

By Staff Reports

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Lawndale Museum preserves World War II newsletters, opens for season

"Hot off the Hoover Rail," was a monthly publication printed during World War II, connecting the people and community of Lawndale with the men and women from the area serving in the War.

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Neighbors could read about:

New arrivals in the community - "Mr. and Mrs. Columbus Ledford announce the birth of a son."

The start of school - "School started this term with a nine month term and twelve grades."

Mother of the month - A letter from a mother with a boy in service.

Other happenings - "W. T. Ledford shot a bear ..."

The 18- to 25-page bulletins were printed from November 1942 through September 1945, and distributed throughout the community and mailed to the soldiers wherever they might be, in the United States or abroad. They contained happenings in the mill, in the community and letters or word from those in the military. Addresses of those in service were provided and updated as need be. The first bulletin, published November 1942, said, "to give all our Lawndale boys the local group and all events we think might be of interest to you."

The remaining copies are getting very fragile, having been printed on paper that has now yellowed and sometimes crumbles as you flip the pages. Inside the pages is a treasure chest of information about Cleveland Mills, the town of Lawndale and surrounding community, and about those of the area serving our country during WWII.

The Lawndale Historical Society recently had "Hot off the Hoover Rail" digitized by Digital N.C., and the newsletters are now available online through digitalnc.org/newspapers/hot-off-the-hoover-ra, and should soon be available through the Lawndale Historical Society website. Also on the same site is a copy of "Sketches of Piedmont High School," a booklet written a number of years ago giving a brief description and history of Piedmont.

The Lawndale Museum and Metcalfe Station is open for the summer on Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m., and at other times by appointment. Call Betty Hord at 704 538-7212 or Theresa Lowe, 704 538-9304 for more information.

Season opening ceremonies

The opening dedication for 2014 will be June 8 at 3 p.m. at the Lawndale Museum and will include the presentation of the "person/family of the year to Steve and Jane Cooke," special music by the Double Shoals Quartet, presentation of the Soil Judging trophy from Burns High School, which was won by the 1960 Soil Judging team of Piedmont High School, who also won the National Soil Judging contest that year.

<http://www.shelbystar.com/article/20140605/News/306059823>

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