

Books, antiques, "knick-knacks" and family are all treasures to Carlisle's James Luther Hollar

By Leigh Hesse
Managing Editor
Carlisle's Luther Hollar, 64, is happiest when he is surrounded by antiques, "knick-knacks" and grandchildren. "I just like to sit and look at all this stuff," Hollar pointed in the dining room of his house at 215 Mulberry where to one side a painted parakeet hangs on the wall and frames of photos of children Mary Hill, Anna Lee Finch, and grand-children. When I can't see them as much as I like, at least I can look at them," he ponders, still a man, a conversationalist with a positive attitude willing to talk about Carlisle history, economic development and naturally, "old books."

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"Back when he was growing up he was probably the best read person in Nicholas County," Level Hollar said. "I was probably the best read person in Nicholas County," claims Hollar's older brother, Level Hollar, 66, also of Carlisle. But Luther begs to differ, even when looking at the picture taken of himself as a 1911 graduate of Carlisle High School. "I read my first novel at 11 and sometimes quit work to read," Hollar will admit, but looking at the collage of the Class of 1911, mentioning friends who passed on, John Tapp and James Cassidy and many others, he looked to the far right, a young man in a dark suit, looking apologetic in dark rimmed glasses. "I really wasn't that studious. They called me the old professor. I wore these glasses. But I really wasn't different. I was very like all the

rest, I think." The Class of 1911 in his kitchen is a favorite possession, and hangs right above a sign of U.S. Highway 68. A Sunday Evening Post dated Aug. 8, 1930, a wall-hanging of U.S. President J.F. Kennedy, and more than 100 books more than 100 years old are some favorite possessions. "I don't know what I'll do with all this someday. I might sell some of it," he remarks.

FAMILY
Both of Luther and his wife Opal's daughters are employed by Johnson Matthers, Health Care. Anna Lee is the receptionist and admissions clerk and Mary is a registered nurse. Both give Hollar high marks for being a dad. "He does so much for everybody. He does things for all of us," Anna Lee said.

"He just always was for us, whenever we needed him. He helped me with my kids and he has always been there," Mary agreed.

The Hollar's seven grand-children include Doug, Michael and Darrell Finch, Brian, Moody, Bob and Michael Hill. They have five great-grandchildren: Carl D. and James Finch and Duncan Hill, Lindsay Hall and Haley Booth.

CHANGING TIMES
Hollar was born and reared in Bartonsville and as a youth, farmed quite a bit. Later, he became the Gulf Oil distributor in Carlisle, a job he loved, which lasted 16 years. He retired in 1962 and would still be in business if he weren't. Back then, old people had to work and milk an old cow. I got old I got to the place where I could. "I'd quit. Business was a pleasure until the early 1970s. Then it was a rat race. Gas went from 17 cents a gallon then up to \$1. So now I tell people, I won't work. I have been a job for more than

20 years. When people want to look at something old, like furniture, it's considered valuable. Well, I say, what about me? He chuckles.

"I want to grow around and feed fowl. But we live in a wonderful world. You can always find fowl in anything."

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Hollar has a theory about economic development in Carlisle and it couldn't be described as sinister. "People get it. They want to retire. It's not that business is bad. But when the old people, where the young people carry it."

"OLD STUFF?"
"This stuff is sort of a burden now. It could be boxed up and thrown away but I'm sort of a hoarder. He does things for everybody. He does things for all of us," Anna Lee said.

"This stuff is sort of a burden now. It could be boxed up and thrown away but I'm sort of a hoarder."

Luther Hollar
a man who loves his "old" stuff

Travel and Graphic Description of World-famous Spots.

POLITICAL
Hollar's books, Hollar has framed political buttons of President Roosevelt, Franklin D. and Johnson and others. No matter if you're a Democrat, if you read history, it gives you answers. He gave an Abraham Lincoln and the Republican party began in the days of Abraham Lincoln and was popular in the industrial, rich, northern U.S. But the Democrats were mostly in the rural South and supported the working man.

"People fight, how things used to be. Of course I'm not real political. I've got things I don't want. I wouldn't want them to kick my shins!"

PIE SUPPERS
"Here's a famous musician," Hollar pointed to the picture of the young, black-haired man playing his guitar. "Yes, was famous musician, me and my songs. I just played some old songs. I played in the late 1920s and until I got married in 1935. I used to live in Winchester. It was a present for my nephew, grade graduation. 'The Holy Bible, I've kept it all these years.' He has a Bible Dictionary written in 1929 and a book, 'Overings from Old Ky,' authored by Allan M. Trout in 1947. Trout once wrote for The Courier-Journal.

LESLEY S. HUGHES
Many of the books were left behind by Mrs. Hughes, wife of Leslie S. Hughes, who passed to own the home. Hollar is proud to show visitors a story written by Hughes, he found posted in a book, with the headline, "From Cincinnati to the Golden Gate and Return, A Narrative of my trip."

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This 1958 Saturday Evening Post is just one issue Luther Hollar's kept. He may sell them for \$5 space or so.

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11 - For Rent Mobile Homes
12 - Wanted General
13 - For Sale General
14 - Wanted To Buy
15 - Help Wanted
16 - Work Wanted
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18 - Products For Rent
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Luther Hollar keeps his presidential buttons under glass and displayed on the dining room wall. He likes to sit in a favorite chair, read "old" books, and look at pictures of his grandchildren when they're not around.

Private Nicholas County Schools in 1877

The following is the fourth in a series of articles written and researched by the father-daughter team of Charles Gates of Carlisle and his daughter, Bonnie Lee Saunders.
Private Schools of Nicholas County, Year 1877.
These are the schools identified in 1877, which have five Nicholas County.
Carlisle Normal School, teacher unnamed.
Moorefield School, D. B. Berry.
Carlisle School (un-named), teacher Jennie Dakin.
East Union, Writing School, teacher J. T. Linnville.
Ellisville School, teacher unnamed.
Glendale School District 67, teacher Ben Robinson.
Headquarters School, W. T. Shy.

This 1918 calendar is but one keepsake Ben Luther Hollar has kept through the years at his "spare" home on Mulberry Street.

Opponents of the Electoral College system point out that he has already allowed three candidates to become president whose closest opponent received more popular votes than the three were: John Quincy Adams in 1824, Rufus B. Hayes in 1876, and Benjamin Harrison in 1888.

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