

Storytelling Makes A Comeback

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Bedford Co. Correspondent

ALTOONA (Blair Co.) — Storytelling is an age-old art of passing stories orally from person to person.

It's something the early settlers did as they sat around their cabins on dark winter evenings with only a candle for light.

American Indians are also renown for their storytelling abilities.

One Pennsylvania lady who has been doing all she can to help with the promotion of storytelling is Jan Kinney of Altoona.

Jan was a librarian at Hollidaysburg High School when she first learned the art of storytelling and saw it as a way to encourage children to read.

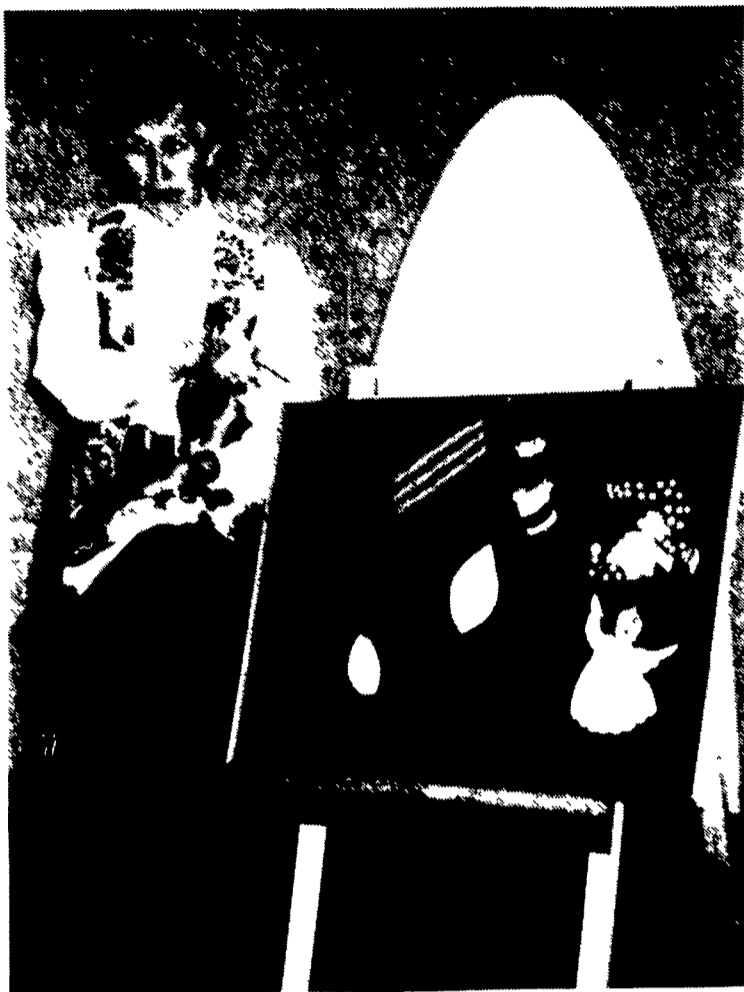
"It takes long hours of practice," Jan admits. "I read each story four times. Then, I write it down as I remember it and finally practice telling it aloud with the help of a tape recorder."

It is necessary to obtain the permission of an author before publically telling a story you have read. If that story is a fable or an old fairy tale, this is not necessary. There are many books of stories written just for the storyteller.

Jan Kinney encourages children and adults to learn the art of storytelling. It's a great way to entertain at your next family gathering or summer picnic.

On the second Monday evening of each month, Jan leads a group of storytellers at the Altoona Library. Children and their parents come from surrounding areas to listen to Jan and the others in her group who have also become storytellers.

They use the fluctuation of their voices as well as their hands and body movements to make the story interesting.



Jan Kinney uses visual aids to tell a story to very young children. For older children and adults, she uses only her voice, hands, and body to enhance the story.

Children as well as adults are enthralled with the various tales.

Sometimes, storytellers write their own stories. It is Jan Kinney's desire to research the Altoona and Cambria County areas for her own ghost stories.

Jan, a grandmother, tells stories in schools, at festivals and community events, churches and museums. Each year she organizes a storytelling haunt of the Baker's Mansion, an historic home located in the Altoona area.

In October, a huge national storytelling festival is held in

Jonesborough, Tennessee. There is also a very popular Corn Island Festival held in Kentucky in September.

Also in September, a storytelling festival is held at Mansfield University in Pennsylvania.

Perhaps you know of a storyteller in your area who could help arrange a workshop for children.

For more information from Jan, contact her at (814)943-1080 or you can write her at 1900 16th Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Teach Farm Safety In Your Community

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Adult farmers know they can drown in a gravity bed full of grain. The grain shifts, making it impossible to get secure footing. And if the grain is flowing out, the force of gravity can quickly pull someone under the surface.

But to a child, that potentially dangerous mound of grain look like a perfect place to play.

Each year, about 300 children die and more than 24,000 are seriously injured on farms nationwide. Day-long farm safety camps increase children's awareness of potential hazards through powerful demonstrations and hands-on activities, said Dee Jepsen, a youth safety coordinator at Ohio State University.

Anyone interested in teaching agricultural safety to kids and farm families is invited to attend an upcoming training program, Jepsen said. The program, "Conducting Farm Safety Day Camps in Your Community," will guide participants through everything they need to know to hold a day camp. The Feb. 26 program will be held on the campus of Ohio State University.

"We're trying to establish 10 day camps across the state,"

Jepsen said. "We're looking for community coordinators to take these programs to the kids."

The morning session will teach participants about the mechanics of planning a camp, including gaining community support, obtaining sponsorship, selecting a camp site, publicizing the event and estimating needed supplies.

In the afternoon, participants will learn how to put on an interactive camp.

"Participants will leave with materials that will guide them through every program, from supplies needed to safety precautions," Jepsen said. "People will see how the demonstrations are done and learn how to present them."

For example, to show how quickly someone can be entangled in a power-take-off unit, teachers can catch a stuffed dummy in the unit. To do this demonstration safely, choose newspaper instead of straw to stuff the dummy, use sweatpants instead of jeans, and remove all buttons from the shirt. All these steps prevent flying debris such as straw shards, zippers or buttons from hitting a spectator.

Typically, farm safety camps cover six to 10 areas. Of those,

tractor and equipment safety, poisons, and livestock handling and drowning — in either water or grain — are always included. The other areas vary according to the needs of the community, Jepsen said. Coordinators from last year's camps will also be on-hand to provide their tips for putting on a successful camp.

The 10 day camps in 1998 will be sponsored by Nationwide Insurance, Ohio Farm Bureau and Ohio State University Extension. Seed monies and camp T-shirts are available; applications will be at the training sessions.

The program will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Agricultural Engineering Building. The \$20 registration fee includes the Leader's Guide and resource notebook for designing Farm Family Safety & Health Workshops, video and publication resources that are appropriate for various rural audiences, and lunch.

For more information or to register, contact Dee Jepsen, 222 Ag. Engineering Building, 590 Woody Hayes Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43210, or call (614)292-6008. More information can also be obtained on a web site (<http://www.ag/ohio.state.edu/~agsafety>).



This column is for readers who have questions but don't know who to ask for answers.

"You Ask—You Answer" is for non-cooking questions. When a reader sends in a question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed in the paper.

Questions and Answers to this column should be addressed to You Ask—You Answer, Lancaster Farming, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522. Attention: Lou Ann Good.

Do not send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply. If we receive the answer, we will publish it as soon as possible. Please include your phone number because we sometimes need to contact the person to clarify details. We will not publish your phone number unless you request it.

QUESTION — A Snyder County subscriber would like to know where to purchase a Reed's Pocket Nut Cracker Model #816.

QUESTION — M. Riehl, 333 Laurel Rd., Narvon, PA 17555, would like a pattern for making an adult size bean bag chair. She has a pattern for a regular size bean bag chair but wants a larger size. She is willing to pay a reasonable price for the pattern and the postage, but contact her before you send it.

QUESTION — Robin from Elverson is looking for a directions to make a room freshener similar to one sold at Bath and Body Works. It is called Jelly Jar Scents and comes in a jelly jar used for canning. It is in a gel form and contains "bitrex."

QUESTION — Ruth Miller is willing to pay a reasonable price for an out-of-print book, "The Secret of the Singing Heart," by C.W. Naylor. Call her at (301) 842-2029.

QUESTION — Mary Pazzaglia, Columbia Cross Roads, wants addresses for suppliers for chipwood baskets that measure 4½-inch wide and 3¼-inch deep, and 2½-inches high.

QUESTION — L. Tyrpen, Fredericksburg, wants large blocks of scented and colored wax, not beeswax, to melt for candlemaking.

QUESTION — John Los, York, is looking for a place to buy a Claxton horn, also known as an "Ah-ooh-ga," horn. During the 1960s, auto parts stores carried the horns in their line of accessories.

QUESTION — Lloyd Gingrich, Lebanon, wants to know where to get caps for croquet mallets.

QUESTION — John Beller, R. 1, Box 99, Allenwood, would like a service manual for an Allis Chalmers Forkload model #500, serial #1886. It uses a 4 cylinder engine model #160-19755-R.

QUESTION — Michael Binder, McConnellsburg, is searching for a source for parts for an electric furnace man coal stoker make in the 1930s and 1940s. Needs model A20 electric motor.

QUESTION — Sylvia Fryberger, 325 Creek Rd., Denver, PA 17517, is looking for the directions for a reversible shell afghan. She saw one displayed at the Ephrata Fair about two years ago.

QUESTION — Terry Lowe, New Park, is hoping to purchase wood or coal grates for a Wincroft #B8882R cookstove, made in Middletown.

QUESTION — Bob Zoetewey, Denver, Col., has a POW-R-TRON Electric hammer Model #25p Serial #749212 manufactured in Home, Pa. He needs to correspond or have a telephone conversation with some one who has an owners manual, maintenance manual or parts catalog for the drill. He'd like to be able to obtain a copy of the manual and know where to buy parts for the drill.

QUESTION — T. Faber, Boonville, would like to find Dark Tower Games, a battery-powered Castle made by Milton Bradley early 1980s. Looking for complete games or just small parts. Where can he find some?

QUESTION — Jo Marie Snyder, New Bloomfield, would like to know how to sex chickens and ducks before they are grown. Is there a good instruction book printed?