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JOHN F. BLAIR, PUBLISHER

Donald Davis takes readers back to good ol' southern Appalachia in *Tales from a Free-Range Childhood*

Winston-Salem, N.C. (Dec. 1, 2010) — For Donald Davis, storytelling wasn't just a family pastime. It was life.

Davis grew up during the 1950s and 1960s in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, a world rich in fairy tales, scary mountain lore, Welsh and Scottish folktales, and true-to-life stories of family and friends. Surrounded by traditional storytellers, he was naturally inspired to capture the adventures of daily life in stories of his own, built from his experiences, reflections, and lifetime of memories.

He travels around the United States telling these stories to audiences of all ages at storytelling festivals, schools, and libraries. Now, he is sharing 20 of them, never before published, in *Tales from a Free-Range Childhood*.

This collection of childhood adventures transports readers "back to those days," a time when children were free to roam, before computers and video games. It's a world unknown to today's youth but fondly remembered by generations who spent their childhoods riding bikes around the neighborhood and swimming in rivers.

Tales from a Free-Range Childhood shares Davis's southern Appalachian adventures, beginning with the arrival of his uninvited (by him) baby brother, Joe. You'll follow the two on their escapades in fields of cow pies, at school, and at the carnival. You'll laugh at Davis's first (and last) shoplifting experience and at the brothers as they scare off the babysitter while almost getting their parents arrested. With Donald and Joe, you'll discover the differences between mothers (who say, "Don't do that!") and grandmothers (who say, "You're so cute!").

You'll follow these two brothers up until their teenage years, when Donald gets braces from the orthodontist in Asheville and learns that "missing" the bus back home means an extra five hours to explore the city without any supervision at all. "Crooked teeth had made me a real man of the world," he announces.

Through his tender, often humorous stories about his life lessons, Davis captures the hearts and minds of young read-

ers while evoking the childhood memories of older audience members. With each story, Davis invites listeners to come along, to search deep inside for their own life lessons, and to share those memories. For those who can't enjoy Davis's storytelling live, *Tales of a Free-Range Childhood* is the next best thing. His written voice is so strong that readers will actually hear Davis tell these tales as they read them.

Donald Davis grew up near Waynesville, N.C. After earning a B.A. in English at Davidson College, he graduated from Duke University Divinity School. For more than 20 years, he was a United Methodist minister in High Point, N.C. In 1989, he became a full-time storyteller. He now tours the country year-round, making approximately 300 storytelling presentations annually.

John F. Blair, Publisher, has been publishing books on the southeastern United States since 1954. Based in Winston-Salem, N.C., this independent, family-owned company specializes in history, travel, folklore, biography, and fiction. Learn more at www.blairpub.com.



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