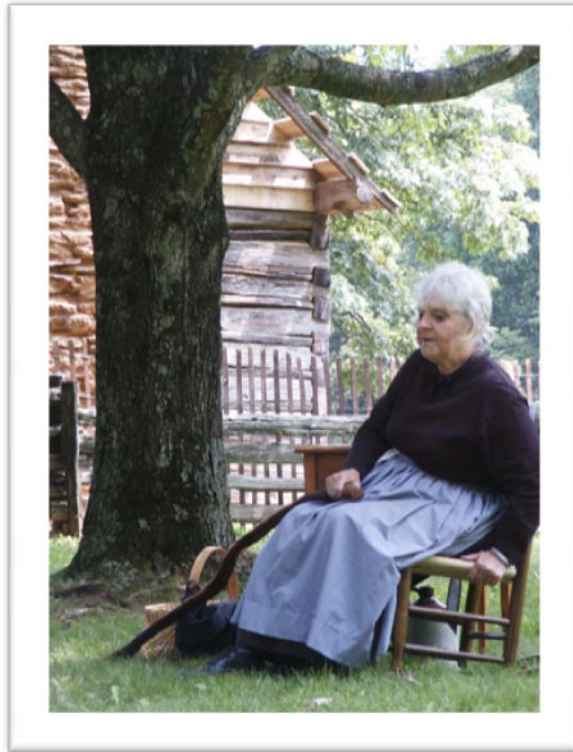


Blue Ridge Parkway News Release  
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For Immediate Release  
Mindy DeCesar 540-745-9680

Play They Call Me Aunt Orlene to be Presented on the Blue Ridge Parkway



Countless numbers of Blue Ridge Parkway visitors have stopped by the quaint cabin on the county line between Carroll and Patrick in the mountains of Virginia. Walking around the picket fence, peeking into windows, it's hard for present day folk to imagine the lives of those early inhabitants. The Blue Ridge Parkway will offer a unique experience on Sunday, June 28 from 2-4 pm, when Aunt Orlene will step out of the old cabin at milepost 190 and tell of her life as a mountain mid-wife around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Orlene Puckett, portrayed by local author and poet Phyllis Stump, has become a local legend for delivering over 1000 babies, while none of

the 24 children she bore herself ever lived for more than a few months.

Based on extensive research including National Park Service oral histories and interviews with many surviving family members "They Call Me Aunt Orlene" is written, as well as performed, by Phyllis Stump. Stump is a retired English and speech and drama teacher, who has many years of experience as an actress and director with Community Theater. She has written a book of poetry that has received an award from the North Carolina Poetry Council.

Bring your own chair and be prepared for a captivating afternoon. The presentation will be repeated on three additional Sunday afternoons: July 19, August 30 and September 27. For more information call the Rocky Knob Visitor Center at 540-745-9662.

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