

## Billy Redden Mill Scene Of Historic Events By BILLY RICHMOND

Although there were many grist mills in the Richmond District, probably the most noted and the largest one was the Billy Redden Mill on Pinch Creek. The over-shot grist mill was built by Abe Bragg, who owned a were NBv. 16 Union Loyalists or Hepublicitians. the early Richmond lirttly was pro-Urtlon or Republicans, and therefore, were targets for the southern bushwhackers. Bragg, whose mother \*as a Richmond, was a target of such Inrge amount bl land in the Rich- iibusc. E v e r y t i m e the mond District. Born in 1819, he bushwhackers visited his mill he had to hide out in the WHS the son of Thomas and Nancy Hlchmond Bragg of Sandstone. Abe built his grist mill about 1855. when Richmond District was. becoming more and more populated and the need lor corn meal and flour was increasing. Pinch Creek was a good location, since that body of water was the largest in Richmond District. During the civil war there was a lol of activity centering around the old grist mill. Bushwhackers were constantly, roaming around the countryside threatening and molesting people. Rebel sympathizers, or Democrats as they were called, were constantly harassing those residents who woods. Many times he hid in a rock shelter on Bill's Branch with his livestock, which was subject to theft. When Abe -Bragg hid in the woods, he left his uncle Dave Bragg, to tend the mill, the Confederates would not harm the old man because of his age. The Confederates did not destroy or burn the Old mill either, because. They. like everyone else, needed corn meal and flour for bread. Before Arthur Richmond, Abe Bragg's cousin', was taken half way up Crow Mountain, tied to a h i c k o r y t r e e and s h o t b y C o n f e d e r a t e s . h e W a s interrogated about his horses at the Abe Bragg Mill, located two miles above the mouth of Pinch Creek at Olade Creek. After the Civil War the grist mill Was burned in a dispute about the poisoning of a dog owned by Marsh Plumley, a mill partner, the dog reportedly had eaten poisoned meat which was set out for mice. Plumley. after the death of his dog, reportedly stated that dog would cost Abe \$1,000. Abe quit the mill business. The mill apparently lay in ruin for approximately two years, when it was rebuilt by Billy Redden. Kedden moved to Pinch Creek from the Grey Flats behind Ptnecrest Hospital. He built a pole and mud House and rebuilt the mill. He hired as his miller Jacob Smith Jr. ^who married Cirithy Richmond, the mill operated until the early 1920's when it burned a second time and never was rebuilt. The mill was a 20 feet by 24 feet log structure built on a cut stone Hilly Hectden Mill on Finch Creek. Illustration by Jo. Ann Eye, as described by O. H. Oarten in the Martin Luther Bragg in ,1969. Inundation. The ceilings were ten feet high: the over-shot wheel was ten feet in diameter and four feet wide: the mill race or sluice was twelve inches square. and the mill stones were so large that it took a yoke of oxen to move each one. The price for grinding meal or flour was one gallon of grain for a bushel ground, and everyone had to wait his "turn" at the mill, usually an ail-clay affair. there is a song that was sung at the mill while waiting one's turn: "If you want to get your eye blackened. If you want to get your finger l . If you want to get your corn tolled twice. Go to Billy Kedder's Mill." Marshall Carten of Richmond No Mail Day Thanksgiving Day There will be no regular

window service or mail delivery Thanksgiving Day in Beckley. the li .S. Poslill Service announced. Hut mall will be collected that tiny. Nov. 25, from nfail boxes hciir!Hg a (local indicating holiday collection. ' Special delivery and loc'kbox s e r v i c e will be provided oh Thanksgiving Day oh a holiday schedule. NOfinal Friday mall service will be prdviatki Nbv. 26. and normal weekend mall service Nov. 27 and 2H. Parcel post is running about Ithree limes as much as normal due in the riiconi United Parcel Service strike, the Postal Service announced, and customers sliould mailChristmas packages earlier Hunt usual and nil later than Dec. Parcels will not hu accepted at post olfices Thanksgiving Day. District usually sharpened the mill sloncs at Billy Redden Mill. Today all that is left of.the Abe Bfagg-Billy Redden Mill are the hills. Ihe sibne foundation, a long rusty cable blir'ied beneath the water, memories of long ago. and Ihe pond, which has yielded many a Rainbow Trout. Oilier grinding mills in Rich- mond District were Ihe Samuel Richmond Mill at Sandstone Falls on New River, the Howard Richmond Mill at Pluto, the Jacob Plumley Mill on Squealing Fork Branch, the George and Marlon Smith Mill at Abraham, the Pear Hiickland Mill at Pear. and. Ihe Willie Bragg Hill at the Flat Woods. LIGHTING VfhOMAS SL-IM2 CHaln-hung. Burnished antique brass With smoked glass. Dla. Ht. 16HÂ«".L.to4IV4". 5-60^ candelabra base lamps. SL-S405 Chain-hung. Smoke glass Hell with antique brass. Dla. 9". Hi. 15". L. 1032". 3-60\* candelabra base lanips. SL-8450 Smoked glass. Anl. brass canopy. W. 4/i". HI. 7W": Up to 1-100W. LOOK FOR r//(AtÂ£lfi LIGHTING AT ffitTNIM'W Â· State Electric Supply 456 RAGLAND ROAD, BECKLEY PHONE 255-0533 Thanksgiving Service Plant Completed A B e c k l e ' y C o m m u n i t y th'iinksglvlhg Service will be held Nov. 25 at III a.m. In Ihe First Haptlst Church. 422 NeViiie St. the st'rvleo was planned by Ihe Creator Bc'ekley Area Ministerial Association. The choir of the 'First Bapllsl Church will provide the music, according to host pastor HeV: Kenneth Swank. An invocation: will be given , by Key. Julian Walthall, associate minister of Â· the B e c k l e y P r e s b y t e r i a n Church. the Responsive Reading will be led by Rev. Homer S t e w a r t , minister of the First United Methodlst'Church. and a Prayer of Thanksgiving will he given by Very Rev. Stephen ,l. Wnlan, pastor of Si. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. The president of the Ministerial A s s o c i a t i o n , R e v . R o b e r t ; ! . Brown, pastor of Central Baptist Church, will pronounce the statement of the offering. , " T h a n k s g i v i n g or Â· Thanksllving?" is Ihe title ol the Message of the Day to be given by Captain Dewey Alderson. commander of the Salvation Army Citadel. Benediction will be given by Ho\*. David Jones, rector ol St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Family Unity Week Te Be Observed Here President Gerald Ford has set aside the week of Nov. 21 as National Family Week. In support of the national declaration. Beckley Mayor John McCulloch has announced that Family Unity Week will be observed in Beckley. The mayors of eight other communities in Raleigh and Fayette counties have Issued similar proclamations. The communities Include Oak Hill. FayetteVille. Mount Hope, and Ansled. The proclamations were made at Ihe request of representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ ol Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons. The Mormons participate in several programs which are designed to contribute to lamily

strength and unity. One is the "Family Home Evening" where the family gathers under the leadership of parents to engage in Bible study, to counsel on family matters, and to enjoy social or cultural pursuits, which will provide opportunity for Wealthy communication between parents and children. - Announcing a Club for Christmas future and a present for Christmas present \*\*A· ;=s~- \_----- ~N Christmas is no time for pinching pennies. So Charleston Federal announces a Christmas Club with very generous interest rates. 5V\*% daily interest oh every, penny you put away. Plus a very pretty crystal-like candle holder to give away this Christmas. It's free when you open your Christmas Club. Come in to Charleston Federal and open a Christmas Club. Today. It's the one even Scrooge would approve /" The Charlwton Federal Chrirtrnw Club sssThT DS OS20.00 weeHly D\$1 OOweekly DS3.00weekly DSIOOOweekly Mr./Mrs./Miss Soc Sec:No.. Street- .State- Zip\_ \ Signature ----- -- ; 1 Chartewon FÂ«dÂ«ral Saving, and Loan Anoea ton 1320 Kanawha Boulevard. East. Charleston. WV 25328 you get more money for your money. Charleston Federal Savings AND LOAN ASSOCIATION I I AND LUAIN MOOU^ini IWIN McktoyOfllM, 115South KanawhaSt. 252-6334 \* "- Â·\* - - - - \* M. AI^MA \* CrOMLA