

## View from Menzies Mountain, winter 2014-15

By Bruce Menzies

Winter seems to have come early this year to the Ozarks. I hope you got out to enjoy the fall foliage. In some places it really was a flaming fall review. We now celebrate wintertime here in the Ozarks. *Senior Moments Newspaper* considers December, January, and February the months for our winter issue which you're now reading.

Winter is a time of many gray days when heavy clouds hurry across the sky. Evening comes early and the national news and supper is eaten while it is dark outside. If you have done what you ought to do to be ready for winter, this is a season of contentment. When the late rains come, rains that often freeze as they fall you can stay indoors with the fire going strong.

Now that the oak leaves are fallen my vista from Menzies Mountain has greatly increased. From the front door of my cottage I can see Riverdale Baptist Church situated on the north side of the Finley River. It's a blessing to attend that church with my mom on Sundays and Wednesdays. The ministry of Word, Music, and Community is wonderful.

When I get up in the morning now the windows are covered with frosty crystals that sparkle blue and white if the moonlight strikes them. It's mighty nice to wake on a below-zero morning, knowing there's coffee and a cooker-full of oatmeal waiting for me.

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In my autumn reading I finished *Hard Choices* by Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State for the Obama administration. The book is her appraisal of the complex web of political, historical, and economic forces in play around the world and all the difficulties American leaders face in balancing our concerns with American core values. At 656 pages, it's no light read but interesting insight from someone with four decades of public service.

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There's a phrase in one line of Robert Frost's poem "The Road Not Taken" that grabs me: "Yet knowing how way leads on to way I doubted if I should ever come back." *Way leads on to way*. When we take one way, it leads us on to another way and another and another...places we could never foresee when we're standing at the fork deciding whether to take the safe, predictable path or the less-traveled one that requires risk and trust.

Take myself for example, although I could have made a name for myself in astrophysics, molecular chemistry, medicine, phrenology, impressionist art, country music, paleontology, or constitutional law, the fact is that from a teenager, I never found anything that was half as interesting to me as printing and graphic arts. I began my career binding song books on the night shift at the Gospel Publishing House in Springfield. Later after I left there I *advanced* to pouring molten lead into forms (pigs) for a linotype machine. Then I began running a printing press. For thirteen years I owned a typesetting company where I learned more about graphic design. It seems one road lead to another and to another to finally you're now holding in your hand my final product of a career in graphic arts.

Where has life led you? Hopefully you've let Christ be your Navigator and Pilot. Consider the following:

**Matthew 7:14** Strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

There is a way that leads unto life. We need only keep looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. Remember, prayer is the key to heaven but faith unlocks the door.

Until we meet again on this page in the spring, keep warm, keep dry, and keep the faith.

--Bruce Menzies