



Mayberry — Rockin' for the Ages

By Jim Clark

Almost 20 years ago, country music superstar George Jones had a hit record with the song "I Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair." George, who happens to be a huge Mayberry fan, was just letting folks know that he wasn't quite ready to be sitting in a rocking chair full time.

George turned 80 earlier this month, and he's still filling seats at performances more than he's taking a seat himself. But even George would no doubt agree that rocking chairs are actually a pretty swell thing. They're certainly a big part of Mayberry. Rocking chairs go hand in hand with front porches in capturing the relaxed, easy pace and rhythm of life in Mayberry.

Two "Andy Griffith Show" episodes that wonderfully depict the power of rocking chairs and front porches are "Man in Hurry" with Malcolm Tucker and his apple peeling (inspiration for this year's Mayberry Days T-shirt) and "Sermon for Today," when the folks of Mayberry plan and then recover from their attempt to hastily put on a relaxing, old-fashioned band concert.

Whether it's Andy strumming his guitar, Aunt Bee snapping green beans in a bowl, or Wally reading "Moon Mullins" in the funny papers, a rocking chair is the perfect place to be. On a warm day, there's nothing better than gently fanning yourself while rocking on a porch. (Well, O.K., so maybe air-conditioning is pretty great, too!)

For this column six years ago, I also wrote about rocking in Mayberry. Of course, that year we were remembering the passing of Howard Morris, Mayberry's rock-throwing Ernest T. Bass. I talked about every kind of rock I could think of—from Mount Airy's giant granite rock to rock 'n' roll music. The Surry Arts Council theme that year was "The Arts Rock."

In many ways, 2011 is a different kind of rocky time for our country. The recent East Coast earthquake makes it seem even more so around this area. That's to say nothing of hurricanes, wildfires, droughts, tornadoes, floods, the shaky economy, swarms of cicadas, famines, wars, and political bickering. George Jones notwithstanding, I think we need rocking chairs, now more than ever. Not to mention a rock of ages!

Fortunately, Mount Airy has more than its share of fine rocking chairs. Beyond the physical wicker and wooden chairs, Mount Airy and truly all of beautiful Surry County also provide more abstract rocking chairs for the soul. And never more so than during Mayberry Days.



Our minds rock into a state of serenity and joy as we wander back and forth around town and soak up the weekend's continuous activity. One minute we catch a delicious whiff of a grilling pork chop at the Snappy Lunch—maybe mixed with a hint of witch hazel next door at Floyd's. The next minute we're

wide-eyed as we try to take in all the sights of Emmett Forrest's collection at the Andy Griffith Museum.

At any given moment, there could be happy sounds coming from the Andy Griffith Playhouse or the Blackmon Amphitheatre. Those sounds are most likely to be familiar tunes punctuated by applause and laughter. And wait, is that fresh popcorn we hear popping at the EARLE? Let's pop on over there!

Yes, during Mayberry Days, Mount Airy really rocks. And throughout the year, there's a calm cadence to this town that's not unlike a gently rocking chair. Visitors and residents alike seem drawn to that timeless tempo.

Like "Man in a Hurry" Malcolm Tucker, we may find ourselves frantically pacing when we first get to Mount Airy and Mayberry Days. But like Mr. Tucker, we'll eventually find ourselves settled comfortably into a soothing rocking-chair state of mind.

Now, I could be totally off my rocker about all this, but I don't think so. And I believe George Jones would agree. Just to be safe, though, I think I'll sit for a while, rock a bit, and maybe peel an apple while I ponder some more about all this. Yep, that's the plan. And as it turns out, Mayberry Days conveniently just happens to have an apple-peeling contest!



Surry Arts Council 2011-2012 Contributors

SUPPORT THE ARTS IN MOUNT AIRY & SURRY COUNTY www.surryarts.org 336-786-7998

SAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Alan Connolly
 Vice-President – Swanson Snow
 Secretary - Emily Loftis
 Treasurer - Sandy Hallman
 Nancy Malone, Jay Williams,
 LaDonna McCarther, Frank Sells,
 Julie Pharr, Richard Johnson,
 Kelly Merritt, Scott Lowry,
 Jeanette Reid, Henry Rowe,
 Zack Blackmon Jr., Cooper Adams,
 Lyn Smith, Horace Bondurant
 Jack Loftis, Julie Adams,
 Sue Brownfield,
 Ben Swanson
 Emily Smith
 Charlotte Bokesch
 Betty Woltz

FULL-TIME STAFF

Tanya Jones, Executive Director
 Lynne Hinson, Director of Operations
 Ellen Holland, Assistant Director
 Ken White, Facilities Manager
 Greta Hinson, Museum Specialist

ANDY GRIFFITH CIRCLE

Cindi and Andy Griffith Endowment
 Kay and Bob Ferris
 Dr. and Mrs. Fehring
 Mr. and Mrs. David Pruett
 NCFI Polyurethanes
 Charlotte and Gary York
 Insteel Industries, Inc.
 Betty Lynn
 Betty Blackmon
 Mr. and Mrs. Kester Sink
 ZWB Enterprises, Inc.
 B&H Publishing
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rowe
 WLA Trucking
 Emmett Forrest
 Mr. and Mrs. Warren Nichols
 Renfro Corporation
 WBMUTBB Chapter TAGSRWC
 Emily Blum Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Jones
 Mount Airy News
 Mr. and Mrs. John Martin
 Barbara and Lindsay Holcomb
 Mr. and Mrs. Swanson Snow
 TAGSRWC/Jim Clark
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Shelton/
 Shelton Vineyards Inc.
 Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton
 Karen and John Springthorpe/Southdata
 Chip Callaway

North Carolina Arts Council

City of Mount Airy
 Surry County Government
 United Fund of Surry

GUARANTORS

Bank of America
 Northern Hospital of
 Surry County
 Subway
 Mr. and Mrs. H.O. Woltz, III
 Teresa and Jim Lewis/Workforce Carolina
 BB&T

SUSTAINERS

Dean Bray III
 Duke Energy Foundation
 Wachovia Foundation
 Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Pftzner
 Mr. and Mrs. Alan Connolly
 Claire Armbruster and Jeff Koontz
 Pike Electric
 Emily and Steve Loftis
 Kelly and John Merritt
 Dr. and Mrs. Charles Bokesch
 Monica and Chris Wishart
 Sobotta Manor Bed & Breakfast
 Julie and John Adams

BENEFACTORS

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper Adams
 Nancy and Reg Banner
 Mary and Bud Kilby
 Cama and Robert Merritt
 Mount Airy Oil Company
 Anne and Joe Pike
 Mr. and Mrs. Swanson Richards
 Sue and Hal Brownfield
 Barbara and Jerry Coram
 Tammy and Jim York
 Moody Funeral Services
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Patterson
 Dr. and Mrs. Borden Hooks
 Dr. and Mrs. Ashley Hinson
 Mrs. Eric Jarrell
 Mr. and Mrs. Bob Planer
 Mrs. John Woltz
 Sandy and Lynn Hallman
 Emma G. & Albert M. Bunker Memorial
 Dr. and Mrs. John Malone
 Mr. and Mrs. Smith Holcomb
 Mr. Jack Loftis
 Elizabeth Burke
 Jeanette C. Reid
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gentry
 Mildred Robertson Endowment
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Lowry
 Carol M. Burke
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed Woltz
 Jody and David Crawford
 Rachel Smith (Memorial)

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Theard
 Terri and Tom Champney
 C. Richard Vaughn Family
 Karen and Renfrow Hauser
 Dr. Deborah Friedman
 Sandy and Charles Shelton
 NC Granite Corporation
 Mr. and Mrs. John Lyon/
 Lyon Construction
 Southern Community Bank
 Carolyn and Burke Robertson

ENDOWMENT/SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Surry Arts Council Endowment
 Sandy Beam Scholarship Fund
 Cindi and Andy Griffith Endowment
 Kester Sink Endowment
 Barbara & Emmett Forrest Endowment
 Diane Holcomb Endowment
 Sarah J. and Richard T. Howerton
 Endowment
 Mildred Robertson Scholarship
 Hal Brownfield Scholarship
 Jimmy Lowry Scholarship
 Surry Arts Council Scholarship

For information on becoming a member
 336-786-7998 or arts@surryarts.org.

This project is sponsored in part by a grant from
 the Grassroots Program of the
 North Carolina Arts Council.

Surry Arts Council Giving Opportunities	Andy Griffith Circle \$2,500 and up	Guarantors \$2,000-\$2,499	Sustainers \$1,000-\$1,999	BeneFACTORS \$500-\$999	Patron \$250-\$499	Sponsor \$100-\$249	Family \$25-\$99	Individual \$10-\$24
--	--	-------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	---------------------	-------------------------

HONORARIA AND MEMORIALS

Granite tiles at the Blackmon Amphitheatre may be purchased for \$300 each. Engraved seat plaques in the Earle Theatre or the Andy Griffith Playhouse may be purchased for \$100 each. Appropriate acknowledgements are sent in a timely manner.

Call 336-786-7998, arts@surryarts.org, or www.surryarts.org for more information. Giving may be in the form of cash, stock, or other means.

Please consider the Surry Arts Council or the Andy Griffith Museum in your Estate Planning.

ENDOWMENT AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Endowments from \$10,000 may be set up at no administrative cost to donors. Endowments may honor or memorialize loved ones or may benefit special programs and or scholarship funds.