

View from Menzies Mountain

By Bruce Menzies

Autumn in the Ozarks

For the first time I felt it last night—autumn air. You know what I’m talking about—air that has a little *bite* to it. It’s air that has a *snap* to it. Something is changing even the *smell* of the air—it’s autumn in the Ozarks! Especially welcome are these cool temperatures immediately following a withering heat wave we’ve experienced this past summer.

All things green have paid a steep price for the drought of 2012. As you drive through the Ozarks, one would think the trees were already changing to their fall colors. However, if you look closely, you’ll see they’re just dying. Many entire trees have become brown due to no rain. The precious moisture we have needed to fuel the annual Flaming Fall Review has simply not been there.

The end of summer signals the beginning of fall festivals throughout the Ozarks. Additionally at this time of the year we celebrate our Veterans—our heroes and she-roes. In this issue of Senior Moments we have plenty to say about our Vets.

While publishing the newspaper these past few months, it has been my delight to visit the Ozarks in towns I seldom get to. I have met so many charming people—the friendliest folks in the world. Recently I discovered Murphy’s Orchard near Marionville. After sampling a delicious peach-filled bakery item I decided best that I buy out the entire display case! I have indulged in many other edible treats along the way, especially in senior centers which have some of the very best cooks.

I am indebted to the many librarians who graciously allow me to display Senior Moments newspapers. As a practical matter, I have found it beneficial to acquire membership at several of these libraries. I now consider them as my mobile office while on the road. How convenient it is as a library member to break for a *pit stop*, use their wireless Internet service to check Email, and even have a cup of coffee and a muffin. I can now honestly say Senior Moments has “satellite” offices in Springfield, Ash Grove, Strafford, Republic, Willard, Marshfield, Rogersville, and Kimberling City!

Each week I receive phone calls wanting to know where Senior Moments newspapers can be found. In most counties in Southwest Missouri, you can find a copy in the closest senior center, public library, or OACAC family center. For those with Internet access, the newspaper’s Web

site, www.SeniorMoments.us/advertise features a link to a complete listing of points of distribution.

I have some reflections on my first two issues of Senior Moments Newspaper.

First, in publishing this newspaper I do not promote a political agenda. Only talking about religion would be more polarizing than politics. On page twelve of the summer 2012 issue, I included a prayer for four of our political leaders—three Democrats and one Republican. This occurred to me just immediately prior to press time. I thought it important as our nation heads into uncertainty. Our leaders need wisdom from above. It will require more discernment than the limits of humanistic reasoning to navigate the troubled waters ahead. Notice I didn't pray for the success of the political agenda of any individual politician. I did pray for their personal safety and that of their family; I prayed for the staff that surrounds them, asking God to give them wisdom, and finally for them to make decisions with personal integrity in the best interest of Missouri.

This issue will contain a splendid article about my great dad, Homer Menzies. I've made mention before about his military career as an aviator. Herein is the story of his crash landing in the Korean War, him walking away from the plane once on the ground, and the miracle that made it possible.

In November, Branson (and other places) will be awash in flags and patriotic celebrations. In this issue we'll highlight veterans. From government Web sites there's always pertinent news from the Social Security Administration and this month we'll talk about the Veteran's Administration and how they can help veterans.

Have you made up your mind who you're voting for? I won't go there for now, but remember to vote Tuesday, November 6th. There are few things we can do more important to effect change in our country than to vote. If you're still undecided think about these questions: "Is America headed in a direction that you are comfortable with?" "Which candidate reflects the values which are closest to yours?" You still have time to examine the issues and candidates and make an educated decision. Remember—vote! Save the date—Tuesday, November 6th.

Corrections: My apologies to Doiling Park for misspelling your name under the "What's Inside" column on page one of the past issue. I have learned the hard way you simply cannot read copy enough times to catch all typographical errors. That wasn't the only typo in that issue but the most embarrassing.

Say, I have a challenge for you proofreaders out there—*and you know who you are!* If you find a typographical error in spelling, punctuation, or some statement that is factually incorrect, please send me an Email and tell me about it. I'd appreciate it.

Beginning this issue you'll notice a format change in the physical size of Senior Moments. The paper is a little smaller, however, all pages will now be full color. This improvement will make the paper more colorful and interesting to readers and potential advertisers.

Speaking of advertising, here's where you can help. If you are a business owner or someone who makes the decisions about advertising please consider advertising in this paper. If you know someone like that, please pass this paper on to them so they may consider advertising. While it's impossible to guarantee results I can promise your ad will be made available to thousands of seniors across southwest Missouri. This is the perfect publication if you have a product or service for this audience—The Greatest Generation!

In closing, I'll repeat my request from last issue, if you visit a location described in Senior Moments newspaper or inquire about an advertised product, please tell them you read about it in **Senior Moments**. If you have enjoyed reading this paper please drop me an Email. I'd appreciate it.

Bruce Menzies, publisher