

the *February 2011* Beacon  
**Delmarva**  
*Published monthly by Unit 26 Region 2*



**Hello from Florida,**

We hope and pray that all of you are staying well and warm during this very snowy and cold winter. Mary Ann and I arrived safely to Travelers Rest RV Park near Dade City, FL on January 3, and have had a variety of warm, sunny days as well as some very cold nights. We wish you could be here with us!

A very "special thank you" to the Comstocks and the Helwigs for

hosting the Snowball Luncheon. A small, but mighty group met for a delicious meal at the Bridgeway Diner in Smyrna, DE. They all enjoyed the fellowship with the event going well into the afternoon. The cover Photo of the February Blue Beret is from the

"American Adventure Southwest Caravan", and was submitted by our own Claire Connelly. **GREAT JOB, CLAIRE!** Please note that the Blue Beret is now on line at [www.BlueBeretOnline.com](http://www.BlueBeretOnline.com).

I would like to thank the following Delmarva friends for agreeing to lead the following caravans:

Region 2 Caravan- Phil Cruchley

Du Quoin International Caravan-Malcolm Comstock

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Flamingo Fling – 2/1/11 – Hosted by Frank Laughlin & Judy Moore

Valentine Luncheon – 2/12/11 – Hosted by Tom and Connie Littel

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon - 3/17/11 Hosted by John Chromy & Millie Brown

Maintenance Rally – 4/29/11-5/1/11- Hosted by Clyde Warden & Claire Connelly

May God Bless you and "we will see you down the road".

**President Les & First Lady Mary Ann**

**"Most people are pantywaists. Exercise is good for you."**

**Emma "Grandma" Gatewood**, at age 67 first woman to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail (1955)....2,168 miles.

**President:**

Les Parks 302-475-8882  
parks1963@comcast.net

**1st Vice-President:**

Sue Comstock  
302-724-0654

**2nd Vice-President:**

Mary Ann Parks  
302-584-3215

**Recording Secretary:**

Bobbie Smith  
410-348-5769

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Mary Ann Parks  
302-584-3215

**Treasurer:**

Frank Blunda 302-537-1498  
Frank Blunda @mac.com

**Membership:**

Roger Sansom  
410-251-8574  
rogerealtor@gmail.com

**Sunshine:**

Bobbie Smith 410-348-5769  
bes1064@hughes.net

**Newsletter:**

Malcolm/Sue Comstock  
302-724-0654

Check out Claire's Cover

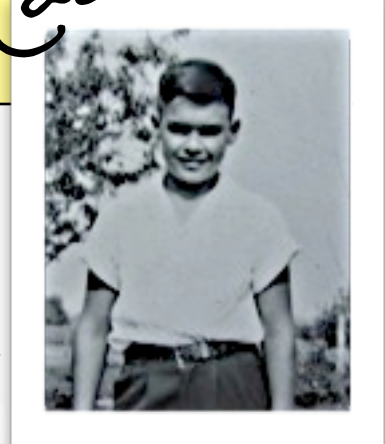
# Carter's Corner

Congratulations !



Senior Citizen Heroes  
Part 1

## Grandma Gatewood



### February Birthdays

### February Anniversaries

- Bill & Tillie Robibson 1
- Jerry & Ellen McEachern 10
- Bill and Beverly Houser 14
- Chuck & Maxine Ungerbueller 14
- Fay & Phil Cruchley 17
- Charlie & Iva Lee Carter 26
- Jay & Mary Lou Luckett 26
- Chuck & Thersa Woodward 26

- Ben Danner 2
- Ellen McEachern 2
- William Gerfin 4
- Margaret Morris 11
- Charlie Pierce 21
- Theresa Woodward 25
- Mary Jane Mathewson 27
- Roger Broseus 28

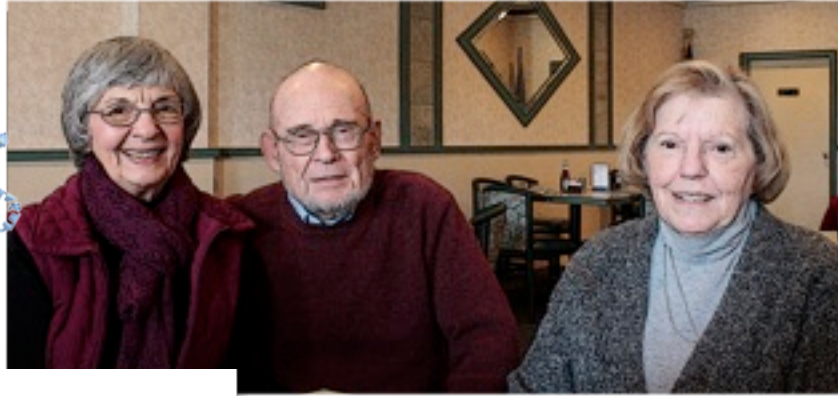
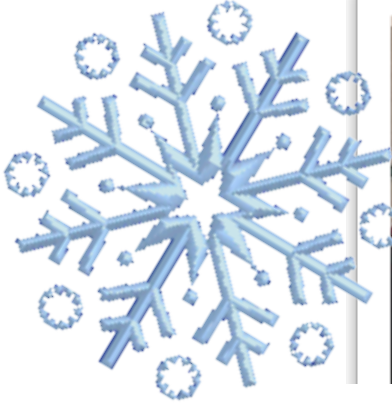
Grandma Emma Gatewood was an Ohio farmers wife, mother of eleven children, grandmother of twenty three. She was the 1st woman to hike the 2,168-mile Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine solo. She did it in 1955 at the age of 67, wearing Keds sneakers and carrying an army blanket, a raincoat, a plastic shower curtain for shelter, a cup, first aid kit and one change of clothes, all of which she carried in a homemade bag slung over one shoulder. Her hiking diet consisted mainly of dried beef, cheese and nuts, supplemented by wild food she would find along the way. She carried no map, no compass, no guidebook, no tent, no sleeping bag and no backpack.

*Continued on page 4.....*

**Left: Archives photo.....**  
Cooking in the rain.....Elk Neck State Park, Maryland



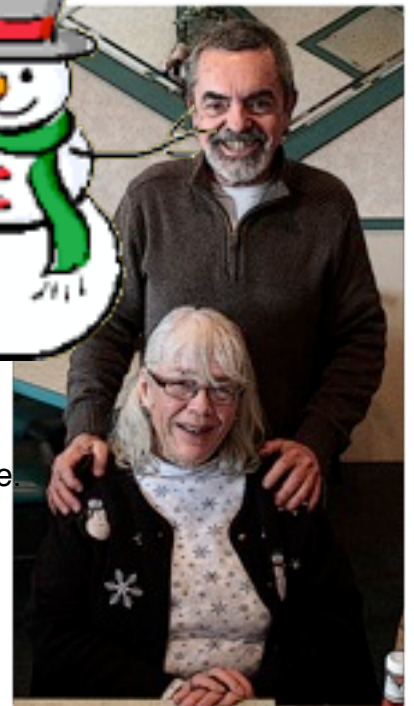
# Snowball Luncheon January 15th 2011



The weather man reported there was snow on the ground in forty-nine of the fifty states. Most Delmarva members were in that state....Florida. Those few hearty souls who were not in Florida gathered at the Bridgeway Restaurant in Smyrna for the Snowball lunch.

We enjoyed good food in abundance and spirited conversation well into the afternoon. If the "smart" members were in Florida and the more "pioneer" types here, John Chromy's recent hospital "adventures", Don Smiths completion of a quilt, caravanning to International, B & B's "blowout" experience were all discussed....and many others.

Bobbie Smith and John Chromy won the floral centerpiece raffle. An enjoyable time was had by all ! We left happily carrying our little, white, styrofoam "doggie bag" containers.



**Top to Bottom:**

Millie, John and Marge  
Don and Bobbie.  
Bruce and Bonnie.  
Margaret and Chuck  
Malcolm and Sue.



**Carter's Corner continued.....from page 2**

She hiked the entire trail again in 1960 and then again at age 75 in 1963, making her the first person to hike the trail three times (though her final hike was completed in sections). Local newspapers picked up on her story, leading to a profile in Sports Illustrated and an appearance on The Today Show.

She first hiked the trail after reading about it in National Geographic magazine. "I thought it would be a nice lark," she said, adding "It wasn't." Another time she complained, "For some fool reason, they always lead you right up over the biggest rock to the top of the biggest mountain they can find."

She also walked 2,000 miles of the Oregon Trail from Independence, Missouri, to Portland, Oregon, averaging 22 miles a day!

In 1959 Grandma decided to follow a wagon train traveling between Independence, Missouri, along the Oregon Trail to Portland, Oregon. The trip was planned to celebrate the Oregon Centennial, but when Grandma arrived in Missouri she discovered that the wagon train had pulled out the week before. Not to worry. Not only did she catch up with the wagon train, but passed it by. After walking some 2,000 miles she reached Portland a full week before the wagon train.

Grandma continued to hike into her 80's taking up winter hiking. She died at age eighty-five of a heart attack.



**Grandma Gatewood  
1887-1973**

### **International Caravan Tentative Schedule...**

#### **Caravan Suggestion: mileages approximate.**

Leave Delaware on June 21<sup>st</sup>.....Arrive at International morning of June 24<sup>th</sup>

Dover to Flintstone, Md....Hidden Springs CG....223 miles.  
Flintstone to Enon, OH ( near Dayton)....Enon Beach CG....346 miles  
Enon to Marshall, IN....Lincoln Trail State Park....225 miles  
Marshall to International.....157 Miles...arrive morning of the 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Only one long day.....

Let me know what changes should be made....for example we could make the long day first ( June 21st) and stay for free at Cabala's. Do we want to lay over a day ? Maybe in Dayton ?

**Contact President Les if you wish to participate and/or have suggested changes or additions.**

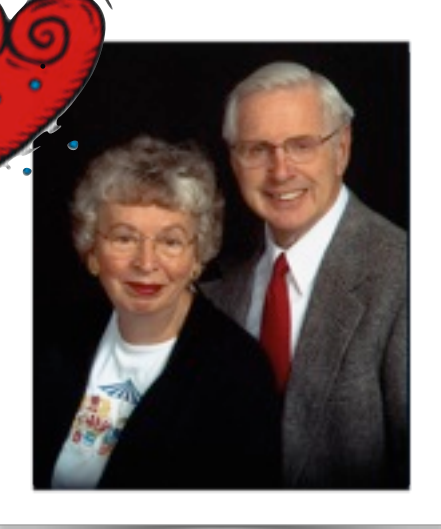


# Valentine's Luncheon 2011



**Hosted By: Tom & Connie Littel**  
Contact # 302-633-4559

**Saturday February 12**



Trevi Restaurant, in Smyrna  
( Same place as the Christmas Luncheon)

**Contact # 302-633-4559**  
**Give Tom & Connie a call. Come to the restruant**  
**Saturday February 12 at 11:30. Order from the**  
**Menu, seperate checks will be given.**

**See you there !**



# St Patrick's Day Luncheon March 17th

**Hosted by: John Chromy & Millie Brown**



Spring is just around the corner and it will soon be time to celebrate St. Patty's Day and the "Wearing of the Green". Come join us for lunch at Michael's Restaurant located on Route 58 near Christiana Hospital on **Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 11:45 a.m..** Have the traditional **corned beef and cabbage** on the buffet plus other items and a great salad bar, or if you prefer order from the menu.

We need to know **YOU** will be there, so please make a telephone call to reserve you seat. **Please call 302-994-7412 by March 10.** We select the restaurant, you pick up your tab for dinner.

Mark your calendar for this "Green" outing and we will see you there!



**Flamingo Fling-2/1/2011-Hosted by Frank Laughlin & Judy Moore at Travelers Rest Park, FL**



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Delmarva Editors:  
Malcolm & Sue Comstock  
malvermont63@yahoo.com

