



## Points East

By: Ike Adams

Randy Grady works for a private foundation in Washington, DC. He'd rather not have the name of his foundation mentioned in the paper because he already has more work than he can handle but he doesn't mind getting a little personal notoriety in the Kentucky press.

Private foundations, for those readers who need some enlightenment, are pots of money established by very wealthy families and/or corporations that must be given to charity or qualified non-profit organizations. Instead of turning profits over to the government, folks with lots of money can set up foundations and have some control about where it goes.

Generally, that means the recipient has to be a qualified non-profit certified by the IRS or a school or what not. But, in effect, it allows control of vast amounts of capital, hundreds of billions of dollars, to avoid taxation as long as they are put to use for the greater human need.

And I'm all for that. As far as I'm concerned a dollar surrendered to any form of government is a dollar mispent. But that's neither here nor there and quite beside the point if I may be redundant.

Randy rode around with me over the holidays.

His foundation does not take applications. But, instead, sends emissaries about and abroad to seek out those non-profits who are doing good and avoiding evil. When he finds one that might be entertaining to the foundation's Board of Directors, he calls them in and asks them to ask for money.

It's a purely, royalist, aristocratic way of distributing the wealth but it's oh-so-much more efficient than dealing with half-trained bureaucrats who require so many hundreds of pages of bill of material so that they can accumulate it, store it, and carry it out to demonstrate that Daddy didn't make that big contribution to Mitch McConnell for nothing.

A foundation funding proposal is generally less than ten pages. If they like it, you get the money in a few weeks. If they don't like it, you don't get any money at all and they send you a polite little letter explaining why.

An equally simple proposal is to name your favorite pet in the state or federal government requires hundreds of pages and many hours on the phone arguing about the order of the alphabet, whether or not I really came before '9 and that's the common consequence that might occur if one of your staff goes to Florida on vacation and uses the restroom in the ocean.

Years may go by and then one day you get a letter from your Congressman announcing that you have been awarded a government grant. Some times you read about it in the paper first because the politicians want to make sure they get the credit before you have a chance to call your favorite reporter.

But I'm off on another story and Randy Grady is actually the subject here.

So I met him at Boone Tavern in Berea at daybreak one morning in late December and he wanted to, "just ride around and talk and get a handle on what local nonprofits were doing in central Appalachia" and, of course, central Appalachia, as I define it, covers all the mountain counties of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and the entire state of West Virginia.

"Berean really isn't a good place to start," I told him right off, "because most everybody who lives here are Appalachian wannabes who can look off in the distance and see Appalachia. Berea is about as representative of Appalachia as Disney Land is to the real world."

"Can we go to Appalachia from here in a day," he wanted to know. "Fifteen miles Southeast of town and we're in it," I told him and off we took. Down into Jackson County,

into Owsley, Lee, Wolf, Breathitt, Perry, Knott, Letcher, Wise County, Virginia, back across Pine Mountain into Harlan, Leslie, Clay-back into Jackson and 13 hours later parked again the Tavern two hours after dark. Three hundred and sixty three miles of Appalachia which included a couple of long hollers and absolutely no major roads.

I talked nonstop the entire way, pausing only to answer questions.

"It's that really a clown down there below us? Why are the coal trucks this big? Aren't you scared? Do they run school buses here? What do they do for water and sewer? Where do people work? And on and on and on."

I talked about at least two dozen nonprofits on the course of the trip. I spelled out what folks are doing for themselves and apologized, as best I could, for the disproportionate number of folks who have made public transfer payments a way of life and lambasted the idiots who throw their garbage alongside the road.

And that was the killer Randy's

Foundation won't be doing any grants in eastern Kentucky because it is a pig sty.

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness," he told me. "I've been all over the world and this is the filthiest place I've ever seen with so few people. If you have so many people unemployed, it seems to me they would have the time and decency to clean up after themselves instead of destroying this wonderful place."

So I went home pretty red in the face. My pride of my mountains slapped in the face. I'd shown Randy Grady the best of what there is to see in eastern Kentucky and our way of life and all he saw was the litter and garbage alongside the roads and streams.

Perhaps what eastern Kentucky needs most instead of roads and infrastructure is a big load of hog feed dumped out at every wide spot in the road. If we insist on living like pigs, we might as well be treated like ones.

Randy Grady won't be back our way.

gather the information he needs. He just called me as I was writing this letter and said that the Sheriff's Office contacted him and he was going to talk to a supervisor, Sgt. Williams told me there is no law against shooting my dog, and Mr. Burdette was wrong in saying there is such a law.

I then called the Sheriff's Office again at 4:58 p.m. and requested Sheriff Smith call me back since he was not in the office. At 8:10 p.m. I called the non-emergency line to the 911 office and requested they page Sheriff Smith to call me. Still I received no call. Deputy Rook said that the Sheriff tried to call me that night from the Deputy's house. I don't know if he did or not but I was home all except for between 8:40 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and the answer machine was on all day as well as family members at the house while I was gone. There were no messages left. Deputy Rook said my phone rang and there was no pick up.

The next morning, being disgusted with the whole mess I went to the Richmond State Police Post and spoke to Lt. Merriman who confirmed what I already knew. There is a law against shooting animals. It is called cruelty to animals. Lt. Merriman assured me that he would contact the London Post and they would respond. I thank Lt. Merriman for his help! When I got home that afternoon there was a call from Lt. Pack who sent an officer to investigate. On the way home I stopped at the Sheriff's office about 12:30 p.m. and asked why they refused to gather the evidence. Sheriff Smith then said he would send someone to investigate and take pictures. Deputy Rook, another deputy and a State Police Detective finally showed up about 2:00 p.m. They took pictures of Delilah's body and the blood trail leading to the edge of the property where she was shot. However, they would not go on the property and follow the trail. They also talked to the property owner who denied knowing anything about it (naturally). This is all well and good, however, if they had investigated while the trail was still clear and saw what I saw maybe something could have been done if not in criminal court at least in civil court. Instead, they waited until the snow melted and the blood trail was nearly gone. The bottom line is that due to their lack of efficiency in dealing with this matter our family pet was murdered and the killer will go scot free.

Since our dog was shot the neighbor's (whose yard was apparently shot in) dog has come on our property numerous times, on in the presence of Deputy Rook. Once he bit my sister-in-law's dog who comes here frequently from across the street (he has been shot once as well as her other dog was shot and killed) and once he became aggressive towards a family member. Today, Friday, January 11th, makes the third day I have called the Dog Warden about this matter. I have yet to hear from him although Mary, who answers the phone for him, says he told her he tried to call the first night. Mary has been very courteous and I appreciate all she has done. I just can't understand why we are getting calls all day and all night from family and friends but county officials can't seem to get

through. When I asked Mary to have County Judge Bruce Carlotta call me he had no trouble calling me and was very helpful and assured me he would have the Dog Warden call me. This call just came as I was busy writing this letter. I must say that Judge Carlotta gave me the quickest call back I have ever had since living here. Thank you Buz!

The one thing that keeps going through my mind is a statement made by Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette. "This is what I'm up against in this county." I can understand his frustration. It must be awful trying to prosecute a case in a county where it is so hard to get the police to respond and collect evidence in a timely and professional manner.

I would write this letter earlier or not there was an election coming but I have only lived here about the 15th of September, 2001 and until now had no clue of how I would cast my votes in the upcoming election. There is no doubt in my mind. Thanks again to Jeff Burdette, Judge Carlotta and Mary in his office for serving our family and our county to the best of your ability. As for the rest of you elected officials this letter speaks for itself. I urge each citizen of Rockcastle County to vote his or her conscience in the upcoming election. I also urge that if you have a story of your own, good or bad to make it, I was raised to believe that it is the voice of the people that effects positive change in any government be it city, county, state or federal.

This all started out about a family pet, it is a shame that it ended up being about so very much more!

William M. Moss, Sr.  
Mt. Vernon, KY

Dear Editor,  
I'm writing about concerns with the Harry Potter books and the religions which are condemning these books as irreverent to witchcraft. The books are children's books, plain and simple. I'm sure that anyone who was to pick up one of these books and try to do one of the spells would find themselves feeling a little silly for trying it because the spells would not work.

I also have concerns about the society that this way of thinking is creating. Religious intolerance is what happened to the U.S. on the 11th of September 2001 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and I don't wish to grow up within a society where intolerance follows man is accepted. I myself am not affiliated with or believe in any religion, but accept all. The power of belief is a powerful thing and I commend people who have faith.

My plea to the churches condemning these books is to look with your hearts and to accept things for the innocence and to have acceptance to others beliefs.

Thank you to all,  
Chris Longhurst,  
Mount Vernon, KY

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## Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

In recent times I have read letters in the Mt. Vernon Signal about the law enforcement in our community. I have to admit at the time some were hard to believe. Even though I have called for police assistance from the Rockcastle County Sheriff's Department and the London State Police Post two times for attempted break-ins and not had any response other than a phone call either time. The reason I am writing today is that I believe that everyone should get credit for the job they do. I want to thank each individual involved for their participation in my most recent dilemma.

On Monday, January 7th, I was gone to my sisters in Indiana. I had left a medical necessity at her house after my mother's funeral and returned to pick it up. While I was gone our family pet (a beautiful black and white Fox Hound named Delilah) was shot and killed. She died in a neighbor's yard. They did not get a hold of me until Tuesday, January 8th. When I went to get my dog from their yard there was a blood trail lead my back to where she was apparently shot. The blood trail began in another neighbor's yard approximately 50-60

feet from their back door. The ground was covered with snow and the only tracks were those of my dog and the ones I made following the trail. A mountainous, buildings and a fence bordered this area of the yard. The only place I could see possible for anyone to be close enough to shoot my dog without leaving tracks was this neighbor's back porch.

I realize that my dog was on someone else's property, however, there was no signs that she had done anything to threaten anyone as there was no evidence that she was close enough to anyone to pose a threat or even turn over a garbage receptacle. When Delilah came to live with us we kept her on a tie out. I eventually had to turn her loose because other dogs in the neighborhood would take advantage of her being tied and she was not able to defend herself. One of these dogs belongs to the neighbor whose backyard the blood trail began in.

After following the trail and getting my dog home I called the Rockcastle Sheriff's Office. I didn't get the name of the person on the other end, however later Sheriff Smith told me it was he that I had talked to at that time. It was 2:30 p.m. when I called. Sheriff Smith said that it would be about 4:00 p.m. before he could get an officer out to me. I

told him I would wait. Approximately an hour later Deputy Ronnie Rook showed up. I explained that my dog had been shot and that there was a blood trail leading to the neighbor's house. Deputy Rook told me to call the prosecutor and if he would issue a warrant they would make an arrest. I asked if he would look at the blood trail at that time and he did not.

I called Jeff Burdette (Rockcastle County Attorney) who said that the police needed to come take pictures of the blood trail and interview the property owner. I called back to request this of the Sheriff's Office and they still would not come and gather the evidence needed. I then called Mr. Burdette back and he said he would call them and I should call the State Police and request they investigate. I appreciate all that Mr. Burdette has done to help. He can only prosecute if the law enforcement officials

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