

TAKE A STEP BACK IN TIME  
**ASHLAND COMPANY STORE**  
5633 CHEROKEE ROAD, ASHLAND, WV 24868 - PHONE 304-862-4800

## **Tom McColley Workshop at Ashland Company Store a Great Success**

"Turning your Craft into a Business" was the topic of the workshop that was held at the Ashland Company Store on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Artisans and crafters alike were impressed as Tom McColley told the story of how he turned his basket making craft into a profitable business.

Tom and Connie McColley, renowned artist/crafters and consultants, spent two days in Ashland WV at the Ashland Company Store. On Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, the McColleys met with the staff of Travel Beautiful Appalachia, Inc. and employees of the Ashland Company Store in an effort to assist in store set-up, display, and overall retail management. On Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, Mr. McColley met with local artisans and crafters in a workshop setting to show them how their craft can become a profitable business.

"Self-confidence, self-modification, and self-discipline are three key aspects of running your own business", stated Tom McColley. Legal aspects, record keeping, advantages and disadvantages were other areas of topic. Those attending the workshop were Mary Ann Drake, Dolly Wolfe Comer, Priscilla Spurin, Michael Mullins, Geneva Steele, Omey Payne, Scott Bennett (TBAI) and Debbie Bailey (TBAI).

In addition to the workshop, those attending were entertained by Michael Mullins' musical rendition of "Momma had style" and lunch was catered by Markella Gianato, owner and operator of the Ya' Sou Deli in Kimball.

Travel Beautiful Appalachia, Inc. is a non-profit organization with a mission to focus on economic development and job creation for McDowell, Wyoming, and Mercer counties. This is just one workshop that focuses on that mission and is made possible through the WV Development Office Flex-E-Grant.

TBAI is in the process of starting their fall Business Builder's training course classes. An information session will be held on October 1, 2007 at the Tug River Wellness/Fitness Center in Wilcoe WV. For more information, please contact Debbie Bailey or Scott Bennett at 304-862-4800.

