

Joe Creason:

'Kentucky's most memorable and characteristic storyteller'

By John Davidson
Countless thousands of Kentuckians are still finding it hard to break an early morning habit they developed throughout the years—that of waking up to the wit and humor of Joe Creason. In his column for the Louisville Courier-Journal, Joe Creason gave daily insight into Kentuckians' human nature, their understated crossroads humor, politics, speech, folklore and slow-paced way of life—the characteristics that distinguish him.

Kentuckians from being a native of any other state. He often wrote about the storytellers, but he himself was perhaps Kentucky's most memorable and characteristic storyteller. When he died of a heart attack over a year ago at the age of 56, he left a fittingly eulogized man in a cartoon depicting two angels floating around Heaven saying, "Hurry up, Creason's telling another whopper."



Tale swappers

Joe Creason, center, swapped tales with two men in front of his exhibit at the Salute to Kentucky held at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., in the summer of 1973.

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But, his constantly ringing office and home telephones brought the inspiration and humorous anecdotes for his short vignettes on Kentucky life. The contacts he made in each of Kentucky's 120 counties while traveling as a feature writer for the Courier-Journal Sunday Magazine remembered him through the years and called him each time they thought of a funny story for his column.

"People would call Joe at any hour of the day or night," Sheila Creason remembered. "One time a lady called for him and I told her Joe was outside standing on a ladder cleaning out our rain gutters. She said, 'Well, can you call him in? I just thought of a funny story.'"

Her husband being a former sportswriter, Mrs. Creason had to screen his telephone calls when he was engaged in a televised basketball or football game. She remembered that on the day of an important UCLA-Notre Dame basketball game, a lady called and asked if she could drop by the Creason house for Joe to autograph a book for her.

Never one to willingly disappoint anyone, Creason agreed, but asked her to arrive before game time. At the opening tip-off, the lady still had not arrived. At half time, the Creason

anxiously peered out the window hoping she would arrive during the break in the game. She didn't. With the final minutes clicking off the clock and the two teams battling out a close finale, the lady arrived expecting sparkling conversation and attention. Mrs. Creason said that was the only time she can remember her husband being rude with anyone.

Even now, over a year after his death, his friends are still remembering Mrs. Joe Creason said that her husband's friends have been overly kind to her since his death. So many people are respecting his kindnesses that Mrs. Creason says she is becoming "an expert on all the best places to eat in Louisville." She is still writing acknowledgments for kindnesses paid her and laments that she has not had a chance to go through her husband's expansive filing system which he

Saltwell

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kenney and son Greg and Jason of Covington spent Sunday with Mrs. Gladys Kenney. Mr. and Mrs. Billy Koppenger and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Dennis of North Middletown.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson and Mike and Rev. Allen Moran were Friday supper guests of Mrs. Woodrow Gausne and David in Coraie.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Caswell moved from their home in Millersburg to one they purchased in Carlisle the past week.

Miss Andrea Galbraith of Carlisle spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Gary Holter and Mr. and Mrs. Roy J. Snapp and son Eddie of Cincinnati spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Snapp, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Goodman and daughters of Lexington spent the previous Saturday with the Snapps.

Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Brady enjoyed a fish supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doyle and family on Monday night.

Mrs. Beas Morris and Clyde of Ewing spent several days recently with Mrs. Frances Barlow of Carlisle. Mrs. Morris is recuperating from recent surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Holter, Rev. Allen Moran, Jim Wilson and Mrs. Bertie Kurtz were Thursday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Redden of Morehead.

Miss Alma Mattox and Mrs. Bobby Brady were last Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Clender of Pleasant of Henry Livingood at the Pleasant Church on Wednesday afternoon by Rev. Curtis Jones and Rev. Howard Livingood.

Mrs. Billy Koppenger and Mrs. Howard Livingood attended a kitchen accessories party at the home of Mrs. Emmett Dennis of North Middletown on Friday.

Mrs. Gladys Kenney spent the day on Wednesday with Mrs. Ida Martin of Paris honoring Mrs. Martin's 91st birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wilson and Mike and Rev. Allen Moran were entertained in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Wells and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson White. Mrs. Woodrow Gausne was also a supper guest Saturday of the Whites at McHenry.

Edward O'Neal was Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doyle and family.

Mrs. Eddie G. Price was able to come to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gaunce, the past week after recent surgery at University Hospital in Lexington on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley W. Caswell were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Gaunce and family.

Mrs. Bobby Brady and Miss Alma Mattox attended a hymn sing at the White Oak Church on Saturday night featuring the Gloydland Quartet and the Sockers Quartet.

A very large crowd attended the shower at the Headquarters Church on

Friday night for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Blair. They received many lovely and useful gifts.

Harold Matton and Miss Kay Mahoney of Lexington visited Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Holter on Saturday.

Our community was saddened by the passing of Mrs. Cecil Livingood at Harrison Memorial Hospital on Sunday. Mrs. Livingood had been ill for several months. Her family has the sympathy of our community.

Miss Frances Barlow was Sunday dinner guest of Mrs. Alberta Snapp. They also visited Miss Martha Kenney and Mrs. Gladys Kenney in the afternoon.

Mrs. Dickie Grimes returned home

on Wednesday after several days illness at Nicholas County Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kennedy of Lexington spent Sunday with Daley and Martha Kennedy.

Morehead State University President and Mrs. Adron Duran recently welcomed more than 100 senior executives from 45 Kentucky high schools to the annual Personal Enrichment Program (PEP) sponsored by MSU's Personal Development Institute. From left are President Duran and Mrs. Duran, Susan Coatsy, Mona Garrett and Peggy Taber, all of Nicholas County High School.



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16. Boiled lightly
17. Very angry
20. Mexican coin
21. Spout
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26. Shackled
30. Ready
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35. Material used for gliding
37. Tyrannine
39. Frosty

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