

VIRGINIANA FILE
 Pub. Historic Sites
 (Archaeological Store & Part Office)

Prince William Public Library
 Manassas, Va.

Journal Messenger
 Sept. 5, 1973

multi-family residential and another adjoining 208 acres from agriculture to commercial.

The Traubman Company, nationwide developer of commercial properties, proposes to construct a regional shopping mall on the site together with slightly more than 1,000 apartment units. Construction of the residential development is tentatively scheduled to begin next year, with completion slated for 1978.

Under present plans, commercial development would also begin next year with a small convenience center and proceed through various stages, including a 300-unit

Country Store Alive and Well

By Glenn Eberhardt
 The day of the country store has passed. Crossroads groceries have been trampled into the dust of time by the giant food chains. Nobody has time to deal with mom and pop anymore.

Don't you believe it. The country store is alive and well in Prince William County. Oh, a few of them have given way to the advancing bulldozer and some others have metamorphosed into antique boutiques catering to the city cave dwellers and recent migrants from the big town. But, by and large, the county still has as fine a collection of crossroads emporiums as is likely to be found anywhere.

If it is history you are looking for, or dog food, or a pair of gloves, the well-kept, tree-shaded, general store, post office and gas station has it all. The store was started in 1872 by Alvey's great-grandfather and became "Alvey's," Catharpin Post Office, a third class station, has been in continuous operation at the store since 1875. Postal history buffs would probably be enchanted with the ancient office equipment still in use.

Over at Haymarket, Gosson's store has been a community meeting place for longer than most folks can remember. Once all one has been split with James R. Gosson operating the general goods portion and Glen Davis,

a supermarket executive who got tired of it all, operating the grocery. There is a barber shop in the back, too. Joseph F. Rollins probably holds the record for the country store under the same management. He started the business in Bristow in 1924 at the ripe old age of 16 and has been at it ever since.

Nowadays, Rollins says, he operates the store more as a hobby than anything else. Not that Mason jar caps, hornebound candy and chewing tobacco don't sell anymore; they do. It's just that the proprietor felt it was time to cut back to 12 hours a day when he became eligible for social security.

Strangely enough, Rollins' store may have been responsible for the purchase of the town of Manassas. First, motorized fire engine. As one store has it, the store caught fire in 1929 and calls for help were put in to Manassas and Warrenton. When the Manassas fire department arrived they were unable to put up a sufficient stream of water

to douse the flames. Warrenton fire ladders, riding a fire truck, arrived only five minutes later and with their pumps, were able to save some of the surrounding property. It was right after that that the town bought its first fire truck. For sheer variety of goods offered, M. W. Farnor's Lake Jackson Trading Post probably holds the championship. Farnor and his wife, Suzanne, took over the Route 234 store from Arthur Colbert almost 23 years ago. One of their first moves was to establish a want book in which their customers could enter items they were seeking. When the same item was requested three or four times it was put in stock. Today, thousands of

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claimed. The executive said his firm would be "glad" to pay \$180 per unit to a school fund. However, at one point in the proceedings contributions of as much as \$500 per unit were discussed.

Planning staff reports on the project have stressed the possibility of flooding as a result of development in the Cow Branch watershed and have emphasized the seriousness of the traffic problem already extant at the Route 642 - 156 interchange. Kighin countered this by saying his firm plans to spend \$2 to \$3 million on road

Bloodmobile Needs O-Negative Blood
 Twelve units of O - negative blood are needed at today's Bloodmobile being held until 7:45 p.m. at Tyler Elementary School, Gainesville. The blood is needed for a 68-year-old woman who is undergoing open heart surgery.

an executive vice president of Loom, Warren Brown and Bud ley, a former president of the Dale on, and now a candidate for the A Delegates; also said he favored the

LIFE LINE Letter Corporation. Stevens took the approach that there is no room for two regional shopping centers and one should go. Since his clients already have the land zoned commercial, the attorney indicated, they are ready to move and the (Continued on Page 7A)



EARLY START—Joseph F. Rollins opened his country store at Bristow in 1924 when he was just 16 years old. Rollins has reduced his operating hours to only 12 a day now and says the store is a hobby more than anything else.

Va. Fr. Man - Stores

The Country Store Is Alive And Well In County

(Continued from Page 14A)

Individual items are on the shelves and Farnor says he knows every one of them. Doubling Thomases can try their luck at crossing him up but they are not likely to have much success.

The careful shopper at the Trading Post can get a quick lunch, feed tools, guns, fishing supplies, clothes, shoes, a skillet, girlie magazines, garden fresh vegetables, or even a three-dimensional picture of Christ.

Farnor's also has the distinction of being the only grocery store in the county in which the customer can drink a cold beer. Licenses are no longer issued for on premise consumption of beer in stores and, when Farnor goes, so will that privilege.

Like many of his colleagues, Farnor isn't worried about chain store competition even though the chains can undercut his prices on many items. "First of all," he says, "we're here and they're there. People that live around here don't want to drive all the way into town for a pack of cigarettes or a can of dog food."

Then, 100," Farnor explained, "the chains limit themselves to volume items. There are a lot of things in a chain store but lots of times they aren't what you want. We have people coming out here from Manassas and Woodbridge, and even Centerville because they know we have what they want."

Down the Dumfries Road, in Coles District, is the Corner Market. Built by the Posey family, the place was operated for a number of years by former Supervisor Bradford Lowe.

Currently operated by Franklin and Elsie Crouch with the help of Mrs. Sallie Caperton, Mrs. Crouch's mother, the store is a favorite stopping-off place

for construction workers in the area who are in and out all day long for snacks and cold drinks.

Residents of the area near St. Mary's Church on Heady Road can do their shopping at the family store operated by Mrs. Robert Taylor and her daughter.

The Taylors got into the business with a store on Joplin Road near Triangle around 1937. The federal government came along with plans for Prince William Forest Park, however, and they were forced to move. They established the present store in the front of their home in 1942.

Now the Taylor store is again endangered. This time it is by the construction of a new and wider Heady Road which will go behind the property, leaving it isolated between two highways. Mrs. Taylor says she doesn't know how she is going to handle that problem.

Newest owner of a country store is Ernie Lambert who purchased the Buckhall Market from Gene Grady in June.

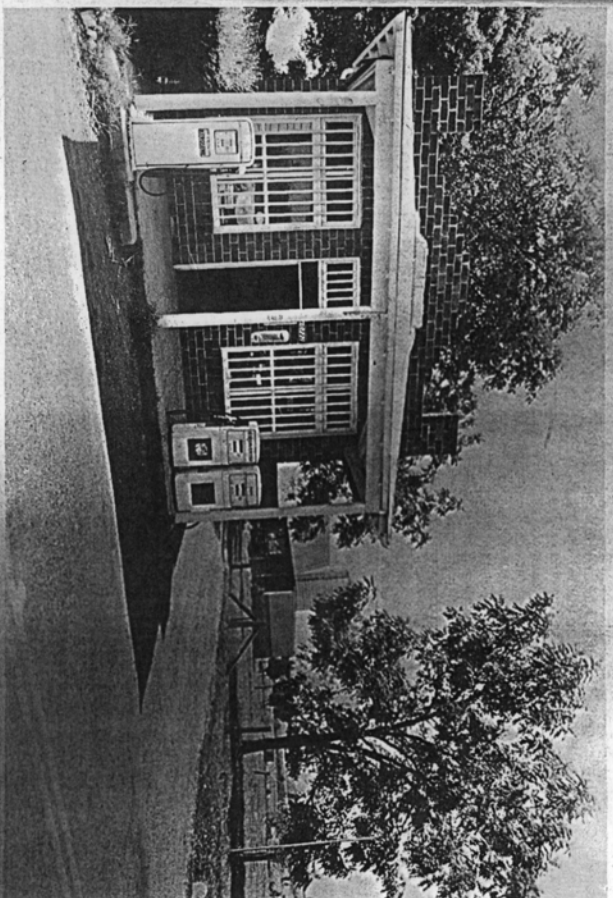
The store, which features all the usual items and such other necessities as night crawlers, overalls, and stereo tapes, occupies a building constructed shortly after the Civil War.

The Buckhall Market was operated for many years by Charlie Cornewell, who took it over from Will Smith in 1932. Mrs. Cornewell is still on hand to greet all the neighbors when they drop in.

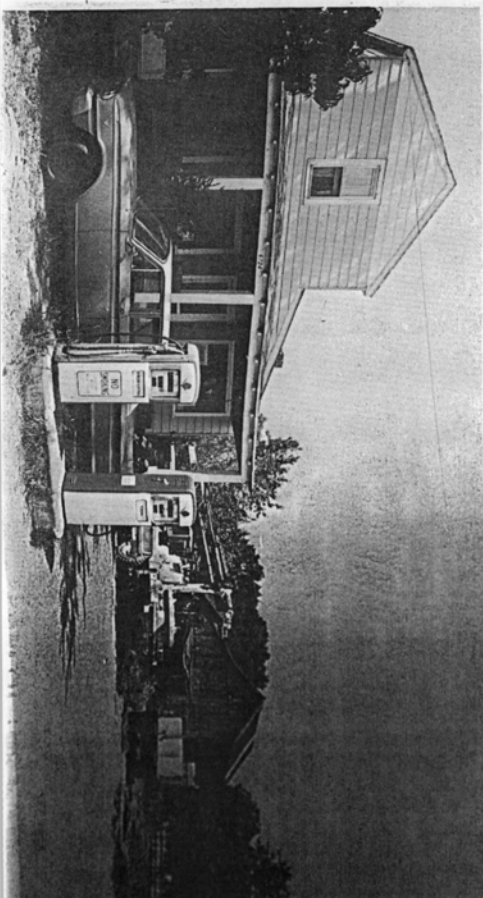
Country stores are like that. There are no shopping carts or gleaming, endless rows of cans and packages. There are no long lines at checkout counters, either.

What they have is what everyone needs more of — time to chat and time to find that special fish lure — time to be friends again. Long may they prosper.

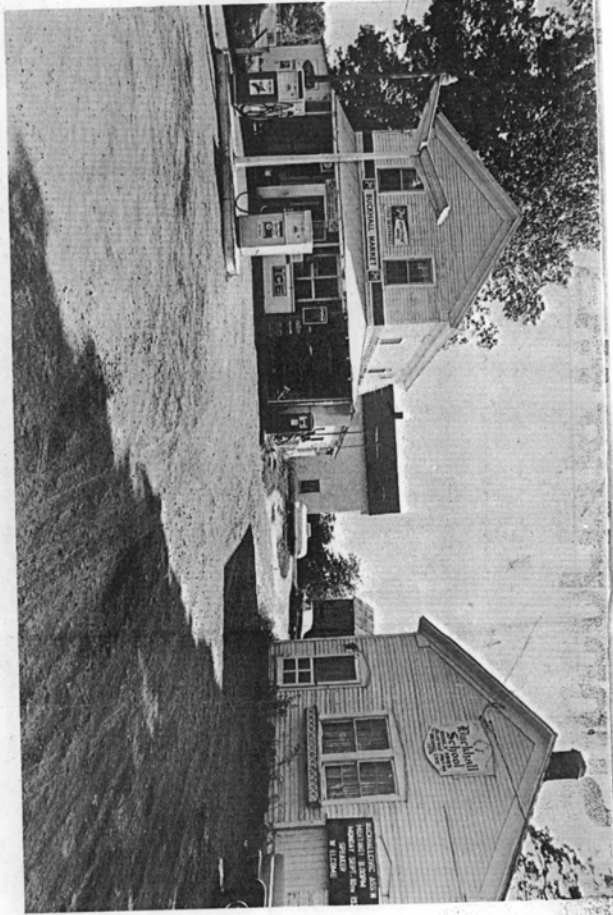
EVEN HAIRCUTS



BRISTOW STORE HELPED MANASSAS



photos
by
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BEAUTIFUL DOWNTOWN BUCKHALL

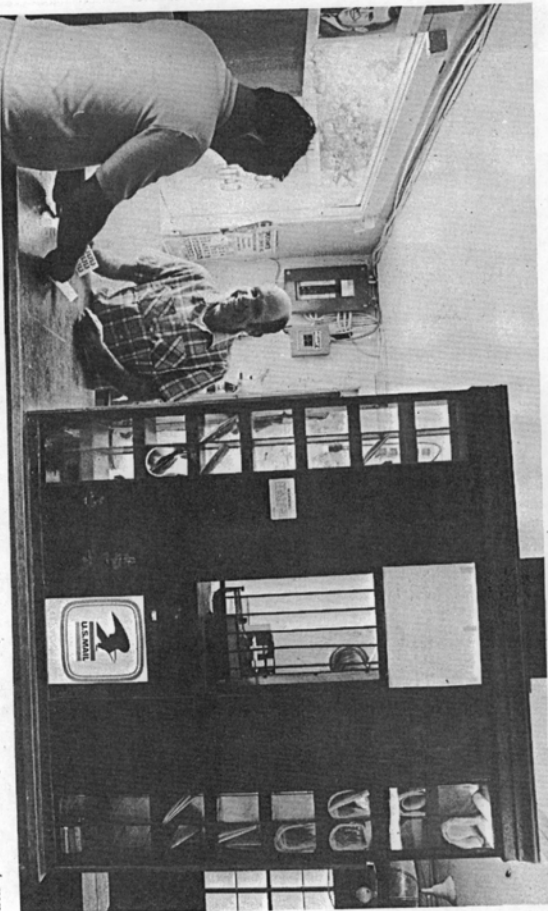


PLEASANT HOURS—Ernie Lambert and Mrs. Charlie Cornwell display their wares and their preference in professional football teams in the Buckhall Market. Ernie recently took over the store and says he may move the pot-bellied stove back to its place of honor at the front.



YOU NAME IT—M. W. Farnor says his Lake Jackson Trading Post has everything the big stores do and lots more besides. Farnor stocks his place on information gathered from a customer "want book."

Thus, the jaded shopper is likely to find some rather unusual items between the sacks of feed and boxes of tomatoes.



FIRST CLASS SERVICE—The third class post office at Catharpin, located in Avey's store, has been giving first class service since 1875. Dor's Mc-

Glothin, left, stopped by to purchase some stamps from Henry McPhillips. The postal window and box combination is a collector's item.