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Weekend 'haylift' recalls 122-year-old favor

Kentucky-North Carolina link forged long ago

Touched by the gesture of Kentucky farmers sending hay to drought-stricken Charlotte, North Carolina over the weekend, Roger Womack reflects from a historical background on the great relationship Kentuckians of this area have with North Carolineans. And a payback 122 years overdue.

It goes something like this.

The early history of Kentucky is closely associated with North Carolina through the influence and activities of such famous men as Daniel Boone and Barton W. Stone, to name two. Pennsylvania-born Boone led many a North Carolinean through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. Stone, the great religious leader, though born in Maryland came to Kentucky through North Carolina, having been a student at Guilford College there.

In 1780, during the Revolutionary War, it became a certainty that there was going to be a battle between the Colonists and the British. The call for help was sent out to frontiersmen and able bodied men who lived in the Kentucky Territory, at that time a part of the State of Virginia. They responded with their long rifles, in fact, they contributed greatly towards the victory at the Battle of Kings Mountain, not far from Charlotte, N.C.

LATER, DURING the Civil War, there was the Battle of Cynthiana in which Womack's great grandfather, W.W. Cox fought for the Confederacy under the leadership of Gen. John Hunt Morgan. His accounts are part of the oral history of that time.

Following the Battle of Cynthiana, the Confederates retreated along the Cynthiana-Millersburg road enroute to Abbingdon, Va. where they planned to spend the winter. They stopped along U.S. 68 as we now know it near the Blue Star Nursery site to rest their horses. Gen. Morgan, the bold cavalier, ate lunch at the nearby Carpenter House at the corner of U.S. 68 and Carpenter Road. One of "Morgan's Men" was Sanford C. Carpenter, Womack's stepfather, who recalls that Morgan's horse Bess was fed and watered in the backyard of the home.

MORGAN'S RETREATING ARMY of some 1200 men and horses needed all the food it could find and fanned through the countryside scavenging whatever crops were in the fields. As they prepared to leave the area they learned that Capt. Everett and his Union Army troops were seen in Carlisle. In fact, federal troops commandeered all the food at a church outing spread in the courthouse yard!

So, Morgan skirted Carlisle via Millers Station, Pleasant Springs, Jacktown and Sharpsburg roads to Mt. Sterling. From there to Salyersville, the Big Sandy Valley and on to southwest Virginia, entering at Pound Gap at Jenkins, through Wise and finally Abbingdon.

The weary Confederates arrived in the late fall of 1864 only to find that a drought had left little feed — fodder, hay or grain — for their starving steeds.

Before there was time to worry an invitation was received from the people of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, North Carolina who offered to winter the horses there. Those 1,200 starving animals were driven along the French Broad River where they were cared for until they were restored to health.

The city of Abbingdon, incidentally, is not too far from Kingsport, Tenn., through which the train carrying Kentucky hay to North Carolina passed Sunday morning, enroute to Charlotte.

THE CARLISLE connection on the welcoming end in Charlotte could have been Paul Ray and Mary Judge Ecton, David and Judy Johnson or Louise Kennedy Walker, sister of Ruth Kennedy Lambert, who live in

* See Kentucky, page 12

Scrapbook souvenir

This crew of 12 Boy Scouts hiked over 100 miles of trails at Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico last month. Kneeling, l-r, Brent Gounce of Carlisle, Taylor Davenport, Millersburg. Seated, Chris Jenkins, Berea and Kevin Willis, Berea; ranger Celeste Maag, Scoutmaster Bill Guthrie of Carlisle, Joshua Guthrie, Carlisle; Jonathon Jenkins, Berea. Standing, Greg White, Nicholasville; John Lyons, Lexington; Robbie Murphy, Union City; Chris and David Clark, both of Lexington. — Photo submitted

On top of old Baldy

Thoroughly pooped after climbing Mount Baldy, over 12,000 feet high are, from left, Joshua Guthrie of Carlisle, Greg White, Nicholasville; Taylor Davenport, Millersburg; Jonathon Jenkins, Berea and Chris Clark, Lexington. — Photo submitted

A beautiful sight

Part way up climb to top of Mt. Baldy in background. Note trail almost straight up at left of picture, just below the timber line. Rocks on the trail, foreground, were hard on boots and feet, the Boy Scouts found during their recent trip. — Photo submitted

Transy star will coach, teach here

A former basketball star at Transylvania University has been named seventh and eighth grade math teacher and junior high basketball coach.

Bobby Storie, named the most valuable player on the 1985-86 basketball team at Transy was signed to a contract last Wednesday, following approval at the July 28 board meeting.

Storie played all four years at the Lexington university and was team captain his junior and senior years.

He was named "Mr. Pioneer" as a senior, an honor based on athletic and academic achievement.

Supt. Donald G. Elder said that he is pleased that the former Clinton County High School athlete had decided to begin his teaching career in the Nicholas County school system. The math teacher-basketball coach combination is especially hard to find, Elder noted.

Storie is presently assisting at a Lexington area basketball camp to fulfill a prior commitment. He succeeds Robbie Barr, who resigned last spring to devote fulltime attention to his job as head football coach at Nicholas County High School.

Wreck in Bath claims two lives

A wreck in Bath County about 12:20 a.m. Sunday claimed the life of a Moorefield woman, as well as a former Carlisle resident, Harold Ratliff, 62, of Sharpsburg.

According to state police reports, Mrs. Shirley Barlow, 47, lost control of her car while driving south on Ky 11 one mile north of Sharpsburg. Mrs. Barlow and Ratliff, one of four passengers in the car, were pronounced dead at the scene by Bath County coroner Richie Hunt, police said.

Both were thrown from the car which overturned. Three other passengers — Carl Jones, 76, of Sharpsburg; Melvin Gose, 31, of Route 1, Owingsville, and Billy Buckler, 33, also of Route 1, Owingsville, were taken to area hospitals. None of the five was wearing a seat belt, police reported.

Battle of Blue Licks reenactment set

The Battle of Blue Licks will be reenacted on Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17 at the state park.

A number of special events are planned in connection with the celebration, including a pig roast at nearby Ahnee's Blue Licks Grocery.

A majestic shade tree

This huge Jinko standing in Harold Dryden's yard on Locust Street has long been one of the most majestic trees in Carlisle, even providing shade for the Harold Mitchells next door. According to Eugene Neal, not a lot is known about the tree except that the Emperor of Japan gave a number of Jinko trees to Kentucky statesman Henry Clay of Lexington, where one can be found on the grounds of Good Samaritan Hospital. Neal says he once heard the tree has a life span of 3,000 years but he's not sure this is true. He would welcome hearing from anyone with any information on Jinkos. — Mercury photo

REV. CARL FANT

New minister to speak here Sunday

The Reverend Carl Fant, called to serve the congregation of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church in mid-July, will speak at the annual Community Worship Service and Fellowship Sunday, August 10 at 4 p.m. in the courthouse yard.

The event, sponsored by the Carlisle/Nicholas County Ministerial Association, will be followed by a potluck picnic supper on the lawn.

Rev. Fant, 33, is a graduate of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. He served as a supply minister here prior to being called on a fulltime basis.

He also pastored Presbyterian churches at Caladonia and Nabb in southern Indiana on a supply basis.

REV. FANT did his undergraduate work at Bethany College in Santa Cruz, California, where he met and later married Bonny Carstensen in January of 1979. They have two daughters — Kirsten, 5, who will enter kindergarten here this fall, and Heidi, who will be two in September.

** See New minister, page 12

New students enroll Aug 11-13

New students enrolling in the Nicholas County School system are encouraged to enroll Aug. 11, 12 or 13 from 9-12 a.m. at the school they will be attending, either Nicholas County Elementary (K-8) or Nicholas County High School (grades 9-12).

A new state law requires all students — kindergarten through high school — enrolling in a school system for the first time to present a certified birth certificate for identification purposes.

Freshmen may pick up their schedules Aug. 11-13 from 8 a.m. to noon at NCHS counselor's office.

Skills Tests results 'pleasing'

The Nicholas County Schools have received the results from the Kentucky Testing Program, a state mandated testing program for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

According to Superintendent Donald G. Elder, "We are well pleased with the results of the testing program. Once again, it has enabled us to identify the areas in which our program is strong and viable and to also identify those areas in which we need to concentrate our efforts. Overall, our students performed very well on the Kentucky Essential Skills Test (KEST)," he said.

Statewide results of Kentucky's 640,000 students will be released in mid-August, Supt. Alice McDonald announced last week.

Students' scores on the KEST are given in percentiles, a score which divides the total number of scores into 100 groups. A score of 50th percentile means that the student scored above 50 percent of the students taking the test. A score of 49 percentile is average.

Grade level mean percentiles are given for each class level allowing the school system to compare scores from year to year and from class to class in the same year. This ability to conduct longitudinal (year to year) and latitudinal (class to class in the same year) comparisons allows the school system to utilize the test data to continually evaluate its programs.

A COMPARISON of the Spring 1985 scores with those of this year reveals that students in grades three (one of four grades mandated by the state for comparison, the others being five, seven and 10) scored well above the average in all subject areas, with an average score in reading comprehension of 78 percentile, a total language score of 89 and an average score in total math of 85 percentile.

This represents a significant improvement over the 1985 scores of 33 in reading comprehension, and 66 in total math for these same students in the second grade. The 1985 test did not contain a language sub-test for these students.

* See School superintendent, page 10