2018 West Virginia Historic Preservation Calendar

The Poetry of Historic Places





The Poetry of Historic Places:

Someone once said that a picture is worth a thousand words. The 2018 Historic Preservation calendar has both: the photographs and the poetry. To create this year's calendar, we explored poems written by West Virginians, both modern and historic, and chose selections to capture an aspect of our historic resources that we have not explored before. You will find a variety of connections between the poetry and the places; the poet may be directly associated with the location; while in some instances, a certain historic building or streetscape captured the spirit of the poem. West Virginia's character is found in both its historic resources and the poetry it inspires. I hope you will be enriched by the poetry of our historic places.

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Office

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Poet Laureates of West Virginia

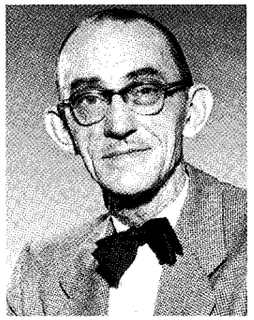
The West Virginia Legislature created the position of Poet Laureate in 1927 to honor the state's leading poet.



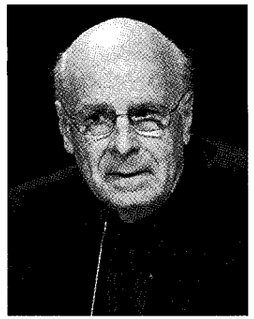
Myers



McKinney



Harmon



Harshman



McNeill

Karl Myers

1927-1937
Tucker County, appointed by Gov. Howard Gore

Born with multiple physical deformities in 1899, Myers was not expected to survive his birth. He defied expectation. However, he always remained small and never weighed more than 60 pounds. Self-educated, Myers was a gifted story teller and writer, selling his work to smaller magazines and local newspapers. After his time as poet laureate, Myers continued to write poetry to support himself. Myers died in 1951.

Roy Lee Harmon

1937-1941 appointed by Gov. Homer Holt;
1946-1960 appointed by Gov. Clarence Meadows;
1961-1979 appointed by Gov. W.W. Barron
Wayne County

Serving for nearly 38 years over three appointments, Roy Lee Harmon is the longest serving poet laureate in West Virginia history. Born in Boone County, Harmon lived most of his life in Beckley where he was a renowned newspaper reporter and editor. He also served in the House of Delegates for 12 years. In 1961 Harmon was one of the co-sponsors of the bill that made Marshall College a university. Harmon authored six books of poetry and was one of the founders of the West Virginia Poetry Society, serving as its first president. Harmon died in 1981.

James Lowell McPherson

1943-1946
Kanawha County, appointed by Gov. Matthew Neely

In 1941 Governor Neely announced a poetry contest to select the poet laurate. Faculty from West Virginia University, Marshall College and Fairmont State College judged 114 entrants before recommending McPherson in 1943. In the meantime, McPherson graduated WVU in 1942 and had entered the Army. He was training with the 379th Infantry on the west coast when he was notified of his selection. After the war, McPherson had several different careers. However he continued to write poetry as well as stories. He is the only West Virginia Poet Laureate to have published a novel. McPherson died in Oregon in 2008.

Vera Andrew Harvey

1960-1961
Cabell County, appointed by Gov. Cecil Underwood

Born in 1885, Harvey earned several degrees, including a MA from Columbia. From 1916 to 1922 she was a professor of English at Marshall College. After marrying John S. Harvey, Vera would continue to write poetry while working with the West Virginia Federation of Women's Clubs and the West Virginia Cancer Society. When Governor Underwood was elected, Roy Lee Harmon offered his resignation in 1957, it wasn't until 1960 that Underwood decided upon Harvey. With the election of the Democrat W.W. Barron in 1960, Harvey was replaced in 1961 by Harmon. Harvey would continue to write poetry until she died in 1992 at 107 years old.

Louise McNeill

1979-1993
Greenbrier County, appointed by Gov. John Rockefeller, IV

Roy Lee Harmon's declining health resulted in Governor Rockefeller naming him as poet laureate emeriti and selecting Dr. Louise McNeill Pease as poet laureate. Throughout her writing career, McNeill always used her maiden name. Beginning in 1931, McNeill wrote short poems for the Saturday Evening Post as well as publishing her first collection, Mountain White. After earning degrees at Concord College and Miami (Ohio) University, McNeill earned her doctorate in history from West Virginia University. She taught English and history at rural one-room schools before teaching at several colleges in West Virginia. McNeill also wrote poems for a variety of publications, published collections of her poetry as well as historical books and an autobiography. McNeill died in 1993.

Irene McKinney

1994-2012
Barbour County, appointed by Gov. Gaston Caperton

An editor and friend of Louise McNeill, Dr. Irene McKinney became poet laureate in 1994. McKinney earned degrees from West Virginia Wesleyan College and West Virginia University before earning her doctorate in English Literature from the University of Utah. She taught at several colleges across the country and began the Master of Fine Arts Program in creative writing at West Virginia Wesleyan. McKinney published six collections of poems and edited the anthology Backcountry: Contemporary Writing in West Virginia. Her work was also featured many times on West Virginia Public Radio's "The Writer's Almanac with Garrison Keillor". McKinney died in 2012.

Marc Harshman

2012-present
Ohio County, appointed by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin

Educator and author Marc Harshman was chosen as poet laureate to recognize his poetry and his work in children's literature. He has earned degrees from Bethany College, Yale University Divinity School, and the University of Pittsburgh. While teaching fifth and sixth grade at Sand Hill School in Marshall County, Harshman was named West Virginia English teacher of the year by the West Virginia English Language Arts Council in 1995. He has written fourteen children's books and numerous poetry works. Harshman hosts The Poetry Break on West Virginia Public Radio.

The Poetry of Historic Places

Union Historic District – Union, Monroe County

Beginning in the late 1700s, this location was called Union due to a number of local militia units that met yearly in the spring and fall. By 1800 the Virginia Assembly chartered the town and it received a post office. Union was home to Matthew W. Clair, Sr. After serving at several churches across the county, Clair became the first African-American bishop for the Methodist church in 1920. (National Register 1990)

Welch Commercial Historic District – Welch, McDowell County

Welch became the McDowell County seat in 1892 after being founded in the late 1880s. As coal and timber boomed in the areas around Welch, the town quickly prospered. Hit hard by the Great Depression, prosperity returned to Welch in the 1940s. This prosperity would vanish in the 1950s as mining jobs were lost to advancements in mining technology. With the downturn in mining jobs, the commercial district has remained relatively the same since the 1930s. (National Register 1992)

Camp Washington-Carver – Clifftop, Fayette County

Camp Washington-Carver, first known as the Negro 4-H Camp, was a WPA project completed in 1942. The first 4-H camps in the nation were started in West Virginia in 1915. However, it wasn't until Camp Washington-Carver that African-American 4-H members had their own camp. During the 1950s more than 1600 campers would use the camp annually. Many activities were held in the impressive Great Chestnut Lodge, which is the largest log building in West Virginia. The lodge is also important because the chestnut blight of the late 1930s and 1940s largely destroyed the chestnut tree in the United States. (National Register 1980)

Blennerhassett Island Historic District – Parkersburg vicinity, Wood County

Inhabited by Native Americans for centuries before European settlement, Blennerhasset Island was visited by George Washington in 1770. The island was sold several times before being bought by Harman Blennerhasset in 1799. Harman came to the United States with his wife Margaret in 1798 due to his ties with a group that was part of a failed Irish rebellion. After purchasing the island, construction began quickly on the Blennerhassetts' mansion and was completed in 1802. The Blennerhassetts became an infamous part of American history beginning in 1805 when former Vice President Aaron Burr visited the island. Burr convinced Harmon to finance his plans to conquer lands to the west and install himself as president. In 1806 the plan was discovered and Harman and Margaret had to abandon their home when Virginia militia came to arrest him. Badly damaged by the militia and without money to repair it, the Blennerhassetts left the island and the mansion burned to the ground in 1811. Archaeologists have discovered the foundation of the mansion. The island was made a state park and the mansion rebuilt as the centerpiece of the park. (National Register 1972)

Literary Hall – Romney, Hampshire County

Founded in 1819, the Literary Society of Romney sponsored many debates, lectures, and educational opportunities. By the 1830s the Society had a library of more than 3000 volumes, which was the largest in western Virginia. In 1845 the Society constructed a building for their library that also allowed the establishment of the Romney Classical Institution. During the Civil War, the library was raided and books were either stolen or destroyed. From a library consisting of 6000 books, after the war less than 400 remained. The building was given to the state, becoming the West Virginia Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind in 1869. Public contributions for a new home for the Society were successful and in 1870 the current building was completed. In 1886, the Society met for the last time. After being vacant for many years the building was bought by the Masonic Lodge for a headquarters and meeting hall. (National Register 1979)

"Rosebrake" (Morgan-Bedinger-Dandridge House) – Shepherdstown vicinity, Jefferson County

Richard Morgan built the original section of the house around 1744. Daniel Morgan, Richard's son, constructed a brick addition in 1803. Caroline Lawrence Bedinger built an addition in 1860 that became the main section of the house. Mrs. Bedinger's daughter Danske (Danske Bedinger Dandridge) inherited the house in 1877. Due to her love of roses, Danske renamed it "Rosebrake." It was here that Danske wrote her poems and historical works including the important local history Historic Shepherdstown. (National Register 1983)

Downtown Morgantown Historic District – Morgantown, Monongalia County

Morgantown became an important western town in the late 1700s as the county seat of Monongalia County. The town grew as industry and education both thrived. After the Civil War, Morgantown was selected as the site for West Virginia's Land Grant college when the Monongalia Academy offered the state its buildings for a college. Coal also led to growth as immigrants poured into the area to work in the bituminous coal fields. Improvements to the Monongahela River by 1890 tied Morgantown's prosperity to Pittsburgh's iron and steel industry. Throughout the early and mid-1900s this connection would help support the region as West Virginia University grew to become an important economic engine itself. (National Register 1996)

Adaland (Modisett Mansion) – Berryburg vicinity, Barbour County

Augustus Modisett wanted a house on a hill so that it could be easily seen. Built between 1868 and the mid-1870s, many social functions were held at the mansion. Modisett was Barbour County Sheriff from 1866 to 1869 and was instrumental in organizing a local Masonic Lodge. In 1920 Judge Ira Ellsworth Robinson bought the mansion and named it after his wife and daughter, Ada. Judge Robinson was Justice and then Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals from 1907 to 1916 when he resigned and ran unsuccessfully for governor. President Calvin Coolidge appointed Judge Robinson to the Federal Radio Commission in 1928 and became the commission's first chairman. (National Register 1995)

Bloch Brothers Tobacco – Wheeling, Ohio County

Aaron and Samuel Bloch began their grocery store and stogie factory in 1879. Soon the brothers noticed that workers would chew on the wrapper clippings for the stogies. By fall of 1879 the Bloch Brothers started Mail Pouch chewing tobacco. This new product became so successful they stopped making stogies and made only the chewing tobacco. A flood in 1884 destroyed the grocery store and Aaron and Samuel decided to concentrate solely upon tobacco products. Bloch Brothers Tobacco, and specifically Mail Pouch chewing tobacco, became engrained in American culture early in the 1900s when Mail Pouch advertising painted on barns began to appear along highways. The company was family owned until 1969 and is now part of Swisher International.

Kay Moor Mine – Fayetteville, Fayette County

Operating from 1900 through 1962, Kay Moor Mine was one of more than 40 coal mines in the New River Gorge. Established by the Low Moor Iron Company, two company towns were eventually built to house workers. Kay Moor Top was on the rim of the gorge and Kay Moor Bottom was 1000 feet lower at the bottom of the gorge where the C & O railroad tracks were located. Coal was mined from the "Sewell Seam." In the mid-1960s a fire destroyed much of Kay Moor Bottom. Despite its current condition, the mine is considered to be one of the most complete sites of its type. Today the mine site and Kay Moor Bottom are part of the New River Gorge National River and are accessible via their trail system. (National Register 1990)

Memorial Arch – Huntington, Cabell County

Following World War I, the Cabell War Memorial Association began work to recognize those who died in the war. Plans submitted by Wilbur Meanor and Edward Handloser, two of Huntington's most prominent architects, were chosen by the Association for the memorial. A public ceremony for laying the cornerstone was held on November 11, 1924. Problems with fundraising postponed completion until 1929. Based upon the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France, the monument is the only triumphal-style arch in West Virginia. (National Register 1981)

Green Bank Observatory – Green Bank, Pocahontas County

Land was purchased by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on behalf of the National Science Foundation in 1957 to establish the first site of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory. This collection of telescopes provides a comprehensive history of radio astronomical observation. The complex includes the Reber Telescope, the Green Bank Telescope (GBT) as well as other telescopes and support facilities. The tilt and point design of the GBT allows full rotation of the telescope. The Reber Telescope was built in 1937 and detected radio emissions from the center of the Milky Way galaxy.

Spencer Cemetery – Cameron, Marshall County

Spencer Cemetery has one grave monument with two headstones marking the graves of John and Effie Spencer. The monument was erected in 1914 at the death of John W. "Jack" Spencer. The marker is in the shape of two large tree trunks with entwined branches. Treestones, as they are sometimes called, were the result of a movement during the Victorian period in the late nineteenth century that celebrated nature. The entwined branches of the two trunks are representative of John and Effie's marriage. (National Register 2012)

2018 Calendar Poets

Margaret Agnew Blennerhassett

1771-1842

Married in 1794 in Ireland, she came with her husband Harman to America in 1796. After spending time in New York City, Pittsburgh, and Marietta (Ohio), they bought land and built their home on an Ohio River island that would come to bear their name. Margaret was famous for her hospitality shared with friends and visitors travelling down the Ohio River. After the Burr conspiracy in 1806, Margaret went with Harman to Mississippi and then to Montreal. It was here that she began publishing poetry.

Danske Dandridge

1854-1914

Born in Copenhagen, Denmark, Danske lived in Shepherdstown from the age of 19. Her mother, Catherine Bedinger, passed away in 1877 giving Danske the family home "Popular Grove". Danske's love of nature was shown when she renamed the house "Rosebrake". Nature was a consistent theme of much of her poetry. Her work appeared in the popular magazines Harper's and The Century as well as several books. She also published Historic Shepherdstown in 1910.

Mark DeFoe

b. 1942

A native of Oklahoma, Mark moved to West Virginia in 1975 when he began teaching at West Virginia Wesleyan College. His work has won multiple awards throughout the country and he has been published widely in the United States as well as in France and Ireland. Mark has also written two college textbooks on writing.

William DeVault

b. 1955

Known as the "Romantic Poet of the Internet," William was a leader in the Digital Renaissance Movement when he began his poetry website City of Legends in 1996. This gained him a wide following and allowed him to begin publishing poetry collections, both in print and in eBook format. William has been named as one of 50 outstanding creative artists from West Virginia by the Appalachian Education Initiative.

Dreama Wyant Frisk

b. 1937

Dreama was raised on a farm in central West Virginia that has been the inspiration for much of her poetry. She has been published in numerous books, newspapers, and magazines. Dreama authored a collection of her poems called Ivory Hollyhock which has been featured on West Virginia Public Television.

Howard H. Johnson

1846- 1913

Born blind, Howard's family were committed to his education to insure his self-sufficiency. After excelling at his studies at both blind and classical schools, Howard accepted a teaching position at a public school in Moorefield in 1867. Howard thought that blind students should have their own school, as was the case in surrounding states. He crisscrossed the state seeking support that resulted in the West Virginia legislature approving a combined school for the deaf and blind in 1870. The Romney Literary Society was offered to the state for the school. Howard taught at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind for 43 years until his death in 1913.

Keith Maillard

b. 1942

Keith graduated from Morgantown High School and attended West Virginia University for a year. After travelling throughout the United States and Canada during the 1960s, Keith moved to Canada in 1970 and eventually settled in the Vancouver area. Many of his writings draw from growing up in Wheeling including the fictitious town of Raysburg, a "mythic version" of his hometown. Since 1989 Keith has been a professor for the Department of Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia.

Norman Jordan

1938-2015

After a bout of rheumatic fever left Norman unable to walk to school, he received lessons from a teacher who encouraged him to write poetry. After moving to Cleveland, Ohio Norman became a leading voice in the Cleveland Poetry Movement. Upon returning to Amsted, Norman earned a bachelor of fine arts at West Virginia University and a master's degree in African-American Studies from The Ohio State University. Norman taught at various universities and was the director of the Youth Camp at Camp Washington-Carver for the WV Division of Culture and History.

A Hallowed Land

— Roy Lee Harmon

I used to dream I'd visit London town some foggy day;
I yearned for Venice moonlight or a glimpse of Mandalay.
I dreamed of bonnie Scotland and the beauties there in store
And wanted to see Budapest, Shanghai and Singapore.

In youth I planned to get around and look at noble sights
Like Paris on a holiday, like Broadway's glowing lights.
When I was young I wasn't sure God placed his finest frills
Upon the peaks and valleys here in our beloved hills.

But I have tasted beauty rare, here in our native state,
And far-off scenes are things I now could not appreciate.
The winds which hum across the hills sing lullabies to me.
My heart is bound unto the hills ... I hope it's never free.

I cannot learn or write about all wonders which unfold
In Nature's lofty citadels before I am too old.
Who can describe Grandview at dawn ... The oak trees and the sky
Or Glade Creek singing down the hills when Spring comes tripping by?

And who can tell, in fullest truth, of rhododendron's followers,
Wild honeysuckle's sweet perfume, or super-perfect hours.
In autumn with a dog and gun when grouse are buzzing up
Form laurel – and a hunter drinks the nectar of life's cup?

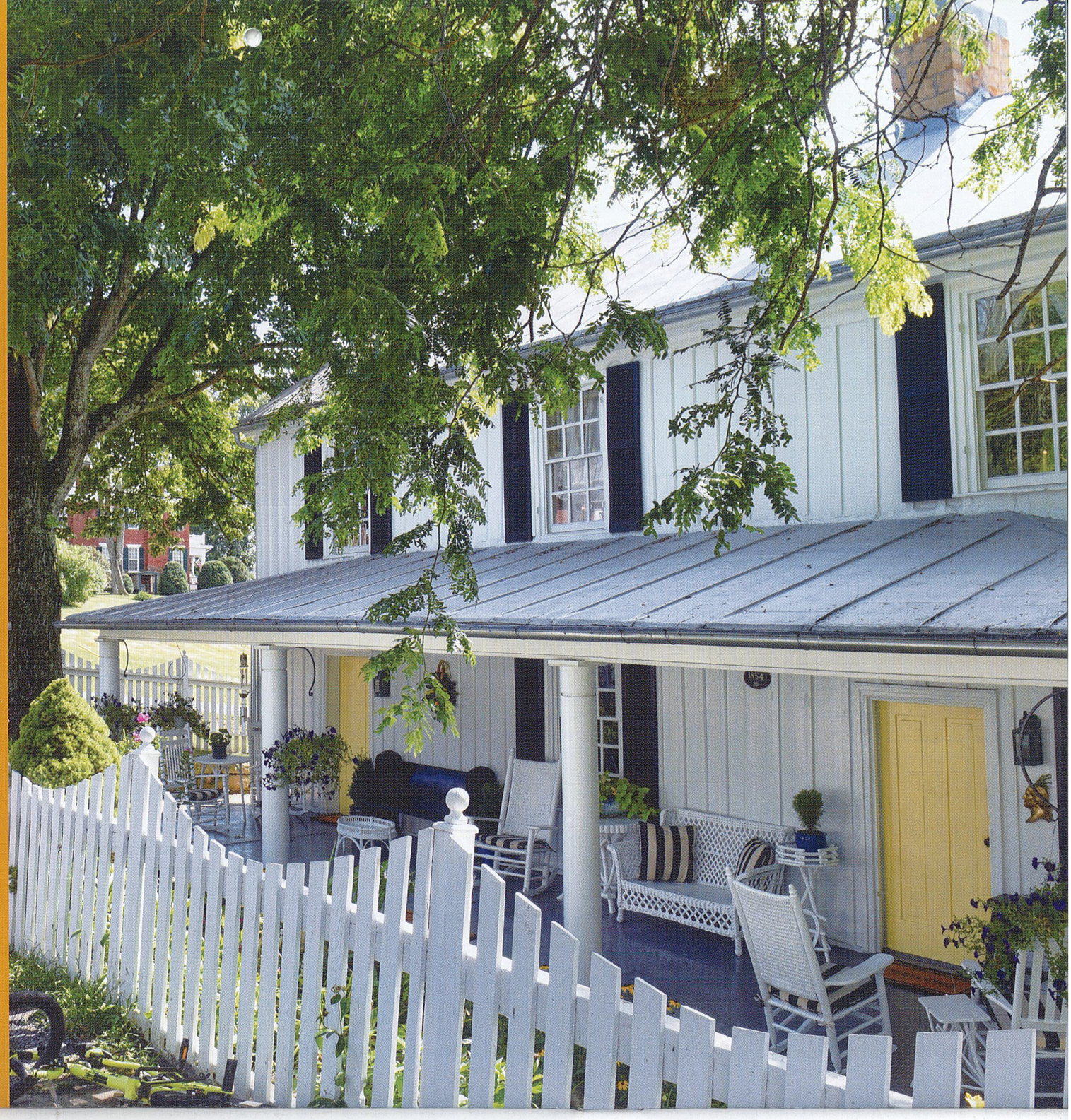
And who describes the palisades we see along Guyan,
In all their majesty? I fear, perhaps I never can.
But I can drink such beauty deep and I can sing the praise
Of God who made a hallowed spot where I may spend my days.

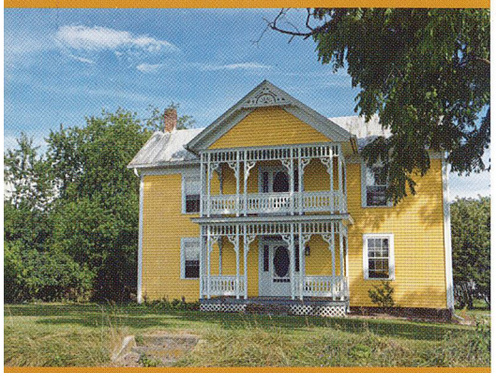
And did you ever try to write of Greenbrier's sweeping curves,
Or spend a day along that stream and heal your jangled nerves?
Each time I rig my tackle up to try for pike or bass
I know I'll loaf as well as fish where silver ripples pass.

Who can describe a hearty meal with farm folks in Monroe,
The kind of welcome you will find there every time you go?
Who can describe the blessed peace of twilight in the hills,
The magic of a harvest moon, the songs of whippoorwills?

Yes, once I dreamed of foreign scenes, and thought I'd like to roam;
I wonder why, since God has spilled his beauties here at home.
Give me the hills unchangeable ... The oak trees and the sky ...
And let me walk the hills in life ... And sleep here when I die.

— Around the Mountains. Roy Lee Harmon. 1941. The Kaleidograph Press. Dallas, TX. P. 67





January

Union Historic District
Union, Monroe County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

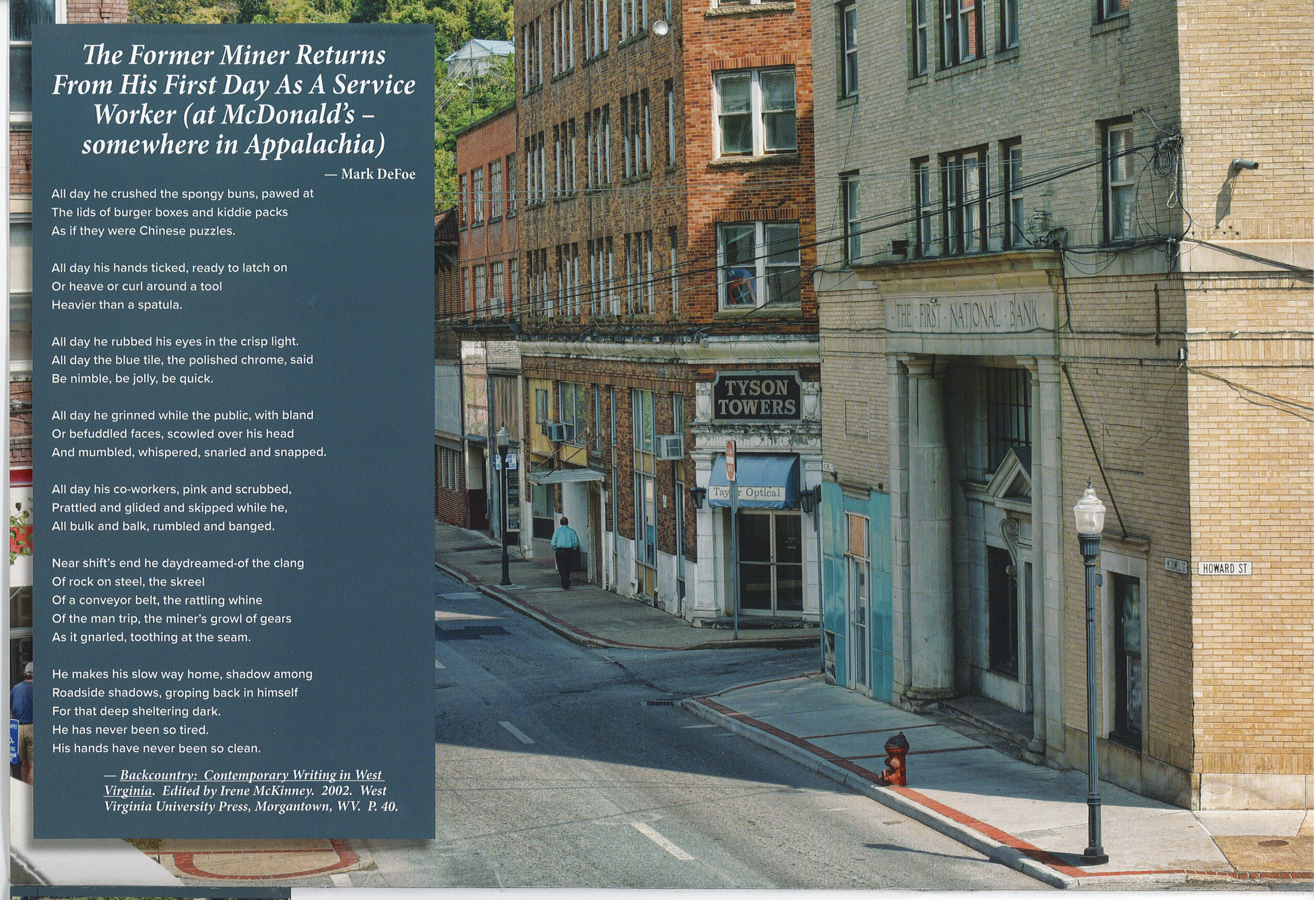
December 2017

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

WV Division of Culture and History
State Historic Preservation Office



The Former Miner Returns From His First Day As A Service Worker (at McDonald's – somewhere in Appalachia)

— Mark DeFoe

All day he crushed the spongy buns, pawed at
The lids of burger boxes and kiddie packs
As if they were Chinese puzzles.

All day his hands ticked, ready to latch on
Or heave or curl around a tool
Heavier than a spatula.

All day he rubbed his eyes in the crisp light.
All day the blue tile, the polished chrome, said
Be nimble, be jolly, be quick.

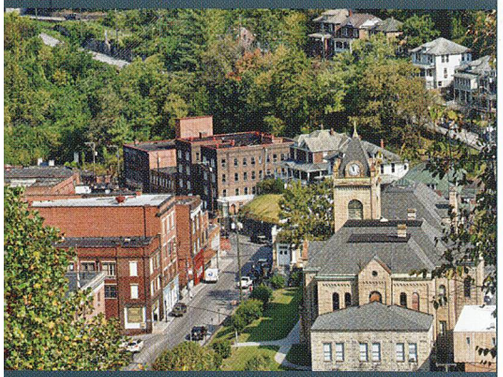
All day he grinned while the public, with bland
Or befuddled faces, scowled over his head
And mumbled, whispered, snarled and snapped.

All day his co-workers, pink and scrubbed,
Prattled and glided and skipped while he,
All bulk and balk, rumbled and banged.

Near shift's end he daydreamed-of the clang
Of rock on steel, the skreel
Of a conveyor belt, the rattling whine
Of the man trip, the miner's growl of gears
As it gnarled, toothing at the seam.

He makes his slow way home, shadow among
Roadside shadows, groping back in himself
For that deep sheltering dark.
He has never been so tired.
His hands have never been so clean.

— Backcountry: Contemporary Writing in West Virginia. Edited by Irene McKinney. 2002. West Virginia University Press, Morgantown, WV. P. 40.



Welch Commercial Historic District
Welch, McDowell County

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 Groundhog Day	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 Presidents Day	20	21	22 George Washington's Birthday	23	24
25	26	27	28 Purim (begins at sundown)			

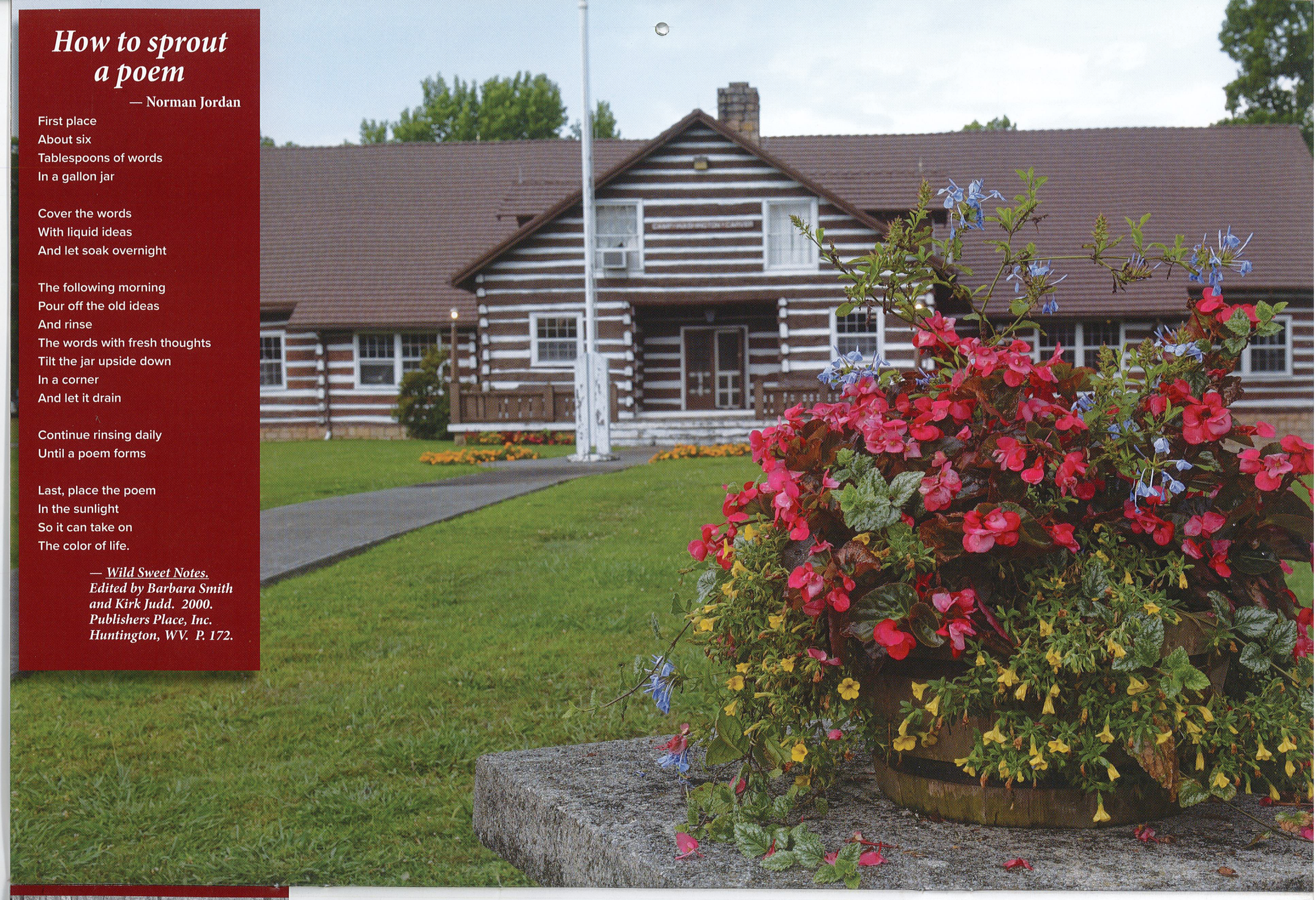
January

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28	29	30	31			

March

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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How to sprout a poem

— Norman Jordan

First place
About six
Tablespoons of words
In a gallon jar

Cover the words
With liquid ideas
And let soak overnight

The following morning
Pour off the old ideas
And rinse
The words with fresh thoughts
Tilt the jar upside down
In a corner
And let it drain

Continue rinsing daily
Until a poem forms

Last, place the poem
In the sunlight
So it can take on
The color of life.

— Wild Sweet Notes.
Edited by Barbara Smith and Kirk Judd. 2000. Publishers Place, Inc. Huntington, WV. P. 172.



March

Camp Washington-Carver
Clifftop, Fayette County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Daylight Savings Time begins	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
18	19	20 First Day of Spring	21	22	23	24
25 Palm Sunday	26	27	28	29	30 Good Friday Passover (begins at sundown)	31

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

April

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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The Deserted Isle

– Margaret Agnew Blennerhassett

Oh! Why, dear isle, art thou not still my own?
Thy charms could then for all my griefs atone.

The stranger that descends Ohio's stream,
Charmed with the beauteous prospects that arise,
Mark the soft isles that, 'neath the glittering beam,
Dance with the wave and mingle with the skies;
Sees, also, one that now in rein lies.
Which erst like fairy queen, towered o'er the rest,
In every native charm, by culture dressed.

There rose the seat, where once in pride of life,
My eye could mark the queenly river's flow,
In summer's calmness, or in winter's strife,
Swollen with rains, or battling with the snow.
Never again my heart such joy shall know—
Havoc and ruin, rampant war, have passed
Over that isle, with their destroying blast

— *The Deserted Isle and other Poems*. *A. Lady (pen name). 1822*



April

Blennerhassett Island Historic District
Parkersburg vicinity, Wood County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 April Fool's Day Easter	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

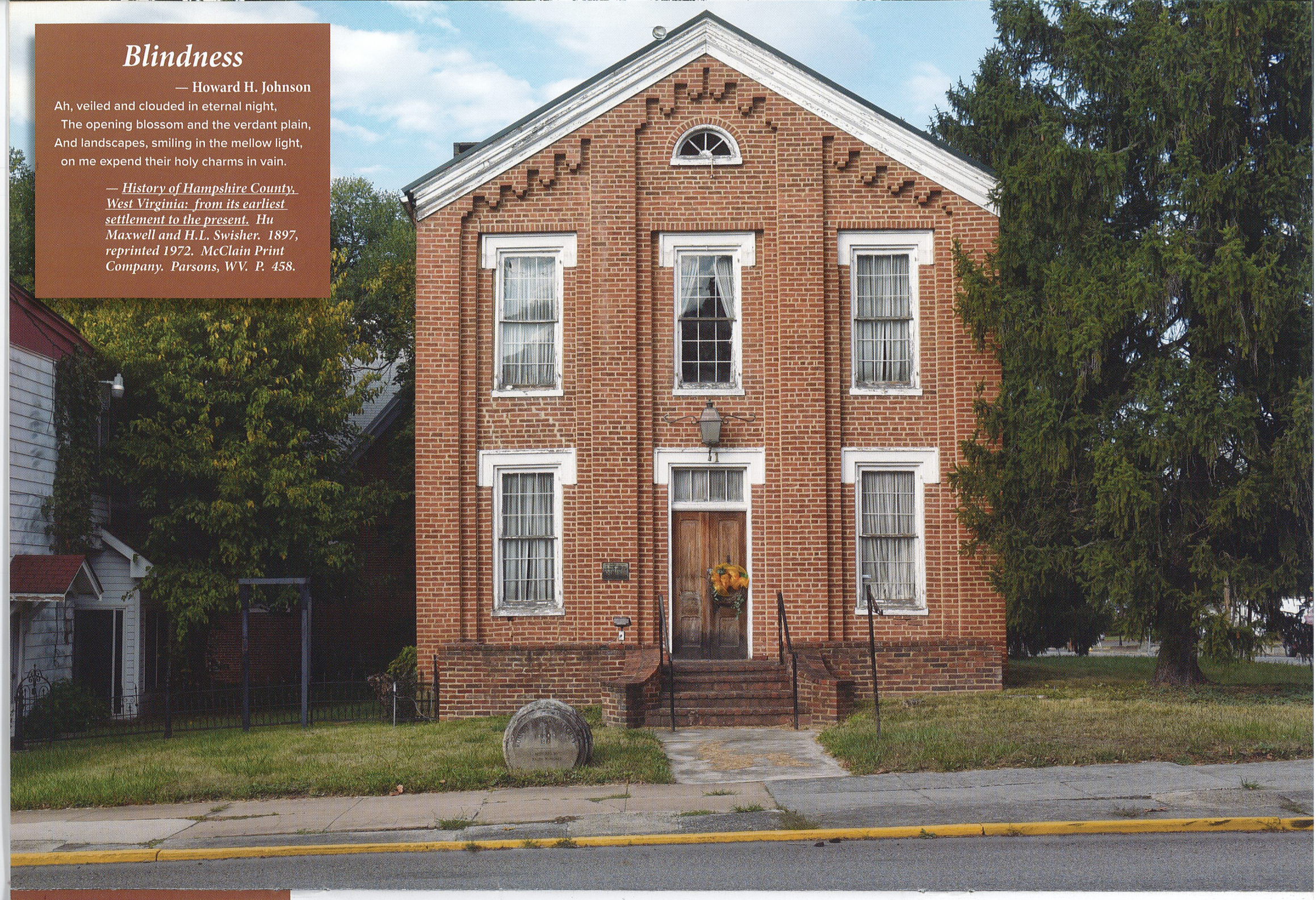
March

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May

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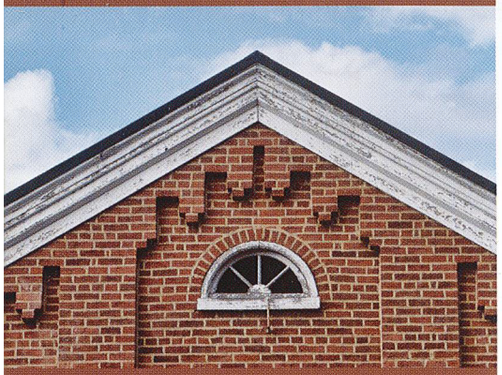


Blindness

— Howard H. Johnson

Ah, veiled and clouded in eternal night,
The opening blossom and the verdant plain,
And landscapes, smiling in the mellow light,
on me expend their holy charms in vain.

— History of Hampshire County, West Virginia: from its earliest settlement to the present. Hu Maxwell and H.L. Swisher. 1897, reprinted 1972. McClain Print Company. Parsons, WV. P. 458.



Literary Hall
Romney, Hampshire County

May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15 Ramadan (begins at sundown)	16	17	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

April

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The White Rose

— Danske Dandridge

I see, in garden border,
A dream of beauty there,
For the white rose blooms, in order
That the moon may call her fair.

In the tangled garden, lonely,
No other bloom is nigh;
The trellised roses, only,
And the white rose in the sky.

And all the night is sleeping
Except the whippoorwill,
And the distant mountains keeping
A drowsy vigil, still.

Come out to the garden, lover,
And drink the dreaming rose,
And bid the moon discover
The secret that she knows.

Then turn to the lady tender
And read, in her eyes love-light,
The meaning they surrender
Of the rose, and the moon, and the night.

— Rose Brake; poems. Danske Dandridge. 1890. G.P. Putnam and sons, New York, NY. P. 52-53.



Rosebrake
Shepherdstown Vicinity, Jefferson County

June

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20 West Virginia Day	21 First Day of Summer	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May

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July

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1 a.m. in Morgantown

— William F. DeVault

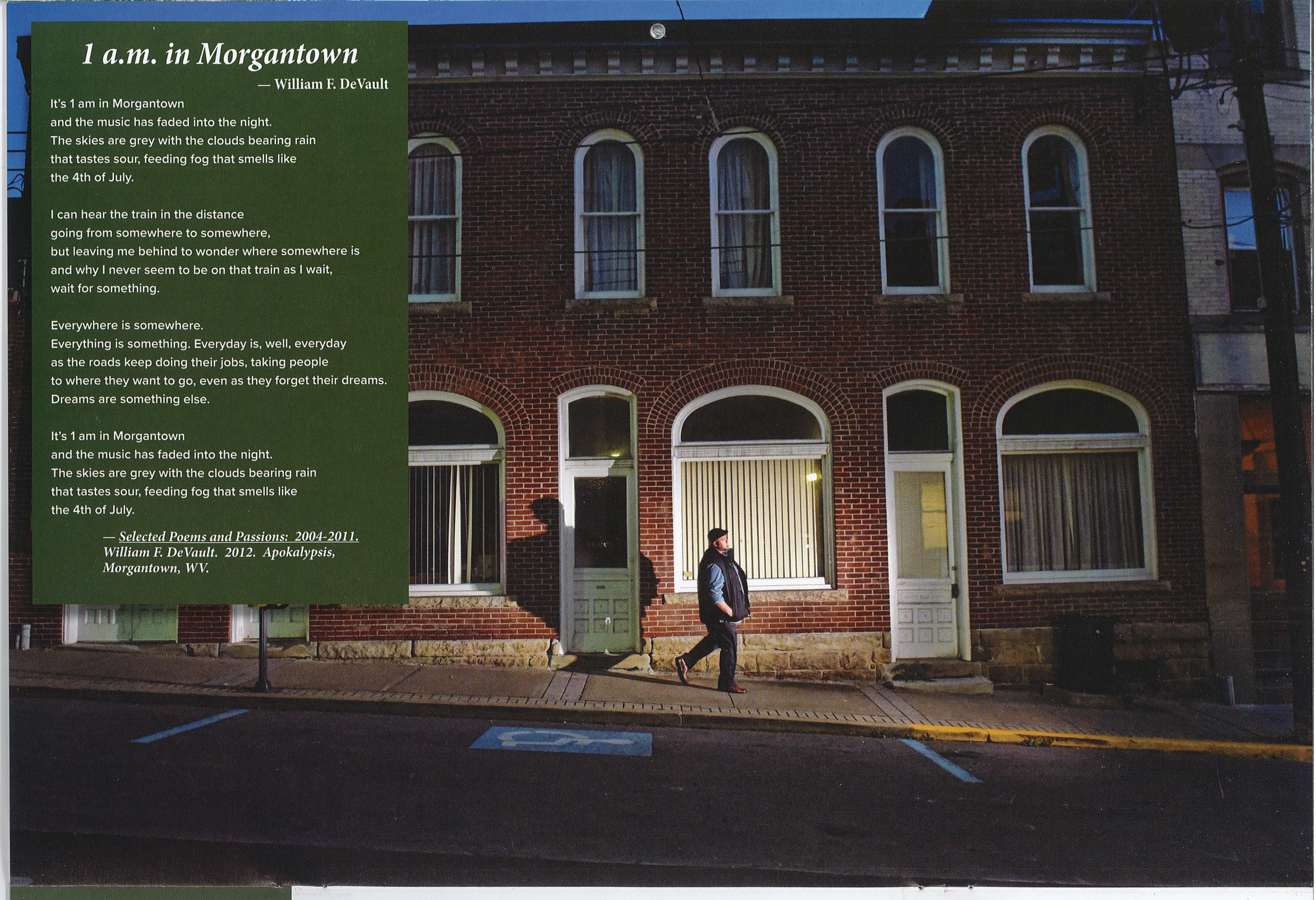
It's 1 am in Morgantown
and the music has faded into the night.
The skies are grey with the clouds bearing rain
that tastes sour, feeding fog that smells like
the 4th of July.

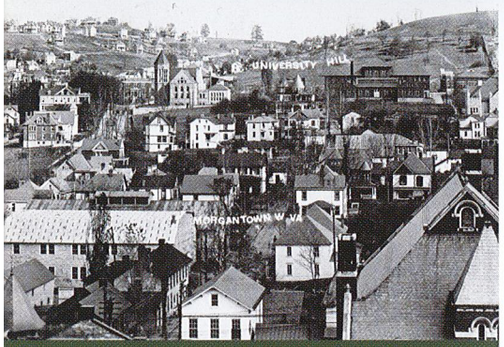
I can hear the train in the distance
going from somewhere to somewhere,
but leaving me behind to wonder where somewhere is
and why I never seem to be on that train as I wait,
wait for something.

Everywhere is somewhere.
Everything is something. Everyday is, well, everyday
as the roads keep doing their jobs, taking people
to where they want to go, even as they forget their dreams.
Dreams are something else.

It's 1 am in Morgantown
and the music has faded into the night.
The skies are grey with the clouds bearing rain
that tastes sour, feeding fog that smells like
the 4th of July.

— Selected Poems and Passions: 2004-2011.
William F. DeVault. 2012. Apokalypsis,
Morgantown, WV.





July

Downtown Morgantown Historic District
Morgantown, Monongalia County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June

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August

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Iced Tea Recipe

— Dreama Wyant Frisk

On a hot West Virginia afternoon,
Take one handful of black tea;
Throw it into a blue crock;
(Blue rim worn off from sharpening the butcher knife);
Fill crock with boiling water;
Pour in sugar;
Mix and stir;
Breathe the steamy sweetness.

Send the children down the railroad track
To borrow ice
From Maxine.
Remind them to run straight back.
Never mind balancing on the rails
Or that running over the ties
Makes the little one dizzy.

Pour cooled tea
Over precious ice,
Listen to ice crackle.
Drink.

— Wild Sweet Notes. Edited by Barbara Smith and Kirk Judd. 2000. Publishers Place, Inc. Huntington, WV. P. 126.





August

Adaland
Berryburg Vicinity, Barbour County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
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July

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September

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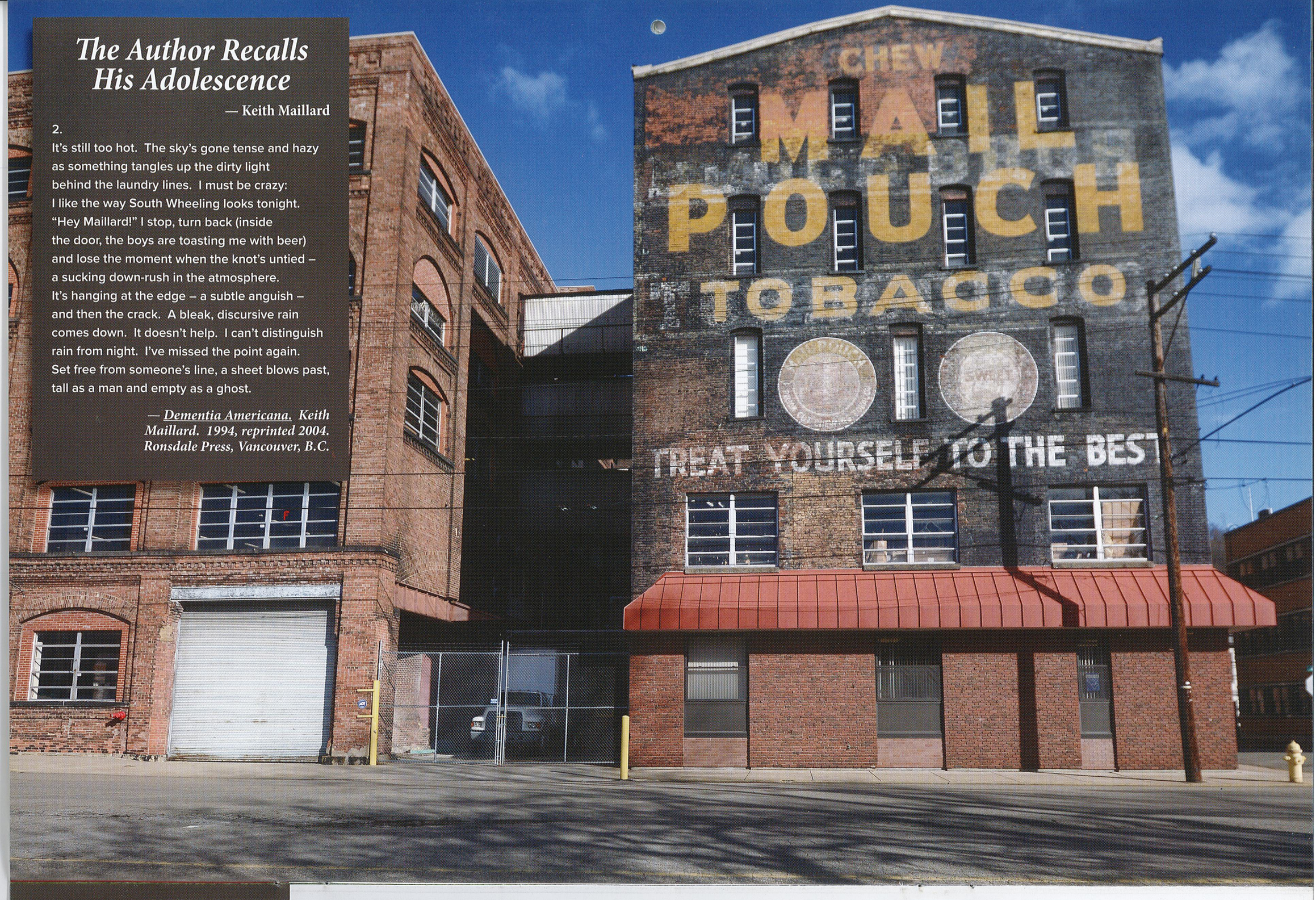
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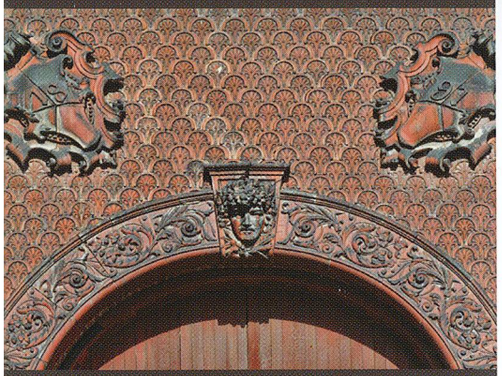
The Author Recalls His Adolescence

— Keith Maillard

2.
It's still too hot. The sky's gone tense and hazy
as something tangles up the dirty light
behind the laundry lines. I must be crazy:
I like the way South Wheeling looks tonight.
"Hey Maillard!" I stop, turn back (inside
the door, the boys are toasting me with beer)
and lose the moment when the knot's untied –
a sucking down-rush in the atmosphere.
It's hanging at the edge – a subtle anguish –
and then the crack. A bleak, discursive rain
comes down. It doesn't help. I can't distinguish
rain from night. I've missed the point again.
Set free from someone's line, a sheet blows past,
tall as a man and empty as a ghost.

— Dementia Americana. Keith Maillard. 1994, reprinted 2004. Ronsdale Press, Vancouver, B.C.





September

Bloch Brothers Tobacco
Wheeling, Ohio County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Rosh Hashanah (begins at sundown)	10	11 Islamic New Year (begins at sundown) Patriot Day	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Yom Kippur (begins at sundown)	19	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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August

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October

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Twilight in West Virginia: Six O'Clock Mine Report

— Irene McKinney

Bergoo Mine No. 3 will work: Bergoo Mine No. 3 will work tomorrow. Consol. No. 2 will not work: Consol. No. 2 will not work tomorrow.

Green soaks into the dark trees.
The hills go clumped and heavy
over the foxfire veins
at Clinchfield, One-go, Greenbrier.

At hardtack and Amity the grit
abrades the skin. The air is thick
above the black leaves, the open mouth
of the shaft. A man with a burning

carbide lamp on his forehead
swings a pick in a narrow corridor
beneath the earth. His eyes flare
white like a horse's, his teeth glint.

From his sleeves of coal, fingers
with black half-moons: he leans
into the tipple, over the coke oven
staining the air red, over the glow

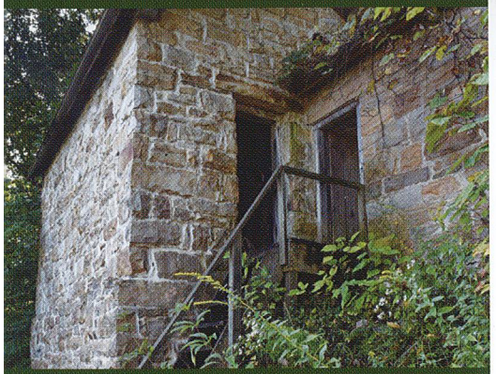
from the rows of fiery eyes at Sago.
Above Slipjohn a six-ton lumbers down
the grade, its windows curtained with soot.
No one is driving.

The roads get lost in the clotted hills,
in the Blue Spruce maze, the red cough,
the Allegheny marl, the Sulphur ooze.

The hill-cuts drain; the roads get lost
and drop at the edge of the strip job.
The fires in the mines do not stop burning.

— Unthinkable: selected poems 1976-2004. Irene McKinney. 2009. Red Hen Press, Los Angeles, CA. p. 77-78





October

Kay Moor Mine
Fayetteville, Fayette County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween			

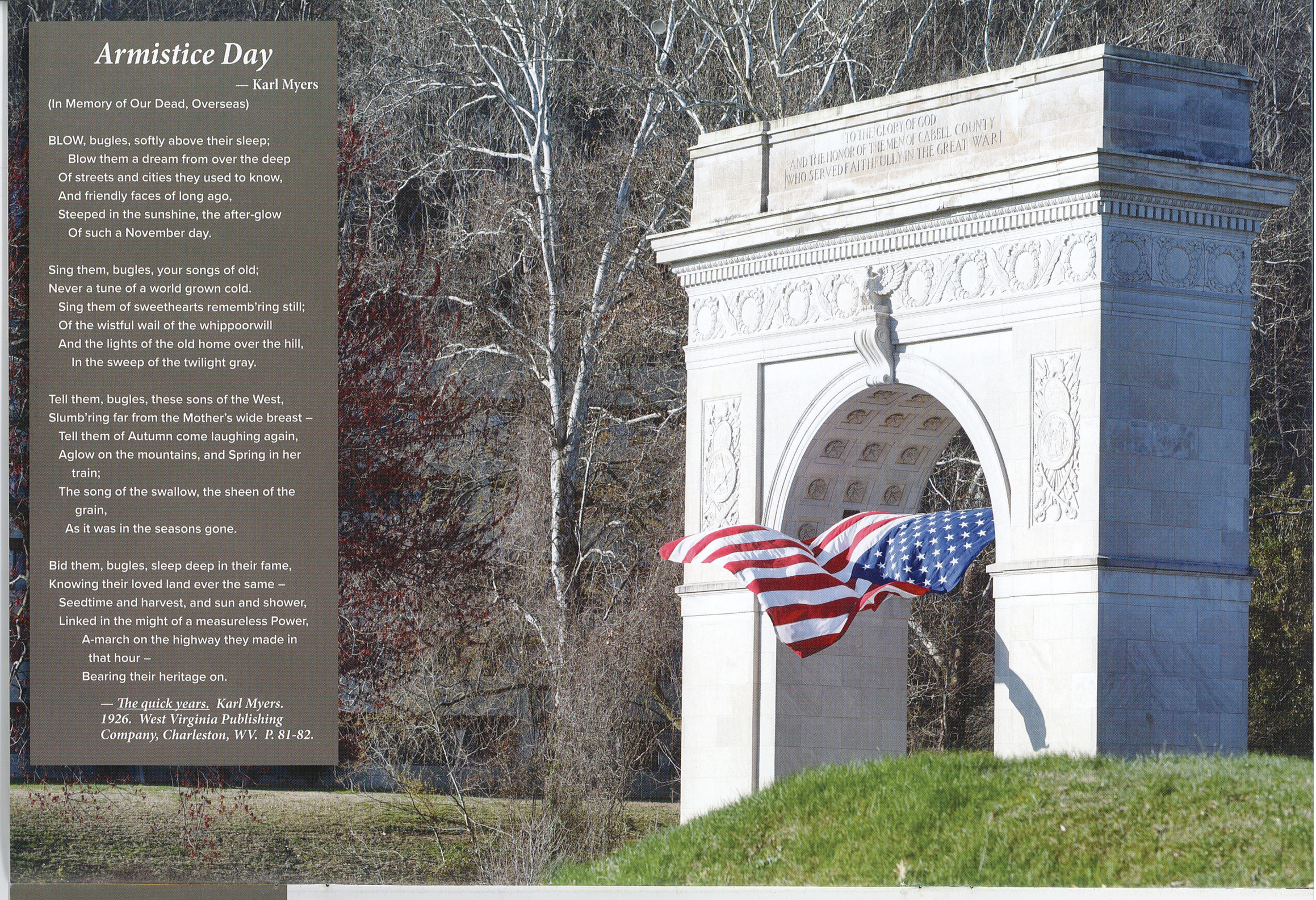
September

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November

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Armistice Day

— Karl Myers

(In Memory of Our Dead, Overseas)

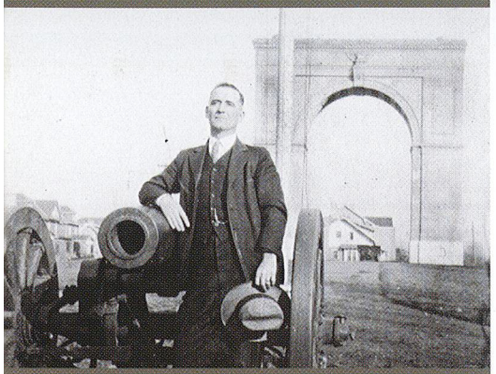
BLOW, bugles, softly above their sleep;
Blow them a dream from over the deep
Of streets and cities they used to know,
And friendly faces of long ago,
Steeped in the sunshine, the after-glow
Of such a November day.

Sing them, bugles, your songs of old;
Never a tune of a world grown cold.
Sing them of sweethearts rememb'ring still;
Of the wistful wail of the whippoorwill
And the lights of the old home over the hill,
In the sweep of the twilight gray.

Tell them, bugles, these sons of the West,
Slumb'ring far from the Mother's wide breast –
Tell them of Autumn come laughing again,
Aglow on the mountains, and Spring in her train;
The song of the swallow, the sheen of the grain,
As it was in the seasons gone.

Bid them, bugles, sleep deep in their fame,
Knowing their loved land ever the same –
Seedtime and harvest, and sun and shower,
Linked in the might of a measureless Power,
A-march on the highway they made in that hour –
Bearing their heritage on.

— The quick years. Karl Myers. 1926. West Virginia Publishing Company, Charleston, WV. P. 81-82.



Memorial Arch
Huntington, Cabell County

November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Time ends	5	6 Election Day	7	8	9	10
11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October

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December

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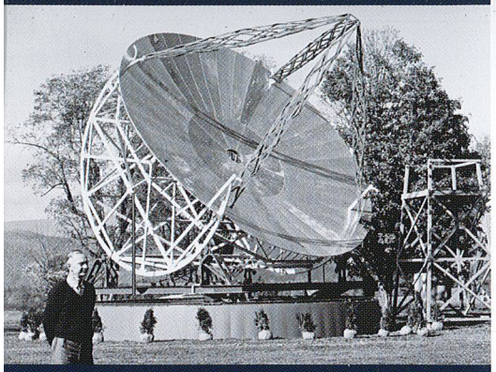


Mountain Christmas

— Marc Harshman

At the observatory, the crew is small on Christmas night.
The astronomer checks her instruments
and finds a blip on her screen, then another, and another ...
Eight plus one?
What does she hear?
Impossible, but even a scientist knows the sound of ... sleigh bells.

— Mountain Christmas. Marc Harshman. 2015, Quarrier Press. Charleston, WV.



December

Green Bank Observatory
Green Bank, Pocahontas County

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Hanukkah (begins at sundown)	3	4	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins	27	28	29
30	31					

November

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January 2019

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West Virginia

— Louise McNeill

Where the mountain river flows
And the rhododendron grows
Is the land of all the lands
Thatl touch with tender hands;

Loved and treasured, earth and star,
By my father's fathers far –
Deep-earth, black-earth, of-the-lime
From the ancient ocean's time.

Plow-land, fern-land, woodland shade,
Grave-land where my kin are laid,
West Virginia's hills to bless –
Leafy songs of wilderness;

Dear land, near land, here at home –
Where the rocks are honeycomb,
And the rhododendrons ...
Where the mountain river runs.

— Hill Daughter; new and selected poems. Louise McNeill, edited by Maggie Anderson. 1991, University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA. p. 38



Spencer Cemetery
Cameron, Marshall County

January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21 Martin Luther King Jr's. Birthday	22	23	24	25	26
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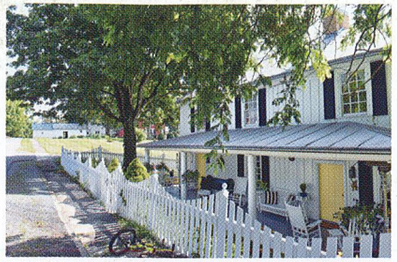
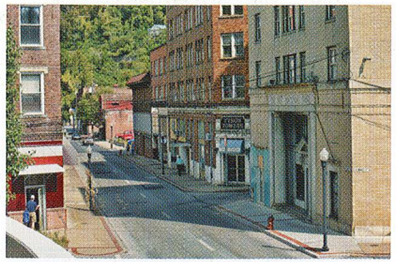
December

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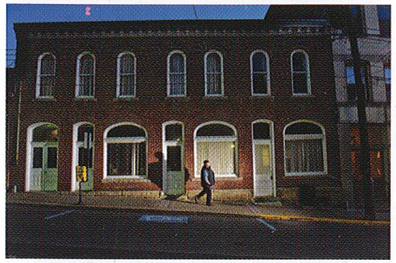
February 2019

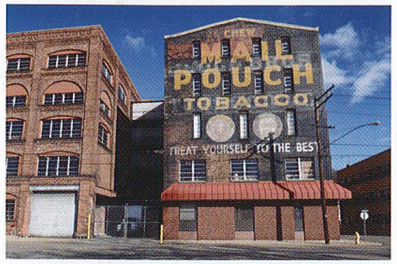
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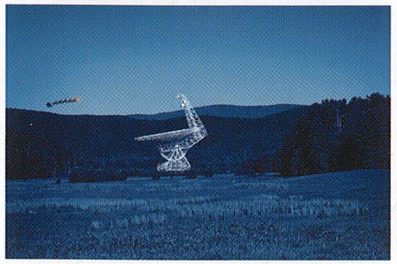













WEST VIRGINIA
Division of Culture and History

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Education and the Arts

West Virginia Division of Culture and History – State Historic Preservation Office

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Governor

Gayle C. Manchin
Cabinet Secretary,
Office of the Secretary of
Education and the Arts

Randall Reid-Smith
Commissioner, West
Virginia Division of
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