

# Points East

By Ike Adams



The main drag through the Paint Lick suburb of Lowell is called Old Railroad Grade because it occupies a portion of the real estate on which the tracks from Lancaster to Paint Lick to Richmond once sat. Of course neither Lancaster nor Paint Lick have been within twelve miles of a railroad in nearly a century but that's another story for another time.

So anyway, as you might imagine, our equivalent to a main street is nearly plumb flat and the curves are very gentle except for one little uphill-downhill stretch that bypasses the first tunnel. Charlie Brown Road was, I believe, originally a side track that runs parallel to The Grade for a quarter mile.

The second tunnel actually was in use until the turn of the new century. Daughter Jennifer, Loretta and I drove through it twice a day on our way to and from school and work and all three of us, at one time or another, have had to engage in serious negotiations with drivers headed in the opposite direction as to who had to back up when you met, head-to-head, in the tunnel.

I've actually gotten into terrified little old ladies' cars and backed them up a hundred feet or so to one of the wide spots on each end of the tunnel so that I wouldn't have to back my truck up 200 yards or more.

The tunnel was only just over a tenth of a mile in length but it curved in such a way that you couldn't see daylight from one end to the other and it took a big imagination to determine its width to be even one lane. Passing another vehicle in the tunnel was out of the question. But it shaved two crooked miles off the drive to Lancaster on old Highway 52.

When the new 52 was built in the late 90's, the tunnel was closed and a spur was constructed to connect back to Old Railroad Grade.

Now, for the most part, our road is only used by just over a dozen families who live alongside it, by service vehicles and apparently by the occasional never-dowell trying to outrun the law.

But when we first moved here, it was a popular short cut used by drivers headed west on 52 because it saved both time and distance. The new road solved those problems. I only use Old Railroad now to get to Lancaster when I want to see how my neighbor's gardens are doing or to see if Lois Todd's big mare has a new mule colt.

For the most part, the folks who live here have sense enough to know that 35 mph is about the maximum safe speed for the grade. Even though it's flat as a fritter and reasonably straight, it's just barely wide enough for two vehicles to get past one another and there are a couple of blind intersections that have seen their share of collisions made by even sensible drivers.

Still, at least once or twice a week, while I'm sitting on the porch, I'll see some fool going by at well over 60mph. That's like driving 100 on a full size road.

It's almost always a vehicle with which I am unfamiliar, hence my assumption that it must be someone trying to dodge or outrun the law. Unfortunately, I don't live close enough to the road to get license tag numbers and it would probably be an effort in futility if I did.

If you've never been on Old Railroad Grade, and I would wager that 99% or more of my readers have not, the 5 mile drive from one end to the other is a wonderful way to see what life in the country is all about. Just be careful. Keep your speed to 25mph and a sharp eye out for children playing close to the road, for dogs sleeping on it and for livestock that somehow got over or through the pasture fence.

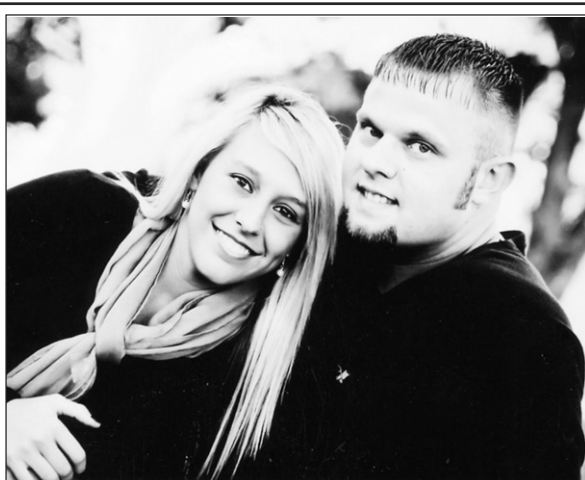


## 50th Wedding Anniversary

Former Brodhead resident Thomas R. Blevins and his wife Victoria celebrated their 50th Anniversary with 150 family members and friends on July 6th. Celebration was hosted by their sons Reed and John at Reed's home.

Thomas is the son of former residents of Brodhead, the late Frank and Lola Blevins. He is the brother of the late Betty Sue Holcomb of Brodhead and Jerry Blevins of Maretburg. Cousin to John Holbrook of Renfro Valley.

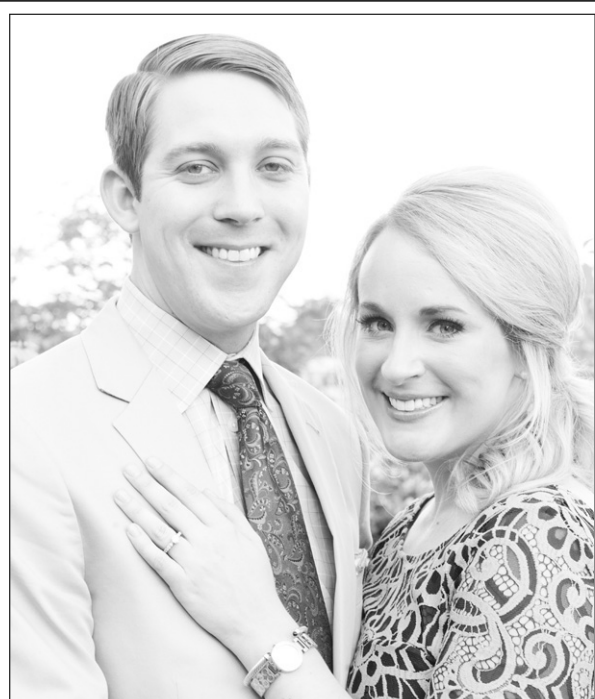
To top off the festivities there were surprise visits from niece Linda Burton and her grand-daughter Megan Burton of Brodhead and nephew Chuck and his family from Alaska. Not only surprise to the couple but to rest of family members too.



## Kirby - McHargue

Howard and Lucille McHargue, along with Thomas and Lisa Kirby, would like to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Wesley McHargue and Miranda Kirby.

The couple will be united in marriage on July 20, 2013 at Northside Baptist Church. All family and friends are invited to attend. A reception will follow immediately after the ceremony.



## Ryan - Worley

Andrew and Scarlett Ryan announce the engagement of their daughter, Langdon Stites Ryan, to Preston Clark Worley, son of Ed and Jamie Worley of Richmond, and grandson of James and Thelma Mullins of Mount Vernon.

Miss Ryan is a 2007 graduate of Transylvania University where she earned a B.A. in English, while Mr. Worley graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2007 with a B.A. in History.

Miss Ryan and Mr. Worley met at the University of Kentucky College of Law, from which they graduated in 2010. Both are now practicing attorneys in Lexington, Mr. Worley at McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie and Kirkland and Miss Ryan at Golden and Walters.

The wedding ceremony will be held at First Christian Church of Winchester on November 16, 2013.

*Photograph compliments of Allison May Photography*

Happy 11th  
Birthday  
Hunter Spivey  
on July 19, 2013



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## Strange... But True?

by: Tonya J. Cook



### The Elusive Unicorn II

The elusive unicorn was examined in last week's column of "Strange...but True?" and this week the series will take another look at this most unusual creature. It is noted several times in the Bible, but is now reduced to being only a myth, much like a fairy or creature of legend.

The unicorn is often portrayed in medieval art, stemming from biblical and other ancient sources. The unicorn is used as a symbol of Christ and is often pictured with the Virgin Mary. The "Annunciation with the Unicorn Polyptych" is a prime example of this, as can be seen in the National Museum of Warsaw, Poland, in the piece of artwork from 1480. According to many myths, the unicorn can only be captured by a virgin.

The unicorn has come to symbolize a variety of beliefs. The unicorn symbolizes chaste love and faithful marriage. According to many classical authors, the unicorn's horn if used as a cup can neutralize poisons. The horn is said to be made of alicorn and has magical properties as well as medicinal purposes. Fake alicorn powder from the tusks of various animals was sold in Europe as late as 1741. Cups made from the fake tusks were also given as gifts for kings.

In heraldry, the unicorn is often depicted with a goat's

cloven hooves and beard, lion's tail, and a slender horn on its head. One of the best-known is from the royal coat of arms of Scotland and the United Kingdom. Two unicorns support the Scottish arms; a lion and a unicorn support the U. K. arms, representing the 1707 union of England and Scotland.

In 1663, the mayor of Magdelug, Otto Von Guericke, had a reconstructed fake unicorn made from the bones of animals found in the Unicorn Cave in Germany's Harg Mountains.

Seals dating back to 2500 BC have been unearthed in the Indus Valley (what is now Pakistan, parts of India, Afghanistan, and Iran) depicting an animal that resembles a unicorn.

As you can see, the unicorn has been around for many centuries, either in reality or in the hopes and imaginations of many civilizations. We may never know for certain if the unicorn ever existed, it may only exist as long as people desire it to exist in art, writings, in their hearts, and in the pages of the Bible, which is a very accurate source.

Sources: Wikipedia

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