

View from Menzies Mountain By Bruce Menzies

Summertime!

Did you miss us? No, you didn't miss the spring 2014 issue as there wasn't one! I spent this spring recuperating from back surgery and an assortment of complications that often accompany surgery. Although the paper you're reading was essentially finished and ready for press months ago, I was unable to do the driving, bending, lifting, and twisting necessary to deliver the papers to all fourteen counties where Senior Moments Newspaper is distributed. The good news is the fact you're reading the summer issue.

Now that winter and the arctic vortex is a fading memory, the stars in our evening sky will change and new stars, not seen over the winter make reappearance. Now is the best time to see one of the sky's best-known celebrities, the Big Dipper. Passing nearly overhead, the Dipper is formed by four stars marking its cup and three others denoting its crooked handle. The stars are there to show off God's handiwork when He said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven" (Genesis 1:14).

Menzies Mountain is a fine location for star watching being away from the city's light pollution. In the pasture behind our cottage we have an unobstructed view of the heavens. Aided by my National Audubon Society book *Field Guide to the Night Sky*, even I can identify a few of the stars.

Something else we can enjoy now is plenty of rain. Sometimes a light night breeze playing in the tree tops will make just about the same sound and fool me into thinking it is raining. The man who has never walked in the woods and smelled rain and felt it on his face has missed something indescribable. But best of all I like the sound of rain playing on the roof at night about the time I'm dropping off to sleep. Also, almost any evening in the summer I can stand on the porch of my cottage and hear the whip-poor-wills calling from the banks of the Finley River in the valley below.

I've had several nice comments from readers about The Christmas Orange. That article was written by my late father-in-law, Rev. C. J. Greer. Brother Greer, as I always called him, was a real cowboy from Wyoming who came to the Ozarks in the late 1940s following the call from the Lord into ministry. Brother Greer was an excellent story-teller with a vast background and personal history and knew how to put thoughts to words and words on paper. Another one of his interesting

experiences is written in this issue about The Gideon Bible. Gleaning from his autobiography I'll be able to include some of his writings in many issues in the future.

Those of you who have read many editions of Senior Moments Newspaper know my late father, Homer Menzies, was a pilot in the US Air Force. In his twenty-one years of service he flew a variety of airplanes. In this issue I'm highlighting two more planes he flew: the P-51 Mustang and its little brother, the North American Navion. After his service in the Air Force, Dad flew as a commercial pilot and private pilot. When flying for pleasure all conditions had to be right for Dad, a *connoisseur of caution*. Of course the weather like winds aloft, barometric pressure, humidity, temperature, kind of clouds (whether the clouds were cirrus, stratus, stratocumulus, or cumulus), mechanical condition of the plane, quality and quantity of fuel onboard, and necessary flight plan details. However, that's why I could sleep like a baby with dad at the controls, knowing he was prepared.

Scripture tells us about seasons in our life and seasons in the earth. To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. The rain comes down with the snow from heaven and waters the earth which brings forth the buds and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater. Spring is a time when winter is past, the flowers will appear on the earth along with the singing of the bird, and the voice of the turtle will be heard in our land (Song of Solomon 2:11). Although seasons change God does not. If you have a relationship with Him, He will always be there to help you through each season. He has made everything beautiful in its time. That means He can take the worst seasons of your life and turn them into something more beautiful than we could ever imagine. Our God is incredible.

Until summer arrives and we meet again on this page, have a nice spring.

—Bruce Menzies.