



unWined, in Moncure

Chatham wine shop offers only NC wines

By Joni Pavlik

On November 4, my husband Ray Pavlik and I opened "unWINEd!", a wine shop featuring North Carolina wines and mead exclusively. The store is located five miles south of Pittsboro along a creek bed in an historic 1920's general store. We carry a variety of wines from sweet Muscadine to varietals produced from traditional "old world" grapes to sparkling wines for the holidays. When you visit unWINEd, you will also find North Carolina products such as cheese, salami/pepperoni, Artisan flatbread, gluten-free and vegan vegetable chips and brownies, gluten-free and regular sweet potato crackers. With the exception of the olives, everything in unWINEd! is produced in NC.

We are 20-year residents of Chatham County, and when we purchased the property, the old building was just a shell with a caved-in roof and floor. Today it is a fine example of rebuilding and reusing. Ray restored the building using recycled

materials like wrought iron from New Orleans and old bridges in Chatham and Lee County, and large well-drilling pipes from a friend. Located just off 15/501 in Moncure, unWINEd! is worth traveling to visit, an eclectic and charming destination.

Join us in the store or relax outside in the beautiful country setting along the creekside. You can purchase your wine by the bottle or the glass. Each week there is a "wine flight menu" that opens your taste buds for North Carolina wines. The shop carries wines from around 20 North Carolina wineries. The special events and music will be announced on Facebook and the website www.unwinednc.com.

The wine shop is open on Friday and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 6 p.m. (winter hours). The venue is available for private parties and events. The Pavliks are happy to stay open later for wine socials and special occasions. Call Ray or Joni for more information at 919.548.9384.

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Milo nourished historical memories

About 18 years ago I was privileged to attend a series of lectures about local history which were presented by Gene Brooks in the Pittsboro Court House. At one of those lectures Milo Holt of Siler City was invited to play a few old-time tunes on his harmonica. That music reinforced recognition of the time frame covered by Mr. Brooks' interesting presentation.

I saw Milo again at a program presented by the Chatham County Historical Association where he showed a black and white film of every day life in Siler City during the 1930's. He had explained that a movie company visited local communities to film the area and its people. These films were then sold to local folk and organizations.

The film showed the harsh reality of small town life during the great depression and how people coped with conditions beyond their control. I recall seeing scenes of boys playing football with a minimum of equipment, if any. Men stood in groups on downtown streets, apparently unemployed and few automobiles were visible.

Milo reminisced about a local storekeeper who kept returned beverage deposit bottles in crates behind his store. Boys would sometimes take a few of these bottles and take them back to collect a deposit. The proceeds were then used to buy cookies or candy or see a movie. Milo said that in later years the shopkeeper revealed that he knew what was going on but felt sorry for the boys and never complained.

Milo saw old time western movies at the former Gem Theater in Siler City and

Chatham's Historical Heritage

by Fred J. Vatter, Jr.



as he grew up he started renting and then collecting them.

Milo was a nickname; his given name was Odeal Bathey Holt. He served in the Navy during World War II and held various jobs at North Carolina State University, The Chatham News, and Siler City Mills.

In the early 1950's Milo acquired a used 16mm film projector and started showing his collection of western movies in his trailer, then in the back room of Bill's Good Food Restaurant, then to the auditorium of Jordan Matthews High School. He never charged admission, but passed the hat to help pay his expenses. Later, the movies were shown in Charlie Boulder's barn where Milo played his harmonica for weekend performances of country music.

Milo considered the old-time western movies good clean entertainment which you could take your family to enjoy. Odeal "Milo" Bathey Holt died last September at the age of 84. He was a modest man who loved his community and its people and will be sorely missed by those who knew him.

Fred J. Vatter is Past President of Chatham County Historical Association and a Board Member.

IMPROV

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terrified. Scared! But I learned so much. It teaches us, as adults, how to play."

Apparently that's something that resonates with Chathamites.

"When we perform our audiences are in for a real treat. Improv can be dramatic or humorous, but the draw is the raw, unscripted nature and the energy you can feel on stage and in the audience," says Hubbard.

The Coconauts usually perform what's known as 'short-form' improv, with performances consisting of short skits. The 'long-form' variety of the art often has performers spontaneously launching into full-length Broadway-style plays or musicals.

The fast paced nature of the short-form process means it is critical that actors observe and listen to each other while on stage. Participants often find that performing improvisationally helps them become better listeners, communicators, and to be more situationally aware, says Molly Matlock, who performs with the

troupe.

These skills translate to every area of our lives, she says. "One of our group, a realtor, claims that her sales have increased since she took up improv, and she fully attributes her success to how the improvisational process has helped her evolve."

Hubbard agrees. "I've been surprised to find that the skills we build in improv also apply to my personal life. We learn early on to be aware of our classmates on stage, and to jump in and support them when the scene needs it. This awareness has extended to my personal and professional lives, along with that same willingness to offer support."

ChathamArts will continue to offer both introductory and advanced improv classes alongside their robust arts class offerings through the Fall and Spring. www.chathamarts.com

Gwen Blackburn-Gray is a freelance design and communications specialist in Pittsboro. She is on the board of the Chatham County Arts Council and teaches part-time at Woods Charter School. www.gwendolengray.com.

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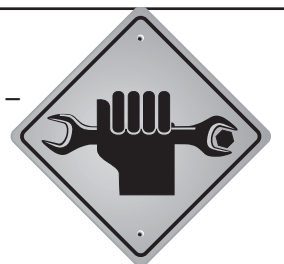
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