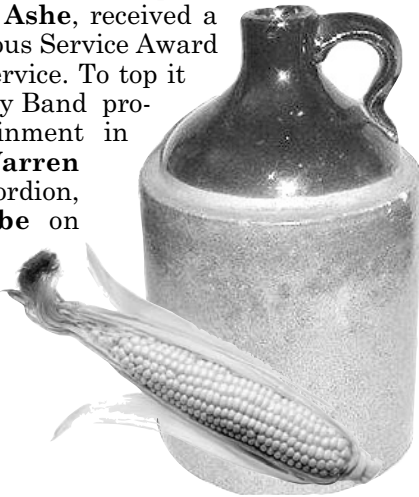


# Bunker Hillbilles #126 Hoedown

By MARK STOUGHT

ON August 17, the Bunker Hillbilles had a hoedown in the Fez Room. Many distinguished Nobles were there with their wives, children, and significant others, and Illustrious Potentate **Stephen G. Eriksen** and Assistant Rabban **Jeffrey Arnold** came too. The Bunker Hillbilles got things going with buffet-style Hillbilly fare, which was enjoyed by all, and during the course of the evening some business was gotten to as well.

Raban of the Clan **Curt Nitzsche** demonstrated his corncob processing machine, and a new member was gained in the person of Jeff Arnold's father (Noble **Edward Arnold**). The clan presented a check to the Potentate for the Children's Transportation Fund, and Keeper of the Cob, **Hedley Ashe**, received a Hillbilly Meritorious Service Award for his years of service. To top it all off, the Hillbilly Band provided the entertainment in Hillbilly style (**Warren Johnson** on accordion, **Bernie Weinrebe** on banjo, **Hearst** on keyboard and **Paul Marlon** on the jingle stick).



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## Lydia Realizes a Dream

LYDIA was having dinner with her family at a restaurant when she spotted a service dog lying quietly while his young charge had dinner. Lydia, who has limited mobility, was curious about the animal.

Her mother, **Sara**, asked about the dog and learned of the Canine Assistants Program that provides companion dogs to those meeting the qualifications.

The family applied, and Lydia was accepted two weeks later.

Companion dogs are very expensive, so it took a year and a half before the family could begin the process of matching Lydia with a compatible dog. Lydia was matched with **Doppler**, and a relationship began to blossom.

Lydia, now 9, dreamed of taking a walk with Doppler, her best friend and constant companion. The family had been told that Lydia probably would never walk, but they refused to accept that diagnosis. They learned of Lexington Shriners Hospital and came for physical therapy.

Physical therapist **Emily Valentino** worked closely with Lydia, guiding her through leg exercises to strengthen muscles,

stretching her legs so she could stand straighter and walk with the aid of forearm crutches. Doppler was part of the therapy process and stood beside Lydia, picking up her crutches when she dropped them.

"Seeing my daughter go from not walking at all to walking with the crutch and with Doppler took my breath away," said Sara. "We are so grateful that Shriners Hospital gave Lydia a chance to realize her dream of walking."

"Lydia believed me when I told her she could do something," said Valentino. "She did her exercises very diligently and was highly motivated by the possibility that she would be able to walk with Doppler. She believed me, but she also believed in herself."



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