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Snapp celebrates 75 years

Memories abound for Carlisle native

Editor's Note: This story contains personal observations of the writer.

By **Jackie B. Duncan**
On the Carlisle Memory Page
We sat on the porch of a farm house on Crooked Creek Road near Barterville.

It was a sultry summer Friday afternoon, we were shaded by large trees. A gentle breeze was blowing, and we listened to a church hymn being sung a cappella by C.V. Snapp.

His voice was loud, clear and resonant, and his arms gestured as if he were standing in the pulpit of a church. The hills around that farm house echoed with the sound. He ended "Then Jesus Came." He put the song paper back in his coat breast pocket.

"That's true," he said, "when Jesus came into your life, he takes over."
"That's one of my favorite songs, but I have 1,000 favorite songs!" he said.

He then recited stanzas from "Evangeline," learned some 80 years ago, but learned forever in his mind.

This man, this extraordinary man, who defies nature and all that a man can do, is nearly 100, was just beginning his habit of things to say, and did so with the vigor and enthusiasm of his youth.

He is an educator, and a student at heart, who devoted 70 years to the field of education.

The old Barterville School and the three years he spent there mean more to him than all the rest of his schooling. He says he learned enough there to form the basis for his education at the University of Kentucky, even though he finished his high school years at the old Carlisle City School.

"Those years gave me a foundation that put me through college," he said. "The long conversation we had that hot summer afternoon, he referred often to 'those three years,' and each time a different revelation would be explained.

He was a husband with his teacher, Will Ashury, father of Dr. Edna Ashury Forest Barter, who quite teaching at age 50 and "went off to be a doctor."

At the end of those three years, he had to beg his father, Willis Snapp, to let him go to the high school in Carlisle.

His father said, "That son, you've already been to school." Snapp had to convince his father that there was more to be learned, and that he would do anything to continue learning.

"I was grabbing everything I could to learn!"
"Carlisle had one of the sweetest schools," Snapp said, but he had such a good background at Barterville that he already knew much of the knowledge imparted upon him there.

He still has many of the school books he used as a child, and report cards - treasures with which he would not part.

"The Barterville School had 100 pupils. Some of the students were 18 when I entered. They taught me more than the teachers. Tommy Woods taught me math. Those precious years!"

Bob Snapp, a first cousin of C.V. Snapp, informed us that the Barterville School was built in 1888, the year in which Snapp is reported to have been born. He's not telling.

Carlisle Snapp was the teacher who said him, "Monday you're going to be a great teacher."
Snapp said, "You couldn't get it out of my heart any way, the notion that I was going to be just a teacher, but a great teacher."

"I wanted to learn about government. I was given three history books. You know, you learn about government through history. I can quote you from those books."

"Jesse Taylor Hazzard was my English teacher. How I loved English! Those words, those words, those words, what do they mean? Word definitions is still a vital part of Snapp's conversation."

He recited from a poem by Sir Walter Scott. He said he believed the title was "The Skye Boat Song." He laughed forward in the swing in which he was sitting. His eyes were squeezed, eyes blaring, and exclaimed, "I could see the red roofs on their houses as I learned the poem! I can see them now," he laughed heartily.

Inviting "Evangeline" which he was taught in the eighth grade at Carlisle, he stopped for a second and said, "primal, what did it mean?"

He also learned the poem at Barterville. "I had 'Evangeline' country style, and I had 'Evangeline' city style, he laughs.

Dawn Squires was the superintendent of the county schools, and also Snapp's Latin teacher. He had four years of Latin which included the language, and the study of Virgil, Caesar and Cicero.

Upon completion of his formal education in Carlisle, he taught the first year of high school at Barterville for five years before entering the University of Kentucky.

"I had to get the superintendent's okay, and I asked him if they would take my students at Carlisle (City School)."

He was told they would take any student he taught.

He taught four courses, including English and Public Speaking. He was paid \$41 per month.

At one point, his forgetfulness reminded him of an incident in the first grade, that made him laugh uproariously.

"Are you prepared for that? I'll knock you right out of that class!"
"When I was in the first grade, there was a student, Cyrus Ritchie. The teacher was John Shaw. At the first of the year, the new pupils would go to the front of the room to get their names recorded. Shaw said, 'Son, what's your name?'"
"Cyrus replied, 'I've got it in my hand, but I can't think of it.'"

When Snapp was 14 years old, he conducted a choir at the Barterville Methodist Church. They had a quartet of which Memphis Ritchie was a member. Snapp had a high tenor voice.

While superintendent of schools at Jenkins, he taught a girls' music class for 15 years. He said that was before there were female sports in the schools. "They had to have something!"

He called them "my songbirds." Of the girls, he said, "We talked about life, how to live the right kind of life."

"If there ever was a music superintendent, I'm it. Teachers who taught in my schools used to say there's something different here. 'This proud of that.'"

Snapp is a member of the Kiwanis Club in Jenkins, and has not missed a meeting in 48 years. He always carries a written speech in his pocket, just in case he is asked if he has anything to say at the meeting.

"They used to call me 'Professor' when I was a young man."

There was a short pause, and he added, "I'm still a young man!"

He's only had two operations in his life, an appendectomy and a tonsillectomy.

He paid dues in the Association of School Administrators for 43 years, and now is a member emeritus.

Snapp is proud of a 72 year record of teaching and being a member of school boards.

Snapp laments the fact that he lacked the weeks finishing a Ph.D. degree. But he said at the time, "I had to buckle down and make a living. I couldn't think of another degree." Somehow, he just never got back to it.

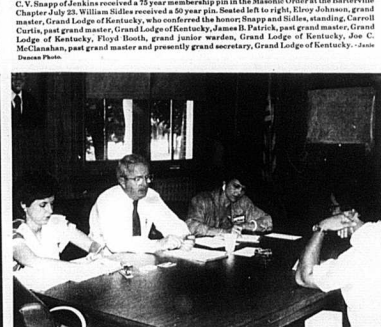
"I think the good Lord I don't make enemies."

On politics, "I'm not a Republican."

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C.V. Snapp



C.V. Snapp of Jenkins received a 75 year membership pin in the Masonic Order at the Barterville Chapter July 25. William Sidles received a 60 year pin. Seated left to right: Elroy Johnson, grand master, Grand Lodge of Kentucky, who conferred the honor; Snapp and Sidles, standing: Gerald Curtis, past grand master, Grand Lodge of Kentucky; James B. Patrick, past grand master, Grand Lodge of Kentucky; Floyd Booth, grand junior warden, Grand Lodge of Kentucky; Jim C. McClanahan, past grand master and presently grand secretary, Grand Lodge of Kentucky. - Jim Duncan Photo.



United States Representative Larry Hopkins, second from left, met with Nicholas County citizens in a town meeting Friday, July 24, speaking about legislation concerning smoking on airplanes. Hopkins said "It's just another notch in the gun used for shooting the tobacco program. We're continuing to fight that fight!" - Mable Moore Photo.

Mother nature continued to pound Carlisle and Nicholas County during the early part of the week. The storms swept through the county with heavy rains and high winds. The home of Wendell Wanda Welch (above) on Whetstone Road received heavy wind damage, Sunday, as did other areas of the county. Power was out in portions of the county for several minutes, and in some cases longer, as KU workers to repair lines. Phone service was stopped in Myers Station as a line fell across the road, however, according to one spokesman, service has been resumed. Sunday night Nicholas County firemen responded to barn fire on U.S. 88 at the farm of Alex Miller. The end of the nine bent structure was damaged, apparently during the storm. According to the report damage was confined to the end of the barn. During Monday's storm NC firemen were called to the home of Jackie Handolph, Moorefield Road, after lightning apparently struck a satellite and ran into the box on the television damaging both. - Thomas Anderson Photo.