

A job well done gives
us music at midnight.



Friday night (10/27/06) I went on a hayride. Now I have been on several hayrides in my life, but this is my favorite. Once a year (Week before Halloween) in Cades Cove; part of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park; they carry you on a trip back in time. Here is how it works, me and 20 of my favorite strangers load up on a wagon filled with hay. Ranger Sara and a couple of her coworkers grab a microphone and off we go into the dark around the 11 mile loop known as Cades Cove.

Along the trail other park rangers and volunteers are in costume and tell the story of the history of Cades Cove. At the first stop a couple (Pictured upper right) tells of the first white settlers and how the Cherokee Indians helped them survive. Pictured in lower right the first traveling preacher to this area tells of life here in the 1800's. The lady with the fiddle tells of the hardships and joys of a woman's life in a place that knows nothing of electricity, running water or grocery stores.

At one stop you hear of life during the Civil War and at another you see a park ranger from the 1940's tell of President Roosevelt visiting and declaring this place a National Park and predicting that 200 cars will visit the park that year. Much has changed over the years, not only in Cades Cove but also in our lives.

Most of us do not have to worry about hog killing or Indian raids today, but we still have our trials and responsibilities. Like the first couple we might be blazing a trail in uncharted territory, traveling to a new place in our lives. Perhaps, like the circuit riding preacher we are faced with many obstacles as we make our way to our next appointment. No matter what life brings to us, we can all be like the lady with a fiddle finding happiness and satisfaction when we do our best at the task before us and learn to enjoy the simple pleasures in life.

Today, let us be thankful for the common things in our lives we take for granted every day; hot water, washing machines, central heat and air, automobiles, Food World, soap, jobs, friends and family. Think about it, what are you thankful for today?

Something to think about:

- God has other work for you, and it waits only the completion of the present task.
- Since you cannot do good to all, you are to pay special regard to those who, by the accidents of time, or place, or circumstances, are brought into closer connection with you.
- We are all fellow passengers on the same planet, and we are all equally responsible for the happiness and the well-being of the world in which we happen to live.
- If men thanked God for good things, they wouldn't have time to complain about the bad.
- A job well done gives us music at midnight.
- Remember the day's blessings; forget the day's troubles.

Your thankful traveler
Rickey Moore