



## Bringing A Little Of The Past To The Future *by Linda Merritt*

The day was dreary and it was pouring down rain on the outside, but there was lots of sunshine inside Blackburn Elementary School in Dahlonega, Georgia. Rhonda Bailey, Director of the Lumpkin County Senior Center, brought five of the Seniors to the school to help celebrate "Old Fashioned Day," Wednesday, October 15.

The beautiful smiles on the students' and teachers' faces made this a worthwhile visit. A large group of first graders made up the first audience. Many of them were dressed in "Old Fashioned" clothing—bonnets, long dresses, Indian headdresses and overalls. They sang and clapped their hands to the rhythm of Hazel Beck's music. She played her guitar and led them in songs like "You Are My Sunshine," "Bingo," "Jesus Loves Me," and "Old McDonald Had A Farm." Hazel also sang some songs that she has written. Homer Adams played his harmonica. The youngsters had fun trying to guess his age. The guesses were from 50 to 92 (92 being the correct answer). Lucy Miller showed the students some of the crafts that are made at the Senior Center. Roy Towe entertained them with his "buck dancing." I should move as good as this 75 year old gentleman. Oma Lee Warren helped with the singing.

The next audience was third graders and the seniors went through the same routine. It was a good thing to see these boys and girls singing, keeping time with the music and dancing and smiling.

Many children may have grandparents or other seniors in their everyday lives, but some may not have the pleasure of being around seniors on a regular basis. It's good for the kids and the seniors to interact with each other as these did at Blackburn Elementary. There are a lot of things that can be learned on both sides. On this day, just having a lot of fun was the highlight.

Thank you Karen Woody for the invitation to Blackburn. And...thanks to the Seniors for sharing their talent with the students and teachers.

