's like a team of angels has landed to put this all back together. Dale Huddleston has probably put in more than a hundred hours and his brother Carter worked non-stop, too," Richardson said.

As she and her husband **Jimmy Richardson** keep working on ideas on how to fix up Hidden Hollow, they have also continued to work on changing the water system, buying nearly 1,500 feet of 1 1/2-inch PVC pipe.

"Arda Lee was working with the state for about two years to have his water system okayed," said Jimmy Richardson.

"For a month we have tried to get Arda Lee's original system to operate, but we didn't realize how expensive that could be.

"First, he had one of the smallest small water systems in the state and it would require a licensed small water system operator to maintain it, and we just don't have the money to hire someone to do all the testing and procedures to keep the water pure."

Instead, Jimmy and Jeannie have asked the City of Cookeville to let them tap in to a neighbor's water who has access to city water. But the neighbor has not expressed interest in that solution and the city usually requires residents to tap directly into city water lines.

City administrators were meeting this morning to discuss the Richardson's predicament.

The problem for Jeannie and Jimmy is that it will not only take more than all the PVC pipes they have already bought to reach the city's water line which is about 2,200 feet away, but they will also have to find a way to cross the Falling Water River, either going over or under it, to get to the city lines.

For now they're simply waiting to hear from the city.

"Everyone has been so nice. No one has closed any doors or said there were no solutions," said Jeannie.

But Jeannie Lee Richardson is looking forward to the next phase of Hidden Hollow.

"I know my dad would have loved to have seen it improved and brought back to its original condition," she said.

"When he was ill this last time I asked him how he would feel if we continued to add onto the Christian theme that he had been advocating recently - the Chapel on the Hill, and the Easter service, things like that.

"I asked him, 'What if Hidden Hollow had more of a Christian influence and was a place where people could go to learn more about God?'"

"He said, 'That would be very good.'"

"Bro. Larry Self (the director of the Cookeville Rescue Mission) conducted a marriage out here recently and told us about these Hallelujah Nights that churches observe. He said, 'Your dad took Hidden Hollow to a certain level. Maybe it's time for you to take it one level higher,'" Jeannie said.

But with water problems and decay problems and paint problems, it's easy to get discouraged.

"I get down sometimes. There's so much to do. Then I remember how much has already been done.

"Someone once asked my dad, 'How do you eat an elephant?'"

"The answer? One bite at a time."

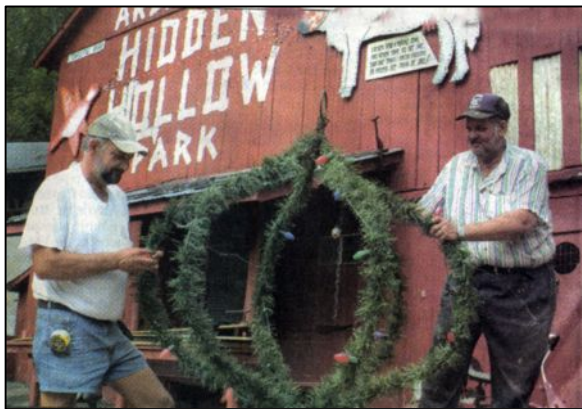
In the meantime, Hidden Hollow is open for business seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. and costs \$2 a person to use the grounds.

For questions about donating to Hidden Hollow or coming to the Clean-Up, Fix-Up, and Paint-Up Saturdays on Sept. 4, and Sept. 11 and begin each Saturday at 8:30 a.m. and go on until dark, call 526-4038.

### **Hidden Hollow solves water problem; work day tomorrow**

Jill Thomas – H-C Photo Camilla Fliss

Herald-Citizen Staff: Herald Citizen Newspaper: Published September 10, 2004 11:42 AM CDT



Hidden Hollow has closed down the old well that used to provide water for the family recreation area. In its place, as soon as the state makes its inspection, 1,500 feet of PVC pipes will provide water from Cookeville's water department.

Christmas in September? Hidden Hollow volunteers extraordinaire, brothers Dale, at left, and Carter Huddleston, take a moment from backhoe work and concrete repair to help Jeannie and Jimmy Richardson get a start on replacing worn out Christmas lights.

"When we made the connection yesterday I couldn't help jumping up and down," laughed Jimmy

Richardson, the son-in-law of **Arda Lee** who was the founder of Hidden Hollow.

When Lee died this summer, he left the property to **his daughter, Jeannie**, and since then she and Jimmy have been trying to renovate the decades old property on a wing and a prayer.

Hidden Hollow is a throw-back to earlier times with a combination swimming and fishing hole, a modest animal park with emus, ostrich, unusual breeds of ducks and geese, and other animals like raccoons and, at present, a baby fawn. The couple is trying to upgrade the pens for the animals which in recent years have sometimes been criticized by animal rights enthusiasts.

The property also contains a variety of buildings for picnics, reunions and receptions. And more than one couple has tied the knot in one of the rustic shelters. At Christmas, Hidden Hollow is known for its strings of lights and at Easter it has a sunrise mountain top service.

It was only this week that the city took steps to provide water for the Hidden Hollow area. A neighbor, Deborah Norris, had originally put in water lines. She was not available for immediate comment today.

"When a developer extends water lines the lines eventually become the property of the city. That happens all the time," said Cookeville Manager, Jim Shipley.

"We're simply taking possession of the lines that were put in for that reason."

With their water problems solved, the Richardsons can now go forward with other renovations.

Tomorrow they are inviting the public back for a second work day to paint, weed, and generally clean up the property.

"We've made enough progress that people are saying, 'I can tell you're doing something,'" Jeannie laughed.

On Saturday, the public will again be asked to bring their own tools to help with repairs.

"We need weed eaters, painters, and people who are ready to weed by hand. The volleyball courts are so overgrown they've begun to look like pastures," she said.

"And we need volunteers to help clean out the animal stalls."

If she had a wish list, Jeannie said a cherry-picker would head it.

"We need a cherry-picker because so many of the Christmas lights that have been strung along the top lines have gone out," Jeannie said.

Hidden Hollow is still open seven days a week from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. and costs \$2 a person to use the grounds.

For questions about the Clean-Up, Fix-Up, and Paint-Up Saturday, call 526-4038.



### **Holidays at Hidden Hollow -- the lights are ready**

Jill Thomas

Herald-Citizen Staff: Herald Citizen Newspaper: Published  
November 18, 2004 11:19 AM CST

Hidden Hollow's famous light show is up and running for the holidays.

But the privately-owned park which has been a landmark in the Poplar Grove community just east of Cookeville for decades is fighting for its life.

"We've done so many improvements and worked so hard to get the lights back on that we're facing serious debt right now," said Jeannie Richardson, daughter of the late Hidden Hollow owner, **Arda Lee**.

Next weekend on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 26 and 27th, Hidden Hollow will kick off the holiday season with hay rides that tour the light show, including the giant cross that can be seen as far away as I-40, in a low tech, cozy and old-fashioned way.

The lights will be on from dusk until 10 p.m. those nights and for \$3 a person (children under five years of age ride free) people can tour the lights, enjoy a live concert, gather around a bonfire and take a moonwalk (there's a full moon on Friday night, Nov. 26th) with the kids. Everyone is encouraged to come early.

"Everybody needs to bundle up for this and should bring blankets if it gets really cold," Richardson said.

Jeannie, who remembers that her dad never charged more than a dollar to enter the park that includes time honored entertainment like fishing ponds, a paddle wheel mill and a variety of animals -- some loose and some caged -- worries about the increase in price.

"Our accountant says we need to charge at least \$5 during the holidays when the lights are on. Those lights will cost us thousands of dollars a month, but I couldn't raise the price anymore than I have," she said.

Arda Lee, who ran the park until he died this past summer at the age of 88, was renowned for his friendliness and his love of providing entertainment that even the parents of babyboomers hadn't seen since childhood.

He also constructed a giant Christian cross on a hilltop that he lit each Christmas and Easter for passersby as well as park visitors.

To save money, though, Jean and her husband, Jimmy, won't be able to turn the lights on each night and leave them on until closing.

Instead, the couple is asking that those who want to see the lights should simply drive in and the family will turn the lights on just for them.

"We're happy to turn them on for just a car or two. But we can't afford to leave them burning all night with no one there to see them," she said.

"And that way we'll also know how many people are really interested in the lights."

After Thanksgiving weekend, Hidden Hollow will be open daily from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Those who have fond memories of the Putnam County landmark are welcome to sign the guest book and write down those memories for Jeannie.

\* For more information call Hidden Hollow at (931) 526-4038 or go to their website at [www.hiddenhollowpark.com](http://www.hiddenhollowpark.com);

\* See additional photo on page two today.



Enjoying the Lights: H-C Photo/Camille Fliss:  
Volunteers who helped fix up Arda Lee's Hidden Hollow Park were the first to see the new light show which is celebrating the holiday season. Carter and Rusty Huddleston, at left, William Ren, Jeannie Richardson (Arda Lee's daughter), Eliza Finn, Jimmy Richardson (Ara Lee's son-in-law), and Dale and Sharl Huddleston enjoy the lights. The lights will be turned on after dusk for anyone who asks, but won't be left on all the time this year. It costs \$3 a person to drive through the property and see the variety of lights. Guests are also welcome to walk around and see the animals and other features of the park.

**Source:** Siftings from Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson: pg. 112

### LEE FAMILY

Richard J. Lee, born in North Carolina in 1780, to James Lee and Elizabeth Turbyville Lee. He grew up there. He was married to Mary Stacy, (or Stacey) daughter of Benjamin Stacey and Elizabeth Browder Stacy.

After 1830, they moved to Jackson County, Tennessee. Richard and Mary had 4 sons, James Lawson Lee, Benjamin Abbott Lee, Ausbin Lee, and William Browder Lee. They also had 3 daughters, Jane Lee, Elizabeth Lee and Louisa Lee.

Richard and his wife Mary are both buried in the Lee cemetery, on land originally owned by the Lee family. It is located on Old Baxter Road at Lee Cemetery Road, near Boma, TN.

William Browder Lee, born on 19 June 1826, grew up there. He married Marinda Roberts of Putnam County. They had 3 sons and six daughters. He was drafted into the Union army December 4, 1865, and discharged the following year on July 22. He later became a Mormon, and moved to Utah, but died in Oklahoma while visiting relatives there. He is buried in Old Hird Cemetery, Ada, Oklahoma.

John Lewis Lee, son of William Browder, was born December 30, 1847 in Putnam County. He married Phebe Parsons also of Putnam Co, February 18, 1868. They had 13 children. He owned land in Putnam Co. near Baxter, and donated the land on which the original Church of Christ here, was built. He served as one of the elders of that congregation.

Some of the descendants of John Lewis Lee are scattered throughout the United States. Courtesy of Cecil Lee, Lawton, Oklahoma.



Eldridge Lee and Dora Dimple Wright Matheney Lee. Eldridge was the son of Nathan Lee and Malissie Lee. Dora was the daughter of Joseph Wright and Fannie Wright. Dora, widow of Carson Matheney before her marriage to Eldridge had a son, William Carl Matheney. Photo courtesy of Winnie Lee Peterson.

Siftings from Putnam County Tennessee by Mary Hopson, pg. 112.

**Source:** Putnam County Tennessee 1850-1970 by Mary Jean DeLozier: pgs. 177 -179.

#### Private Schools

Teachers conducted private schools of various types in Putnam County. Women held classes in homes and ministers in church houses. Arithmetic and writing schools, usually lasting from ten to thirty days and costing from seventy-five cents to two dollars, were taught in public school buildings at night or after the regular terms ended. In the 1890's C. Y. Jared operated a business school in Cookeville. A number of young Cookeville men read law in the office of Judge Robert B. Capshaw.

Of longer duration and wider reputation was the Yeargan Select School, conducted by Samuel B. Yeargan in Cookeville from 1894 to 1904. Enrollment in the grammar and high school courses, for which students paid from \$1.20 to \$5.00 a month, ranged from seventy-five to over two hundred. In the summer Yeargan provided special training courses for teachers, and throughout the year he was in wide demand in the area as a lecturer.

Baxter Seminary, very different from the exclusive Yeargan School, for many years served rural students in western Putnam County. Prior to the seminary's organization, the Methodist Episcopal Church had operated small mission schools at Bloomington Springs in Putnam and Red Boiling Springs in Macon counties. Fire destroyed the Bloomington School in 1898, and its remaining equipment was moved to the struggling Macon County mission, leaving the western portion of Putnam with no high school. Few parents could or would transport their children to Cookeville and pay special fees for them to enroll in Cookeville Collegiate Institute.

In 1909, H.C. Coleman, principle of the Baxter elementary school, asked Charles W. Coleman of Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee, to move to Baxter and help him establish a high school for boys and girls of that area. Enthusiastic townspeople supported the project, and some fifty students who enrolled for the first term in the fall of 1909 attended classes in temporary quarters while construction began on the new school.

The project, however, was in dire need of funds, and the **Rev. Joseph Daniel Harris**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of the Baxter District of the Methodist Episcopal Church, went to his church conference for help. As a consequence, the Board of Education and the Central Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church took over the project and, with the help of funds donated by local citizens, founded Baxter Seminary in 1910. Samuel E. Ryan became the school's first president in May of 1910; and **Joseph Daniel Harris**, W.E. Sybert, J.A. Isbell, D.T. Maxwell, James A. Bain, R.B. Gentry, Lawrence Grace, J.H. Harris, J.L. Dann, Henry Puckett, and Frank S. Ditto comprised the first Board of Trustees.

From its inception the school emphasized teacher-training and vocational as well as college preparatory courses, and offered a self-help program for deserving students. Its first building, Ivy Hall, completed in 1914, housed class and dormitory rooms, a dining room and kitchen, administrative offices, and a chapel.

In 1917 the Putnam County Board of Education designated Baxter Seminary a county high school and allocated tax money for its support. The school met state requirements for curriculum and teacher qualifications and non-boarding Putnam Counties henceforth paid no tuition. A social as well as an educational center for Baxter residents, the school increased community pride and attracted new families into the area. Until after 1920, however, lack of finances limited its curriculum and facilities.

## MICHAEL HYDER SR. - ORIGIN & DESCENDANTS

<http://www.epcc.edu/faculty/jesseh/Hyder-h2.htm>

**Hidden Hollow: The land that Hidden Hollow is located on used to belong to the Frank Hyder family.** Frank and other Hyders had built and operated a two-story water wheel grist mill that was powered by a spring. **Frank was a son of Pleasant Milton who was a son of Joseph D. Hyder who was a son of Jacob Hyder Sr.** A recent newspaper picture and article reads as following: "HYDER MILL IN HIDDEN HOLLOW - Perhaps as many as 150 years ago this two-story grist mill was built on a waterfall (in background at right of photo) in what is now Arda Lee's "Hidden Hollow" east of Cookeville, and this photograph was taken about 1905. **The mill was no longer standing** - perhaps it had burned? been torn down? - a few years later. This photograph - which was torn in half - is owned by Marie Adams of the Brotherton community whose grandfather, **Frank Hyder, built the mill.** It was furnished The Herald-Citizen by Arda Lee and copied by Photographer Jim Heard. Those in the picture who have been identified are, from left, George and Bell Hyder King holding their baby Zeffie - now Zeffie King Whiteaker - who is now 69; on the white horse, Rowford Hyder, cousin to Burt Hyder and nephew to Frank Hyder; standing beside the horse is Jane Hyder, sister of Frank Hyder; (to R is unidentified man); (another unidentified man on dark horse); **Burt Hyder, a son of Frank Hyder**, who died about two years ago; and another unidentified man [now thought by Reba Ford to be Johnson Asbury Hyder].

Information provided by Mr. Lee gives the Hidden Hollow address as Route 6; Cookeville, Tn. 38501; phone 615-526-4038. Directions from Hwy 40 are to take exit #290 at Cookeville onto U.S. 70 and turn south one block & follow signs. On the way you will pass over Falling Water River bridge, come to a T and turn to your left etc. If you turn to your right you will come to Hyder Mt. Rd. that you take to go to the Jacob Hyder Sr. cemetery. Also included in the information is the following: "Two miles from the intersection of I-40 and US-70N east of Cookeville, Tennessee lies a legend, an enchanted playground of sentimental returns to ages past, combined with interludes into the future. The legend is a cove like area floating serenely between two timbered slopes, called Hidden Hollow. This manmade wonderland is highlighted by natural waterfalls, lakes, canals, water wheels and bridges. On a nearby hill stands Hidden Hollow Chapel and towering above it is a tremendous illuminated cross that may be glimpsed by travelers on nearby I-40 .

Hidden Hollow has become synonymous in the Middle Tennessee area with fun, recreation and fine southern hospitality. The owner of the Hollow, Arda Lee, a tool design engineer, retired in 1972 to live out his childhood dream. He transformed an 86 acre discarded farm with only an old dilapidated barn, into the Hidden Hollow of today, a playground for all ages, 2 to 80. Hidden Hollow has 3 buildings complete with kitchens and barbeque grills that are used by churches, family reunions, factory and company picnics, weddings, fraternities, sororities, birthday parties, political rallies, etc.

Located conveniently around the lake are many shelters with barbeque grills for smaller groups. The lakes and shelters are lighted for night use. Horseshoe pits and two volleyball courts are well lighted and both are very popular on hot summer nights. Archery tournaments are held each year at the archery range. The hiking trails that wander through both woods and fields are used by tourists the year round, but are especially popular in the spring for school groups.

Hidden Hollow sports a small zoo of deer, rabbits, birds and other animals. Peacocks strut on their parade grounds, tame rabbits dart hither and fore willing to take feed from the guests, and hungry ducks of many colors are always waiting for handouts. There is a sandy beach complete with kiddie pool for water enthusiasts. Cane pole as well as rod and reel fishing add zest to the day's entertainment. A gingerbread treehouse and an Indian teepee adjoining the kiddie pool are favorite places for tiny tot birthday parties.

For those that haven't the time for cookouts, "Aunt Lucy's Kitchen" operated by Lucille Speir, hostess of Hidden Hollow, serves short orders and caters food for small groups, and also provides picnic supplies.

Outdoor weddings are popular at Hidden Hollow in all seasons. A rock garden near the lake with the giant cross shining from above is the favorite location for most weddings, although many are performed in front of the waterfalls or the multicolored fountain that Arda erected in memory of his mother who died when he was 18 years old. Fountains shoot sprays of white water high into the air in the lake while smaller fountains are scattered around the grounds.

At Christmas, Hidden Hollow becomes a showplace of one of a kind through December until New Year's Day. At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, the Polar Club takes its annual dive topped off with a midnight dinner in the southern tradition of blackeyed peas, hog jowl, and corn bread.

Public non-denominational Easter Sunrise Services are held each Easter at the Hidden Hollow Chapel starting at sunrise. Hidden Hollow is open 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. seven days a week. We have no facilities for overnight camping, but the nearest motels are only 2 miles away. The City of Cookeville, which is only 6 miles away, provides a variety of overnight accommodations.

\*See Story on the Millsaps in the Civil War: Related families: <http://www.ajalmbert.com>

#### 1870 Census 3<sup>rd</sup> Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 20

**Pleasant M. Hyder** 41 M W Farmer (Value of real estate, 2500) (Value of personal estate, 1000) TN

**Rachel Hyder** 37 F W Keeps House TN

Calvin Hyder 17 M W Works Farm TN

**Franklin Hyder** 15 M W Works Farm TN *Franklin "Frank" Hyder md Rachel Green*

Denton Hyder 13 M W Works Farm TN

Sarah Hyder 11 F W At School TN

Annie Hyder 9 F W At School TN

Avo Hyder F W 6 F W At Home TN

Margarett Hyder 5 F W TN

#### Census Place: 1880 District 3, Putnam Co., Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255275 National Archives Film T9-1275 Page 99D

	Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace	
<b>Pleasant HYDER</b>	Self		M	M	W	51	TN
	Occ:	Farmer	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
<b>Racheal HYDER</b>	Wife		F	M	W	48	TN
	Occ:	Keeping House	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
Denton HYDER	Son		M	S	W	23	TN
	Occ:	Work On Farm	Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Sarah HYDER	Dau		F	S	W	20	TN
	Occ:	Work In House	Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Ann HYDER	Dau		F	S	W	18	TN
			Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Avo HYDER	Dau		F	S	W	15	TN
			Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Margaret HYDER	Dau		F	S	W	12	TN
			Fa: ---	Mo: ---			
Hampton HYDER	Son		M	S	W	10	TN

Occ: Work On Farm Fa: --- Mo: ---  
 Amanda HYDER Dau F S W 8 TN  
 Fa: --- Mo: ---  
 Catharine HYDER Dau F S W 6 TN  
 Fa: --- Mo: ---

Census Place: 1880 District 1, Cumberland, Tennessee

Source: FHL Film 1255249 National Archives Film T9-1249 Page 299C

Relation	Sex	Marr	Race	Age	Birthplace
<b>Frank HYDER</b>	Self	M	M	W 25	TN
Occ: Farmer	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			
<b>Ozina HYDER</b>	Wife	F	M	W 25	TN
Occ: Keeping House	Fa: TN	Mo: TN			<i>Ozina Barnes Hyder</i>
Johnson HYDER	Son	M	S	W 3	TN
		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		
Lucinda HYDER	Dau	F	S	W 2	TN
		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		<i>Lucinda Bell Hyder</i>
<b>Bessie HYDER</b>	Dau	F	S	W 1	TN
		Fa: TN	Mo: TN		

Census Place: 1900 District 3, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 19 Family: 19

Hickman Reynolds Head M W February 1870 30 M1 (3 yrs. married) Farmer TN TN TN  
 Bessa Reynolds Wife F W February 1879 21 M1 (3 yrs. married (1 child born, 1 child living) TN TN TN  
*Bessie Hyder, d/o Frank & Ozina Hyder.*  
 Linnie Bell Reynolds Dau F W March 1899 1 Single TN TN TN  
 Isaac Cook Servant B M January 1858 42 Single Day Laborer TN TN TN

Census Place: 1900 District 3, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 110 Family: 112

**Franklin Hyder** Head M W November 1854 45 Widow Farmer TN TN TN  
*Frankling (John Franklin "Frank") Hyder md 1<sup>st</sup> Ozina Barne*  
 Belle Hyder Dau. F W November 1877 22 Single TN TN TN *Lucinda Bell Hyder*  
 Burton Hyder Son M W February 1882 18 Single Farmer TN TN TN *Isaac Burton Hyder*

Census Place: 1900 District 3, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 112 Family: 114

**Rachel Hyder** Head F W September 1832 67 Widow Farmer TN TN TN  
 Amanda Hyder Dau. F W November 1881 28 Single TN TN TN  
 Irwood Hyder Dau. Grandson M W March 1887 13 Single TN TN TN

Census Place: 1910 District 3, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 20 Family: 22

Margarett, Hyder Head F W 53 Widow (7 children born, 6 children living) TN TN TN  
 Albert E. Hyder Son M W 25 Single Farmer General Farm TN TN TN  
 Winnie L Hyder Dau. F W 20 Single TN TN TN  
 Daisy L. Hyder Dau. F W 16 Single TN TN TN

Census Place: 1910 District 3, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 22 Family: 24

**Frank Hyder** Head M W 52 **Widow Miller Grist Mill** TN TN TN

Census Place: 1910 District 3, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 23 Family: 25

Johnston A. Hyder Head M W 33 M2 (3 yrs. married) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN  
 Emma D. Hyder Wife F W 23 M1 (3 yrs. md) (2 children born, 2 children living) TN TN TN  
 Joseph D. Hyder Son M W 2 Single TN TN TN



Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by  
 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank, Cookeville, TN, pg. 132.  
 Rachel Green Hyder, born 1832, was the wife of  
 Pleasant Milton Hyder.  
 Picture courtesy of Reba Ford.

Willie Hyder Dau F w 6/12 Single TN TN TN

Census Place: 1910 District 3, Putnam Co., TN

Dwl: 24 Family: 26

Isaac B. Hyder Head M W 27 M1 (5 yrs. married) TN TN TN

Sallie J. Hyder Wife F w 24 M1 (5 yrs. md) (0 children born, 0 children living) TN TN TN

Census Place: 1910 District 3, Putnam Co., TN – Fallingwater Road

Dwl: 26 Family: 28

Pleas H. Hyder Head M W 40 M1 (17 yrs. married) TN TN TN

Callie I. Hyder Wife F W 33 M1 (17 yrs. md) (8 children born, 5 children living) TN TN TN

Walter B. Hyder Son M W 15 Single Farm Laborer Home Farm TN TN TN

Flossie M Hyder Dau F W 11 Single TN TN TN

Gracie Hyder Dau F W 10 Single TN TN TN

John L. Hyder Son M W 7 Single TN TN TN

Clara Hyder Dau F W 4 Single TN TN TN



Bessie Hyder Reynolds. Her husband was  
Hickman Reynolds.

Pictorial History of Putnam County  
Tennessee by 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank.

Page: 154.

## HYDER BIBLE RECORDS

Contributed by [Paula Stover](http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnovert/overton.htm): <http://www.rootsweb.com/~tnovert/overton.htm>

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**Pleasant M. (Milton) Hyder** was married on the 17th day of March A. D. 1850 to **Miss Rachel Green**

### BIRTHS

**Pleasant M Hyder** was borned Thursday September the 11th day A D 1828

**Rachel Hyder (Rachel Green**, daughter of **Enoch & Elizabeth (Adams) Green**) was borned on Monday September the 10th A D 1832

Arrena **Hyder** was borned on Saturday the 6th day of September A D 1851

Calvin (Joseph Calvin) **Hyder** was borned on Friday the 8th day of April A D 1853

**Frankling (John Franklin“Frank”) Hyder** was borned on Wednesday the 8th day of November A. D. 1854

William Denton **Hyder** was borned on Thursday the 25th day of December 1856

Sarah Jane **Hyuder** was borned on Monday the 17th October A. D. 1859

Lucinda Ann **Hyder** was borned on Tuesday December 10th 1861

Avo Angeline **Hyder** was borned Monday July 18th 1864

Magaret Lorena **Hyder** was borned on Thursday March the 14th 1867

Pleasant Hampton **Hyder** was borned on Tuesday the 1st day of June 1869

### DEATHS

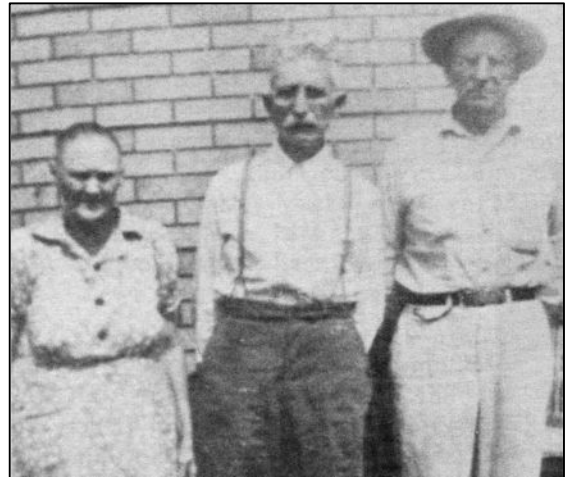
Arrena **Hyder** Decd Thursday Nov. 1st 1860

Margaret L. **Hyder** deceased August the 2nd 1891

Ann **Danner** (Lucinda Ann **Hyder** ) deceased Sunday May the 18, 1930



Frank Hyder, born 1854, was the s/o Pleasnat Hyder & Rachael (Green) Hyder. He is shown with his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife. His first wife was Ozina Barnes Hyder who was the m/o his children. His 2<sup>nd</sup> wife was Caroline Barnes Hyder, and his 3<sup>rd</sup> wife was Mary Ellen Ferguson Benson Hyder. Picture courtesy of Reba Ford.



Children of Frank Hyder and Ozina Barnes Hyder. Lucinda Bell Hyder King, Johnson Hyder & Isaac Burton Hyder. Picture courtesy of Reba Ford. Both pictures are taken from the book: Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by 1<sup>st</sup> State Bank. Page: 154.

**Source:** Pictorial History of Putnam County Tennessee by 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank, Cookeville, TN, pgs. 21 & 22.

**HYDER, JACOB:** He came from Virginia about 1810. Leaving the Walton Road at Buck Mountain, he and two companions carried their household effects on their shoulders into the wilderness at the head of Falling Water. A log house, built by him more than a century ago, is now occupied by a great-grandson.

**JACOB HYDER** (born 1776, near Charlotte, NC – died 1854) married Hanna Rockwell (1780-1862) and their children were: Katherine Hyder (1798-1855) married H. Cullum; Triphena Hyder (1800-1874); Ruth Hyder (1803-1858) married William Hawes Quarles; Elizabeth Hyder (1805-1880); Nancy Hyder (1807-1878) married Samuel Welch; Jonathan Hyder (1809-1875); Joseph D. Hyder (1810-1879) occupied the old homeplace for years (William Rodgers and Samuel Madewell were neighbors); Jacob Hyder (1812-1854); Hanna Hyder (1815-1818); Mary Louise Hyder (1820-1891) married L. Biblrey; and John L. Hyder (1817-1849).



Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville Tennessee: Page 11, Friday April 9, 2004

Organizers of the annual Easter sunrise service at Hidden Hollow plan last minute details for the event. Clockwise around the table are Dwight Henry, Larry Self, Hidden Hollow owner Arda Lee, John Paul and Steve Denny. Services are from 6-7 a.m. Sunday. The service is nondenominational and includes participation by several area church leaders.

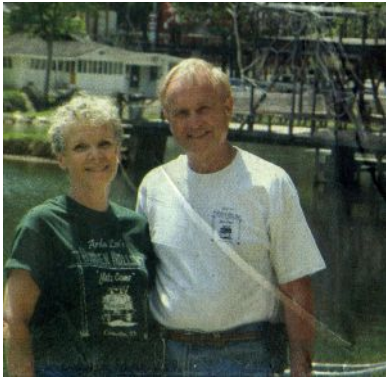
## **Preserving Hidden Hollow**

**By JILL THOMAS**

Herald-Citizen Staff : Herald Citizen Newspaper, 30 May 2005

A visit to Hidden Hollow is like going back to the 1950s.

There's nothing high tech about the seven acre recreation area that is a reminder of what life was like before people expected everything to be sanitized and politically correct.



Jeannie & Jimmy Richardson take a break from getting Hidden Hollow ready for summer visitors. Jeannie is the d/o Arda Lee who created the recreation area in the early 1970's. *Pictured left.*

There's a series of connected swimming holes with silty bottoms where swimmers may find themselves face to face with blue gills, catfish, frogs and turtles.

There are a couple of wooden swings that hang from long chains and are on the edge of one of the swimming holes so when you swing forward you go out over the water. Many kids, of all ages, come to Hidden Hollow just for the fun of the swings. There are geese in the ponds and bullfrogs and a covered walkway that crosses the grassy

raised path between two of the pools.

The swimming areas also double as fishing ponds and visitors can rent rustic fishing poles just right for Huck Finn - long thin branches that have been peeled and have fishing line and hook attached. Visitors can also buy wormy bait.

Jeannie Lee Richardson, the daughter of the founder of Hidden Hollow, Arda Lee, and her husband Jimmy took over the management of Hidden Hollow nearly nine months ago when they inherited the property after Arda Lee's death.

Since then the couple have spent their time, and their savings, to bring the old recreation area back to the way it was in the 1970s when Arda Lee first opened the park of his dreams.

City water service now takes the pressure off the old well that Lee used for decades.

The volleyball courts, with viewing stands and raised umpire chairs have been painted and are getting new loads of sand for summer competitors.

There is still a zoo, of sorts, that houses a family of personable pygmy goats and two emu on a narrow strip of land that rises dramatically behind the chain link fence in a rocky ridge with enough footholds to make any mountain goat happy.

Visitors can buy corn for the animals at the snack bar and the two half grown goats will nibble kernels out of your fingers. The mother goat is expecting twins any time and competes actively with her growing kids to get at the tasty corn.

If you follow one of the roads that goes up the hill, you may catch a glimpse of an ostrich that resides in the little shelter halfway up to a chapel where Easter services are held. That's also the location of the giant cross that is covered in thousands of Christmas lights and is lit up at Christmas and Easter and is visible from I-40.

There are stone fire pits for picnics and a few picnic tables - although most people bring blankets and beach chairs.

For naturalists, the park has several areas where the layers of rock are visible which were unearthed when Lee blasted the hillside to make a little valley that would be a play area for the community and also provide a close-up look at mother nature.

Some of the remnants of the blasting process were so large that the huge monolithic stones couldn't be moved and they were left where they fell - like a Stonehenge in the making.

There are little fountains and springs that blend in so close to the ivy covered rock walls that it takes a special eye to see them.

As in earlier times, though, visitors are expected to be smart enough to take care of themselves. It's posted that there are no lifeguards and few of the attractions have guard rails or protective measures for toddlers. Parents, in the old-fashioned pioneer spirit, are expected to keep an eye on their children.

For those who need a high-tech connection to feel comfortable, the snack bar features an original Pac-Man console computer game where two competitors sit facing each other. At one end of the snack room there are several old computers set up and on sale. And there are several unusual displays along the far wall.

In addition Hidden Hollow is beginning to do some catering with Laurie Finn cooking fresh bread on Saturdays and Sundays.

Other areas of Hidden Hollow are still waiting for renovation - like the huge water wheel that no longer works.

"Daddy always wanted to turn that into a real working grist mill," Jeannie Richardson said.

"I'm hoping we can get the wheel moving again soon."

The wheel is situated next to the water fall that comes down from Barton Creek, feeds the swimming holes and then joins the creek again at the bottom of the property. In the water around the base of the wheel are huge resident gold fish.

"We've been told that the waterfall has enough power to actually power a working mill," Jeannie said and she talked about the possibility of setting up a living history museum.

The bingo building still needs to be renovated, and the children's raised wooden maze is in need of a paint job.

But bit by bit the old recreation area is coming back to life.

There's a simple wedding chapel and the whole area is festooned with summer lights most of the year. The famous Christmas lights come on in fall and winter.

Arda Lee bought the 87 acres of land in 1952. In the early 1970s he returned from working in California and began making a dream come true that would "bring smiles to the faces of people of all ages."

For years people held reunions, weddings and picnics at the little pocket of natural beauty. But as time went on the recreation area fell into decay, although it never closed.

Arda Lee became a "character" of the Upper Cumberland, always welcoming guests personally and never upping the admittance price of one dollar.

But in later years people got concerned about his ability to take care of the animals and the safety of the decaying structures.

At one time, the city of Cookeville discussed the possibility of changing Hidden Hollow into a zoo. But that idea never developed and Arda Lee worked to improve the living condition of his animals, including a

white tailed deer who was basically a pet for over 20 years and was memorialized after his death when Lee had the animal preserved through taxidermy.

For Jeannie and Jimmy Richardson the question is just how much longer can the area continue as it is?

"We've spent about as much as we can on improvements," Jeannie said.

"But I'm putting a stop to taking out a second mortgage on our home," she said.

However, she stresses that rumors that Hidden Hollow is for sale are false.

"There's a 'For Sale' sign near our property, but that is for something else. Hidden Hollow is not up for sale," Jeannie said.

But Jeannie and Jimmy are doing most of the upkeep themselves now, and for a retired couple that's a lot of upkeep.

"We've had so much help from friends we can't thank them enough," Jeannie said.

"And we had a lot of help from church groups and the Boy Scouts.

"What we'd like now would be to have this go non-profit or to find some sort of grant to support it," Jeannie said.

But neither of the Richardsons is computer savvy and even sitting at a computer when she could be painting or fixing something is unnerving to her.

"I want to find out about non-profits, but I don't even know where to begin," she said.

So for now, the couple will see how business fares this summer.

"We made the decision to raise the admission price to \$3 a person," she said.

"You have no idea how many people have been unhappy over that. But we simply had to have a little more coming in."

At present the recreation area is open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. every day, with the summer lights coming on at dusk.

For information about having a special event at Hidden Hollow or about other available facilities call (931) 526-4038.

Published May 30, 2005 10:50 AM CDT : Herald Citizen Newspaper, 30 May 2005, Front page.

### **Winona Lee Harris Obt.**

FLORIDA - Funeral services for **Winona Lee Harris**, 81, of Orlando, FL, were held on Tuesday, November 28, at Pinecastle United Methodist Church in Orlando. **Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando.**

Mrs. Harris died on Wednesday, November 22, 2000, in Orlando, following a stroke in October.

She was born on March 21, 1919, in Hooker, OK, to the late **Eldridge Lee and Nora Lollar Lee**. Mrs. Harris was a homemaker. She was a 1937 graduate of Cookeville Central High School and married the late **Frank B. Harris** later the same year.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where she taught the first grade Sunday school class for many years. Mrs. Harris and her husband built, owned and operated the Winona Motel for 18

years. In 1972, they sold the motel and retired to Orlando, FL. In Orlando, she was an active member of the Pinecastle United Methodist Church.

Her family includes a daughter, Leann Harris of San Francisco, CA; a son and daughter-in-law, Bristol and Alda Harris of Orlando; a brother, Arda Lee of Cookeville; a sister, Winnie Lee Peterson of Cookeville; a stepbrother, Carl Matheny of Cookeville; three granddaughters; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents and her husband of 63 years, she was preceded in death by a brother, Ernal Lee; a sister, Rosetta Lee Howard; and her stepmother, Dimple Wright Lee.

All Faiths Funeral Home in Orlando, FL, in charge of arrangements.

#### **Frank B. Harris Sr. Obt.**

**FLORIDA --** Funeral services for **Frank B. Harris Sr.**, 82, of Orlando, Fla., formerly of Cookeville, were held on Sat., Aug. 26, at Pinecastle United Methodist Church near Orlando. Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando.

Mr. Harris died on Wed., Aug. 23, 2000, at his home.

**He was born in Baxter to the late Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Daniel Harris and was a former pastor of Baxter Methodist Church and the original founder of Baxter Seminary. Mr. Harris was the last surviving member of Rev. Harris' 11 children.**

While living in Cookeville, he was the builder and owner of Lane Grocery Store and the Winona Motel. After raising their children in Cookeville, Mr. and Mrs. Harris sold the motel and moved to Orlando, where they have lived for the past 28 years. Mr. Harris was a member of the Pinecastle United Methodist Church.

His family includes his wife of almost 64 years, **Winona K. Lee Harris** of Orlando; a son, Bristol Harris of Orlando; a daughter, Leann Harris of San Francisco, Calif.; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Published August 26, 2000 5:02 PM CDT: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

#### **JUDGE DISMISSES SINKHOLD CASE; HOMEOWNERS EXPECTED TO APPEAL:**

By Jill Thomas

**PUTNAM COUNTY --** The lawsuit filed against Putnam County more than two years ago for damages caused by a sinkhole has been dismissed by the judge.

In the suit, James and Winnie Peterson claimed that a 24-inch tile installed by the county 23 years ago across their property in the City Lake area just east of Cookeville directed additional water across their land, increasing over time the size of an existing sinkhole which now threatens their home.

The Petersons said they contacted county officials at different times over the years to fix the problem, but the county refused. The couple later appealed to the Putnam County Commission, which they said also denied help to the couple. So in October of 2002, the Petersons filed a lawsuit in which they asked the county to buy their home for an amount to be determined by the jury.

But Judge John Maddux recently granted the county's motion for summary judgment.

A summary judgment is when the judge looks at the undisputed facts in a case and renders an opinion for a party as a matter of law instead of holding a trial.

In this case Judge Maddux dismissed the case against the county because the statute of limitations had run out on the plaintiff's right to sue.

"The judge said the plaintiffs waited too long to sue, but he did not say that there were not real problems and that the county caused them," said Henry Fincher, the plaintiff's Cookeville attorney.

According to the Memorandum Opinion from the Circuit Court for Putnam County, the statute of limitations on the plaintiff's claim of "inverse condemnation" ran out a year after the tile had been installed in 1982.

"Inverse condemnation" is when a government effectively takes property from a property owner and damage results from the "taking." The property owner then has cause for legal action, but only if he acts in a timely basis.

The Petersons also claimed that the county created a temporary and continuous nuisance for them by installing the tile, but the judge dismissed that argument, too.

"The Plaintiffs' attempt to recover under a nuisance theory fails because the Plaintiffs' claim is actually a claim for inverse condemnation," reads the official memorandum. "Just because the statute of limitations has run (out) on the inverse condemnation claim does not mean that the Plaintiffs can say the damage to their property is a nuisance in order to find a theory to recover damages.

" The damage to the Peterson's property is clearly much more than a nuisance," states the memorandum.

For Fincher the summary dismissal of the case came as a surprise.

"I stand by our legal position. It's a strong one. This suit is not over. We'll either make a motion to the judge to alter or amend the decision or else we'll take it to the Court of Appeals," he said.

"But, aside from the legal aspects of the case, I'm wondering how much the county is paying in legal fees to have this case litigated so they can avoid the responsibility of fixing a problem that everybody agrees they caused.

"It would probably cost them less to fix the sinkhole than to take this on to an Appeals Court. My clients are mad and sad. When you're 87 years old as Mr. Peterson is, it's hard to understand how the government can cause a sink hole to grow and get away with it."

Jeff Jones, the attorney for the county, was disinclined to try the case again in the newspaper. "We're pleased with the verdict, but out of respect to the parties involved I don't want to comment further," he said.

County officials were unable to immediately say this week how much the litigation has cost taxpayers.

But Henry Fincher has his appeal laid out.

"I view this as a set-back and nothing more. I think the judge felt bound by the law and I'll do my best to present arguments that will make him feel unbound," he said.

When asked for her opinion about the judgment, Winnie Peterson said, "God works in mysterious ways. It may be that this is the way He wants things to happen."

*Published July 29, 2005 12:15 PM CDT: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN*

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



James and Winnie Peterson stand in front of a sinkhole that is widening each year and getting closer to their home. The sinkhole is in the dark area under the trees behind the couple. Their home is directly behind them.

Photo by Camille Fliss: Herald Citizen Staff.

*Winnie Lee Peterson is the sister of Arda Lee, past owner of Hidden Hollow. She is married to James Peterson.*

### James & Winnie (Lee) Peterson

James & Winnie (Lee) Peterson were married on 25 August 1978. After their wedding, which was held at Hidden Hollow in Cookeville, they resided in Big Bear Lake, CA, for two years. When Winnie's step-mother was placed in a rest home, they moved back here to be near her. James "Pete" was in the U. S. Army Air Corp during World War II and was one of the soldiers on maneuvers in 1943 with the Second Army somewhere in Tennessee. Donaldson Pike was his home base. He slept in pup tents and took showers at the USO in Nashville.



Winnie is a native to Cookeville, TN and like a lot of kids, was transplanted to California where her sisters and brothers worked in defense plants during WWII. She finished her last year of high school in Long Beach, CA. After the war she married John Baker, Jr. and was divorced after 25 years. Eight years later, James and Winnie were married. She has three children by John and James has two children by his first wife, Barbara. Gary, Winnie's eldest son, was deceased in 2000 and James's son, Wayne, was deceased in 1995. Winnie's children are Gary, Allan, and Merilee (Baker) Langley. James's children are Wayne and Arlene (Watson)

Elberson.

James & Winnie (Lee) Peterson compiled, edited and published a book on the West Cemetery near Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN. Lots of hard work and love was put in this book including information and family photos of the people buried in the West Cemetery. The book was compiled and written in memory of three very special ladies that played a major role in Winnie's life. Her Aunt Zella Lee, who was always watching over her after her mother's death, and a special step-mother, Dora Dimple Lee, who did a wonderful job of loving her, in the absence of her mother. And she wanted to give special thanks to God for making all of this possible. This brings to her mind John 16:33.

Sun, 26 Feb 2006 01:36:23 -0600: e-mail from Winnie Lee Peterson:

I just attended Elmer Lollar's wife's funeral today. Elmer was a cousin to my mother. I went to Holladay school with his wife, Geraldine (Bowman) Lollar when we were in elementary school. I have known Elmer and his wife for many years. Winnie

### Geraldine Faye Bowman Lollar Obt.

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for **Geraldine Faye Bowman Lollar**, 75, of Cookeville, will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25, at Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church. Burial will be in West Cemetery, off West Cemetery Road.

The family will receive friends from 5-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24, at Whitson Funeral Home, and from noon until time of services on Saturday at the church.

Mrs. Lollar died Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2006, in Cookeville Regional Medical Center.

She was born Feb. 12, 1931, in Putnam County to the late **Causby and Addieville Sherrill Bowman**.

Mrs. Lollar was owner of Circle L Western Wear and a member of Cookeville Free Will Baptist Church.

Her family includes her husband, **Elmer Lollar** of Cookeville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Sandra Faye and Jack Johnson and Becky and Joe Mullins, all of Cookeville; a son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Judy Lollar of Cookeville; four brothers and sisters-in-law, Finis and Charlie Mae Bowman of Nashville, Truman and Vivian Bowman of Cookeville, Jerry and Bonnie Bowman of Mt. Juliet and Dave and Donna Bowman of Baxter; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Jewell and Leanord Maddux and Mattie and Billy

Stewart, all of Cookeville; grandchildren and spouses Kris and Maria Johnson, Tammy and Mark Brady, Robert and Tiffany Lollar, Brent Mullins, Charlie and Jessica Mullins and Michael Mullins; and great-grandchildren Will and Wes Brady and Kelsey and Kaylee Mullins.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a brother, James Bowman.

Pallbearers will be Kris Johnson, Mark Brady, Brent, Charlie and Michael Mullins and Robert Lollar.

Honorary pallbearers will be Will and Wes Brady and Kelsey and Kaylee Mullins.

Bro. Arvil Lee will officiate the services.

Published February 23, 2006 11:12 AM CST: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



Some of the children of Pleasant Milton Hyder and his wife, Rachel Green Hyder, gather on the family farm on the Falling Water River where the Hidden Hollow recreation area is now located in Putnam County. Seated, from left, as Sara Jane Hyder, John Frank Hyder and William Denton Hyder. Standing, from left, are Lucinda Ann Hyder Brown Danner, Margaret Lorena Hyder, Avo Angeline Hyder Gibbons and Katherine "Kate" Hyder Woods. The photo was taken sometime in the late 1800's.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN, Page B-2, Sunday, 25 June 2006.

## **HIDDEN HOLLOW SHUTS ITS DOORS AFTER THREE DECADES**

**Lindsay McReynolds**  
Herald-Citizen Staff



Putnam County is saying goodbye to a longtime recreation destination, and a family is letting go of one man's dream to preserve an outdoor wonderland for all ages.

Jimmy and Jeannie Lee Richardson announced last week that Hidden Hollow, the privately owned outdoor recreation area just east of Cookeville, has closed.

Jeannie's father, Putnam native Arda Lee, began developing the now 55-acre recreation area in 1952 when he bought the land from his uncle.

(Hidden Hollow Owners Jeannie and Jimmy Richardson walk through the park's grounds following their decision to close the recreation area last week. Picture: Herald-Citizen/Camille Fliess)

Over time, the property became a popular destination filled with outdoor activities such as swimming, fishing and hiking that reflected Lee's sense of humor and love of children.. The property also became a haven for animals such as peacocks, ducks, deer, rabbits, pigs and goats.

He opened the park to the public in the early 1970s, charging just \$1 for admission and hosting a number of events over the years.

"This was where people came and brought corn to be ground," Jeannie recalls of the land when her father purchased it. "When I was a child, there was a huge grist mill here. I can remember standing on it. I was about 8 years old. What he (Lee) wanted to do was to bring that era back ... He didn't want that part of history to be lost."

Today, a water wheel that Jeannie's mother, Neva, purchased for her dad still remains on the property.

Jeannie recalls that after her father first purchased the property, the family was living in Georgia at the time while the Lees worked for Lockheed.

"We would come up every Friday night on a pickup and go back on Sunday night," Jeannie remembers. "The first building was a 20x20 cinderblock building. It gave us a place to stay."

After Lee retired, he began living on the property full time and continued to create the various attractions that still exist there.

An elaborate light display attracted drive through tours at Christmastime, and the remainder of the year, the property was a background for weddings, parties and other events, in addition to the people who came daily to take part in the recreational activities around the park.

"We've had a lot of weddings," Jeannie said. "Probably five books jammed packed of wedding pictures, and almost as many with people who caught fish here."

A glance through the guest book at Hidden Hollow shows that people from all over the United States and beyond have visited it.

"He loved to have company," Jeannie said of her father.

A small chapel on a hill also served as a site for an annual Easter Sunrise Service.

But as Lee grew older, many of Hidden Hollow's attractions fell into disrepair, and when he died in June 2004, the care of Hidden Hollow was passed on to his only daughter and her husband, who moved from their home in Wilmington, North Carolina, in an attempt to carry on Lee's dream.

Since the Richardsons have been running it, they have tried to repair and renovate the place.

"We didn't have city water," Jeannie said. "We had to bring it from the street."

The Richardsons also repaired the water fountain and the water wheel with the help of volunteers and cleared out a rock bandstand area that was overgrown with brush.

Volunteers also helped light the cross and replace some of the Christmas lights.

But even with outside help, the unending care of Hidden Hollow has taken its toll on the retired couple.

"Because of health issues, we just physically can't do it," Jimmy explained.

Jeannie said a typical day of caring for the grounds at Hidden Hollow involves waking up at about 6:30 in the morning and not going to bed until about 12:30 at night.

A family conference last Monday ended with the decision to close Hidden Hollow and sell the property.

"I cried all day Monday and Tuesday," Jeannie said.

A wedding and a birthday party were the last two events to be held at Hidden Hollow over the weekend, and the Richardsons have placed a sign at Hidden Hollow's entrance announcing its closure.

Hidden Hollow will be auctioned on Saturday, May 5, at 10 a.m. on the property by Tim Brewer of Crye-Leike Realty.

Jeannie said the animals at Hidden Hollow will be sold as well, with the exception of the five deer on the property, which will be freed at the end of the month.

"I hope someone will get it, love it and expand it," Jeannie said of the property sale. "One of my biggest hurts is that it won't be here for the community."

Published March 26, 2007 11:33 AM CDT : Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



Jimmy and Jeannie Richardson spend a moment with the 2-year-old deer Feline, one of the domesticated deer at Hidden Hollow.

## **HIDDEN HOLLOW GETS A NEW LIFE**

**By LINDSAY McREYNOLDS**

Herald-Citizen Staff

**COOKEVILLE** -- A well-known Cookeville businessman is now the owner of Arda Lee's Hidden Hollow.

Vince Taylor, owner of Vinnie T's restaurant and bar near the TTU campus, bought the approximately 50-acre recreation area for \$425,000 at auction on Saturday.

Despite the rainy weather, about 100 people interested in Hidden Hollow, some even wearing Hidden Hollow T-shirts, crowded into a shelter on the property as the auction began shortly after 10 Saturday morning.

Only four or five people actively bid on the property, although 23 had registered. Bidding started at \$100,000, and the auction was over in about 20 minutes, with Taylor holding the high bid.

A number of people approached Taylor after the auction asking what his plans were for the landmark. Taylor, who has owned Vinnie T's nightclub for nine years, said he would likely keep Hidden Hollow open to the public and make it more of a "wedding destination."

In the past, a number of people have gotten married at Hidden Hollow.

Taylor said he only became interested in the property "24 hours" ago, but would probably start working on the place immediately.

He said he would like to see weddings there again this year. Taylor already does catering out of his Vinnie T's business, as well as a disc jockey service.

Taylor came to the auction with his wife, Amanda, and their 2-year-old son, Skylar. Amanda said she didn't expect that they would buy Hidden Hollow, thinking that the recreation area would probably have sold for a lot more.

Crye-Leike Auctioneer Tim Brewer said he had no idea how much the property would be sold for.

"It's so unique," he said. "You can't put a price on sentimental value."

Jeannie Lee Richardson, the only daughter of Arda Lee, seemed pleased following the outcome of the auction.

"I'm glad someone youthful got it," she said. "We've had a wonderful time here."

Richardson and her husband, Jimmy, have been running Hidden Hollow since her father's death in 2004. The Richardsons moved from their Wilmington, North Carolina, home in an attempt to carry on Lee's dream.

The two actually cleaned up the place and added city water to Hidden Hollow, but said because of health issues, the care of Hidden Hollow is simply too much for them to handle.

Putnam native Arda Lee began developing the approximately 50-acre recreation area back in 1952, when he bought the land from his uncle.

Over time, the property became a popular destination filled with outdoor activities such as swimming, fishing and hiking that reflected Lee's sense of humor and love for children. The property also became a haven for animals such as peacocks, ducks, deer, rabbits, pigs and goats.

Taylor is expected to close on the property by June 5.

Published May 05, 2007 3:01 PM CDT : Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

### **UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP**

**By LINDSAY McREYNOLDS**  
Herald-Citizen Staff

**COOKEVILLE** -- Dozens were at the Hidden Hollow outdoor recreation area on Friday for the grand re-opening under the new ownership of Cookeville businessman Vince Taylor.

Taylor, who owns Vinnie T's restaurant and bar, purchased Hidden Hollow at a public auction last month for \$425,000 from Jimmy and Jeannie Lee Richardson, the only daughter of Arda Lee who began developing the approximately 50-acre recreation area in 1952.

Friday, Taylor held a free admission day as park visitors like Pacesetters and the Cookeville MOMS (Mothers Offering Moms Support) Club played at the park.

"We enjoy the nature of it, and it's good for the kids," said Joya Cole of the Cookeville MOMS Club who has been coming to Hidden Hollow for the past six years.

Cole brought 12 moms and kids with her on Friday from the 30-member group that regularly does play dates, scrapbooking, theme meals and crafts.

Taylor also gave a tour of Hidden Hollow to officials with Putnam County and the Cookeville-Putnam County Chamber of Commerce.

"We're updating the menu," he said. "We'll have root beer floats and Moon Pies, and the usual stuff, hamburgers, hot dogs."

Taylor said he'll be leaving the lights up for the Christmas season, and park visitors will once again be able to do the drive-through tour of Hidden Hollow.

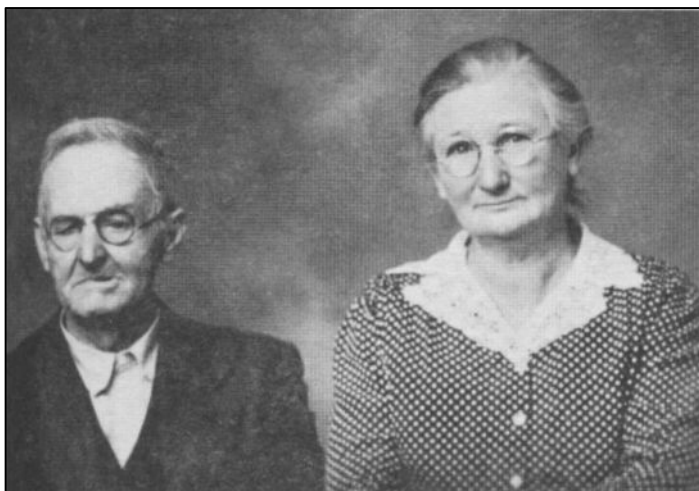
Hidden Hollow still has all of the same favorites from years past such as the natural waterfalls, covered bridges, lakes and canals, the millhouse with a 19-foot water wheel, cane pole fishing, swimming, hiking, volleyball, horseshoes and playgrounds.

A newsletter presented to Hidden Hollow visitors on Friday said that "New owners Vince and Amanda Taylor hope to continue to legacy at Hidden Hollow and keep it a recreational favorite in the Cookeville area. They will be offering on-site catering and disc jockey services for weddings, receptions and other functions at Hidden Hollow."

Following Friday's re-opening of Hidden Hollow, regular hours for Hidden Hollow will be Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to dark.

Admission will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for children.

Published June 16, 2007 3:40 PM CDT : Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN



Nathan Augustus Lee and second wife, Hailie West Lee. They were the parents of Jackson Lee and Ethel Lee. Nathan had 7 children by his first wife, Malissa Myatt Lee. They were: Alex Lee, William Lee, Eldridge Lee, Alfred Lee, Everett Lee, Naioma Lee, and Clinton Lee.

Picture courtesy of Winnie Lee Peterson.

Pictured in the book: Stray Leaves of Putnam County History by Mary Hopson, pg. 177.

James Alfred Lee, 1893 – 1970, and wife, Prietta Jane Pendergrass Lee, 1894 – 1984. He was a son of Nathan Augustus Lee and Melissa Catherine Myatt. She was the daughter of Jesse Pendergrass and Pauline West Pendergrass. They had seven children: Ruby Lee, Ramon Lee, Mildred Lee Rockwell, Thelma Lee Krantz, Pauline Lee Crabtree, Arvil Lee, and Venice Lee Clutts. Their son, Arvil Lee became a Freewill Baptist minister.

Picture courtesy of Pauline Lee Crabtree..

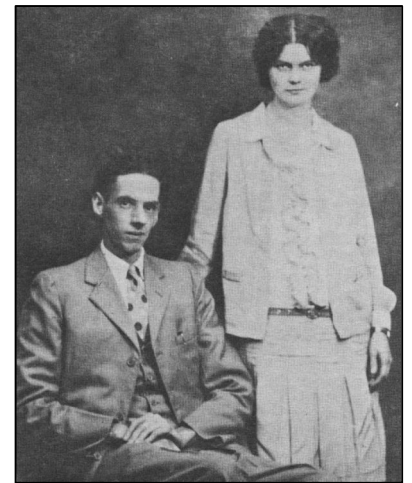
Pictured in the book: Stray Leaves of Putnam County History by Mary Hopson, pg. 177.



Everette Thurman Lee, 1895 – 1975, and wife, Zella Farley Lee, 1894 – 1958. He was the son of Nathan Augustus Lee and Melissa Catherine Myatt Lee. She was the daughter of James Dalton Farley and Oma Cartwright Farley. They had three sons: J. C. Lee, Edward Lee, and Hargis Lee. They lived in the Holladay Community and he was an employee of the Tennessee Central Railroad.

Picture courtesy of Pauline Lee Crabtree..

Pictured in the book: Stray Leaves of Putnam County History by Mary Hopson, pg. 177.



William Carson Matheney and wife, Dora Dimple Wright Matheney. They were the parents of William Carl Matheney.

Picture courtesy of Winnie Lee Peterson.

Pictured in the book: Stray Leaves of Putnam County History by Mary Hopson, pg. 182.

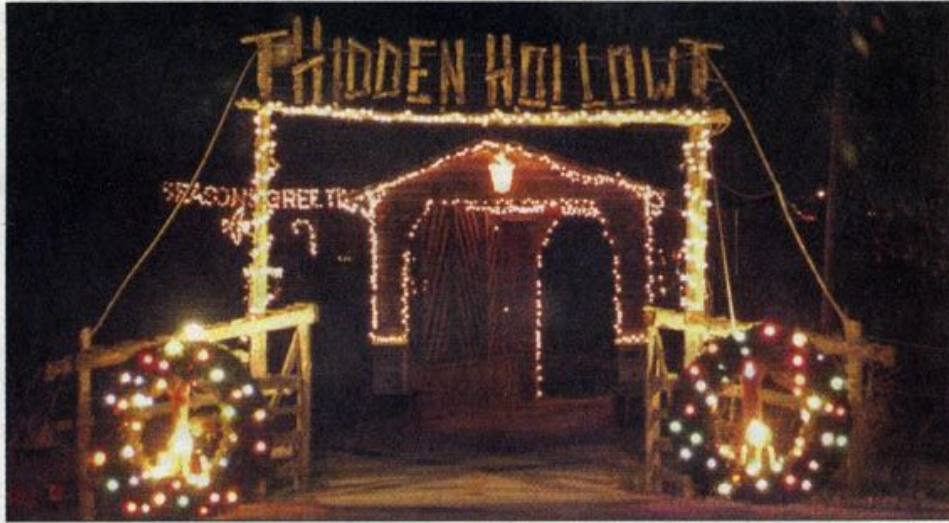


## HIDDEN HOLLOW Cookeville, TN

Hidden Hollow outdoor recreation area owners recently held a grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. From left are George Halford, Chamber CEO; Bobbie Williams, Chamber chairperson; Kim Blaylock, County CEO; Donna Harris, Chamber ambassador; Amanda Taylor, owner; Skylar Taylor; Vince Taylor, owner; Steve Forgey, Chamber ambassador; Cheryl Ehlert, Chamber ambassador; Sam Sandlin, Chamber ambassador; and Bill Ray, First Tennessee Bank.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN, Sunday, 1 July 2007, pg. D-2.

## Lighting up Hidden Hollow



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

Hidden Hollow Park owners Vince and Amanda Taylor are continuing the tradition of its spectacular Christmas light show. The new and improved light show can be seen every Wednesday through Sunday from dark until 9 p.m. The park will be open on Christmas Eve and Christmas as well. The cost is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children over three years old.

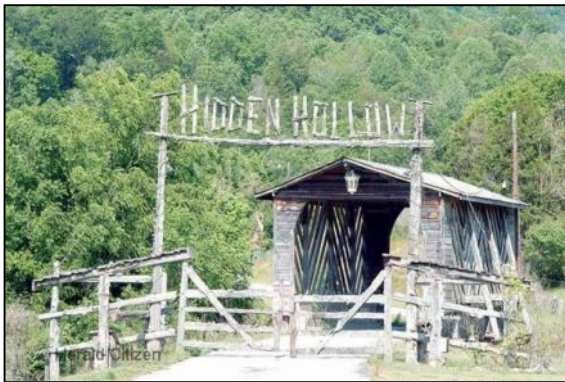
Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Monday, 3 December 2007, front page.

### Beer permit approved for Hidden Hollow

[Lindsay McReynolds](#)

Herald-Citizen Staff

Wednesday, Jan 30, 2008



This longtime popular recreation area Hidden Hollow northeast of Cookeville was granted a beer permit last night by the Putnam County Beer Board at the request of new Hidden Hollow owner Vince Taylor. Herald-Citizen File Photo/Camille Fliss

**PUTNAM COUNTY** — A longtime popular outdoor recreation area will now be able to offer beer to its patrons of special events there despite some pleas against it from neighboring residents. Last night, the Putnam Beer Board approved Hidden Hollow owner Vince Taylor's request for a beer permit at the outdoor recreation area.

Taylor, a Cookeville businessman who also owns the Vinnie T's restaurant and bar, purchased Hidden Hollow last year at public auction for \$425,000 from Jimmy and Jeannie Lee Richardson, the only daughter of Arda Lee who began developing the approximately 50-acre recreation area in 1952.

Hidden Hollow, which sits on Mt. Pleasant Road northeast of Cookeville, still offers many of its favorites from the past such as natural waterfalls, covered bridges, lakes and canals and the millhouse with the 19-foot water wheel.

After taking ownership of the recreation area, Taylor also said he would like to make it more of a wedding destination, which was the reason for last night's beer permit request.

"Several groups have wanted weddings there, and they wanted alcohol at their wedding," Taylor said last night. "There are no plans for a watering hole or saloon. This is for special occasions. We want to offer that for people coming in."

Taylor said he considered the special occasion beer permit option, but that requires \$250 and the beer permit application process every time a special event is held where alcohol will be served.

However, some nearby residents of Hidden Hollow were concerned about what offering alcohol at Hidden Hollow would mean to their community.

Twenty-two people signed a petition against it.

A pastor of a nearby church said, "We've got all of our families and kids up and down that road. I guess what we're going to ask is if there's any way you could not (have alcohol there), we'd appreciate it. For us, it doesn't seem like it fits."

The pastor said he did feel better knowing Taylor's intentions weren't to have a bar at Hidden Hollow, but as a Baptist, he still doesn't like alcohol being offered there.

Taylor told those present last night that he didn't have plans for a bar at Hidden Hollow, that "it won't happen."

Putnam County Attorney Jeff Jones was also present last night to explain to people against having alcohol at Hidden Hollow that the county beer board is unable to prohibit anyone from obtaining a beer permit if they comply with the requirements of the law.

In the case of Hidden Hollow, it meets the requirements of the distances required between it and nearby churches and residences.

Jones said a minimum of 2,000 feet is required between places where beer is sold and churches, schools or public gathering places.

A minimum of 300 feet is required between places where beer is sold and a residence.

The five-member Putnam County Beer Board approved the beer permit for Hidden Hollow unanimously. Membership of the county beer board includes four commissioners and are appointed by the Putnam County Commission.

- **SEE ALEXANDER MYATT STORY: HISTORY PUTNAM COUNTY, TN.**

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

## SUNRISE SERVICE



Herald-Citizen Photo/Camille Floss

The Hidden Hollow Easter Sunrise Service Planning Committee and the news owners of Hidden Hollow, Vince and Amanda Taylor, make plans for the 36th annual sunrise service at Hidden Hollow at 6 a.m. on Easter Morning, March 23, at the Chapel on the Hill. From left are Allan Baker, nephew of Hidden Hollow founder Arda Lee; John Paul of New Beginnings in Crossville; Mike and Darlene Thiessen of the Cookeville Rescue Mission; Darrell Winnett of Woodtech; Sherrye Winnett of the Rescue Mission; Rescue Mission director Larry Self; and Hidden Hollow owner Vince Taylor.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Friday, 14 March 2008



### Five generations reunite

The children and grandchildren of the late Preitta (Pendergrass) and James Alfred Lee gathered for a family reunion on May 7. The Lees have two remaining children, the Rev. Arvil Lee of Cookeville, right, and Vencie Clutts of Eaton, Ohio. Preitta Lee's brother, Rosco Pendergrass, 97, of Sparta, is seated. Following the reunion, the family held a decoration at the Lee Cemetery (Macadone Cemetery) in Putnam County.

Herald Citizen newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Tuesday, 7 June 2003, pg. 7.

## Hidden Hollow to hold Renaissance festival April 19-20

[Lindsay McReynolds](#)

Herald-Citizen Staff

Wednesday, Apr 16, 2008



Hidden Hollow is owned by Vince and Amanda Taylor, who purchased the 50-acre outdoor recreation area last year from the only daughter of Arda Lee, who began developing the park back in 1952. Herald-Citizen Photo/Camille Fliss

**COOKEVILLE** -- A Renaissance festival will be held this weekend at the Hidden Hollow outdoor recreation area.

On April 19 and 20, park patrons will be able to see the longtime park transformed into a scene from the Middle Ages featuring fire-breathing, sword-fighting, magic, sword-swallowing, juggling, glass-walking, balancing acts and more.

The event will also feature The Pickled Brothers, Moltov the gypsy, a live chess match, a Renaissance play, a Renaissance dance, a petting zoo and games.

The Cookeville Jaycees will host a king and queen pageant, and patrons will also dine on foods such as grilled, smoked turkey leg, beef stew, white beans and ham in a bread bowl, Polish sausage with grilled onions and peppers or a meatball sub sandwich.

Admission to the Hidden Hollow Renaissance festival is \$6, and the park is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Hidden Hollow owners Vince and Amanda Taylor purchased the 50-acre outdoor recreation area last year from the only daughter of Arda Lee, who began developing the park back in 1952. Lee died in 2004.

For more information on Hidden Hollow or the Renaissance festival, call 526-4038.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

## **JAMES PETERSON OBT.**

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for **James Peterson**, 90, will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 12, at First United Methodist Church Backsliders Classroom. **Burial will be in West Cemetery.**

The family will receive friends from 1 p.m. until time of services on Sunday at the church.

Mr. Peterson died Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2008, in Bethesda Health Care Center after an extended illness.

**He was born Dec. 21, 1917, in New London, Conn. to the late James Peterson I and Helen Patiniotis.**

He lived in New York, Oregon and California. He lived in Cookeville for the past 28 years. He was born a first generation Greek in America.

He was a food service manager for 20 years with the Navy Exchange after his Army Air Corps tour of duty during World War II. Mr. Peterson was camped out in Donelson while on maneuvers in Middle Tennessee with the 8th Army Air Corps Unit. He was owner/operator of Pete's Reef, a fast food operation in Malibu, Calif. for several years before coming to Cookeville in 1980 to live with Winnie in her hometown. James

and Winnie did volunteer work for their church, Rescue Mission and other organizations before his illness. Mr. Peterson was the president of the Backsliders Sunday School class from 1989 through 1990, a class filled with good friends who he acquired since living in Cookeville.

He will be remembered as a wonderful husband, a loving gather, a kind grandfather, a dear uncle and a good friend by all who knew him.

His family includes **his wife of 30 years, Winnie Lee Baker Peterson** of Cookeville; a son, Allen Baker of Cookeville; two daughters and sons-in-law, Arlene Watson and Ken Elbersen and Merilee Ann and Joe Langley, all of Hespreria, Calif.; grandsons, Glenn Elbersen, Kurtis Langley, Gary Baker II, Cameron Baker; a grandson namesake, James Joseph Langley; a granddaughter, Mandy Langley; and two great-granddaughters, Alyssa and Carla Elbersen.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of four years, Barbara Wyles; his wife of 31 years, Goldie Freeman; a son, Comdr.. Gary S. Barker Sr.; a granddaughter, Dawn Elbersen; a half brother, George Cotsifas; and two half sisters, Athena Cotsifas and Ina Sakalus.

Revs. Drew Shelley and Max Mayo will officiate at the services.

Whitson Funeral Home in Cookeville in charge of arrangements.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: Thursday, Oct 09, 2008, pg. A-7.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>