

Louisa Life

November 29 - December 26, 2019 • ONE COPY FREE

LOUISA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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People Share Their Stories
Of Compassion for Animals



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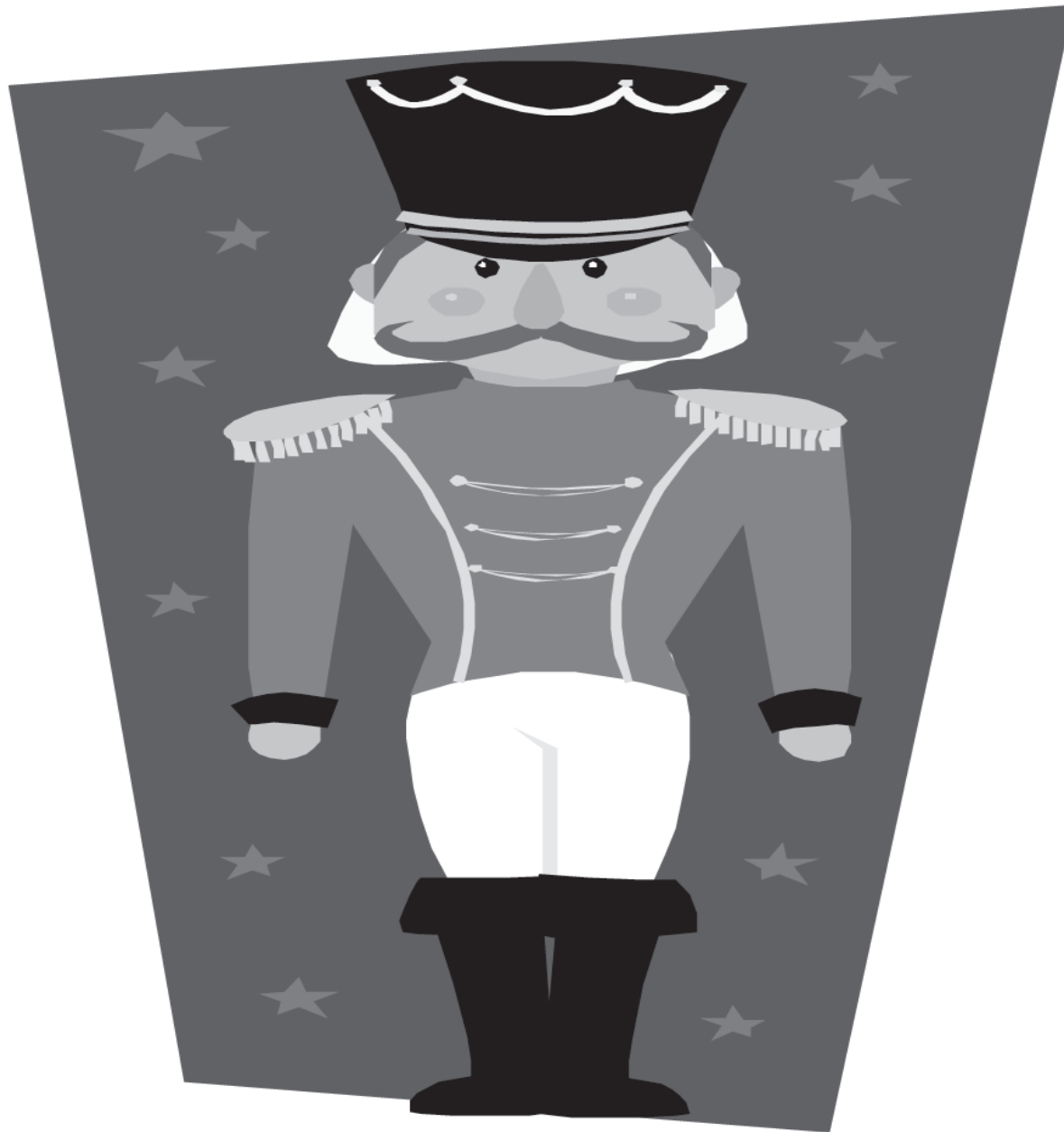
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A monthly publication

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Next advertising deadline: December 18, 2019

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Lucky Dogs Laddie and Teagan pose for their owner Karen Donnelly, perhaps in hope of a treat.

Photo courtesy of Pat Wilson

Cover designed by Marilyn Ellinger



Aleta and Sara stand nearby as Jill offers a loving touch to a beautiful equine team member who was a rescue.

Horse Therapy in Louisa

By Carol Barfield
Correspondent

Aleta Strickland agrees with Winston Churchill: "There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of a man." Man and horse have been in close relationship for thousands of years. This relationship can be therapeutic and healing in many ways.

Aleta has been in relationship with horses since she was pre-verbal, riding since the age of two. She grew up on a horse breeding farm in Nokesville, Virginia, run by her mother, who raised purebred Arabians. Why horses are important in today's world is not a question she would ever think to ask. She has always known the value of horses, especially in regard to helping people.

"My mother knew that horses were important for more than just breeding and had a deep relationship with them. She was a huge influence on my life; even when she had precious little time, she gave freely to others. I remember she arranged for a 10-year old girl who had cerebral palsy to come over one morning and asked me to bring my horse out for her to ride. It was painful to see the girl's clenched hands...the contractures that tightened up the muscles in her body. I saw the young girl begin to sit up straight, and slowly start to extend her arms and legs. She began to move and ride in rhythm with my horse. That moment was beyond words...it probably even affected my subsequent career choice."

Aleta deepened her relationship with horses by riding in A-rated shows, an expensive and exhausting process. Aleta's children went the 4-H route and worked on knowledge teams such as Hippology, Horse Bowl and Horse Judging.

After becoming certified as both mental health practitioner and equine specialist, Aleta searched for years for a way to combine her practical counseling with an equine component: she needed a professional/therapeutic model that incorporat-

ed horses into therapy with a strong intentional community behind it. She found that in EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association.)

"In Louisa I have a private practice, Louisa Psychological Consulting, where I've been in practice as a licensed mental health provider since 2006...that's Part A. Part B is Cedar Row Farm where for the past two and a half years I've done equine assisted psychotherapy and equine assisted learning. I work with children, teens, families, groups, professionals and corporate groups.

The four basic requirements of an EAGALA session with horses are:

- 1). Two professionals: an equine specialist and mental health specialist, must be present in every therapy or learning session.
- 2). It is ground-based; no riding.
- 3). It is client-focused and solution-oriented.
- 4). It operates under a strong code of ethics.

Aleta works with Sara Babb, a mental health practitioner who has a master's in social work and is working toward licensure and with Jill Deming, who is a specialist in equine massage and body work. Jill works with horses after abuse situations, helps horses maintain health, and works with older horses who have issues, to include post-surgical pain management. She uses therapeutic massage and also Photonic Red Light Therapy.

Most horses can be approved as therapy partners since they have natural tendencies of empathy. As prey animals, they are constantly attuned to the environment around

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Cover Story



Laddie and Teagan pose for their owner Karen Donnelly, perhaps in hope of a treat.

The Rescuers

By Pat Wilson
Correspondent

As rescue groups and animal shelters struggle to find homes for unwanted or abused animals, individuals can also be credited with opening their hearts and their homes. The dog that wanders the neighborhood, the cat that hides in a barn hayloft or the pet that an older person must give up because of living or health concerns are often lucky enough to find caring persons to take in them.

Over this and future issues of Louisa Life, people will share their stories of compassion.

Karen Donnelly and Teagan

Having been rescued by a dog as a toddler, I believe it must be in my psyche to return the favor. For years, my father told the story which occurred on the farm just outside of the town of Louisa, where my mother

grew up. My grandparents, H. Ryland and Mary Hester, had a mule, and I can still envision my grandfather plowing a field with the animal.

One weekend, when I was about two-and-a-half, my parents, a newborn sister, our dog Blaze and I were visiting from our home in Northern Virginia. Numerous relatives including my mother's siblings and spouses greeted us. In the excitement of the usual ooh-ing and aahing over the new baby, as well as catching up on local gossip, I had wandered out a screen door and toward the mule's enclosure.

At the moment my father realized I wasn't in the house, Blaze bolted through the door and headed in the direction of the pasture, as my father and many of the folks from the house ran behind. I had apparently ventured toward the mule's enclosure which was a ways off and beyond a number of outbuildings. My father said that, as he approached the field, he heard braying and peals of laughter. He could see the mule's rear heels, kicking up into the air. Just beneath those heels, I sat with my back against the barn, laughing at the spectacle occurring a few inches above my head. My father stopped, frantically thinking how to pull me away from danger. Suddenly, as the mule's head came down to execute its next kick, Blaze, with perfect timing, leapt up and bit into the mule's nose. The mule shook his head but the dog held on and the kicking ceased. Only when my father grabbed me and moved us to safety, did Blaze let go of the mule's bloodied nose. Perhaps, Blaze's action engrained in me that love of dogs.

As a result, I have owned numerous dogs - all of them rescues. While a teen, I worked for a veterinarian. One day someone brought in a young, scrawny, pitiful dog they'd found on the road. Unable to locate the owner, the veterinarian offered to spay, immunize and worm her, if I was willing to keep her. I named the skittish and fearful puppy, Gretchen. She soon learned to trust me and blossomed into a beautiful dog with a collie's tan body and white neck.

Gretchen would be the first of several rescue dogs with varying person-



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alities that my husband Steve and I have welcomed into our family. Nanna was a nurturing and tolerant large bearded collie mix. Mickey was a small border collie/terrier mix with a cock-of-the-walk, impulsive personality that we all found hilarious. Our children grew up reading James Herriot's books and the stories of the animals that the British veterinarian encountered in his practice. So, they shared our enthusiasm in caring for and loving dogs.

Now, as empty nesters, we have Laddie who is a small border collie/setter mix and our most recent rescue Teagan, an Australian shepherd mix we adopted from a North Carolina rescue group earlier this year. Teagan, too, was shy and skittish and bore a very thin, sparse coat with a large scar down her back. Our vet believes the scar was the outcome of a flame or chemical burn.

In Gaelic, Teagan means "perfect" or "beautiful." We take great joy that in having brought Teagan's diet up to speed, and, with lots of tender loving care, her coat has grown thick and beautifully over the scar. She, like all our rescued pups, has blossomed into happy, healthy dog.



At a viewpoint in her enclosed yard, Priscilla anticipates the return of her owner Richard Hinde.

Richard Hinde and Priscilla

I have to admit that I was always a lab/shepherd person, but that ended when the first Jack Russell Terrier entered my life. I've been raising and rescuing them since I retired from the Navy in 1986. Over the years, I've had as many as five living with me on a farm in Louisa County.

In April 2017, I lost KC (Kinda A Cute) at the age of 15.5 years. Then, in September

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Saturday, November 30th

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The human team: Sara Babb, Aleta Strickland and Jill Deming.
All photos by Carol Barfield

them—they know who is near them and how they are feeling. Horses are interested, social beings who are in relationship with others.

Equine therapy can help treat addictions, trauma, social and behavioral disorders, depression and more. EAGALA gives families, groups and individuals of any age the chance to get to the root of their problems, find better ways to communicate and build healthier relationships. Aleta also teaches groups, leads team-building corporate exercises, and sessions in compassion fatigue for caregivers. Free “lunch and learning” sessions for community case managers are also offered to introduce the therapeutic model to interested groups.

“It’s hard for people to understand how horses can be used in therapeutic ways without riding, but EAGALA centers on using experiential models that allow us to help,” says Aleta. An experiential model includes several parts: DO (engage in a hands-on experience), REFLECT (which includes sharing and processing) and finally APPLY (generalize to connect key learning to apply to similar real-life experiences.) All this sounds complex, but as Sara Babbs says, “We don’t have to explain it. In fact, the training model must be non-verbal. It’s not an assessment on how the horses perform; the focus is shared with the human participant. We use clean language to help gauge what a client’s concern is and help them move toward their goals and come up with a treatment plan.”

Invited to experience an EAGALA session, this correspondent had an interesting experience. It was a relief to know that I didn’t need to be a rider or have prior experience, and there were three professionals present which removed any safety concerns I had. Plus, I already trusted the process; anyone who has ever hugged a friend when words wouldn’t do or offered a soothing stroke to calm a crying baby knows that there is more to language than speech. As Aleta says, “It is hard to ameliorate effects of trauma using talk therapy alone.”

Many of us have problems in our own lives that cannot be easily pinpointed and evade easy explanation. Traditional forms of psychotherapy are valid, but equine therapy is another avenue; not a therapy of last resort—just a different model. It’s easy to envision that being brought in and seated across a desk from a relative stranger and feeling that you have to talk, about something you may not even



A pretty member of the Cedar Row Farm Equine team.

understand yourself, could be uncomfortable. What a different experience you can have when out in the sunshine—expectations and pressure removed—directing the story where you want it to go.

The therapists didn’t contaminate my session with suggestions of what I should do or how I should do it, (that’s “clean language.”) Even the horses are unnamed -clients can name them if they wish.

The chill breeze blew in my hair. The russet leaves were shimmering in the sunshine and lazily floating to the ground. In this large corral my feet were planted into the even ground, and several beautiful, non-judgmental beings were moving slowly by me, breathing deeply, munching. Time moved differently near the horses. It seemed that the envelope of my awareness had been erased a bit at the edges, allowing broader stretching of mind and senses. There was no “right” way to act, and so the non-verbal was released to act on its own. A deep contemplation came over me. While sensory bombardment is my norm, being out here, all those cues were removed...it was almost like sensory deprivation, and somewhat disorienting. I was not expected to talk or directed on what to do. I was free from expectation. There were props that I could pick up and build or interact with. I could approach the horses, or they could approach me. In this session I became offended by the horses that stayed aloof from me and wished I had a halter so I could lead them all around. I also wanted to groom them and make them happy and help them feel good. I especially wanted to go toward the one that stayed just outside the open fence opposite me. I knew immediately why I was attracted to this horse—I have a friend suffering from deep depression who is very hard to reach...a frustrating and sad experience for me, and a devastating one for her quality of life. Although the session was magical, there was nothing magic—my troubles didn’t dissolve. Perhaps being here just allowed me space and time in quite a different setting to process something my brain was struggling with. It was a unique experience and I found myself wanting to return—and wishing I could bring my friend.

The desire to return would not surprise Aleta. “I have noticed my clients become dedicated to coming to their sessions no matter what: it can be hot, raining or even snowing and clients always want to continue. We just go to our shed and pull out gloves, hats, ponchos, and soldier on. One client even insisted on coming while suffering with a migraine!”

Clients come to Aleta by referral through case managers, physicians, counselors, parents, school staff, teachers and by word of mouth. If you would like to experi-

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ence the EAGALA Method, you can call Aleta directly. "We will do an assessment for almost any concern. It is up to the clients and their goals. My horses have done things in sessions that I have never seen before and never have seen since, driven by what clients need," says Aleta. "We wait for the client to share their concerns and then help them shape or form a goal to address those concerns. We also participate with some insurance companies, and I have information about that on our website, www.cedar-rowequine.com"

You can investigate EAGALA therapy further by reading *Transforming Therapy Through Horses*, by Mark Lytle and Lynn Thomas. As Jill, equine specialist says, "That is the book that sold me on equine therapy. I thought, I've got to get involved in this!"

"Yes," Aleta agrees, "there are fantastic stories in that book--Mark is a great storyteller!"



Aleta Strickland - owner of Louisa Psychological Consulting and Cedar Row Farm.

Please visit Cedar Row Farm, LLC online, visit the website at www.cedar-rowequine.com or give Aleta a call at 540-223-0837

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Christmas Tree Lighting Friday, December 6, 2019 at 6 PM – 8 PM Town of Louisa

Join us for this wonderful community holiday tradition that will definitely put you in the Christmas spirit. Enjoy musical performances, decorate your own ornament, sing some carols, and watch as we flip the switch for the lighting of the big Christmas Tree on the lawn of the Louisa Courthouse.

For a \$10 donation, you may endow a light on this year's tree in someone's memory or honor. Or you may become an ornament sponsor for a donation of \$100 to \$1,000. Endowment and

Sponsor names will be read at the tree lighting ceremony. For more information, contact James Smith, LCPRT Director at 967-4420 or download the donation and/or sponsor form [HERE](#). The deadline for entries is Tuesday, December 3rd.

Louisa County Christmas Festival & Parade Saturday, December 7, 2019 at 10 AM – 3 PM

Fall In Love With Louisa at our annual Christmas Festival & Parade Saturday Dec. 7th!

This fun, family friendly, and FREE event is filled with food, drinks, and holiday vendors! This years theme is "Christmas Red, White, & Blue" so come decked out in your favorite patriotic outfit.



The Craft Festival is from

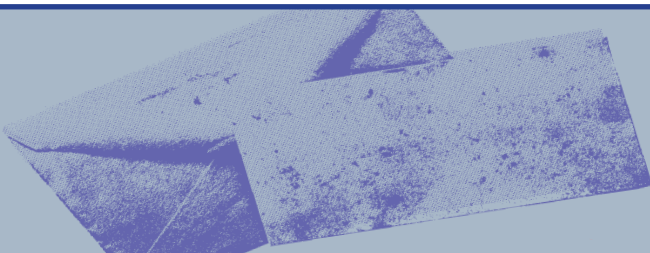
10:00am - 3:00pm at the Louisa County Courthouse and the Parade starts at Noon on Meadow Avenue.

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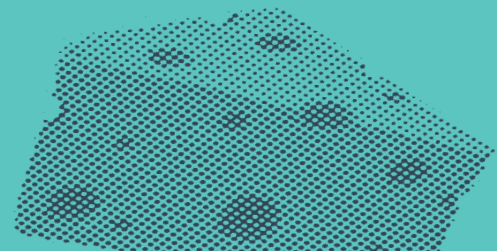
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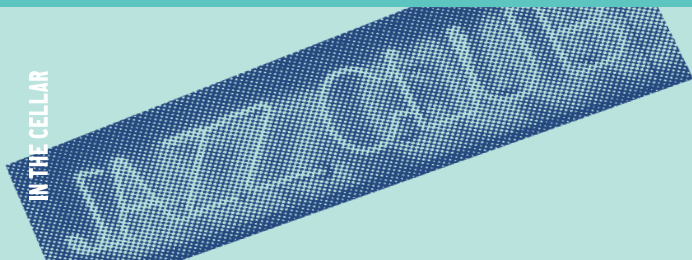
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Painting by Susan Graeber

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David Robertson uses a right-angle grinder to remove rust from a horseshoe.



Hootie Owl.

Recycling from Horse to Home

By Pat Wilson
Correspondent

Most items destined for use in David Robertson's hobby are broken tools which the average person would dispose at a landfill. Discarded pliers, nuts, shovels, rebar and saw blades become novelty ornaments when he combines them with used horseshoes. His creativity seems limitless as Robertson turns the cast offs into whimsical cats, colorful lobsters, pink flamingoes, scarf-wearing snowmen and seasonal pumpkins, to name just a few.

The retired union iron worker spent his career working at various sites including motor speedways and the nuclear power plant. For the past six years, he has assisted a local welder on a part-time basis. But, about a year ago, while attending a neighborhood yard sale, Robertson's eye caught pieces crafted from horseshoes.

"I've always tinkered with something like making things from wood," he said. "I was bitten by the horseshoe idea and started making my unique versions using old

tools and hardware."

But, the difficult component to his hobby is locating steel horseshoes. Since they can be costly to buy new, Robertson relies on numerous local farriers for a supply of used one. His craft can require as many as 100 in a week.

Other miscellaneous objects, from metal trays and lawn furniture to forks and spoons, come from a variety of sources. Robertson and his sister, Linda Stillwell, are frequent visitors to area yard sales and, periodically, he searches Goodwill stores hoping to recycle. Their mother Margie claims they inherited the trait from their father, the late Johnson Robertson.

The process can be tedious at first. Not in pristine shape, the worn horseshoes still have nails attached and are often rusted. So, the preparation phase is the most time-consuming as Robertson works in his heated workshop, a converted garage in the Oakland community.

"I remove the nails and then pressure-wash the shoes. I'll then sandblast them to remove any crud," he said. "Next, I sort them according to size, which can range from pony to workhorse."

Robertson will make several of the same design simultaneously. For holiday season sales, he is currently emphasizing snowmen, Christmas trees and angels. After selecting the appropriate-sized cleaned shoes, he grinds and bends them before welding. He uses a heating torch, if necessary, and a band saw to cut thinner metal pieces such as forks and saw blades.

This is when Robertson's imagination kicks in. Large nails create the legs of a crab, washers make a snowman's eyes, fork tongs form an owl's feet or vise grips become a lobster's claws. Several clear coats, such as on his patina owls, or selected colors sprayed with rust-resistant paints on various creatures provide the finishing touches. Multi-colored pieces often involve taping and detailed brush work.

Last spring, Robertson successfully began retail sales at the Mineral Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings. During the year, he attended numerous street festivals, winery events and craft shows in Louisa and surrounding counties and plans to set up a booth at the Louisa Christmas Craft Festival at Courthouse Square on Saturday, December 7. A selection of his work is available at the Corner Market and More on Main Street in the town of Louisa.

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STOP CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN



See Recycling page 11

NAACP held its 84th Annual Convention



Mr. Greg Jones is President of the Louisa County NAACP Branch. He is a member of the Louisa County School District's Task Force and Community/Parental Committees and Louisa County Superintendent Advisory Board. Mr. Jones serves as the pastor at Fluvanna Community Bible way Church and the owner of the DG Cleaning Company.

The Virginia State Conference (VSC) NAACP held its 84th Annual Convention in Richmond, Virginia, on November 1-3, 2019, at the Hilton Short Pump Hotel and Spa. The VSC NAACP is a membership-based advocacy organization with approximately 95 Virginia branches with a unique and incomparable ability to drive change at the local, regional, and national levels. The current political and policy climate demands that the VSC NAACP remains steadfast and responsive in the face of the severe challenges confronting communities of color, continued assault on voting rights, foundational threats to democracy, and all forms of injustice.

At this year's convention, Melvin Burruss, Esq. and Pastor Greg Jones of Louisa County were elected to VSC Executive Board as At-Large members. The VSC elected Board includes approximately 23 Board members serving two-year terms. Board members are elected based on personal talents, experience, and enthusiasm for the work, and the need to represent a

broad range of the state branches, and backgrounds among the overall board membership.

Mr. Burruss is a member of the Louisa County Superintendent Advisory Board and Louisa County Broadband Authority. Mr. Burruss also serves on the Board of the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, and New Hill Development Inc., Mr. Burruss is a Life Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and Life Member of the NAACP. Mr. Burruss served in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged and awarded the National Defense Medal and Viet Nam Service Medal

Mr. Jones is President of the Louisa County NAACP Branch. Mr. Jones is a member of the Louisa County School District's Task Force and Community/Parental Committees and Louisa County Superintendent Advisory Board. Mr. Jones serves as the pastor at Fluvanna Community Bible way Church and the owner of the DG Cleaning Company.



Mr. Melvin Burruss is a member of the Louisa County Superintendent Advisory Board and Louisa County Broadband Authority and the Board of the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, and New Hill Development Inc.

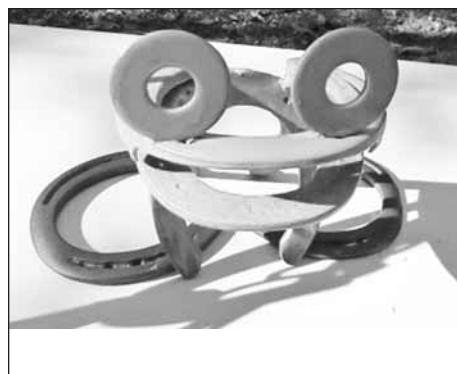
Recycling from page 10



Majestic Flamingo.



Contented Cow.



Happy Frog.

Sales have resulted in a learning curve. Clients seem to prefer pieces to decorate their patios, lawns or docks. Not every item sold quickly, but Robertson found a solution to his overstock of crabs.

"When I first started, I made lots of crabs, but soon realized they were not always a big seller," he said. "So, I started painting them in college colors and they became popular."

The artisan acknowledges that he considers the horseshoe projects as a hobby, wants to work at his own pace and then sell enough to cover his expenses as well as a little extra to perhaps cover another of his interests. Rods and reels hang on one wall of his workshop.

"In the spring and the fall, the fish are biting," he said.

Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Type of bag
- 5 Like some cheddar
- 10 Ho-hum
- 14 Throw, as dice
- 15 Coke's bear
- 16 Unsophisticated sort
- 17 Not being used
- 18 Wind instrument
- 20 Trucker in a union
- 22 Linen closet items
- 23 Kind of boom
- 24 Scouting group
- 26 Remote location?
- 29 Consumer
- 33 Part of TKO
- 37 Indonesian island
- 38 "Without further ..."

- 39 Boastful person
- 42 Hightailed it
- 43 Small stream
- 45 Day of _____
- 47 Armchair companion
- 50 Pitchfork part
- 51 Lightweight wood
- 53 Gentle push
- 57 Seward's state
- 60 College age
- 63 Cold season
- 65 Smallest pup
- 66 Hathaway of Hollywood
- 67 Tablelands
- 68 Something to build on
- 69 Vintage designation

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- 70 Appears
- 71 Salacious look
- 12 Genesis brother
- 13 His partner
- 19 State of mind
- 21 Biscuitlike pastry
- 25 Surviving organism of old
- 27 Pudding fruit
- 28 Squirrel's cache
- 30 Rani's wrap
- 31 Enthusiasm
- 32 Saturn feature
- 33 Edible root
- 34 Anagram for "tide"
- 35 Stable youngster
- 36 Absorbed, as a loss
- 40 Enjoy Aspen
- 41 Heavy metric weight
- 44 Maine entree
- 46 On the fence
- 48 Put together
- 49 Burglar deterrents
- 52 Licorice-like flavor
- 54 Tennis tie
- 55 Horror or sci-fi, e.g.
- 56 Sign above a door
- 57 Not at home
- 58 Pickup shtick
- 59 Oscar winner Paquin
- 61 Mosque leader
- 62 Bitter end?
- 64 Pipe fitting

Crossword Answers page 15

Greg Hosaflook “Surveys” The Civil War

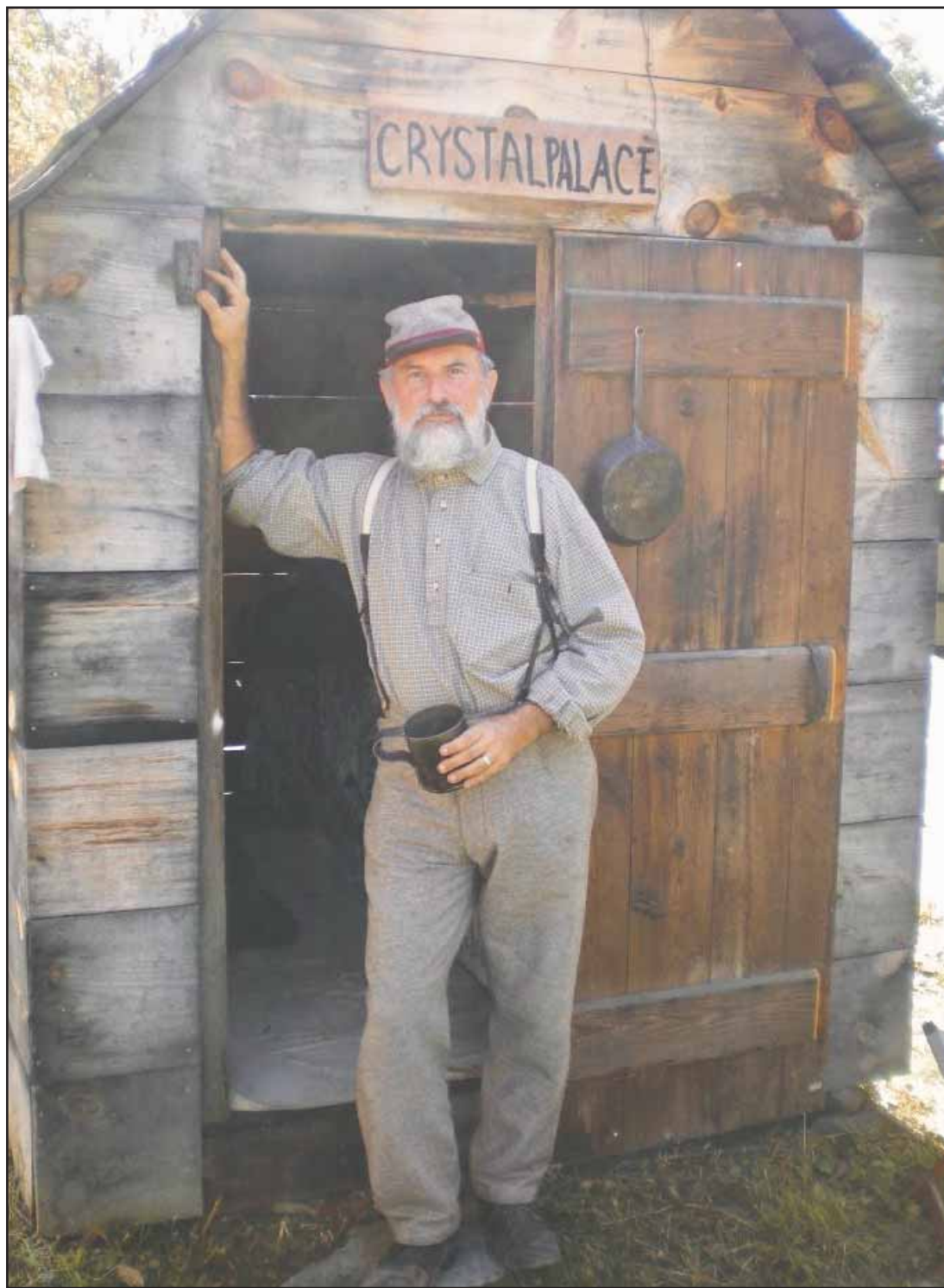
By Carol Barfield
Correspondent

Greg Hosaflook comes from good German stock. His ancestors immigrated to Pennsylvania and to Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, where he was born and raised until he was five years old. After attending school in Northern Virginia, he studied at the University of Virginia, and several years after graduation, decided to settle in Louisa in 1974. His wife Suzette “Susie” Lindamood was born in West Virginia, grew up in Norfolk, and has been a member of the Louisa community since the early 1960s. Together they have built a full and interesting life, blending work, family, and a love of history. The Hosaflooks have three children, all of whom graduated from Louisa High School, six grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and two rescue poodles named Beau and Dee-Dee.

The oldest part of the Hosaflook home dates back to the Civil War. A huge Norway spruce they planted when first purchasing their home provides character and shade for the rustic porch. Greg built a living room addition in 1983, then had a survey office and a sunroom built in 1989. Early in their marriage, Greg and Susie found a beech tree while tramping through their acreage, and carved their initials into the bark. Greg rediscovered that tree recently while surveying their property— 35 years later!

Surveying is a familiar pursuit for Greg. “I graduated UVA, complete with the long hair popular in that era, with a degree in Psychology, which was pretty unmarketable. I worked for a time with a flooring company but knew I wanted to do something with my brain, and not in an office. That caused me to remember my brother's job in high school as a land surveyor in Northern Virginia, so I knocked on surveyors' doors in Richmond asking for a job until one finally said yes. In fact, my prospective boss said, “I'll hire you if you cut your hair.” I promptly responded, “No sir!” and got up to leave. He said, “Oh sit down, you already have the job!” Greg continued with surveying in Palmyra, took classes and then took the state exam and became licensed in 1979. Biding his time until it seemed prudent economically to go out on his own, he then opened Gregory D. Hosaflook, PC, and has been self-employed for 28 of his 40 years in the business. He is completely happy being retired, although he enjoys memories of his days as a surveyor. “My favorite thing was being outside. I disliked subdivision work; I hate chopping up the land like that. Instead, I especially enjoyed surveying the larger plantations for their historic nature...those with hundreds of acres.”

Surveying is some of the hardest work you can imagine. You have to be physically fit to haul a 300' steel tape around and cut brush out of the way. In the late summer with the heat and insects it was brutal work. It was also not without peril. “The first time I had a gun shoved under my chin was during a rough surveying job which had taken us through a bunch of briars and brambles—we had to cut through with a machete. We finally popped out of the brush to five acres of open land with a house on it. I likely looking pretty disreputable with my disheveled clothes and a



Greg Hosaflook at ‘Winter Quarters’ hut at camp of Hardaway’s Battery at N-S Skirmish Association. Photo courtesy Mark Chapman

search on every piece of land adjacent to it. Big boundary jobs took up to a month; there were hours spent at each stage, physically surveying the plat, researching at the clerk's office, cutting a line of site in the field, computing in the office, then hours revisiting the site. “Things have changed now,” Greg says, “they don't use ‘the chain’ anymore. They use total stations with angular measurement devices that measure distances with lasers—or they use satellites.”

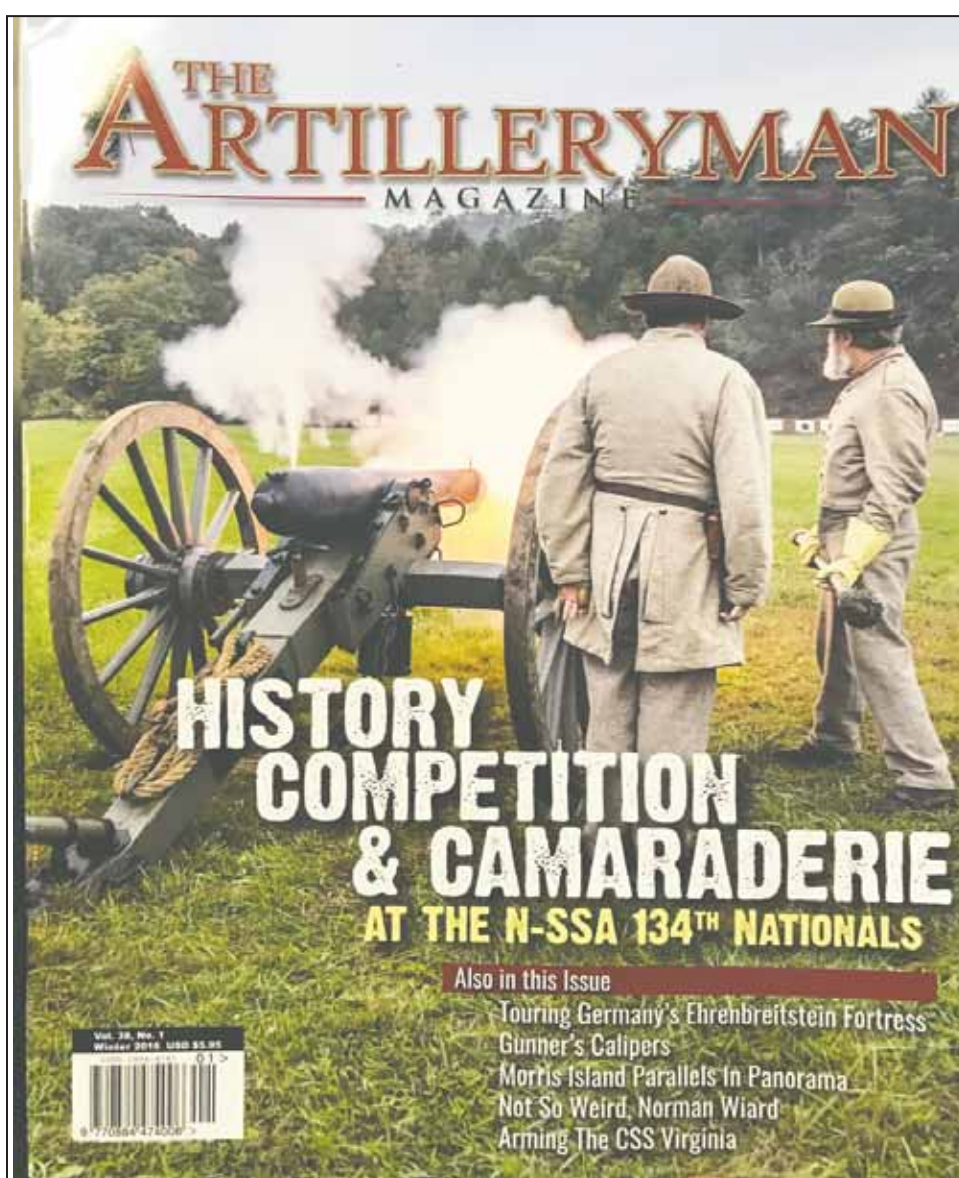
As a child, besides loving the outdoors, Greg was fascinated with history. If there were pictures in the paper celebrating Lincoln or Washington's birthday, Greg would cut them out and save them. In 4th grade, he was taught Virginia history, and a passion was born. “A neighbor who was a WWII vet had purchased a mine sweeper. His wife wouldn't let him go out alone anymore since he had a heart condition, so he asked me to go with him. We went to site of the Battle of Manassas and found belt buckles, soldier ID tags, gun parts and heavy, exploded pieces of cannonballs. He gave me a piece in payment for my help, and I was hooked—it was so rusty I had to work at it with steel wool forever, but I have kept it to this day. At age 13, I mowed lawns until I could afford my own \$75 metal detector!”

machete hanging from my hand, and as I walked across the property to get to my truck, a woman popped out from behind a tree, stuck that revolver right under my chin and demanded, “What are you doing here?” My surveying partner was watching the whole scene play out from his spot in the woods, snickering at my predicament.

Greg especially loved to survey in the mountains. It was challenging work, but he found the beauty of nature to be exquisite. The first time he surveyed in Fork Union, it was a crisp fall morning. He had on the first flannel shirt of the season and was carrying the 300' tape which was called ‘the chain’. “Going up in the meadow, all the colors shone and the spiderwebs were filled with dew—bells from the Baptist Church were ringing, and it was a beautiful—almost religious experience.”

Surveying had additional perils. Aside from being confronted by gun-totin' land owners, Greg hated stepping on snakes, accidents where workers hit a bush wrong and sent a machete into their shin, and he especially hated...yellow jackets. “You never knew when you were going to step into a nest, and those buggers hurt when they sting you! One of my surveying friends stepped in a nest...he was running like crazy toward me to help beat them off. One of them had crawled up his pantleg, so he dropped his trousers down around his ankles, and was slapping away, hopping and hoping they would not make a journey further north to sensitive parts! Yellow jackets caused a few choice words to be said!”

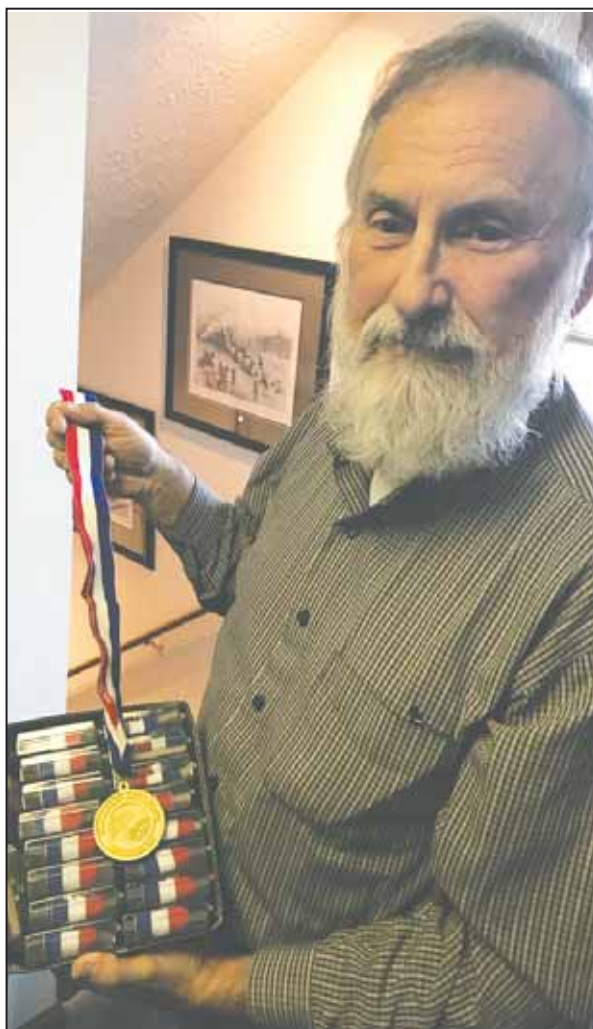
Greg explained that the first thing a good surveyor does is hit the clerk's office to do a complete record search on the area being surveyed, as well as a



Greg appears in yellow gloves at right of cannon on this cover.
Photo by Ericka Hoffman

All things Civil War attract Greg's interest, —except the reenactment craze, which in the early days tended to be populated by non-authentically-uniformed "soldiers" more interested in the beer coolers stationed at their feet than in history. That wasn't Greg's style. But one Sunday morning in the late 1980s, Greg woke up to the thrilling sound of cannon fire coming from Roy Hopkins farm—"I want to do that!", he thought, so a friend of his who was in a military collector's club and member of the Purcell Battery, invited him to join them. They shot authentic, original Civil War cannons. Historical authenticity is important to Greg— "There are guys who are so dedicated to authenticity that they contract special looms to make material of the same warp and weft as uniforms made during Civil War times— then make patterns and sew the uniforms by hand."

After a time, Greg's interest in the Civil War blossomed in a new direction. "I heard word that Civil War



Greg poses with his first place medals for marksmanship.

See Greg page 14

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reenactors were needed for the “Lincoln” movie. I provided a picture of myself in a tuxedo from my time in 2011 as District Deputy Grand Master of the 10th Masonic District, and was contacted, getting the part of a Congressman. I had one line—‘Yeah!’ when the vote on the 13th Amendment passed!” The movie was shot at the state capital in Richmond while lawmakers were out of session. Anything modern was covered with portraits—switch plates were removed—the set crew was at fever pitch working for authenticity. Greg remembers, “Steven Spielberg produced the movie and was well known for saying, ‘That was good, but let’s do it again!’ There were often many takes for just a few minutes of film. It was so memorable to be on set with the actors. When Tommy Lee Jones walked up to the dais and delivered his soliloquy to Members of Congress, it was riveting. His intensity was so great and impassioned that when he finished, tears were running down his face. There was dead quiet afterward—everyone, actors, crew and cameramen alike, were spellbound. Then the room erupted into applause. After the scene I heard Spielberg lean next to Jones and say, ‘Tommy, we never talked about how to do that scene, so let’s do it this way...’, and he had to redo the whole speech! In my opinion, it couldn’t recapture that first delivery. The same thing happened to Sally Fields in her balcony scene; it took three takes and several, ‘That was good Sally, but add this,’ until Steven was satisfied. She took it superbly, and did exactly as he asked, and the end product was cheered by everyone as well. Sally Fields was a consummate professional!”

Although Susie couldn’t attend the filming, she was enthusiastic about her husband’s experience. “Even though I couldn’t be there, I felt almost as excited as Greg—I was a celebrity by association!” A supportive behind the scenes wife who had a full bio both as homemaker and worker, Susie helped Greg continue in his hobbies. During her 27 years working for social services, Susie filled many roles working with children, adults and protective services. She also was part of the Virginia job program which helped match job seekers with employers. “She literally changed peoples’ lives.” Greg stated admiringly.

Greg’s love of history and his dedication to historical accuracy in his appearance made him popular in the world of period movies. In the 1990s, he appeared in “Gettysburg” as an extra, then in a Manassas Park Service film. Greg appeared as a cannon-shooting extra an “Amazing Race” episode, where participants were assigned to rescue fallen soldiers on the field while under artillery fire. (Greg is, in fact, a crack shot, having won an amazing array of first place medals in competitions.) He appeared in “Killing Lincoln”, a PBS movie in which he was attorney general in Lincoln’s cabinet.



Famous artist Mort Künstler who specializes in American Civil War art, attended a reenactment and painted this picture. Greg was the model for the figure seen at the front of the cannon readying it for firing.

In the American Genius series, which featured events in American History, Greg appeared as a preacher in “Edison v Tesla,” a story about death by electrocution. More recently, Greg was in the PBS film “Field of Lost Shoes,” posing as a slave trader prior to the start of the Civil War. His current appearance is in the movie “Harriet”, about Harriet Tubman’s heroic life and escape from slavery. Greg stays humble about his involvement on-screen, “I am a very, very small fish in an enormous sea of talented actors.”

He is prouder of his impact as a member of his local community. He started and heads up the Annual Day Lodge No. 58 Chicken BBQ Sale, which has run for the past 16 years. From its inception, proceeds from this sale have provided 40 scholarships awarded to students from Louisa County High School. He also played a key role as a member of the building program at his church, Louisa United Methodist. His true love, aside from Susie, is history. All of his life, history has enriched him—from reenacting battles, to doing living history programs for National Battlefield Parks; from competitions shooting Civil War cannons and muskets, to giving over 60 Civil War-related programs to schools, historical societies, church groups, Masonic Lodges, and veteran’s organizations—that’s what gives him great satisfaction. “And I am proud to have a wonderful family and good friends,” he beams.



Susie and Greg Hosaflook in their home with Beau and Dee-Dee.

Riley-Moose passed at the age of 16. Although the house was empty without them, I didn't feel I was ready for another one.

Finally, in January 2018, I started to search for another companion. Pet Finders was the search engine of choice and, of course, Jack Russell Terrier was the breed of choice. I visited the website periodically for several weeks, but none of the available JRTs seem like a perfect match.

Then, a photo of a 10-year-old tri-colored female JRT was posted by Lizzy's Lodge, a nonprofit rescue organization in Silver Spring, Maryland. But, I even had my doubts about her. After about four times of passing over her, I asked for more information. Priscilla, then called Pinkus, and her sister Mulva were living with their second family which included three kids and a German Sheppard. Fans of "Seinfeld" will recognize the names.

Unfortunately, the two Jack Russells were starting to fight with each other, even to the point of vet visits. So, before either dog or the children got seriously hurt, put-



ting both of them up for adoption in separate forever homes was the chosen option.

I sent my JRT application, including the name of my veterinarian and personal references, to the rescue organization. The response from the owner was that "I was just the type of person she was looking for to adopt the dog."

We arranged a meet and greet at Wolf Trap in Northern Virginia. As I was filling out the adoption papers, I was told Pinkus might not go home with me. I guess I was still being evaluated. Then, as I was signing the final documents, I glanced over and noticed the family was taking her stuff out of their truck and putting everything in mine.

Obviously, they considered me suitable.

Needless to say, the Jack Russell came home with me and promptly adjusted to her new name Priscilla, or Ms. Pris, so called because she thinks she owns me! She has settled in quickly, loves being a lap dog with no other canine competition and accepts her status as a full fledged family member.

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Answers to the Crossword Puzzle from page 11

G	R	A	B	S	H	A	R	P	B	L	A	H	
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