

GENERAL NEWS

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

Papaw's banjo and Walter's bible. There are no guarantees in this good life, dear readers. Each day is blessing, and if we are lucky, it will not be our last. I am a student of history and human nature. I've always been fascinated with such things. In my northeastern Kentucky, live in a land rich with history and human character, but poor in many other regards, namely economic and employment opportunities. We are a fascinating people. We are generous to a fault, loyal to the end and resourceful beyond the imagination of those who dwell outside of our region. I've always thought we were the most American of the Americas. Our landscape is as unique as we who tread over its hills, hollows and stream bottoms. My people have lived in northeastern Kentucky for a pretty good while. For of a Scotch-Irish line of descent. Might have been a Cherokee or two in the woods somewhere down the line, as they say of the personalities of various, genteel lineage in this neck of the woods when describing a particularly family descent. You may have heard of a particular different culture other than Cherokee in the saying in your corner of northeastern Kentucky. We have our own language and our own subtle sayings that convey so much. We are clannish here, in many ways, and that is not meant to be anything less than an honorable historic embrace of particularly family-geopolitical beliefs and values. "Who's your Daddy?" is not a slang pickup line here, but a sincere intent of placing your people and how your people interacted with the question, or grandparents' people. The nut doesn't often fall.

very far from the tree" my Papaw used to say. And indeed it did. We do not just hold clannish grudges here in northeastern Kentucky. We pass them down to the next generation. Anyway, that's been some of my observations on this place I call home. We hold onto things here. We're slow to forget a favor owed to a neighbor and equally as slow to forget an insult. It's good to hold onto the things and memories we hold dear. Good to let go of the things that cause us pain, as well. Back in the 1920s two Mattox brothers and a Mattox sister married two sisters and an Evans brother. Elvir Russell "Euse" Mattox (Dad's dad, and therefore my Papaw) married Gladys Evans. Flavon Mattox married Gladys' brother, Joseph Monroe Evans. Walter Mattox married Gladys' and Euse's sister Celia Evans. They moved to Pleasant Hill, Missouri, early on. Seems there was a Mattox connection already living there. Perhaps Dick Mattox (Maddox), his brother George or a kinman Morgan Towler Mattox, all Missouri Partisan Rangers who rode with Jesse James and the Younger Boys after their service with William Clark in the battle of the American Civil War.

I've still got a Confederate \$10 bill and the wallet it was in that dad gave me several years ago, probably came from Old Dick or Jesse James himself. I tell myself that sometimes anyway. Sometimes I take it out of the display case I've put it in and hold onto it and treasure just before I start writing about Civil War stories. It helps to help clarify my confused thoughts. Artifacts and heirlooms have that effect on those who are "empathetic" or believe in the transfer of human emotion to objects and back under the right conditions. It fades in and out with me. Some don't believe in those kinds of things and that's okay. There are some folks, though who have seen me do my "magic" and are believers that like I say, it comes and goes. The Mattox and Evans clans were a pretty lively bunch from the stores I remember Papaw and Dad telling me in my youth. Papaw worked hard, had a taste of molasses and raised about 20 acres of tobacco and corn. I guess he put the corn to good use, as I've heard he used to help operate a moonshine still on Pea Ridge back about 80 years ago. My brother had the search warrant when I believe 20 gallons of moonshine was confiscated at his house one time. The Evans and Mattox clans used to have square dances at their house in Tipton. I've got the banjo that belonged to Papaw Mattox. On the inside of the banjo is clearly written in separate locations the initials C H and

on their own position when being overrun by elements of the German 2nd SS Panzer Division on day three of that battle. He never wrote about a lot of things. But he kept that bible close. And he came home after the war. When I'm stronger and braver in regard to certain things I haven't written about of late-things like unresolved murders that haunt me and members of several other families in northeastern Kentucky, I'll pass the bible along to another member of the Mattox/Evans clan that my draw strength from. It'll be holding onto the banjo for a while. It feels good in my hands though the strings are gone and time has been less than gentle to it. When I hold it I remember things that ought not to be forgotten, things that amount to something, and matter in ways difficult to describe. But if you call northeastern Kentucky home, I probably don't need to explain myself. You probably already know exactly what I'm talking about.

Today's Menu: Marathon Special Fish Combo Wedges, Cole Slaw, Hush Puppies \$4.19 MARATHON 5399 Concrete Rd. • Carlisle 859-289-6118

OBITUARIES

Ovel Gifford "Jip" Flora 1930-2008. Ovel Gifford "Jip" Flora, 77 of Elizaville, died Sunday, April 6, 2008 in Fleming County Hospital after a long illness. He was born in Fleming County Dec. 11, 1930 to the late Paul and Maude Moran Flora. He worked for U.S. Shoe Factory in Flemington for 28 years and received his real estate and brokers license and worked with Fleming County Real Estate and Auction Services for 20 years. He is survived by his wife Janice Hunt Flora; two daughters, Gail Flora of Lexington and Tracy Love of Bowling one granddaughter, Jade Range of Ewin; five brothers, Sammy, Ollie Ray, Aaron, Eric and Marine; and 2 sisters, Betty Burke and Cora Helphinstine, all of Fleming County. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews. Susan Katherine Guy 1933-2008. Susan Katherine Guy, 75, of Ewin, died Wednesday March 19, 2008. She was born July 10, 1932 to the late Elsie and Pearl Baker Dale. She was a homemaker and a loving mother. She was a member of the Mt. Zion Christian Church with Rev. Rich Anderson officiating. Burial will follow in the Elizaville Cemetery. Free Bros Funeral Home in Elizaville are in charge of arrangements.

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NICHOLAS NEWS TRIANGLE HEADQUARTERS - SALTWELL - BARTERVILLE. By Ramona George. Chris Hollar of Richmond visited the Headquarters United Methodist Church yesterday and also his grandfather, Fred Hollar at Johnson-Mathers Health Care. He also visited with his aunt Ramona George who was there. Chris is a nurse at Patty Clay Hospital in Richmond. The Elizaville Homeowners met on Wednesday at the home of Martha Ray and Norma Ritchie. Phyllis Brady had the devotional, comments and prayer. The group read the homemaker creed followed by discussion of upcoming projects. A delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed afterward. Samantha Sowell spent two days of spring break in Woodford County with her aunt Karra White who has a farm there. Samantha will be having her tonsils removed Monday morning. We wish her a speedy recovery. Rev. Jerry Bowling led the service at the Oakland Mills United Methodist Church which closed on Saturday night. Good singing and hymns led the singing and Ramona George played the piano. A very large crowd was present at the lobby. Ms-Danita Earlywine and Susan Yantis had her dad, Roger Livingston in London KY the past weekend. Phyllis Brady visited Mr. & Mrs. David Doyle on Sunday afternoon. She attended the Paris Nazarene Church Sunday night to hear their new pastor, Rev. Paul Hedges. Mrs. Sharon Feaback attended the United Methodist Women's Meeting in Virginia, Wednesday through Sunday.

Creekside Motors Flemingsburg, KY 606-845-6091. 2003 Ranger X-Cab, White 2003 F250 Super Duty, White 2005 Malibu 4dr. 6 cyl. SR Gray 2004 Cav 4 dr. 4 cyl. Pewter 2000 Hyundai Tucson 2 dr. 4 cyl. Blue 2001 F150 Crew Cab Lot #140, Black 2002 Escort, ZX2 2 dr. 4 cyl. Silver 2004 Cam 4dr White, 6 cyl. 62,000 miles 2001 Ranger Xcab, 4x4, Black, 34K m. Financing Available Warranty Available. Win a FREE Night's Rental at Video Shack On what T.V. show did Keri Russell begin her career? To win: Be the first person to bring this ad into Video Shack with the correct answer and you'll win a FREE night's rental. Some restrictions apply. See store for details.

GM Owner Loyalty Sale. '08 Solstice GXP \$28,552. '08 Silverado 1500 \$26,600. '08 Buick Lucerne CXL \$26,980. '08 Silverado 2500 HD \$39,380. '08 Avalanche LTZ \$45,450. '08 Tahoe 2LT \$39,580. '08 Trailblazer LT \$23,380. '08 Silverado 1500 \$4,995. '08 Suburban LTZ \$2,300. '05 Buick LaSabre \$225. '07 Cadillac DeVille \$289. '05 Buick Lucerne \$279. '07 Cadillac DeVille \$189. '08 Malibu LT \$21,595. '08 Equinox \$19,980. '08 Hummer H3 \$28,500. '99 Silverado 1500 \$7,800. '06 Eclipse \$285. '01 Ford F250 XL \$14,400.

USED CAR SPECTACULAR. '06 Town & Country \$16,980. '02 Suburban LT \$10,980. '03 Chevy Tahoe \$19,980. '05 GMC Sierra 1500 \$295. '98 Silverado 1500 \$8,600. '00 Ford F-150 \$9,980. '04 GMC 2500 HD \$27,980. '01 Silverado 1500 \$150. '00 Ram SLT 1500 \$175. '01 Venture LS \$175. '06 Silverado 3500 HD \$169. '06 Cavalier LS \$169. '99 Dodge Ram 1500 \$45,450. '04 Chevy Impala LS \$239. '05 Chevy Impala \$179. '06 Grand Am \$169. '08 Trailblazer LT \$45,450. '08 Silverado 1500 \$4,995. '93 Cadillac DeVille \$230. '06 Chevy Impala LT \$289. '03 Chevy Cavalier \$2,995. '02 LaSabre Custom \$189. '04 Malibu Maxx LS \$198. '08 Suburban LTZ \$2,300. '05 Buick LaSabre \$225. '07 Cadillac DeVille \$189. '08 Malibu LT \$21,595. '08 Equinox \$19,980. '08 Hummer H3 \$28,500. '99 Silverado 1500 \$7,800. '06 Eclipse \$285. '01 Ford F250 XL \$14,400.

Video Shack Trivia. Win a FREE Night's Rental at Video Shack. On what T.V. show did Keri Russell begin her career? To win: Be the first person to bring this ad into Video Shack with the correct answer and you'll win a FREE night's rental. Some restrictions apply. See store for details. Spring HAS SPRUNG! Lawn & Garden Sale. Zero Turn Mowers Beginning at \$2250. Push Mowers \$119. Large Selection of Lawn Furniture. Special Prices on Interior & Exterior Paint. Steve's Hardware. Steve's ACI Hardware. Flemingburg By Pass • Open: Monday - Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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