LIFESTYLE

Kentucky author completes latest novel

By Charles Mattox
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Photo by Sandy Hamilton

Best selling Kentucky author, Silas House, took a few moments to read The Carlisle Mercury and discuss the beauty of Nicholas County and grant a brief interview with news editor Charles Mattox during House's recent visit to Artcraft.

Best-selling author Silas House loves rural Kentucky and the Commonwealth's proud heritage. His books reflect that love.

House's stirring first novel "Clay's Quilt", published in 2001, propelled the native Laurel County mailman into the national spotlight as Kentucky's newest, and perhaps most eloquent, writer.

House wrote "A Parchment of Leaves" in 2003, and in 2004 published "The Coal Tattoo", a prequel to "Clay's Quilt."

House's first published work graced the pages of Appalachian Heritage in 1995. That story, originally entitled "Daddy Tell Me about the War" has since been renamed "The Evening is now," and is a personal and emotional fictional narrative about war, family and love. .

House's newest novel, only recently completed and due in bookstores soon, is a similar work set in 1976, called "Eli the good."

The novel is about 10-year-old Eli Book who, during that Bicentennial Summer, watches as his family disintegrates around him. The book examines many characters, including: Eli's mother, Loretta; his troubled father, Stanton, who is just coming to terms with his time in Vietnam; Eli's wild and confused sister Josie, who is questioning everything about herself and everyone around her; Eli's beloved aunt Nell, a former war protester who moves in with them under mysterious circumstances; Eli's tough and determined best friend Edie, who is the only person with whom Eli can completely be himself.

The book examines the essence of youthful innocence and the terrible nature of war while life continues amid the haunting beauty of Kentucky.

House recently marveled at the beauty of rural Nicholas County during his first visit here while playing music as one of the members of Public Outcry. The group performed at Kentuckians For The Commonwealth rally held at Artcroft.

House spent a few moments at Artcroft discussing "Eli the good" and his passion for writing.

"I knew from the time I was seven-years-old that I wanted to be a writer," House said. "It's what I've always wanted to do."

House is a fearless writer, who explores complex emotions.

"I try to give all of myself in my writing," he said. "When I do that I gain so much from the experience. I don't ever make myself write. I don't ever make myself set down and stare at a blank page. Instead, I live as a writer and I often see things through the eyes of a character."

House discussed his inner connection with "Eli the good."

"It's as much about what is going in Iraq as it is about what was going on in Vietnam," he said. "I have very complex feelings about that. I think in many ways the story is about an eastern Kentucky family and the true definition of patriotism."

House readily identified with young Eli in the book.

"Daddy was a Vietnam vet and I was five-years-old myself in 1976. I was a little too young to remember many things about 1976 and I interviewed a lot of people in the process of learning about that year. The war still reverberates with my father as I'm sure it does with many Vietnam veterans."

House said his father was the first one to read the completed book.

"It was real important to me that I get his approval. He read it and although he doesn't agree with everything in it, he told me it was his favorite book."

House said he is beginning work on his 5th novel, which he describes as being about "a strong eastern Kentucky woman who kidnaps her own child."

House also devotes much of his time to supporting the environmentalist group Kentuckians For The Commonwealth. He is also a staunch critic of mountain top removal methods of strip mining coal.

"I'm not against coal. I'm against being irresponsible," House said. "The people that are ordering the mountains to be torn down have never even seen them."

As a singer and guitarist with the group Public Outcry, House has found a strong avenue for his plight to bring about the destructive practices of mountain top removal.

"I was raised signing in the church and I'm passionate about music but I'm not as good with music as I am with writing. I love being a part of Public Outcry."

The following is an excerpt from "Country Boy can Surmise," House's blog, which touches on many subjects, most of which are entwined with House's Appalachian heritage. In one particular portion House details his passion for Kentucky and describes his, and his loved ones' origins.

"We come from people like the Widow Combs, a 64 year old woman who laid down in front of bulldozers to stop the strip mining by broad form deed on her Knott County farm in 1965. She was carried off to jail, but she made her point. We come from people like Nellie Woolum, a retired postmaster who went to her local officials over and over again, telling them that the coal company would end up destroying Ages Holler by building shoddy sludge dams. She was right; the resulting slurry spill wrecked dozens of homes and killed Woolum in her own home. She'll be remembered for fighting back, for speaking up. We come from people like my grandfather, Johnny Shepherd, who lost his leg in a roof fall in the Leslie County mines but after only six months of recuperation, decided to go back underground and mine coal for 20 more years. Because he believed in his job, he believed in working hard, in never giving up. We come from the hundreds of men and women who fought at the Battle of Blair Mountain, despite being bombed by United States Army planes armed with bombs, the only time in history our nation dropped bombs on its own people. They fought because they believed in something and were willing to stand up for it."

House's writing is exhilarating and he continues to strive to help make our state the rural beauty that it once was through his efforts as an environmentalist.

Update on MRSA Protection

Nicholas County Hospital is proud to collaborate with the statewide Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Collaborative.

Carlisle and Louisville KY (Friday, September 26, 2008): Nicholas County Hospital is proud to collaborate with the statewide Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Collaborative. This is one of the many efforts the hospital is taking to reduce the occurrence of MRSA infection in the community.

MRSA is a type of bacteria that is resistant to certain antibiotics including methicillin and other more common antibiotics. Staph infections, including MRSA, occur most frequently among persons in hospitals and health care facilities such as nursing homes and dialysis centers. However recently, such infections have been identified in otherwise healthy people who have not been recently hospitalized or had a medical procedures and are known as community-associated (CA)-MRSA infections.

MRSA is becoming more prevalent in community and health care settings. According to CDC data, the proportion of infections that are antimicrobial resistant has been growing. In 1974, MRSA infections accounted for two percent of the total number of staph infections; in 1995 it was 22 percent; in 2004 it was 63 percent.

Nicholas County Hospital is one of many Kentucky hospitals taking action to increase knowledge regarding identification, treatment and containment of MRSA. The MRSA Collaborative was formed in partnership by the Kentucky Hospital Association (KHA), the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences, the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department for Public Health and Health Care Excel of Kentucky. The Collaborative utilizes current best practices, national experts, and easily accessibly Web-based tools to educate and share information among health care providers, long term care, home health, first responders such as emergency medical services, law enforcement, corrections, and school and athletic programs.

About the Kentucky Hospital Association. The Kentucky Hospital Association is a not-for-profit organization of which all Kentucky hospitals are members. The Association represents and facilitates collaborative efforts among Kentucky hospitals and is the source for strategic information about the constantly changing health care environment. For more information, go to www.kyha.com.

About the Nicholas County Hospital. Nicholas County Hospital is a Critical Access Hospital committed to providing quality care to the citizens of Nicholas and surrounding counties. The hospital (as well as Johnson Mathers Nursing Home) is accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations. For more information, go to http://www.johnsonmathers.org/hospital.htm.

THIS LITTLE PRINCESS TURNS 2

on October 2nd

Happy Birthday Hannah Lauren

Love,
Daddy, Mommy,
Mamaw and Papaw

Happy Birthday, Hannah!

Hannah Lauren Fuller is turning 2 on Oct. 2

We love you,
Mamaw and Papaw

Happy 45th Anniversary

Oct. 8th
to a very special
brother and sister-in-law.

We love you!
Gene & Martha

The Family of William T. Dampier

would like to express their sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness shown to us during the sudden illness and loss of our loved one.

To those who visited, called, offered prayers, brought food, sent flowers and cards, donated money to the East Union Christian Church and the American Heart Association, or just offered words of comfort, there are no words to express our gratitude.

A word of gratitude is extended to the Nicholas County Ambulance Service for their prompt response and care. We also hold in high regard the doctors and staffs in the CCU and CPM areas of St. Joseph's Hospital who worked tirelessly to save the life of our husband and father.

A special thanks to Brother James Gaines for his visits, kind words, and for a lovely service. To the family, friends, and neighbors who told their stories during the service and brought a chuckle or two, you will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Finally, to Clark's Funeral Home, thank you for the kind and professional manner in which you cared for our loved one.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Anneta, Benita, Jane Ellen, and Sandy

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LIFESTYLE

Photo by Charles Mattox

Local WW II hero, Charles Wilson, greets friends over the weekend during Saturday In Carlisle festivities around the courthouse. A new DVD featuring an interview with Wilson, and detailing his experiences in the war, is now available at the Nicholas County Public Library.

Local hero subject of DVD

A new DVD featuring local World War Two hero, Charles Wilson, is now available at the Nicholas County Public Library.

Wilson, 83, of Stony Creek Road, the son of Berlin and Mattie Wilson, was drafted into the Army during World War II,

He served gallantly as a member of the Battery C of the 42nd Field Artillery Battalion of the Army's Fourth Division.

Wilson's military service flew by rapidly.

He signed up for the draft on Sept. 25 1943, and one year later he was driving one of the lead armored artillery vehicle's leading the American forces into Paris, France for the liberation.

"We took Paris on my 19th birthday and we never fired a shot," Wilson said with a smile.

Since his landing on Utah Beach in Normandy in June of that same year, the liberation of Paris was one of the few quiet moments during the war.

"The Germans had superior equipment," Wilson said. "The German 88 was a far superior artillery vehicle to anything we had. All of their equipment was good, but we outsmarted them, we outlasted them and sometimes we outran them."

Wilson survived the Normandy invasion and a multitude of conflicts including the Battle of Hurtgen Forest. He was part of the liberation of several NAZI concentration camps, including Dachau.

Wilson was honorably discharged from the Army and returned to Kentucky where he completed his high school education and then went on to college, eventually becoming an employee of the Nicholas County School System where he was a principal for approximately 33 years.

"I'm glad the DVD was made," Wilson said last week. "Not for any personal notoriety, but I think it's important that younger generations know what it was like."

Be sure and stop in at the library and check out, or reserve a copy, of this fascinating video of one of Nicholas County's finest citizens and patriots.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky has issued an order on August 22, 2008 scheduling the hearing to be held on October 7, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Daylight time) in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purpose of cross-examining witnesses in Case No. 2008-00285 which is An Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Kentucky Utilities Company from November 1, 2007 through April 30, 2008.

Kentucky Utilities Company
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Louisville, Kentucky 40202

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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
NICHOLAS CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 08-CI-00052

CHASE HOME FINANCE LLC — PLAINTIFF

VS:

NOTICE OF SALE

LORI MCALISTER
GREGORY SCOTT LUCOUS
JP MORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. — DEFENDANTS

By virtue of Judgment and Order of Sale of thi Nicholas Circuit Court entered in the above styled action on September 17, 2008, and to make enough money to satisfy said judgment lien owed Plaintiff in the amount of $68,510.73, plus interest at the rate of $10.55 per diem from September 7, 2008, until paid, plus late charges, advances for taxes and insurance, and the costs herein expended, including a reasonable attorney fee and expenses of sale and for any other fees expended for services performed in connection with the defendant's default and for the purposes of protecting Plaintiff's interest in the property and its rights under the mortgage instrument, and any delinquent ad valorem property taxes, all as provided in said judgment; the undersigned Master Commissioner will on October 11, 2008, at or about the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Nicholas County Courthouse door in Carlisle, Kentucky, offer for sale to the highest and best bidderat the following described property known as 4370 Old Somerset Road, Sharpsburg, Nicholas County, Kentucky 40374, and more specifically described as follows:

" A captain tract of land, lying in Nicholas County, Kentucky, and bounded as follows:

" BEGINNING at a large sycamore tree on the north bank of Hinkston and corner to Geo. H. Wilson; then up Hinkston N 26 E 25.44 poles to wet bank of Somerset Creek at its mouth; then N 80 E 2 poles to the center of Somerset; then up Hinkston N 88 ½ E 26 poles; S 61 E 4.84 poles to a stone on the north bank of said Creek corner to E. Thompson; then leaving the creek N 43 ½ W 125.40 poles to a fence post to J.A. Sparks; then S 50 W 42 poles to the middle of Somerset Creek corner to Geo. Wilson, then down the Somerset Creek S 68 E 24 poles; S 62 E 43.32 poles to the center of the creek at a water gap, then leaving the creek S 45 ½ W 28 poles to a gate post corner to said Geo. H. Wilson; then S 36 ½ E 50 poles to the beginning, containing 24 acres 3 rods and being legal measure, including Hinkston.

"BUT EXCEPTING out of and from said boundary Eleven Acres (11A) heretofore conveyed to Geo. H. Wilson by J.M. Wilson by deed dated March 4th, 1907, and recorded in Deed Book 24, Page 261, of the Nicholas County Clerk's Office.

" There is further EXCEPTED from the above property and retained by the GRANTORS, the following describedtract of land, to wit:

"All the small tract or parcel of land, crescent in shape, lying across the Old Somerset Road the tract herein conveyed and more particularly described as follows:

"Bounded on the Northwest, West, Southwest, and West by the road; thence running in a Southwesterly direction from the road 170 feet, more or less, to a point, thence in a Northwestly direction 500 feet, more or less, to the road, containing ¼ acre, more or less."

Being the same property conveyed from Bettejean Amoche, a single person, to Lori McAlister and Gregory Scott Lucous, her husband, by deed dated 9-13-01 and recorded 9-24-01 in Deed Book 108, Page 734, in the Office of the Clerk of Nicholas County, Kentucky.

Upon the sale of the above-described property, the purchase price shall be payable in cash. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the purchaser (s) shall pay one third of the purchase price and give bonds with approved good and sufficient surety thereon for payment of the remaining part of the purchase price in two equal installments within thirty (30) days after the date of sale; said bonds to have the same force and effect as a judgment and to be a lien on said property and to bear interest at the rate of twelve (12%) percent per annum from date of sale until paid, which bonds and accrued interest can be paid before maturity.

Said property shall be sold as a whole "as is" and free and clear of all liens, encumbrances and interests of the parties hereto, but shall be sold subject to:

(a) 2008 and subsequent years ad valorem property taxes which shall be paid by the purchaser(s);
(b) Legal highways, easements, restrictions, covenants and stipulations of record affecting said property, and applicable zoning ordinances and governmental laws and regulations affecting same;
(c) Any assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
(d) Any facts that could be disclosed by an accurate survey and inspection of the property.
(e) Any right of redemption which may exist.

Neither the Court nor the Master Commissioner shall be deemed to have warranted title to any purchaser(s). Purchaser(s) shall be entitled to possession of the premises, and a deed will be delivered to the purchaser(s), upon full payment of the purchase price or execution of the sale bonds and confirmation of the sale by the Court. A deed will be delivered to purchaser(s) upon approval of same by the Court.

Following sale of the above-described property, the Master Commissioner shall promptly report same to the Court, and said report shall be held over for a period of ten (10) days for confirmation or exceptions. Anyone desiring to object or except to the sale shall do so by that time or be forever barred.

s/ Joseph H. Conley, Master Commissioner,
Nicholas Circuit Court

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