

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

Regarding the beauty of the peach orchard

The other day, as I made my way along the Main Street, heading back to The Mercury's Locust Street office...

Prolonged exposure to 120 MM cannon fire while an armor instructor at Fort Knox...

Both of the little girls were skipping as they went, and the young mother was laughing as she skipped along with them...

Leaves danced along the edge of Main Street and became entangled in a whirlwind that erupted along the stone masonry wall...

I wished our local soldiers who are serving our country far from home could have seen this simple, yet colorful, view of Carlisle.

Wish I could have adequately captured the scene with my camera.

I tried, but it just didn't come together for me. It did my heart good though...

to see such beautiful sights and hear such beautiful sounds, and I'm sure if our fine soldiers could have looked upon the scene as I did, they would have been impressed with



Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky By Charles Metzner

of the beauty of such an image. A beautiful Kentucky image. Right smack dab in downtown Carlisle.

Carlisle actually began as a peach orchard owned by John Kincaid.

I've often imagined Daniel Boone may have eaten peaches from right where the Nicholas County Courthouse stands.

I haven't found any documentation to prove it, but sometimes when I stroll through the courthouse yard, well, it just seems right.

I can almost feel it. We often forget how lucky we are to live amid such beautiful and historically significant surroundings.

I was following a man in a pickup truck coming into town a few weeks ago.

I saw him give me a glance in his driver's side mirror, and as our eyes met I gave him a friendly nod, which he quickly returned.

We were just two men on the road heading into Carlisle.

He was a local resident and I've seen him on the roads often.

I don't know much about him, but from the looks of his truck he is a man who

is good with his hands and understands farming.

He no doubt has a love and understanding of the land near here that probably extends back through several of his ancestors.

As we approached Henryville, out of the blue this man reaches over in his seat, grabs an empty soda container and gives it a sling out of his window.

It bounced a few times before rolling off the road and into the weeds where it joined other such trash.

I'm sure he did it absent-mindedly, but the trash was still just as offensive.

I almost dialed 911 and reported the license tag. It still bugs me when I think about it.

I'm a man with numerous faults, but I can say that I will never intentionally litter.

I've been in people's cars before who seem to worship their mode of transportation, and as I placed an empty container or some other minor bit of trash on the floorboard I would say, "I'll throw this away later."

"Oh, just toss it out now if you don't mind," I've been told more than once.

But, I do mind, and so I simply say when those currencies happen, "I don't litter."

I believe tourism will play a key role in the economic future of Nicholas and surrounding counties.

The jockey jobs simply aren't coming back, folks. I'm not saying that with

a hardened heart either, for I too was once an employee of Jockey International.

For five years I worked diligently on a large sewing line in the Mayville plant to keep the undergar wear going on down the line and out the door.

I was paid well and had great benefits, but when the jobs starting going overseas and the plants started cutting back, well, after five years I found myself in the unemployment line.

It wasn't the first time I've been unemployed.

As a matter of clarity, I fully understand that news editors often have unemployment wished upon them by some folks who

read their names in the paper. It comes with the territory.

Sort of like granting the beautiful landscape of Nicholas County for taking here very long.

First impressions are lasting impressions, and believe me I've made a few lovely first impressions in my time.

I make it a point to ask folks who say they are visiting Carlisle and Nicholas County for the first time

and around Carlisle. "What is your first impression?" and they almost always responded with the same answer.

"It's so beautiful here," they say without exception. Indeed it is.

I think if Nicholas Countians want to have more out-of-town folks coming into town and leaving their cash here before they go, everyone is going to have to do their part.

Slinging trash out along the road isn't going to draw any tourists.

Folks can get that kind of grubbiness anywhere.

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OBITUARIES



Betty Lou Smith Hollar 1937-2007

Betty Lou Smith Hollar, 70, Grainger, widow of Strobel Hollar died Fri. Nov. 18, 2007 at her home.

She was born April 29, 1937 in Nicholas County, Va. to late Lloyd and Jessie Jones Smith.

Survivors include four sons, Wayne (Famalia) Howard, Marietta, Ga., Steve Howard, Chattanooga, Tenn., Frankie County to the late James Sampson and

Hollar, Nicholas Co., two daughters, Barbara (Mark) Gregory, Georgetown and Connie (Randley) Harris, Butler; three brothers; eight sisters; 16 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Irlina Smith.

Services were held Wednesday, Nov. 21, 2007 at Headquarters United Methodist Church by Rev. Brenda Rout. Burial followed in the Millersburg Cemetery.

Casketbearers will be Donald Gauson Jr., David Williams, Billy and John Leonard, Wendall Pollard and Jordan Hollar.

Guestbook available at www.mathers-gaunefuner.com

Gaynell McCarty Ring 1925-2007

Gaynell McCarty Ring, 82, was born March 22, 1925 in Botha County to the late James Sampson and

only \$14.21 per month at 62 E. Duane Street, Carlisle.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bissell of Moonedville, announce the birth of a son, Anthony Wayne.

See MEMORIES Page 9

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Fannie Rice McCarty. She was a member of the Grammer-Hanover Church of Christ, Lexington and a retired Hanley mills seamstress.

Survivors include five sons, Delbert (Peggy) Ring, Jimmy (Betty) Ring, Bobby (Joan) Ring, John W. (Carolyn) Ring, all of Carlisle and Paul Ring, Paris; one daughter, Vicky (James) Sanders, Paris; one sister, Virginia Norris, Mt. Summit, Ia.; 18 grandchildren; 35 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Services were held Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007 at Mathers-Gaunce Funeral Home by the late Thomas and Miranda Tackett Stone. He was a retired employee of the U.S. Postal Service, a US Army veteran of WW II and the Korean Conflict, a charter member of the Millersburg American Legion Post 257 and a member of the Millersburg Christian Church.

Survivors include a sister, June Wagoner, Paris; a brother, Tommy (Brenda) Stone, Carlisle; two step-great-granddaughters, Angelique and Nicole Gravelle, both of Seattle; a step-great-great-granddaughter, Paulina Gravelle; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Elizabeth Schwendener Stone; his parents, Tom and Miranda Stone; four brothers, Bill, Charles, Clay and

James Stone; and a sister, Louise Cabal.

Graveside services were held Wed., November 21, 2007 at the Millersburg Cemetery with the Rev. Sandy Sanders and E.J. Caswell officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the Hospice of the Bluegrass or the donor's favorite charity. M.E. Pruitt Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. www.lusk.net/land.com

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