McDonald's Grocery: still offering food & friendship

By Leigh Stone
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
HEADQUARTERS - McDonald's Grocery has provided life's essentials since 1879 with nary a let-up in sight.
Hardware used to be on one side with clothing on the other in this big brownish red building, located as the center of attention on the small map dot called Headquarters.
Now there's just groceries and plenty of good company from a band of steady customers who always make time to visit Strauder McDonald who owns the store with his wife, Dorothy.
"I don't know of any place I'd rather be," said store "regular" George Fisher of efturby Dog Walk.
Strauder McDonald, grandson of the store's founder, S. T. Barlow, just turned 77 years old Feb. 5. He wants to be at the store for some time yet. But how long?
"Depends on how long I live," he smiles, standing behind the check out counter. Three priceless photographs are above his head on the mantel.

The Carlisle Mercury/ Bil George Photo
McDonald's Grocery owner Strauder McDonald of Headquarters turned 77 years old Feb. 5 and received flowers from his son, Phillip, and friends Dorsey Watkins and Gladys and Cecil Shrout.

Another is even older, taken when men still took their hats off for a photo and Tom Clay was getting around pretty good with the help of his cane.
The last photo is when the store was new, its brick looking so modern, with the old style windows and womens long dresses and hair buns giving away its true antiquity. Never matter that the main road, now U. S.22 36 (Headquarters Road), was truly a path for horses.
Strauder's 12 hour days at the grocery are spent with agood crowd, his regulars. They smoke cigarettes, some of them, and talk about ballgames and politicians. Even a few war stories are told.
Some sit on the bench in the back of the store. "My dad died in 63, sitting in that bench," Strauder said quietly.
The old fashioned Coca Cola sign hungto the wall is still red, but dull and rusting.
"You know how much I've been offered for that sign?" Stauder asked. "$125 and they were serious. But I can't do that. My boys want it."
His boys are Ronnie McDonald, who co-owns McDonald's Ashland, downtown Carlisle, with his wife, Joyce; and Phillip, a Headquarters cattle farmer.

"Buy some coffee and maybe a candy bar and talk to whoever happens to be there," said "regular" Maxwell Burden about McDonald's Grocery.

Strauder's sons recalled memories of their youth spent in the store. "I used to steal candy," Phillip kidded. "He put me to work," Ronnie spoke up about his dad.
Soda pop, canned good, a good ham and cheese sandwich, candy bars and cigarettes are what the customers want there these days, so Strauder makes sure there's plenty. He walks over to the oldest item in the store. It's an old meat block. "I bought it the year I started. I gave $5 for it. I've been offered $500."
Strauder said.
Phillip kidded and said of his dad, "He's the oldest thing I know of around here!"
The door is shut where clothing and shoes used to be sold. Feed and barbed wire were stock items way back when, too. As time waved on, the needs of the customer changed, but McDonald's Grocery still looks the same.

"I don't know of any place I'd rather be," said George Fisher.

If the walls could talk, they'd tell about the wedding once held. The groom, Kenny Wayne Caunce, used to work for Strauder.
They might give a good forumla for moon-shine. Or recall a safe route for a booze run during prohibition days.
Today,as always, thought, McDonald's is both quaint and quiet. For a grocery store, few women enter the premises. "We run them off," Strauder said as a joke in his straightforward, stolid manner.
He began to light a cigarette as regulars Bill Foster and George Fisher begin to talk about him.
"I've known Strauder for 25 years or longer. If we ever needed something, we came to him and we got it. No questions asked. He's been good to everybody," claimed George Fisher about his long time friend. As Fisher recalled, Strauder had a open heart surgery 17 years ago. He broke his hip about two years ago. He praised the man's resiliency. "It didn't get him down. There ain't a finer man," said Fisher, who turned 77 Monday, Feb. 20.
"Regular" Bill Foster let his friends know he was catching up. "I'll be 77 June 12."

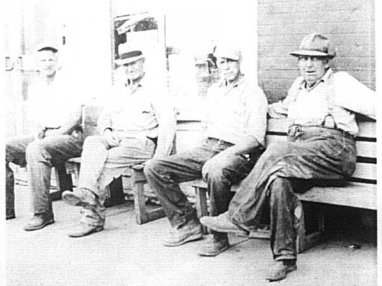
The Carlisle Mercury/ Submitted Photo
This is McDonald's Grocery back at the turn of the century. "It still has the same siding," said owner Strauder McDonald who owns the store along with his wife, Dorothy. U.S. 32/36 is the dirt path to the left. Arthur Pike is directly in front of the store.

A Special Tribute Feature

McDonald's Grocery has made the lives of many better by providing everything from food to fine friendship in a small community in the heart of Central Kentucky - a place called Headquarters.
The community and Mercury staff wish the McDonald family, Strauder and Dorothy, and their children and families, the very best for the future and hope McDonald's Grocery will remain the center of the community for a long time to come.

The Carlisle Mercury/ Leigh Stone Photo
McDonald's Grocery is a Headquarters legacy in Nicholas County. It's been a family business since it began in 1879. From left are Phillip McDonald, Strauder McDonald, and Ronald McDonald. Phillip and Ronnie are sons of Strauder, whose grandfather ,S. T. Barlow, started the store on this Nicholas County knob along U.S. 32/36 overlooking vast farm land.

The Carlisle Mercury/ Submitted Photo
The Coca Cola sign, far right, still resides at McDonald's Grocery in Headquarters. From left are Harold Allison, Floyd McDonald, Jay Kinney and Tom Clay.



The Carlisle Mercury/ Submitted Photo
Regular customers get the credit for keeping McDonald's Grocery in business since 1879. In this photograph, taken perhaps 35 years ago at the Headquarters store, from left, are Reynold Allison; the late Floyd McDonald (current owner Strauder McDonald's father); Jim Tolle and Russell Mattox. McDonald's regulars today still like to sit on the bench outside.

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The Carlisle Mercury/ Leigh Stone Photo
The Nicholas County High School track team would like to have a track at the high school. In front (l-r): are Timmy Hopkins and Colin Broderick. Back (l-r): Assistant Coach Gary Williams, Amanda Abnee, Rodney Mitchell, Curtis Compton, Mike French, Mike Booth,Derek Anderson, and Coach Travis Huber.

Obituaries

WHITE

Frankie Ray White, 55, 210 Leer St., Millersburg, husband of Brenda Harney White, died Tuesday, Feb. 21, 1995, at the Bourbon General Hospital.
A native of Nicholas County Ky, Mr. White was the son of Mae White of Paris and the Late Alvin Preston White. He was the owner of Whites Auto Repair in Paris, a veteran of the U.S. Army, and a member of the Carlisle Assembly of God.
Survivors in addition to his wife and mother are two daughters, Helen Carol Luckhaupt, Cincinnati, Ohio and Raylynn Hatton, Paris; four sisters, Carolyn Scott, Alice Scott, Donna Ferguson, all of Paris, and Jimmy Ann Hollingsworth, Jeffersonville, Ky; three brothers, Teddy White, Jerry White, both of Bourbon County and Woody White, Sadieville, Ky; one grandson, Rodney Michael Hatton; one granddaughter, Taylor Raylynn Luckhaupt; several nieces, nephews and cousins.
Services were conducted Friday, Feb. 24, 1995, at 11:00 am at the Lusk-McFarland Funeral Home in Paris by the Rev. Darrell Sexton and Rev. Charles Shrewsbury. Burial followed in Evergreen Memory Gardens. Visitation was Thursday from 5-8.
Casketbearers were Forrest Thomas, Rev. Sylvester Sanders, Jr., G.W. Sexton, Robert Crump, David Mefford, and Kelly Jones. Honorary Bearers were Larry Jolly, George Lucky, Murray West M.D., E.J. Caswell, and Charlie Peyman. Contributions are suggested to the Carlisle Assembly of God.

MCKENZIE

Claude Myers McKenzie, 86, of 148 Shannon Street, Carlisle, Ky, died at 4:52 pm, Friday, February 24, 1995, at Homestead Nursing Home, Lexington, Ky.
He was born in Bourbon County on December 22, 1908 to the late Alonzo and Ella Myers McKenzie.
Survivors include his wife Mattie Ellen Honaker McKenzie, Carlisle, Ky; three daughters, Mrs. Lester (Agnes) Coatney and Mrs. Barbara Allison, both of Carlisle; one brother, Harold "Jack" McKenzie, Bourbon County; two sisters, Mrs. William (Mabel) Dunwiddie, Anderson and Mrs. Gladys Cook, both of Anderson, IN; seven grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.
Formerly of Bourbon County he attended Little Rock School, was a Pvt. in World War II, a member of Little Rock Christian Church, former stockman at Carlisle IGA Store, and a retired foreman of the State Highway Department.
The funeral was at 2:00 pm, Monday, Feb. 27, 1995, at Hinton-Turner Funeral Home in Paris, Ky by the Rev. Charles Perry. Burial in the Paris Cemetery, Paris, Ky. Calling hours were from 5-8pm Sunday.
Pallbearers were Gary Hurst, Ricky Hammonds, Jack Coatney, Harold Massie, Jr, Keith Coatney, and Garnie Yeager.

SHROUT

Fred Shrout, 72, of 20 Main Street Oaklawn Subdivision, Sharpsburg, died Monday, Feb. 20, 1995, at his home after a short illness.
Born on October 21, 1922, in Bath County to the late Walter and Pearl Taylor Shrout, he was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Sharpsburg and a veteran of World War II.
Survivors include three daughters, Patricia Weaver, Sharpsburg, Brenda Shrout and Rebecca Hogge, Morehead; four grandchildren; one brother, Paul Shrout, Sharpsburg; and one niece and one nephew.
Graveside was Thursday, Feb. 23, 1995, at Crown Hill Cemetery with Rev. Matt Hunt officiating and under the direction of Clark Funeral Home, Moorefield.

GRAY

Stanley Eugene Gray, 76, Rt.1 Ewing, died Monday, Feb. 27, 1995, at VA Hospital, Lexington after a long illness.
He was born in Fleming County on Aug. 1, 1918, to the late Millard and Margaret McFarland Gray. He was a retired farmer, a veteran of World War II, attended Cowan Christian Church, and a member of the American Legion.
Survivors include his wife Betty Jean McCord Gray; four children, Normand Gray, Paris, Emily Frances Gaunce, Nicholas County, Dale Gray, Cowan, and Eva Colgan, Fleminsburg; and two grandchildren, Oneida Gray Souder and Todd Gaunce.
Visitation was from 6-9 Wednesday at Price Brothers Funeral Home, Elizaville. The funeral is Thursday at 2 pm at the funeral home with Minister Ed McKinney conducting and graveside with Rev. Scott Briggs officiating. Burial in the Elizaville Cemetery with Full Military Rights at graveside.

TOY

Martha Clay Toy, 57, of 177 Elderberry Dr., wife of Joe D. Toy, died Saturday, Feb. 25 at her residence.
She was born in Bourbon County to Ethel Coffee Robinson and the late Roy E. Robinson, was a member of the Ruddles Mill Christian Church, a homemaker, and a former employee of K-Mart in Lexington.
Other survivors include a son, Eddie T. Earlywine, Paris; a daughter, Missy Earlywine, Paris; five brothers, Lawrence Robinson, Scott County, Walter, Robert, and Stanley Robinson, all of Paris, and Roy Robinson Jr., Dayton, Ohio; three sisters, Florance Brown, Elizabeth Curtis and Shelby Stanfield, all of Bourbon County; and three grandchildren, Shawn Beaton, Jeana Clay Earlywine, and Benjamin Gnau.
Services were at 2 pm, Tuesday, Feb. 28 at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by Rev. Bill Glancy and Rev. Don Toy. Burial in Carlisle Cemetery.
Casketbearers were Joe D. Toy, Eddie T. Earlywine, Javan Toy, Dane, Eric, and Grant Curtsinger, and Mike Webb.
Visitation was after 5 pm Monday.
Contributions suggested to Hospice of the Bluegrass/ Ruddles Mill Christian Church.

Black History .....

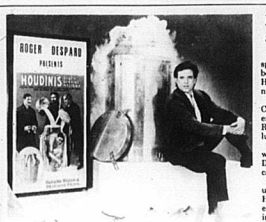
Continued from Page 1

pated Inc., Dance Company in Lexington. Her discussion was about how African dance influenced jazz and social dances.
According to a script for the African/Jazz performance at the school, "Many American dance forms were influenced by the people of Africa. Then they were brought to this country as slaves, they brought their movements and rhythms with them, because it was a vital part of their culture. And that part of their culture has survived and evolved into other dance forms, such as jazz, tap, and American social dances."
Dances with the agriculture theme were typical. The first dance performed, DAHA, symbolized cultivating the land. The second dance, LANI, symbolized throwing seeds on the land. The third, called SALI was a dance to show appreciation to the planter for all their hard work.
Roberts said the sixth graders rehearsed for the performance for one week.

FFA .....

Continued from Page 1

President Eddie Tincher said FFA has taught him much about farm management. Tincher "lives on a farm, works on the farm and works on another farm."
"I love the freedom," he explained.
The officers agreed that whether the farm held tobacco, cattle horses or whatever, that farm life was what they wanted for life. Some agreed that post secondary education would further help them achieve their farm goals.



Roger & Lee Ann's Grand Illusion Magic Show

Magic Show at NCHS April 7

CARLISLE - Family fun and spellbinding entertainment will be held at the Nicholas County High School gymnasium beginning 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 7.
The Nicholas County Lion's Club will present a special mind-engaging magic show by the Roger and Lee Ann's Grand Illusion Magic Show.
Special attraction this year will be the Harry Houdindi Death Defying Milk Can Escape.
Roger Despard will be locked under water in a large milk can. He will have two minutes to escape to avoid death by drowning.
Tickets for the Grand Illusion Magic Show are $6 in advance and at the door for $7.

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water."
—Benjamin Franklin

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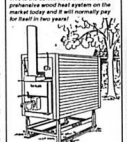
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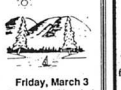
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