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Tidbits of Kentucky Folklore

By Grace Wilson, Ph.D.
WESTERN KENTUCKY TEACHERS COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KY.

The term "Old Kentucky" means to most people a sort of affectionate name for Kentucky, like "merry England" and "gay Paree." To eight counties of the state, or at least to the older inhabitants of these counties, the name is a matter of course and designates the region of the state, nothing more, nothing less. These eight counties are Calloway, Marshall, McCracken, Ballard, Graves, Carlisle, Hickman and Fulton, the counties that comprise the Jackson Purchase. The reason for this term is sufficiently obvious to inhabitants of that section, for the Purchase was not opened to settlers until 1818, twenty-seven years after Kentucky became a state and forty-five years after the first settlements in the Bluegrass area.

When Daniel Boone and his contemporaries first came into Kentucky, and for long after, the area west of the Tennessee River in what are now both Kentucky and Tennessee was owned by the Indians. In 1818 a negotiation was entered into by commissioners appointed by the United States government, and as a result this "last west" was added to the two already in the division of the territory. Indians claim fell to Tennessee, but the Kentucky line was pushed down considerably when the boundaries were made. It thus comes about that the Jackson Purchase in Kentucky is almost an island, as large and nearly five times as far from the Ohio River to the north, the Mississippi, to the west, and the Tennessee to the east. Until very recent years there was not a highway leading across any of these rivers, so that travel from that part of the state to any other part was expensive and, at times, impossible. With the building of the bridges on U. S. Highways 60 and 68 there was opened up an area that long felt itself a sort of stepchild to the great mother that, for all love as our own Kentucky is.

Since pioneer conditions remained in that section down to my own time, it was easy to feel that the older settled places of the state are ancient by comparison. Hence "Old Kentucky" as we used it. Only a very small percentage of the people had ever been in Old Kentucky, for it was much easier to visit Tennessee, which had no boundary river to form a barrier. Railroads were built in such ways that our communication was north and south rather than east and west. Our newspapers came from St. Louis or Memphis. Even "Uncle's bread," ordered for special occasions at Fielding, came with St. Louis stickers on it. Rarely, but only rarely, did we see the Louisville-Journal but fairly early we begin to subscribe for the Home and Farm, which had as one of its contributors that excellent interpreter of the old South, Major Charles Henry Smith. "Billy Arp" Addresses for Henry W. Grady and his efforts to heal the wounds occasioned by the Civil War brought into some of the homes The Atlanta Constitution. To most of my generation Georgia and Missouri seemed nearer physically and spiritually than the rest of our own state.

Besides the geographical conditions that isolated us in the Jackson Purchase there was another fact that made our interests some what foreign to Old Kentucky's very large percentage of our population had come from Southern Illinois, ultimately, usually with a stopover in Tennessee. There were people from other parts of Kentucky in certain areas, but evidently they were regarded as the exception, as they always remark, if about the fact. North Carolina was a long distance away, if anyone ever was back to see our folks. I never heard of it in our immediate section. Thrown on its own resources for over a century the area developed or kept its own way of doing and saying things. And thus a few things about geography kept people preserved for no older time and its manners and customs.

WILD LIFE OF KENTUCKY
By Roger Barbour
MOREHEAD STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

American soil, good, rich earth, is flowing from farms at an appalling rate. We need only look about to see for oneself. Wasteland—supporting nothing but weeds; huge raw gullies, down which flow tons of fertile soil. Hundreds of once fertile Kentucky acres are now practically worthless as farm land. Authorities figure that 3 billion tons of soil are washed from farm in the United States every year. Such a figure is almost beyond human comprehension. To haul such a mass of earth would require a train 475,000 miles long, or long enough to encircle the earth 18 times at the equator.

At the present time, approximately 50,000,000 acres of once fertile soil is now ruined for practical farming. An additional 50,000,000 acres in almost the same shape. According to the latest date available, in addition to these 100,000,000 acres practically ruined, there are 200,000,000 acres rapidly approaching this state. A hundred million acres is as much land as there is in all of Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, and Maryland together. It is enough land to provide 1,250,000 families with 80 acre farms.

It has been estimated that there are only 610,000,000 acres in the United States that are farmed, or can ever be farmed.

From these astounding facts, anyone can see that something must be done to prevent this loss, and it must be done immediately. Before beginning to correct the situation, it is necessary to learn the causes. To learn the answer to this question, it is only necessary to look about us. We see hillstripped of their natural cover with no provision made to care for the water that runs off the hill. We see fields lying all winter with no vestige of protective cover. These are two of the major causes of soil erosion in Eastern Kentucky.

Did you ever stop to think why floods are so common in Eastern Kentucky? It is simply because no provision is made to prevent the rain from running off the farm lands into the streams. Soil conservation practices will not prevent all floods, but they will go a long way toward reducing both their frequency and volume.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, D. D.
Dean of The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

Lesson for May 5

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ISAIAH GIVES GOD'S INVITATION

LESSON TEXT—Isaiah 55:1-11.
GOLDEN TEXT—Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near—Isaiah 55:6.

Thirsty? A thousand signboards will tell you what to drink to refresh yourself. Most of the suggestions are there only to excite thirst, and often their proffered lift is a push downward and their refreshment is only a prelude to destruction. But there is one drink that is universally present. Throughout the Bible thirst is used to express man's need of and longing for God. He is a spiritual being made in the likeness and image of God and intended for fellowship with Him. Never will he be fully satisfied until he comes to God and meets his hunger and thirst with that "which is good."

The invitation of Isaiah is presented under the figure of a purchase. "Come ye, buy." In carrying out that thought we suggest that there are four steps in buying and using anything.

I. Listen (v. 1).

"Ho, everyone that thirsteth." This is as Spurgeon says "the cry of a salesman at a fair." Amid the confusing sounds and disturbing sights surrounding his customer the salesman must make himself known and catch the interest of his customer. The latter must listen to the offer and the recommendation of the things for sale.

This is an unusual offer. Isaiah invites the user to make his purchase "without money and without price." Does that mean that the thing for sale is cheap or worthless? Far from it, for its priceless. Salvation is free for the sinner, but it cost God the price of His only begotten Son. It is because Jesus paid the price of redemption that we may have it freely without cost.

II. Compare (vv. 2-5).

A good shopper compares values lest he make a bad bargain or buy that for which he has no real need. What is the situation of the one who is invited to buy what God offers? He is a sinner who has been foolishly seeking to satisfy himself with what the world has to offer. With money he has tried to buy happiness, contentment, recognition. The bread of this world will never satisfy and the water of this world only decreases one's thirst. (See John 4:12, 14).

"Compare what God has to offer, "that which is good," (v. 2). Here is life (v. 3) assured by the promise of One who made an "everlasting covenant" with David, assuring him of His "sure mercies." It results in ultimate glory (v. 5).

The one who honestly makes such a comparison is quickly satisfied that the time has come to

III. Buy (vv. 6-9).

Penniless, the sinner may "buy" without money. He may call upon God, for God has already called him. He may seek God, because He like the good shepherd has been out seeking the lost sheep (Matt. 18:12).

While man can certainly not save himself, there are things which God expects the sinner to do. First, he is to "seek the Lord." Secondly, "let the wicked forsake his way." Finally, he is to "turn unto the Lord." Forsake is used in the sense that the Lord he is at once conscious of his sin. What should be done with it? Forsake it in full thought and deed (v. 7) and God will "abundantly pardon." Observe that men may by their sinful rejection of Him drive themselves back to a place where they not only do not listen to God's call, but actually do not want to hear it. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found" (v. 6).

IV. Enjoy (vv. 10, 11).

Some foolish folk buy things and put them away where someone else or anyone else can enjoy them. Some worry so much about that price they paid or are so concerned about the precious money that they purchased that they find no pleasure in using it.

Salvation is not a thing to be hidden or put on a shelf. In fact, it is not a thing at all, but a life. It is to grow, to bud, to blossom and to bear fruit. How? By being ready to receive God's Word which comes down like the rain from the heavens, refreshing, encouraging, and fructifying the life of the believer.

God's Word never returns to Him void. He prospers in its accomplishment. Do we prosper. But pray tell me, if we never study it or even read it, how can it help our lives? We "grow in grace" only as we grow "in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18). We grow in knowledge as we study God's Word. Thus we come to enjoy our Christian life.

Healing Powers

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits and they were healed every one.—Acts 5:16.

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Beef Production

A study which the Kentucky College of Agriculture made of beef cattle raising showed that it cost an average of $39.13 to feed a cow until the calf was weaned. The cost ranged from $19.41 to $52, the lower figure applying to farmers who fed less grain and more low-grade and low-priced roughage, such as lespedeza hay, fodder, silage and straw.

The study was made in Union, Todd, Christian and Logan counties, in order to determine the profitableness of raising beef cattle on farms in that area.

Points brought out include the importance of the milk production of the cow, where the calf is sold directly from the cow. It was also indicated that the earlier dropped calves gave higher net returns than those dropped later.

Stockmen raising the improved Hereford and their friends and neighbors are following a systematic breeding plan. Their goal was a calf for every cow. Calling for the proper care and giving the herd diligent attention at calving time were shown to be important means for achieving that goal.

THE GARDEN

BEANS AND SWEET CORN

By John S. Gardner, Kentucky College of Agriculture

Despite the backward season Kentucky has been more than enjoying many gardeners have managed to make their fare more palatable by the delightful vegetables but the summer drought is in the making. The "program" is already used for the planting of beans for a half dozen their prime, plantings must be made during July. The planting schedule by which the family can use them.

For bean crops, such a program would be to plant every two weeks beginning in July to supply the family with beans for two weeks from seeds gathered throughout the state an average would seem to be about 10 days.

However, supplying the summer table is not all a good garden should do. Provision must be made for canning for the winter. Again of course, the family should be planning that canned beans are to be delicious when they are opened and that a serving is three-quarters of a pint. Hence the number of the plantings should be doubled. Because of the somewhat exacerbated fear somewhat resembling the Mexican bean beetle they try to plant more than twice as much as before this insect becomes numerous. However, if fertilizer is used, particularly with respect to potash, the damage from the Mexican beetle becomes quite as tractable as those insects whose control has been considered. The canning surplus may well come from the large and fully planted, doubled.

The stringless sorts, Stringless Greenpod and Full Measure may be used for canning. The latter is dealt with more character than the former.

As for sweet corn, same applies as to beans. Time for planting is little, however, the cloud of worse than the bean beetle. Plantings at one time a number of varieties of sweet corn are advisable.

Assuming that the Early Adam has planted, the family will be lucky if it will to plant now the whole summer. Stowell's Evergreen, Golden Bantam, Early Black Cross Bantam or Kings Cross Bantam, Early Adam, Early Black Cross Bantam, Early Adam, Early Black Cross Bantam, Early Adam, Early Black