

Points East

By: Ike Adams

The place to be in the middle of May, if you love Bluegrass Music is right here in Berea. At the OH Kentucky Campground where my buddy, Jim Bowman, runs his grocery, hardware, rent-a-truck, campground and whatever-else-you-need emporium. Jim is easily the most honest and fair businessman I've ever met in my life.

I tell everybody I know to check out his gas prices, for example, and then take bets that my stooges can find a lower price. So far I haven't lost. Jim is located just to the west of Exit 76 off Interstate 75 and has big BP sign out front. He loses money on gas for fun.

I like most of you all up in the hills. I will call the towns, Butternut, but it really isn't a bad place to be. The politicians down here are about as bad as they are in Hazard or Whitesburg, or Harlan or Pikeville, or name your favorite county seat, for example, and the politicians are just as patently crooked—so I feel right at home. If you don't like your judge or magistrate or jailer or what not, you ought to come down here where politicians have the same IQ as they do in the mountains. Normally they don't have an IQ above minus 10 here either.

Madison County is about as backwards as the rest of the state when it comes to politics and elections, and crooks getting into office but we do have good roads and the good fortune of having Interstate 75 nearby. It won't be like you are coming to a foreign country is what I'm trying to say.

In fact, Berea should have a big sign on the interstate that says "WELCOME HOME" but not because the place has anything to do with Appalachian handicrafts or values. Because it surely does not. It's just the Kentucky you've come to know and love with the warts rubbed off.

So there is no better nor safer place to be in Kentucky, or maybe the whole wide world, than right here off I-75 Exit 76 at Berea where you can hear the best live Bluegrass Music you may ever hear up close and personal on May 17th and 18th.

It's the Dale Ann Bradley & Coon Creek Bluegrass Music Festival. The first big one of the year. The line up is a "Who's Who" in Bluegrass performing and recording artists today. Larry Sparks, J.D. Crowe, Louis Ford, Southern Harvest, John Coatsy & The Drifters, Mountain Heart, and the list goes on and on. Ralph Stanley (OH Doohey Where art Thou) canceled his performance this year because the venue has gone to his head, but JD is the best banjo player alive today anyway and he'll be there.

JD Crowe told me that he'd rather kiss women than babies and Loretta has been putting on lipstick ever since.

The bottom line is that this is the first big Bluegrass Festival of the year and Dale Ann and a bunch of musicians just can't wait to get started. If you make it down here for this one, you will wind up calling it your favorite.

vorite for the year, even if you go to a dozen others. If you don't make it, don't come crying to me. God knows you were invited.

There are some wonderful things about Berea that you want to check out while you are here. To be perfectly honest, you could spend an entire day in Old Town checking out reasonably priced crafts for a pittance they might fetch in the catalogues. Old Town is a model restoration

of old buildings occupied by some of the most gifted artisans in our country. Forget about Appalachia and concentrate on art and you are in, one of the most talented venues in the world when you park on Broadway in Berea.

Call The Berea Tourism Department: 1-800-598-5263 toll free for tickets to the Bluegrass Festival. If you are going to come and see us, this is the time to do it.

Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves

Farwell and Fond Memories. There comes a time in every mortal's life when the final farwell by loved ones must be acknowledged and the departed one becomes a happy memory. The happy memories are fondly recalled by family and friends and not so happy ones quickly dismissed and forgotten.

As I sat quietly admiring the gorgeous flowers framing the beautiful casket containing the final body of my dear and robust friend, Mrs. Ruby Adams, I became aware of others sitting in small groups exchanging greetings then quietly slipping out to continue the conversation. It was then remembered, "the funeral service of a loved one is not for grief alone, it is a place where old friends meet and renew acquaintance that otherwise may have been sealed in the lock box of the past. The magnet of love and respect for the departed one had drawn them from their homes by neighborhood and/or from faraway places that took several hours of traveling to say a final goodbye to a beloved friend, teacher or partner in the board game "scrabble." Mrs. Ruby, Melba Ziegl and I loved the competitive game that kept us on our toes to find the right word with the most points in it. We had set aside Friday night of each week to play and would alternate our homes for the entertainment.

On Friday evening about dusk the big shiny car of Ruby and C.B. would pull into Melba's driveway, she sliding from under the steering wheel, C.B. gingerly stepping from the passenger side. Both cheerfully greeting the opponents ready and waiting to start the game which had already been placed ready for action. Once in awhile C.B. and Conley could be heard on our toes to find the right word to play and would alternate our homes for the entertainment.

Known as Mac Ruby's love for the companionship of people I am sure she would be the first to join her friends from far and near getting reacquainted after years of not keeping in touch. White hair, weight loss or gain, hearing aids and glasses have changed the appearance of childhood friends till we must ask to see a name tag or repeatedly admit you have once again forgotten who you are talking to. I'll bet she would have remembered the name and what branch of the family he/she was from, of everyone present. I do remember Lois and Peggy, but wouldn't have had they not told me when I introduced myself. Of course, they remembered me from the days of their childhood on the farm, post office and country store owned and operated by their grandmother, Lela Mae Cooper. I remembered Peggy with the gorgeous long-blond pigtail reaching to her knees. And her grandmother, Lela Mae doing on her two wonderful granddaughters. Lois

seemed to be the quiet one, Peggy the most boisterous and fun loving. Lela Mae was my friend long before I knew Ruby and her daughters. She befriended me when we first moved to Rockcastle County and I was in need of a friend. It was she who gave me the recipe for a quick peach cobbler and a can of peaches to make it with. That recipe has become famous in my family and I have been given credit for making the best peach cobbler in the state. Of course that is not so and if it is credit should go to Lela Mae Cooper. We had just lost all our belongings in a truck wreck when we were returning to the farm after the war, and although Lela Mae hadn't been told the extent of the damage she must have known we had lost everything even cases of canned fruit and vegetables I had bought before we left our tide up over till crops could be planted and harvested. I could write a whole chapter on our relationship but better tell me about the friendliness and changes in those I was lucky enough to meet and hope to renew old memories to share.

Of course, I was brought up to date on the ones missing. Dr. Cooper has been gone for several years, his wife is still living. Leonard died of a heart attack the day after attending the funeral of his brother-in-law, Annam's husband. Albert has also been gone for several years. I met his son, Albert Jr. yesterday and he said his mother is still living. Also met Peggy's son, Richard and several introduced themselves and since I didn't write them down forgot which was who immediately. Woe is me. The old friends from the Pongo area were a bit easier to remember and it was wonderful to rehash a few memories with them. There was Albert and Barb Hubbard, Dean and Calvin Mize, Sue and Donald Taylor, Vivian and Sarah Renner, Melba Norton Mize, Conley Mize, Lou and Gary Cromer and Bobby Whitaker. I'm sorry I have missed many who deserved to be included, but I ran out of steam and must take a break. We enjoy these friends so much that when we meet at the farwell service of our friends can you imagine what it will be like in heaven when the gates are opened and Jesus says, "Come on in, we have been waiting for you."

The renovation of the Cox Funeral Parlor has added on more area where groups can gather quietly for conversation prayer or meditation. It is nice and even though I got lost once or twice in the halls connecting the quiet room for meditation, I always found a comfortable place to sit and relax.

The following poem was read by Mrs. Ruby Adams' daughter at her funeral. "Evening Memories" was written by my brother, George H. Tackett.

Evening Memories
By George H. Tackett
In the hills of Old Kentucky
At the closing of the day,
When darkness starts to gather
And the children stop their play.

In the distance comes a whistle
A bird high on the hill
And you know at once you're hearing
A lovely whippoorwill.

When the night birds start their singing
Then to their mates across the way,
Then you stop and listen closely
As a coon dog starts to bay.

Then you hear a voice behind you
Asking help of one and all.
And you turn and see your mother
Standing there so trim and small.

Jim, you bring in the water
From the spring just to the well
George, carry in the stove wood
You will find out by the mill.

Polly, you can bathe the baby
Before it gets too late,
It's time your dad is getting home,
We won't have long to wait.

After supper then is over
And the dishes put away,
We'll gather in the garden
In the coolness of the day.

Where the evening breeze blows softly
And the crickets start to sing,
And the bullfrogs start their croaking
On the hill side by the spring.

Then all nature sings together
In one melodious tone
In the hills of Old Kentucky,
My Old Kentucky Home.

Mount Vernon Signal

Publication Number 366-000
Periodical Postage Paid in Mt. Vernon, Ky 40456
606-756-2244

Published every Thursday since November, 1887. Offices in the Mt. Vernon Signal Building on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, Ky 40456. Postmaster: send address changes to P.O. Box 185, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456.

James Anderson, Jr., Publisher Emeritus • Richard F. Anderson, Editor
Prindl M. Anderson, Managing Editor
Paige-Benge, Advertising Manager • Jessica Lawson, Circulation Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Country - \$16.75 Yr. Out-of-Country In State - \$21.75 Yr.
Out-of-State \$30.00 Yr.

e-mail address: mvsignal@sun-spot.com

Absolute Estate

Auction

of the late Tom & Delphia Pruitt's
50 Acres More or Less • Timber - Tobacco Base
Saturday, May 11, 2002 at 10:30 a.m.

Near Valley Oaks

Directions: From Somerset take Hwy 80 to Hwy 461 turn north onto Hwy 461 and proceed north 6 2/10 miles to the Dewey Poynter road. Follow the Dewey Poynter Road approximately 3/10 miles to the auction. Auction signs are posted.

The heirs of the late Mr. and Mrs. Pruitt have authorized our firm to offer this well located property and timber at absolute auction.

The farm consists of 50 acres more or less and is being sold by the boundary. According to the Farm Service Agency there is approximately 36 acres of cleared crop and pasture land and the balance is in timber. The farm is all under fence and there is a creek that provides stock water. There is also a spring and well and city water is near the property. The property has a barn and an older house in need of repairs as well as a garage and other outbuildings.

TIMBER: The timber will be offered separate from the farm and then together selling in whatever way reflects the best returns for the owners.

TOBACCO BASE: Consisting of 936 lbs. basic allotment will be offered separate and not grouped with the farm. The tobacco base will be sold upon this year's basic allotment. In addition to the tobacco base we will also be selling the tobacco sticks.

AUCTIONER'S NOTE: If you are looking for a nice little farm that is secluded with privacy and woods, then you will want to be sure and attend this absolute auction on May 11, 2002 at 10:30 a.m.

TERMS: 20% down day of the auction with the balance due on or before 30 days with delivery of the deed for the real estate and timber. Cash or good check day of the auction for the tobacco base and tobacco sticks.

NOTE: The purchaser of a single family residence, built before 1978, has a maximum of 10 days to inspect the property for the presence of lead based paint. The period for inspection begins April 29th through May 9th. All bidders must sign a waiver of the 10 day post sale inspection period.

Auctioneer/Broker/Seller Disclaimer: The information contained herein is believed to be correct to the best of the auctioneer's knowledge. The information is being furnished to bidders for the bidder's convenience and it is the responsibility of the bidder to determine the information contained herein is accurate and complete. The property is being sold in its "as is" condition. No warranties express or implied.

For additional information or appointment to see the property contact Ford Brothers, Inc. Auctioneers & Realtors.

FORD BROTHERS, INC.

AUCTIONEERS • REALTORS

London, Ky 606-679-1111 Somerset, Ky 606-679-0215 Mt. Vernon, Ky 606-679-0222

REALTOR/AUCTIONEER

DANNY FORD

DAVID CARDINA

BON SHAW

DAVID REYNOLDS

MATT FORD

MICHAEL BRIDGEMAN

APPRENTICE AUCTIONEER

ANTHONY STEVENSON



"A Servant of the People"

To the Voters of Rockcastle County,
Subject to the Republican Primary May 28, 2002
Last week I talked to you about patrolling roads and especially rural roads. This week I would like to talk to you about your personal property such as home break-ins and robberies. These are two things that put fear into the citizens of our community. Many of you have talked to me about these concerns and that is why I feel that the Sheriff's Dept. should act real prompt when these calls come into the office.

When these crimes occur in the home I believe this should be a top priority so that an investigation can be made immediately. This will lead to a faster arrest and the recovery of your property.

Robberies are something we all fear and I believe that working together, the Sheriff's Dept., you as a citizen and other law enforcement agencies are the only way that we can curb robberies. I appreciate all the encouragement and support you have shown me during this campaign. Working together we can make Rockcastle County a better place to live for our families.

Respectfully,
Darrell Doan

Paid for by Darrell Doan

VOTE

ALBERT WAYNE CARPENTER
FOR
CONSTABLE
District 5

subject to
May 28th primary

Paid for by-candidate

WOOD TRUSSES • METAL ROOFING & SIDING
• Complete Building Packages

Wells Ins. Welcome.

Orders Custom Cut To The Inch

1-800-474-4321
DAVCO STEEL
200 Davco Drive, Danville, Ky 40423 AD 05-169

Darrell Doan

for Sheriff

Qualified to serve the people of Rockcastle County

Vote