

Blue Ridge Parkway News Release
June 4, 2010
For Immediate Release
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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 13 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 20th 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 11, August 22 and September 19. For more information call the Rocky Knob Visitor Center at (540) 745-9662.

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Other local Parkway activities

Programs at Rocky Knob Campground, Milepost 167

Weekends - Evening campfire Ranger talks: call for details (540)745- 9662

Programs at Rocky Knob Cabins, Milepost 174

Saturdays: June 12 & 26 9:30-2:00

Take a guided five-mile hike into Rock Castle Gorge, and learn the stories of the ruins from a community that existed there for over 100 years. (Wear waterproof boots or old shoes for stream crossings). The trail is moderately strenuous. Bring water and a snack. Meet at the entrance to the cabins. The hike will end at the Rt. 8 (CC Camp Rd.). Park Service will be able to shuttle drivers back to vehicles at the end of the hike. participants may set up their own shuttle ahead of time, or hike back to the Rocky Knob Cabins on their own.

Programs at Mabry Mill, Milepost 176 (Daily)

Demonstrations of Early 20th Century Blue Ridge Life

Experience a variety of traditional Appalachian crafts including spinning, weaving, basket making, chair bottoming, and blacksmithing. The mill is open daily.

Fri., Sat., Sun. - Mill Talk & Grinding Demonstration

11 am, 1 pm, 3 pm

Listen to a brief ranger talk about Ed & Lizzie Mabry. Then see how corn was ground in this turn-of-the-century grist mill.

Sundays - Traditional Music and Flatfootin'

2:00 – 5:00 pm Enjoy traditional music and join the crowd of dancers flatfootin'.

June 6 South Fork Ramblers

June 13 Mountain Ivy

June 20 Mac Traynham and the Blue Ridge Thunderbirds

June 27 Mountain Ivy

Saturdays - Wagon Wheel Demonstration 1:00 – 4:00 pm

These special demonstrations show the entire process that Ed Mabry would have followed to build a wagon wheel

Free Workshops at the Mill 1:00-4:00 pm (Reservations required)

Call the Rocky Knob Visitor Center at (540) 745-9662 for more information on these and other workshops. There is a small fee to cover materials.

Saturday, June 5	Broom Making (3 spaces still left - call soon!)
Saturday, June 19	Chair Bottoming
Saturday, July 3	Basket Making
Saturday, July 9	Blacksmithing
Saturday, July 19	Broom Making

Programs at the Puckett Cabin, Milepost 189

Sunday, June 13 from 2:00-4:00 pm - They Call Me Aunt Orlene

Actress Phyllis Stump presents this one-woman show about the life of Southwest Virginia midwife, Orlene Puckett. Bring your own chair.

Programs at the Blue Ridge Music Center, Milepost 213

Free informal music presentations most afternoons – times vary – call for updates: (276) 236-5309

Saturday, June 5	7 PM	Ginny Hawker & Tracy Schwarz/Benton Flippen Band	\$10
Saturday, June 2	7 PM	Appalachian Songsters: Nat Reese, Melissa McKinney, Tina Liza Jones/Mac Snow and the Round Peak Ramblers	\$15
Friday, June 18	7 PM	Hot Pickers Summit – Wayne Henderson & Friends	\$10
Saturday, June 26	7 PM	Gandydancer/New Ballards Branch Bogtrotters	\$10

Programs at the Brinegar Cabin, Milepost 238.5

Fri., Sat., Sun. Mountain Life & Living 10 am- 4 pm

Visit the cabin Martin Brinegar built in 1889 and learn about his family's life and times. Weaving, spinning, & flax processing demonstrations.

Saturday, June 26 10am – 4pm A Woman's Work Day

A Woman's Work...is never done! See spinning, dyeing, weaving, gardening and other skills that were a part of Caroline Brinegar's day-to-day life.

Programs at Doughton Park, Milepost 239-241

Weekends Evening campfire Ranger talks: call for details (336)372-1947

All programs unless otherwise noted are free and open to the public. The above schedule is subject to changes and/or cancellations. For further information, contact the National Park Service Visitor Center at (276)236-5309. The Visitor Center in the Blue Ridge Music Center, at milepost 213, is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm through October.