

The ROCKSPIRIAN

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2011

A NEW YEAR OF NEW ADVENTURES, OLD FRIENDS, AND OLD MYSTERIES

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ROCKSPIRE!

2011 promises to be an exciting year with new personal and professional challenges! We continue to be blessed with good health and new opportunities and we wish the same for you and your family.

UNEARTHING MYSTERIES

HAND DIGGING HAS BEGUN at the entry to the Moonshiner's Cave, so-named because of the evidence and lore surrounding this nefarious location. The cave is located near Camp Sassafras, along the upper nature trail at the eastern end of Rockspire. Rusting remnants of old buckets and buried pipe remain and we can only surmise "them revenooers" walled in the entrance to the cave during Prohibition. The pipe has water running out of the open end at the bluff's edge most of the time and we think it serves as the spillway for an underground pond inside the cave where the moonshine was made! Oldtimers in the area recollect their fathers trekked to the cave to work on their Model-T cars and sip a little of the "good stuff". Old car parts have been collected in a spot not far from the cave as evidence.

As you might expect, uncovering this mystery is an adventure, not to mention a lot of hard work! During a recent visit, the entire Waterman Family pitched in to help hand-dig some of the blockage at the cave entrance.

Once the opening to the cave is excavated to the point where one can access the cave standing up, digging will be concentrated on the underground corridor that appears to access deeper parts of the cave. The floor of this



Digging at the entrance to Moonshiner's Cave
From left: Helen Waterman, Virginia Waterman,
Richard Waterman, and Robert Waterman
Photo by G. Myers - 12.30.10

corridor is dirt and rock that was placed there many years ago to block access down what appears to be about a 20 feet long corridor.

At this time the only accessible areas of the cave consist of two rooms; one approximately 15 feet in diameter that has very limited headroom and one approximately 8 feet long and 4 feet wide with a ceiling height of approximately 8 feet.

In addition to the digging at the cave, work is almost complete on extensions to the upper nature trail at both the northeast and west ends of the trail. The extensions will not add much length to the already two mile long trail, but they will allow hikers to see more of the natural beauty along the trail as well as open new vistas across the Kings River Valley.

OLD FRIENDS

2011 CELEBRATES **45** YEARS of friendship between Murl Meredith and George Myers. Murl and George met as freshmen at the University of Arkansas. Murl and wife May live in Fayetteville, AR and have two children, Grant and Tyler. Over the holidays Murl and May joined George and Deborah for dinner at Betty's Birdhouse at Rockspire, brainstorming research projects and new adventures at Rockspire.



At home in Fayetteville.
From left: Murl and May Meredith, Grant and Molly Meredith
Dogs from left: Rusty, Cosmo, and Kenzie
Photo by G. Meredith - 12.25.10

2011 COMMEMORATES **35** YEARS of business collaborations between George Myers and Michael Johnson. They started with Dallas's first modern day, horse-drawn carriage business in 1976. Employed at the time as architects at the firm of Page Southerland Page, the two took on full restoration of a 19th-century English Brougham carriage and offered carriage service for weddings, parties, and special events.

Meanwhile in 1977 George started the architecture and real estate development firm of Myers Concepts, Inc. in Dallas and soon after Mike joined the firm as partner. In 1979, George and Mike joined up with others to create the architecture firm of Rogers Myers Easterwood and Johnson.



Touring Carriages, LTD of Dallas
George Myers, driver; Mike Johnson, doorman; and Flora, horse
Photo by L Lennon - Christmas 1976

And in 1983, Myers Concepts International, Inc. was formed with French partners with offices in Dallas, TX and Aix-en-Provence, France. The company went public in 1987.

Fast forward to 1998 when George and Mike again created new businesses by forming Rockspire, LLC and subsequently Rockspire Properties, LLC for the purpose of creating a new concept in future living for friends and family at Rockspire near Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

NEW ADVENTURE

THIS YEAR will mark the beginning of George and Mike's latest collaboration - "**para||el-works**", concentrating on architectural consulting for both domestic and international projects from its studio in Dallas and new concepts in sustainable building techniques at its research workshop at Rockspire.

Mike will lead the new company as its Managing Principal and George will continue as Senior Project Design Manager, part-time with Cogdell Spencer ERDMAN while working part-time as Principal in this new adventure.