



The Way I See it

By
Doug Ponder

Last Thursday, hundreds of Rockcastle Countians met on the courthouse lawn for the 62nd annual National Day of Prayer.

The event is held each year as people meet to spend time in prayer for our churches, families, government, military and schools.

Guest speaker Kent Ostrander, who is the Executive Director of the Foundation of Kentucky, spoke about how Christians need to step out in their faith and witness to a lost and dying world.

After the event was over and I had come back to the office, I found myself thinking what can we do better, as Christians, to reach those who are backslidden or lost? While pondering on this question, one word kept coming to my mind and that word was "compassion."

Compassion is defined as the understanding for the suffering of others and the urgency in wanting to help them come out of that suffering.

In turn, as a Christian we should show compassion for those who are lost and we should have an urgency to share the gospel with them in hope that they will trust in Jesus Christ and get saved so they won't have to spend an eternity in hell when they die, which is the highest degree of suffering!

Unfortunately, I think many of us Christians often fail in this category of showing compassion when we witness to others and a lot of times I believe we fail at it miserably.

Last May, I wrote an article about the tornados and storms that rolled through

East Bernstadt, leveling hundreds of homes as it also killed a few people and injured numerous others.

Fortunately, only minor structure damage was reported in Rockcastle County and only one storage building was destroyed in Brodhead as a result of the storms. The other good news we received was there were no deaths or injuries in Rockcastle County.

Trying to be clever, I used the phrase "Rockcastle County is spared from Mother Nature's wrath" in both my headline and my article.

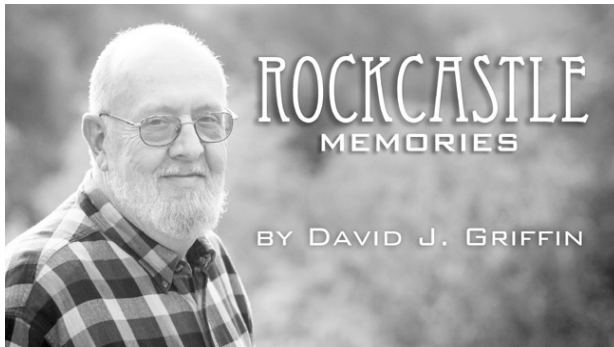
After the article was written, a prominent person in our community, who I had known all my life, told me I was disgracing God in that article as the weather came from God and not Mother Nature.

My reply to him was that I had no intentions of disgracing God and if I did I was sorry. I told him I was just simply trying to be clever and use something catchy to make the article more appealing to readers.

I remember us shrugging it off and making simple small talk with each other before both of us eventually said goodbye and hung up the phone. Truth is, I was actually offended by what he had said to me but I never told him about it and I still haven't till this day. But I now realize that I was actually disgracing God with that statement.

During the time of this conversation, I was what many would consider a backslidden Christian, as I

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1960's Slang Terms and Phrases

Teenagers during the 60's generation, like others before us, attempted to set ourselves apart from the older generation in a number of ways. One way was by coining words or phrases in a manner that might put a twist on original meanings – in other words, to use language in a way that had not been done before that time. We wanted to be unique and have a language all of our own.

For example, the word bookin' meant to go real fast in a car, and the term cruising meant driving up and down the streets looking for members of the opposite sex.

I grew up in a family where language and slang terms were closely scrutinized. As dedicated Christians, my mother and my grandparents tolerated no foul language, nor any vulgar terms.

I can only recall Pop and Mommie Katie ever using one questionable phrase each. When Mommie Katie was severely agitated at someone, she would say, "They are the guts of the earth!" When she made that remark, we all knew she was extremely disturbed, and we gave her a wide berth. Likewise, when Pop felt the need to express himself in a distressed manner, he would say, "Hell-O Pete!" If you questioned his use of the term, he would justify his language by claiming, "I was just saying hello!"

There are many slang terms that began in the 60's, and there is obviously not space to cover them thoroughly in one column; but there were a few that meant something special to me.

Several of the expressions related to our world of automobiles; they were our babies. If a car had bucket seats, we called them birth control seats. If we said someone was burning rubber or they were peeling out, then the driver was leaving black rubber marks on the highway in a swift get away. Our cars were often referred to as rides, as in "He's got a cool ride." If one of our rides

was pretty, had neat wheels, but no power, we said it was all show and no go! And of course there was shotgun – which is what you had to call out in order to claim rights to the front seat of the passenger side of the car.

A number of our terms meant something was that was great by us. Some examples might be: bad, bitchin', cool, or far-out. If a girl was extremely good looking, we would say that she was fine as wine, a fox, or maybe just groovy, meaning really cool.

Some of our slang terms were not original with us but were used often. Some samples might be: calling a bottle opener a church key, a bald man might have a chrome dome, to crash meant to go to bed, to drop a dime meant to use the pay phone, and a five-finger discount was an item that was acquired by theft.

We even had labels for items that we used or wore on a regular basis. Such as: sunglasses were shades, our clothes were referred to as threads, calf-high slacks which were worn by girls were called pedal pushers – very close to being what today are called "capris." And, of course, our money was our bread.

There was other jargon that most of us used that had a meaning all of its own. If you were listening to our conversations, you might hear us say that something was special or boss, to take it easy was to hang loose, a hunk was what a girl called a good looking guy, a padiddle was a car with only one headlight; if we were leaving the scene or area, we said we were going to split; and finally, if we were hav-

(Cont. to A4)

Points East

By Ike Adams



I know the Derby has already been run but these spring horse racing meets at Churchill Downs and Keeneland almost always cause me to start reminiscing about the races we Blair Branch Boys used to conduct by putting mining ponies to good use on week-ends.

I haven't tried as hard as I probably should to find it, but it seems to me that very little has been written about the use of, or, for that matter, the importance of ponies and small mules in the early days of eastern Kentucky's evolving coal industry.

I am not sure whether or not the practice of using draft animals to pull coal from deep inside the mountains to earth's surface was outlawed, or if it simply became economically and productively impractical. I believed the practice originated in Wales and, by far, the most popular breed of mining ponies was called "Welsh".

I do know that the very last mining ponies on Blair Branch left in 1960 and that my Dad worked in the last little mine that still used them. By that point in time, small mines relied on rub-

ber-wheeled, electric shuttle buggies which did not require the time-consuming, labor-intensive practice of installing steel rail tracks to transport coal from inside the mine.

But in the early days, coal was hand loaded by shovel at the coal face into "cars" that hauled about 2 tons each and pulled along the tracks by sturdy ponies and small mules.

By the mid-seventies almost all underground mining relied on conveyor belts to get coal to the surface and the use of wheeled vehicles became obsolete.

During the fifties Dad provided room and board for anywhere between four and a dozen mining ponies and mules at a time in our big barn. Two of them were used at the mine in which he worked and the others were used at mines nearby. The coal companies delivered hay and sweet feed to the barn and our job was to keep the animals fed and watered.

And, we boys believed, to make sure they were properly exercised on week-ends.

Racing the ponies actu-

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ABSOLUTE ESTATE Auction

of the late
Mr. Nathan Clark and
Mrs. Katherine Clark's

60 Acres More or Less, Bedford Stone House & Barns

(Selling in its entirety)

Saturday, May 11th • 10:00 a.m.

Ballard Parsons Highway, Mt. Vernon, KY
(Roundstone/Wildie area of Rockcastle County)

Location: Turn off of Hwy 25 between Mt. Vernon and Berea, near Roundstone Elementary School, onto Hwy 1766 (Ballard Parsons Highway). Follow Ballard Parsons Hwy approximately 1 mile to the property.

In order to settle the estate of their late mother, Mrs. Katherine Clark, her daughters have commissioned our firm to sell this good, bottom land farm for the high dollar.

The farm is improved with a ranch style Bedford Stone house. The house features 3 bedrooms, Kitchen/Dining area, Utility room, and 1 1/2 baths. Amenities include: sunroom, electric heat, central air, plus laminate floors in the Living room and Kitchen/Dining room area and carpet in all of the bedrooms. Besides the house there's also a 60 x 80 combination hay and livestock barn, a 24 x 90 metal garage/shop building and a corn crib.

Note: The farm will sell in its entirety (not in tracts) and contains approx. 60 acres, most of which is productive bottom land.

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Come, join all the fun at our first annual

Founders Day Trail Festival

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Friday, May 10th

Festival and vendors open at 5 p.m. • Opening Ceremony at the Trailhead Stage at 6 p.m. • Opening Prayer by Bro. Billy Medley • Life Flight Helicopter Air Display at 6:30 p.m. • Speakers: Mayor Jason Medley, Mt. Vernon Mayor Mike Bryant, Grand Marshall Lucille Carloftis and County Judge/Executive Buzz Carrloftis at 7 p.m. • Bluegrass/Gospel Band Sagegrass on the Trailhead Stage at 8 p.m. • Dogwood Ridge - David's Tire Bluegrass Stage at 8 p.m. • Hot Pursuit - Climax Water Sound Stage at 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 11th

7 a.m.: Pancake breakfast and Triathlon
Registration at Trail Head Stage
8 a.m.: Triathlon begins
10 a.m.: Lumberjack Contest
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Car Show at David's Tire Bluegrass Stage
Noon: Triathlon Awards Ceremony at Trailhead Stage, parade line up
1 p.m.: Parade Begins
2 & 3 p.m.: Bittersweet Cloggers on Soundstage

2 to 9 p.m.: Stage of Stars at Trailhead Stage
3 p.m.: Wacky Boat Race (high water postpones)
4 p.m.: Duck Race (high water postpones)
5 p.m.: Karate Demonstration at Soundstage
6 p.m.: Beauty Pageant at Soundstage
8 p.m.: Medley Boys on Climax Water Soundstage
5 to 9:30 p.m.: Wilderness Road, Level Green, Tidalwave Road & New Generation on David's Tire Bluegrass Stage

10 p.m.: Cake and Fireworks at the Trailhead Stage closes the festival
All during the festival, visit with our Civil War "Living History" Reenactors. Over 50 vendors (food, clothing, arts and crafts etc) and inflatables, games, circus, Indians and hayrides for the kids.

We look forward to seeing you!

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