

place in Richmond where everything in the store costs a dollar. All I can tell you for sure is that they cost about 12 dollars at Wally World or Rite

Aide and the ones at the dollar place

Aide and the ones at the dollar place work better.

I went to an optometrist in Berea just over a year ago and had glasses made. Two hours of testing my sight and half an hour of frame fitting. What a scam!! The cheapest frames he had in stock cost over \$50 and my share of the glasses cost nearly \$150 and the final manure company paid up. I tried wearing them for a month and now they lie on my night-stand use-less. But I can read, crisp and clear, through the dollar glasses and in the final analysis that's all that counts. I have about as much respect for optometrists as I do lawyers and politicant sheet days—far less than noine. So I've been reading. Every single thing the standard of the standard for the stan

. I read a lot.

Trade journals having to do-with
my profession pour in. The daily
papers from Lexington, Louisville,
Richmond, Danville and the week-

papers from Lexington, Louisville, Richmond, Danville and the week-lies from a couple does Menuicky communities. Even the Wall Street Journal, even though I don't make it a high priority, shows up every day. Not a night goes by that I fail to read, propped up with a couple or three pillows against the headboard of my bed, for at least an hour of two before drowsiness kicks in and I el-ter the property of the couple of the property of the couple of the property of the couple of the property of Some people go to the doctor and get prescriptions to make them go to sleep. Others drink exotic teas or use old herbal remedies. A glass of warm milk works for others. The had at least a dozen tell me that counting sheep really does work. Etc. Reading is the only thing that works for me.

Reading is the only thing that works for me.

And maybe that's why my eye-sight is failing. I read in low light with those 2X reading glasses you can get for a buck a pair at this little

read three books in a row worth rave reviews, In fact it's never happened before and rightmowl feel especially entertained.

I came in one Saturday a few weeks back and a book was lying, dust-cover face-up on the kitchen table. It was entitled "Big Stone

Gap". Either Loretta or daughter Jennifer had found it at a yard sale for a #ollar or less and thought it sounded like me so they picked it up.

Adriana Trigiani is the author and lost of remember some unflattering reviews in the Kentucky press a couple or three years back when the book first came out and Barbara for the same of the book first came out and Barbara book review was all the rage. I should know better than trust a book review published in a one of the big state dailtes or even the New York Times, for that matter, because they are generally written by folks with boulders (as opposed to chips) or their shoulders. By the same power of the same the same than the last year. The second best is "Big Cherry Holler" which is a sequel to the first title and you absolutely must read them in ofder. "Kingslover's Prodigial Summer" imressed me as the best piece of ef-

lutely must read them in order. "Kingsolver's Prodigia Summer" im-pressed me as the best piece of en-tertaining Appalachian Fiction writ-ten in this century. Trigiani's two books are numbers two and three and, combined, they outweigh Kingsolver in terms of wit and outright story-tell-ion.

combined, they outweigh Knigsover in terms of vita and outright story-telling.

Adriana grew up in Big Stone Gap, Virginia and has made a hugely successful career in New York as playwrigh, documently filment of the control of the c

it last for several nights. This is writ-

ing and storytelling in the best of mountain tradition and it captures central Appalachia in an honest, non-condescending way that is so rare these days. In a word; it is delicious and, from my experience, darn near

I wish that I could have grown up I wish that I could have grown up in Big Stone Gap instead of across the mountain in Kentucky because I can see my role in these stories. I sure feel like I know all the characters. And I love every one of them.

In fact, I'm almost sure I dated one of the women because I used to hang-out in Big Stone Gap on weekends-If you read regularly, you are

cheating yourself if you don't read "Big Stone Gap" first and then the sequel, "Big Cherry Holler," which, is actually better but pretty, much, is actually better but pretty, much, meaningless unless you read the first book. If you grew up in the moun-tains and have a literary hair on your head, you will love this writing.

Middle-class Mountain influenced fiction has yet to get much more hon-est or better articulated than Andriani Trigiani has put together here. Just don't be reading in bed if your spouse is asleep and side splitting laughter or big sobs will wake him or her up. There's plenty of both in these two books.

Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves



Just where do I start? May as well

Just where do I start? May as well be where I stopped a few weeks before my experience at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexitington.

Solve the start of the start

be ignored. For awhile I though we had made a mistake and was at a dog show not that it would have mattered, for they were often the subject of tion and romping over the

lawn with.

This was the first time many of them had ever felt the beauty of grass growing beneath their feet and they didn't seem to know what to do with it - eat it, roll in it, or use it for a toi-

let. By eventide the show was in full swing and Janet had planned this so each family had a member in it directly related to my Dad. Thomas Henry Tackett. He was the father of the children, of those len two, my young brother Herb, 86, and myself, 88, were still able to attend and did a pretty good job of holding our own with those we were nearly strangers with. We hugged nicces and nephews whad never seen before and heard voices one would have been sure was the voice of one you had been quite familiar with when you were kids. In other words - genetics, voice, pattern, and depth of fron can be a deaff giveaway as to whom you are

pattern, and depth of tone can be a deaff giveavey as to whom you are speaking. And this conglomeration of reasons are speaking. And this conglomeration of reasons are speaking and this conglomeration of reasons. To some reasons are speaking and the first word before it was gabbled up by the next in line trying to do the same thing. Everyone had a story to do the same thing. Everyone had a story to when the same thing. Everyone had a story to we common phrases as a new face appeared on the scene and a long galfaw of welcome greeted the new-comer. These folk had cancelled engagements at other places to be at this recuision and didn't want to miss one welcome note of it.

The four children of my oldest brother, who had been killed in a motorcycle accident some fifty years ago, were all there and for the first years ago, were all there and for the first years ago, were all there and for the first years ago, were all there and for the first years ago, were all there and to the first years ago and the search of the family we hardly knew existed. It was an exciting time and produced to sum of the family of the prother, the brother who loved to sing, whistle, and be the life of a party. Then close by was the family of a sister, a family we were just now beginning to know existed. The most we knew was, as we was a side of the produced of the pro

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