

## The F.O.L Programs

By Terry Edwards, Vice President: Programs

When I accepted the slightly dubious honor of becoming F.O.L. Programs VP last year, the main purpose that I had in mind was to try to ensure that Harrisonites would have more of the kind of programs which had been so much enjoyed in past years, PLUS, if possible, a good scattering of talks on less familiar topics, largely those of a practical or topical nature, and a few just for fun! It's always enjoyable to learn, and reaching a fairly wide and varied audience has been made MUCH easier by the splendid efforts of Sandy Hillier and Amy Artman on the publicity side, and also by the many people, especially George Cline, who gave me leads to quite a few interesting speakers.

There's always plenty of enthusiastic support for programs relating to local history and genealogy, so Abby Burnett's delightful program on tombstones was very successful.... (Memo - We must ask Abby back again soon), and also much enjoyed were Mike McCarthy's beautiful pictures of old mills in the wider area.

This year, in February, Caroline Cline and Terry Edwards plan to join forces to talk about how to record your family or neighborhood history, so, if you want to learn different ways of how to do this, come along on **February 8th!** I'm also investigating the possibility of a program on Dogpatch in the near future, as so many local people seem to have been involved.

Gardening is also of perennial interest (whoops! sorry...), and people seem to be particularly interested in producing their own fruit, vegetables, and herbs, so with the aid of our local County Agent, and various local gardeners, amateur and professional, we have an on-going series on this topic. Mike McClintock also talked to us about the animal side of home food production at the end of last year, and Trudy McManus is going to tell us this Spring how to preserve all this food once we've grown it! AND, of course, Joe Melton, our local veterinarian (the vit'nry' in rural English) will be here on **February 24** to tell us about "A day in the life of a local vet", which I for one can't wait to hear.

On the more artistic and domestic side, Phyllis Pokorny, a local quilting expert and conservator told us all sorts of interesting things about the American Quilt, and will be coming back later this year, as so many of her audience were keen to hear more. We have a lot of quilters in the area, but not all are familiar with the history of quilts.....

Angie McClintock, Mike's wife, and a local farrier, is also an accomplished renovator of antique furniture, so she will be coming to share the secrets of her craft with us. For pure pleasure, with a little history thrown in, the Crooked Creek Ceilidh Band will play for us this Fall, and hope to give us pleasure listening to some of the original English, Irish, and Scottish tunes from which a lot of Bluegrass and other American folk music derives. I promise you that this program will be a real treat!

Lastly, several of us, especially George Cline and I, felt that we wanted to hear more about matters that are likely to become ever more important as time goes by, so, to that end, we have invited two local water experts to talk to us about our water supplies in the Ozarks, and we also hope to be able, towards the year's end, to offer a program on alternative sources of energy, if we can track down a good speaker.

Well, I do hope that this has whet your appetite for the F.O.L. programs.....always held on the second Tuesday, or the Fourth Thursday of the month, at 5.30pm in the upstairs meeting room. Do tell your friends and neighbors - the more people come, the more we all get talking, and the more we get out of it! Often, the speaker leaves saying that he or she had learned as much from the participants as they had taught - which is as it should be.

If you have a good idea for a program, or a speaker that you feel would be of interest (not just on the topics mentioned), PLEASE let me know; I'm always looking.....and can be reached by email at [terrynreg@windstream.net](mailto:terrynreg@windstream.net), or by a note left at the library front desk.