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Webcast on Discovering Gold at Reed Gold Mine September 18

Thousands of miners flocked to the nation's first documented gold find, not in the hills of California, but in the piedmont of North Carolina. In 1799, a shiny and heavy rock found by little Conrad Reed and used for a doorstop was, in reality, a 17-pound gold nugget. Once identified, the news spread and the Carolina Gold Rush was on.

The Reed farm is now the popular Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site where visitors can still pan for gold through October. A webcast at the site Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m. will explore the history of gold mining in North Carolina, and anyone can sign up to view the webcast at www.ncdcr.gov/DCRTV. The Department of Cultural Resources staff will take questions during the live webcast.

Conrad Reed's gold rock was used as a doorstop until a jeweler's examination in 1802 revealed it to be gold. The jeweler paid \$3.50 for the rock, 1/10th of one percent of its worth. Reed and his partners began working the surface in 1803. By 1824, the miners had recovered \$100,000 worth of gold.

During the webcast, Site Manager Larry Neal will lead a tour of the underground mine, the 1890s stamp mill and the millhouse. The stamp mill separated gold from quartz and other metals. Initially, mining was done in Little Meadow stream, but the discovery that gold also existed within the quartz rock led to mining underground in 1832. The estimated value of gold from the mine reached over \$1 million a year. Webcast participants will learn about mining methods and the impact of gold in North Carolina. The mine ceased operations in 1912.

For additional information on the webcast, please call (919) 807-7289 or visit www.ncdcr.gov/DCRTV. For additional information on the Reed Gold Mine, please call (704) 721-4653.

Remembering.....

By Ed McBride



Anson High School

You do remember this red, white and blue activity bus - I lettered September 26, 1961, with Anson High School on both sides and Anson Eagles on the front and rear. Arthur Summers tells me that the fellows at the Anson School Bus maintenance department did a fantastic job "fixing-up," painting, etc. - even the painting of the wheels and bumpers, to make it look like new!

At this time Anson High School was new (opened 1960) and was the beginning of Anson County's High School consolidation program -

located on highway US 74 (present location of the Anson Senior High School). The Anson High opening included high schools in Ansonville, Lilesville, Peachland, Polkton and Burnsville. This was some years before Bowman Senior High School (1967) which included the entire county high schools. (Morven, Deep Creek)

Arthur Summers was the first principal at Anson High - Arthur Newkirk, Don King and Shine Huntley were some in the sports department - and many, many more!

Extension Notes Tips for Enjoying Fresh Local Foods

Even though it is mid-August, there is still a lot of local fresh produce available. Fresh produce cannot be beat. It is good and it is good for you. Here are a few tips for shopping local and storing fresh produce.

When shopping at a local farmers market, there are a few do's and don'ts to remember. Do wash your hands before handling produce and use clean bags to transport produce. Do enjoy samples and try new items, ask for a recipe if you are not sure how to prepare something new.

Do handle produce gently and let your children help select produce. Do ask the farmer questions and get acquainted with his or her production methods. Do show your appreciation for the farmers and recognize the value of their produce.

Don't forget to bring cash. Don't handle produce you do not intend to purchase. Don't be afraid of a little dirt, wash fresh produce just prior to preparation. Don't bring your pet to the market, it is a food safety precaution for everyone. And finally, don't shop at the close of market expecting a bargain.

When you get home with your bounty, refrigerate items as soon as possible. Do not wash produce before you store it. Washing prior to storing can decrease the storage life of fresh produce. Remove any deteriorating fruit as soon as you spot it.

Store produce at the appropriate temperature, the fridge is not always the best choice. Fresh produce including potatoes, tomatoes, winter squash and onions store well at just below room temperature, preferable out of direct sunlight. Refrigerate freshly cut or sliced produce for maximum food safety. Keep fruits and vegetables in separate refrigerator drawers since many fruits emit ethylene, a gas that promotes ripening.

Line the crisper drawer with a paper towel to absorb moisture. High humidity is beneficial, but condensation is detrimental.

Plan healthy meals each week around the availability of fresh produce from the market and support your local economy! By Janine B. Rywak, County Extension Director

CMC-Union Hosts Free Community Health Talk

Carolinas Medical Center-Union, part of Carolinas HealthCare System, is hosting a free community health talk on Wednesday, September 10 at 10 a.m., focusing on urology and kidney stones. Join Daniel Linn, MD, and David Kang, MD, of Urology Specialists of the Carolinas as they discuss symptoms, treatment options and prevention methods for kidney stones.

The event will be held in the Outpatient Pavilion Auditorium at CMC-Union, located at 600 Hospital Drive in Monroe. Seminars are free and light refreshments will be provided. For more information or to RSVP call 704-631-0983.

Art for Tots Mini Classes Offered

The Cheraw Arts Commission will present "Art for Tots" mini-art classes beginning Tuesday, September 16. The classes for ages 5 & under will meet two times per month at the Cheraw Community Center, located at 200 Powe Street, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The classes geared for the young artist will explore colors, shapes and three dimensional objects. Each participant must be accompanied by an adult. Instructor for the art classes will be local artist Gina Bowles.

Cost for each class is \$8 per child with supplies provided. The classes will meet September 16, October 7 & 21, November 18, and December 2 & 16. Participants can select dates to attend. Registration is encouraged to properly prepare for the classes. Call the Cheraw Arts Commission to register and for additional information at 843-537-8420 ext 12.

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