

Heaven Is A Lot Like Kentucky

BETWEEN HEAVEN AND HELL

As I walked along Vista Lane, in that beautiful section of Bath County known as Olympia, back toward my truck and away from the smoldering ruins of the Whitlow home last Wednesday morning, my heart was heavy with the knowledge that two little sisters had lost their lives there.

Young Lucy Whitlow, after leading her brother to safety amid the otherwise completely black, smoke-filled indoors, had re-entered the home to find her sister Kayla and lead her likewise to safety.

Investigators say they believe Lucy did find Kayla and the two sisters were racing for the front door where the burning floor gave way beneath them and they plunged into the basement, where they were later found.

As I walked along with my heavy heart, I could not help but notice the silence and stillness that had engulfed the meadows and woods that embraced the few homes that lined either side of the road.

It seemed to me as I shuffled slowly along, that even



Heaven is A Lot Like Kentucky
By Charles Pittner

the birds and small creatures of the forest were in mourning, for the two children they had often seen playing and laughing in their front yard so many times.

And later, on that very same day, as I stood alongside a curvy section of Myers Station Road, just north of Carlisle, where emergency responders worked diligently and quickly amid the wreckage of a catalytic automobile accident, my heart sank even lower with the realization that the efforts of the emergency responders, though valiant, were not enough to save the lives of a young couple, Timmy Timbo Mitchell and Brittany Rable.

I said a quick prayer when I first came upon the accident and saw the massive destruction and I said another when I saw the look of pain in the eyes of the EMS personnel, firefighters and others who worked feverishly to prevent the loss of life.

Within the next hour, after I returned to the Carlisle Mercury office, I learned of the death of Bath County native Mr. Jason Hunt who had perished from suspected hypothermia the night before and/or early that morning, also in Bath County near Midland.

Mr. Hunt's 4-wheeler ran out of gas and as he left it, he fell into a stream where his body was later found.

Mr. Hunt and Mr. Mitchell were young men, but with the oldest two of the five precious, vibrant, beautiful, and young lives that were lost that day.

And there was nothing any of the dedicated, and strong, and with caring emergency workers or family members could do to save any of those young lives, though they tried.

The laughter of young Lucy and Kayla Whitlow will never reverberate along the halls of the Bath County Middle School, nor will that of their sister Danielle in BCHS in the next few days, though we hope her return will come and will be swift and strong.

The beautiful smile of Brittany Rable, will no longer shine light among the halls of Nicholas County High School and bring joy to her many friends.

"She was a real sweet girl who never did anything wrong to anybody," I heard one of her classmates say quite last week.

I sought comfort in the wise words of the Holy Bible and the Old and New Testament, a practice I do not engage in with as much frequency as a man should. And though my heart is still heavy with sorrow I did find some comfort, particularly after reading and re-reading several times, one particular passage from one of my favorite books of the Old Testament.

"As thou knowest what is in the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child; even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all." The Old Testament, Ecclesiastes, Chapter 11, verse 5, reads.

And I couldn't help but also think of some wise words I had read as I drove past a small Robertson County Church several weeks earlier and behold the statement someone had carefully placed on the church's placard near the road.

"You should pray to educate people that these rights exist and use this day to remind them." Mrs. Foster and a group of other volunteers planned to repeat the reading of the Bill of Rights at six other county courthouses throughout the day at Bourbon, Harrison, Scott, Fayette, Woodford, and Deshaire counties.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Dec. 15 "Bill of Rights Day" to commemorate the 150th anniversary of their ratification.

Timbo and Brittany Wagner and Jason will remember them with a more powerful emotion than sorrow.

I hope they will remember them with LOVE, and I hope in time that when their thoughts drift among their lost loved ones, they will smile at all of the JOYFUL memories they have of their dearly departed."

They will indeed be missed.

RIGHTS

Continued from Page 1

t-shirt that proudly identified her as "The Constitution Lady." She said she is concerned about what she sees as recent infringements on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. "I just wanted to educate people that these rights exist and use this day to remind them." Mrs. Foster

ter and a group of other volunteers planned to repeat the reading of the Bill of Rights at six other county courthouses throughout the day at Bourbon, Harrison, Scott, Fayette, Woodford, and Deshaire counties. In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Dec. 15 "Bill of Rights Day" to commemorate the 150th anniversary of their ratification.

Sandy Hamilton

Advertising Executive
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The Carlisle Mercury NEWS-OUTLOOK
Madison County News
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OBITUARIES



John A. "Johnny" Caswell
1947-2008

John A. "Johnny" Caswell, 61, husband of Jenna Hobbs Caswell, died Monday, Dec. 15, 2008 at his home. A native of Nicholas Co., he was born Aug. 22, 1947 to the late Henry Clay & Carolyn Sexton Caswell. He was a lifelong farmer, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, and a member of Daugherty Lodge #605 and was a member and deacon of Carlisle Christian Church.

Other survivors include three daughters, Beth (Andrew) Harrison, Julie (Wade) DeRossett, and Jennifer (Jeremy) Cantrell, all of Carlisle; a brother, Jim (Kathy Caswell), Carlisle; two sisters, Carol Clark (Ronnie) Wile, Lexington, and Sandy Davis, Carlisle; five grandchildren, Amber, Lauren and Matthew Harrison, Abby and Ellie DeRossett; and a close friend, Judy Judge.



Roy Wells Waggoner
1918-2008

Roy Wells Waggoner, 98, widower of Sue Allison

Services will be 2:00 p.m. Thursday at the Carlisle Christian Church by Rev. Steve Smith. Burial with military honors will follow in Carlisle Cemetery. Casket bearers will be Richard Daley, Steve Guy, Mo Lykins, Gary McCord, Mike Mintu, Charles Pope, Sandy Schu and John Paul Smith.

Honorary bearers will be Billy Bromagore, Jeremy Cantrell, Casey Caswell, Josh Davis, Wade DeRossett, Andrew Harrison, David Smoot, Harry Sparks and David Wills.

Visitation will be after 5:00 P.M. Wednesday at the church. Arrangements are under the direction of Mathers-Gaugue P.H. Contributions suggested to the Carlisle Christian Church. Condolences and video tribute at www.mathersgaugue.com



Brittany-Ray Dawn Ruble
1990-2008

Brittany-Ray Dawn Ruble, 18, died Dec. 10, 2008. She was born July-26, 1990 to Cynthia Jean Evans and Michael Ray Ruble. She was a member of the Girl's House of Prayer Church.

She is survived by her mother, Cynthia Jean Evans; her father, Michael Ray (Jovani) Ruble; two sisters, Kristina Leigh Ann King (Tiffany), her maternal grandparents, Arthur and the late Helen Ruble; great-grandparents, Jr. and Paula Jones; her aunts and uncles, Jody, Lauren and Brandon McFarland; Nevah Boddie and Trenton King.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, 2008 at the Nicholas County High School with the Rev. Phillip Matta officiating. Burial followed in the Carlisle Cemetery. Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Timothy Allen "Timbo" Mitchell
1988-2008



Timothy Allen "Timbo" Mitchell, 23, died Dec. 10, 2008. He was born Sept. 12, 1985 to Timmy and Robin Carpenter Mitchell. He was an employee of Carter and Whitt Masonry.

He is survived by his mother and father, Timmy and Robin Mitchell; his daughter, Kirsten; a sister, Heather; three brothers, Rocky, Justin and Harley Mitchell; his maternal grandparents, Robert and Opal Carpenter; his paternal grandparents, Phyllis and the late Cecil Mitchell; his great-grandparents, Thomas and Melissa Hughes; and a host of cousins and friends.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008 at

the Clark Funeral Home with the Rev. Randall Jackson officiating. Burial followed in the Elizaville Cemetery.

Palbearers were: Damon Jackson, Chris Jackson, Patrick Mitchell, Codi Mitchell, Brandon Toddler, and Little Richard Mitchell. Honorary bearers were Jonathan Perry, Brandon English, Preston Hunt, Bobby Frederick, Clifton Willoughby, Henry (Henry) Mitchell, Jr., Dreama Jackson, and Chris Eversoll.

Clark Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

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DECEDENT'S NAME	EDUCATION	TITLE	Nature of Account
Mary Grace Brainer	John Brainer	Guardian	Periodic Settlement
William C. Campbell	Nancy R. Lyons	Executor	Final Settlement
Christie L. Silver	Melissa Ann Toller	Guardian	Periodic Settlement
Margaret E. Fryman	Ruby French	Executor	Final Settlement

Witness my hand this 11th day of December, 2008.

By Sandy Watkins
Nicholas Circuit Clerk

Filed in the Clerk's Office of Nicholas County, December 17, 2008.

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The Carlisle Mercury welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be signed and include a daytime phone number for confirmation. Unclassified letters and unsigned letters will not be published. Phone numbers are not published. We reserve the right to deny publication of letters and to edit letters for content. The deadline for letters to the editor is 5 p.m. Send letters to Editor, The Carlisle Mercury, P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311. Letters may also be e-mailed for editor@carlislemercury.com. However, if e-mail is used, the sender should call 859-289-6425 to confirm that the letter was received.

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