

## *Miss Minnie Again*

Minnie Pearl, a member of the Grand Ole Opry cast in Nashville, Tennessee, from 1940 until her death in 1996, was country music's preeminent comedian and one of the most widely recognized comic performers American culture has ever produced. With her straw hat and its dangling \$1.98 price tag, her representation of herself as a man-chasing spinster in the small town of Grinder's Switch, Tennessee, and her great-hearted holler of "How-Dee! I'm just so proud to be here" as she took to the Opry stage, Pearl became an icon of rural America even as she lovingly satirized its ways.

Where is Grinder's Switch? Well, it's just outside of Centerville in Middle Tennessee. You can imagine, then, what a folk hero Minnie Pearl had become to the residents of that vicinity.

At Life Care Center of Centerville, Anita Mayfield, a certified nursing assistant there, gave the residents a treat they are still talking about. Mayfield made a complete Minnie Pearl outfit by hand, and practiced the comedian's routine for hours during her time off, to come to the building and play the role of Miss Minnie for Life Care Center of Centerville's Grand Ole Opry extravaganza.



But doing amazing – and entertaining – things is nothing new for Mayfield. For National Nursing Home Week, she created a clown costume for Fair Day, and went around the facility blowing a bicycle horn – all to the delight of the residents.

Latessa Morris, executive director of Life Care Center of Centerville, says that residents are always No. 1 with Mayfield. She's determined to chase away any blues they may have.

Whatever our jobs may be, contributing to the quality of their lives is what our mission is all about.

And Anita Mayfield puts a lot of fun into the days of those she serves.

--Beecher Hunter