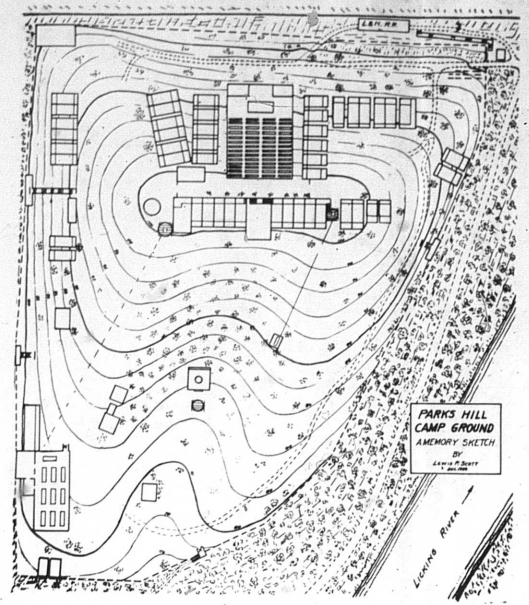


# Memories Of Parks Hill

by Mary Potts Snapp



Around the middle of the 19th century, there stood a high hill in Nicholas county overlooking the Licking River, much the same as before the white man came to Kentucky, deserted and quiet except for the music of the birds in the big beech trees.

Later, the old Kentucky Central Railroad was built, and the Rev. S.S. Deering, then in the Carlisle Circuit of the Methodist Church, decided this hill would be a good place for a religious Camp Meeting, for the train could bring people from as far as Covington, Lexington and Maysville. He arranged for Parks, Dorsey & Company to build a shed and some cottages, brought the best of preachers and for two weeks each summer held religious services here. It was so well attended that special trains were run to carry the crowds.

In the Mercury of Aug. 7, 1884, a list of the families camping included my grandfather, for my grandmother would not have wanted to miss that "Methodist Preaching."

A few years later a group of young ladies (including my mother) rented a cottage with Mrs. Kennedy as chaperone, and regardless of their very decorous behavior, they had much fun. The young men came in on the evening train and sat with them during services and walked them back to their cottage.

Some time later the Mercury ran this item about Camp Meeting: "The grounds have been greatly improved for this year's gathering... the shed has been enlarged and the seat room, many new cottages have been built, the ground fenced with plank, and a new good dining hall has substituted the old one. Ample accommodations for everybody will be provided. Trains will carry people at reduced rates, and living on the grounds will cost: single meals 50 cents, board per day \$1.00; cottages for the whole term from \$8.00 to \$12.00 furnished with good bunks and clean straw—occupants furnishing their own bedding. Come everybody, and worship with us. S.S. Deering, W.T. Poynter, M. Evans."

In the early 1900 years, my parents had married and started Camp Meeting, taking on children, for several summers. It had become by then more of a Christmas type program. The more affluent campers had their meals in the dining hall, but we "made do" with a small coal-stove and the food cooked at home.

One summer our cottage had a back porch where we ate our meals and each evening at supper we watched across the Licking Valley for the train to come in sight around the bend and stop at the Pleasant Valley water tank to refill.

Another year we rented one of the row cottages built on the hillside like stairsteps, and so close to the shed (which we now called an auditorium) that after being put to bed at night, we fell asleep to the droning voice of the lecturer or quartet singing "Kentucky Babe!" Always there was a big bunch of pennycrabs hanging above our bunk to drive away the mosquitoes.

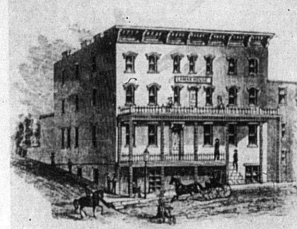
Runby was a special day for which clean white stockings and your best dress were saved, and after a lengthy sermon in the auditorium, we joined the long line that led to the Dining Hall. Uncle Woody Darnall and his wife managed the hall and he stood at the turn-stile to take the money. There were long tables with white cloths and each water glass had its rolled up napkin. When all were inside and at their places, Uncle Woody would tap on the glass for silence, then everyone sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Then—the delicious dinner. Those were the days!

Not many years later, the Chautauqu program came to us in a big tent in the Court House Yard, and the trains no longer carried families to Camp Meeting at Parks Hill. It was sold for \$2,000.00. The cottages were torn down or left to sink back into the earth and it became much like it was in the beginning—quiet with only the music of the birds in the old beeches. Like the song:

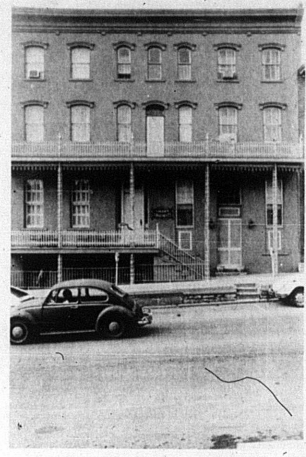
"All things shall perish under the sky, Music alone shall live, never to die."

PARKS HILL CAMP GROUND MEMORY SKETCH

# 94 Years Serving Carlisle-Nicholas County



Lamar House  
G. Cheatham, proprietor



Vaughn Apartments  
James T. Vaughn, proprietor

Congratulations  
NICHOLAS COUNTY  
on your  
175th Anniversary  
1799 - 1974

Almost a century has passed since 1880 when the Lamar House, now the Vaughn Apartments, was built on West Main Street by Green Cheatham. Few businesses of that era still remain in Carlisle today, even fewer remain essentially the same, and none remain in the same building. But this imposing structure still stands as it did then—a monument to a great past. Though its name has been changed several times during the course of its years, it has, nevertheless, continuously served the people of Carlisle-Nicholas County.

Named Hotel Lamar by Mr. Cheatham [no one seems to know where he got the name] the three-story brick building contains 20 rooms, plus a long inviting veranda, usually full of multi-colored flowers from early Spring until frost. The building has undergone remodeling several times. Around 1890, modern conveniences and a fire escape were added and the office moved to street level. In the early 1920's the old lobby was raised to the level of the old dining room and the building remodeled into a lovely apartment house. The basement, now an apartment, was once used by "drummers" as a show room, and in the early 1950's was used as a cream station because the show room was no longer needed.

### Good Food Abounded

W. S. Feaback was known far and wide as a rank prohibitionist, and he would never permit alcoholic beverages to be served in the hotel. Also he served the very best food to be found in a hotel. Traveling men soon learned that all cooking was supervised by Mrs. Feaback and her daughters and that Charity Marks began cooking there in 1909 when she was barely tall enough to reach the big coal range. For 43 years she fed the public with genuine southern cooking, yes suh! She retired in 1952 when the hotel quit serving meals.

### Only a Few Owners

Mr. Cheatham was proprietor of the Lamar Hotel until the summer of 1882 when he decided he wanted to move to Texas. Attending the great Centennial at Blue Lick Springs he met his old friend Windsor Scott Feaback who lived on a hill overlooking the valley and ran a mercantile business in the thriving resort.

During their conversation Mr. Cheatham remarked that he would move to Texas if he had a buyer for the hotel. No sooner said than done. The sale was made at once and Mr. Feaback became owner and proprietor of Hotel Lamar—tired of counting eggs, the little store could "go to blazes" for he now

owned a hotel in Carlisle and his four daughters would have the advantage of "higher education." Soon the family decided it was the Feaback Hotel and that was what it should be called, so from then until 1960 Carlisle boasted of the Feaback Hotel.

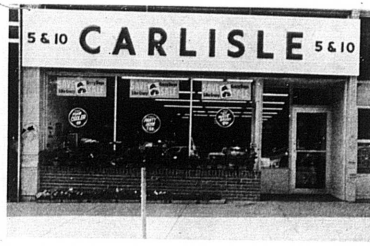
The Feaback Hotel remained in the family for 78 years, being owned by the descendants of Windsor Scott Feaback, some of whom were his daughters, Mrs. Perie Young and Mrs. Lula Cheatham. Johnny Feaback, a nephew, among a thousand and one other things, acted as valet and nurse to George Young, a son-in-law, who was a valuable assistant in the management of the hotel for many years.

In 1960, Ray Flora bought the old hotel, and remodeled it into six apartments, calling it the Flora Hotel.

### The Modern-Day Proprietor

James T. Vaughn bought the apartment house in 1974, and it is now appropriately named the Vaughn Apartments. Mr. Vaughn, the modern-day proprietor, is proud to be the owner of such a historic, yet modern apartment house, and he hopes that it will continue to serve the people of Carlisle-Nicholas County for another 94 years and longer.

We were looking for a growing, prospering community to locate our store... and we found yours.



Joyce and Carroll Wallace, Owners

There are a lot of important details to consider before locating a store in any community. We have to be sure the community shows signs of growth. We have to know what types of people may be shopping and what we'll need to stock to meet their personal and household needs.

As we move into our second year of location here in Carlisle in Nicholas County we want to thank all our faithful customers for a great opening year. We're proud to serve Nicholas County and surrounding counties with quality products and fast friendly service.

If you've yet to shop Carlisle 5&10, consider this an invitation to visit us and just browse. We're sure you'll appreciate our wide selection and discount prices.

**Carlisle 5 & 10**  
Main St.



Group of people in Mather's Woods, located on Old Paris Pike

## Bowles' Grocery

is proud to be a part of  
Nicholas County's  
175th Birthday Celebration



Vaughn's Laudromat in Millersburg opened during this Kentucky Bicentennial Year to serve the people of this area.

This page sponsored by  
**JAMES T. VAUGHN, BUILDING CONTRACTOR**