



# Front Porch News

September, 2002

*A Newsletter from the Lumpkin County Senior Center*

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**Some things you keep.** Like good teeth. Warm coats. Bald husbands. They're good for you, reliable and practical and so sublime that to throw them away would make the garbage man a thief. So you hang on, because something old is sometimes better than something new, and what you know is often better than a stranger.

These are my thoughts, they make me sound old, old and tame, and dull at a time when everybody else is risky and racy and flashing all that's new and improved in their lives. New careers, new thighs, new lips, new cars. The world is dizzy with trade-ins. I could keep track, but I don't think I want to.

I grew up in the fifties with practical parents -- a mother, God bless her, who washed aluminum foil after she cooked in it, then reused it - and a father who was happier getting old shoes fixed than buying new ones. They weren't poor, my parents, they were just satisfied. Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. They stayed together through thick and thin. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers and tee shirt and Mom in a house dress, lawn mower in one's hand, dishtowel in the other's. It was a time for fixing things -- a curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things you keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that refixing, reheating, renewing. I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant there'd always be more.



But then my father died... and on that clear February day, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any 'more.' Sometimes what you care about most gets all used up and goes away, never to return. So, while you have it, it's best to love it and care for it and fix it when it's broken and heal it when it's sick. That's true for marriage and old cars and children with bad report cards and dogs with bad hips and aging parents. You keep them because they're worth it, because you're worth it.



Some things you keep. Like a best friend who moved away or a classmate you grew up with, there's just some things that make life important....people you know are special....and you KEEP them close!

*Author Unknown*

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**CONGRATULATIONS to John & Lois Starnes in their marriage on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002. We love you and wish you all the best!!!**



## **IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!!**

Carlton Tate 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lucy Merritt 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Cora Freeland 8<sup>th</sup>  
Benny Gearin 15<sup>th</sup>  
Roy Roberson 16<sup>th</sup>  
Samantha Adams 24<sup>th</sup>  
Janie Venable 30<sup>th</sup>



**Happy Birthday to you !!**

Check out our **NEW WEBSITE** at <http://lcseniorcenter.tripod.com>



**PSSSST!...**

If you are involved in the Secret Pal Program be sure to send your pal a card or small gift.

You'll have to wait until the Thanksgiving dinner to find out who has been sending you all those goodies.



### **In case you were wondering...**

First celebrated in New York in 1882, Labor Day began as a parade to honor the working class. From the beginning, the celebration proved a favorite. Over the next day, similar Labor Day celebrations began cropping up across the United States. In fact, Colorado, New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts even passed laws declaring Labor Day a state holiday. In 1894, the U.S. Congress followed suit. Just 12 years after New York held the first Labor Day parade, Congress declared the first Monday of each September a national holiday in honor of the working class.