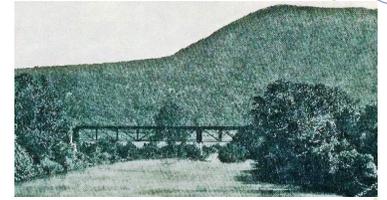


# Strasburg Heritage Association



Volume 15

Fall 2015

Issue 3

Strasburg, Virginia

NEWSLETTER

[strasburgvaheritage.org](http://strasburgvaheritage.org)

## STRASBURG GRAVEYARD WALKING TOURS

Instead of ghost tours, Strasburg's special Halloween event this year will be walking tours in historic Riverview Cemetery. The tours will include stories about graves of prominent Strasburg citizens, the history of Riverview Cemetery, Civil War burials, the Peter Stover monument, tombstone architecture and other interesting tales from the final resting places of so many from our community.

Join us on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 6:00 – 9:00pm.

Advance tickets are \$3.00 each and are available at Strasburg Town office. Day of event tickets are \$5.00 each and will be available at the Hotel Strasburg beginning at 5:30pm. Tours are family friendly.

Children 5 years & under are free; 13 years & under must be accompanied by an adult.

Walking tours will begin at Hotel Strasburg, leaving every 15 minutes with groups of 15 people. The tour will take approximately one hour. Rain or shine event.

A special bus tour for handicapped folks (courtesy of Strasburg Greenfield Senior Living) will be at 3pm that day, leaving from BB&T bank parking lot. Pre-registration required by Oct. 23; seating is limited.

***Hosted by Strasburg Heritage Association. Call 465-5570 for more information.***

# 2015 Strasburg Holiday Heritage Homes Tour

By Joan Williams

STRASBURG HOLIDAY HERITAGE HOMES TOUR

2015 is a year for SHA's always popular biennial Christmas homes tour. This year's tour is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 from 10:00am – 4:00pm. We have a wonderful selection of local historic locations for you to visit. They

include the homes of :

***Mike and Kendra Smith 291 S. Holliday St.***

***Jo Bickle 402 Zea St.***

***Conly and Tina Crabill 112 E. King St.***

***The historic Dosh House on E. Washington St.***

***The Nash Rambler Shop on Front Royal Rd.***

***The home of Diane Laferriere and Bert Cole, known as the 4 Mile House, just south of town***

Look for more information later in our homes tour brochure. Ticket prices remain the same at \$10.00 and will go on sale by December 1 at various locations. We welcome volunteers to help out the day of the tour. Call Joan Williams at 465-2953 or Wendy Pieper at 465-9512 if you would like to help out. Volunteers get free tickets! Check our website at [www.strasburgvaheritage.org](http://www.strasburgvaheritage.org) for updates.

## SHA Board of Directors

2015

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## A Little Folk History Quick Music Company

by  
Kathy Kehoe

***"Just take those old records off the shelf  
I'll sit and listen to 'em by myself"  
-Bob Seger, Old Time Rock and Roll***

I remember a place in Strasburg where people liked to go, especially on Saturday mornings, to search through bins of 45 rpm records. At Quick Music Company, you could buy the songs you had been listening to on the jukeboxes around town or on the radio in your kitchen or in your car. If you hadn't been able to buy the record new at the News Stand, you could afford it once it got to the Fake family business on West King Street. This was where the 45 rpm records ended up, after being played on jukeboxes in the local restaurants. Or you might have heard a song down at the Strasburg pool, at one of the pool halls or at the Moose Club. Almost every place in town where people socialized and met to eat or drink had a jukebox. When a customer put a quarter in the jukebox, they set the mood. Songs coming over the jukebox speakers might cause people to get up and dance, or to think of some old memory, or to laugh, or shed a tear. After that song left the jukebox, if you got to Fakes before they sold out, you could own that vinyl record.

Harry Fake Jr. recalled recently how his father, Harry Sr. and mother, Mary Fake, started the Quick Music Company in 1946 or 1947, "out of their house in Bentonville, near Front Royal." About 1950, the Fakes moved the business to Strasburg, first opening in a building that also housed Sylvia's Restaurant, the Silk Mill and, upstairs, the Strasburg Moose Club. The building, on the corner of King and Massanutten, is now the Strasburg Emporium. Around 1963, Harry Jr. remembers, Mr. Fake built a new building and moved the business to the West King Street location. The business served routes in Shenandoah, Warren and Frederick Counties, and parts of WV. Routes consisted of a 100 mile radius and included the West Virginia towns of Wardensville, Martinsburg, Cacapon Park and Charles Town. In Strasburg their route included installing jukeboxes in the Hometown Restaurant, Tastee Freez, Foxy's, Jazzbo's, Sylvia's and the Old Mill restaurants. Employees were assigned routes and would visit each business on their routes to service the machines, collect the coins from the machines, make any repairs necessary and change the records on the jukeboxes. Harry Fake Jr. said the records were usually changed out every two weeks but if a record had made the Top Ten Billboard charts most played list, the record would be left in the jukebox longer. In its heyday, the Fakes had 7 employees working the routes, and 3 office employees. Carmen Kleese (Rich Kleese's mother), was the clerk who would work Saturdays when Quick's opened just to sell records. Nina Fake, wife of Harry Jr. remembers how every Saturday, people would spend hours going through the record bins, searching for song titles they wanted to buy.

The Fake family lived down the street from the business on West King. Harry had 3 older sisters, Anna Marie, Margaret Ann, and Edith Louise. Their father was proud to be able to earn enough money from the family business to send his daughters to college. Harry Jr. worked for the family business as a teenager, joined the Army and came home to rejoin the family business. When he married Nina Lake in 1968, she also became a part of the family business. Their son Harry the III and their daughter Wendy became employees of the business when they were in high school and their son became a full time employee after graduation. Town residents Pirk Bromley and Virgil Polk worked there many years. Other employees were Ernest "Ronnie" Jenkins and Gary Borden of Middletown. Harry Jr. recalls how he and

his father would alternate being on call for repairs. In the early years, if a jukebox or machine would break the phone might ring in the middle of the night, waking the household. He remembers the Moose Club having a breakdown one night at the end of a dance. The Club called late but Quick's made the repair the next day. Later on they hired an answering service out of Winchester to handle repair calls. The office closed each weekday at 5pm.

The Fakes bought records from the top 40 charts catalog by Billboard, mostly rock and roll and country songs. Jukeboxes held between 50 to 100 records. They started selling used records around 1964 or 65. The company provided the businesses with not only jukeboxes and wall jukeboxes, but also pin ball machines, bowling games, shuffleboard, pool tables and later, video games. A commission was paid to each business from the money collected in the machines.

Belinda Pappas Palmer's family owned and operated the Old Mill Restaurant for many years and she remembers "I got the 45 rpm records when he took them off the juke box at the Mill." Jerry Wayne Miller's memory is that "Harry Sr., then Jr., were nice people and ran a great business. They took care of all the jukeboxes and pinball machines in the area. When they changed the 45s out of the jukeboxes they brought them back to the business and sold them to the public. It seems to me they were 5 or 10 cents each. A lot of us had a lot of 45s thanks to them. Several times when I was at a place where records were changed out, I'd ask about a certain record and if it had been exchanged the repairman would give it to me."

Dorene Oakley Sine recalls how she and her brother "used to walk down and buy records there. I bought something by "Archies" and they weren't even real and who did not want "Puppy Love" by Donny Osmond?" The Archies was a comic book teenage band made popular by a TV cartoon called "The Archie Show". One of their most popular records, referred to as "bubblegum" music, was "Sugar, Sugar". Deborah Huntsberger Winkler and Sheryl Pangle Pifer were cousins who both lived on the west end of town. Debbie remembers "it was across the street from where Sheryl lived and we were in there a lot; they had huge bins with the records in them and you had to really search for good ones because there were a lot of duplicates. The price I believe was 5 for a dollar--great bargain. I still have some of them." Sheryl agrees, "Debbie and I spent many hours in there looking through the records!" Jo Williams, who also grew up on the west end, remembers how she "used to go all the time and bought lots of records there! Learned lots of great music playing the song over and over and writing down the lyrics!" I remember stopping at Quick on my way home from school. I bought "For What It's Worth" by Buffalo Springfield and listened to it repeatedly, with the arm up on the record player so that the needle would go back and play it again every time the song ended. I was young enough that I didn't quite understand the lyrics until I'd listened carefully many times to the words, "A thousand people in the streets, singing songs and carrying signs" and then realizing it was about the "hippies" and peace demonstrations on the evening news. Another thing about 45 rpm records and record players was that if you played that same 45 on 78 rpm speed on your record player, the singing would sound like the cartoon characters, The Chipmunks, or like the Munchkins on the Wizard of Oz. You couldn't do that with cassette tapes, 8 track tapes or CDs, all of which replaced records through the years.

John Painter was another kid growing up on the West End of town who lived a couple blocks from Quicks. He has a different memory of the business: "I, as an early high schooler, raided the Fakes trash bin out back one day. They refurbished their pin ball machines there. When the relays in the pin ball machines go bad or just get unreliable, they would be replaced. I found several dozen multi-contact, multi-pole relays in the trash. I brought

them home and marveled at them while sitting on the living room floor. Then I was inspired. I connected them together along with some small flashlight size lights that were also in the trash. Soon I had invented (or so I thought), a binary to decal converter. By setting four switches to a binary number, say 1001 (on,off,off,on), .... the ninth lamp light would turn on. This of course, after a bunch of relays clacked and clattered. This was my first digital circuit. It launched my life career as a digital design engineer. In some small way, I guess I owe Fakes Quick Music a sincere "Thank You very much!".

Nina Fake remembers that her father-in-law, Harry Sr. "was a smart business man who could see a trend coming and go with it before it actually landed." Harry Jr. and Nina talked about the business recently from their home in Florida. "Every year a convention was held of Music Operators of Virginia in various places throughout the state. Harry Sr. was on the Board of Directors and was President for one term. These operators came together with manufacturers, parts and record companies to share ideas and ways to increase business for all those involved in this industry. In later years the name changed to Music and Amusement Operators of Virginia to include the pinball, games and video side of the business. The conventions stopped around 1995-1996. The operator was courted by record companies because the jukebox and the radio were the major sources for getting air time for a record."

In 1970, Billboard Magazine interviewed Harry Fake Sr. and published an article in the December 19th, 1970 issue. (Page 45, under headline; COIN MACHINE WORLD, Vol. 82, No. 51, Strasburg, Va, "Jukebox Samples Help Programmer in Virginia, by Ray Brack). The article describes Harry Fake as a "jukebox company owner-programmer" and how he listens to records to decide where to place a song. "Fake, who owns and programs the routes of Quick Music Co. here" impressed the MGM publicity chief Sol Handwerker when he explained at the Music Operators of Virginia convention how he chooses the records to play in his jukeboxes. Harry Sr. told him he pays attention to his customers. The article quotes him saying, "Sometimes the top five rock tunes get no play in my rock stops." The article goes on to say that Fake buys records "strictly on the basis of his own experienced ear"; and he recently picked a "sleeper" from MGM's samples, "So Sad" by Hank Williams Jr. and Lois Johnson. "I played it and immediately ordered 150 of it," Fake said.' states the article.

In later years, video games were popular and the Fakes changed with the times. Harry Jr. says, the "Hottest game I ever had was Pac Man". But when people could buy it and play it on their TVs, "that really made business tough" said Nina. The business started to die when vinyl records went to CD and the jukebox songs could "no longer be played for a quarter; it cost more money and people didn't want to pay more" said Nina. "People used jukeboxes less and less after that, and then we really went through a lot of changes."

Harry Fake Sr. and wife Mary retired and moved to FL in the early 80s and at that time Harry Jr. became the CEO President of the business. Harry Sr. died in 1984. By 2000, the economy had become really bad." said Harry Jr. "Technology really beat it up too", said Nina. Once individual video games like Atari, released in 1977, became available for in home use, and people could play games on their own TV sets at home, "business slowed down" and, said Nina, the "craze of the big video game" disappeared. Later still, arcades sprang up in malls, and jukeboxes and game machines were no longer profitable in restaurants. The Fakes shut down and sold the business in 2000. "I had four tractor trailers I took down to FL and sold all the machines." said Harry Jr.

The Quick Company also provided cigarette vending machines until the laws changed in the 1990s that only those over 18 years of age could buy cigarettes. Then they were all taken out except in the clubs. But even Clubs had to have a special place out of the way where employees could monitor the sales and check identification. Eventually places around Strasburg stopped using cigarette ma-

chines completely.

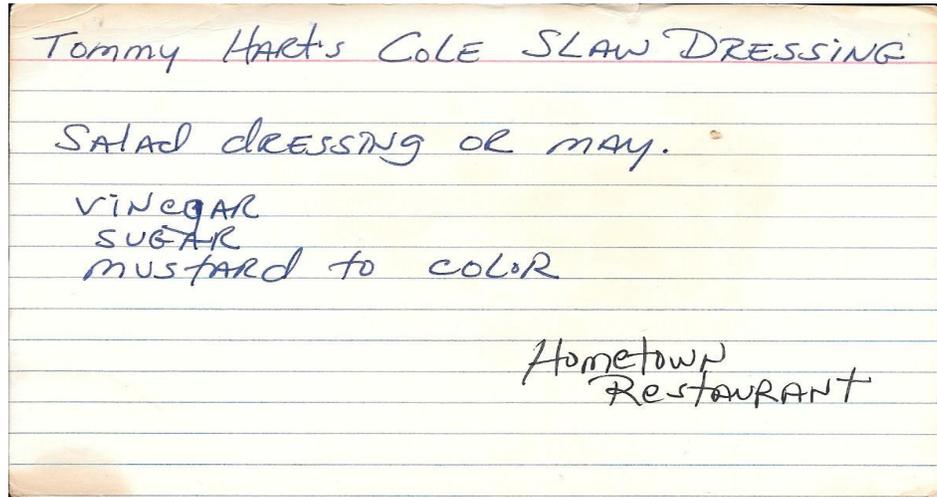
When CDs replaced the vinyl records in the early 90s, the Fakes bought CDs for their jukeboxes and later sold the CDs after they came off the juke box. "A lot of locations didn't want the CDs" explains Harry because customers had to pay more to play a song so people put less money in the jukeboxes. Some restaurants asked to continue using vinyl records in their jukeboxes and so they provided both for a while, then, explains Nina, "Vinyl records also got harder to get" and "toward the end" said Harry, "most places had CD juke boxes."

The Virginia Restaurant was not on the Fakes route as it was served for many years by a company in Harrisonburg, but the people in Strasburg enjoyed the jukebox there just as much. The Virginia Restaurant was a local teenage hangout and there was a waitress there named Sadie Aholt. Sadie worked there for many years and in the late 60s and early 70s, she was probably not more than sixty years old, but we teenagers thought of her as elderly. She wore her gray hair in a bun and her shoes were what we called "old ladies health shoes" that you could buy at Lloyd's Department Store. Whenever she was working her shift, somebody would play The Beatles "Sexy Sadie" on the jukebox. Sometimes the boys would sing along with the jukebox, "Sexy Sadie, you'll get there yet." And when waitress Zora Robinson was working, the customers would choose "Mrs. Robinson" by Simon and Garfunkel. "Here's to you Mrs. Robinson, Jesus loves you more than you will know." The jukeboxes were much like radio stations, the more the restaurant patrons played a song, the more the disc jockey played a song, the more popular it would become, the longer it would stay on the Billboard charts and the longer it would stay on the jukebox. People would also play the country songs, especially at places like the Hometown Restaurant and the Moose Club. People could buy the record new at the News Stand, or if their budget was tight, they would wait and get it at Quick Music.

If you ever watched the TV show, "Happy Days", the opening scenes were of a jukebox, the typed cards listing all the songs, the coin in the slot and the vinyl record spinning. Each card bore the title of two songs and the artist. Unlike CDs, vinyl records could be played on both sides, each side with a different song. The songs were listed by a letter and a number. "Play A7" you might hear someone call out as you stood at the jukebox choosing your song. Favorite songs were played so much that people would remember their letter and number. Many songs have been written over the years about jukeboxes. A country singer, Faron Young, had a hit in 1951: "I knew that you was cheatin', cuz I heard the jukebox playin' when you called me on the phone." In the 70s, James Taylor sang, "Hey Mister that's me up on the jukebox, I'm the one that's singin' this sad song, I'll cry every time you slip in one more dime." After you made your selection, you could watch the mechanical arm go pick up the record you chose, place it on the turntable and the needle then automatically dropped on the edge of the grooves. Then you'd hear the song come from the speakers. A country song released in 1993 "Prop me up Beside the Jukebox" by Joe Diffie, was ironically popular at a time when jukeboxes were nearing the end of their popularity. "Fill my boots up with sand, put a stiff drink in my hand; Prop me up beside the jukebox if I die." Another more recent country song by John Anderson is "Straight Tequila Night" with the words, "K13 is her favorite song. If you play it, you might have a chance." Alan Jackson sang "Don't Rock the Jukebox" in 2007. "Before you drop that quarter, keep one thing in mind; You got a heartbroke hillbilly standing here in line; Before you punch that number; May I make one request: Don't rock the jukebox, Play me a country song".

Jukeboxes were such a part of our culture that many people can identify with these songs even now. But as with many businesses of our small town past, the Quick Music Company was displaced by modern technology. Who would have thought that in 2015, we would be sitting down to a machine in our house buying one song for a dollar twenty-nine without using coins or dollar bills and instantly hearing it across our computer speakers? We can hear the oldies like Harry and Mary Fake Sr. would have heard in the 1950s--a tune by the Ames Brothers, "Put another nickel in, in the nickelodeon, all I want is having you and music, music, music." We still purchase the music from our youth, but nothing will replace the memories of the way it used to be. We still remember the pleasure of dropping a coin into the jukebox, our "Happy Days" of pressing the letter and number of our favorite song, and of carrying our treasure of 45 rpm vinyl records home from Quick Music Company to play on a record player. "Those Were the Days" by Mary Hopkin was another song on the jukebox: "Those were the days my friend, we thought they'd never end."

**A Bit More Folk History—From the Keep File:** An addition to the Summer 2015 Newsletter, A Little Folk History, The Hometown Restaurant. I wrote this down as a newlywed in 1974 after asking Tommy Hart for his recipe for the cole slaw he served in the Hometown. It's been in my recipe box for 40 years. —submitted by Kathy Kehoe



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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 17 and 18. 9am to 4pm. **The 151<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek.** Adult tickets for one day are \$12.00. Seniors, retired/active military with ID & students 7-17 are \$6.00 per day. Children 6 & under are free. Go to [www.ccbf.us](http://www.ccbf.us).

Oct. 21. 6:30pm to 8pm. Handley Regional Library, Winchester. **Engaging the Next Generation.** Shannon Combs-Bennett to present a program on encouraging our children/grandchildren to appreciate and participate in the hobby of genealogy. Free, open to the public. Hosted by the Shenandoah Valley Genealogical Society. More info call 540-662-9041.

Nov. 5. 6:30am to 8pm. **New Market Historical Society 2015 Bus Trip to Washington DC.** Advance reservations required by Oct. 30. \$40pp for NMHS members, \$50pp all others. Reservation form on website: [www.newmarkethistoricalsociety.org](http://www.newmarkethistoricalsociety.org).

Nov. 7 and 8. 10am to 4pm. **Belle Grove's Antiques Appraisal and Traditional Crafts Fair.** Bring family treasures for verbal appraisals by expert appraisers for items that include textiles, furniture, documents, SV & CW artifacts, more. In honor of VA Quilt Museum's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, special focus of Traditional Crafts Fair is on Northern SV Quilts. Call 540-869-2028 for details.

Nov. 14. 10am. Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall 122 E. Court St. Woodstock. **Scandalous Son, The Elusive Search for Dolley Madison's Son, John Payne Todd.** Author Phillip Bigler will discuss his book about Todd. Hosted by the Narrow Passage Chapter of DAR. Free. Open to the public.

Nov. 17. 7pm. St. Paul's Heritage Ctr 106 S. High St. Edinburg. **Quilts from the Valley and their Stories.** Presented by Gloria Comstock, Curator of the VA Quilt Museum in Harrisonburg. Will focus on Shenandoah County quilts during the Antebellum and CW period. Free & open to the public. Hosted by Shenandoah County Historical Society.

Nov. 19. 7:30pm. New Market Town Council Chambers 9418 John Sevier Rd. New Market. **What Makes A Virginia Quilt.** Neva Hart, retired professional quilt appraiser, will show how different regions of the state have developed their own quilt motifs, including SV motifs such as flyflots, tulips and birds. Hosted by New Market Historical Society. Free & open to the public.

Dec. 5 2pm. **The Belle Grove Holiday Tea.** To be held at the Belle Grove Manor House. High tea with delectable treats. Afterwards you may tour the house, decorated for the 2015 theme "Holidays Around the World." Tickets required. Call 540-869-2028 for information.

# Strasburg Heritage Association

PO Box 525

Strasburg, A 22657

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[www.strasburgvaheritage.org](http://www.strasburgvaheritage.org)

### Membership Application & Renewal

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MEMBERSHIP: Cost is \$20.00

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