

## The Little School That Could

**B**efore the magnificence of St. Andrew's Catholic Church appeared on the Roanoke skyline, there stood on the hill off Jefferson Street a humble orphanage for boys. St. Vincent Orphanage was built in 1893 not only as a refuge for orphans, but as a seed for something more. The new pastor of the church, Father John Lynch, dreamed of a school in his parish, and as the Bishop Van de Vyner greatly desired an orphanage in the area, Fr. Lynch saw the orphanage as the door that would lead to a Catholic school in the parish.

March 1, 1893 saw the opening of a new school in Roanoke – St. Andrew's School. In the two-story brick orphanage and in the nearby school hall, children were taught under the careful instruction of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Ky. Though the original building is long gone, the school remains, educating generations

of Roanokers as Roanoke Catholic School, which in 2006 was ranked in the top 50 Catholic high schools by the Catholic High School Honor Roll for the third consecutive year.

To commemorate the orphanage that provided a home for boys until 1975 and from which sprung a great educational institution, a memorial was dedicated this May. Encased in the monument is a time capsule and the cornerstone of the rebuilt 1931 orphanage (torn down in 2008 to provide more parking). Also included are bricks from the original building, and the Celtic cross that once adorned the orphanage entrance. Also dedicated was the reconstructed Lourdes Grotto, which provided a place of prayer for parishioners, students and orphans from 1911-1999. It was razed to make room for a new building. **—Katelyn Quinley**

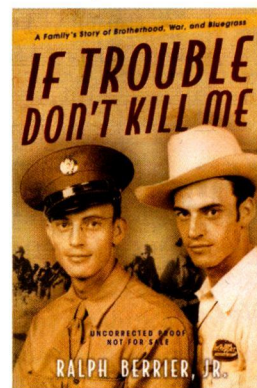


The original Lourdes Grotto was built around 1911 and razed in 1999 to make room for a new building. This rebuilt grotto, dedicated in May, was financed by a gift from the family of Mary Rotello Conway.

### LOCAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Roanoke Valley Locavore 2010 Food Directory, available in print and PDF, makes it easy to find locally produced foods.

The 12-page guide – made possible by “24-carrot” sponsors – offers information on area farmers markets, grocers and co-ops, u-picks and farmstands, and farms selling meat, eggs, dairy, produce, flowers and honey. To view the guide go to [roanokevalleylocavore.net](http://roanokevalleylocavore.net). **—Jessica Wright**



### “BROTHERHOOD, WAR AND BLUEGRASS”

That subtitle to Ralph Berrier Jr.'s book “If Trouble Don't Kill Me” may be as apt as any. This candid, breezy, well-observed memoir of the author's family is built almost fully around those three items as related to “the last of Judie Hall's [10] bastards.”

They were Safford and Clayton Hall, born in 1919 in The Hollow, in Patrick County just down the road from Ararat, near the Carolina line.

The twins were the grandfather and great uncle of Berrier, a long-time *Roanoke Times* reporter who has written the book he first conceived in 1988 and “thought I'd never get around to.”

It's a book full of Roanoke, of Southwest Virginia, of the kind of family tales that don't get said out loud but do, on occasion, get written down. And Berrier's telling – light and gentle through woes, war and women troubles – is thoroughly enjoyable. **—KR**