



The Buckhall General Store on Moore Drive outside Manassas brings new owners under its spell.

Buckhall General Store opens with new owners

By KARI PUGH
of the Potomac News

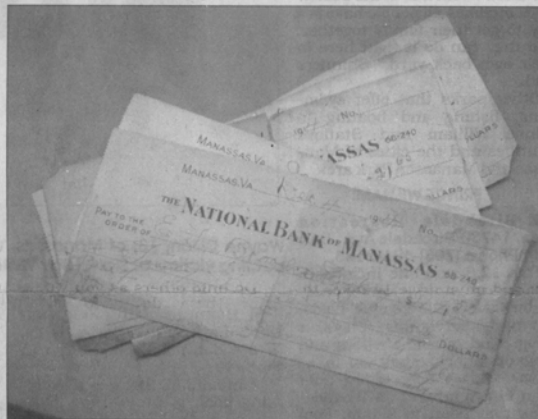
No one seems to know just when the Buckhall General Store began catering to locals — the place was already old when a young Manassas couple bought it in 1933.

Despite its years, there must be something about the white-washed siding and scuffed wooden floors. Through the decades, a slew of owners have tried to offer what Buckhall's 1,000 or so residents need. At times it's been a farming feed store, a town meeting place and just a quick stop on the way home from work.

Greg and Marianne Alberti, both 37, are the latest to fall under the old store's spell. In March, the Occoquan Forest couple ditched the corporate world and bought the property off Moore Drive outside Manassas.

The two always wanted to own their own business, they said. So he took an early-out from his job in the communications field and she went part-time at her job as a human resource manager.

"We just decided to go for it, without much thought, really," Marianne Alberti said recently as she fixed roast beef sandwiches for the regular



The new owners of the store found these checks from the National Bank of Manassas dated 1914 in the attic.

wood starting to rot. But the Albertis saw nothing but potential. They've cleaned and painted, added a soft ice cream machine and more choices from the deli for breakfast and lunch.

Before too long, they hope to add some nice Virginia wines and an oven for making cinnamon rolls and other baked goods. But for the time being, both are working from open to close just to keep the business going.

"You never know what's going to show up in the parking lot," Greg Alberti said. "Tractors are always pulling up, from farm tractors and John Deeres to lawn tractors."

customers. The community here has been so supportive."

The store gained fame in the 1980s when its owner began selling bumper stickers that read: "You can find it all at Buckhall Mall." The advertising gimmick worked, even in the midst of booming commercial development in Prince William County. In those years, Potomac

See BUCKHALL, Page F3



The Buckhall General Store offers a wide assortment of items.



Although the store is more than 100 years old, the new owners discontinued buggy whips and feed for more modern fare.





The Buckhall General Store on Moore Drive outside Manassas brings new owners under its spell.

Buckhall General Store opens with new owners

By KARI PUGH
of the Potomac News

No one seems to know just when the Buckhall General Store began catering to locals — the place was already old when a young Manassas couple bought it in 1933. Despite its years, there must be something about the white-washed siding and scuffed wooden floors. Through the decades, a slew of owners have tried to offer what Buckhall's 1,000 or so residents need. At times it's been a farming feed store, a town meeting place and just a quick stop on the way home from work.

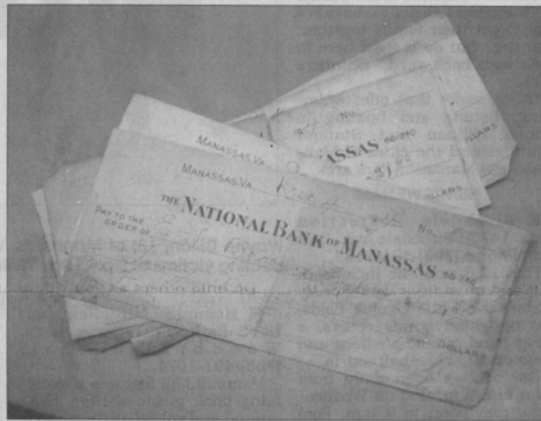
Greg and Marianne Alberti, both 37, are the latest to fall under the old store's spell. In March, the Occoquan Forest couple ditched the corporate world and bought the property off Moore Drive outside Manassas.

The two always wanted to own their own business, they said. So he took an early-out from his job in the communications field and she went part-time at her job as a human resource manager.

"We just decided to go for it, without much thought, really," Marianne Alberti said recently as she fixed roast beef sandwiches for the regular lunchtime crowd.

The store had been for sale since January, when the Woodbridge man who had owned it since 1990 decided to stop trying.

The building was showing its age, the white paint chipping and the



The new owners of the store found these checks from the National Bank of Manassas dated 1914 in the attic.

wood starting to rot. But the Albertis saw nothing but potential. They've cleaned and painted, added a soft ice cream machine and more choices from the deli for breakfast and lunch.

Before too long, they hope to add some nice Virginia wines and an oven for making cinnamon rolls and other baked goods. But for the time being, both are working from open to close just to keep the business going.

"You never know what's going to show up in the parking lot," Greg Alberti said. "Tractors are always pulling up, from farm tractors and John Deeres to lawn tractors."

One time, a Buckhall man rolled his wheelbarrow into the gravelled lot, so he could roll his groceries home.

"It's been really fun," Marianne Alberti said. "I bet we know the names of 75 percent of our

customers. The community here has been so supportive."

The store gained fame in the 1980s when its owner began selling bumper stickers that read: "You can find it all at Buckhall Mall." The advertising gimmick worked, even in the midst of booming commercial development in Prince William County. In those years, Potomac

See BUCKHALL, Page F3



The Buckhall General Store offers a wide assortment of items.



Although the store is more than 100 years old, the new owners discontinued buggy whips and feed for more modern fare.



Marianne Alberti, co-owner, makes sandwiches for some of the regular customers.



Greg Alberti, right, rings up a customer.

Photos by Larry Kobelka