

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven is A Lot Like Kentucky

The World of Journalism... It's a tough world out there, dear reader, and dangerous...

I sat in the Nicholas County courtroom a couple of weeks ago awaiting, along with a few others the issuance of grand jury indictments, I found myself marveling at one of the historic, intricately crafted, gate-like swinging doors that separated the courtroom's general public seating from the area directly before the judge's bench.

This old door is kind of like justice in general, I suppose," I said to Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Michael Laws as I examined the hinges. "It swings both ways."

The truth can be like that, too. It swings both ways. It can set you free, or it can put you behind bars.

Another thing about the truth is that it is a two-sided entity, and I always like to hear both sides of any issue to better understand what the truth of the matter is. I always try to get as much information as possible. And information, like the truth, can be like a pancake, no matter how flat, it will still have two sides.

And for any of those of you who don't know how brutal, indifferent and untimely a newspaper's deadline can be, I assure you, deadlines are everything they are cracked up to be and then some.

Here's the catch, though, for whatever reason, sometimes a reporter only gets to hear one side of any story as they rush to "beat the deadline."

Sometimes you don't even get that much. You just get



Heaven is A Lot Like Kentucky By Charles H. Hixson

a portrait of one side. For instance, Anthony Gray, the Carlisle resident accused of murdering his parents, James and Vivian Gray, earlier this spring in Scott County, has been a subject of interest to me.

I spoke with Mr. Gray about the records a few times over the phone after the murders, and once face to face in the Nicholas County courthouse yard a few weeks prior to his arrest.

I found it easy to talk to Anthony on those occasions as he reminisced about the many good times he had growing up with his parents.

His arrest therefore caught me somewhat by surprise.

I have been unable to contact him directly at his hearings in the Scott County Courthouse as he is hustled in, isolated from the public and then hustled back out again. And I continue to be perplexed as to why Mr. Gray has not granted me an interview from the grim and lonely confines of the Scott County Jail.

I've made two special visits there to see him and speak with him about the circumstances he now finds himself in.

"He doesn't want to talk to you," a deputy jailer told me on both occasions after forwarding my request down the hall to Gray's cell.

I thought to myself "ding-dong, what have you got to lose? It's not like they might put you in jail for something if you blurt out too much information.

You're already there, and if the charges stick you won't breathe free air again. Ever! As a matter of fact, you may have the death penalty hanging over your head if you are convicted, so I'd think you might want to go ahead and put some kind of word in the street via your hometown newspaper."

I was actually hoping he might give me some shred of information that might help prove his innocence. If that isn't possible, and he did murder his parents, I wanted to give him an outlet, an opportunity to seek forgiveness from the public and explain his actions to those as well as that cannot comprehend such an action.

"He doesn't want to talk to you," is all I've gotten to go on for now.

That just lays there in my stomach and burns.

And I guess I can understand why Scott County Sheriff Perley doesn't want to discuss the case with me either, other than when he smiles and says "no comment." When I launch a barrage of questions at him about various specific aspects of the case, like the lay out of the murder scene, ballistics analysis, trajectory theories, items taken from the crime scene during the murders, physical evidence recovered after the murders, and a possible connection with the robbers of a Harrison County gun store.

I guess as the lead investigator who is "carrying the case" Perley doesn't want to take a chance on messing things up.

Maybe he's kind of like my own late father used to be and adhere to the philosophy of those lips sink ships.

Dad didn't divulge much information unless it was absolutely necessary and I'm a lot like that myself, so I can't begrudge anyone with the same attitude, especially a detective working tirelessly attempting to solve a horrendous double murder.

On the other hand, there are certain things floating around out there connected to the Gray double-murder case that are intriguing and which I would love to explore and process along with any known facts of the terrible crime. Things like the possibility of a safe being taken from the Grays' home at the same time they were murdered. I'm told it would have "theoretically" taken at least two strong men to

move that safe. When I asked Detective Perley about the "two man" scenario and who the second man is, you might guess what kind of descriptive reply he gave me. "No comment."

So I just stuck on that for now and let the juices of non-stainable information lay in my stomach and burn.

It's the classic conflict that reporters face daily. When does the right to know override the need to "know?"

Or does it ever? At least some folks do tell me "no comment" and then let me go on about my business.

In the past I have called at different law enforcement agencies in Fleming County

not Nicholas) about a certain particularly controversial case in which I was trying to gather information or even a quote from an official or someone close to the story. I was put on hold while everybody in the office promptly went to lunch and while they still left me on hold as they skipped out the door.

Oh yeah, I still get a big old chuckle out of that one.

That'll learn me, darn me. Such are the trials and tribulations that coincide with adventures in journalism.

It's a tough world out there, dear reader, and dangerous sometimes, but it's the only world we have.

Are you neglecting your Business because of paperwork? Let us help! We will do the paperwork, you run your business.

We do bookkeeping, computerized payroll, payroll taxes, sales tax and audits.

Please call for an appointment today! 859-289-5566

Office hours through 12-31-07 - Monday and Thursday 9-5 Other times available by appointment

Donna J. Hendrix, PSC, CPA 101 West Main Street, Carlisle Member KYCPA & AICPA

Baby's 1st Christmas and Christmas Angels. The Carlisle Mercury will be featuring Baby's 1st Christmas and Christmas Angels ads in our Christmas Edition December 19. The ads will be 2x3" and in color. The cost will be \$15. If you would like to feature a child in this special, please fill out the appropriate form and bring it to The Carlisle Mercury at 117 South Locust St. Deadline is 4 p.m. Dec. 12.

Get More News Get More Sports Get More Nicholas County The Carlisle Mercury The Nicholas County News Since 1867 Subscribe Today! \$25.00 One Year in Nicholas County \$30.00 Elsewhere in Kentucky \$35.00 Outside of State To subscribe, fill out the form below and return with payment to: The Carlisle Mercury • P.O. Box 272 Carlisle, KY 40311

OBITUARIES

to Hospice of the Bluegrass, 2312 Alexandria Dr., Lexington, KY 40505. Burial will be in the Mt. Vernon Cemetery. www.milwardfuneral.com

Anna Laura Fryman "Annie" Miller 1984-2007 Anna Laura Fryman "Annie" Miller, 73, formerly of Lexington, widow of Harry N. Miller, died Sat., Nov. 25, 2007 at her residence in Summerfield, FL.

Ruth W. Ball 1926-2007 Ruth W. Ball, 81, widow of Arnold Hutson Ball, I, died Sat., Dec. 1, 2007 at Nicholas County Hospital. She was born Aug. 4, 1926 in Nicholas County, daughter of the late Russell and Nora Stone Wills.

Survivors include a son, Arnold H. (Connie) Ball, II, a grandson, Steve (Stacey) Ball, two great-grandchildren, Colin H. and Connor J. Ball, and a brother, R.S. (Ray) Wills, all of Carlisle.

Visitation was Monday, Dec. 3, 2007. Funeral services were held Tues., Dec. 4, 2007, at the Hinton-Turner Funeral Home, Paris, with interment in the Carlisle Cemetery.

Survivors include two sons, Michael (Genny) Miller, Kernersville, NC, Richard Miller, Summerfield, FL; two daughters, Cynthia (Dave) Adams, Ocala, FL; Janet (David) Thompson, Altamonte, FL; a brother, Bobby Fryman; six grandchildren, Carrie Thompson, Ashley M. Kelley, Casey Thompson, Kyle Thompson, Ian Miller and Garrett Miller.

Funeral services were held Thurs., Nov. 29, 2007 at W.R. Millard Mortuary, Lexington. Funeral services were held Fri., Nov. 30, 2007 at W.R. Millard Mortuary, Lexington. Burial in the cemetery was in Lexington Cemetery.

Funeral services were held Thurs., Nov. 27, 2007 at Hinton-Turner Funeral Home, Paris. She was born October 8, 1911, the daughter of the

late Laura and Thomas Griffin. She was a native of Nicholas Co. where she spent her entire life, a graduate of the 1930 class of Carlisle High School, a graduate of Fitzgerald Business College and attended the University of Kentucky. She was a member of the Carlisle United Methodist Church a member of the Nicholas Co. Historical Society, a KY Colonel and was an Honorary Ringmaster of the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

She was employed by the County Agent's Office and the Child Welfare Office in October 1940, which position she held until her retirement in 1971.

Survivors include two great-nephews, John T. Griffin, Jr., Nicholasville and William F. Griffin, Nonesuch, four great-nieces, Julie Oaks, Nicholasville, Layson Fox, Los Angeles, Beverly Graves, Covington and Colleen Kidd, Covington, and several cousins.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007, at Mather-Mathers Funeral Home, Paris. Burial was in Carlisle Cemetery. Casketbearers were Stanley Alexander, Billy and Wayne Berry, Charles Crawford and John T. and William F. Griffin. Guest-book available at www.mather-mathers.com

She was born in Fleming Co. on April 17, 1921 to the late Bruce Owens and Elizabeth Belle Callahan McKee. She was retired from Jockey International, a housewife, a loving mother and a member of Stoney Creek Christian Church.

She is survived by her children, Merrill Mitchell, Grimes Mitchell, Geraldine Stephens; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Glenn McKee, Julian McKee; and three sisters, Jean Bretz, Josephine Hughes, Janette Hicks.

She was preceded in death by her husband Elgin Mitchell, five brothers and one sister. Funeral services were held Tues., Nov. 27, 2007 at Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Harold Ham officiating with burial following

in the Carlisle Cemetery. Pallbearers were, Dwayne Hughes, Wanda, Mike, Larry McKee, Ronnie McKee, Phillip McKee, Lanny Jeff Bretz. Honorary bearers were, Alan Tilton, Marion Kerns, Elvie D. Clark, Mike Watkins, Mike King. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

She was born in Fleming Co. on April 17, 1921 to the late Bruce Owens and Elizabeth Belle Callahan McKee. She was retired from Jockey International, a housewife, a loving mother and a member of Stoney Creek Christian Church.

She is survived by her children, Merrill Mitchell, Grimes Mitchell, Geraldine Stephens; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Glenn McKee, Julian McKee; and three sisters, Jean Bretz, Josephine Hughes, Janette Hicks.

She was preceded in death by her husband Elgin Mitchell, five brothers and one sister. Funeral services were held Tues., Nov. 27, 2007 at Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Harold Ham officiating with burial following

in the Carlisle Cemetery. Pallbearers were, Dwayne Hughes, Wanda, Mike, Larry McKee, Ronnie McKee, Phillip McKee, Lanny Jeff Bretz. Honorary bearers were, Alan Tilton, Marion Kerns, Elvie D. Clark, Mike Watkins, Mike King. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

She was born in Fleming Co. on April 17, 1921 to the late Bruce Owens and Elizabeth Belle Callahan McKee. She was retired from Jockey International, a housewife, a loving mother and a member of Stoney Creek Christian Church.

She is survived by her children, Merrill Mitchell, Grimes Mitchell, Geraldine Stephens; eight grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Glenn McKee, Julian McKee; and three sisters, Jean Bretz, Josephine Hughes, Janette Hicks.

She was preceded in death by her husband Elgin Mitchell, five brothers and one sister. Funeral services were held Tues., Nov. 27, 2007 at Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Harold Ham officiating with burial following

in the Carlisle Cemetery. Pallbearers were, Dwayne Hughes, Wanda, Mike, Larry McKee, Ronnie McKee, Phillip McKee, Lanny Jeff Bretz. Honorary bearers were, Alan Tilton, Marion Kerns, Elvie D. Clark, Mike Watkins, Mike King. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Still suffering from unresolved whiplash pain? Even a minor impact can result in SERIOUS injury. Unless properly treated - symptoms linger and suffering can last a lifetime. If you are experiencing any of the symptoms frequently caused by whiplash injuries, we invite you to Family Chiropractic Offices For a "free initial consultation and screening, call one of our offices." Put Your Trust in Us. Put Our Superior Staff Facilities Experience & Expertise to Work for You. WE WELCOME DIFFICULT CASES. FREE INITIAL SCREENING EXAM AND CONSULTATION WITH DOCTOR.

A Service To Meet Your Needs Clark Funeral Home 289-5500 Compassionate and Caring

SHELL FOOD MART 2750 Concrete Rd. - Corbin, KY 40311 289-5689 A Name You Can Depend On Open 7 Days A Week - 24 Hours A Day

Marlboro - 2 packs - \$5.98 SUBWAY 6 pk. 24 oz. bottles Pepsi Products \$3.29 We have Cod Fish Tail Sandwiches or the Combo

Any Footlong - Anytime \$5.00 Order Your Subway Party Tray For Your Family Outings We Now Have 8" Pizza in Subway 3 minutes to fix #1 1/4 lb. Hamburger Fries and Fountain Drink \$2.99 #2 1/4 lb. Cheeseburger Fries and Fountain Drink \$3.39 #3 - 1/4 lb. Bacon Cheeseburger Fries and Fountain Drink \$3.69 3 Chicken Strips Fries and Fountain Drink \$3.99

Enter your home in THE CARLISLE MERCURY AND HOPKINS DRUG HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST. This year we'll be judging decorations on Dec. 17 and announcing the winners in the Dec. 19 paper. The judging will take place between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., so please make certain if you enter you have your decorations turned on. We will award first, second and third prizes all from the selection of holiday items at Hopkins Drug to add to your Christmas Decorations. We look forward to visiting all areas of the county. To enter your home, please fill out the entry blank below and make certain you give specific directions to your home. Address of entry home Your name Phone number DIRECTIONS from downtown Carlisle: