

Bluegrass Sports
Bill Reed
crlh Sports Columnist

Irate needlepointers

While reading The Courier-Journal earlier this week, I stumbled upon a phrase that I never dreamed I would ever see in print.

The outfit that turned the needlepointers into militants is the Louisville Slugger Museum at the corner of 8th and Main in downtown Louisville. In an effort to promote its huge collection of historic and valuable baseball bats, the museum put up a billboard on westbound Interstate-64 that bore the message: "More old bats than a needlepoint convention."

Certainly funny, right? Well, certain needlepointers didn't think so. Taking up their cudgels — or needles, as the case may be — they let the museum know what they could do with its billboard, leading the museum to paint over all the words except "old bats."

At least the needlepointers didn't organize a commando group to attack the Hillier & Braddley headquarters. Otherwise, H & B president Jack Hillier might have been punctured by so many needles that he would have resembled a human porcupine.

Who would have ever guessed that needlepointers could be so hostile? The billboard played on the stereotype that most needlepointers are probably old enough to have seen Babe Ruth or Ty Cobb swing their Louisville Slugger bats. Think about the needlepointers you know in your town. How many are old bats and how many are young bats?

My daughter, Susan, is a needlepointer. I have a very nice belt that she did for me years ago. She's hardly an old bat. But maybe she's the exception instead of the rule. Personally, I believe that needlepointing, like baseball, is an endeavor that has no generational boundaries.

So here are some slogans that the Louisville Slugger Museum might want to consider: "More old bats than a needlepoint convention."

See IRATE on 5



On The Light Side
Appalachian novels excite, disappoint

I went on a shopping spree, mostly with a Father's Day gift in mind, to Amazon.com, and wound up with three new novels I'd been wanting.

Sharyn McCrumb's "The Songcatcher," Silas House's "Clay's Quilt," and Karen McElmurry's "Strange Birds in the Tree of Heaven."

Three award-winning "Appalachian" novels, from three very different authors, promised some great reading. I'd never get to them.

Years ago, as a Berea College student, Karen helped me set up craft fairs in Indian Fort Theater.

She warned me that her novel was "black," and word I'd change to maybe "bleak," a look at Eastern Kentucky you've not seen before, not a book you want to read when you need cheering up.

"Clay's Quilt" has been the talk of the regional writing world since before it was published. Young Silas House works as a mail carrier near

London, Ky., roughly the location of his novel, and to me the book did not quite live up to its rave reviews. Too many song titles, too many small errors which distracted me from the story.

Silas is young, talented, and dedicated to his writing, and as he gains confidence he'll concentrate more on what he has to say than on needed details.

"The Songcatcher" is, as always, thoroughly researched and perfectly written. All of Sharyn's books should get two readings, one for the story and one for all the sly information on mountain ways and culture that she weaves into print.

It is exciting to read the new authors. It is rewarding that she speaks into print. One character in "The Songcatcher" explains how to say "Appalachia" and one young man earns summer spending money by telling wealthy tourists what they wanted to hear.

For a price, Don't hold your breath, though. For a price, telephone on Labor Day weekend and see what it's all about.

The broadcast begins at 11:35 Sunday, Sept. 2, on WTVQ Channel 36, and continues through Monday afternoon.

How to reach your City & County Officials

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Council Members Doug Garrett, Tommy Vaughn, Sandy Ritchie, Betty Barton, Charlie Fay, Frankie Hughes

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Nicholas County Fire Chief & Emergency Management Director

- Magistrate Billy Dixon, Magistrate Daryl Stacy, Magistrate Avery Thornsburn, Magistrate Jeff Randolph, Magistrate Steve Hamilton

OBITUARIES

Elmer Hall 1946-2001

SPRINGFIELD - Elmer Hall, 55, of Pleasant Grove Loop, Springfield, died on Monday, Aug. 20, at Norton Spring View Hospital in Lebanon.

A native of Fayette County, he was born April 22, 1946, to the late Charles Edward and Ida Mae Richardson Hall.

He was a former employee of Valley Hill Nursery. Survivors include his wife, Becky Warner Hall, his daughter, Mrs. Gary (Gena) Steele of Cynthiana, three grandchildren, Gary Steele Jr., Aaron Steele and Amber Steele; two sisters, Mary Frances Hall of Nicholasville

Yvonne Hall of Danville and two brothers, Cecil Hall of Wilmore and Lloyd Hall of Nicholasville.

Services were held Thursday, Aug. 23, at the Carey and Son Funeral Home in Springfield with Rev. Gary Steele Sr. officiating, assisted by Johnny Harvey.

Burial was in Cemetery Hill in Springfield.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Aug. 26, at the Carey and Son Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

IRATE FROM 4 substitute for the one that turned needlepointers into angry, defiant protest marchers.

More old bats than a haunted house. More old bats than an AARP convention. More old bats than lunchtime at the local cafe.

More old bats than a gathering of widows at the local country club. More old bats than the audience at an Englebert Humperdink concert.

At least, there's a rocker here for all of us. Needs may be more than a needlepoint and clout than baseball bats, so respect your local needlepointers. Give them a wide berth. You can never be sure when an outwardly delicate needlepointer will turn into Hillary Clinton or Rosie O'Donnell or a professional wrestler.

Fraternity wins award

Kyle Galbraith, a graduate of Nicholas County High School, and members of his fraternity recently were awarded the highest honor by the national chapter.

The Delta Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi at Centre College was recently awarded the Roland P. Maxwell Outstanding chapter award at the biannual Phi Kappa Tau Leadership Academy in Oxford, Ohio.

Saltwell news

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Doyle, Phyllis Brady and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Green enjoyed the fish fry supper and meeting of Southern States, held at Owingville on Friday night.

Mrs. Phyllis Brady visited Mr. and Mrs. Shane Bartels (Glenda Gayle Thacker) and new baby son Daniel Glen, and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Morgan (Susan Thacker) and new baby son Caleb Rice, all of Headquarters Road on Sunday.

Mrs. Phyllis Brady visited Jeff Doyle the past week on his birthday.

Mrs. Maxine Whitson, Mrs. Freda Saunders, Mrs. Phyllis Brady and many others attended a birthday party on Saturday afternoon for the first birthday of Kyra Brook Teyman, held at the Carlisle Depot.

Mr. and Mrs. David Earlywine and Mrs. Phyllis Brady attended revival on Sunday night at Hilltop Wesleyan Church, Paris, to hear Rev. Wayne Everman, evangelist.

Kendall among graduates of Georgetown

Jeanie Rose Mattox of Carlisle was among the graduates of Georgetown College in August.

The speaker, Deborah L'Tanya Mapp-Enry, former social studies coordinator for Fayette Schools, referred to it as "your renewal."

A total of 108 students received master's degrees in education. Assisting in the presentation of diplomas were Dr. William W. Pulliam, provost/dean of the college;

Dr. Bobby Burchetta, professor and associate dean of undergraduate education and Gene Wilhoit, Renew Your Subscription Renew Your Subscription

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Head of the Holler



Garry Barker
Guest Columnist

Letters

Pledge during MDA telethon

The editor: It's that time of year again, when hope and help are extended to the million or so Americans, including a member of my family, who are affected by neuromuscular diseases.

THE CARLISLE MERCURY Editorial Board

- Jack McNeely, PUBLISHER; Kim Hamilton, News Editor; Denver Brown, News Editor; Denver Brown, Editor

Send letters to: THE CARLISLE MERCURY 722 W. First Street, Carlisle, KY 40351

THE CARLISLE MERCURY Proud to be serving Nicholas County since 1867! The Carlisle Mercury is published on Thursdays News/Advertising 606-247-6142 Fax 606-764-7337 USPS 690-820

Renfro Valley "Kentucky's Country Music Capital" September Sizzles!
John Conlee • September 1
Sammy Kershaw • September 8
Randy Travis • September 14
Patty Loveless • September 15
Carroll Roberson • September 21
George Jones • September 28-30

Table listing car models and prices: TRUCKS/VANS, Used Car Deals, and a list of vehicles with their MSRP and sale prices.