

MAYBERRY DAYS · FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH · MAYBERRY MAN



SUMMER 2023

ISSUE 37

Mayberry

MAGAZINE



TRUE LIFE MAYBERRY? · HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

WHAT'S INSIDE

Cover Story —

MAYBERRY DAYS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

If we're heading into late summer, that can mean only one thing for Andy Griffith Show fans — Mayberry Days will soon be here! Check out plans for the 2023 version, with the latest list of guests and activities.

PAGE 4

FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

In 1996 Frank Levering's grandparents house, at Levering Orchard up in the mountains overlooking Mount Airy, burned. Rather than tear it down and lament the loss — his grandparents built that house in 1909 and started the famous orchard — Frank decided to honor his grandparents with a play, where the house stood. Twenty-five seasons later, the Cherry Orchard Theatre is still going strong.

PAGE 8

FREE MOVIE?

Haven't yet seen Mayberry Man? Here's your chance — and it's free!

PAGE 11

MORE THAN MAYBERRY?

Andy Griffith and his writers based many of the little details of Mayberry life on his memories of growing up in Mount Airy. Author Randy Turner highlights a few times he named characters after real-life relatives.

PAGE 12

WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO...

Concerts, shows, workshops, plays and more, are the usual fare for visitors and residents alike around Mount Airy. Now that summer's here, and autumn is not far behind, the calendar is chocked full of outdoor shows, festivals, and other events keeping folks busy and entertained.

PAGE 14

SO, YOU THINK YOU KNOW THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW?

Barney gets a job offer, Howard has another job, and Barney very nearly gets a wife! Think you know all about the episodes in question? Think again, and see just how deep your knowledge runs. Test your Andy Griffith knowledge with our Mayberry Trivia Quiz!

PAGE 17



INDEX

American Healthcare Services, Inc.	19
C & B Lumber	15
The Derby Restaurant.....	7
Econo Lodge.....	17
Frank Fleming Body Shop & Collision	11
Mayberry Drive-In.....	13
Mount Airy Business Association.....	3
Mount Airy Equipment Co., Inc.	20
Mount Airy Museum Of Regional History ..	7
Mount Pilot Antique Mall.....	5
Mullins Pawn Shop & Jewelers.....	17
Quality Inn	12
Snappy Lunch	5

**319 North Renfro Street
Mount Airy, North Carolina 27030
336.786.4141**

Publisher

Sandra Hurley

shurley@mtairynews.com

Editor

John Peters

jpeters@mtairynews.com

Advertising Director

Serena Bowman

serena.bowman@
mtairynews.com

Contributing Writers/
Photographers

Randy Turner

Tom Joyce

Ryan Kelly

Circulation &

Distribution Manager

Martha Eaton

meaton@mtairynews.com

Sales Consultants

Kim Cagle

Samantha Turner

& Bob Ward

Layout & Design

Darla Allen

The region's ONLY comprehensive guide to entertainment, fun, and all things Mayberry! Published by The Mount Airy News, 319 N. Renfro Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030



presents



**MOUNT AIRY
MOONSHINE & RACER'S
REUNION**

in Historic Downtown Mount Airy, North Carolina
MAIN STREET - MAYBERRY, USA

**Saturday,
September 9th
10am-8pm**



EARLE

WELCOME CRUISERS

PRESENTED BY
MOUNT AIRY
DOWNTOWN
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

www.mountairydowntown.org



**July-Sept.
1PM-5PM**

3rd SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

Great Tunes, Fantastic Food, Shopping, and a Whole Lot of Fun!

For More Info Contact Mt. Airy Visitor's Center (336) 786-6116

TNNG180897-1

SUMMER 2023 • MAYBERRY MAGAZINE | 3



John Peters | Mayberry Magazine
 Rodney Dillard, one of the Darling Boys from The Andy Griffith Show, gestures toward the audience during the official opening ceremony during the 2019 Mayberry Days Festival.

By John Peters
 Mayberry Magazine

Thirty-four years ago, Tanya Jones and the Surry Arts Council began what would become Mayberry Days. The annual festival, set for Sept. 18 - 24, began all those years ago as a one-off, single-day celebration of "The Andy Griffith Show's" 30th anniversary.

Now, more than three decades later, Jones is still at the helm of both the arts council and the festival, and her answer to how to keep people coming is simple: Finding new ways for those associated with the show to entertain the legion of Mayberry fans, while mixing in a healthy dose of the familiar.

This year's event has plenty of both.

For starters, a new guest who appeared on the show will be



Courtesy photo
 Keith Thibodeaux and his wife, Kathy Denton Thibodeaux, will be at Mayberry Days again this year.

joining those making an appearance. Margaret Teele, who played Agnes Jean Parker in the episode "A Visit to Barney Fife" as well as Stella in an episode of the spin-off show, "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C." and an unnamed "girl" in another episode of the latter show, will be among those at the festival to meet with fans.

Teele made a number of appearances on shows and in movies throughout the 1960s, including "Batman," "Captain Nice," and the Jerry Lewis movie "Hook, Line and Sinker."

Another act making its first appearance at the festival is the Christian rock band, David and the Giants. The group has its roots in the 1960s, as a rock group that achieved significant success regionally in the Southeast, as well as nationally in Great Britain. In 1977, the group

switched to contemporary Christian rock, releasing a string



Karen Knotts, daughter of Don Knotts, waves to the crowd during the 2018 Mayberry Days parade. She is always a popular Mayberry Days guest. Mayberry Days Magazine file photo

of successful albums between then and 1989, and has been recording and playing again in recent years.

The band's connection to Mayberry Days comes through its drummer, Keith Thibodeaux, who appeared in more than a dozen "Andy Griffith Show" episodes as Opie's childhood friend, Johnny Paul Jason. Thibodeaux was already a recognized child star before joining the Griffith Show cast, having played Little Ricky on both "I Love Lucy" and "The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour."

Thibodeaux first attended Mayberry Days in 2018, but has been to most of the festivals since. In addition to several

appearances during the festival, Thibodeaux and his band will be in concert at the Andy Griffith Playhouse, beginning at 3 p.m. on Sept. 23.

Another new face will be that of Denise Glass. The Virginia-born singer has appeared in a number of concerts and musical festivals over the years, most notably performing as a Patsy Cline tribute artist.

Michael Hoover, an Elvis tribute artist who has proven immensely popular with Mayberry Days fans, will be returning. He and Glass have been appearing together in

See MAYBERRY | 6

SNAPPY LUNCH

HOME OF THE
**WORLD FAMOUS
PORK CHOP
SANDWICH**

The Signature Sandwich of Locals and Visitors alike!

125 N. Main St. | Mt. Airy, N.C 27030
336) 786-4931 | thesnappylunch.com

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. 6:00am-1:45pm
Thurs. & Sat. 6:00am-1:15pm

TNNC180896-1

**Take a Step Back in Time to Visit
Surry County's Best Antique Store**

- Expanded Showroom & More Vendors
- Antique Toys & Pedal Cars
- Coca-Cola, Pepsi, Fine Furniture
- Memorabilia, Signs, Coins
- Cast Iron, Pottery, Glassware

**MOUNT PILOT
ANTIQUE MALL**

107-111 East Main St. | Downtown Pilot Mountain
336-368-1617

TNNC181907-1



Tom Joyce | Mayberry Days Magazine)

Tribute artists paying homage to their favorite Andy Griffith Show characters are always popular during Mayberry Days.



John Peters | Mayberry Magazine

One of the highlights of Mayberry Days is the Saturday morning parade, which brings thousands out to Main Street in Mount Airy. Here, Bill Morrison, of Stafford, Virginia, takes a picture of the late Betty Lynn, passing in a float during Saturday morning's Mayberry Days parade in 2019.

From MAYBERRY | 5

recent shows, and the two will be doing so at Mayberry Days.

The two will be appearing in concert on Friday, Sept. 22 at 2 p.m. on the stage at the Historic Earle Theatre.

A television and movie star making his second appearance at the festival will be Dan Roebuck. While he was not in "The Andy Griffith Show," fans will recognize him as Cliff Lewis from "Matlock." In that series, Roebuck played the private investigator working for attorney Ben Matlock, played by Griffith.

Roebuck made his Mayberry Days debut in 2022, and was so taken with Mount Airy and the event he is returning this fall. He will also be coming back to the city in December to play the role of Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol," to be on stage at the Andy Griffith Playhouse.

"Dan Roebuck was on 55 episodes of Matlock and has a different set of insights about Andy and working with Andy and guests loved him last year," said the arts council's Tanya Jones.

Of course, Mayberry Days just



John Peters | Mayberry Magazine

Shooting photos and videos of the annual Saturday morning Mayberry Days Festival Parade, this one from 2019, are, from left, Terry Smith and Rebecca Smith, of Bannertown, N.C., and Christina Smith of Mooresville, N.C. Christina Smith laughed at learning of Terry and Rebecca's name, saying she'd never met them prior to having their picture shot together despite having the same surname.

wouldn't quite be the same without some of the old favorite guests.

In addition to the aforementioned Michael Hoover, fan favorite Rodney Dillard and the Dillard Band will be in town for a concert and related appearances, Karen Knotts will be on stage talking more about her famous father, and Ronnie Schell of both "The Andy Griffith Show" and "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C." will be on hand.

Others returning include Dennis Rush and Margaret Kerry, both of whom made multiple appearances in the show; "Murder in Coweta County" producer Dick Atkins; Professor Neal Brower with his annual talk featuring those who were affiliated with the show; a presentation by author Randy Turner, who has written a number of Mayberry-related books and travel guides; along with games, contests, and many displays.

There will also be several concerts for those in town, including a show by John Floyd, known as the "Mouth of Mayberry;" concerts featuring Envision Band, Embers featuring Craig Woolard, Band of Oz; and a number of



They are not exactly The Darlings come down from the mountains, but old time and blue grass musicians make regular visits to Mount Airy, including during Mayberry Days. Pictured here are, clockwise, starting with the guitarist in front wearing overalls are Steve Bradley of Ravenswood, West Virginia, Al Barnett, of Mineral Wells, West Virginia, John Barnett and Jake Eddy, both of Parkersburg, West Virginia, and Jim Yates, of Boaz, West Virginia, putting on a mini-concert along Main Street prior to the start of the 2019 parade.

movies.

For more information about this year's festival, or to see an updated list of scheduled guests, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/mayberrydays/>.

Celebrating Serving You for 86 Years

Open for Dine-In Service

1901 SOUTH MAIN ST MT. AIRY, NC 27030

TAKE OUTS: 336-786-7082

WWW.THEDERBYRESTAURANT.COM

TNNC102697

Newly

REMODELED!

MUSEUM of REGIONAL HISTORY

NEW ENTRANCE

NEW EXHIBITS

NEW EXPERIENCES

Home of Historic Mount Airy

GHOST TOURS

Dearly Departing:
Friday & Saturday 8pm
(May-Nov.)

Tickets at
hauntedmayberry.com

301 North Main St.
Mount Airy, NC 27030

Telephone: (336) 786-4478
www.northcarolinamuseum.org

Hours of Operation:
Mon. - Sat.: 10am - 5pm
Sun.: 1pm - 4pm
Admission is charged
Seasonal hours may vary

Since 1993

1-800-808-DNSM

From the ashes comes **TRIUMPH**



The Cherry Orchard Theatre often serves as a live workshop, with playwrights and actors getting their first stage action. One show that debuted there was a two-woman stage production called “A Dangerous Woman,” with Rose Warshana, left, and Thelma Jean Pack.

Cherry Orchard Theatre marks 25 seasons

By John Peters

Mayberry Magazine

Sometimes tragedy leads to joy, loss paves the way for new birth.

Such was the case a quarter of a century ago, on the face of Virginia’s Fancy Gap Mountain, overlooking Mount Airy and the surrounding Piedmont, the same Fancy Gap that Sheriff Andy Taylor referenced once or twice during the run of “The Andy Griffith Show.”

This summer and autumn a celebration of that new joy, new birth, is being celebrated as the Cherry Orchard Theatre’s 2023 season marks the 25th season of shows on the mountain.

Frank Levering, founder of the theater and owner of Levering Orchard, home of the theater, said the theater is expanding its schedule this year as part of that celebration, with eight different shows spread over July, August and September.

When he first staged a play at the site, in the summer of 1999, Levering said he had no inclination that effort would grow into such a fixture on the local art scene, one whose reach extends far beyond the mountain and valley below.

“I had pictured it as just a one-off,” he said of that initial weekend’s show, a play he had written which ran over three nights.

That play, and the story of Cherry Orchard Theatre, truthfully goes back much further — more than a century when Levering’s grandparents, settled the land just north of the North Carolina-Virginia border, with the long-range goal of establishing an orchard.

“Ralph and Clara Levering arrived at what’s now the orchard in a wagon, being drawn by a horse,” Levering said recently. “That was in February 1908. They came all the way from Maryville, Tennessee. My grandmother was eight months pregnant with my dad when they got there.”

He said the two took up residence in a small two-room log cabin. A month later, Levering’s father was born, and a year later the two had built what would become the family homestead, where they resided and built what would become Levering Orchard.

Eighty-seven years later, Levering said the house burned to the ground.

“We had some college students from Guilford College staying there,” he said. Levering was living in the newer homestead on the grounds, the one his parents had lived in. “One night, at about 9 o’clock, they came running down to my house, told me my house was on fire. I thought they were talking about the house I was in, but when I went outside, I could see there were flames coming out of the roof.”

By the time the fire department arrived and extinguished the blaze, the roof and chimneys had collapsed, the walls had burned down to one-story ruins, and everything else inside was lost.



Photos by Terri Flagg | Mayberry Magazine

The night sky makes a beautiful backdrop as the cast, writer and director of “In Other Words,” answer questions following a Friday night premiere of the play at Cherry Orchard Theatre in 2016.

Not long afterward, he was walking the grounds, looking at the ruins of the home his grandfather had built.

“That’s when I had the idea to do a play about the people who lived in that house” he said. That Levering would turn to drama and the theater as his way of dealing with the tragedy should be no surprise — he spent a number of years in California as a script writer, has penned plays, poems, and authored or co-authored a half dozen books. Writing, particularly for performance art, is one of Levering’s passions.

“It took me a couple of years, as it usually does, to write the play, but I got the play completed in early 1999,” he said. He gathered a few friends and local artists to collaborate with him on producing the story.

“We did this play with the idea of paying tribute to the people who lived in the house, my grandparents, my dad, and everybody. I had pictured it as just a one-off.”

Area residents and visitors put other ideas in his head.

“We wound up doing that play over the course of three weekends in the summer of 1999, over 1,200 people came, which was a shock...That’s when the idea of a summer theater came from, I really had no intention of that, but I realized something wonderful might be happening here.”

He worked with his friend, well-known local storyteller Terri Ingalls, and a few other artists and put together what has become a 25-season odyssey that has led to an untold number of live performances at the orchard.

“It’s got to be over a hundred,” Levering said of the number of productions which have come to life on the outdoor stage there. “Probably well over a hundred. “It’s been at least three or four weekends a year, and often a different show each weekend.”

Those shows generally would have a three-day run, Friday,



Stuart Shenk acts in the play “In Other Words,” a play by Beverly Johnston performed Friday at Cherry Orchard Theatre during a past season.

Saturday and Sunday, and occasionally a second weekend with a different show taking stage the following month, and yet another one the month after.

Some of the shows there have gone on to much larger audiences, to be performed by international stage and television stars. One show, “The Distance Between Us,”

See ORCHARD | 10



Frank Levering watches a play performed at the Cherry Orchard Theatre in 2016.

Terri Flagg | Mayberry Magazine

From ORCHARD | 9

debuted at the Cherry Orchard Theatre, and eventually found its way into other stages, where actresses Holly Hunter and Amy Madigan played the two major roles.

Another involved local resident Dan Hornak, whose portrayal of fictional John Wayne tribute artist Jack Thorne debuted at Cherry Orchard but has seen Hornak perform the show in Texas as well as multiple California venues.

Some of the other shows have also taken to the road, with the local actors putting on the shows in Mount Airy, in Charleston, South Carolina, and elsewhere.

But getting big-name actors, or launching a traveling show, isn't really what Levering is after at Cherry Orchard.

"That doesn't have to happen," he said of his measure of success at the theater. "If it happens, that's great. But if we do it with a local audience, and everyone has a great time, that's what we're about...something for our community."

This year, the community will have far more opportunities to see the shows and productions at Cherry Orchard, with eight different shows set.

In addition to the opening weekend's offering, held in July as a story-telling and open mic night, will be the Celebration of 25 Seasons at Cherry Orchard Theatre from August 4 – 6, and from August 11 – 13 and from August 11 - 13 the theater will have a two-play set in one evening featuring "The Dead Speak" and "The View From Clara's Porch."

Running August 18 - 20 will be another two-show evening with An Evening with the Browns and a short play "Raw Toads." On August 25- 27 the stage will feature an evening with actor Robert Dobson.

Cherry Orchard opens the new month with "H5" running from Sept. 1 -3 and then on Sept. 8 - 10: "All We Know of Heaven." Finally, "The Witches Brew: Tales of Appalachian Witches" will take the stage Sept. 15 - 17.

Anyone who misses the 2023 season can check out Cherry Orchard's Facebook page for updates — during the winter months, the theater sometimes puts on its shows at indoor

venues, and then in summer of 2023 another outdoor season will be running at full speed.

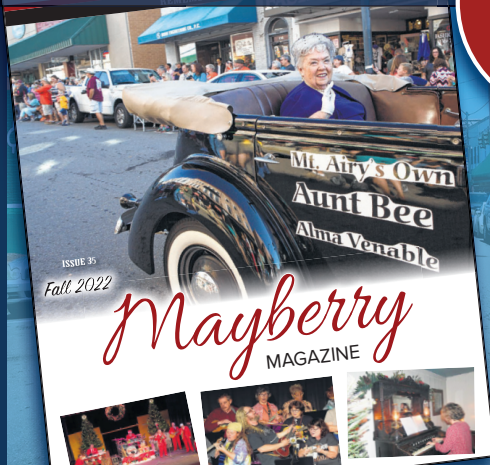
Find more at: www.leveringorchard.com/virginia-outdoor-theatre.

Mayberry

MAGAZINE

Get 4 issues delivered to
your home

Subscribe Now!



Only
\$30.⁰⁰

Mayberry

MAGAZINE

For faster service or to give
a gift, call (336) 786-4141.

TNNC151149-1

MAYBERRY MAN

movie now free to stream

Mayberry Man: The Series set to debut this year

By John Peters
jpeters@mtairynews.com

The nostalgic family comedy Mayberry Man, inspired both by The Andy Griffith Show and a visit to Mayberry Days by two sons of an Andy Griffith Show actor, is now streaming free on several services, quickly wracking up hundreds of thousands of views.

The movie, largely filmed over 2021 and released in autumn of 2022, follows an arrogant, self-centered movie star named Chris Stone, played by Brett Varvel, who is sentenced by a judge to spend a week at a festival celebrating “The Andy Griffith Show.”

The film was conceived by several children of Mayberry stars, especially brothers Stark and Cort Howell. Their father, Hoke Howell, played Dud Walsh, a local boy who married the character Charlene Darling. They had an experience a little bit like that of the fictional Chris Stone, learning first-hand about the passionate and friendly Andy Griffith Show fan base when they visited Mayberry Days in Mount Airy.

“I’ve always been a fan of the show, but I was shocked to discover the spirit of Mayberry still exists today within the tight-knit Mayberry fan community,” Howell said in a 2019 interview with The Mount Airy News announcing the movie. “It’s the perfect setting to tell a modern-day, family-friendly story that expresses the virtues of the fictitious town of Mayberry that we all fell in love with so many years ago.”

Filmed partially in Andy Griffith’s hometown of Mount Airy, Mayberry Man follows the arrogant movie star showing how he ended up sentenced to a week at Mayberry Fest, the disregard he had for the show’s fans and the townfolk at first, and it shows how, surrounded by Mayberry fanatics including colorful tribute artists pretending to be characters from the show, he is given the chance to discover what Mayberry Spirit is all about.

“The touching, light-hearted story pays homage to the classic television series through replica sets, vintage wardrobe, Mayberry squad cars and other period vehicles, plus a film score that includes music from the original series by renown composer Earle Hagen,” according to the Stark brothers.

In another twist, the movie was filmed independently, with some of the financial support raised through crowdfunding efforts — and many of those who contributed to the movie ended up with on-screen roles.



Loaded Goat owner J. Scott Freeman takes a few minutes to chat with Carroll (foreground) and Pat Hooker of Mount Airy during the Mayberry Man Kickstarter fundraiser launch held at the restaurant on Jan. 15, 2019. Several pivotal scenes from the movie were filmed in the Loaded Goat.



Photos by John Peters | Mount Airy News

The Loaded Goat, a popular restaurant in Mount Airy, served as the location for several scenes in Mayberry Man; The Movie. Here, shooting is taking place at the restaurant in September 2021.

The movie had a limited release in the autumn of 2022, featuring three premieres — in Mount Airy; Danville, Indiana (where the now-defunct Mayberry in the Midwest festival was held); and in Los Angeles. It has since been available via DVD, direct download, and through several streaming services.

Beginning on July 1, the film became free for a limited time, available through Amazon Prime, on YouTube’s EncourageTV channel and on TubiTV.com. The first weekend the movie was free, it surpassed 100,000 views and has continued being viewed hundreds of thousands of times since.

There may soon be additional viewing options for Mayberry fans, with the coming debut of “Mayberry Man: The Series.”

Because of the popularity of and response to Mayberry Man, the Howells and others involved in the production have gone on to make a five-episode television series which picks up where the movie left off presented to cable and streaming networks with a potential fall 2023 release.



**NEW LOCATION
TO BETTER
SERVE YOU**

**811 MERITA ST.
MOUNT AIRY, NC
27030**

336-786-9244

FRANKFLEMINGBODYSHOP.COM

TNNC180898-1

ANDY *referenced his hometown in many ways during show*

By Randy Turner

Special to Mayberry Magazine

Andy Griffith was fond of including the occasional reference to Mount Airy, North Carolina, as a sort of “hello” to folks from his hometown area. One of the most used of these references were the names of his cousin, born Virginia Lorraine Beasley, and her husband, Earlie Gilley.

When “The Andy Griffith Show” first aired, Andy’s cousin and her husband lived in Pilot Mountain, North Carolina. (The town’s name was also the source of Mount Pilot in the series.) Lorraine’s mother was a sister of Carl Griffith, Andy’s father.

Andy first inserted the name “Beasley” into an episode in “Irresistible Andy,” which aired in Season 1 on Halloween of 1960. After Andy convinces himself that Ellie Walker is a “desperate hunter” looking for a husband, he tells Charlie Beasley that she is interested in him. Charlie is soon in Walker’s Drugstore, trying to woo her by flexing his muscles.

The name appears again near the end of the same season, attached to the often-referenced but never-seen Juanita, Barney’s main girl on the side. When she is first referenced, Juanita Beasley is the new waitress working at the Junction Cafe where the truck drivers stop. Andy reads her full name off Barney’s citation pad. Barney claims to have written her name and number on the pad as he did “trouble checks” with her periodically. Her last name was never referenced again, but the character certainly was repeatedly, though by the second season, Juanita is working at the diner.

Griffith used his cousin’s middle and last name in the third season episode “A Wife for Andy.” When trying to find a potential spouse for his friend, Barney spots Lorraine Beasley walking downtown but thinks she might be a little young for Andy.

In Season 4, Opie is mistakenly awarded a straight-A report card he had not earned in “Opie’s Ill-Gotten Gain.” Andy is so proud he tells Aunt Bee he is considering having a photo taken by a photographer of Opie holding his report card to send to Edgar Beasley, a man he knows who brags about his children a great deal.

In the Season 5 episode “Opie’s Fortune,” Andy is teasing Barney to get him to reveal details about a date with the apparently quite attractive Phoebe Gilbert. When Barney reads in the “Mayberry Gazette” that Virginia Beasley is engaged to Earlie Gilley, Andy says the engagement will be off once Earlie finds out about Virginia. He says this just to rankle Barney by then nonchalantly explaining he learned the information from Phoebe’s brother while Andy was at her



Randy Turner

house. This was a use of his cousin’s first and last name, though she usually went by her middle name, Lorraine.

Later in the same season, in “The Case of the Punch in the Nose,” Andy is surprised to learn Bobby Gribble and Emma Lars are engaged. Floyd says they had been dating ever since Bobby stopped seeing Andrew Beasley’s daughter.

But perhaps the most discussed use of the surname among Mayberry fans is from the fifth season when Andy introduces the character we know as Goober Pyle as Goober Beasley to Mr. Harvey in “TV or Not TV.”

Goober had been referenced long before being seen, such as Gomer and Goober fixing Malcolm Tucker’s car and Goober lending Gomer tools to fix the bandstand for a concert. No last name was ever used,

with Gomer always simply referring to Goober as his cousin. Nor was a last name given for Goober in his first appearance in “Fun Girls” and for quite a while afterward. His last name was eventually established to be “Pyle,” just like his cousin Gomer, so sources customarily state that was his name all along, disregarding the single time his name was given as Goober Beasley.

Just like Andy often used portions of the full name of his cousin, Virginia Lorraine Beasley, he also used the name of her husband, Earlie Gilley, a number of times.

As mentioned above, one of the references to Andy’s cousin, Virginia Lorraine Beasley, was in the Season 5 episode “Opie’s Fortune,” when Barney reads in the “Mayberry Gazette” that Virginia Beasley is engaged to Earlie Gilley. This was not the first time Gilley was used in the series.



- Free Hot Breakfast
- Free WiFi
- Seasonal Swimming Pool
- Pets Allowed



Located at 2136 Rockford St. in
Mount Airy • 336-789-2000

www.qualityinnmountairy.com

TNNC116656



Andy Griffith often peppers “The Andy Griffith Show” with names and references to his hometown of Mount Airy and the surrounding region, including using The Mount Airy News as a prop during the show.

It was first used in in “The Jinx.” When Barney is convinced Henry Bennett is a jinx and the reason their rowboat sank, Andy says it has nothing to do with Henry and sank because Earl Gilley did not properly caulk a leak in the boat. Here Andy used a slight variation on Earlie’s first name.

In the Season 4 episode, “Prisoner of Love,” Andy tells the attractive female prisoner the story of Henry Gilley, a shy Mayberry resident who courted Tyla Lee Vernon for 16 years, trying to get up the nerve to propose.

During Season 5, the character Gilley Walker appears twice, his first name also a nod to Earlie Gilley. Only concerned with “speed, speed, speed,” Gilley Walker is first seen in “Goober Takes a Car Apart.” He appears later in the same season in the episode “The Case of the Punch in the Nose.”

Finally, near the end of the sixth season, the name was used with a sort of double nod back home. In “Goober’s Replacement,” Goober’s attractive girlfriend, Flora, filled in for him at Wally’s and became quite the draw for male customers who enjoyed having the gas pumped by a pretty girl. A dejected Goober said he might move to Mount Pilot and work in Earlie Gilley’s garage. The reference was two-pronged. It obviously was a use of the full name of his cousin’s husband. But in addition, Earlie really did operate an automotive garage in Pilot Mountain!

It is not surprising that in addition to his cousin’s name, Andy also used the name Gilley often. After all, Lorraine, once said, “Andy just loved his name!”

Randy Turner is the author of Mayberry Firsts and The Mayberry Travel Guide. He is the editor of and a contributor to 60 Years of Mayberry and creator of the Mayberry Day-by-Day desk calendar. Randy hosts The Mayberry Retreat and is also the founder of The Andy Griffith Show Ambassadors Program. Information can be found at www.mayberrybooks.com.



Photos courtesy Surry Arts Council
Ronnie Schell, left, and Jim Nabors are seen in a photo from “Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.,” a spinoff from “The Andy Griffith Show.” Gomer’s name was originally Gomer Beasley in “The Andy Griffith Show,” a reference to one of Andy Griffith’s relatives in Mount Airy.

MAYBERRY DRIVE-IN



good fresh food

mayberrydrivein@outlook.com
336-415-5056

FAMOUS PORK CHOPS & FOOT LONG HOT DOGS

bbq - hamburgers - fries - onion rings - ground steak






675 West Pine Street Mt. Airy, NC

What's Happening In MAYBERRY?

Concerts, shows and more!

Your comprehensive guide to live concerts, shows, and other entertainment in Mount Airy and the surrounding communities. For additional information on all Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series shows, performances at The Historic Earle Theatre, or shows at The Andy Griffith Playhouse, please see <http://www.surryarts.org/surryart/index.html>. Please call ahead for any show to confirm it is going on as planned, particularly before setting out for those shows that are some distance from Mount Airy.

CONCERTS

Note: For tickets to all concerts that are part of the **Surry Arts Council Concert Series or the Blue Ridge And Beyond** series, or to purchase season tickets, visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/menu.html>, or call 336-786-7998. Season ticket prices, good for admission to any or all of the shows at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, is \$150. Concessions are on sale at each of the Summer Concert Series shows.

Aug. 10

The Embers featuring **Craig Woolard** will be back to Mount Airy in this concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, bringing their special brand of energy to the stage. Some call this band and their performances “the heart and soul of beach music.” Admission is \$15 or a season pass, children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Aug. 11

Envision will bring their cover of hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s, all the way up to the contemporary sound of today's Top 40 to the stage. Admission is \$15 or a Summer Concert Series season pass to the 7:30 p.m. show. Those attending the concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Aug. 12

Kids In America: Totally 80's Tribute is a high-energy, power-packed, ultra fun, six-piece band paying tribute to the totally awesome 1980s. Kids in America covers all genres from new wave, pop, dance, rock, hair metal, and sing along iconic ballads. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Aug. 17

The Band of Oz returns to Mount Airy, bringing its popular brand of Beach Music to the Blackmon Amphitheatre stage beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs.

Aug. 18

The Extraordinaires put together a unique, high-energy blend of Classics/Rhythm & Blues music that aims to get



people out of their seats and on the dance floor. The group will be on stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 or a Summer Concert Series season pass. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Aug. 19

Chocolate Chip & Company is providing funky heat and making it look all so cool, and they're bringing that act to the Blackmon Amphitheatre for a 7:30 p.m. concert. Admission is \$15 or a season pass. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Doc at 100: A Doc Watson Tribute Concert at the Blue Ridge Music Center, at Milepost 13 on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Galax, Virginia. Hosted by author Ted Olson, DOC AT 100 is a concert program celebrating the life and legacy of Doc Watson by artists who performed with Doc, who were profoundly influenced by his music, and who called him a friend. Gates open at 5:45 p.m., with the concert beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 day of the show, with children 12 and younger \$10. Visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concert-events/doc-at-100-2023/> for more information.

Aug. 24

Liquid Pleasure is a party band that plays everything from Top 40, rap, rock, and a variety of other genres. After more than two decades of bringing audiences to their feet, the band Liquid Pleasure has become a multi-cultural icon. Liquid Pleasure brings fun and excitement to the stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 or a Summer Concert Series season pass. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Aug. 25

Too Much Sylvia has a wide ranging repertoire of music, including beach, Motown, Funky 70s, Retro 80s and a few of the top current hits from Bruno Mars, Pharrell Williams, Florida Georgia Line along with a smattering of country that the group will put on display in a 7:30 p.m. concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre in Mount Airy. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Aug. 26

Often called “the premier party band in the Carolinas and Virginia,” **The Castaways** have been pleasing audiences

with their unique flavor of beach, soul, and Rock N' Roll for generations of fans. Join the fun in this 7:30 p.m. concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre in Mount Airy. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Larry & Joe in concert, along with a performance by **Shay Martin Lovette**, at the Blue Ridge Music Center at Milepost 13 on the Blue Ridge Parkway near Galax, Virginia. Joe Troop and Larry Bellorin are versatile multi-instrumentalists and singer-songwriters performing a fusion of Venezuelan and Appalachian folk music on harp, banjo, cuatro, fiddle, guitar, maracas, and whatever else they decide to throw in the van. Their program features a distinct blend of musical inheritances and traditions as well as storytelling about the ways that music and social movements coalesce. Shay Martin Lovette brings his admiration for rich musical traditions of his home region to craft regionally based originals like "Parkway Bound." In 2019, Lovette and his backing band won the band competition at MerleFest. Gates open at 5:45 p.m. for this 7 p.m. concert. Ticket are \$20 for adults, children 12 and younger free of charge. Visit <https://www.blueridgemusiccenter.org/concert->



events/larry-and-joe-2023/ for more information.

Aug. 31

Jim Quick and Coastline will return to Mount Airy with a 7:30 p.m. concert at The Blackmon Amphitheatre. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 1

Jukebox Rehab will be in concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre as part of the 2023 Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Tickets are \$15 or an annual pass, children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 2

The Holiday Band plays hits from the 1950s through today, blending genres such as Current & Classic Top 40, Soul, Funk, Rock & Roll, Motown, Jazz, and more. The group will be performing on stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 or a season pass, children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are

See CALENDAR | 16



C&B Lumber Inc.

Jeff Bond - Sales



TOP-NOTCH LOG HOME MATERIALS MANUFACTURER

What We Do

We are a manufacturer of a wide variety of log home materials. These include but are not limited to:

- **Tiny home Materials • Log Siding**
- **Heavy Timber Beams • Cedar Railing**
- **Tongue and Groove**




3594 Turkey Knob Road Fries, VA 24330

276-744-3337 | info@candblumber.com

www.candblumber.com

TNNC186060-1



From CALENDAR | 15

encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 8

North Tower Band, one of the South's great party bands for nearly 40 years, will be on stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre providing the best in oldies, beach, top 40 and funk beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 or a Summer Concert Series season pass. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 15

The Catalinas are known for their Beach Music, though they perform other genres as well, and will be bringing their show to the Blackmon Amphitheatre in Mount Airy for a 7:30 p.m. show. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 16

Cassette Rewind brings its 80s vibe to the stage at the Blackmon Amphitheatre in a concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. The group says its members were "Born in the '80s, raised on radio," and they feature many of the Big 80s hits. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 19

Envision will bring their cover of hits from the 60s, 70s and 80s, all the way up to the contemporary sound of today's Top 40 to the stage in this special Mayberry Days concert. Admission is \$15 or a Summer Concert Series season pass to the 7:30 p.m. show. Those attending the concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 20



The Embers featuring Craig Woolard will be back to Mount Airy in this special Mayberry Days concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre, bringing their special brand of energy to the stage. Some call this band and their performances "the heart and soul of beach music." Admission is \$15 or a season pass, children 12 and younger are admitted free. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Sept. 21

The Band of Oz returns to Mount Airy for a special Mayberry Days concert, bringing its popular brand of Beach Music to the Blackmon Amphitheatre stage beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 or a season pass to the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs.

Sept. 22

Rodney Dillard and the Dillard Band, as part of the Blue Ridge and Beyond concert series, will be in concert during Mayberry days in this show which begins at 2 p.m. at the Andy Griffith Playhouse. Tickets are \$55 for preferred seats, \$45 for orchestra seats. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

Michael Hoover: "Memories of Elvis" with Denise Glass as Patsy Cline, will take to the stage at 7 p.m. in the Historic Earle Theatre for a Mayberry Days show that will take audience members back to a time when The King ruled rock and Patsy Cline was singing her legendary country tunes. Tickets are \$30 for preferred seats, \$25 for orchestra seats, \$20 for balcony seating. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

The Bellamy Brothers, creators of the hits "Let Your Love Flow" "If I Said You Had a Beautiful Body (Would You Hold It Against Me)?" are still going strong, with their latest

See CALENDAR | 18



So you think you know **MAYBERRY?**

Andy Griffith Trivia

1. In previous editions of Mayberry Magazine, we have mentioned that Main Street and downtown Mount Airy have been used in other shows, including the 1960s version of Batman as well as Star Trek — Floyd's Barbershop even shows prominently in one episode of the original Star Trek. Another Mayberry fixture, Myer's Lake, has been scene in a number of television shows over the years. Can you name at least three?

2. The anniversary of Don Knotts' birthday recently passed. What date was that, and how old would he have been? Bonus question: When was Barney born?

3. When did Helen Crump first appear in The Andy Griffith Show, and what is the name of the actress playing her?

4. Speaking of Andy and women, who were the two ladies who seemed to have a thing for Andy and "Bernie" and always managed to show up at the most inconvenient times? Bonus: Who were the actresses who played the roles?

5. While Sheriff Andy Taylor was known as the sheriff without a gun — which led to several episodes on that very subject — he was known to arm himself when needed. When was the first episode in which he was seen carrying a gun?

6. Opie Taylor turned out to be a newspaper man — he was on the cusp of becoming editor of The Mayberry



Gazette in the movie "Return to Mayberry," but instead took a job as a reporter with a larger, out-of-town newspaper. What was his first newspaper job?

See ANSWERS | 18

MULLINS
PAWN SHOP & JEWELERS
Mayberry's Oldest Pawn Shop!
IF YOU NEED A DOLLAR, GIVE MULLINS A HOLLAR
1911 Caudle Dr. • Mount Airy • 336-786-6417 • 336-789-7109
mullinspawn.com

Enjoy a wealth of amenities at an affordable price at the Econo Lodge Inn & Suites® hotel in Pilot Mountain, NC. Our pet-friendly hotel is ideally located three miles from Pilot Mountain State Park

EconoLodge
BY CHOICE HOTELS

711 S. Key St. | Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
Phone: 336-368-2237 | Fax: 336-368-1212

From CALENDAR | 16

CD, "40 Years," and the band brings its sound to the Andy Griffith Playhouse in this special Mayberry Days concert set for 8 p.m. Preferred seat tickets are \$80, orchestra seat tickets are \$75. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

Tim White & Troublesome Hollow will make a Mayberry Days appearance, in a concert beginning at 9:30 p.m. on the stage of the Historic Earle Theatre. Orchestra seats tickets are \$20, balcony seats are \$15. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/> for more information and to purchase tickets.

Sept. 23

David & The Giants, a contemporary Christian band starring original members and brothers David, Clayborn, and Rayborn Huff, along with "The Andy Griffith Show" actor Keith Thibodeaux, will appear in concert at the Andy Griffith Playhouse at 3 p.m. Preferred seating tickets are \$50, orchestra seats are \$40.

Sept. 29

The Tonez is an eight-piece musical act that aims to keep crowds on their feet dancing and enjoying live music with its mix of oldies, Motown, rock & roll, country, funk, R&B, and beach music, to the Blackmon Amphitheatre in a 7:30 p.m. concert. Admission is \$15 or a Summer Concert Series season pass. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Oct. 6

The Entertainers bring their R&B and Beach Music to the stage at the Blackmon Theatre. But the band is not limited to those genres, regularly diving into the latest Top 40 hits, classic rock & roll, and even country music. Admission to the 7:30 p.m. is \$15 or a Summer Concert Series season pass. Those attending the concert are encouraged to take lounge chairs. Concessions will be available for purchase.

Oct. 13

Summer might be over, but the Surry Arts Council Summer Concert Series doesn't yet give up

the ghost. **Runaway Train** will be in concert for this free Autumn Leaves Festival concert at the Blackmon Amphitheatre beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 14

Craig Southern & Phoenixx will take to the Blackmon Amphitheatre stage at 7:30 p.m. for this free Autumn Leaves Festival concert. Craig Southern and The Phoenixx have entertained crowds all over the United States for 40 years, and now brings its show featuring beach, country, classic rock, and soul tunes to Mount Airy.

Nov. 11

As part of the venerable Blue Ridge and Beyond Concert Series, **The Malpass Brothers** will be in concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Historic Earle Theatre, with music steeped in the legacy of the Louvin Brothers, Johnny Cash, Marty Robbins, Hank Williams Sr. and others. Tickets are \$50 for preferred seating, \$45 for orchestra seating, \$45, and \$40 for balcony seating. Visit <https://www.surryarts.org/shows/blueridgebeyond.html> for more information and to order tickets.

Weekly Events

Experience the Merry-Go-Round, the second-longest continuously running live radio broadcast in the nation, with a live show every Saturday at The Historic Earle Theatre from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each week. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$8 or a Merry-Go-Round Annual Pass is \$20, or a current Surry Arts Council season pass.

Ongoing

The Old-Time Music Heritage Hall, housed in the Historic Earle Theatre at 142 N. Main Street in Mount Airy, is open daily throughout the year. Exhibit hours are 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays, noon to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturday WPAQ's Merry-Go-Round and exhibits from are on display from 11 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Self-guided tours of the Old-Time Music Heritage Hall are \$8 per person plus tax per person and includes admission to the Andy Griffith Museum, Betty Lynn Exhibit and Siamese Twins Exhibit.

Andy Griffith Trivia ANSWERS

6. As a child, he and his friend Howie Pruitt, played by Dennis Rush, started The Mayberry Sun, which they printed on a small printing machine Howie got for his birthday. Filled with gossip, The Mayberry Sun quickly set the townsfolk on edge, and Andy had to step in to stop publication and explain to Opie how the gossip could have real-work implications.

5. That didn't take long — in the second episode of the debut season, The Manhunt, Andy takes out his gun belt and holster, along with his handgun, and straps it all on as he and Barney go out looking for a dangerous criminal who is on the loose.

4. Skippy and Daphne, better known as The Fun Girls. Skippy was played by Joyce Jameson, while Daphne was portrayed by Jean Carson. Carson actually had another role on the show, playing Naomi, one of three female convicts who escaped from a prison, eventually taking Floyd and Barney captive for a short time. Both of the Fun Girl actresses also appeared in one episode each of the spin-off show, Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.

3. Aneta Corsault, playing Helen Crump, made her debut near the end of the third season, in the episode Andy Discovers America. She, of course, was Opie's teacher and her appearance was intended to be a one-shot deal, with nothing afterward planned. After several unsuccessful attempts to find a "girlfriend" character for Andy — always failing because of a "lack of chemistry," the on-screen chemistry between Corsault and Griffith won her another appearance, then another, and eventually led to her being a long-term permanent character on the show, and Sheri Taylor's eventual wife.

2. Don Knotts was born July 21, 1924, which means he would have celebrated his 99th birthday this year. He passed away on Feb. 24, 2006. The bonus question was a trick question — we're not exactly sure when Deputy Barney Fife was born. We do know he graduated from high school in 1948, which means he was probably born in 1930 or 1931.

1. We'll return to Star Trek to start this one off, with one scene of the show featuring Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock and Dr. McCoy materializing just a few steps from where Opie is seen throwing a rock into the lake during the opening credits of The Andy Griffith Show. Others? Quite a few, including The Brady Bunch, Green Acres, The Rifleman and Mannix.

*In Home-Aide
Agency*



www.americanhealthcare-services.com

915 Rockford Street, Mount Airy, NC 27030 • 336-789-2273

*Providing In-Home Aide Assistance
For The Following Programs...*

PRIVATE DUTY SERVICES

American Healthcare Services, Inc. offers sitting and companionship, meal preparation, light housekeeping, errands, and personal care. We sit privately in hospitals and nursing facilities.

All caregivers provide socialization, a safe environment and support.

- ♥ Long Term Care Insurance
- ♥ Alzheimer's and Dementia
- ♥ Worker's Compensation
- ♥ Veterans
- ♥ Home and Community Block Grant
- ♥ Family Caregiver Support - Voucher
- ♥ EPSDT - Medicaid under 21 years old
- ♥ CAP - Community Alternative Programs
- ♥ PCS - Personal Care Services



**Need Help With a Loved One?
Let Us Help. Call for a few hours or up to
24 hours. We Provide the Best. In Home
Aide Service.**

Locally Owned & Operated Serving Surry, Yadkin & Stokes Counties

- State Licensed American Healthcare
- Established in present location since 2000
- Random Drug Testing & Pre-Employment Drug Testing
- IHA and CNA
- Referenced, SBI and National Checks Done
- Registered Nurses available for the Aide 24 hours a day
- Active Member of the Association of Home and Hospice Care of NC.
- Member of Alzheimer's Foundation of America
- Plans in place to cover absences
- Bonded and Insured



Kubota®



MT. AIRY EQUIPMENT
COMPANY, INC.

The MX Series is built to deliver comfort. The all new feature-packed cab is ready to take on any task. No matter how cold, wet or dusty, this cab is ready to withstand the elements.



MX6000HSTC

336-786-6240

1431 West Pine Street, Mt. Airy, NC 27030