

“Memories”

(Cont. from A2)

and he was impressed with Al because my big brother had learned from Bee how to sell tickets and became quite good at his job.

While a senior at Mt. Vernon High, Al actually became “Brother” Albert Eugene Griffin by being ordained in the ministry by the First Baptist Church. It was November 30, 1952. Our entire family and many others were in attendance that Sunday afternoon to witness this solemn and significant event. After his ordination, Al began preaching at Hope Well Baptist Church, which had been the original parent church of First Baptist. He continued to preach there even after he entered Georgetown College in the fall of 1952. Because of his dedication to the ministry, he became, of course, even more of a hero to me.

Because of the difference in our ages, Al and I did not have boyhoods together. We did not have much in common until we renewed our relationship after we both became adults. He was entering college when I was only in the third grade. We never lived in the same home after that time. My associations with him were limited to the weekends that he came home for a visit.

Al graduated from Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS) in the fall of 1952. In 1955, he received his BA in history and music from Georgetown College. In 1968, Al was granted a Master of Divinity degree from

the Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville. He also earned an MA in counseling from Georgetown College in 1969.

While a freshman at Georgetown, Al proposed to EvaAnn Machel. They were married by Brother Raymond Lawrence and Brother Wendell Belew on December 19, 1954. The marriage produced two wonderful daughters: Debbie born on July 5, 1956, and Denise, who was born on December 28, 1959, when Al was preaching in Manassas, Virginia.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree, Al taught at MVHS for one year. It was 1956, and he taught music and civics as well as serving as band director. He was [un]fortunate enough to have me as a student in his music class! I was 12 years old. It was nearly impossible for me to refer to him as Mr. Griffin; he was my brother Al, period. I may not have told him, but it was cool to have my brother as a teacher in high school.

The next year Al was named pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Grant County, and for the next five decades he served as pastor of churches in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. I distinctly remember him accepting the pastorate of the Woodbine Baptist Church in Manassas, Virginia. I suppose this one church sticks in my mind because my brother would be leaving the state, and we would only see him and his family a few times each year. When I was a teenager, I both drove my car (with

Bud Cox), and road the George Washington Special train to Manassas in order to see my brother. He introduced me to several teenagers in his church, and he and Eva made me feel at home every time I visited.

Al served as pastor of several other churches, including: Pleasant Point Baptist in Lincoln County, Great Crossing Baptist in Georgetown, Porter Memorial Baptist in Lexington, First Baptist in Mt. Sterling, West Moreland Baptist in Huntington (WV), Southern Heights in Lexington, and Oneida Baptist Church. It was interesting to experience being a part of his family at the many different churches where Al ministered. Some of us attended on a regular basis.

Now that our grandparents, parents, and others of our extended family have passed away, Al and Eva have assumed the leadership of our family. It is to their home that we gather to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. Eva has mastered all of the family fixins’ and still prepares those meals that define the tastes of our memories. Her home is quite similar in ways to what it was when we first began our lives as a family under the guidance of Pop and Mommie Katie. She has an extraordinary talent for cooking just as did Bee and Mommie Katie. You should taste her “shuck beans” and her dumplings!

No matter if he was just my older brother, my high school teacher, or a pastor of a church that I attended, I have always looked up to Brother Al. It has been pretty cool to have an older brother who is wiser and who has traveled down the paths of life just as I began the tour. I salute you, my brother. We’ve been through some real times together, good and bad, just like brothers should. I hope we are both the better for it, because I know that is precisely what Bee always wanted.

“Points East”

(Cont. from A2)

But I’m off the point here because the point is that I could sell twice or three times as many seeds to snowed-in customers as I could have if the weather had been fine and the soil dry enough to till.

Brother Keeter and I discovered, early on, that folks were far more inclined to purchase seed when all they had to do was sit around the stove and dream of gardening than they were when the process involved hard labor.

In other words, that day-dream of having neat plant beds containing four different varieties and colors of lettuce along with an equal number and variety of radishes required the purchase of 8 seed packets while a customer was kicked back in front of the fire. But when it came time to put rake and hoe to good use, that same customer would decide that a pack each of black-seeded Simpson lettuce and scarlet globe radishes were all they really needed and had time to fool with.

And so we bided our time, did we enterprising Adams Brothers. Our seeds might arrive from Quaker Land, ready for market, on a sunny day in late January but we knew that the very best of gardens are planted only in the mind.

And the very best of those take shape when little boys, dressed in heavy overcoats and winter caps with the earflaps down, come stomping snow off their boots on your front porch and knocking at your door in the middle of a wintry February storm to see if you’d like to buy some seed.

“Witch”

(Cont. from A2)

vailed and frightened the doctor away.

According to legend, then-future president Andrew Jackson owned property along the Red River and had heard of the Bell Witch, and came to call on the Bell family. All of the wagons in his party became stuck by an unseen force. After examining the wheels and having the horses to pull harder, along with having several men to push, Jackson exclaimed, “By the Eternal, boys, this is the witch!” The witch replied, “All right, General, let the wagons move on. I will see you again tonight.” The wagons started to move on their own.

Later that night while camping, a self-proclaimed “witch hunter” began to brag about his many witch encounters. General Andrew Jackson whispered, “I’ll bet this fellow is an errant coward. By the Eternal, I do wish the thing would come. I want to see him run.”

Soon the witch arrived as promised stating, “All right, General, I am on hand and ready for business.” The witch told the witch hunter to shoot as he had planned with a silver bullet. The gun wouldn’t fire, and the hunter was struck by an unseen force. He claimed to feel the sensation of being stuck with needles and being grabbed by the nose and flung from the tent. The witch stated, “How the devil did he run and beg. I’ll bet he won’t come through here again with his old horse pistol to shoot me. I guess that’s enough fun for tonight, General, and you can go to bed now. I will come again tomorrow night and show you another rascal in the crowd.” Jackson and his party returned to Nashville soon after.

The source of the Bell Witch is thought to be Mary Catherine “Kate” Batts, who was thought to practice black magic due to her strange ways and improper word usage. There was a disagreement between the two families, as the story goes, about the sale of a slave.

There is a cave on the Bell property today, the only original feature from the legends. It was added to the National Historical Registry in 2008. Numerous eerie events have been reported by cave visitors, even today.

Source: Tennessee State Library and Archives-Tennessee Myths and Legends.

An encouraging word:

Good Neighbors are Neighborly

By Howard Coop



It was a little thing, but little things can, and often do, under certain circumstances, become big things.

In our subdivision, the garbage truck usually runs early on Monday morning. Soon after it runs, most of us go to the curb and take the garbage can to its proper place. One morning I was busy with a number of things that had to be done, and I did not go out to return the garbage can to the garage where it is always kept. Later in the day, I remembered that I had not attended to that little task, and I prepared to do so. When I raised the garage door, I was pleasantly surprised. The garbage can I planned to retrieve was sitting beside the door. A neighbor, performing an act of neighborly kindness, had taken the time to do a little thing for me that needed to be done, and I was grateful for that act of helpfulness.

That afternoon, I saw my neighbor, and making an assumption, I kiddingly re-

minded him that, by some mysterious means, my garbage can had appeared at my garage door. He smiled, and I thanked him for taking the time to perform a neighborly act of helpfulness for me.

But that wasn’t the first time I had been the recipient of an act of neighborly helpfulness, and I am sure that I am not the only person in the neighborhood to receive one. Acts of neighborly helpfulness occur with an amazing frequency, for in our neighborhood---and in most neighborhoods---good neighbors are neighborly. On a regular basis and without waiting to be asked for help, neighbors willingly help one another with little things and big things.

An individual, writing anonymously, said it well: “Let us talk about our neighbors, but let’s be as neighbors should. Let’s not talk about their failures--Let us tell of something good.” And there is much good that can be said.

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

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FFA Chili Supper and Auction

The 2013 Rockcastle County FFA Chili Supper and Auction will be held Sat., Feb. 9th from 5:30 to 6:30 in the high school. Chili Supper tickets are \$5 per person. Silent bids for the auction items can be made via email until 6 p.m. and the live auction will begin at 6:30. Contact Sherri McKinney sherri.mckinney@rockcastle.kyschools.us for a list of auction items and to place silent bids. Please come out and support Rockcastle County FFA. All proceeds are used to support FFA students in their many activities.

Volunteers Needed

Help your community, join the Brodhead Fire Department. Applications available at www.brodheadfire.com or at Brodhead City Hall.

February is “Love My Library” Month

February is “Love my Library Month”. Return overdue items to the Rockcastle County Public Library during the month of February and all overdue fees will be forgiven.

Bookmobile Schedule

Mon., Feb. 11th: No service. **Tues., Feb. 12th:** Calloway Red Hill, Livingston, Lamero and Pine Hill. **Wed., Feb. 13th:** Maple Grove, Orlando, Climax.

Little League Sign-ups

Little League Sign-ups will be every Saturday at Mt. Vernon Elementary from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Costs: Baseball, \$50 - each additional child is \$40; tee-ball, \$35 per child; girls softball, \$50. Contact Jerry Saylor at 606-392-1539.

Brodhead Alliance Committee

The BAC will hold its regular monthly meeting Thursday, Feb. 7th at 6 p.m. at Brodhead City Hall. Please note the change in location. The public is welcome.

Turkey Shoot

Livingston Fire and Rescue will host a Turkey Shoot Saturday, February 9th at 10 a.m. at David Mason’s Garage, north of Livingston on US 25. 410-16-20-12 gauge shot guns only. \$2.00 a shot. Shells furnished by the fire department. Concessions will be sold.

Kiwanis Meeting Change

The Kiwanis Thursday luncheon meetings are held at the Tea Cup Cafe, Main St., Mt. Vernon.

VFW News

During the winter months, the post will be closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday.

Brodhead Lodge Meeting

The Brodhead Masonic Lodge #556 meets every third Saturday at 7 p.m. on Main Street in Brodhead above Brodhead Pharmacy.

RCDB Meeting Notice

The Rockcastle County Development Board meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at noon at the Rockcastle County Courthouse 3rd floor Technology Center. The public is invited to attend.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. behind Our Lady of Mt. Vernon Church on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon.

Kiwanis Club Meetings

The Rockcastle Kiwanis Club meets every Thursday at noon at The Renfro Valley Lodge in Renfro Valley. Everyone welcome.

Historical Society Hours

The Rockcastle Historical Society is open on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the RTEC garage building.

Sons of Confederate Veterans

The Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV), Rockcastle Camp, meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. on the third floor of the county courthouse. For more information, contact David Owens at 606-256-9870.

American Legion Post 71

American Legion Post 71 meets the second Thursday at 7 p.m. of each month at the Back Porch Restaurant in the Renfro Valley Village. Commander David Owens invites all Rockcastle veterans to join this organization that honors American soldiers, sailors and airmen.



Dave and Albert Griffin as youngsters.

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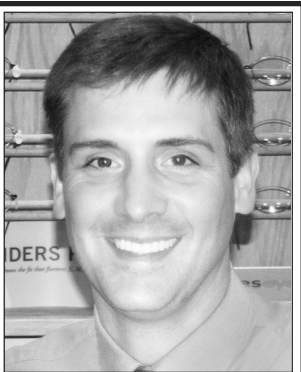
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