

Floyd Central Traveling Pioneer Show to Hit the Stage at Beck's Mill

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 27 April 2010 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 27 April 2010 12:44

The award-winning Floyd Central Theatre Arts Department will be providing some great musical and comedic entertainment at Beck's Mill for three shows scheduled on Sunday, May 2.

The show, with performances at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. will combine a number of songs and comedic pieces from a group of "traveling performers who have mistakenly disembarked the stagecoach at Beck's Mill instead of their intended stop at Possum Holler."

Since they are there for the afternoon anyway, they decide to perform their show for guests visiting the mill.

Chris Bundy, director of theatre arts at Floyd Central and a Salem resident, suggests that guests bring a lawn chair and a snack and enjoy the multitude of songs and comic sketches among the beautiful surroundings of the recently restored Beck's Mill.

In particular, songs from the Broadway musical, "Big River" will be featured along with "Oh, Susannah," "Down To The River To Pray," "Raise-A-Ruckus" and others.

Beck's Mill is the third mill on the property, and was the first to have two stories and furniture manufacturing. The mill in its most active years (1864-1890) ran 24 hours a day, using a turbine/waterwheel combination to turn the grindstones. Families would sometimes wait three days for their corn to be milled at Beck's, forcing a settlement by the mill. Eventually, the modern roller mills far surpassed the capability of gristmills, and urbanization made rural mills difficult to transport to in comparison, causing Beck's Mill to stop operating in 1914.

Of the 65 mills that operated in Washington County, Beck's Mill it is the only one still standing, and less than 20 still stand in Indiana.

The show is included with the general admission to the mill, \$5 for adults with 16 and under

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free with an accompanying adult. Picnic tables are on the grounds for those desiring to attend the show and have a picnic lunch although, seating for the show is not provided so guests are reminded to bring lawn chairs. The show lasts a little over a half an hour, so guests are encouraged to also spend the afternoon viewing the mill and enjoying the hiking trails as well.

Becks Mill is located at **4433 South Beck's Mill Road, Salem. Google Maps shows the correct location.** To learn more about Beck's Mill, go to www.friendsofbecksmill.org