

All articles contributed by
David Patton,
Palmer Town Historian

September 2006

PALMER CLINIC ANNIVERSARY

The Palmer Clinic on Hwy. 108 next to the First Baptist Church of Palmer marks 50 years of service to the area this Labor Day (2006).

According to newspaper accounts of the Day, the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company and the United Mine Workers of America (U.M.W.A.) led the effort with the money and materials and mobilized local miners and others who donated building skills to make the much-needed facility a reality with the Grand Opening on Labor Day 1956.

Dr. Walter Huling moved his family to Palmer that year after the area had been without a full time physician since Dr. Oscar Howell Clements closed his well known Clements Clinic in 1948 and moved his practice to Chattanooga. Dr. Walter Huling faithfully served the medical needs of the people until about 1977-78 when illness forced his retirement and subsequent death in the summer of 1979.

In late 1980, Dr. Vin Paul Hua, a native of China, came to Palmer, and preparations were made to re-open the clinic, which officially welcomed back patients in January 1981.

For over a quarter-century, Dr. Hua has served the medical needs of the Palmer area, and in 2005 was honored by the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce with a "Distinguished Citizen" plaque in recognition of his tenure as the longest serving physician in Palmer's history.

Dr. David Bryan, a cousin of Mrs. Hattie Hampton Swann, was Palmer's first physician and was followed by Dr. C.W. Hembree and Dr. William Perry Stone. Dr. Stone was the father of Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr., who was known state wide for her work in the P.T.A. where she served as the Tennessee State President in the early 1950's.

One of the most beloved physicians in Palmer's history was Dr. Oscar Howell Clements, who came here from Georgia to be the staff doctor at the CCC Camp on Palmer Mountain.

The people of Palmer got to know Dr. Clements in that role and persuaded him to move down into Palmer and become the town doctor. He served from 1933-1948, which included the hard years of the Great Depression and World War II. He was known for his

compassion toward his patients and for making house calls in all kinds of weather and at all hours of the night. As the late Mrs. Horace Moore, Sr. told me, "Dr. Clements was not only a good doctor; he was a good man."

Dr. Clements delivered many babies at this Clements Clinic, which was located behind the old Palmer Theater. He delivered many others in the mothers' homes and even today you'll find names like "Oscar Howell" Mc Daniel and "Oscar Howell" (Harold) James, who were named for this good man as was the late Bobby Howell Rollins. Dr. Clements' oldest son, Howell Gilbert, is a Chattanooga attorney, and his youngest son, Joel, is a physician in Chattanooga.

Others known to have practice medicine briefly in Palmer were Dr. Thomas Ray Mosley and a Dr. Shackelford.

If you have additional information about physicians who practiced in Grundy County, please contact the webmaster of the Grundy County Historical Society's website.

David Patton
Palmer Town Historian

UPDATE: PALMER CLINIC ARTICLE

September 9, 2006
Dear David,

Just a line or two to tell you what I know about the Palmer Clinic. Dr. Cowden came to Palmer first I believe, then Dr. Huling. I was pregnant with my third child. I was living in Cleveland, Ohio. I came home to Palmer to have my baby because it cost a tremendous amount to have a baby in Ohio and our insurance had not been in effect long enough to pay. On December 10, 1957 around 6 A.M.

I woke up to the noise of Moma's washing machine running. Almost immediately I knew today was the big day. I got up and told Moma she had better get ready because I was going to the clinic to have the baby. I drove to Helen and Reyburn Ackerman's house(my sister) so she could call the Dr. We did not have a phone. I don't remember which one she called, but Dr. Cowden was my DR. Helen said, "Are you sure you are in labor?" I assured her I was and she said, "You sure don't act like it!". We arrived at the clinic and Dr. Huling and Mrs. Orange-Lemon Northcutt were at the Palmer Clinic. They put me to bed and Moma asked them how long it would be and they said this afternoon. Well she came in my room and told me,"She thought she would go back home and finish her wash". I had no way of calling Nelson because he had no phone so I just wrote him a letter. He came home in about 2 weeks. He named her Marsha before she was born, if she was a girl, back then you ordered what you wanted and took what you got and loved it regardless what sex it was, I named her the middle name Gay. Back then they had a bread commercial on tv. The man would smell the bread and say Marsha and she would smell the bread and say John. I did not like the name Marsha but I did after they stopped showing that commercial. I am proud that we named her Marsha because now nothing else would suit her. Dr. Cowden was not at the Clinic at the time Marsha was born at 11:29 am weighing 6 lb 12 oz, fat as a butterball and real short legs. Dr. Huling delivered her. She was the most beautiful baby, She had long black hair that curled all over, very thick. She had pink rosy cheeks. She didn't look like a new born baby. There was a restaurant in Palmer at the time, they sent out and got me a plate for lunch. It was really good all I can remember that was on the plate was cabbage. Moma walked in while I was finishing my plate. She said, "Oh Lord, are you eating cabbage?" and I said yes, she said "they say if a woman eats cabbage while in bed after having a baby it will kill her." I said " Too late now I have already eaten it!" Dr Huling showed Marsha to everyone who came into the Clinic. He would say I want to show you the prettiest baby I have ever seen! She was the talk of the town since she was the first baby born in the new Palmer Clinic. I spent the night at the Clinic and Mrs. Northcutt stayed with me. The next morning was the biggest snow I ever saw in Palmer. Helen came to pick us up and we waded in the snow and it was so deep we could hardly walk. It was quite an ordeal.

Marsha Gay Burnett was born December 10, 1957 at Palmer Clinic, Palmer Tennessee. 6lb 12oz

Father: Nelson Burnett

Mother: Earlene Cunningham Burnett

Spouse: Charles Joe Summers, Dunlap, Tn.

Children: Daughter, Caylea Jo Summers, Son, Charles Brody Summers.

Best wishes on your research!

Earlene Bryant, 241 Bryant Lane, Tracy City, Tn 37387.

COMMENTS:

Earlene is a daughter of the late Webb and Sarah Gipson Cunningham who lived across Mill Creek near the Palmer ball diamond for many years. For more information on the Cunningham and Gipson families consult Earlene's excellent articles in the Grundy County Heritage book.

The restaurant Earlene mentioned was probably the "Palmer Restaurant" which was located in the big two-story building at the end of the bridge on HWY 108. Brian Coutu lives there today.

Thanks to Ms. Susan Sissom for her assistance on this Update.

UPDATE (SEPTEMBER 11, 2001) PALMER CLINIC ARTICLE

In a casual conversation with Larry Crabtree last week we were told that his wife, Gayle, had worked at the Palmer Clinic for the last 40 yrs which is a record. Another longtime employee was Perkie Cannon Greene who now lives in Florida.

Our good friend Franklin King said he was born with asthma and in the late 1930's or early 1940's the doctor gave him a prescription for "Asthma Cigarettes" which was filled in the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company, "Company Store".

Franklin credits his US Navy days with curing his asthma. "I was in the navy for over 10 years and traveled all over the world. I believe it was the sea air because I've not had a serious attack since". Franklin is a son of the late miner Bob King of Chiggertown Loop in Palmer.

GENE BROOKS, 1935 GHS FOOTBALL PLAYER

The late Gene Brooks of Palmer gave us this photo of himself as a Grundy Co. High School football player in 1935.

Gene was a lifelong sports fan and says he sometimes would catch the bus here in Palmer and go to a U-T Football Game in Knoxville. In those days Palmer had daily bus service to Nashville and Chattanooga with connections from there to anywhere.

In his retirement years, Gene used to enjoy talking about the U-T Vols with another big football fan, Gene Grissom of McMinnville, who was the Dr. Pepper delivery man in Palmer for many years. Gene was a son of the well-known Church of Christ minister Bailey (Preacher) Brooks and Ethel Cannon Brooks.

1989 PALMER LABOR DAY PARADE

David "Baloney" Crabtree had his wrecker in the 1989 parade. Baloney still lives in Palmer and was an original member of the Palmer Volunteer Fire Dept. When it was organized in the 1970's. He's a son of the late Gordon and Ethlene Smith Crabtree.

Fall Colors in 1989

Fall colors will soon be seen in Grundy County and here's a preview.

Palmer town historian David Patton snapped this photo of an old home in Beersheba Springs. Is the old house still there? If so, who lives there 17 years later?

SNAKES! COPPERHEADS AND RATTLERS!

What would it take to get your attention on a lazy, hot, July afternoon? Back in 1990, when Paul Edward Campbell drove up with this big rattlesnake, he'd caught live on Palmer Mountain, that did it for us. And then some!

We'd almost forgotten this photo until our friend Jason Ashcraft was "copperhead bit" this summer and hospitalized twice as a result. Jason was mowing and his grandparents. Mr. and Mrs. Y.B. Ashby of Gruetli-Laager said that he was a very sick young man. Shortly later, Larry Crabtree told us a copperhead almost got him while weed-eating.

Our earliest report of a snake bite is from about 1922-23 in Tracy City. Mrs. Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell told us her family lived near where the Sequachee Valley Electric Coop Office stands today, and a copperhead bit her one night in the yard when she was just a child. Someone ran to get Doctor W. P. Stone and snuff was applied to the bite until he arrived. Ethel Mae is 92 now and has lived in Palmer since 1924.

Mrs. Helen Ackerman Arbuckle of Tracy City said her mother, Sarah Cunningham, also suffered serious consequences from a copperhead bite. "We lived near the ball diamond in Palmer" Mrs. Arbuckle said. "Mama stepped out the back door onto a concrete slab and a copperhead bit her on the foot. They rushed her to Newell's hospital in Chattanooga. I never saw anything swell up as big as her leg did without bursting."

Many will remember when Jane Rogers was hospitalized in Chattanooga from a copperhead bite she suffered as a child while walking from the Morris Rogers home toward Edd Nunley's store. This must have been in the 1960's and someone reportedly cut the wound and sucked the poison out as a first aid measure. Jane lives today in the old Brimmer White place near where she was bitten.

Many people are "copperhead bit" by sticking their hands under something to remove it as was Rev. John Creighton, Jr. not many years ago. He was hospitalized at the Whitwell Hospital and suffered terribly.

One longtime resident of Dock White Hollow in Palmer says that he killed 14 copperheads in or near his yard one summer and a big rattlesnake escaped by crawling into high weeds. "Don't ever follow a snake into weeds trying to kill it." he said. "You'll get bit."

Some of you may remember newspaper accounts several years ago of another home in Dock White Hollow that was infested with copperheads, and some were even found lying in windowsills.

Summer is almost over, but snakes continue to be a hazard until well into the fall. We've heard that they start going underground after the third big frost and also heard that snakes focus on the victim's body heat. One man said while squirrel hunting, he felt something nudge his boot and when he looked down a copperhead was trying to sense his body heat.

Although most people in Grundy Co. are "copperhead bit" rattlesnakes have victims too. We were told of one man who was bitten in November while gathering mountain stone. Over time, his arm reportedly just "withered away". Our good friend, Grundy Co. historian, William Ray Turner, says he once spotted a rattlesnake under a tomato plant in his Tracy City garden.

Snakes are a part of nature and bites are rare, but the consequences can be serious as we have seen. So be aware of that as you go about your outdoor activities.

Thanks to Mrs. Janelle Taylor for her assistance on this story.

CONGRATULATION TO NEW SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JOEL R. "JODY" HARGIS

On September 12, 2006, Joel R. "Jody" Hargis, a native Grundy countian who was born at the Palmer Clinic in 1959, was appointed as the new Grundy County School Superintendent by the Board of Education.

History may have been made with this appointment because his father Raymond Hargis was elected and served for years as superintendent. To our knowledge this is the only father/son to serve in this position in the history of Grundy Count, and county historian William Ray Turner also doesn't recall this ever happening.

The Hargises are also a part of Palmer School history. Raymond Hargis was appointed Palmer School principal in 1955, and exactly 40 years later in 1995 Jody was appointed to the position making them the only father/son to serve in that capacity at Grundy County's oldest school.

Jody is the son of Raymond and Doris Brown Hargis of Manchester, TN, and has a sister Deborah. His grandparents were the late Mr. & Mrs. Lee Hargis of Gruetli and Herman and Maudie Sehorne Brown of Palmer. Many of you will also remember his aunt, the late Eunice Brown, who worked at the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. "Company Store" in Palmer.

We're always amazed at the history links between the past and present. That's what makes it such a fascinating subject to us.

THE McNABB'S

Crandel and Ethleen McNabb, former residents of Palmer, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary back in August and Ethleen will celebrate her 90th birthday on September 30th.

Crandel drove the first school bus from Palmer to Grundy County High School in Tracy City during the early 1930's. Before World War II he was the coach of Palmer's Golden Gloves Boxing team.

Ethleen was a teacher at Palmer Elementary in the 1940's and later taught in Marion County until her retirement. They have a son, Larry, and a daughter, Janice.

After leaving Palmer, Crandel and Ethleen lived in Jasper, TN for many years and at last report, were living in Dunlap. For more information on the McNabb's refer to the Grundy County Heritage Book.

Congratulations to Crandel and Ethleen on these milestone occasions and Best Wishes from Palmer.

RURAL AMERICA TOWN HISTORIANS- COUNTY HISTORIANS- COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES- HOW THEY CAN HELP YOU

So much of our rural history has been misplaced because of our isolation and other factors but access to modern means of communications has reversed that trend. When combined with the hard work of dedicated volunteers, much of this history is now being retrieved for future generations.

The roles of these unpaid volunteers is not to have an instant answer to every mystery but to give you a clue or photograph that will enable you to find the answer for yourself. Most have deep roots in the area and their knowledge and modern means of research gives you a great chance to succeed.

The following is a small example of how a town historian can help a total stranger.

Last December my brother and I were in the waiting room at the VA pharmacy in Murfreesboro. We didn't know anyone in the crowded room but in a few minutes a pleasant looking gentleman seated nearby asked, "Where are you fellows from?"

I told him Grundy County and the town of Palmer. "Palmer," he said. "My uncle Joe Shelton used to work in the coal mines in Palmer and Whitwell."

We both became excited and my history mind kicked in although I'd never heard of Shelton's living here in my lifetime.

"I believe I have a photo of a Joe Shelton." I told him and things went from there.

To make a long story short, we exchanged addresses and I was able to tell him who Joe Shelton married. Mr. Lewis Shelton had visited Palmer many years ago before leaving Tennessee to work in Indiana. After his work career there he returned to Tennessee and retired in Murfreesboro.

It turns out that Lewis' grandfather, Coleman Shelton, is buried at White Cemetery and I believe he also said he had a connection with the Tate's of Grundy County. He had visited Palmer in recent years but couldn't find anyone to show him around. We gave him a personal invitation and will be glad to assist him.

Before Christmas I sent Lewis a little photo of his uncle Joe so that it could be a part of his family history. We urge everyone to preserve these old photos and get them copied before the originals are lost.

The satisfaction of helping nice people like Lewis connect with their past is what makes it worth while for local volunteers like myself. We cherish the people and history of our area and want to pass the legacy on to generations yet unseen.

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

GRUNDY COUNTY VETERANS' MUSEUM FINDS A HOME

Mr. Y. B. Ashby, founder and president of the Grundy County Veterans' Historical Society, announces that after a long search his dream of a Grundy County Veterans' Museum is closer to reality, but says much hard work lies ahead.

That's where you and I come in. If you are a veteran or someone who appreciates what the veterans have done for our country, you can become a vital part of this effort.

"We've been trying to find a location in Grundy County for the past couple years but just weren't able to", Mr. Ashby said.

Finally, with the building of the new Palmer Fire Hall, that freed up the space in the old building and the Palmer City Council has agreed to let us use it. I appreciate the respect and support that they have shown to our Grundy County Veterans.

The 84-year-old World War II veteran knows that "Volunteers" in the Volunteer State must step forward. "We'll have to renovate the building and we'll need

carpenters, plumbers, or anyone else who can lend a hand. If you can't help in this way, a donation toward building materials would be so helpful."

The Grundy County Veterans' Historical Society has a first-class program to honor veterans at different times of the year. Coming up soon is the much-anticipated "Veteran of the Year" awards on November 11th. A veteran is selected to represent each community in the county and presented with a beautiful plaque. The Grundy County Veterans' Historical Society has a database on county veterans, but needs your help to ensure that no one is left out.

Please listen up! If you, a loved one, or friend ever lived in Grundy County and served in the armed forces, they need to hear from you. Please call 931 779-3462 and Mr. Ashby or his friendly assistant Betty Jo Turner will be glad to help you in getting this information in the Grundy County Veterans' Museum.

"I have personally known Mr. Ashby for the past 20 years and can say without reservation that he's the best friend the veterans of Grundy County have ever had."

Palmer town historian David Patton said." I've worked with him on many projects and one of those was in his role as publisher of the Grundy County Post where in 1988, he produced a special Veterans' Day edition honoring the veterans of Grundy County with articles and photos about their military service. For this labor of love, he was awarded the prestigious George Washington Honor Medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge."

With Veterans' Day fast approaching, let's all "fall in" behind Mr. Ashby and do whatever we can to make this project a success. We hope to keep you updated as events occur.

October 2006

PALMER NEWS

Glorious October! With bright sunshine and deep blue skies reflecting off autumn leaves. It's the most beautiful of months in Grundy County. We've noticed more people out walking in the late evening and enjoying the crisp air that invigorates body and spirit.

We talked with Mrs. Margie Sanders Ramey at Palmer School and she showed us samples of the new auditorium seats. The movie-theatre type seats are very comfortable and if the school can raise the money they will be the final touch on the newly renovated auditorium. If you can help in any way please call Mrs. Ramey at 931-779-3372. Purchasing a seat with a name plate would be a wonderful way to remember a loved one.

The new Palmer fire hall should be opening soon. It's located where the train depot used to be. The depot served as Palmer's Post Office for years and Mr. Homer Heard had a barber shop in another part of the building. Mrs. Heard also had a beauty shop there as well.

Palmer's City election is coming up November 7th and the mayors race between Daniel T. Crabtree and incumbent Jeff "Rabbit" Morrison is drawing a lot of interest. We'll have a special story as the election draws nearer.

It's good, in fact good and delicious, to see the Palmer Church of God resume a long tradition of fund raising dinners and a recent one featured chicken and dumplings. That reminded me of when the church made and sold doughnuts some 50 years ago. They were a town favorite and were just 60 cents a dozen. Mrs. Myrtle Tate was one of the main doughnut makers and our friend Ronnie Cox used to buy a dozen and eat them all by himself.

The Palmer Improvement League meets October 24th and one of the topics will be plans for the 21st Annual Palmer Community Christmas Celebration. A Christmas service at the historic Palmer United Methodist Church is always part of the evenings events, so if you live out of town, try to come and enjoy it. A date for the celebration will be announced soon.

The Palmer Improvement League is a group of town volunteers who are dedicated to making Palmer a better place to live. The women of Palmer are leading the effort and welcome the support of everyone. One of their main goals is attacking the litter problem so that the natural beauty of our town can emerge.

Sympathy is extended to the families of William Stone "Buck" Cookson and Melvin "Poss" Pocus. Buck still lived here, but we understand that Poss passed away in Michigan where he had lived for years. We also want to remember the family of Carl F. "Chuck" Flynn.

That's all for now, but we hope to be back with you next month. Wherever you are, we wish you a very enjoyable Halloween and Autumn season.

FALL COLORS IN GRUNDY COUNTY

Road leading to Stone Door-Colors of fall line the road to the Stone Door in Beersheba.

Fall colors in Palmer-(1994) The burning bush contrasts with the green grass and pines. The mountain looms in the background. At this time Harvey Brown was living back in Palmer on the lot where his parents Mr. & Mrs. Isom Brown raised their family. The top of the Palmer United Methodist church can be seen and the mountainside is toward the "Goat Rocks". These huge rocks were behind the old McCullough place that's occupied by John Doug Shrum today.

Snow in October- (Oct. 8-10, 1989) With the mild weather of recent years, we forget that years ago October could be "right cold". Snow started the night of Oct. 9th and on the morning of Oct. 10th, the roof of Savage Gulf Market was covered and a little still stuck to the roof of the blue car.

HALLOWEEN IN PALMER

At Savage Gulf Market-(1989) Halloween is a fun time in Grundy County, and we personally still enjoy it as a senior citizen. This photo was taken at Savage Gulf Market and Paul "Pepper" Sanders just happened in and we asked him to join the group for a photo.

(L-R) Mary Almond Uselton, Patty Caldwell Brown and her sister Cynthia Green. Mary's son Jason in front and Pepper in the back.

Mary, Patty and Cynthia were employees and many of you will remember Mary's dad the late Rev. Elmer Almond. Patty and Cynthia are the daughters of Herby and Bonnie Cook Caldwell who are former residents of Palmer by have lived in the Coalmont area on Colony Road for many years now.

Halloween "tricks" of bygone years-Although long abandoned, this old outside toilet was still standing in 1989 when we snapped this photo.

If you ever lived in Grundy County and are 50 or older, you'll instantly recognize the Halloween connection. Turning these over was the favorite Halloween prank.

In recent years it has been egg throwing, but back in the days of hard times and big families, eggs were eaten every day and much too valuable to be used that way.

Happy Fall Ya'll-This photo was taken on Halloween night at Palmer School about 2001 or 2002 we'd say. This colorful Halloween decoration with "Happy Fall Ya'll in front of Mrs. Shalonda Braden's classroom caught our eye and we snapped a photo.

During this festive Halloween season we'll borrow a line from Mrs. Shalonda and wish all of you across the country a very "Happy Fall, Ya'll" from Palmer.

TENNESSEE POST CARDS

Greetings from Tennessee

Tennessee State Capitol

PALMER SCHOOL MEMORIES

**(1927- THE FIRST YEAR)
BY: DOLA IVEY RECTOR
AS TOLD TO DAVID PATTON**

It's very rare to get a first-hand account like this so let's begin.

"In the summer of 1927 we had a bad storm in Palmer. My sister Becky and I were children and it scared us so bad we stuck our heads between the mattress and the feather bed because of the thunder and lightning. We lived at what was known as the "The McCullough Place". All the coal company houses had different colors and ours was green."

"That fall when school started I was in primer and we started in the old school with Miss Margaret McCurdy as my teacher. If it looked stormy she would get a couple of boys to walk me home because she knew I was terrified of storms. They'd be 7th or 8th grade boys and we'd go down the railroad tracks, past the train depot and then up the big hill above the company store to my house which was the last one on that road."

“In November 1927 the new school opened and we walked across the railroad tracks and settled in. It was the finest thing we’d ever seen. A red-brick building with restrooms, pretty rooms in different colors and central heat with radiators in each room keeping us warm with steam heat. Every morning we’d go to the auditorium and have chapel and sing.”

“Miss McCurdy was the teacher for my first three years of school and was a wonderful person. In those days the teachers from Tracy City rode the train to Palmer in the morning and caught it back to Tracy City in the evening. Sometimes I’d go home with Miss McCurdy to spend the night . She lived with her parents in a big home next to Dr. Tom Roberts in Tracy City. She had a big high bed and I was short so she’d put a chair by the bed and I’d climb into it and get into bed.”

“I’m sure most of us were scared to death of vaccinations or “shots” as they were known and Dola’s story confirms that.” “Dr. U.B. Bowden came to the county schools every year and gave us our shots. When Aleene Geary saw him drive up she would faint. Of course later on she was a nurse for Dr. Oscar Howell Clements at Clement’s Clinic here in Palmer.”

Dola is always proud to be from Palmer and cherishes the memories of her days growing up here. “When my son started to school about 1951 in College Park, Georgia. It was an old wooden building with a pot-bellied stove and boys carrying the coal in. Although a modern school was later built.”

“This reminded me of how fortunate I was to grow up in Palmer. We had a good town with conveniences like a first class school, the train, daily bus service to Chattanooga and Nashville, a theatre, churches and stores. People had plenty of friends and were close to each other and Dr. Clements was always there in times of sickness. I’ll never forget it.”

Dola and her sister, Becky Ivey Teague of Chattanooga, are the only surviving members of the Jim Ivey family. They had a sister, Vaudie Ivey Barker, who was married to Roy Barker; and a brother, R.B. Ivey, who was married to Hilda Sitz.

In 1915, when Jim and Clara Poe Ivey brought their family here from Tracy City, what would later be known as Palmer was a virtual wilderness with just a few scattered families. The Ivey’s are believed to be the first family to move here from Tracy City to help start a new coal mining town but soon many others would come from points far and near.

We appreciate Dola sharing these memories with us. She will celebrate her 88th birthday October 12th and may be reached at: 156 Storey Rd., Jefferson, Georgia 30549.

Thank’s to Ms. Susan Sissom for her assistance on this story.

COMMENTS:

“The McCullough Place” was where John and Tootsie Cannon Shrum lived later on and where their son John Doug Shrum lives today. The Albert

McCullough Family lived there and he was the grandfather of Danny McCullough who still lives in Palmer.

The “Old School” Dola mentioned was used for several years after it was supposed to close because of overcrowding at the new school. It was later used as a residence by the Horace Moore Sr. Family and the Reyburn Ackerman Family. It stood where Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Harrison live today.

The “new school” is the present day Palmer Elementary School which opened on November 14, 1927.

Dr. Tom Roberts was a well-known Tracy City dentist.

November 2006

IWO JIMA MEMORIES

By Obid Marion “Soap” McNabb

As told to David Patton

The following excerpts are from an article written by Mr. Patton in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

Soap McNabb was a good friend of Mr. Patton and a World War II veteran from Palmer who went in the U.S. Army a few weeks before Pearl Harbor and stayed until after the war was over, arriving home in December 1945.

“My outfit sailed from the Marshall Islands to Iwo Jima (Sulphur Island in Japanese) in February 1945. I was a radar operator with an anti-aircraft unit, and our army group was supposed to help protect the island from Japanese planes once the Marines had captured it. The battle was just supposed to last five days, but when we got there the Marines had just established a beachhead. We went ashore, set up our radar unit and had to move it three times. The Japanese snipers killed many Americans, and you could see Marine helmets with a bullet hole through them. We got just one canteen of water a day because the island had no fresh water, and we were drinking ocean water that had been treated and the salt taken out.

The soldiers nicknamed Iwo Jima “The Sizzling Pork Chop,” Soap recalled. “The sand was so hot you could dig down 6-8”, put a can of food under it, and it would heat it. When sleeping in a shell hole, you could put a shelter half or blanket on the sand, and it would heat it like an electric blanket. There was no place to retreat on Iwo Jima because it was completely surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. The caves and any holes the Japanese were in were bulldozed and some of them were buried alive. One of our men was souvenir hunting in a cave after the fighting was over, and a Japanese soldier threw a grenade and killed him.

Our unit was still on Iwo Jima when the Atomic Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945. We could pick up Japanese radio broadcasts and they were going wild saying that the Atomic Bomb was a poison gas attack. We had never heard the words “Atomic Bomb”. We said what the h--- is an Atomic Bomb?”

Even leaving Iwo Jima after the Japanese surrendered and ended World War II proved dangerous. The day we were scheduled to leave a typhoon hit, and we were delayed about three days. When we took a small boat out to get on the big ship off shore, the ocean was still so choppy and rough it was hard to make it. As we left the small boat we had to grab a rope ladder and try to keep from getting crushed against the side of the big ship as we climbed the ladder u the side.”

Our friend Soap survived the war and was Palmer’s radio and TV repairman form many years afterwards. He passed away in 1996.

With the release of the acclaimed Iwo Jima movie “Flags of Our Fathers”, we wanted to share these Iwo Jima memories of a Grundy County veteran with you.

Pictured is Soap McNabb accepting the second annual Palmer Veterans’ Appreciation Award from award founder David Patton in 1987.

THOMAS LEE GEARY, CIVIL WAR VETERAN

Thomas Lee Geary of Tracy City, TN, is shown in this photo, which was probably taken in the late 1800’s. We got this photo from Mrs. Mary Louise Geary Layne of Palmer who passed away earlier in 2006 at the age of 95.

This was Mrs. Layne’s Grandfather, and she told us that she remembered going to his house as a small child in the summer, and he was sitting on the porch wearing a white shirt, black pants and was barefooted.

Mrs. Layne’s father was Joseph S. Geary, who was a Spanish-American War veteran. She said she was told her grandfather Geary came to the United States along with his brother from County Limerick, Ireland. This was during the Civil War, and the brothers were put into the Union Army when they landed in New York City and never saw each other again. Mr. Thomas Lee Geary died in 1919 and is buried in the Hobbs’ Hill Cemetery in Tracy City. For more information on the Geary family consult the Grundy County Heritage Book.

LAST SURVIVING WWII VETERAN IN PALMER

James Lowrie "Jim" King (left) and David Patton

Mr. King was the 1997 recipient of the 12th annual Palmer Veterans' Appreciation Award presented annually by Mr. Patton.

Mr. King passed away earlier in 2006 and was the last surviving World War II veteran in the Palmer City limits. A U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Pacific aboard the battleship U.S.S. Pennsylvania, Mr. King was in the Battle of Okinawa when a Japanese pilot dropped an aerial torpedo into the ship inflicting death and destruction.

Mr. King was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret Rankin King, and father-in-law, Malcolm P. Rankin who was the first recipient of the Palmer Veterans' Appreciation Award. He is survived by a son Randy and a daughter Vicky.

IN MEMORY

U.S. Navy veterans Arnold H. "Rooster" Morrison (left) and James Grimes are shown during WWII at a base in Texas. Rooster died in 1945 while in the Navy in California. He was the son of Jim & Mamie Payne Morrison and was the brother of the late Pat Morrison. Doodle Morrison was another of his brothers who served in the Navy during the war and lives today near Whitwell, TN.

James passed away in 1996 and was the son of the late Bob & Eunice Grimes. His brother Buddy Grimes lives in the Chattanooga area.

MORE PALMER SCHOOL MEMORIES

Palmer School Memories by Ronnie Finch as told to David Patton

"From 1946-1949, I remember walking through the Indian Graveyard on my way to Palmer School in the morning and going home in the afternoon. It's about 100 yards from the school next to where the railroad tracks were that went to the Palmer Big Mine. I've heard that they moved the bodies over to where the graveyard now is when they laid the railroad tracks. I remember a Civil War Lieutenant buried there from Indiana according to the tombstone, and his unit was either the 105th or 107th Infantry and there were 16 other soldiers buried there. I also remember the Lieutenant's tombstone being made of sandstone."

We thank Mr. Finch for this information and hope others will write us about this small cemetery next to Palmer School now known as Palmer Veterans' Memorial Park. We remember seeing the names of early Palmer settlers such as Ransom, Palmer and Bryant on the tombstones. School children walked through the cemetery for many years.

Ronnie is a son of the late Burton and Edith Turner Finch. He has a brother Winford who now lives in Ohio.

WITH OUR SERVICEMEN

Timothy J. "Justin" Smith of Palmer is serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. He is a son of Tim Smith and the late Carol Pickett Smith, and the grandson of Jeanette Tate Smith of Palmer and the late Leon Smith and James Pickett and the late Shirley Pickett. Justin's brother, Matt, is a senior at Grundy County High School and they have a 3-year-old sister Kathryn.

A LETTER TO DAVID PATTON FROM WALTER HAROLD KNIGHT

The following is a letter to David Patton from Mr. Walter H. "Harold" Knight of Warren, Michigan.

"Dear David Patton,

It was so nice to hear from you and thanks a lot for the nice website. I enjoy it very much and have it on my favorites list. I sent it to my sister in Newton, Iowa and to Melba Smith in Gruetli-Laager who is a niece on my brother's side.

Yes, I remember the Patton family (relatives of David Patton) very much. We lived directly across the highway from the Patton's. I remember Tom very well, he got hit in the eye once at the baseball diamond over there in Chiggertown. Marion Crandel and the rest of the McNabb's are first cousins.

I was raised in Palmer and remember when they built the highway through there. I was a kid and remember a lot about those neighbors there such as the Partin's, Shadrick's, Owens', Rust's and Finches. I went into the 11th Air Corps in November 1942 during WWII and was in the Aleutian Islands in the North Pacific for two years and ran into James E. Grimes of Palmer on Attu Island in 1944.

Yes, I remember all the Geary's of Palmer, I used to play with Plib who was washed overboard and lost at sea in February 1943 while in the Navy during the WWII.

There were six children in the Knight family and only myself and my younger sister are still living. Raymond "Babe" was the oldest boy. He was in the Infantry in Germany during World War II and was seriously wounded in November 1944. My youngest brother, Horace Edwin "Gid" was in the Coast Guard in the South Pacific during World War II.

I have been here in Michigan since 1949. We haven't been back down there since 1996 but I'd like to get back down there sometime and do a little exploring. I remember the Curg Creighton store and the old theatre at the end of the road (Stoker Hall) where we used to go and see silent movies.

I'll be looking at your website often and if I can be of any help let me know.

Sincerely,
Walter H. Knight

We thank Mr. Knight so much for sharing his memories of Palmer with us. I'm sure most of the people in his old hometown knew him as "Harold Knight" so we took the liberty of using that part of his name. To our knowledge, Harold's only relatives still living in Palmer is Anna Polk "Ann" Conry Creighton who lives in the house where Lee Griswold and later Porky Flynn family lived. When we told Ann about hearing from Harold she said the last time she heard from him was when she received a letter and photo during WWII. Harold asked about James E. Grimes and we have to sadly report that he passed away several years ago. Joe Willard Fults of Coalmont said he went to school with Harold's sister, Willene. For more information on the Knights of Palmer consult Harold's excellent article in the Grundy County Heritage Book.

MAYORS OF PALMER, TENNESSEE

This year's mayors race on November 7th between incumbent Jeff "Rabbit" Morrison and Daniel T. Crabtree has created a lot of interest and we thought that this would be a good time to go back to the very beginning.

Palmer was chartered as a town in 1925 with a mayor and board of aldermen type of government. Dr. C.W. Hembree was the first mayor and aldermen were John Hudson Barker, Henry Hampton, and J.C. Harris, Sr. We've heard that Dr. Hembree was also the first mayor when Tracy City was chartered in 1915 so he must have been quite a popular fellow.

We lose the trail after that because sometime after 1925 the charter was dissolved. Further research is needed but we've heard it was because small towns would have had to fund schools within their town limits.

We pick up the trail again in June of 1955 as the charter is reactivated with Albert Nunley as mayor and J.C. Harris, Sr., R.F. "P.T." Nunley, and Everett B. Roberts, Sr. as aldermen. They were re-elected in 1958.

In 1960, Reyburn Ackerman was elected mayor along with aldermen Grover Caldwell, Pat Morrison, and Everett B. Roberts, Sr. Under this administration, lights were installed on the ballfield at Palmer School and for many years Little League baseball and men and womens softball leagues used this facility. The famous Palmer softball team manager Alfred "Foxy" Samders was also a leader in getting a lighted ball field for Palmer at a time when the only other such facility in Grundy County was at Tracy City and possibly Monteagle. In 1981 these same lights were moved to a field behind the present day Palmer Library and the field was named "Foxy Sanders Memorial Field". Incredibly, in 2006 these same lights are still in use.

The following is a list of mayors from 1962-2006:

1962-68	Douglas McCullough
1968-70	Richard Rollins
1970-72	Roy "Monk" Land
1972-74	Joseph Shadrick
1974-82	Paul Kemley Campbell
1982-85	Jack Sissom
1985-87	Ray Crisp
1987-90	Mike Shadrick
1990-92	Richard Rollins
1992-94	Pat Morrison
1994-96	Dianna Crabtree Meeks
1996-98	Paul Kemley Campbell
1998-00	Mike Birdwell

2000-04 Paul Edward Campbell

2004-06 Jeff "Rabbit" Morrison

To our knowledge, Paul Kemley Campbell's ten years would have made him the longest serving Palmer Mayor and he joins Richard Rollins as the only mayors to have served non consecutive terms.

Mayor Mike Birdwell moved away and Alderman Bobby Rollins was appointed to fill out his unexpired term.

To our knowledge, Mayors Paul Kemley and Paul Edward Campbell were not related.

Dianna Crabtree Meeks appears to be the only woman to serve as mayor. She's the aunt of Daniel T. Crabtree, a candidate on November 7th. Incumbent Mayor Jeff "Rabbit" Morrison's brother, Billy Clark Morrison, once served as an alderman. Daniel's parents are Karen Rogers Meeks and the late Troy Crabtree. Rabbit is a son of the late "Little Ben" and Jessie Tate Morrison.

Rev. Lee W. Medley (July 25, 1915 – October 20, 2006)

Rev. Lee W. Medley, age 91 of Hillsboro, TN, passed away Friday, October 20, 2006, at Harton Regional Medical Center. Rev. Medley attended Athens College in Athens, AL, graduated from Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, TN, and in 1954, graduated from Vanderbilt Divinity School. In 1947, Rev. Medley answered the call to the ministry. He served in numerous United Methodist congregations in Franklin and surrounding counties retiring in 1981. Rev. Medley's last full-time appointment was at Decherd United Methodist Church. Rev. Medley is survived by his wife of 61 years, Frances "Nicky" Medley; son, Philip and his wife, Karen Medley of Hillsboro, TN, and many nieces and nephews. The funeral service was conducted at 3 P.M. Sunday, October 22, 2006, from the Decherd United Methodist Church with Rev. Thomas DeRamus and Rev. Mosae Han officiating. Interment followed with full military honors at Bethlehem Cemetery. Visitation was Saturday from 3-7 P.M. at Watson-North Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be sent to www.watsonnorth.com

Rev. Medley was a former pastor of Palmer United Methodist Church and a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

Rev. Medley is shown in this 1990 photo visiting with (l-r) James David "Hammer Head" Mitchell, Paul Guyear of Tracy City, manager of the Palmer

Market, formerly Savage Gulf Mkt. #2 where the photo was taken and Paul “Little Ugh” Cleek.

Mystery Man

Can you help us identify this mystery man? He is most likely from Grundy County or possibly Marion or Sequatchie County.

Winning Essays in the Bill & Mendia Patton Patriotic Award Contest

Haley Stocker, Kayla Childers, and A.J. Rooker are the winners of the “Bill & Mendia Patton Patriotic Award” for their Veterans’ Day essays at Grundy County High School. Each received a color certificate and a U.S. Savings Bond for their winning entry.

The award was founded by the Patton’s son, Palmer town historian, David Patton, with the stated purpose of “Fostering, among the student body and general public, a deeper appreciation and understanding of our United States Military Veterans and the sacrifices they have made to preserve our freedom and the American way of life.”

We’re sure that after reading these essays, you’ll agree that the stated purpose of this award has been achieved.

“Congratulations to all the students who participated in the essay contest”. Mr. Patton said. “We deeply appreciate the director of schools, Joel Hargis, and the Board of Education, the classroom teachers, and Mr. Y. B. Ashby for their cooperation in making this event so meaningful. Appreciation is also extended to former director of schools Dr. David Dickerson for having the vision to realize the importance of promoting patriotism among our local students. “When you honor veterans, you honor America.”

1st Place Essay

An Honoring of Veterans

By Haley Stocker

Through rain or shine, in sleet or hail, through the good and the bad, they’ll be there. Our postal service? Try our county’s defenders. I am speaking of the men and women that protect our county on a daily basis. How are these people repaid? Often, they receive no recognition at all.

In the past year, President George Bush has stated that November 6th through the 11th shall be Veterans’ Recognition Week. This is a week in which all

veterans, past and present, will be honored. However, this has posed an interesting issue to the American people. How can we honor and recognize our county's veterans?

For starters, recognition of local veterans should be instated. People could write letters to these proud soldiers giving a "thank-you" for putting our lives before their own. Then we can focus on the nation's veterans as a whole, starting with parades. This would be a good way to recognize these brave men and women. Veterans' Day should be a paid holiday for soldiers.

In closing, veterans deserve our respect and honor. It doesn't really matter what we do, just as long as our soldiers are remembered.

2nd Place Essay

Our Veterans: What Can We Do To Show Support & Honor For Our Veterans?

Kayla Childers

Our veterans should be highly honored. The United States is extremely lucky to have a well-trained and organized Army or any branch of the services. The people who join the services should be respected to a higher degree.

First of all, veterans should get more benefits. If they risked their life to fight for our country, the least we could do is provide them with support and watch over them when they are in need.

Another thing we should do is make Veterans' Day more well known. On this day, there should be parades, ceremonies and other festivals to recognize our veterans.

Our veterans are very important to our country. If it wasn't for them, our country would not be where it is at today. They have fought for the U.S., survived, and should now be highly recognized for their brave and courageous acts.

3rd Place Essay

Celebration of Veterans

A.J. Rooker

The Celebration of Veterans Day is a great influence on our country. We need to be protected. Every day the brave men and women of the armed forces risk their lives to preserve what has been built and defended throughout the last 227 years. They work to keep this county a safe place for the future and our children.

Our veterans should be honored and celebrated for what they have given for this country. Also, showing our gratitude for what our veterans have done will inspire others in the future to be able to take a stand when the time will come in the future. Our veterans show what all of us have the capability and potential to become.

We should celebrate the living veterans and honor the dead ones. Without those who have died, we may not have some of those who are living. The veterans should be rewarded with better benefits than the rest of the country, for they have given more than the rest.

During this week in November that's dedicated to the veterans, we should fly all flags at half at staff in honor of those who have died for a dream that all Americans share, to one day live in a peaceful, free, loving world, to walk down the street unafraid of terrorist, and unafraid of explosions.

We should honor the living with great parades of balloons, confetti, and bright colors to show the promise of a better future.

We must protect this great country in which we live. We must celebrate, honor, and respect those who realize that things need to be protected and preserved. They must be honored.

In Memory of Rev. Lee W. Medley

We were saddened to hear that Rev. Lee W. Medley of Hillsboro, TN, passed away Oct. 20, 2006, at the age of 91. He grew up in Pelham, TN, and was a former pastor of Palmer United Methodist Church, a World War II veteran, and a 1954 graduate of Vanderbilt University Divinity School. Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Frances "Nicky" Medley and his son Philip Medley and wife Karen.

Rev. Medley enjoyed talking with everyone and in this 1990 photo at Palmer Market, he is visiting with (l-r) James "Hammerhead" Mitchell, Paul Guyear , and Paul "Little Ugh: Cleek. While at Palmer United Methodist, he wrote a monthly "minister's message" for the Grundy County Post and Mrs. Medley wrote a monthly column on bird watching.

The church service part of the Palmer Community Christmas Celebration has always been held at Palmer United Methodist and in the early years, Rev. Medley conducted it. Today the service is packed, but back then only a handful attended, but he carried right on and this years marks the 21st consecutive.

The 1991 church service was on Dec. 23rd and Rev. Medley's sermon was on the life of Joseph. In attendance were Rev & Mrs. Medley, David Patton, Keith McBee & daughter Jessica, Charlotte Cannon, William "Wet Duck" Dishroon, Joe Willard & Jean Fults, and Pat & Elvenia Morrison. Rev. Medley gave each person a copy of the following and in tribute to him let's remember this daily.

A Christmas Gift List

- I. To the person who feels especially lonely, I would say that because of the gift of Christ to us we can never be wholly alone again. "Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world."
- II. To the person who is wrestling with some physical disease, see what God did for St. Paul. "My grace is sufficient for thee: For my strength is made perfect in weakness."
- III. To the person whose heart has been chilled by the knowledge that where once love warmed the home, only cold ashes remain. "Beloved, let us love one another."
- IV. To the person who feels bitter about another person, may the spirit of forgiveness bring reconciliation and healing. "If you have a grievance against someone, forgive them so that your father in heaven may forgive you."
- V. To the person who is confronting death, may the assurances of Christ bring hope and strength. "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they die, yet shall they live again."
- VI. To those who are insecure because of changing circumstances of life. The eternal God is your resting place, and underneath are his everlasting arms."
- VII. To the person who has not found true happiness, may the spiritual gifts of Christmas be yours. "I am come that you may have life and that you may have it more abundantly."
- VIII. To the person who is not at peace with God and with himself and with others, may he know anew the blessing of the New Testament. "The peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds though Jesus Christ."

"I believe that it is the privilege of every Christian to share these Christmas gifts with others throughout the whole year. "

Rev. Lee W. Medley

December 2006

Christmases Past ~ A Sleigh Ride Down Memory Lane

No other holiday evokes memories like Christmas does. Whether it was a cold and snowed "White Christmas" or the one that "Santa: delivered that toy we'd wanted all year, our memories take us back to those long ago days of yore. Back to "The way we were".

LeBron Layne

LeBron Layne, son of Ricky "Rock" and Freida Layne of Palmer, is shown with a gift from his friend David Patton. LeBron has grown up to be a fine, hard-working young man and today is a senior at Grundy County High School.

Palmer Friends - Dec. 1989

(l-R) William "Wet Duck" Dishroom, Kathleen "Kat" Roberts Jones and Pat Morrison are shown in front of the newly planted community Christmas tree. All are now deceased. Kat has a sister, MaraLee Caldwell, still living in Palmer and Wet Duck and Pat have children here. Wet Duck was a POW in Germany in WWII.

Mrs. Louise Gerary Layne

Mrs. Louise Gerary Layne of Palmer is shown with her grandson Jacky Layne and his fiancée Wanda King in the living room of Mrs. Layne's home. (December 1996) Until her death on March 3, 2006, at the age of 95, she lived there at the old Joe Geary homeplace in Palmer where she grew up. She was the last surviving member of Palmer school's first graduating class of 1928.

This wonderful lady was a friend to everyone and will always be remembered for her courtesy and generosity.

Margie Sanders Ramey and Students

Margie Sanders Ramey, one of the school's teachers, is shown with students after the Christmas play in the Palmer School Auditorium (December 1998). Steven Harris is in the Santa Cap and others are Paige Hood, Stephen Campbell, Matt Floyd, Stephen Jones, Autumn Knight, and Jonathan Cleek. The Auditorium today is being renovated and Mrs. Ramey is one of the leaders raising funds to complete the project. If you would like to help, call her at 931-779-3372. (This photo was lightened by the webmaster so that you could more clearly see the children.)

Charles Edgar Sanders and grandson

Charles Edgar Sanders, Palmer's representative on the Grundy County School Board, is shown with his grandson, Hank Lowrie in the auditorium of Palmer Elementary at the school Christmas play in 1998. Today the historic auditorium is under renovation, and Charles has been one of the leaders in the effort between the school board and citizens of Palmer who are working together to fund the project and make it a reality.

Harry Joe and Peggy Bone Hooper

We're estimating that this photo of Harry Joe and Peggy Bone Hooper of Whitwell was taken in the 1950's. They built Palmer's first funeral home in about 1969-70 and Hooper Funeral Home served eastern Grundy County for over 25 years. In recent years, Harry Joe has been traveling the country with a replica of the "Vietnam Wall" war memorial and has exhibited it in the Sequatchie Valley as part of the tour. Peggy is the daughter of the late Tillman Bone of Palmer and has two aunts still living here, Nelle Bone Finch and Thelma Bone Nolan.

Benson and Rose Mary James

The late Benson James and his wife Rose Mary are shown in the living room with their favorite dog "Bill Clinton" (December 1994). Benson was a staunch Democrat, and this dog was born the same day that Bill Clinton was elected President in 1992. Being a lifelong Democrat, Benson was so overjoyed to see a Democrat in the White House that he named the dog "Bill Clinton" in remembrance of that special day. Rose Mary lives today in Chattanooga.

Mandy Gallagher

Mandy Gallagher, a member of the Grundy County High School Choir, sits at the organ at Palmer United Methodist Church (December 6, 1997). The choir, directed by Mrs. Karen Dickerson, performed at the church as part of the 11th annual Palmer Community Christmas celebration. Mandy and the choir were a big hit with the audience with their beautiful singing. Mandy is the daughter of Paul & Connie Gallagher of Altamont.

Lowell Cantrell visits with Santa

Lowell Thomas Cantrell visits with Santa in the late 1940's. Lowell Thomas Cantrell lives today in Athens, TN, and is married to the former Janie Parsons of Tracy City. He's the only child of Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell and the late Noble Cantrell. Lowell was named for the legendary radio and newspaper reporter Lowell Thomas. He is a cousin to Donna Basham.

Savannah Cleek

Savannah Cleek, daughter of Dean and Venessa Guffey Cleek, is shown at the home of her grandparents, Billy Carl and Rebecca Coffelt Guffy in Palmer, December 1998.

Today, she's a 7th grader at Palmer Elementary and a good player on the girls' basketball team. Many of the older folks will remember her great grandparents, Ervin "Erv" and Agnes Roberts Coffelt.

Alfred and Thelma Nolan with son & Nell Finch

(l-r) Alfred "Buddy" Nolan and wife Thelma Bone Nolan, her sister, Nell Bone Finch and the Nolan's son, Alfred Randal Nolan are shown in their Palmer home, 1994.

The late Mr. Nolan was a U.S. Army veteran of WWII. Randal lives in Chattanooga today and served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

Palmer Christmas Celebration

Y.B. Ashby (left) of Gruetli-Laager receives a plaque of appreciation for being a staunch friend of Palmer from mayor Mike Shadrick at the 4th annual Palmer Community Christmas Celebration, Dec. 9, 1989.

Today, at age 84, Mr. Ashby is still going strong and heading up the effort to build the Grundy County Veterans' Museum, which will be located in the old Palmer Fire Hall.

If you can help in any way with funds or labor to repair the building, call him at 9313-779-3462.

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Garner

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Garner of Palmer once owned Savage Gulf Market #1 in Palmer, Savage Gulf #2 in Coalmont at the junction and Savage Gulf #3 at Cagle in Sequatchie County. Here they look at a plaque of appreciation presented by Mrs. Tony (Lorraine) King on behalf of the employees at the Coalmont store which was being sold. This photo was taken at the employee Christmas dinner at the Palmer store, December 1989.

Palmer School Memories ~ by Helen Ackerman Arbuckle as told to David Patton

"Miss Hayesel" Goforth Hunziker was on of the most beloved teachers in the long history of Palmer Elementary School. She was a member of the "Teaching Goforths" a legendary family of Grundy County educators in the last century headed by the patriarch John A. Goforth.

Winters in Grundy County used to be bitterly cold with a lot of snow." Mrs. Arbuckle told me recently.

"When I was in the first grade at Palmer School in the early 1930's, I'll never forget my teacher, Miss Hayesel Goforth, knitting me a pair of mittens. I really needed them because everyone walked to school in those days, regardless of how cold or snowy it was."

Many people died from colds and pneumonia back in those days of the Great Depression. This was before penicillin and other modern drugs and the hard economic times with scarcity of food and warm clothes caused much suffering and death.

Most adults then walked to work as well. "Daddy and Walter Layne worked the night shift at the Palmer Big Mine." Mrs. Arbuckle said. "We lived up on Burnt Orchard Hill and as they were crossing a foot log across the creek, Mr. Layne slipped and fell in the cold water."

Mrs. Arbuckle is a daughter of the late Webb and Sarah Gipson Cunningham. Today, she lives in Tracy City and is married to Murray Arbuckle.

Miss Hayesel lived with her sister Veola Heard and her husband Homer in Palmer during most of her teaching days here. She passed away several years ago, but is survived by a niece, Johnnie Jane Heard Brown, of McMinnville. Many of you will remember Johnnie's brother, the later Homer Douglas Heard.

2007

January 2007

Search for the "Palmers"

When we began our historical search on the town of Palmer back in the 1980's, one of our goals was to locate the family for whom the town was named.

Gene Brooks gave us our first clue by saying his father, the late Bailey "Preacher" Brooks, had been in the Dunlap Nursing Home with one of the Palmers before his death,

Through the nursing home, we were able to locate family members in Chattanooga and the search began in earnest. After several frustrating years, the hard work of two granddaughters of the town's founder paid off with photos

and information which they placed in the Coal Miner's Museum when it officially opened, Labor Day, 1992.

Here is the inscription on the plaque:

Clarence William Palmer was born in 1850 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He died in 1919 and is buried in Walker Cemetery in Whitwell, TN.

His Palmer named predecessors came from England. While growing up in Fort Wayne, he played with Tom Thumb, the world's smallest midget, who later gained fame in the Barnum & Bailey Circus, which was founded by the great showman of the 19th century, P.T. Barnum. Mr. Palmer was also in Ford's Theatre when President Abraham Lincoln was shot in 1865.

Palmer, Tennessee, was named for him because he owned most of the land in that area and sold it to Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company, which developed it into mines which operated for many years.

Mr. Palmer married Alice Rogers of Dunlap, TN, whose father was Daus Rogers, for whom the community of Daus, near Dunlap, is named. She was born in 1858, died in 1911, and is buried in Condra Cemetery between Whitwell and Dunlap.

The couple had five children, all now deceased, William E. "Will", Bert, Minnie, Etta and Elizabeth.

Will Palmer had three sons; Clarence, Osborne and Leonard, all now deceased.

Bert Palmer had two daughters, Doris Palmer Jones and Mildred Palmer Doyle, who live in the Chattanooga area.

Etta Palmer McIntyre had two children, Alice and Jack McIntyre, both deceased.

Minnie Palmer Bryson and Elizabeth Palmer Haight had no children.

Doris Palmer Jones Had one daughter, Carol Jones Slatton, who lives in Stone Mountain, GA.

Mildred Palmer Doyle had two children, Randy and Danny Doyle. Randy has two children, Josh and Sarah. They all live in Chattanooga, TN.

Mrs. Mildred Doyle stated the following in a 1990 letter to David Patton.

“My grandfather was in Ford’s Theatre at the time Lincoln was killed, but said they did not know what actually happened for some time, since everyone had to leave the theatre immediately. He was only fifteen at the time this happened, and I just wonder who was with him. Guess I’ll never know. I was in the same theatre in 1964, and believe me, I really felt history was with me, wondering where my grandfather sat in the theatre when all of this happened!”

“My Aunt Elizabeth lived in California and worked in a large department store where she came to know several movie stars, one being Jayne Palmer. Lots of talk went on between them and Jane became interested in the Palmer name, so did my aunt, and finally my aunt did some research on the name and that’s how she found out they were cousins. This was a surprise, I imagine.”

The Jayne Palmer that Mrs. Doyle referred to was probably the late actress, Jayne Mansfield, who was born Jayne Palmer in Pennsylvania, where some of Mr. Clarence William Palmer’s ancestors settled when they came over from England.

We want to thank Doris and Mildred for their cooperation in gathering this information so that it can be passed on to future generations who will call Palmer, Tennessee, “home”.

To paraphrase Robert Stack of “Unsolved Mysteries”, “For every mystery, there’s someone, somewhere, who has the answer”.

So to all of you tracing family history, or that of your hometown, keep asking questions and following leads.

In this age of information and modern communications, you have a great chance to find the answers.

Update: We were saddened to learn that Doris Palmer Jones died earlier this year (March 2005) in Chattanooga. When we began our search for the Palmers, Doris became our main source of information, and although being in poor health placed a Palmer family plaque in the Grundy County Miners’ Museum and Heritage Center. And in the process, Doris became a valued friend. We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

Remembering WWII- The Y.B. Ashby Story (Part I)

What makes the experiences of the WWII veterans unique is that theirs, indeed, was a “world” war. One brother might be a soldier in Europe while another was a sailor in the vast Pacific and yet another an airman in China or North Africa.

When he was inducted in February 1943 at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio, Y.B. Ashby was a Houston, Texas, photographer, just shy of his 21st birthday, married and with a son on the way.

In those days following the Great Depression, fat people were a rarity, and he was no exception. When they issued our uniforms, mine had to be altered. The smallest pants the Army had were for size 30 waist, and I had a 24 inch waist.” Oh, for the days of our youth!

With millions of men to house, the military had to take unusual steps. We think of basic training in drab Army barracks, but imagine being quartered in a famous hotel.

“I took basic training in Atlantic City, NJ, with a National Guard unit from Washington state. We stayed on the 19th floor of the Clairidge Hotel where the Miss America Pageant was held. They told us if the fire alarm went off just to put our boots on and grab an overcoat. That happened one night, and it took us 30 minutes to get down the stairs and fall in formation in the freezing cold.”

In the rush of things, military regulations often hit a snafu. “They told us in Atlantic City that mustaches were forbidden, so I shaved mine off and then the next day, they said you could keep them if you had a mustache when inducted and I’ve had one ever since.”

Good chow is always a morale booster in the military. The food in basic was good, and you could have all the butter you wanted. (It was rationed to civilians.) However, the Texas boy turned up his nose at the drifting aroma of cooking mutton in the hotel.

Before modern dentistry, a trip to the office was literally a “pain” and Mr. Ashby experienced this when considered for pilot training.

“They rushed me through the physical and filled 13 teeth without anesthetic. Then they gave me a shot and pulled one tooth all in one sitting.” After all this, he was two pounds underweight for pilot training and the U.S. Army Air Corps sent him to Waycross, GA, for Advanced Individual Training as an aerial photographer.

The swamps and heat of south Georgia were a totally different environment from Atlantic City, and out of 19 men in the unit only Mr. Ashby and one more had any experience in photography.

In this day of digital cameras, it's hard to realize what a long, difficult process photography was in those days. But it was vitally important to the military planners in strategy against the enemy.

“We would go on long marches and have to develop film in the field and have the photos on the desk of the commanding officer in a short time. We would dig a hole, put the film in, and cover with blankets to make a “dark room”. Nine-inch wide rolls of film were used as well as twelve - inch rolls for mapping sites. “Shadows tell a story themselves in photos, and after the war, I was on a jury and used my knowledge of photography to help get at the truth of the case.”

During times of war, people from different parts of the country are thrown together and forced to adapt to different tastes and customs. “In Waycross, only one fellow in the barracks had a radio and every morning he would turn it on at 5:00 to hear Roy Acuff, which didn't set well with the fan of Big Band music so popular then. “Since the war, I've come to appreciate country music, but it was called Hillbilly Music then.”

As the months of training and stateside duty rolled by, Mr. Ashby found himself on the plains of Oklahoma at the Will Rogers Airbase for a short time. The moment that every veteran and their families dread was fast approaching though, and he would travel back to the east coast to board a ship for the war zone.

Remembering WWII - The Y.B. Ashby Story (Part II)

There was a saying in WWII that “Loose lips sink ships.” So, as Mr. Ashby's convoy left Hampton Roads, VA, their destination was unknown. Seasickness made it a miserable journey for many. He remembers a Greek immigrant who suffered terribly. The reality of war came soon as German planes and submarines attacked in the Straits of Gibraltar sinking one of the ships.

You would think a mattress cover would be almost worthless, but the Arabs in North Africa would pay \$20 for one, which they altered for clothing.

The troops saw the 1944 movie “Going My Way” starring Bing Crosby, who sang the title song, “Swinging on a Star”, which must have been beautiful in the desert night. “We watched it on an outdoor screen, and then had to pick our way through the darkness and bomb craters back to our sleeping tents.”

After landing in India with its teeming millions living in poverty and under the caste system, the Americans traveled by train to their next post. When mealtime came, the train would stop, unload the kitchen equipment, and everyone would eat before resuming the journey to the base located in the rice growing plains of India. “You could set your watch by the daily rains that fell on the thatched roofs during the wet monsoon season.”

Mr. Ashby’s duties in India as an aerial photographer included documenting crash sites of American planes. He says the P-39 Air Cobra usually presented the most gruesome scene because the Rolls Royce engine was placed behind the cockpit, so on impact it buried the pilot deeply into the ground.

Coca-Cola followed servicemen around the world, but where would you get ice cream in a tropical country not exactly known for its dairy products? American ingenuity had the answer. “We sent a B-24 Bomber to Calcutta and picked up 50 gallons of milk, mixed all the ingredients and took it up to 30,000 feet in a fighter plane.” This was a perfect example of the can-do and will-do spirit of the Greatest Generation.

It was now time to leave India for the ancient land of China, where he would spend the Christmas of 1944, but there was a big barrier in the way called “The Hump”.

“The Japanese controlled the coast of China, so the only way in was flying over the Himalayas where Mt. Everest is located. “We left in the darkness of 1:00 AM, and when the sun came up all we could see from the plane was clouds and mountain peaks. It was a beautiful sight.”

Millions of Chinese were killed in WWII, and a grim scene unfolded as bodies were lying along the road into the air base in western China.

Mr. Ashby’s primary duty in Chanyi, China, was running the base theatre and Armed Forces Radio station XNAC. Movies from our youth leave an indelible impression, and he still remembers the trumpet solo of the famous big band leader Harry James in the 1944 movie, “Two Girls and a Sailor” starring Van Johnson, June Allyson and Gloria DeHaven shown at the base.

XNAC Radio featured the latest news broadcasts by Mr. Ashby. (He still regrets not keeping the teletype paper announcing VE Day in Europe.) There were religious services by remote from the base chapel, and he says there was no controversy about religion among Americans then. Famous radio shows such as

Bob Hope, Jack Benny, Red Skelton and the Kraft Music Hall brought a touch of home to many lonely G.I.'s in faraway China.

General Claire Chennault (of Flying Times fame) commanded the Fourteenth Air Force in China, and the bases there were a primary target of the Japanese.

“You could always tell how close the Japanese were by the money exchange rate. One dollar was worth 80 Chinese yen and the houseboys would give you 200 yen. When the fighting got close enough to hear firing at the end of the base, one dollar was worth 2,000 yen.

Respecting Chinese culture made things go smoothly between the Allies. “If a Chinese friend did you a favor, you didn’t offer to pay him because he would be insulted. We got a PX ration card for just \$2 a month and that would buy 20 packs of cigarettes. I smoked 10 packs and sold the others to the Chinese.”

As 1945 dawned, the defeat of Japan was just a matter of time, and that summer, Mr. Ashby received a telegram (The Red Cross billed him \$80 after the war.) that his infant son was gravely ill in Texas.

“I applied for a hardship discharge and got it since the war was about over. July in China is wintertime, so I left wearing an overcoat because at that time supplies were so hard to get into China that you couldn’t take anything extra out. We flew back over “the hump” to Agra, India, home of the Taj Mahal, and when I stepped off the plane it was 117 degrees. Our next stop was Karachi, now Karachi, Pakistan, and he still remembers how filthy it was; Casablanca, setting for the famous Humphrey Bogart movie; the Azores; Newfoundland and New York.

After drinking powdered milk overseas, many WWII veterans still remember their first taste of fresh milk these many years later.

“I saw a vending machine in the terminal of LaGuardia Airport in New York and drank two pints of milk, which was delicious.” He also saw the sights of the great city, such as Grand Central Station and he rode the subways. But the most remarkable part of Mr. Ashby’s arrival in New York was getting a glimpse at something that would influence the world like nothing else in the years following WWII.

“Before the war, I had read in Popular Mechanics that television was being developed and while at a base in nearby New Jersey before going home to Texas, I saw my first one. (He would found GCTV fifty years later.) It had a very tiny screen and was mounted on a wall and could only be seen in the New York City

area. I saw my next television in 1953 in Lubbock, Texas, where a woman was selling a used black and white set with a ten inch screen for \$300, a lot of money in those days.”

An ironic twist to this story is that while Y.B. Ashby was an American soldier in World War II China, Vin-Paul Hua was a young man growing up in his native land. Both had never heard of a place called Grundy County, TN, but 60 years later, Mr. Ashby is a long-time Gruetli-Laager businessman and Dr. Hua has been a respected physician in Palmer for the past quarter-century. Isn't it, indeed, a small world?

Palmer School Memories- By Dwight Tate as told to David Patton

“Mama and Daddy(Charley and Oma Lee Tate) had one of the first television sets in Palmer.” Dwight Tate said last summer. “At that time we lived on the big hill above where Hooper Funeral was later built. It was called Tate Hill then because the three Tate brothers (Harley, Haskel and Herbert) lived there with their families.”

“When Eisenhower was sworn in as president Miss Martha Hampton walked her class from Palmer School up to our house and they sat and watched it on television.”

What a thrill that must have been for the students to sit in a living room in Palmer and see the live broadcast of a president being inaugurated. The date must have been January 1953 and we're sure that the inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first to be broadcast on television.

Today, the beautiful hill is known as “Kelley Hill” and is home to Dennis and Judy Morrison Kelley.

More Memories

Dwight Tate's memories of Palmer School and the Eisenhower inauguration brought to mind one of my most vivid memories of Palmer School days.

In January 1961, I was an 8th grader and I'll never forget seeing President John F. Kennedy take the oath of office.

Mr. A. J. Layne was the Palmer School principal and 8th grade teacher. His classroom was where Dennis Mainord's is today and the principal's office was also where it's at today.

Mr. Layne brought a little black and white tv with rabbit ears into the classroom and we watched the inauguration.

It was a bitterly cold day in Washington and you could see President Kennedy's breath as he gave his speech. Unlike previous presidents, he was youthful looking with a full head of hair and his rousing inaugural address stressed America's role as the beacon of freedom in the world and included the never be forgotten challenge to the American people.

"Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Here's an interesting footnote with Palmer School connections. The valedictorian of the Grundy County High School Class of 1946 was A.J. Layne of Palmer and the salutatorian was Raymond Hargis of Gruetli-Laager.

Both would later serve as principal of Palmer School as would Mr. Hargis' son Joel R. "Jody" Hargis who today is the Grundy County School Superintendent.

Old Sayings and Expressions of Speech in Grundy County

In a constantly changing world, It's just not the technology that amazes us with one scientific marvel after another.

The very way we communicate with each other through daily conversations has also changed, even in rural areas such as Grundy County.

To those of you age 50 or over, these will bring back a lot of memories. Try using some of them on the younger folks. They'll be dumbfounded or think that you've "lost it" as they say today.

1. "In an around about way"- This meant being diplomatic and indirect while making a point.
2. "He's not had any raising"- This was a child or young person who didn't show courtesy or respect toward others.
3. "A woman's work is never done"- How truthful this old saying was back in the days before modern conveniences and for the mothers of the world it still holds true.
4. "We don't gee-haw"- This meant didn't agree or get along. A similar saying of today would be "we're not on the same page". Gee and Haw were directions for turning shouted at horses or mules.
5. "Dry as a powder house"- This was completely dry as in "my mouth is as dry as a powder house." A powder house was where dynamite was stored for use in the coal mines and was of ten called a "powder mag" for powder magazine.
6. "Going to never did get anything done"- This old saying is still true today and describes people who are always "Going to" do something but never follow through.
7. "Rich as Rockefeller"- John D Rockefeller was America's most famous oil baron. Back in the Great Depression people would jokingly say this about someone lucky enough to get a steady job.
8. "He's barking up the wrong tree"- years ago "squirrel dogs" found the squirrels for the hunters to shoot but sometimes would mistakenly be "Barking up the wrong tree". This came to mean a person who suspected someone of something but was mistaken.

Harold-Ism's

We always enjoy talking with our friend Harold James and he gave us these classics:

"He fit it"- Fit meant fought as in he fought the charges in court or "They fit on the way home after school."

"He might have frosted it a little bit"- This meant "stretched the truth" or exaggerated something. Politicians have "frosted" things since time immemorial and often more than a little bit which had been disastrous sometimes for our country.

Happy Girl at the Library

This happy child is enjoying her time at the Palmer Public Library.

When we snapped this photo in Feb. 1990, we were impressed with what a friendly and enthusiastic child Ashley was and were told that she was the great granddaughter of Mrs. Clara Landon, who was Palmer's first librarian.

Friends of the Palmer Library

Geroge Landon Sr. , left, husband of Palmer Public Librarian Clara Landon and Mr. & Mrs. Columbus "Lum" Camp of Sequatchie County are shown here. Mr. Camp was a blacksmith at the mines here in the early days of Palmer. His grandson, Carson Camp, of Dunlap, TN, has been a Sequatchie County historian for many years and led the effort to build the coke ovens park in Dunlap which has events throughout the year.

Free Will Baptist Church

One of the signs of a changing Grundy Co. is just that, church signs, with an attention-getting message instead of the old plain signs of yesteryear with just the church name and schedule of services. This is Palmer's newest church and is located in the old Hooper Funeral Home building on Rock Ave.

Jane Rogers Sherman

Jane Rogers Sherman is substitute librarian and sister of Linda Morrison. They're the daughters of the late Maurice "Morris" Rogers, and their mother Clara Tate Rogers who still lives in Palmer.

Linda Rogers Morrison

Linda Rogers Morrison was the librarian for many years and worked hard to serve the patrons. She earned her college degree during this time and later worked at the Univ. of the South Library in Sewanee, TN.

Palmer School Memories- The last reunion - 1996

Everett B. Roberts, Jr. (left) and Howell Gilbert Clements are shown in this photo.

Mr. Roberts is a retired insurance company executive in Chattanooga, and a graduate of Baylor School and Vanderbilt Univ. For the last 40 years he has been a volunteer girl scout worker in the Chattanooga area for the Moccasin Bend Council of Girl Scouts. He was the first male president of the Girl Scout board in 1972 and on May 21, 2006, the Dayton Boulevard Service Center was renamed the "Everett Roberts Service Center" in his honor. Mr. Roberts is the son of the lat Mr. & Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. of Palmer. Mr. Clements is still a practicing attorney in the Chattanooga area and frequently is seen in Grundy County courts. He's a son of the late Dr. Oscar Howell and Lela Mae Clements and has a brother Joel, who is a Chattanooga physician.

Palmer's Famous Loop

We've all heard of Chicago's famous loop, but can it compare to our very own Chiggertown? Well, not in the uniqueness of the name and the friendly inhabitants, anyway.

Many Palmer notables trace their roots back to the "Hood" in Chiggertown. Among the longtime residents still living there are Herbert and Dorothy Garner Parker Watts, Jr., Anita Finch Crabtree and her sister Betty Bush, Jimmy King, and Johnnie Hill. Our friend, Martha Carroll Cox Hensley grew up there. The nickname was reportedly started by the engineer who laid out the new town of Palmer.

Darlene Brooks

Darlene Brooks, wife of Jim Brooks, became the Palmer public librarian in the mid 1960's and still held the position when the present day library opened in 1976. She recalls R.W. "Russ" Gifford (His daughter Ethel Mae Cantrell still lives here.), Emmett Mitchell, and Kate Watts King (Her son Jimmy still lives in Chiggertown.) as being faithful readers in those days. In 1988 Darlene became Palmer postmaster and served until retiring in January 2005. Many of our former Palmer residents will remember Darlene's father-in-law, the late James C. "Flop" Brooks.

Susan Scissom

Susan Faye Sissom is a daughter of Jack and Winnie Lockhart Sissom and has been director of the Palmer Public Library since April 1997. A friendly and energetic young lady, she goes out of her way to order that special book for a patron, open the Miner's Museum for a visit or whatever your need might be. She has a computer, fax and copying machine to aid in her work and two public access computers for patrons who want to browse the Internet. "We have more people coming in all the time wanting to use the computers." she said.

The library has a summer reading program and this past year had visits from the Jungle Room Pet Shop and the Tennessee Aquarium which were very educational for those of all ages. The library is some 30 years old now and renovations are planned this year so that it can continue to serve the people of Palmer and the surrounding area.

Mary Anderson Turner and Mary Ruth Mayes

(l-r) Mary Anderson Turner and Mary Ruth Mayes Rogers are shown on November 14, 1997, during Palmer School's 70th birthday celebration. Mary was a teachers' aide and Mary Ruth served as a bookkeeper. Both ladies had over 30 years of dedicated service when they retired. When Mary Ruth started at the Palmer Public Library, it was located in the former Clements' Clinic which Dr. Oscar Howell Clements left in 1948 when he moved to Chattanooga, TN. "It was the early 1960's when we moved the library to the basement of the old Palmer School gym," Mrs. Rogers told me recently.

****NOTE:** this photo was enhanced to lighten the picture... it was very dark.
Webmaster**

History of Palmer Public Library

For almost 50 years the town of Palmer has been blessed with a public library, which has brought the joy of reading to young and old alike and drawn patrons from the areas surrounding Palmer as well.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House when the library began, and the world has changed drastically since those long ago days. Now, instead of just reading a book, the use of computer in the library draws new patrons at a steady pace. In 1958 it's doubtful that anyone in Palmer had ever heard of a machine called a computer.

But some things never change, and one of those is the importance of reading and the role public libraries play in this effort to develop a more enlightened and informed citizenry whether by book or computer.

Mrs. Clara Bone Landon was Palmer's first librarian and was followed in order by Mrs. Nellie Geary, Mrs. Mary Ruth Rogers, Mrs. Sybil Meeks Ruehling, Mrs. Darlene Brooks, Mrs. Linda Carol Rogers Morrison, and the present librarian, Ms. Susan Faye Sissom. Mrs. Jane Roberts Sherman has been a substitute librarian for many years.

We've looked back 50 years, so let's now change directions. What will the world be like 50 years from today? Will there be paper books and libraries as we know them now? We're already hearing of "paperless" hospitals where all the patient records are on computers. Remember the big heavy paper encyclopedias? Aren't they almost a thing of the past?

It has been said that if the human mind can imagine something that eventually it can be done, regardless of how improbable it may seem at the time.

“Time changes everything”, and I’m sure those coming of age now will look back 50 years from now and be just as amazed as we are on how their world has changed.

Early History of Palmer Public Library by Clara Bone Landon

The libraries at Palmer and Tracy City were started around 1958. Mrs. Everett Roberts, Sr. and several other Palmer citizens were instrumental in getting a public library.

It was housed in the old Palmer Medical Building (the former Clements Clinic of Dr. Oscar Howell Clements), which was a long building behind the

Company Store and theatre. It had been divided into 3 apartments. Mrs. Nellie Geary and her family lived in the far end of the building. Mrs. Harvey Brown had the middle one and practiced her public health nursing there. The last room of the building housed the first Palmer Library.

A coal stove was the means of heat in the winter. There was no air conditioning during the hot summer days, and so the windows were opened for air. One day there was a commotion outside one of the front windows. The front door was open, so I went to see what was happening. Some of the local children were chasing a small rattlesnake, which had started in the door. Thank goodness they killed it before it entered the library.

Mrs. Mary Little of Cookville, TN, and some of her helpers from Caney Fork Regional Library brought the books for the library, where I put them in their respective places on the shelves. There were novels, biographies, history, books and others. They were brought on the Caney Fork Regional Library Book Mobile. Sometimes I would ride the book mobile after she picked me up at my home and help take the books off and put them on the shelves in their respective places.

Later I learned to process the books. I had a typewriter at my home, and after processing them, my husband and I would carry them in our car to the library. I always looked forward to getting new books, as I dearly loved to read.

Still later, I entered Tennessee Tech at Cookville and lacked only one subject to major in library science. I majored in Elementary Education.

Some of my faithful readers were Mrs. Everett Roberts, Sr., Mrs. Northcutt, and Mr. Isaac Roberts.

A public library was also formed at Tracy City. Mrs. Beatrice Geary was the librarian there.

I really enjoyed my days as Palmer librarian. However, they were cut short when my husband and I bought a little farm at Gruetli-Laager, TN, and moved there in 1961. I never learned to drive a car and George had to work at Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company as a mining engineer. I had no way to get to work.

I enjoyed not only my work as the librarian, but also the friendly people of Palmer.

Comments: Mrs. Landon retired as a teacher at Swiss Memorial School. For information on the Bone/Landon families refer to her excellent articles in the Grundy County Heritage Book. Mrs. Landon is the widow of George Landon, Sr. and still lives in Gruetli-Laager, TN.

Memories of the Palmer Public Library by Donna Landon Lovelace

I remember the library, of course, because Mom worked there. It was open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12-4. During school sessions, I would have to walk to the library after school because Mom was at work. Many times I would forget and go home instead, and then have to walk back toward school past the old Indian Cemetery and then on to the library. I always dreaded going by the cemetery! (It is now known as Palmer Veterans Memorial Park.)

I remember Mrs. Harvey (Mac) Brown, the county health nurse, when she would set up her clinics in the middle room of the building. She gave polio injections there when there was such a scare in the 1950's. I remember getting my smallpox vaccine from Ms. Mac there at the clinic.

Daddy was a Justice of the Peace in Palmer during this time. Once a year he would go to the county court and encourage them to continue their support of the county's libraries. I remember Mom's concerns during those days since she was afraid the library would be closed. Of course, each year funding was continued.

Mom loved her job at the library. She took work home to do. She would go in early to be sure the library was clean, neat and tidy for all the patrons. She took a large table from home and put it in the first room of the library and set up a reading room. It was there that I spent many hours reading the wonderful books left by the bookmobile.

Thanks, David, for the memories. I really do enjoy the websites also.

Comments: Donna Rose Landon was our classmate and the valedictorian of the 1961 class at Palmer Elementary School. She lives today in Monteagle, TN, and had been a well-known R.N. in the area for many years.

People all over Grundy Co. knew “Mac” Brown because she was the “County Nurse” for years, which was a very important job years ago when medical care wasn’t as easily accessible as it is today.

But where did she get the name “Mac”? Mr. Harvey Brown told us that her maiden name was Leona McCubbins thus the “Mac” and that she was from the area around Strawberry Plains in East Tennessee, if our memory is correct.

In the early 1930’s Mr. Brown was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident in Whitwell, TN, and while in Erlanger Hospital met his future wife who was his nurse there. Many of you will remember their only child, Patsy. At last report she was living in the Ft. Oglethorp, GA, area. Harvey & Mac are both deceased and he was the last surviving member of the Isom Brown family.

Palmer and Related Deaths in 2006

When we were a reporter for the Grundy County Post, the saddest duty of the year came in January when we compiled the list of those who had passed away during the year before.

“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord”. Mara Lee Caldwell said this passage from the Bible comforted her in the grieving process after the loss of her husband, Poss, several years ago.

We recorded ten deaths in the Palmer town limits in 2006. Our wonderful friend Mrs. Louise Geary Layne left us at the age of 95. Also, K.R. Franklin, a well-known heavy equipment operator; Billy Clark Morrison, a former town alderman; James E. “Sham” Sanders, a well-known store owner; Robbie L. Floyd, granddaughter of the late mayor Pat Morrison; Judy A. Gholston, our classmate in Palmer Elementary’s class of 1961; Huling E. Johnson, named for Dr. Walter Huling; James Lowrie “Jim” King, widower of Margaret Rankin King and the last World War 2 veteran in the town limits; William Stone “Buck” Cookston, a talented musician and named for Dr. William Perry Stone; H.D. “Doug” Grooms, well-known in recent years for hosting fish fries that aided many worthy causes.

In the Barker’s Cove-Tatesville-camp four areas outside Palmer we lost Mable Hobbs Creighton at age 98. She and her husband, Johnny, ran the old Palmer Restaurant many years ago which was located at the end of the bridge where Brian Coutu lives today. Also, James H. Ross, brother of Rev. Cotton Ross and a famous knuckleball pitcher on the Palmer baseball team and a World War 2

veteran; Lora Ann Cox Murdock at the age of 42 and the daughter of the late Lannie Cox.

Nursing home patients crossing over in 2006 were Louise Barnes Kilgore, widow of Rufus Kilgore Jr; Mary Elizabeth Brewer Bryant, widow of Leo Bryant; W.D. "Dwight" Flynn, son of Wid and Florence Cleek Flynn; and Louise Watts Payne Mitchell, daughter of Parker Sr. and Hazel Levan Watts.

Former Palmer residents passing away in Gruetli-Laager were Willie Gene Henry, former Grundy County Commissioner and brother of Red and Howard Henry; Howell "Raymond" Anderson, son of Jim and Tootie Nolan Anderson who once told me he was named for Mr. Raymond D. Swann and we assume the Howell came from Dr. Oscar Howell Clements; James E. Hammers, son of the late Hubert Hammers; Amos H. Coffelt, son of Wesley and Mattie Roberts Coffelt; Clyde E. Green, World War 2 veteran and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Green; James W. Dycus Sr., Former Palmer Police Chief.

In Coalmont, Knetha Magouirk Boggs, widow of Charles Boggs passed away and in Tracy City, We lost Georgia Lee Lockhart Gifford Nunley, widow of Eugene Gifford and Mother of Donna Basham and Mike Gifford. Also, Agnes Marie Dugan Partin, daughter of Ira and Beulah Henley Dugan.

In Whitwell, Louise Lusk Parsons Bailey, widow of J.W. "China Mug" Parsons passed away as did Paul D. Ackerman in Smyrna. He was a son of Helen Arbuckle and the late Reyburn Ackerman.

Charles R. Gipson of Hillsboro, son of Joe Sr. and Nellie Poff Gipson, succumbed to cancer and we lost Mary "Jo" Huling, widow of Dr. Walter Huling; in Wartburg and Frances Lee Ward Morgan in Memphis who was the daughter of Oscar Ward.

Chattanooga is home to many former Palmer residents and death claimed Elbert W. Price who was once a teacher at the old Laager school. He is survived by his wife, the former Naoma Patrick. Also, Howard Grooms who was a World War 2 veteran and brother of Doug Grooms; as well as Eddie Mae Weaver Roberson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Weaver.

Out of state Palmer deaths include Melvin "Poss" Pocus of Michigan, son of Joe and Naomi Geary Pocus; Ethel Kelley Layne Adams Brazile of Port Charlotte, Fl. Who was a sister of Fannie Layne of Fannie and Opal fame. Also, Franklin D. Slatton of Newton, Iowa who was the son of Huke and Bertha Kilgore Slatton; and Dr. Vin-Paul Hua's Mother in Taiwan at the age of 99. Mrs. Hua lived in Palmer with her son and his family for a time when he re-opened the Palmer Clinic in January 1981 after Dr. Walter Huling's death.

Although not former residents, deaths with Palmer ties were David E. Whitlow of Sequatchie County who operated a sawmill here for many years; Lisa Carroll Hensley Hominsky of Detroit who was the daughter of Martha Carroll Cox Hensley; Frederick Weidman Jr. of Texas who was a son-in-law of the late Mr. and Mrs. Everett B. Roberts Sr; Rev. Lee W. Medley of Hillsboro, former pastor of Palmer United Methodist Church; Eunice Hicks of Gruetli-Laager, wife of

Former Palmer police chief Glendon “Farrell” Hicks; and Genevieve Harbolt of Altamont, wife of Dr. Byron Harbolt. She was known to many Palmer residents through her work as a faithful partner with her husband at their Cathedral Canyon Clinic in Altamont which has been a blessing to Grundy County.

Harold James told us at press time that Kenny Marshall passed away several years ago after leaving Palmer. He was from Marion Co, Tn. And worked for Harold while living here.

Please accept our sincere sympathy on the loss of your family members and friends. We hope 2007 is a brighter year for you.

February 2007

Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award

In addition to the second annual David Patton Spelling Award, a new award makes its debut at this year’s Grundy County Spelling Bee.

The first annual Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award will be presented to a participating student who best exemplifies this sterling characteristic. This award was created with the stated purpose of “promoting courtesy and respect at all levels of society”.

One of Palmer’s most beloved citizens, Mrs. Layne passed away in 2006 at the age of 95. She was the last member of Palmer Elementary School’s first graduating class of 1928.

“Mrs. Layne was a dear friend and an invaluable help with my history research on Palmer,” town historian David Patton said. “She was the most courteous and appreciative person that I’ve ever known, and since spelling was her favorite subject in school, we wanted to honor her memory by recognizing and rewarding school children, whom she loved dearly.”

The 2007 Grundy County Spelling Bee will be held Feb. 15, at Coalmont with all county elementary schools represented.

Grundy County Spelling Bee Winners

In his research on the Grundy County Spelling Bee, Mr. Patton was surprised to learn that the event was held in the hard days of the Great Depression. “I won the Grundy County Spelling Bee in 1937, Mrs. Anna Polk Conry Creighton told Mr. Patton. “It was held at Shook Elementary, and I went on to Nashville and

competed in the state spelling bee”. She was the valedictorian of her 1937 graduating class at Palmer and still lives in her old home town.

Mrs. Creighton will be 84 years old this month and is the widow of Earl F. Creighton. A more complete history of the Grundy County Selling Bee is being sought and if you know of other years that the event was held, please contact the Grundy County Historical Society at 931 467-3603.

Here are the known winners of more recent years.

1985- Melanie Rogers- Pelham School
1986- Krystal Bean- North
1987- Tyson Thomas – Tracy City
1988 – Tyson Thomas – Tracy City
1989 – Newell Lawson – Tracy City
1990 – Deanna Fults – North
1991 – Deanna Fults – North
1992 – Deanna Fults - North
1993 –Ginger Lusk - North
1994 – Rebecca Meeks – Palmer
1995 – Faith Caldwell – North
1996 – Rebecca Meeks – Palmer
1997 – Brooke Layne - Palmer
1998 – Jesse Jones - Coalmont
1999 - Ginger Yarworth – Tracy City
2000 – Jesse Jones- Coalmont
2001 – Alexis Rollins – Tracy City
2002 – Alexis Rollins – Tracy City
2003- Alexis Rollins – Tracy City
2004- Brian Turner- Coalmont
2005- Johnathan Cook – Tracy City
2006- Ashlynn Fincher - North
2007-

Palmer School Memories

Mrs. Margaret Brown Coppinger as told to David Patton

(Mrs. Margaret Brown Coppinger in her Beersheba Springs History Museum with former Palmer Elementary student, Jarvis Levan).

Mrs. Coppinger was our 5th grade teacher in the school year of 1957-58, her last teaching at Palmer Elementary.

In later years Mrs. Coppinger became a dear friend and was always helpful and encouraging in my history work. She was the official Grundy County Historian at one time and specialized on the history of Beersheba Springs.

For more information on Mrs. Coppinger consult the Grundy County Heritage Book.

“I, Margaret Brown Coppinger, went to Palmer to teach in 1942. Mr. Louie Berry, who was principal at that time, assigned me to the room next to his which was known as the library. The 3rd grade being a large group had to be divided that year. I was given 32 pupils and another group of 32 went to Miss Lell Gilliam in the gymnasium. The second year I had the 5th grade and was assigned a room in the gym. After that, I moved back to the main building and continued to teach the 5th grade as long as I remained in the Palmer School. In 1958, after trying to make a decision, I finally decided to come back to Beersheba Springs.

My Father, Henry Brown, was the contractor who built the Palmer School in 1927. When the cornerstone was put down he dropped in a check for \$100.00. At that time I had no idea of ever going to Palmer to teach.

Once while I was there a plumber from Monteagle was working on the drinking fountain near the entrance. After trying for some time to prise up a board in the floor with a crowbar, he looked up and said to some of the teachers standing around watching him, “Do any of you know who built this building?” Several said “No” and I said nothing because I didn’t know what his comment would be. Then he said, “I know one thing, he certainly meant for it to last all through eternity.”

I enjoyed every minute of my stay at Palmer School and made many new friends whom I have remained in contact with over the years.”

What a wonderful story and a good illustration of the craftsmanship of Henry Brown. On November 14, 2007 the school will celebrate it’s 80th anniversary and Mr. Brown and Mrs. Coppinger would have been overjoyed to know that the school children of Palmer still call it home.

Palmer News

Palmer News, February 2007

Did the groundhog see his shadow in your part of the country? It was cloudy in Palmer on Groundhog Day so he didn't see his shadow and that meant winter was supposed to be over. Boy, was that Hog wrong. We've had bitter cold and windy weather and even hit zero on one morning.

Years ago in Grundy County that hog would probably have ended up on the dinner table. In the Great Depression and other times as well ground hogs were eaten and even considered delicious by some. They were baked with sweet potatoes or other vegetables around them.

We saw our first crocus blooming on January 11 and the buttercups will be in full bloom in late February so keep the faith. Old man winter will soon just be a bad memory.

Many of you will remember eating "Hoop" cheese years ago. It had been about 45 years since we'd had any and that was from Curg Creighton's store in Palmer. Jerry Cannon said that his family used to buy it homemade at the Swiss Colony in Gruetli.

What a surprise it was to learn that it was still available at the historic Flury's Store in Tracy City. And best of all, it still had the great taste we'd remembered from all those years ago.

1937-2007. The next time you drive past the Palmer Church of Christ notice the big maple tree out front next to HWY 108. The late Gene Brooks told us that Mr. Everett B. Roberts Sr. and others planted the tree in 1937 in memory of Dr. W.P. Stone who was Mr. Roberts' father-in-law. They also planted a maple at Palmer United Methodist Church at the same time in memory of Dr. C.W. Hembree but that tree is no longer there.

We have received word that Artie Leona Owens of Chattanooga passed away February 10 at the age of 100. She was the last surviving member of the John and Jessie Sherrill Owens family of Palmer and some of you will remember her siblings Jimmy, W.D., Lila May and Addie Owens. Other Palmer deaths recently were Wayne Cannon and Sam Dent. We extend our sincere sympathy to all these families.

With all the turmoil in the world, please remember our American troops in your prayers and join us here again next month.

Artie Owens

On her 99th birthday party in a Chattanooga resthome. Artie is a former resident of Palmer, TN and has outlived all her family. Her parents were John and Jessie Sherrill Ownes and brothers James R. "Jimmy" and W.D. Owens. Sisters: Addie and Lila Mae. Lila Mae was a member of Palmer Elementary School's first graduating class in 1928. In 2005, Mary Louis Geary Layne is the only surviving member.

Church sign message

First Baptist Church sign in 2006.

J. B. Hart Road

J. B. Hart Road in Gruetli-Lager is named for the late Grundy County Court (now County Commissioner) Member. Mr. Hart was a "player" in local politics for many years and was on the County Court when the present day Grundy County jail was built in the 1970's. His widow, Olean Cleek Hart, still lives in the home pictured.

Frank W. Smith

Mr. Smith, of Beersheba Springs, was the first Grundy Countian killed in World War II. He was a seaman 1st Class on the USS Truxton when it sank off the coast of Newfoundland on February 18, 1942 with great loss of life.

In 1995, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, we wrote an article about Mr. Smith in the Grundy County Post and his sister told us that years before Reader's Digest had an article about the sinking of the Truxton.

People of Grundy County made up and bought this marker to honor Mr. Smith which is in Grace Chapel Cemetery and his name is also on a mounument in Newfoundland.

Old Sayings & Figures of Speech

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy County, Tn.

1. "Deathly sick"- People used to say this a lot and usually it wouldn't be a life threatening sickness but something like nausea or vomiting.
2. " At the drop of a hat"- This meant something that happened quickly and often unexpected.

3. “Honest as the day is long”-What a wonderful reputation to have and years ago this described a man who paid his debts. In hard times, this type of man had a good chance of getting help because of his good name.

4. “Even an old barn looks better with a little paint on it”- Years ago people said this about older women who wore make-up. This old saying is a good example of how the world has changed. At one time women wearing make-up wasn't seen that much but today with modern cosmetics and the availability of plastic surgery many older structures have been restored to their original glory.

5. “We trade there”-We haven't heard this in a while. It meant that you shopped there and the term was used a lot in Grundy County.

6. “He cusses every breath”- All of you 50 or over have heard this many times. It described a person who used profanity so much it almost seemed like they did “cuss every breath”. Needless to say, such people were held in low regard, especially those who used this talk in front of women and children.

7. “A-Z”- This meant you'd heard everything about a situation or described someone who had complete knowledge in their field and knew it all from “A-Z”.

8. “He'll accommodate you”- Back in hard economic times this was a person everyone wanted for a friend. This was someone who would go out of their way to do you a favor or help you in any way they could.

Mae-ism's

Our friend, Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell, celebrated her 93rd birthday February 5 and we want to wish her a Happy Birthday. She's the last surviving member of the R.W.”Russ” and Daisy Perry Gifford family of Palmer and the widow of Noble Cantrell.

Mae has been a wonderful help with our history research on Palmer and remembers a lot of the old sayings her Mother used many years ago.

1. “The first thunder in February wakes up the snakes”- Many times in February we get a week or two of mild weather and people get “spring fever” and begin to rake and do yard work.

This is a very timely and important saying to remember because snakes have been seen in the winter months.

“One time I saw a rattlesnake in January,” Keith Brown of Coalmont told me. “It wasn’t bitterly cold but still a cold day. He wasn’t moving fast, but he was moving.”

2. “You never fly so high that you don’t have to land some time”- Mae remembers her Mother saying this and how true it is.

When we get a self-important “know it all” attitude we need to pause and remember this old saying. Many times those flying so high have a “crash landing”. As some of our nation’s leaders of all political persuasions have found out in recent years.

March 2007

March 2007 Palmer News

Welcome to the exciting month of March! It's never boring, and we always look forward to it after a dreary winter. Buttercups are blooming, grass is getting green, birds and frogs are singing and it's a good time to be alive. With all the problems on this old spinning ball, spring always renews our spirit and gives us hope for a brighter day.

In Palmer School news, Mrs. Pam Henry Meeks told us recently that most of the old auditorium seats have been removed to prepare for new ones, so that project is going well. "Picture day" will be March 9 and on March 15 and exciting "Bingo Bonanza" event will be held. Bingo games for both kids and adults will offer nice prizes and other types of kids' activities will be held in the gym. Of course, good food will be available, so some out and enjoy yourself and show support for our dear old school.

Bobby Owen, where are you? In the 1940's, Bobby Owen of Palmer and Wince Mayes of Tracy City were classmates and football cheerleaders at Grundy County High School. Mr. Mayes lives in Winter Haven, FL and would like to contact Mr. Owen who reportedly lives in the Atlanta area. We are trying to help and hope to see them reunited soon. Bobby's dad was Floyd Owen, a boss at the Palmer Big Mine, and Wince is a son of the late Grundy County official and teacher Roy Mayes.

End of an era: For some 20 years Palmer Citizens have been able to recycle their aluminum and other metals bi-monthly right here in town. But that ended on Feb. 23 when Mr. Rick McDaniel from Dunlap Recycling made his last run on the Palmer route.

Mr. McDaniel made many friends in Palmer and was always courteous and helpful to the recyclers and will be missed. He will still be coming to Tracy City every Saturday.

We always enjoy talking to our good friend Joe Willard Fults. Joe's a son of the late Theron Fults and a World War II veteran who left Palmer in 1943 at the age of 15 and joined the U.S. Navy. Before that, he lived on Tatesville Road where Venova Cannon Cleek lives today and delivered the Chattanooga News-Free Press. Reno & Nell Cox lived on Hwy. 108 and when the Trailways Bus from Chattanooga-Nashville dropped the bundle off. Reno & Nell would put the papers on their porch if it was raining. Good deeds live on and over 60 years

later Joe still talks about it. Their daughter, Martha Carroll Cox Hensley, is one of our website readers and lives in Florida.

Tim Smith of Palmer is a member of the Mountain Motorcycle Club which meets monthly in Gruetli-Laager and does good work through fund raising for worthy causes. Other members include Sheriff Brent Myers, Tim Garner and Leon Christian. Everyone is welcome to join regardless of the type motorcycle you have.

Mr. Smith's son, Sgt. Justin Smith, completed a one-year tour of duty in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army in January and was preparing to come home when his duty was extended there another 180 days. Remember all of our service men and women in your prayers as they serve state side and around the world.

Town of Palmer Alderman Carl "Teeter" Morrison suffered minor injuries Feb. 20 when his car struck a bull on Hwy. 108 near Monk Land's old service station. The bull had to be destroyed and the car was totaled.

Mr. Bill Carl Guffey has announced his retirement as president of the Palmer Cemetery Association. For several years he has headed up a crew of volunteers who mowed the big cemetery, which used to be called the "Company Graveyard". Years ago Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. gave this land as a burial spot for "the miners and their families". The grave plots have always been free and many others have been buried there, so everyone involved must do their part to maintain this cemetery. Thank you, Mr. Guffey, for all your hard work. We hope our leaders appreciate you as well.

70 years ago: We've heard a lot about colds and flu this winter and this reminded us of Dr. Oscar Howell Clements and his heroic efforts in the winter of 1937 to save as many lives as possible. Mrs. Clara Ruth Poe Ivey died on March 1, 1937, from the flu, but Dr. Clements even rode a horse through the snow to reach his patients. Mrs. Ivey lived on Martin Lane in the house occupied by Chet Cleek today. She was the wife of Jim Ivey and mother of R.B. Ivey, Vaudie Barker, Dola Rector and Rebecca Teague. Dola lives in Georgia and Beck lives in Chattanooga.

Henrietta Nunley Tucker, daughter of the late Stanley & Marie Worley Nunley, shared some photos with us recently. She lives in Soddy Daisy, TN, now. Thank you, Henrietta. It was good to hear from you.

Crystal Ball: It's always interesting to remember what people said years ago and see it come true. MacArthur McPherson told us a story about Cecil "Pete"

McCreary who passed away recently. “Pete had a business years ago and one time he said to me, Mac, we may not live to see it, but one day in this county people buying gas will have to pump it and then come inside to pay for it.”

Pete and Mac both lived to see this come to pass and “time changes everything” is certainly true. Pete was the son of Joe McCreary. We extend our sincere sympathy to his family.

Last month we told you about Artie Owens passing away in Chattanooga at the age of 100. Rev. Harold Buck preached the funeral. He once pastored Palmer United Methodist Church and is married to the former Peggy Gholston of Palmer.

That March Wind: People used to dread the March wind because of colds and earaches and many of you will remember your mother or grandmother wearing a “head scarf”. Mary Ruth Rogers, widow of Burr Rogers, will be 74 next month and still wears a scarf on windy days but says she feels strange because hardly anyone else still does.

Congratulations to Palmer Elementary’s Girls’ Basketball Team. They finished second in the “Big 8” Conference Tournament. In a remarkable twist, Courtney Stiefel was named “Big 8 best defensive player” in the regular season, and Kyra Summers received the honor in the tournament. “Coach of the Year” was Ricky Meeks, son of Willie Dee Meeks, who has coached at Palmer for many years.

Happy 60th anniversary on March 29 to Grundy Co. Historian William Ray Turner and Marie Yarworth Turner of Tracy City. They say that behind every good man stands a good woman, and we’re sure Mr. Turner would not have been as successful in his history work if not for the support of Marie during all these years.

We’ll get out of here for now. We hope all of you catch “spring fever” and get outdoors and enjoy all mother nature has to offer. Please join us again next month.

1990 Colors of Spring

Nothing symbolizes spring in Palmer like the beautiful yellows of Buttercups and Forsythia and a background of green grass. This is the yard of David Patton in Palmer, TN.

Old Sayings & Figures of Speech in Grundy County TN

1. "I'm worn to a frazzle." This meant you were totally exhausted. I've not heard this in a long time, but in the hectic world of today just about everyone is "worn to a frazzle."
2. "He's funny turned." This didn't describe a comedian, but someone who had strange ways or was easily offended. They might be friendly one day and then wouldn't speak to you the next.
3. "I'd bet my bottom dollar." This was your last dollar, and you were so confident in your belief of opinion you were willing to risk your "bottom dollar."
4. "He gets around like a spring chicken." Young chickens dart and scurry around, and years ago people said this about an old person (now called a senior citizen) who was active and getting around good.
5. "I've got to get home and get busy; the day will soon be gone." Neighbors used to visit a lot in each others' homes, and when they got ready to leave, they'd often say this.
6. "She got above her raising." This used to be said about a person who grew up poor and after becoming successful or well off financially thought they were better than the people they grew up with. Haven't we all known people who "got above their raising"?
7. "It's straight up and down 6:00." When was the last time you heard someone say this? We haven't in a long time. Years ago, you told the time by the hands on the watches and clocks instead of the numbers on many of the time pieces of today. The little hand would be on 6 and the big hand on 12, so it would be "straight up and down 6:00."
8. "A new broom always sweeps better." What a wise old saying this is. It applied mostly to politicians and meant that a newly elected leader sometimes started out in a big way because he was enthusiastic and trying to make a good impression. It soon became apparent though that the new broom didn't necessarily sweep better after all and was often sorrier than the old broom.

Pepper-Ism's

The late Paul L. "Pepper" Sanders of Palmer was never at a loss for words and was a man of strong opinions. In this photo, Marsha Knight with the Grundy County Election Commission assists Paul "Pepper" Sanders with absentee voting for the August 2, 1990 Palmer City election. Pepper passed away in 1994.

1. "Plain talk is easily understood." This was one of Pepper's favorites and so true, If we had more "plain talk" about the issues facing our nation, it would be so much easier to find solutions. Instead, we have to decipher the "mumbo-jumbo" of the elected leaders.

2. "The Democrats are for the poor people." Pepper was known as a "yellow dog" Democrat like many people in Grundy County who lived in the "Great Depression" years. This was their belief, and they carried it to the grave.

Grundy County is still a Democratic Party stronghold although the influx of new residents has made some inroads. Isn't it wonderful that this precious thing called freedom allows us to be a "Reagan Republican", Independent, Yellow Dog Democrat or whatever we choose?

3. "If you have thunder in February, there will be a frost on that date in May. We had thunder on Feb. 24, so that means frost on May 24, which would not be all that unusual in Grundy County. It's not considered safe to plant tomato, pepper and other tender plants in the mountain part of the county until at least May 15, and many people have lost plants over the years to a "killing frost" by planting too soon.

Last Month we told you about Ethel Mae Cantrell's old saying that "The first thunder in February wakes up the snakes," The first thunder was on the 24th, so beware.

Elementary school basketball history needed

Mrs. Angie Northcutt Burnett of Pelham is compiling a history of Grundy County elementary school basketball and needs your help.

Basketball has been an important part of the elementary school experience for many years and the league these days is known as the "big 8". If you were a player, coach, cheerleader, referee, volunteer worker or whatever. Mrs. Burnett would like to hear from you and make you a part of this history project.

Mrs. Burnett was a player on Petie Baker's championship teams at Altamont Elementary in the 1970's. Please contact her at: 21 Riverend Road, Pelham, Tn. 37366 or 931-467-3263.

Swiss Memorial Makes History- 2007 Spelling Bee

The Grundy County Spelling Bee was held Feb. 15 at Coalmont School with all county elementary schools represented.

After his school finished second last year, Caleb Brown of Swiss Memorial made history by winning the 2007 Bee, thus becoming the first student from Swiss Memorial to take home the crown. His teammate, Jerrica Davis, finished second. Marina Johnson of Coalmont took third while Ashlynn Fincher and Tara Blanton from North Elementary finished fourth and fifth respectively. Miss Fincher won the 2006 spelling bee for North.

The top four spellers received the second annual David Patton Spelling Award. Jerrica Davis was a double winner by receiving the first Annual Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award as well. Jerrica has a town of Palmer connection since her grandfather Earl Davis grew up here. Some of our older readers may even remember Mr. & Mrs. Walt Davis who were her great grandparents.

“Congratulations to all the students who competed in this year’s Spelling Bee, and we appreciate the support of Director of Schools Joel Hargis and his staff in presenting the awards,” Palmer town historian David Patton said. Mr. Patton is the founder of the Annual David Patton Spelling Award and the Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award.

Mr. Shannon Brown, a teacher at Swiss Memorial, has been the school’s spelling bee coach for several years and had the second place winner, Katie Colbert, last year. “I was so happy Swiss won because Mrs. Brown has worked so hard with the spelling bee team,” Mrs. Betty Jo Turner said. “Two of my children from past years were on her spelling bee team, and she was so enthusiastic and great with the kids.”

Section House Road

This little neighborhood in Palmer off Hwy. 108 and near Monk Land's old service station, got its name from the railroad when the tracks were being laid from Coalmont to Palmer to bring out the coal. Four houses were built alongside the railroad for families of men who were on the "section crew", whose job it was to maintain the tracks. A fifth house was later built by Ira King, and all of them are still standing today.

After a time, miners lived in the houses. These included Rev. Lee King and Charlie Hornbuckle. Today, Mrs. Charlie Hornbuckle still lives there as well as Malery and Ruby Shrum James. The Tommy Dyer family also lived there for years.

Ira King found work in the Kentucky coal mines in the Great Depression, but returned to Palmer a short time later. He and his wife Etta Finch King started building their home with \$10.00 and doing the labor themselves. They eventually built a comfortable home and it's the one on the end toward the Scott

Cannon Place. The Kings are both deceased. He was a brother to Rev. Lee King, and his wife was a sister to Rev. King's first wife, Leona Finch King.

Church sign at The House of the Lord Church

This message was on the sign at "The House of the Lord Church" on Palmer Mountain.

Rev. Donald Partin is the pastor. He's a son of Ronnie and Judy Meeks Partin. Many of our older readers will remember his grandparents Alvie and Agnes "Ag" Morrison Partin.

A lot of you will also remember his maternal grandmother Jewel Meeks. She was a cook at Palmer School for over 30 years. Jewel was a sister of Mrs. Roy (Louise) Pocus.

American Education Week at Palmer School

Left to right: Ronnie Fults, Principal; Raymond Hargis, Supt.; Mr. Scissom and Mr. Tate.

Conry and Roberts

left to right: Frances Conry and Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. of Palmer, TN,

Palmer PTA Salute

Salute to the Palmer PTA

Palmer School P.T.A. Presidents' Roll Call

Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. 1927-1934

Mrs. J.C. Harris 1934-1935

Mrs. Henry Hampton 1935-1935

Mrs. Van McBee 1935-1937

Mrs. Horace Moore, Sr. 1937-1939

Mrs. Roy Barker 1939-41

Mrs. Orange Lemon Northcutt 1941-42

Mrs. Roy Barker 1942-1944

Mrs. Louie "Chief" Geary 1944-46

Mrs. Floyd Owen 1946-1948

Mrs. Roy Worley 1948-1949

Mrs. R.B. Ivey 1949-1951

Mrs. Ted Long 1951-1952

Mrs. Clarence Howard Nunley, Jr. 1952-54
Mrs. Earl Patton 1954-1954
Mrs. Ted Long 1954-1956
Mrs. George Landon, Sr. 1956-1957
Mrs. Stanley Nunley 1957-1959
Mrs. Walter Huling 1959-1960
Mrs. J.G. "Gordon" Northcutt 1960-1962
Miss Frances Conry 1962-1964

The Palmer Parent Teachers' Association (P.T.A.) was organized in January 1927. For years it served the school and community in a creditable manner. These presidents and members supported invaluable and unselfish service to the children and youth of this area. Through study courses, leadership training and workshops, fine leaders have been developed among the membership through the years.

Palmer P.T.A. can be justly proud of having seven members to serve as president of the Grundy County Council: Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Northcutt, Mrs. McBee, Mrs. Long, Mrs. Clarence Howard Nunley, Mrs. Jack London, Sr. and Miss Martha Hampton. Three members have served the ninth district as president: Mrs. Horace Moore, Sr., Mrs. Roberts and Miss Martha Hampton.

Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. served as state president from 1951-1954. To these and all our past presidents, we say "thank you" for your unselfish devotion to a dedicated cause, the welfare of all children.

P.T.A. Fundraiser

Tickets .50

Palmer School Cafeteria

February 16, 1962

4:30-6:30 P.M.

Menu

Turkey-dressing-giblet gravy-green beans-whipped potatoes-cole slaw- rolls-
cherry pie & ice cream-coffee or milk

The proceeds from the dinner are to be used to pay for the new stainless steel sink, which has just been installed in the lunch room. One hundred and fifty people were served and the net proceeds amounted to \$73.00.

April 2007

1935 Baseball Team sponsored by Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company

This Palmer team from about 1935 was sponsored by Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company and played at the old "Ball Diamond". To our knowledge all pictured are now deceased.

Bottom Row (l-r) Harvey Brown, Jack Long, Homer Heard, Joe Pocus, R.B. Ivey
Top row (l-r) Glenn "Doe" Cannon, Bill Atterton, George "Red" Gipson, Noble Cantrell, Stanley "Shorty" Long, Malcolm Geary.

Grundy County Baseball Memories, Part I

By Raymond Hargis

As told to David Patton

April 2007

Unless you are in your late 50's or older, you probably think of Grundy County Baseball as being the high school team or the Little League teams that have been popular for many years now.

But years ago, baseball in Grundy County meant "town teams: from Palmer to Pelham playing on Sunday afternoon in what one person described as the "entertainment of the week". These teams consisted of grown men, sometimes with a talented teen-ager among them, playing hard before loyal fans who took great pride in their hometown stars.

Mr. Raymond Hargis, longtime teacher and Grundy County elected official, was a player on such teams in the 1940's and 50's. His fascinating narrative is an important contribution to Grundy County sports history as well as other aspects of days gone by.

Join us now as we take a stroll down memory lane to the Grundy County of yesteryear.

Dear David,

I'll begin with your question about how I got started in baseball. I was born in Gruetli (Mt. Vernon area) in 1928. In 1929 my dad got a job in Old Hickory, a Nashville suburb, with the DuPont Company. The company owned all the houses and rented them to their employees. DuPont also provided parks and playgrounds and hired directors to oversee them. Also, the neighborhoods were close knit with many children who would play together in all kinds of games, including baseball, without much equipment and with makeshift bases, using tennis balls or rubber balls and broomstick bats.

About twice a week the playground directors would gather age group boys and “choose up” sides for baseball games. The directors furnished baseballs, bats, catching equipment, and umpires. Boys usually had gloves their dads had bought them. There was no league, just kids playing because they liked it. There was no pressure to win-just the joy of playing. (Parents rarely attended, just kids playing ball.) Age groups ranged from 7-8 to 13-14.

There was also a community gym where basketball, boxing, and indoor sports were played, much like the playground activities. In the winter of 1942-43 the director chose a basketball team of 8th graders (not connected to the school) to play similar teams from other communities. I was chosen to play center on this team. Our best player was a boy named Richard (Cueball) Anderson who was a small, quick guard who could pass and dribble and was a good shooter too. One Sunday in the 1990's Morgan Smedley came to our services at Palmer Church of Christ. (He and his brother Jack were former Palmer residents and used to visit occasionally.) Morgan knew I had lived in Old Hickory and he had met Cueball in Chattanooga. When Cueball told Morgan he was from Old Hickory, Morgan asked him if he remembered me. Cueball said he most certainly did. It is a small world, isn't it?

I left the basketball team in Feb. of 1943 when we moved back to Gruetli. I enrolled in Grundy County High School and the principal, Mr. John A. Anderson, knew the DuPont principal, Mr. C.P. Ferguson, who was an uncle of Roy “Sonny” Ferguson, who was GCHS football coach from 1955-58. In Feb. of 1943 at GCHS all the varsity sports were over, but I played basketball the next 3 years and football my senior year. We had a losing record in football in 1945, but we were undefeated after 3 games and had scored only 2 touchdowns. We tied South Pittsburg 0-0, beat Manchester 6-2 and Marion County 6-0.

During the summers of my high school years I remember attending games at Palmer and at Tracy City. We also played pickup games in pastures and schoolyards around Gruetli. Leck and Matthew Coffelt, John Nance's sons, Tom & Horace Moore, Jr. and others would gather and play, sometimes on Saturday or Sunday.

Palmer, Tracy City, Sherwood, Whitwell, Jasper, Monteagle and Pelham all had teams in the 1940' and 50's. The skills were at or near semi-pro level. Palmer had good rivalries with Tracy City, Sherwood, and Whitwell, in particular, but all the games were very competitive. I don't remember any fights of ill will, but Palmer and Sherwood came close a time or two I heard.

Little Lee Dough Ross (He later became a well-known teacher and coach.) who couldn't have been more than 10-11 years old at the time was a big Palmer fan and hitchhiked to games wherever Palmer played.

I graduated from GCHS in the spring of 1946 and Everett Tate who was managing Palmer at the time asked me to join the team. There was some sort of rift between "Big Ev" and Harvey and Jack went to play with Whitwell. Big Ev pitched when we played Whitwell and they won with Harvey getting a hit off Ev. We had a good team, but not having Harvey and Jack was a big loss.

I enrolled at UT in Knoxville in the fall of 1946, but I played some in 1947 and '48 even though a lot of games had been played by the time I got home for the summer. I will try to list some of the Palmer players of this period later, but I'll probably omit some. Maybe someone else can add to the ones I remember.

In the fall of 1948 after 2 years at U.T. I became a math teacher at GCHS. Long-time math teacher Rudolph Schild had died earlier. I was planning to teach in Grundy County and finish my degree on weekends and summer school. There were several players in the Gruetli area and some around Palmer who were not on Palmer's team that we believed would make up a good Gruetli team. We got together and formed a team that played similar teams from Dunlap and other places. We did well and asked to be part of a league that included Palmer, Coalmont, Tracy City, Gruetli, Sewanee and Manchester. George Gipson, known as "Red" Gipson, was a brother of Joe Gipson, Sr. of Palmer, was our manager, but by the time the league opened play in 1949, Claude Scott became our manager.

The "regulars" were: Johnny Dickerson, pitcher; James "Cotton" Bouldin, catcher; Tom Moore 1st base; Roy Hooten, 2nd base; Kenneth Yokley, 3rd base; Raymond Hargis, short stop; Tom Clark, left field; Horace Moore, Jr, center field; Bill Cunningham, right field; Manager Claude Scott was also a catcher. Glenn Nunley as a pitcher would also be a "regular". In fact before league play started, Glenn pitched against Dunlap 4 times and won them all. The Dunlap manager said they would play us till they won, but they never did and they were not in the newly formed league.

When the season started, we played Palmer the first game and won 5-2. Johnny Dickerson struck out Harvey Brown and Jack Long, which was not easy to do. Johnny probably threw harder than any pitcher in the league or maybe in the whole area. We next played Coalmont and beat them with Dee Brown pitching for Coalmont. Dee was one of the best left-handed pitchers around. We played at Tracy City next, and they were unbeaten, too. The crowd was the largest I

had seen before and afterward. The fairgrounds grandstand was full and fans lined the left and right field foul lines.

Johnny pitched for us and Paul Street pitched for Tracy City. They won something like 5-3 or 6-2. I'm not sure about the score, but it was a great game before a great crowd. I don't remember how the standings ended, but I think Tracy City was probably first.

After league play Palmer was invited to Chattanooga for the "city series". Each team could pickup 2 players to add to their regular team. Palmer picked up Dee Brown from Coalmont to pitch and picked me to use as a catcher. We played Trenton, GA, first and Dee pitched and I was the catcher. As we warmed up before the game Dee told me that if I called for a curve to a left-handed batter he would throw it right at the batter and if it curved it would be over the plate and if it didn't curve, the batter would have to get out of the way. I laughed because Dee was dead serious. We beat Trenton by a lopsided score. Howard "Craig" Cannon (son of Freddie Cannon) stole 2nd and 3rd more than once and last time he also stole home. A fan behind the backstop said to the Trenton catcher, "Catcher, you had better watch out, or he will steal your mask."

Palmer then played Silverdale with Joe Scruggs (son of Frank and Ophelia Hold Scruggs) pitching. Palmer won 2-1 and Silverdale's run was a long homerun over the left field fence deep into a coal yard behind the fence. As the Silverdale player circled the bases, he saw Joe on the mound bent over laughing. The player later said he didn't understand Joe: "He laughs if he strikes you out; or if you hit a homerun."

The only other city series I was involved in was on the Palmer team that played the "Dixie Spinners". James Ross (son of Isaac and brother of Rev. Charles "Cotton" Ross) pitched and James had an excellent knuckle ball. I didn't catch that game, but I caught James in several games that season and he was really tough to hit against. I played 1st base that day and tripled in the 1st inning and came home on a groundout so we led 1-0. James was rolling with the knuckle ball, but in the 3rd inning it quit dipping and diving. It was coming straight in and the spinners were pounding it. I don't know how many runs they scored, but in the 4th inning with the score 16-1, Johnny Geary (John W. "Johnny" Geary was a son of Joseph S. Geary.) came running in from right field and told the umpire to stop the game. "It's no use", he said. Johnny was way past his prime, but played because he was experienced and a great athlete. He was right to stop the game because we probably would not have got them out in the 4th inning.

I was a Tennessee Tech in summer school when the Korean War broke our on June 25, 1950, but I played with Gruetli on weekends and resumed teaching at GCHS in August. In November 1950, in my 3rd year at GCHS, I entered the Army. Draftees served 2 years, so I was discharged in 1952. Doris (Mr. Hargis is married to the former Doris Brown of Palmer.) and I moved to Chattanooga where I worked a Wheland Foundry and later at the Chattanooga Post Office where I could work part time and go to school at the University of Chattanooga. I got my B.S. degree in 1955 and was hired as principal at Palmer Elementary in the fall of 1955. During the summers I attended Peabody (now part of Vanderbilt University) and got my M.S. degree in school administration in 1957. In 1958 in my 3rd year at Palmer I was elected county court clerk. After school was out at Palmer in May, I had until September before becoming county court clerk , so I played on Palmer's team for my last year as a player in the summer of 1958.

I played 2nd base on a pretty good Palmer team. Carl "Squat" Crisp from Tracy City pitched for us. We played a very good Bridgeport, AL, team, and probably as good as any team in the Chattanooga area. Squat pitched a great game, and we were leading 2-1 in the 9th inning. Bridgeport had a runner on 2nd with 2 outs. A nephew of Harvey Brown (I think it was Bill Brown's son.) lined a hit to center field scoring the tying run. The hitter took 2nd on the throw to the plate. That runner scored on another hit, and we lost 3-2. It was a great game, and we were within 1 out of winning.

In a game with Coalmont, Gene "Eyeballs" Rogers (He was later Grundy Co. Road

Superintendent and as of 2007, his grandson, Daniel T. Crabtree, is the mayor of Palmer) was on 2nd base with a good lead. I broke for 2nd and Squat whirled and threw the ball. I tagged "Eyeballs" out as he slip in to 2nd. He looked up at me and said, "I won't vote for you anymore."

That sort of symbolized what baseball was like in the 1940's and 50's. We all played to win, but we were all friends and just enjoyed playing. I don't remember any fights and very few arguments, mostly over umpire calls where each side had its say and the game went on.

When I give an opinion on who was good as a player, I am speaking form my own experience at seeing them play – others, before or after, may have been better. Certainly there will be a difference of opinion, and I respect the opinions of those who disagree with me. And when I name players I remember, I am sure I will omit some. I apologize in advance for those I should have named, but

didn't. Also, I may name players who played with more than one team as many did.

Charlie Brewer (son of Tooter Bill Brewer) and Billy Ray "Bill" Cunningham (son of Webb Cunningham) may have been the best pure hitters. They almost never struck out and could hit any kind of pitch. Both were left-handed hitters, but Charlie had more power than Bill. Harvey Brown was a fine hitter and Jack Long had a smooth swing and rarely struck out.

Jack Long was an excellent catcher, but his arm was not real strong. He had a quick release which made him hard to steal on. James Street on the Tracy City team was a good catcher and Dillon Patterson of Pelham had a very strong arm.

Joe Scruggs may have been the most talented pitcher with a good curve and good control. Johnny Dickerson of Altamont played for Gruetli and had a blazing fastball. Johnny signed to play professional ball in Class D Kitty League, but chronic back trouble forced him to give it up. Paul Street (Tracy City) was an excellent pitcher with good control. So was Tom Patton of Pelham.

James Ross had the best knuckle ball and was unbeatable when he could throw it for strikes. Dee Brown of Coalmont was a top left-handed pitcher as was Morris Walker of Beersheba. Donnie Hillis of Beersheba was a good curve ball pitcher. I heard that Malcolm Geary and Joe Pocus of Palmer were good pitchers, but I never got to see either of them pitch. Hugh Minter of Whitwell was another good left-handed pitcher as was L.C. Wynn of Sewanee. Another good left-handed pitcher was Matthew Coffelt of Gruetli.

Fritz Flury of Tracy City and Bill Jack Gunn of Monteagle were good 1st basemen. Speedie Speegle of Monteagle was a good 2nd baseman. (Speedie must have played 25 years- I don't know how they ever got him to quit!) Bill Burrows of Coalmont and Robert Creighton (Coalmont) were excellent shortstops. (They played with different years) Shirley Cunningham and Howard Cow "Craig" Cannon of Palmer were good 3rd basemen. Herb Garner and Harvey Brown of Palmer were good outfielders as were Billy Ray "Bill" Cunningham and Horace Moore, Jr. of Gruetli.

There were many good players who could play almost any position. Squat Crisp, Paul Crick, Bobby Roddy, Tom Edd Kirk of Tracy City, Herbie Caldwell and "Shotgun" Cannon of Coalmont. Shotgun was also a great pitcher. These are some that come to mind. I'm sure there are many others. Jewel Tate; bother to Everett, played the outfield at Tracy City. "Bright Eyes" Crisp and "Monk" Crisp, brothers of Squat, were Tracy City players. Bright Eyes was a pitcher and Monk was a catcher. Also Silas Guyear, (Tracy City), a pitcher, was among the best.

Other Palmer players I recall include Glenn "Doe" Cannon (both of Craig), Sherwood Long, Carl Geary, George "Mutt" Cunningham and later Jim Dave McBee, Willie Dee Meeks, Ted Long, Doug Grooms, Charles Edgar Sanders, Alvin "Oats" Geary, Echerd Brewer, and Woodrow Cleek. This is a partial list, I'm sure.

Other players in the area include Howard Brown (Coalmont), J.B. Hill and Richard Hill (Beersheba) and Bobby Sweeton and Dynah Henley (Gruetli).

I remember playing in 2 night games, both with Gruetli. We played Cowan a night game at Cowan. They had a good team and regularly played at night. It was our first night game, and we didn't do well at hitting or fielding. We quickly fell behind and Cowan position players kept wanting to pitch. They would face 3 or 4 hitters and change pitchers. Their 3rd baseman kept begging to pitch and the manager finally let him pitch. I was his first batter and I hit his 1st pitch over the right field fence for a homerun. When I came around to home plate, Mr. Lonnie Battles, one of our fans, was at the plate. He took out his billfold and gave me a dollar. (It was the only money I ever got for playing ball.)

The Cowan manager took the pitcher out. He wouldn't let him face another batter. His teammates kidded him loudly. We lost the game 18-1 as I recall.

Grundy County Baseball Memories, Part II

The 2nd night game we played was at Scottsboro, AL. We lost that one, too, but not as badly as the one at Cowan. Another thing about the Cowan game was that George "Red" Gipson, our manager, who was probably 65 years old pinch-hit in a late inning. George flied out to center field which was quite a feat for one his age. He and his brother Joe whom I never saw play had a reputation as good hitters, hard to strike out.

Managers at that time were not considered like pro ball managers or even high school managers. Many times they were also players and looked at somewhat as a captain. They set lineups and changed pitchers and substituted players but usually sought consensus. Pitching changes usually found the pitcher going to a position which was vacated by the incoming relief pitcher. Very few teams had several pitchers who only pitched.

Claude Scott, for whom the baseball field at Grundy County High School is named, was a very unusual manager. He was a good catcher, but did not play every game. In his 40's, he couldn't play as long or as hard as his younger players. But he thought baseball should be fun, and he was always looking for a way to have fun. For example, he showed "Cotton" Bouldin (Many of you will

remember Wade, J.W., Charles and Cotton's other brothers.) Gruetli's catcher, a potato the size of a baseball and told him if the other team had runners on 1st and 3rd and the 1st base runner tried to steal 2nd, Cotton was to throw the potato into center field and be waiting with the baseball when the 3rd base runner came home to score. It never happened, and if it had it was against the rule of making a travesty of the game. Claude just thought it would be a fun thing to do.

Another time in a game against Sewanee, I had hit the ball hard my first two bats (2 doubles). When I came up the 3rd time I looked at Claude coaching at 3rd, and he gave me the bunt sign. I bunted and got on, but I wondered why he had me to bunt since we had no runners on base. I asked Claude after the inning was over, and he grinned and said he just wanted to see if I was paying attention to his signs. We both laughed and went on with the game. Claude was fun to be around and the Gruetli team enjoyed playing for him.

There was not a strategy in those days. We just played ball for fun and tried to win, but it was mostly just to see how we could do in competition with others. As I have noted, many players played with more than one team over the years.

I suppose Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. paid for Palmer's uniforms, but most teams asked businesses to pay for a uniform and their business was named on the back of the uniform shirt. Teams usually had fund-raisers for bats and balls and some equipment like catcher's gear. Each player took his uniform and turned it in at the end of the season or if he left the team.

Umpires were usually chosen from the fans attending the game especially those who had played and liked to be involved. I remember Hobe Grooms (father of Doug and Harold Grooms) at Palmer and other teams usually had some like Hobe who would agree to umpire. I don't recall if any were ever paid for their work, but they usually did a good job. Fans might complain about calls, but players would maybe disagree, but accept the calls and go on. There was 1 plate and 1 base umpire.

David, you are right about games being social events. I don't ever remember a game that didn't have a "good" crowd, no matter where you played. At Palmer I recall fans like "Dottie" Dodson, Herschel "Gap" Finch, Paul "Little Ug" Cleek. You mentioned Ewing Hampton, and I wish I could remember some of the stories Gene Brooks (another big fan) has told about Ewing who always called Gene "Brooksie". I'm sure other teams had their faithful fans, too, but offhand I can't name any. Family members of players and those who just loved baseball were numerous for all the teams.

The old ball field at Palmer (known as the “ball diamond”. Woods surrounded it with the mountain looming behind home plate and Mill Creek flowing alongside the ball diamond. It was an isolated spot, and across the creek and behind the ball diamond was the location of numerous coalmines.) was probably my favorite place to play. Gruetli played on Coalmont’s field at the elementary school which also was a good field to play on as was Tracy City’s field, the American Legion field at the fairgrounds. The Coalmont and Tracy City fields were sandy and could absorb a lot of rain before it was too wet to play on. Palmer’s field was near a creek and the soil seemed to be a sort of clay that once it became wet, it would be two or three days before it would be dry enough. But it was level with a good outfield and plenty of room for fans. All three of these fields were unusually good to play on and were fairly easily maintained. Monteagle and Pelham also had good fields, Gruetli built a field at the old oil well site, but it was not very level and had a lot of small rocks all over it. Later, Horace More, Sr. allowed some of his land near the Dogtown Road to be used for a field, but I never played there or even saw a game there.

There were numerous families where 2 or more brothers played and some of those I have already mentioned earlier though I didn’t not that they were brothers. Again, I’ll probably fail to mention some of them, but maybe someone else will fill in where I have left some of them out.

At Palmer, Mutt, Shirley and Bill Cunningham played. Also Johnny, Carl and Alvin “Oats” Geary & Johnny Vernon and James Wayne Tate (Johnny Vernon was a good outfielder who hustled all the time.) I knew James Wayne played, but I didn’t see him play. Glenn “Doe” and Craig Cannon (Howard was his real name) were good players. Doug and Harold Grooms played. (I didn’t see Harold play except grammar school softball.) Doug was a very solid player. Their father, Hobe, umpired a lot as I have mentioned. Leck and Matthew Coffelt were both pitchers.

At Coalmont, Dee and Howard Brown played, and I believe some of the Burrows Brothers played, but I am not sure. Gerald Scott, brother of Claude played. Gene “Eyeballs” Rogers may have had a bother to play. J.B. and Richard Hill played at Beersheba. Tom and Horace Moore, Jr. played at Gruetli as well as James “Cotton” Bouldin and later his brother Ralph. Jim Long played and Gruetli and maybe Palmer. His brothers Jack, Sherwood and Ted played at Palmer.

At Tracy City, Paul and James Street were pitcher and catcher as was Haskell “Bright Eyes” Crisp with Carl “Squat” playing at several positions. Jewell Tate was an outfielder, but his brother Everett played at Palmer as I mentioned earlier.

I must back up to Palmer again and mention brothers Charlie and Rooster Brewer (Earl "Tooter Bill's" sons). I have said I thought Charlie was the best "pure hitter" but he was also an outstanding left-handed pitcher. I only saw Rooster pitch once, but from that and what others have said, I know that he is one of the best of area left-handed pitchers.

You mentioned Jimmy Northcutt and how Ralph Sanders encouraged Jimmy to get a hit. I remember Jimmy was nicknamed "Splatter" but I never saw Jimmy play. I knew Ralph was a big fan along with his son, Alfred "Foxy" Sanders.

I did not play in the 18-inning game between Palmer and Tracy City. But I was there as a fan. I honestly didn't remember who won and I didn't remember who pitched for Palmer against Silas Guyer (Catherine Flury said it was 1-0 for Palmer.) But I do recall it was a great game, and I recall it was getting dark when it ended. My recollection is that the ball was hard to see and that when a pitched ball hit James Street, play was halted before someone was seriously hurt. That suggests the game was not over, but I don't know how it was all resolved. I don't remember a longer or better game. Not many games went into extra innings. I never saw a triple play and even double plays were not common. One reason could be that practice was not daily and when there was practice not everyone could come. You mostly had hitting practice with fielding. Practice consisted of fielding grounders and fly balls from hitting practice. Pitchers would throw to catchers on the sidelines. Once at Gruetli we had gone to Tullahoma where the Worth Company made baseballs and bought some bats and balls. We bought some good "game" balls and then some of lesser cost for batting practice. We practiced at Coalmont's field, and the first time we used the practice balls someone hit a line drive to right field where James "Sham" Sanders was helping in fielding. When "Sham" Sanders picked the ball up he came running in saying, "This ball is bent." The practice balls were cheaply made and were useless to use. We didn't save any money using them.

I don't remember a pitcher deliberately hitting a batter, but not all pitchers had good control, so batters had to be alert. There were some players who could manage to get hit by a pitch when it would be most helpful to his team. Several did this from time to time. Bill Jack Gunn from Monteagle was probably as good at this strategy as anybody. Base stealing then, as now, was by the fastest runners, but many players (Harvey Brown was one.) would steal by timing his attempt to the way pitchers made their motions. Players with good speed almost never got thrown out.

Teams had good players and games had outstanding plays- timely hits, bunts, long homeruns, runners thrown out at home, timely strikeouts, long runs to

catch outfield flies, all the different plays that make games fun to watch. A very unusual feat was Leon "Racehorse" Tate's in a game with Sewanee. Leon was pitching and in one inning he threw nine straight strikes to strike out the side. He did not throw one ball nor did any batter foul a pitch. Batters either swung and missed or took a called strike. Nine strikes got 3 outs. This may have occurred elsewhere over the years, but I have never heard of it. Gruetli team members and fans have marveled at this over the years, making "Racehorse" a legend in his own time. (What a wonderful and amazing story Mr. Hargis. Leon Tate is a son of the late Floyd and Tootie Cunningham Tate and still lives in Gruetli-Laager. Most of you know him as Leon "Gabby" Tate.)

A funny incident happened at Palmer once when Joe Scruggs was pitching and Harvey Brown was in center field. The other team had a runner on 2nd with a big lead. Harvey came sneaking in from center field to trap the runner and Joe saw him coming. For some reason Joe went ahead with his pitch to the plate, and the batter hit the ball straight to center field where Harvey had left to trap the 2nd base runner. Naturally, the hit scored the runner from 2nd, leaving Harvey standing right behind 2nd base. Harvey was mad as a wet hen and Joe, as usual, was on the mound bent over laughing.

Many fans from Grundy County attended Chattanooga Lookout games. I remember seeing Jim Kaat, Jim Lemon, Bob Allison and Harmon Killebrew. Later, they were all major league players with the Washington Senators. Jim Lemon once hit 4 homeruns in a Southern Association All-Star game played at Engel Stadium. I saw Gus Trianados who played for Birmingham hit a homerun that hit the top of a light tower in left field. The tower was about 50 feet higher than the fence, so no telling how long the homer would have been if it hasn't hit the tower. Birmingham was a Yankee farm team and Trianados was a regular catcher for the Yankees later.

Engel Stadium was named for Joe Engel, owner of the Lookouts. Engel had a reputation for attracting fans in innovative ways. He one had a drawing to give away a house to the lucky winner. The crowd filled the stadium and fans lined left field and right field lines and along the outfield fence from left to right field. I don't remember the size of the crowd, but it held the record for minor leagues for many years. Engel also once traded a player for a turkey. He was considered the most outstanding showman for as long as he owned the Lookouts. I remember games when paper money was scattered all over the infield and chosen lucky fans could keep all the money they could pick up in a certain length of time.

Doris and I took our grandson, Jared, Jody's son, to spring training in 1993 (The year of the 21" snow) We had to wait a day or two before leaving so the snow

could be removed from the highways in north Georgia. We visited training camps and saw Cincinnati, St. Louis, Toronto, Baltimore and several other teams in the Central Florida area. Jared was 12 at the time and really enjoyed seeing the major leagues, but he was glad to get home because that was the longest he had been away from home.

On a trip to St. Louis to see the Braves and the Cardinals play a double-header (Jared and Tallman and Harrison, all three of our grandsons) we got there a day early to see the sights around St. Louis. Jared was and is a big fan of Ozzie Smith, the great Cardinal shortstop. As we were driving along a street Jared suddenly saw Ozzie Smith's restaurant and, of course, we had to stop and eat there. There was a sign there that said Ozzie would be there at a certain time to meet fans and sign autographs. We went back at that time and the boys got to meet Ozzie and get him to sign his name on various items. He talked with Jared for several minutes and was very friendly and easy to talk to. He was gracious to all the fans and was in no great hurry to get through with the session. I was very impressed with Ozzie Smith.

Ron Terrill's father (whose first name I can't readily recall) worked at the Dept. of Human services in Tracy City, but he lived in Sewanee. (Mr. Hargis, I believe that was Jack Terrill.) I never saw him play, but he played professional baseball and once played a game in Yankee Stadium. I had one or two brief conversations with him at lunchtime, but I have regretted that I didn't learn more about his baseball playing days. He is deceased.

Back to Grundy County baseball, the season usually started in April and ended in September, sometimes with playoffs continuing even into November. I remember playing in a playoff game in Tracy City in November. It was so cold I wore a heavy jacket the whole game as did many others. One year Gruetli did not play Manchester till late August. It rained every time our Manchester game came up. I did not like to play in cold weather. (I don't know many who did.) The bat would sting your hands when you hit the ball, and you would never be loose fielding the ball, resulting in many errors. You just could not get comfortable in cold weather, or wet weather either.

I remember 2 players from this area who played major league baseball. One was Hillis Layne from Whitwell. He was an infielder for the Washington Senators. I never saw him play, but I know he scouted for Washington for many years. He had a brother named Meredith Layne who drove a coal truck on the Palmer-to-Pocket haul. I drove a truck on that haul in the summers and I remember Meredith as a quiet, soft-spoken friendly person. I understand Hillis was like that, also. The other major leaguer was Phil Douglas who was a pitcher and is buried in the City Cemetery at Tracy City with a baseball themed headstone.

Phil was banned from baseball by Commissioner Kennesaw Mountain Landis, supposedly for talking about “throwing” games while he was “under the influence”. Landis was given absolute power as commissioner after the “black sox” world series, where games were supposed to have been rigged by Shoeless Joe Jackson and others. If Landis believed someone did something detrimental to baseball, he had the authority to ban him or her with no hearing or appeal. He was especially sensitive to gambling and would not tolerate players even associating with known gamblers.

Numerous attempts have been made to try to get Phil Douglas’ name cleared as there seems to have been no evidence other than drunken comments. One attempt in recent years apparently got nowhere.

I will close these disjointed comments by saying that I never ever saw a local player act boastful or act as if he was superior to other players. Playing baseball was enjoyed as a team effort in competition with other teams. You played to win, but if you didn’t you just tried to do better the next game. Teammates enjoyed their association with each other and also with the other teams. I remember no ill feeling or hostility between teams or team members. I firmly believe all players who played during this period enjoyed competing and enjoyed the friendships created over these years.

Maybe these recollections will prompt others to recall their experiences and maybe fill in some blanks in my remarks and add their, and I certainly hope that anyone who had athletic experiences or work experiences with others will either write them down or relate them to someone who will because the passing of year will dim the memory so that many details of interest will be lost. I know that I thought I could remember a lot more than I have been able to recall.

The work of William Ray Turner, David Patton, Those who worked on the Heritage Book and those who worked on the coal miners’ museum and the coke oven projects and other projects of public interest deserve the praise and support of all Grundy Countians. Let’s all help in any way we can to preserve our history, which is being created every day.

Respectfully,

Raymond Hargis

UPDATE & CORRECTIONS TO BASEBALL MEMORIES

Correction-Update

In his fine article Mr. Hargis said that Charlie Brewer was the best “pure” hitter that he remembered.

A typographical error on our part said that Charlie was a left-handed pitcher. Charlie was a catcher. His brother, Carl “Rooster” was a good left-handed pitcher.

Another Palmer Brewer was a good right-handed pitcher. Gary “Rooster” Brewer played college baseball and his son, Kyle, is currently a college player. The younger son, Matt, plays for Grundy County High School. Gary “Rooster” Brewer is a Grundy County Commissioner.

Mr. Hargis attended a number of Chattanooga Lookouts games at Engel Stadium. The famous stadium, built in 1930, is in a state of disrepair and a decision must be made soon on whether to tear it down. Many hope to see it saved and become a baseball museum.

Comments & Update

by David Patton

On behalf of the Grundy County Historical Society, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Hargis for his compelling “once in a lifetime” remembrance of our Grundy County history. It’s almost impossible to get anyone to write down local history in such a thorough and entertaining way that people from all walks of life can relate to.

Mr. Hargis was our principal at Palmer Elementary from 1955-58 and lived in the home we occupy today. He was an outstanding leader during one of the greatest eras of Grundy County’s oldest school. Discipline and order were maintained and the students, P.T. A. and community at large worked as one.

We wrote Mr. Hargis a follow-up letter and he responded with even more information so let’s get right to it.

Wayne L. Cannon passed away recently and his brother, Jerry, told us Wayne hitchhiked to the games with Lee Doug Ross, but I’m not surprised. Wayne was a good athlete, especially a football player. But the Cannon family had a number of good athletes as I noted before. Wayne’s wife, Connie, is a cousin of mine. Her father, Alton Hargis, and I are 1st cousins.

We asked Mr. Hargis if he could remember any more fans and he responded, “Frank Scruggs (Joe’s father), Bailey Brooks, (Gene’s father, known by many as “Preacher” Brooks, he was a blacksmith at the Palmer Big Mine and a well-known Church of Christ minister. Bailey Brooks played for the Tracy City team in the very early 1900’s. They played in what was called the “Mule Lot: and we

believe that's where Tracy City's Ball Park is located today) and Webb Cunningham (father of Mutt, Bill and Shirley) were indeed fans and good examples of fans I failed to mention in my account."

We had remembered that well-known Gruetli merchant Elmer Meeks was a fan and this jogged Mr. Hargis' memory. "Elmer Meeks was certainly a supporter of Gruetli baseball. He contributed and also bought a uniform. His brother "Little Norma" was a big fan too. These are two I should have mentioned in my account, but did not think to. I am sure there are others who were big fans all over the county. Maybe you or others can think of some more fans."

The late James VanHooser was a Whitwell barber, Marion County civic leader, and a legend in baseball and softball circles in Southeast Tennessee. He managed some great Whitwell baseball teams and was an American softball Association (ASA) official for years. "I knew Mr. VanHooser was very prominent in Whitwell sports. His son was also a basketball official for several years. James came on the Marion County School Board just before I left the school system there. We had known each other for years."

Back 40 and 50 years ago the World Series created a lot of hoopla and excitement like the Super Bowl does today. People in Grundy County would make up "pots" for each series game. They would put up a dollar each then draw names of players from a hat. If your player got the most hits in the game, you won the pot which would have been \$16, a good sum of money back then. It was pure luck because many times a "so-so" hitter would get the most hits in a particular series game instead of the more famous players.

"I do remember World Series "pots: and office "pools" on all the games. These raised interest in the World Series games where interest was already high. Before the National and American League expanded, fans had fewer teams to choose from and it seemed the most popular teams were the Yankees, Giants, Cardinals and Dodgers because they consistently won and built up heated rivalries. I was in the Army at Fort Jackson, S.S. in 1951 when the Giants were 11 or 12 games behind the Dodgers with about a month left in the season. The Dodgers manager was Chuck Dressen and he said "The Giants is Dead", but the Giants came back and won the pennant on Bobby Thomson's home run (If we're not mistaken, Mr. Hargis, the teams were tied at the end of the season and Thomson's homerun sent them to the World Series. One of the most famous homeruns in baseball history. It was called "the shot heard around the world". The whole country went wild. That was the main subject in Army barracks and offices."

“Pots” and “Pools” abound now in all sports. These are all fun and the money is not all that big, but “Big Time” gambling is a threat to the integrity of sports events. Probably most betting is by small groups of fans before and during games. Let me give an example of this betting for fun.

“Jody and I took Deborah’s boys, Tallman and Harrison to a Braves game years ago in Atlanta. We had tickets way out in left field and were inside the stadium trying to see how to get to our seats. Tallman was wearing a Braves T-shirt when Don Sutton a Braves announcer and Hall of Fame pitcher walked up to Tallman and asked him where we would be sitting. We said we were in left field and he said, “Here’s 4 tickets behind home plate. Give your tickets to someone else.” I suppose a little boy in a Braves shirt caught Don Sutton’s attention. When we got to our seats we looked up to the broadcast booth and he waved to us. What a nice gesture from a Hall of Famer to 2 small boys and the 2 adults with them.

“Anyway, back to the betting angle. The 4 seats to our right were occupied by 4 young men who had a handful of \$1 bills each and they bet on pitches, hits, runs and just about anything that came to their minds. They would bet, exchange money, laugh and kid each other the whole game. If the 3rd out in an inning was a strikeout, the catcher would roll the ball toward the mound or if an infielder got the 3rd out, he also would roll the ball toward the mound. These guys would bet on whether the ball stopped on the mound’s dirt or tolled to the grass. They had a good time , and I doubt if any of them lost more than a couple of dollars.

In the 1930’s and 40’s the radio made sports even more popular. You could keep up with the events as they unfolded instead of waiting for the newspaper to come out. Joe Louis; boxing matches were big radio events as well as college football games. But not many games were broadcast because it was costly to set up to broadcast and there were not many stations to reach large areas.

“I remember listening to the Nashville Vols minor league games (Larry Munson was one of the announcers. He’s been the “voice of the Georgia Bulldogs for years now.) When the team was on the road the station had a man on a phone line to the station who would give the batter’s name, balls, strikes, etc. to the announcer back home who would add “color” to the action to make it seem like he was right there in the stadium watching the game. Today that seems cumbersome, but then it was entertaining.” (Mr. Hargis, we remember Gus Chamberlain broadcasting Chattanooga Lookouts games the same way on WAPO Radio, which had their studios in the Hotel Patten.)

Nothing has impacted the “baby boomers” and generations since live television. Today most people take 24-hour instant news, sports and all kinds of entertainment on “the tube” for granted, but it wasn’t always so.

“The first game I saw on TV was in 1948. I was teaching at Grundy County High School in Tracy City, and as soon as school was out I went to Kennerly Cunningham’s Radio Repair Shop on the Orchard Road about a mile away. Kennerly had bought TV parts from various places and assembled a set. I think the TV station was in Birmingham or some distant city, so far away that reception was poor. It was very snowy, but you could see some of the action and the sound was good, so you could keep up with the action.”

“Even in the 1960’s sporting events were not carried on TV as easily as you might think. When former Vanderbilt quarter back Bill Wade was playing for the Bears, Nashville’s Channel 5 would show a replay of the Bears’ Sunday game on Monday or Tuesday night. The film would be flown from Chicago to Nashville and picked up by car and brought to Channel 5 for telecast. Of course there was no tape or instant replay. The film was in black and white, but I would sit up late to watch even Though I already knew how the game turned out.”

Injuries have always been a part of sports, even happening occasionally to fans. One incident that was talked about for years happened at the old Palmer Ball Diamond before World War II.

My uncle, Charles Stanley “Tom” Patton, was a young man standing behind the backstop when he was struck in the face by a ball and seriously injured . The baseball came through the chicken wire and hit Tom.” Joe Willard Fults recalled recently.

Tom Patton served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Europe during World War II and after the war became a minister in the Church of the Nazarene. He is now deceased. Mr. Hargis had these memories of Tom Patton.

“I didn’t know that Tom was injured by a baseball at one of the Palmer games, but I knew him well. He married Betty Sue Meeks (Road Supt. Dee Meeks’ daughter and sister of Elmer and “Little Norman”) She was in my class at GCHS and attended our 50 - year reunion in 1996. She retired as a teacher in Blount County, near Knoxville. Tom also hauled coal on the Pocket-Palmer haul. New trucks were hard to get after World War II, but Tom found a new Studebaker truck that had no cab. He looked strange driving such a truck. He finally sold it, maybe because of the danger or because winter weather would be uncomfortable. Tom was fun to be around. One night in Palmer several of us

boys were in someone's car (It was common to sit in cars in Palmer and visit back and forth with others who were there.) No restaurants were open, but we knew Alf McBee's place in Laager would still be open. Someone offered to buy the Cokes, someone offered to buy some gas for the driver, and Tom said he would pay for the wear and tear on the windshield wiper (and it wasn't even raining!) That seems like tame entertainment now, but even a trip from Palmer to Tracy City was an event during and right after the war. Anyway, Tom Patton was a likeable guy. I never knew anybody who didn't like him."

We wondered where Mr. Hargis got his love of sports and thought it might have been from his dad. He's the son of the late Lee and Thelma Troxler Hargis. Lee Hargis Road in Gruetli-Laager is named for his dad.

"No my dad was not a big sports fan. He liked baseball and took me to some Nashville Vols games and vaguely knew some major league players' names and watched the World Series though he didn't have favorite teams. He would occasionally attend baseball games I played in, but he never saw a high school football or basketball game I played in. He did attend the basketball exhibition game some of us ex-GCHS players played against a traveling team of Indians when the new gym at GCHS in Tracy City opened in 1950. (The Indians let us jump out to a big lead then clobbered us good. We had a good time, though.) When Jody coached basketball at GCHS, my dad did keep up with the wins and losses. Just a few days before he died on the last day of 1991, he surprised me by telling me what the GCHS boys' record was up to that date."

In closing notes, we believe Carley Winton, Clark Gallagher and L.D. Carden played baseball for Pelham, and we know that Frank Clay did. He was later the manager of the baseball team at Grundy County High School We also believe that Henry Brown, the builder of Palmer School and other public buildings in Grundy County was the manager of the Beersheba Springs team at one time.

Mr. Hargis mentioned the late Ewing Hampton as being a big Palmer fan. Mr. Hampton did a good job of doing the paperwork for the various baseball leagues of that era.

Many are probably not aware that the late Mrs. Farrell (Eunice) Hicks of Gruetli-Laager was the granddaughter of major league pitcher Phil Douglas. Eunice's mother was the daughter of Phil Douglas. We wrote an article once on Mr. Douglas for the Grundy County Post. He was an outstanding pitcher and a member of the World Series champion New York Giants in 1922. We believe that this was the first World Series to be broadcast on radio.

Me. Hargis also mentioned Hillis Layne of Whitwell. Mr. Layne played for the Washington Senators and as of March 20, 2007, was living in the Chattanooga area.

This outstanding article would not have been possible without the clerical help of Janelle Taylor, President of the Grundy County Historical Society, and the assistance of the Society's webmaster, Sharon Goodman. We sincerely appreciate their efforts as they continually strive to preserve as much of our history as possible. It takes dedication to get this done, and they are among the best.

Old sayings and figures of speech in Grundy County, Tennessee

By: David Patton

Religion has always played an important role in Grundy County life. Years ago, when most families just barely "scraped by" they "trusted in the Lord" to survive during sickness, wars, or the death of a bread-winning father or loving mother whose passing left a houseful of children on "the mercy of the world".

Since Easter comes in April this year, Let's look back at our religious heritage.

(Palmer United Methodist Church about 2002-2003)

1. "He had a praying Mother"- This was often said about soldiers who survived the horrors of war or a man who led a wicked life for many years before finally getting saved.
2. "He goes to church on Sunday and lives like the devil the rest of the week"- This described a hypocrite but is seldom heard anymore.
3. "They're a bunch of holy rollers"- This wasn't a nice thing to say about those who shouted and were overcome with emotion during their worship.
4. "Pray for the sick and shut-ins"- Radio preachers used this term a lot on their broadcasts but we haven't heard it in a long time.
5. "He's in a backslid condition "or" he's a backslider"- This was a person who had been a Christian but had returned to their sinful ways and were no longer saved.
6. "That bunch is playing church"- I remember this being said about churches where people just mainly went on Sunday morning and didn't have much enthusiasm in their church life.
7. "He's on fire for the Lord"- This described a person, many times a new convert, who was enthusiastic and trying to "win souls" for the Lord and spread gospel to the lost.
8. "The Lord will knock all day, but you have to invite him in"- Our good friend, Mara Lee Caldwell, says this often and what she means is Jesus will knock at

the door to your heart but it's up to you to invite him in and accept him as your personal savior.

9. "He shouted all over the house" or "he got happy"- This described a worshipper who shouted and became overcome with emotion and it was sometimes said "He got happy".

10. "They anointed her with oil and prayed for her"- Before these days of modern medicine, often the only hope for the seriously ill was to be "healed". As a child we remember sick people coming to the front of the church where the preacher would take a small bottle of oil from the pulpit, apply a drop to the forehead of the sick person, then pray along with the whole church for the person's "healing".

11. "He gave an altar call"- During a revival or even a regular service the preacher would invite sinners at the conclusion of the service to come to the altar to be saved. In our mind we can still see Rev. M.C. "Bud" Hampton doing this as Mrs. Myrtle Creighton sat at the piano and softly played "Just as I am" as Brother Bud made his plea.

12. "He hit the altar" or "he hit the mourner's bench"- When the preacher gave his altar call one or more sinners would walk or run to the altar while sometimes shouting and crying, fall to their knees at the altar, repent and be saved by accepting Jesus as their personal savior. The altar was also called the mourner's bench.

13. "She testified at prayer meeting last night"- After prayer and a few songs the preacher would ask if anyone wanted to "testify". People would stand up from their seats and tell everyone how good the Lord had been to them or request prayer for lost family members. Sometimes they would tell when and where they were saved many years ago.

14. "I need to get closer to the Lord" or "I need to get prayed up"- Christians who had gotten lax in their bible study or praying would often say this.

Vinnie-ism

"I believe, that's the eatingest church, I've ever heard of!"

Let's close out with a little humor that's a great example of how times in America and the Church have changed.

According to health officials, America is in an obesity epidemic and church people are a "Big" part of it.

Most of us remember when about the only eating at church was the annual "Homecoming" in the summer. That all changed though when churches started building "fellowship" halls. Now just about any occasion is a cause to "eat".

Many of you remember Mrs. Vinnie Crabtree James, widow of "Little Red" James. Her son, the late Benson, was a friend and told us the following story.

Benson went to a church that was always having dinners. Mrs. James wasn't able to go but Benson would tell her about the events and who was there. From

the old days and not used to hearing of that much eating at church dumbfounded Mrs. James finally said, "I believe, that's the eatingest church, I've ever heard of!"

Happy Easter everybody!!

Bouldin Road Street Sign

Gary Bouldin in Gruetli-Laager, TN

Gary Bouldin, son of the late Wade C. Bouldin, stands by the Bouldin Road sign in Gruetli-Laager.

The road is named for Gary's grandparents, the late Leander and Anna Schild Bouldin, who raised a large family in this area. Some of you will remember Mrs. Bouldin's brother, Rudolph Schild, who was a mathematics teacher at Grundy County High School in the 1940's.

For more information on the Bouldin's and Gruetli-Laager see the excellent article by J. W. Bouldin and Sara Bouldin Grooms in the Grundy County Heritage Book.

April 2007 Update

What's the world coming to? We posed this question to an old (now called a senior citizen) person once and they replied, "It's coming to an end, is what it's coming to".

This wacky weather does make one wonder when combined with other world conditions. After the driest winter on record and the warmest March in memory, record lows on Easter week-end wiped out the fruit crop in much of the South. These are times that try the soul's of men.

Congratulations to Miss Susan Faye Sissom who marks 10 years this month as Director of the Palmer Public Library. On behalf of the Grundy County Historical Society. We want to thank Susan for her help with our website and wish her all the best as she enters her second decade of service as the town librarian.

Reunited: Last month we told you about our efforts to reunite GCHS classmates Vince Mayes and Bobby Owen. We were successful and Mr. Mayes also got in touch with Alyene Nunley Hargis, another classmate from the 1940's, through our contacts.

Harry Joe and Peggy Bone Hooper of Whitwell, retired owners of Hooper Funeral Home in Palmer, were featured on CMT's "Trick My Truck" last month.

The tv show paid for a complete makeover of their 18-wheeler which carries the portable Vietnam Wall across the U.S. for display.

Mara Lee Caldwell got to visit with three of her former students recently and enjoyed seeing Carolyn Sweeton (Mrs. Junebug) Meeks, Brenda Sanders (Mrs. Bob) Ruehling, and Brenda Hargis (Mrs. Don) Lecroy. Mara Lee taught at Old Gruetli, Victoria and Mount Vernon. She later retired as Palmer postmistress. Mrs. Lecroy is the Altamont postmistress.

Margaret Summers Crabtree and her sister Leota visited recently with former Palmer resident Oma James McNabb in Tracy City. Oma is the widow of Marion "Soap" McNabb.

Our good friends Crandel and Ethleen McNabb have settled into their new home in Dunlap and we hope to visit soon. Ethleen taught at Palmer Elementary in the 1940's.

Who is Halee Eads? We knew she was an all-star basketball player at Palmer Elementary but couldn't connect the name. Come to find out, she's the daughter of Kathy Robinson and granddaughter of Edna "Bess" Meeks Robinson who were good players in their day. Bess operated the popular Ranch House Café in Gruetli-Laager for many years and is now deceased.

Franklin King says his brother "Chiggertown Jimmy" King is doing well after surgery last winter. Franklin was highly complimentary of the Grundy County Historical Society for their article on the war dead of Grundy County from Korea and Vietnam. It appeared last fall in local papers and on the society's website.

What's for supper? We enjoyed some "spring turnip greens" from the garden of Mrs. Jeanette Smith recently. They were planted last fall and the March warm spell brought out tender and delicious new leaves on this southern staple.

In Palmer School news, we went by April 10 to check on the auditorium renovation project. All the old seats are gone and Palmer grad Mark Fults was hard at work refinishing the beautiful hardwood floor. Mark is doing a great job and the new seats will arrive in May.

A new medical supply and variety store has opened in the former Partin's package store on HWY 108. The nice lady there said she was a great-granddaughter of Mr. Beecher Smartt. Mr. Smartt was a justice of the peace and custodian at Palmer School in the 1940's. Jerry Cannon says he used to help Mr. Smartt after school.

Palmer landmark closes. We are saddened to report that the Palmer Church of Christ has closed after years of declining attendance. The church dates back to the 1920's and Jerry Coppinger was the last minister when it closed in March.

Rambling Rose: The following is an inspiring story of "Love Thy Neighbor" with origins in the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Jim and Clara Ruth Poe Ivey and Graham and Sarah Cannon Nunley were Palmer neighbors. One of the Nunley daughters, Clara Ruth, is named for Mrs. Ivey.

Mrs. Ivey had a climbing rose bush and the Nunley's got a cutting and started one in their yard. Both families left Palmer many years ago and normally that would have been the end of the story.

Imagine what a surprise it was to 88 year old Dola Ivey Rector to find out some 70 years later that the "Palmer Rose" still lived. The Nunley's had taken the rose bush or a cutting with them when they left Palmer and last month Mrs. Rector received a cutting at her Jefferson, Ga. home from a Nunley daughter, Alyene Nunley Hargis, of Tucson, Arizona. Dola plans to pass the rose bush on to her son. Although scattered across the U.S., the two families still stay in touch and reminisce about their old home town of Palmer. Today, Chet Cleek lives in the Ivey house and Susan Faye Sissom lives where the Nunley home stood.

We enjoyed talking to Bob Layne, son of the Late Brad Layne, recently at his insurance office. We attended GCHS in the early 1960's and hadn't seen each other in years.

Mrs. Becky Henry Layne sent a nice letter recently about our Grundy County spelling bee article. Her daughter, Brooke, was the last Palmer student to win the spelling bee. Two of Becky's children were valedictorians at Palmer Elementary and she says she is blessed with a good family. She is a daughter of the Late Red Henry and Clara Layne Henry.

It was a pleasure to visit with Leonard and Troas Knowlan Layne recently. Troas talked about the days of the big July 4th celebrations at the old Palmer "ball diamond" and says they would always have an "ugly man" contest. We also got to see their son, Tony, a former Palmer town alderman now living in Dunlap. When asked how he liked it down there he said, "Once a mountain boy, always a mountain boy". We share those sentiments with Tony. Troas was a cook at Palmer Elementary for years and says she misses the kids.

Mrs. Shorty Sanders is up and about after recent surgery and once again active in community affairs.

Bobby Lloyd and Perkie Greene of Starke, Fl. Visited her Mother, Velma Cannon, recently.

Recent visitors of Martha Carroll Cox Hensley in her Weekiwachee, Fl. home were childhood friends Henrietta Nunley Tucker and Anna Lou Hill Hatfield.

Mary Alexander, former Palmer resident, passed away recently in Chattanooga. Her father, Thomas Henry Alexander, was a druggist at the company store in the 1930's.

Current and former Grundy Countians attending a "Celebration of Life" service for her were Ann Conry Creighton, Joyce Conry, Sam Creighton, Tommy Curtis, Katherine and Juanita Moneyheffer, Becky Ivey Teague, and Maude Roddy Melton. Mrs. Teague and Mrs. Creighton were classmates of Mary's in the GCHS class of 1941.

That's all for now. "Keep it between the ditches" and join us again next month.

Weeki Wachee Visitor

Kenneth Levan of Ohio visits Martha Carroll Cox Hensley last fall in her Florida home. They grew up in Palmer and hadn't seen each other in 50 years. Weeki Wachee is a small town north of Tampa and home of the famous Florida Mermaids tourist attraction.

May 2007

45 Years Ago- Palmer School Memories Class of 1962

If I had the power to turn back the clock,
Go Back to that house at the end of the block---
The house that was "home" when I was a kid,
I know that I'd love it more now than I did.

If I could be back there at my Mother's knee,
And hear once again all the things she told me,
I'd listen as I never listened before,
For she knew so well just what life had in store.

And all the advice my Dad used to give---
His voice I'll remember as long as I live;
But it didn't seem really important then;
What I'd give to live it all over again.

And what I would give for the chance I once had
To do so much more for my Mother and Dad;
To give them more joy and and a little less pain;
A little more sunshine--a little less rain.

But the years roll on and we cannot go back,
Whether we were born in a mansion or shack;
But we can start right now- in the hour that's here;
To do something more for the ones we hold dear.

And since time in it's flight is traveling so fast,
Let's not spend it regretting that which is past;
But let's make tomorrow a happier day
By doing our "good unto others" – today.

Author unknown

Linda Flynn Meeks (left), Class of 1960 and Dorothy "Dot" Layne Lockhart visit during the August 31, 1996 Reunion at Palmer School. Linda lives today in Griffith Creek. Linda's father, Bob Flynn, was the school janitor for years and Dot's mother, Louise Geary Layne, was the last surviving member of the school's first graduating class of 1928.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Palmer Elementary School

Tuesday, May 22, 1962-7:30 p.m.

GRADUATION USHERS (FROM 7th GRADE)

Meredia Cooper	Danny Sanders
Roland Hargis	Danny Scissom
Christine Land	Faye Summers
Theresa Nunley	David Watts

CLASS ROLL

Sheila Akins	Preston Knowlan
Nadine Anderson	Dorothy "Dot" Layne
Joyce Bradley	Suzanne London
Terry Brewer	Donna McCullough
Ralph Campbell	Larry McWain
John Allen Cox	Carl E. "Teeter" Morrison
Larry Crabtree	Diana Meeks
Danny Creighton	Alfred Randal Nolan
Patricia Davis	Mary Ruth Pemberton
Ima Jean Doss	Lana Roberts
Beverly Flynn	Waymon Roberts
Roy Allen Garner	Jim Rollins
Loretta Hammers	Carolyn Shrum
Randal Harrison	Juanita Slatton
George Edward Henry	Robena Smith
Shelia Henry	Dwight Tate
George Hopkins	Steve "Squeak" Turner
Arthur Huling	Lora Ann Ward
James Jacks	Cecil White
Mary James	Willie Mae White
Robert Johnson	Kirby Dan Wideman
Connie Keel	Joyce Worley
Beverly Kilgore	

CLASS OFFICERS

President- Dwight Tate
Vice President- Kirby Dan Wideman
Secretary- Patricia Davis
Treasurer- Waymon Roberts
Reporter- Suzanne London

CLASS HONORS

Valedictorian- Lana Roberts
Salutatorians- Ima Jean Doss and Suzanne London
Most Popular Students- Robena Smith and Kirby Dan Wideman

COMMENTS

The 1962 graduating class at Palmer Elementary School was the only one to our knowledge to consist of two eighth grades.

The Tatesville School had burned in the early 1960's and the coming of West Virginians to work in the Palmer Mines had swelled the enrollment making it necessary for Principal A.J. Layne to teach one eighth grade and Mrs. Myra Keener, wife of Rev. Billy Joe Keener, teach the other.

Two members of the class died in the military service. George Edward Henry was killed in action against enemy forces while serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam and John Allen Cox died while serving with the U.S. Navy in Alaska. Ralph "Mousey" Campbell was severely wounded in Vietnam and passed away just a few years ago. Roy Allen Garner is also deceased.

Those still living in Palmer include: Larry Crabtree, James Jacks, Connie Keel Jones, Robert Johnson, Carl Edward "Teeter" Morrison, Dwight Tate, Steve "Squeak" Turner, Cecil White, and Joyce Worley Morrison.

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy County , Tennessee

1. "If it rains on the first day of May, It will rain the rest of the summer"- Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell gave us this old saying. The first day of May was dry in Palmer this year so we won't be expecting a "rainy" summer.
2. "A woman's work is never done"- How true it is and we present this in remembrance and appreciation of all the wonderful Mothers from yesterday and today whose endless work on behalf of their families must never be forgotten. Happy Mother's Day!
3. "My juice bill was high" or "pay the light bill"- A lot of people here still call their electric bill the "juice" or "light bill". Years ago about the only electric use in homes was for lights and if you were lucky a radio, iron or refrigerator. One

person said their Father told Sequachee Valley Electric that if his “light” bill got over a \$1.00 a month that they could cut his “juice” off.

4. “He’s poor” or “he’s poor as a snake”- What do you young people think this means? Years ago almost everyone was financially poor but this meant the person was “skinny” and if they were poor as a snake they were super skinny. In this age of obesity we yearn for the days when people were “poor as a snake”. An old person told us that back in the 1930’s they just remembered one really fat woman in Palmer.

5. “He’s fibbing”- This meant lying. There was a popular radio show called “Fibber McGee and Molly” in the 1940’s and we wonder if that was the origin of “fibbing”.

6. “I just know his face” or “I just know him when I see him”- This meant you couldn’t say whether the person was good or bad because you didn’t know them personally, just “knew their face”.

7. “Slow poke” or “he just pokes along”- Back when almost everyone walked to work or school a slow walker was called a “slow poke”. Later, when people got cars, a slow driver who backed up traffic was described as “he just pokes along”.

8. “She’s as pretty as a speckled pup”- This described a mighty pretty girl years ago. You seldom hear this anymore but our girls in Grundy County still fit this description.

9. “Lay them down” or “lay him down”- This meant quit being around or being friends with a person as in “I had to lay them down because all they did was cause trouble”.

10. “She cussed him up one side and down the other”- People said “cussed” instead of “cursed” and this described someone who was angry and cursed another person for a lengthy time.

Dr. Byron Harbolt, 1990.

Ducktown Circle in Palmer runs from the end of the Stone Bridge, along Mill Creek, then up the streep hill to Hwy. 108 and Burnt Orchard Circle. Years ago the Henry Van McBee, Clarence McGovern, Doug Ross, Roy Barker families were among those who called this neighborhood home. Today, Rev. Robert Johnson has probably lived on Ducktown Circle longer than anyone else. The engineer who laid out the town of Palmer reportedly gave this area the nickname of Ducktown.

First Baptist Church of Palmer- Tabernacle Curve

The big curve on Hwy. 108 below the Palmer Clinic was known for years as "Tabernacle Curve". The Union Tabernacle was located just up from the curve and was the predecessor of the present day First Baptist Church of Palmer.

Church History- Palmer Baptist Church

In the early days of Palmer, worshippers had just two churches, Methodist and Church of Christ.

Then in the 1930's the coal miners built the Union Tabernacle on Burnt Orchard Hill. This was a non-denominational Holiness type church and services were filled with shouting and praising the Lord. The Late Bedford R. Glisson told us of such a service where the Late Hollis "Boog" Meeks wrapped his arms around a red-hot coal stove but wasn't burned. Mr. Glisson and his wife, Maude Land Glisson, became members of the Palmer Church of God when it was founded in the 1940's.

In the midst of World War 2, Palmer Baptist Church came into being. Let's go back to those long ago days and connect the past and present.

THE BEGINNING

On September 24, 1944, a group of people of the Palmer Community came together at the Union Tabernacle for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church.

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Bruce Talley who conducted a brief devotional.

All ordained ministers and deacons present were asked to form a council. The council was composed of the following persons: Rev. Roy Brooks, Rev. W. J. Thompson, Rev. E. L. Smothers, all of McMinnville, Joe Wells of Fayetteville, Rev. Bruce Talley of Chattanooga, Rev. Roy W. Babb of Winchester, Rev. C.V. McCoig of Tracy City and Deacon R.L. "Bob" Ackerman of Palmer.

Rev. E. L. Smothers was elected as moderator and C. V. McCoig as clerk.

The moderator called for all those desiring to become charter members of this church and the following persons presented themselves.

R.L. "Bob" Ackerman by letter. Will Land by statement, and Ernest B. Disheroon, Mrs. Will Land, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rollins, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sweeton, Mr. and Mrs. Will Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gipson Sr., Mrs. Mary Tate, Mrs. Della Shrum, Mrs. Pearl Disheroon, Mrs. Lee Morrison, Mrs. Howard Sissom, Duncan Conry for baptism.

A motion and a second was made and carried that the council proceed with the organization of the church.

Brother Roy W. Babb read the church covenant and the articles of faith after which a motion and a second was made and carried to adopt them.

A motion and second was made that the name of this church shall be the Palmer Baptist Church.

Brother R.L. "Bob" Ackerman, being an ordained deacon, was recognized as Deacon of the Church.

A motion and second was made and carried Brother Bruce Talley be authorized to baptize those coming for baptism.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

E.L. Smothers, Moderator

C.V. McCoig, Clerk

FIRST PASTOR

On March 11, 1945, after preaching at the evening service by J.L. Griffin, the Church was called into conference by Joe L. Wells (Moderator Protem) for the purpose of calling a pastor. Rev. J.L. Griffin was placed before the Church to be called as pastor. Motion was made by Brother Will Tate and seconded by Brother Joe Gipson Sr. that Brother Griffin be called as pastor on the following terms:

1. That he be called indefinitely on the grounds that he could give or receive from the church a thirty-day notice.
2. That he be paid \$85.00 per month by the church and \$25.00 by the state board.
3. That the church secure a home for him from Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co.
4. That he be given a two-week vacation with pay, the church supplying the pulpit for that time.
5. That he be allowed the privilege to conduct two revival meetings anywhere he chooses to do so. That he see to the supplying of the pulpit while he is away. This does not include meetings that he might conduct nearby where he can be on the field during such meetings.

The vote by the church was unanimous. The congregation as a whole gave a vote of confidence which also was unanimous.

Joe L. Wells, Moderator

Ernest B. Disheroon, Clerk

COMMENTS:

At one time this was one of the great churches in Grundy County. People from near and far attended revivals and the church was known for "singings" which drew huge crowds.

Today, known as First Baptist Church of Palmer, the small congregation just meets on Sunday morning. Rev. John Henry Coffelt, grandson of the Late Henry Roberts, is the pastor.

In Memory: Memorial Day, 2007

George Edward Henry

Eddie Henry, nephew of George Edward Henry and Jennifer Keener stand under the "George Henry Road" street sign just off Hwy. 108 past Burnt Orchard Circle.

George was killed in action while serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in 1969. He was a son of the late George "Dibble" Henry and Ruby Land Henry who survives and lives in the home shown in the background. George grew up in a "company house" where this home now stands.

The people of Palmer and the nation remember his sacrifice on this Memorial Day and owe our freedom to him and countless others who "gave their all" to preserve our American way of life.

Jeweldean Layne

This is a picture of Jeweldean Layne of Palmer. Jeweldean graduated from Grundy Co. High School in 1964. Even though she had health problems, she was happy and bubbly during those years. She has been deceased for some time now.

Palmer News, May 2007

We begin this month by extending our sincere sympathy to the family of Paul E. "Paul Bill" Sanders in their loss. Photo of Bill and his sisters taken Aug. 31, 1996

Palmer School Reunion. They were the children of Rose Burr and Minnie James Sanders

Bill grew up in Palmer as a son of the late Rose Burr and Minnie James Sanders and served in WWII as a U.S. Army paratrooper where he was listed as "missing in action."

Surviving the horrors of war, he returned to Palmer and was engaged to be married before a coal mining accident left him in a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He went on with his life, and the people of Grundy County showed their love and support by allowing him to serve as Grundy County Trustee for 34 years.

Bill was a modest man and wouldn't wasn't us to say this, but he was an American hero in both military and civilian life. An inspiration to everyone with his courage in "beating the odds" and living a fruitful life. He was brought back to his old hometown and laid to rest beside his parents at the "company graveyard" as his generation called our beautiful cemetery.

We enjoyed talking with Mrs. Kathy Hargis McCullough and her daughter Jordan recently. Both had been on the sick list and were visiting her aunt, Mara Lee Caldwell.

Kathy is the principal of Coalmont Elementary and a member of the well-known Henry Roberts family of teachers.

Rev. Brett Meeks had kidney stone surgery last month. He's the pastor of Campground Freewill Baptist Church in Pelham and the son of Wanda Hampton Meeks and the late J.T. Meeks. Many of you will remember his grandfather, the late Rev. M.C. "Bud" Hampton.

Mr. Y.B. Ashby of the Grundy Co. Veterans' Historical Society has donated a new flag for the Palmer Veterans' Memorial Park and Billy Carl Guffey and Tom Burnette will install it. We thank these fine veterans for their help.

Wacky Weather Update:

The great Easter weekend "Freeze" of 2007 will forever be remembered along with the March blizzard of 1993. The freeze gave us a "brown spring", but the green is back now some six weeks later. Old people say it was the worst freeze with so many things bloomed out that they ever remember.

Speaking of wacky weather, we remember old people years ago saying they'd seen snow in May. Rev. James Jacks told us recently that he saw snow in May while a student at the old Tatesville School. James also said Mrs. Thelma Shrum Geary was his teacher at Tatesville and that his mother used to make coconut pies for her. Thelma is the widow of Alvin "Oats" Geary and attends Palmer United Methodist Church.

Faye Taylor Gross and Sue Bouldin Parrott of Tracy City are among the fine ladies of the Mountain Garden Club involved in the coal miner statue project in Tracy City. Faye is the daughter of the late miner Everett Taylor of Gruetli-Laager and Sue's father, the late Jerome Bouldin, hauled coal for many years. Her brother, Grundy Co. Executive, Boo Bouldin, is a former coalmine operator.

What's for supper? It was breakfast actually. Mrs. Christy Smith served us warm croissants with her famous strawberry freezer jam and made with Palmer strawberries. It was the best we've ever eaten and "made our day." She's the wife of Tim Smith and a former teacher at Palmer Elementary.

We enjoyed visiting with Bruce and Gail Coffelt and his sister Sherry recently. Bruce is a disabled Vietnam and Desert Storm veteran, Sherry reports that Danny Coffelt's son, Dusty, has joined the U.S. Air Force. Dusty and his brothers are the third generation of the Dan Coffelt family to serve in the military.

Pam Cannon Morrison and her sister Jerri Lynn enjoyed a tour of the Georgia coast recently. They're the daughters of the late Charlotte Long Cannon.

Friday the 13th! April 13th was a tragic day as a truck driver lost his life in a fiery crash on Palmer Mountain. Tyler McCullough and Jackie Henry with the Palmer Fire and Rescue unit responded as well as others.

Helen Ackerman Arbuckle of Tracy City was here for the wedding of Brandon Magouirk. She was a neighbor of Brandon and his grandparents, Billy Carl and Becky Coffelt Guffey, when she lived in Palmer.

We enjoyed talking with Mrs. Michelle Campbell Tavis recently. She has a great interest in local history and we're always glad to see younger people who care about their heritage. She's a granddaughter of the late Alex and Jessie Lowe Turner Campbell.

Kelley's Grocery Recycles:

Dennis and Judy Morrison Kelley save their used cooking oil for the Biodiesel Fuel Project at Grundy County High School. Keep up the good work, Kelley's Grocery.

We're sad to report that Palmer's last coal mine, Jake's Creek Mine #1 has officially closed after being idle for some time. It was located behind the old Palmer Ball Diamond. If you'd like a souvenir lump, let us know.

Mrs. Shorty Sanders says she has some of the "Homecoming '86" Palmer School reunion books left, so contact her. Shorty and her daughter-in-law Valerie have been attending the GCHS Girls' Softball games this spring. Valerie is married to Darrell Sanders and they own our local pharmacy, Palmer Drugs. Their daughter, Alex Sanders, plays on the GCHS team.

Former residents here due to the death of Paul Bill Sanders were Jackie Scruggs and Joe and Joyce Scruggs of the Nashville area, Glen "Pete" Smith of Chattanooga and Carl David James of Sequatchie County.

Mother's Day was sunny and nice and we visited Darrell and Becky Henry Layne while out walking. Their daughter Brooke was there and showed us photos of her month long tour of Europe in 2006. Brooke is a college graduate and Darrell and Becky have been blessed with fine children.

Larry Crabtree took some Palmer School students on a wagon ride up Big Mine Road last month. Kids don't get to see horses and wagons much any more and I'm sure that was a treat.

The walking trail project in the community park in the old railroad "Wye" is going good after Pastor Charles Slatton got things going on April 21st. Hopefully, we'll have an update next month.

Turn the air conditioner off, get outside, and enjoy summer time the old-fashioned way. We hope to be back next month, and you're invited.

Memorial Day Service at Palmer Veterans' Memorial Park in 1992

The beautifully decorated Palmer Veterans' Memorial Park was the place to be on Memorial Day 1992 as citizens gathered to honor our military heroes from Palmer who died in the service of their country so that all Americans could continue to live in freedom.

Rev. Greg Jones, Pastor of Palmer Church of God, held an impressive service and quoted Bible scripture to emphasize the need to defend the nation. In [photo 1](#), he reads from the Bible. [Photo 2](#) shows Pastor Jones and his wife Angie in front of the monument as Pat Morrison holds their children. [Photo 3](#) shows Savage Gulf Park ranger Wayne Morrison in front of the monument as a World War II prisoner of war, William "Wet Duck" Dishoon and Pastor Jones chat after the service.

Pat Morrison was elected mayor of Palmer in November 1992. He is now deceased and was the father of Wayne Morrison and Carl "Teeter" Morrison who is an alderman on the town council today.

Pastor and Mrs. Jones came to Palmer from Alabama and were active in the life of the community, especially Palmer School. He also pastored Community

Harvest Church of God in Coalmont. He now pastors a church in Alabama. The couple left behind many friends in Grundy County.

“Wet Duck” Dishoon is deceased and Wayne Morrison is now a park ranger at a state park in the Buffalo Valley, TN, area.

UPDATE TO PALMER CLINIC STORY

From Webmaster: I received an email from Earlene Bryant and she had written to David Patton after seeing his story on the Palmer Clinic on this website. Her daughter, Marsha Gay Burnett, was the first baby born at the clinic! Congrats!

June 2007

Palmer School Memories- Bruce “Frog” Tate

Submitted by: David Patton

The Late Bruce “Frog” Tate got his nickname at Palmer School as many others did. Frog was a genial fellow who was well liked. He was a talented singer and musician and Mrs. Avis Scruggs, custodian at Palmer Elementary, remembers him singing “Jesus, sign my pardon”.

Let’s go back in time and find out how “Bruce Tate” became “Frog Tate”.

“I got more than a nickname when I was in the fourth grade at Palmer School. We were playing softball at lunch time and I got a hit. On the way to first base, there was a little frog on the base path and I stepped on him and squished him. All the boys gathered round to look at it and they dared me to take the dead frog in and put it in the teacher’s desk. Well, I did it.

“A little later the teacher, Miss Frances Conry, opened her desk drawer and when she saw that frog with his innards hanging out she threw her arms up, screamed, fell back into her chair and it went over completely backward to the floor with her in it.”

“First, the principal, Mr. Joe Ingram wore me out, then when Miss Conry came to herself she whipped me. They sent a note home by my brother and when my Mother read it she spanked me and then when my Dad came in from the Coal Mine he nearly killed me.”

“The guys at school took a great delight in reminding me of that incident by calling me “Frog”. Hardly anyone knows me by anything else.”

End of an Era

Palmer town historian David Patton and Zack Lanford display a vital part of local history.

That ended recently when Jakes Creek Mine in Palmer closed after being idle for some time.

Coal provided jobs and heated homes in Grundy County for some 150 years through “bust” and “boom” times. The modern “hopper” shown filled trucks to transport the valuable minerals.

In the early days of Palmer, the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. built “coal houses” at each residence so families could have their own supply for heating. Elijah “Lige” Shrum, Arthur McCoy, and Bill Brown were among those who brought the coal around in horse drawn wagons and shoveled it through the small window into the little houses. This one on the property of Mr. Patton is one of the few remaining in Palmer.

The Grundy Co. Miners Museum and Heritage Center in Palmer and the Coalminer Statue in Tracy City preserve this part of Grundy County History for future generations.

Zack Lanford is a student at the Cumberland Heights Seventh Day Adventist School and the great grandson of Dock White for whom “Dock White Hollow” is named.

Father’s Day Special- Tribute to Mr. Floyd Owen

By John N. Owen

My memories of Pee Paw begin somewhere around 1960 – walking hand in hand down the train tracks into town, picking blackberries for Mee Maw’s cobbler and checking out life. It was Palmer, TN., but it may as well have been the Garden of Eden!

Later, I listened intently as Pee Paw told of my father’s exploits on those very same fields, and I daydreamed of how times were in that place in the 1930’s and 1940’s.

I remember the move to Florida and the sadness of Mee Maw’s funeral.

Through the next 25 to 30 years many memories surface: from those big greasy hamburgers wolfed down in Pee Paw’s kitchen, to playing catch with him (great fastball for 70), to picking grapefruit, to eating watermelon in his backyard, to

dusting and redusting the sanctuary at the First Methodist Church. As Pee Paw explained that there was a certain virtue in doing things right the first time! I remember the holidays, the stories, that goofy laugh that all the grandkids tried to imitate. I remember most, Pee Paw's strong conviction that one must humbly love Christ and in doing so, must express that love in all word and deed and that this seed of love and compassion is planted and nurtured in the family, then spread throughout one's life.

A few months ago my wife, son and I made the trip from our home in Cookeville, TN, to Melbourne- just a quick overnight visit made mostly so Pee Paw could see our young son Dane Isaiah. It was a spiritually profound moment for me as I stood and watched the oldest Owen, my grandfather, hold the youngest Owen, my son. Separated by 90 years, there was a continuity to this scene, the past basking in the light of the future. But this moment had a more pertinent message for the present. It represented what was, is and shall be the most important thing in this life, the love of family! In a letter he wrote to us after our visit, Pee Paw stated: "Johnny, Dane makes 55 in our family...Old Pee Paw has been richly blessed!" Thinking back in this moment of joy and sorrow, and speaking as one of those 55, I can say with assurance... Yes, Pee Paw, however, WE were blessed more richly!

Mrs. Sara Swann Shipley, former resident of Palmer, sent this to town historian David Patton, and he ran it as a Father's Day tribute in the June 1994 Grundy Post.

"This wonderful tribute transcends time and places and is just as meaningful today as it was when written in 1993," Mr. Patton said.

Mr. Floyd Owen was a longtime boss in the Palmer coalmines and many of you across the country will remember the family. He passed away in 1993 at the age of 95.

Palmer Freewill Baptist Church sign

The Freewill Baptist Church sign. Yes, friends, the great recycler of wasted lives is still on the scene despite the "God is Dead" movement of years ago and the on going attempt to remove God from all facets of public life in America. What is our nation coming to when the U.S. Supreme Court has to decide a case wanting God stricken from the Pledge of Allegiance to OUR flag?

W.D. "Bill" and Hallie Jean White Lanford

The late W.D. "Bill" and Hallie Jean White Lanford of Palmer are shown in this photo before their marriage, while they were still "courting" according to a granddaughter.

Hallie Jean was a daughter of Dock and Myrtle Tate White for whom Dock White Hollow is named. Only two members of the large Dock White family are still living- Velma White Cannon, widow of Scott Cannon, lives in Palmer and Mary Lillian White Henderson, widow of Clifford Henderson , lives in Chattanooga.

Bill and Hallie Jean made everyone feel welcome in their home and we always enjoyed visiting them.

Palmer Places by Betty R. Coffelt

Big Creek runs through Savage Gulf Park near Collins East and Collins West trail head. This creek has an old swimming hole named Rile Swimming Hold. Years ago people had baptizings there. Lots of people went there to go in swimming.

Other Creeks:

Fall Creek - near Fall Creek Cemetery; Round Mt. Creek, Deer Creek. Near the old Forest Nursery is Tarpin Branch. It runs through this old nursery. There is the old road that leads to Riley Swimming Hole.

Happy July 4th, so proudly we hail!!

We went by the Palmer Veteran's Memorial Park on Memorial Day and paid our respect to the war dead. It was an emotional moment as we read the young names on the monument and reflected on "what might have been" had their lives not been cut short defending our freedom all those many years ago.

Rev. James Jacks preached Memorial Day Week-end at Palmer United Methodist and urged everyone to respect and support our Veterans. Tom Burnette, a deacon at First Baptist Church of Palmer, made his annual Memorial Day patriotic speech and we appreciate Tom so much for his patriotism. He served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam.

We also visited with U.S. Navy Veteran, Michael Lamz, and his little son, Raymond, on Memorial Day. Michael is a wonderful father and has taught Raymond respect and courtesy and what a nice, well-mannered child he is.

U.S. Navy Veteran Ronnie Finch and family attended an emotional service at Cumberland Heights Seventh Day Adventist Church. U.S. Army Veteran Earl Magnant was the speaker and asked everyone to remember our people in Iraq and Afghanistan. "I know what it's like not to get a letter during mail call and try to convince yourself you'll get one tomorrow", the former Army medic said. Many tears were shed during this service.

Dustin Coffelt, son of Rev. Danny Coffelt, is in U.S. Air Force training and let's all write him at:

AB Coffelt, Matthew Dustin
320 TRS-SLT 407(Dorm B)
PSCS Unit 364035
1320 Truemper St.
Lackland A.F.B., Texas 78236

Justin Smith is back in Fort Drum, NY after 18 months with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan and Roland Partin is stationed in Arkansas with the U.S. Air Force after being on leave recently in Palmer.

We enjoyed talking with Mark Roberts recently about his teenage memories of working at "Robert's Grocery". His parents, Junior and Lucy Roberts, ran the popular business for years. It's "Kelley's Grocery" now and Palmer's oldest store.

Congratulations to Ross Sissom for his success in the Special Olympics last month. He won a gold medal in the softball throw and a bronze in the 50 meter run. He is the son of our town librarian, Susan Faye Sissom.

Tim Shrum came by on his way to church one Sunday morning recently. He is the son of Tootsie Cannon Smith and the Late John Shrum of Palmer. Tim attends Biven's Chapel Congregational Methodist Church and is a fine Christian man of the highest integrity.

Congratulations to Mrs. Angie Hudson, first grade teacher at Palmer Elementary School. She served as editor of the 2007 yearbook entitled "Express Yourself" and did she ever! It's first class all the way and any school in the U.S. would be proud of it. We want to thank Mrs. Hudson for our copy and also Mrs. Pam Henry Meeks for delivering it to us. Pam has been so nice to work with on our history projects since she came to Palmer School in 1990 and we appreciate her very much.

In other school news, Congratulations to Valedictorian Hillary Curtis and Salutatorian Halee Eads. I know the parents are proud of these "Brainy" young ladies.

It was good to talk with Anthony Nunley recently. His Dad, the Late Glenn Nunley, is mentioned in Mr. Raymond Hargis' "Grundy County Baseball Memories" on this website.

We were in Dunlap early one morning last month and ran into Palmer's Dynamic Duo of Ezell Layman and James "Hippy" Cox. They worked at Whitlow Bros. Sawmill behind Palmer City Cemetery for many years.

On a recent walk through Ducktown we sat on the porch and visited with Mrs. Frances Britton and her daughter Anna Britton Howe. We'd never met Anna but she's a 1961 graduate of Grundy County High School and a delightful lady. Mrs. Britton and her twin sister, Frankie Bryant, will celebrate their 86th birthday in October.

What's for supper? MacArthur McPherson and Junior Watts talked about the days when Parker Watts Sr. had bee hives. "There's nothing any better than hot biscuits and butter with honey right out of the hive", Junior said. That does sound delicious!

Miss Karen Dahl, former Palmer Elementary Teacher, visited her former student, Cody Cookston, at his "Memories General Store" recently. Former Principal Miles Thomas of Beersheba Springs also visited friends here recently.

Wacky weather update: This is getting to be a regular feature but rightfully so.

After the infamous "Easter Freeze" we had another scare on May 18th with 33 degrees and ice on windshields in Coalmont then on the following morning we had 34 degrees in Palmer. On our walks around Palmer we haven't seen one apple so the Easter Freeze really did a number on us.

Freezes and dry weather can't keep a good gardener down though and Bobby Stinnett, Larry Crabtree, Joe Turner, Rev. James Jacks and Bonnie Payne all have their usual beautiful gardens. We'll be sure to visit all of them when the tomatoes begin to ripen.

Benny Coppinger was working to get the "youth camp" of Rev. Cotton Ross and Gruetli-Laager Methodist Church open recently. Benny's a fine Christian gentleman whom we have the highest respect for.

Regardless of your politics we think you'll like the following. President Bill Clinton said: "In a small town, people know when you're born and care when you die."

That describes our Grundy County lifestyle and means so much. Celebrate our wonderful July 4th with all the old customs and join us again next month.

Dugan's Curve

This was a well known stretch of road leading to "the Other End" in Palmer. Ira T. and Beulah Henley Dugan lived on this curve for so many years that it became known as "Dugan's Curve". In addition to the Dugan's, Stanley and Marie Nunley lived there (old home in the background) as well as Albert and Maude Brown Nunley.

Today, there only survivor of these families is Henrietta Nunley Tucker of Soddy-Daisy, TN. She's the daughter of Stanley and Marie Nunley.

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy County, TN **Marriage & Relationships**

Since June is the traditional month for marriage, we wanted to go back in time and see how the descriptions of marriage and relationship have changed over

the years. Our younger viewers will get a chuckle, and occasionally a shock, along the way.

“Who you gonna marry?” Mrs. Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell, 93, said that back when everyone had wells this was a way to see your future husband. “On the first day of May, girls would look down into the well with a mirror. It had to be at exactly 12 noon and you would see the one you would someday marry.”

“The four corners” What about us poor men? How can we see our future bride? Mrs. Cantrell said, “When you move into a new house, name each of the four corners of your room for a different girl. When you wake up in the morning, the first corner you look at will be the name of the girl you will someday marry.”

“It was considered bad luck to make plans before the marriage.” Planning ahead is good most of the time, but Mrs. Mara Lee Caldwell said that years ago it was considered bad luck to rent or buy a home or buy furniture before the wedding.

“If she makes herself a bed of thorns, let her lie on it.” Years ago marriage was considered serious business and divorce was very rare. “Till death do us part” was a prevailing attitude and if girls made poor choices in a husband, they suffered the consequences. My late friend, Mrs. Mary Louise Geary Layne of Palmer remembered her grandmother Mrs. Rebecca Texas Dixon Geary saying this in the 1920’s about a family member who was about to make a poor choice. “She’s driving her ducks to a dry pond.” was another way of saying this.

“The man is supposed to be the boss in the family” or “She’s out of her place.” In the days before the women’s liberation movement and the high divorce rate of modern times, man had the ultimate authority in most all families. “She’s out of her place.” meant a woman who got into traditional men’s work such as law enforcement.

Let’s move on to more of the expressions and customs of yesteryear.

“Let’s give them a chivaree.” A chivaree was an event that played practical jokes on the soon-to-be married couple. We remember someone saying that the late Fred and Martha D. Brown Tate of Palmer were given a chivaree. Mrs. Janelle Taylor of Pelham remembers as a child attending Ed & Ruth Medley’s chivaree. A group of men took Ed down to the river, which was nearby, and threw him in! It was all in good fun and the traditional thing to do. The whole event was a large social event that took place at Dock and Bell Medley’s, Ed’s parents’ house.

“Spoonin’ and sparkin’” This would be called “dating” or “going together” today. I remember my father W.R. “Bill” Patton, Sr. reciting the following poem about spoonin’ and sparkin’:

“Hey diddle diddle
The cat and the fiddle
And the cow jumped over the moon.
The little dog laughed to see such a sport
And the dish ran away with the spoon.”

“They’re courtin’” For most of the last 100 years this was said to describe what we call “dating” or “going together” today. You still occasionally hear this expression in Grundy County.

“They had a shotgun wedding.” This wasn’t a joke and sometimes happened in Grundy County as well as elsewhere if a girl became pregnant and wasn’t married. The outraged father of other relative would pull a shotgun or make threats on the boy and force him to marry the girl.

“He was a blackguard” or “He blackguarded her” This was a man who made inappropriate sexual remarks to a decent woman, and such men were detested by society.

“They come from a broken home.” How true this old expression was. It meant children had divorced parents and was an expression of sympathy for the children and the hardships they endured because of divorce.

“Bought love ain’t no good.” This meant a woman who married a man for his money was not a true love.

“She was a cat.” or “She was a real cat.” This meant a woman who was promiscuous in her young days.

“He robbed the cradle” or “He’s old enough to be her daddy.” This was said about an old man who married a young woman. Today, with liberated women, we’re seeing where “She robbed the cradle.”

“I’m batching.” Divorced men or widowers would say this as well as men working away and just coming home on the weekend. It meant they were living the life of a bachelor and having to do their own cooking and cleaning.

“A trashy woman will get a good man killed “ or “There’s nothing meaner than a mean woman.” People, years ago tried to learn from experience and were keen observers of human nature.

“He got himself a ready made family.” This was a man who married a woman such as a widow or divorcee who already had children.

“She packed chi clothes.” Or “She packed his clothes and set them out on the porch.” This was said about a woman who had a drunken or deadbeat husband and she finally ran him off.

“He beat his time.” When two men were trying to “court” the same girl it was said about the winner that “He beat his time.” Meaning the girl picked him over his rival.

“She’s an old maid” or “She’s an old maid school teacher.” An old maid was a woman who had never married and people used to say this all the time. Most of you remember the very popular “Old Maid” card game.

“They’re living in sin.” This is a perfect example of “Time changes everything.” And how morals have taken a nosedive in America. Today that would mean, “They’re shacking up.” or “They’re living together.” without being married.

“She’s fleshy.” That was a polite and diplomatic way of saying a woman was fat.

“He’s struck on” or “He’s sweet on” Of course this meant attracted to, and you still hear this phrase in Grundy County.

“He’s henpecked.” or “She wears the pants in the family.” or “She’s a bossy woman” or “If she told him to pick up a copperhead, he wouldn’t come back with a rattlesnake.” Or “She’s got him wrapped around the end of her little finger” or “She’s got him on a short leash.” or “If she told him to jump, he’d ask how high.”

These are descriptions of an aggressive wife who dominated her husband and made him “Walk the line” as they used to say. These descriptions scare us so badly that we’ve decided to remain a bachelor after considering marriage.

“He needs to get him one.” This meant get a sweetheart or wife.

“She’s playing the field.” or “She two timed him.” Being non-committal was considered playing the field, but a two-timing woman was one who was supposed to be committed to one sweetheart, but had another as well.

“He’s after anything in a skirt.” or “He’s got a roving eye.” or “He thinks he’s God’s gift to women or “He’s anybody’s dog that will hunt with him.” or “He’s a ladies man.” A lot of you will remember these and with clothing styles changing

that could also mean “He’s after anything in pants.” as well. A man like this today would be called a “playboy”.

“My old lady is a good cook.” or “My old man is a good worker.” These descriptions of wives and husbands were used a lot in Grundy County and still can be heard occasionally today.

“Daddy, get out of the sun before you get too hot.” or “Mama , bring me a glass of ice tea.” As a kid, we’d get tickled hearing elderly wives and husbands calling each other “Daddy” and “Mama”. It’s very rare to hear this in Grundy County today.

“He married a school teacher.” Men would say this with awe in their voices because of the high esteem that society bestowed on teachers years ago. A man who could “win the hand” of a teacher was very fortunate and blessed.

Sadly, in today’s America, it’s one scandal after another involving teachers and the respect once felt for these valuable members of our society is at an all time low. Let’s all pray that this disturbing trend is soon reversed in our great country.

Hobbs Hill United Methodist Church

This historic church in Tracy City was the site of many weddings in years past. Many of the early settlers of Palmer were from Hobbs Hill and became members of that town's first church, Palmer United Methodist.

July 2007

Childhood Memories of Palmer

By: Anna Polk Conry as told to David Patton

Mrs. Ann Creighton is a dear friend and at age 84 has a remarkable memory. We enjoyed sitting on her front porch recently on a hot July afternoon and going down memory lane to another time in Palmer and American History.

“My daddy, James Polk Conry, was a World War 1 Veteran and that’s how we got our first refrigerator.”

“It was during the worst part of the Great Depression and must have been around 1931. The government finally gave these veterans a bonus that they’d promised them years ago and we used the money to buy our first refrigerator.”

“Mr. Orange Lemon Northcutt told us where to buy it and installed it for us. We were all so excited and Mother stirred up some milk and sugar in an ice tray

and we had ice cream although it took a long time to freeze because we were opening the door so much to see if it was frozen.”

“Before that, the ice truck from Tracy City ran on Sunday morning and I’d meet it and get a slab of ice for a nickel. We’d put it in our ice box to cool milk and use it for ice tea at Sunday dinner which was the big meal of the week.”

“We were neighbors of the Tom McNabb family and he was one of our town barbers. We didn’t have money for haircuts and Mr. McNabb didn’t have time to raise a garden so we’d barter.”

“He’d cut my hair and my two sisters(Frances and Joyce Conry) as well as Daddy’s hair for a peck of onions out of our garden and Mother would always add something extra. The McNabbs were good neighbors and I remember Mrs. McNabb would gather her children in the house if a cloud came up and it looked like we might get a storm.”

As a teenager I’d work at Dutch Henley’s store(located in the “other end” of Palmer, a booming area in those days) on Christmas Eve for a dollar a day and lunch which was delicious soup of stew cooked on a big coal stove in the middle of the store.”

It must have been 1940 because I graduated from GCHS in 1941. I was dating my future husband, Earl Creighton, at the time and bought him a carton of cigarettes for a Christmas present. They cost over a dollar and smoking was socially acceptable and not much was said about it hurting your health back then. Some people dipped snuff or chewed tobacco but if you had cigarettes that was considered first class.”

“I won the 1937 Grundy County Spelling Bee and so wanted to win the State Bee because of Mother. She was so good to us and got us ready for school and saved pennies for us.”

“But I missed the word “glimpse” and was so disappointed but a few weeks later was named Valedictorian of my graduating class and received the Roberts Medal. I realized then that God knew he had something bigger in store for me.”

It was the Great Depression of the 1930’s and we were poor by today’s standard but we didn’t consider ourselves poor. Everyone was in the same condition and we had loving parents, food to eat, a home and school and church, so what more could a child want?

I had a wonderful childhood in Palmer and although I’ve traveled and lived overseas. It’s good to be back in my old home town of Palmer.

Attention Palmer School Grads

Palmer Elementary, Grundy County's oldest school building, will be 80 years old on November 14, 2007. We are currently working on a project to identify as many valedictorians as possible. The first graduation was in 1928, and we've been able to go back as far as 1931 when Sara Swann Shipley was the valedictorian; however, we need information for many other years. If you can

help, please send the name of the valedictorian and the year to Becky Henley Layne at becky-1961@yahoo.com or David Patton; 50 Dogwood St., Palmer, TN 37365.

July 2007- Palmer News

It's July so we're right in the middle of those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. We love the delicious foods of summer such as watermelon, fried okra, green beans with new potatoes, roshun-ears(corn on the cob to the young generation), and of course, everyone's favorite, garden tomatoes instead of store bought.

Happy 90th birthday on July 23 to Mrs. Oma James McNabb of Tracy City. Oma is the widow of Marion "Soap" McNabb and was a cook at Palmer Elementary for many years.

We always enjoyed our visits with Oma and Soap and we wish Oma many more years of good health and happiness.

Recent visitors of Mrs. Shorty Sanders were Harry Joe and Peggy Hooper of Whitwell and Shorty's cousin, Ruth Overturf of Des Moines, Iowa. Also stopping by were Mrs. Bob(Brenda) Ruehling.

Lowell Cantrell of Athens, Tn. Visited his Mother, Ethel Mae Cantrell, recently.

School will start soon and Denise Morrison, President of the Palmer Improvement Committee, and her Mother, Connie Cannon have been hard at work weeding the landscaping in front of Palmer Elementary. It looks great and thanks ladies for your volunteer work.

We enjoyed a nice conversation with Mrs. Kathy Reed Prater last month. She and her husband, Carl, ate contract mowers for the town of Palmer and Mr. Prater is our Grundy County Commissioner.

Keith Brewer, former Palmer Elementary Principal and County School Superintendent, is now the Executive Director of the Tennessee Association of School Superintendents. He had been Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of Tennessee. Keith lives in Manchester and is the son of Edna Layne Brewer and the Late Echerd Brewer and a grandson of the Late Rev. Aylor Layne.

Welcome back! It's always heart warming to see former residents move back to Grundy County.

A few weeks back we met Tommy and Mary Braden Meeks at the Thrift and Medical Supply Store on Hwy 108 in Palmer. They grew up in Gruetli-Laager and have returned to their old hometown. Mr. Meeks, a son of the Late Petey and Avis Smartt Meeks said he'd been away for over 40 years. Many of you across the country will remember his grandfather, Mr. Beecher Smartt, who was the custodian at Palmer Elementary for many years.

Thanks to Mr. Eddie Crabtree, son of the Late Alf Crabtree, for helping us at the Palmer Veteran's Memorial Park. We also appreciated his kind invitation to the Palmer Church of God Homecoming on July 15th.

We hadn't talked with Mrs. Reggie Sweeton in years and it was good to see her recently. Mrs. Sweeton was an untiring volunteer worker and advocate for Palmer Elementary and we want to say "Thank You, Reggie" for your dedication to our beloved school. In recent years Reggie has been the caregiver for her husband, Delbert, who suffers from Parkinson's. Their daughter, Samantha "Sam" Stevens is an award-winning math teacher at Grundy County High School.

Sharon Goodman of Georgetown, Tx., along with Janelle Taylor and Willene Campbell of Pelham, were here to visit the Miner's Museum and other Palmer sites. Our town Librarian, Ms. Susan Faye Sissom, was the perfect hostess and it was a pleasure to meet Mrs. Goodman who serves as the webmaster on the Grundy County Historical Society website. What a delightful Lady!

Rev. John Henry Coffelt, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Palmer, visited George Landon Jr. who is seriously ill recently.

Mrs. Mary Ruth Rogers saw former Palmer Elementary student Jeff Pickett recently. He lives in Louisville, Ky. and works for UPS. Jeff's a son of Retha Henry Jacks and grandson of the Late Hube Henry.

Bill Coffelt of Conyers, Ga. is recovering from a July heart attack and recent visitors from Palmer were Becky Coffelt Guffey and husband Billy Carl, Rev. John Henry Coffelt and Tom Burnette.

We received a nice letter from Gail Green Irvin of Coalmont. She was our class mate at Palmer Elementary and neighbor in Palmer for years. Gail's parents, the Late Dave and Pearl Nunley Green, were fine folks and good neighbors.

It was wonderful to hear from our friend Mrs. Nelle Bone Finch recently. She's a resident at the Haven of Rest in Tracy City and has been so helpful in our history research in Palmer. Thank's Nelle!

Charles Britton of Cleveland, Ohio was visiting his Mother, Frances Britton, on July 4th and it was good to see him. His sister June and brother-in-law Tex Nolan also live in Cleveland.

We enjoy meeting Allen Henry on our walks around town. He also walks and is a son of Ruby Land Henry and the Late "Dib" Henry.

Grady "Lurch" Davis stopped on Tatesville Road and talked with us last month. He's a son of the Late Basil Davis and his Mother, Myrtle Dishroon Davis and Brother, Marvin live in Jasper. He says his sister, Barbara lives in Chattanooga.

Three wise men of Palmer: James Henry McBee, Jerry Cannon and David Patton meet weekly at Jerry's place to discuss the great issues of the day. If you have a vexing problem that defies solution contact Jerry and have him put you on our agenda. Our latest success was breaking the drought with 4.7" of rain in Palmer for June.

On that note, we'll get out of here before we get into any more trouble. In the meantime get out and savor all the pleasures of the good ole summertime and join us back here again next month!

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy Co, TN

"I'm backing an envelope" Years ago in Grundy County when you had relatives "up North" or any far away place, you kept in touch mainly through the U.S. Mail. "Backing and envelope: was putting a return address on it.

"I've not seen hide nor hair of him." That meant you hadn't seen the person at all, not even passing by.

"Bone dry" This meant very dry and most parts of Grundy County are lacking rainfall and could be describer as "bone dry" in 2007.

"I've got a sick headache." I've never had a headache, but sympathize with those who do. When I was growing up 50 years ago, people would say this and it must have been what is called a migraine today.

"He's stout" This meant a person of great physical strength as in "He's stout as a mule."

"Chaw of tobaccer" This was a chew of tobacco and you'd see men with their jaws swelled out with a chew that looked almost as big as a baseball.

"Just between us and the fence post" This meant, "Don't tell anyone. Keep it a secret."

"He dropped dead this morning." Years ago this was said a lot in Grundy County instead of "Heart Attack" and I'm sure most of us had never heard of an "aneurysm" until very recent years.

"He's just sharp enough to stick in the ground, and green enough to grow." We always get a laugh out of this but haven't heard it in a long time. Sharp meant intelligence and green meant new or inexperienced. This was often said about young people who thought they knew more than they actually did about a job or situation.

"You can ride a good horse to death." This was said when you did someone a favor and they kept coming back for more. It was said mostly about people always bumming money.

“He got hit in the goozle” or “She got hit in the temple.” I’ve not heard this in a long time. The goozle was the “Adam’s apple” wasn’t it? The temple was on the side of the head in front of the ear and parents were very fearful about a blow to the temple because medical care was nowhere as close to being as good as it is today and they had cause to worry.

Mrs. Meeks said, “The reason newborns can’t talk is because God doesn’t want them to reveal the secrets of heaven.” Years ago many references were made concerning children and heaven. “I remember Granny telling us this when we were little, Christy Meeks said about her grandmother the late Avis Smartt Meeks of Gruetli-Laager.

Mrs. Meeks was of the Mormon faith, but as our church sign message says, “People of all faiths consider children a gift from the Lord.” Christy is a very intelligent young lady who can converse on most any subject, and we always enjoy talking with her. She’s a new resident of Grundy County and a member of the Grundy County Historical Society.

Street Sign

This Palmer Road on private property is named for the legendary Civil War general who once brought his troops through Grundy County. The now closed Jake's Creek Mine was located at the end of this road.

Palmer Garden Club Yearbook 1946

Affiliated with the National Council of State Garden Clubs and the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs.

Club Flowers-Flame Azalea

Palmer Garden Club organized Oct. 1933

Collect

Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth and all perfect things, help up to restore the beauty, peace, and contentment that was seen and felt in the Garden of Eden, before man sinned. May we in working in the soil be made to realize more fully that thou didst have for man in making the law of growth even after death. Help us to serve humanity in a way that will glorify thee now and evermore.

Officers-

President- Mrs. Dave Henninger

Vice Pres. – Mrs. Martin h. Burnette

Sec. & Treasurer- Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr.

Committees:-

Programs- Mrs. Raymond D. Swan, Mrs. Burnette, Mrs. Roberts
Flower Show & County Fair- Mrs. Horace Moore, Sr., Mrs., J.C. Harris, Mrs.
R.B. Ivey

Civics – Mrs. Charles Martin, Mrs. Jack London, Mrs. Ivey

Hospitality- Mrs. Roy Worley, Mrs. Floyd Owen, Mrs. Frederick Weidman

By-laws- Mrs. Henry Hampton, Mrs. Louie E. Geary, Mrs. Bert Tate

Lectures and Slides- Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Wideman, Mrs. Lawson Hill

Conservation- Mrs. O.H. Clements, Mrs., Roy Barker, Mrs. Henry Scholer

Clean-Up Week- Mrs. Geary, Mrs. Leonard Bryant, Mrs. Swann

Judging - Mrs. J.G. “Gordon” Northcutt, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Roberts

Plant Exchange- Mrs. Northcutt

Publicity- Mrs. Roberts

Historian- Mrs. Northcutt

Comments: This article takes us back to “days of yore” when we had good
leaders in Palmer who could get things done.

These leading ladies were not just Garden Club members, but were involved in
the churches, school, and all facets of Palmer society. Mrs. Roberts was the
state president of the P.T. A. and Mrs. London and Mrs. Weidman were her
daughters.

Mrs. Swann was one of the most beloved citizens in Palmer history. Mrs.
Henninger and Mrs. Harris were teachers and principals at Palmer Elementary
and Mrs. Henninger later taught at Grundy Co. High School after the death of
her husband.

Mrs. Northcutt was the wife of businessman Gordon Northcutt and Mrs.
Hampton was the mother of longtime Palmer teacher Martha Hampton. Mrs.
Burnette’s grandson Tom Burnette still lives in Palmer. Mrs. Clements was the
wife of Dr. O.H. Clements.

To the best of our knowledge, all of these outstanding leaders are deceased and
we dedicate this article to their memory.

August 2007

CPR Classes

In 1990 the town council and Plamer Muncial Planning Commission sponsored
an official American Red Cross CPR class at the City Hall which was attended
by people from the Grundy County area.

The class was conducted by RNs Barbara Holland and Diane York from
Whitwell Hospital. Mrs. Holland is shown with Mayor Mike Shadrick and the
other class members in our photo on the left.

A few weeks later, Alderman Pat Morrison went to Whitwell and presented the ladies with Certificates of Appreciation on behalf of the people of Palmer. Mrs. York is on the right.

Mayor Shadrick and the late Alderman Morrison were good leaders and involved in the life of the community.

Palmer Board of Mayor and Aldermen (Alderpersons and Town Recorders)

The high profile position of Mayor gets most of the attention but the real power lies with the alderpersons.

Another vital role is that of town recorder. They not only “keep the books” but a competent recorder with leadership ability can serve the community by coordinating the efforts of citizens and the town council in projects that benefit everyone.

In November 2006 we wrote an article about the mayors of Palmer. We hope this additional information on the alderpersons and town recorders will make a better data base for future historians in their research.

When Palmer was chartered as a town in 1925 women had only gained the right to vote six years earlier. Men dominated all areas of public life so “aldermen” was the way it was. The world has changed though and we’re on the verge of having a woman elected President in 2008.

The following is a history of alderpersons:

Louie Howard Campbell	H.C. “Nick” Nichols
Paul Edward Campbell	Alfred “Buddy” Nolan
Arnold Cleek	Freeman D. “Doug” Nolan
Chester Cleek	Robert F. P.T.” Nunley
Venova Cannon Cleek	Larry Partin
James T. “Tom” Coffelt	David Patton
Benny Coppinger	Marion (Junior) Potts
L.B. “Noel” Crabtree	Dewayne Privett
J.D. Dent	James S. “Steve” Privett
Herbert Garner	Everett B. Roberts Sr.
Ralph Gholston	Mark Roberts
Juanita Campbell Green	Jeremy Robinson
Bobby Lloyd Greene	Alex Rollins
H.D. “Doug” Grooms	Bobby Rollins
Odell Hancock	Walter “Smokey” Rollins
J.C. Harris Sr.	Allie Jean Worley “Shortie” Sanders
Larry Henry	Charles Edgar Sanders

Allen Johnson
L.H. Keener
Russell Layne
Tony Layne
Sue Ann Land Long
Anita Ramsey Meeks
Billy Clark Morrison
Carl E. "Teeter" Morrison
Jeff "Rabbit" Morrison
W. P. "Pat" Morrison
Jimmy Dale Nance
Town Recorders:
Katie Bell
Christine Sanders Campbell
Charlotte Long Cannon
Gail Weaver Crabtree
Nellie Merrell Geary
Velma Jean Oliver Grooms
Crystal Northcutt Knight
Lisa Shipley Magouirk
Karen Rogers Crabtree Meeks
Paul Nasso
Wanda Partin Overturf
Marsha Anderson Privett
C.E. "Edwin" Ross

Paul Logan "Pepper" Sanders
Joy Britton Shrum
Clyde Sissom
Pascal "Pack" Sissom
Rev. Herbert "Hub" Smith
Melvin K. Smith
Bruce "Frog" Tate
Barbara (Mrs. Dwight) Tate
Michelle Campbell Travis
Leslie Turner
Carl Worley

Charlotte Cannon served from August 1982 until her death in February 1995 and holds the record for the most consecutive years in the position. Nellie (wife of Marvin Lee) Geary was also the recorder for a long time and may have served even longer than Charlotte although not consecutively.

The Town of Palmer Charter was reactivated in June 1955 with Albert Nunley elected as Mayor along with Aldermen J.C. Harris Sr., Robert "P.T." Nunley, and Everett B. Roberts Sr. C.E. "Edwin" Ross (Father of Greg Ross) was the recorder and during that election George Landon Sr. was elected Justice (J.P.) of the peace.

The election of 1992 was hotly contested with Richard Meeks, Pat Morrison, Richard Rollins and Bruce "Frog" Tate running for Mayor and Arnold Cleek, Margaret Crabtree, Herbert Garner, Juanita Green, Odell Hancock, Allen Johnson and Paul "Pepper" Sanders vying for Alderman.

Mr. Morrison won the Mayors race and Cleek, Crabtree, Garner and Sanders were elected alderman. Crabtree and Garner refused to take their seats and the remaining electees appointed runners-up Juanita Green and Allen Johnson replaced them.

An additional tidbit of information might be interesting. Over the years Steve Nance, Bobby Rollins (grandson of Walter “Smokey” Rollins), Sylvia Henry Hancock (wife of Odell Hancock), and Mark Roberts were among those appointed to serve as Mayor when the office holder resigned.

It would be interesting to know why the Charter was deactivated sometime between the 1920’s and the 1950’s and the exact date it happened. We hope that in the future some of our computer literate young history sleuths like Michelle Travis and Susan Faye Sissom will track it down and solve this mystery.

Palmer School Memories

By: Mr. Joe Willard Fults as told to David Patton

“When I went to Palmer School in the 1930’s and 40’s, Uncle Elijah “Lige” Merrell was the first janitor I remember. They nicknamed him Abraham Lincoln.”

“Uncle Beecher Smartt was the next janitor. He’d be down in the boiler room where the coal furnace was smoking his pipe with “red cap” tobacco and you could smell that pipe smoke even outside the building. He lived in Gruetli-Laager and some of his family would come up after school was out and help him clean up.

“Uncle Beecher was a lovely old man. Some of his grandchildren lived with him and I’d go down to Laager and stay all night with them sometimes on the week-end.”

Comments:

“Uncle” was a title of respect bestowed on senior citizens years ago.

Mr. Merrell was also a well-known “undertaker” of that era or as they say today “funeral director”. He was the father of Nellie Geary who taught at Palmer Elementary for many years and married Marvin Lee Geary.

Mr. Smartt was a well-known Justice of the Peace(JP) and highly regarded citizen of his day. Some of his descendants live on the old home place in Laager.

Mr. Fults left Palmer School at the age of 15 and went in the U.S. Navy during World War 2. One of the youngest to ever serve his country, he was stationed in Shanghai, China and other places in the Pacific Theatre. He lives today in Coalmont, Tennessee.

August 2007

Parent and Family Life Education Study Course

Palmer PTA/Palmer Elementary School

August 13, 1963---10:00a-3:00p

10:00- call to order- Mrs. James King

Devotional- Mrs. Walter Huling

Introduction of Study Course-

Topics for Discussion:

Television, Its effect on school work- Mrs. Jacob Suter, Leader.

Good health for school children- Mrs. Harvey Brown

The reading program and library services- Mrs. Nellie Geary

12:00- Lunch

1:00- Discussion groups:

Moral and spiritual education in home, school and community- Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr.

Athletics program- Mr. Ronald Fults

How audio-visual aids enrich the school program- Miss Frances Conry
(Topics of interest to any member will be discussed during the course)

Group singing(time permitting)

Conclusion-

Announcements-

Adjournment-

This little feature is a good illustration of how the past and present is linked.

In 2007, many of the problems of society are blamed on the unrestricted viewing of television by children and even 44 years ago it was a concern. Since 1963 television has evolved as a “babysitter” for many negligent parents and millions of children have been exposed to a steady diet of violence and inappropriate behavior.

Years ago P.T.A. work was carried out in an orderly and meaningful way and great strides were made in education.

All the participants listed in this study course are deceased with the exception of Mr. Fults who was a Palmer teacher that year and lives today in Manchester, Tn.

Miss Conry and Mrs. Geary were also Palmer teachers and Mrs. Suter was probably at Laager that year and ended her career at Swiss Memorial.

Mrs.(She was called “Mac”) Brown was the “county nurse” for the health department for many years and many former students still remember getting their immunization “shots” from her.

Mrs. Roberts was a grandmother of students and a legend in Palmer School P.T.A. work as well as a former state president.

Mrs.(Margaret Rankin) King was the P.T.A. President that year. She became a teachers aide in later years and lost her life in a traffic accident.

Mrs. Huling was the wife of Dr. Walter Huling and the Mother of students Arthur, Melanie and Michael. She passed away in 2006.

Old sayings and figures of speech in Grundy County, Tn.

1. "He's backward"- This was a person who was shy and didn't mix well or had ways that others thought strange.
2. "He goes about everything backwards"- Many people with "book sense" don't have much "common sense" and have a lot of problems coping with the simple things in life.
3. "I'm sick at my stomach"- You'd a thought they'd have said "I'm sick to my stomach" but they didn't. It meant nauseated.
4. "He's half-cracked"- Meant crazy.
5. "She got hit in the fared"- This meant "forehead" and for many years I didn't know what forehead was because all I heard was fared.
6. "Let me get a hickory" or "I'll get a hickory and cut the blood out of you"- When a strict mother said this it struck fear in the heart of an unruly child.

A "hickory" was a little sharp limb from a hickory tree and really hurt. Sometimes mothers would leave red welts on your legs and you remembered such whippings the next time you thought of getting mean.

7. "He's got to take his part"- This was widely said in Grundy County and meant children had to fight back against school bullies. Mothers said this a lot but we haven't heard it in years.
8. "Be on your toes"- Meant be alert, be careful or be on guard.
9. "Much obliged"- This was said a lot and meant "Thank you" for a favor.
10. "He's sorrier than buzzard bait"- If someone was a really bad person such as a father not working and letting his family go hungry people would say this.
11. "That thing" or "that sorry thing"- Most of the time when someone said "that thing" it meant they didn't like the person but not always. "That thing" could also describe a person who was well-liked and liked to tease his friends.

Rev. Smith said:

12. "You're just one breath away from heaven, or one breath away from hell"- Many of you remember the late Rev. Herbert "Hub" Smith of Palmer. This describes the uncertainty of life and the fate awaiting everyone in eternity as most Christians such as the Baptist believe.

Palmer School Memories/Disney World, Here We Come! 8th Grade Trip of 1974

In the spring of 1974 the nation's attention was riveted on the "Watergate" Political Scandal that would bring down President Richard M. Nixon just a few months later.

But to the 8th grade class at Palmer Elementary that wasn't important. They were about to board a big yellow Grundy County School Bus and embark on the most amazing 8th grade trip in school history. Imagine riding hundreds of miles on hard back seats with no AC or rest rooms! But Disney World has opened less than three years earlier, and, like every kid in America, they wanted to see that magical place.

Let's push the rewind button and recall an adventure that reminds us of a Chevy Chase family vacation movie.

Mr. Michael Maxon was the 8th grade teacher and still has fond memories of that special time.

"It was a wonderful school year (1973-74) for a young man just out of college (University of the South). I coached the boys' basketball team, and we upset Swiss Memorial before Christmas, but then lost all our games afterwards. Carl Ed Sanders coached the girls, and he and I became close friends. I couldn't have asked for a better principal mentor than Mr. Claude Parson.

The children heard that I was from Florida and asked me if they could go to Disney World on their 8th grade trip. Being naïve, I replied, 'Sure, if you can raise the money.'

They did through 'Tom Watt' products and other fundraisers. At the time, the other 8th grade classes went to Opryland for their end of the year trip. I then went to the school board to ask permission. Though they did give us permission, they were rightfully hesitant and did say that if we hadn't already raised the money, they would have turned down the request.

We headed over over spring break, but I underestimated the time to travel since I didn't take into account how long a meal break would take for such a large group of kids and adults. We arrived at the motel just after 10:00, but that was when the pool closed, so there was some disappointment that the kids couldn't hop in the pool.

After a night's rest, we headed to Disney World. Mrs. Edna Crabtree, one of the parents, twisted her ankle getting off the bus. I borrowed a car, took her to the hospital, and spent the day there with her while everyone else enjoyed Disney World. The next morning we decided we had to go by Daytona Beach and let the kids see the ocean and take a dip. Remember, this was 1974 and many of them had never been out of the state, let alone to a far-off place like central Florida. Most of them got sunburned.

On the way home that night we were in GA (I wish I could remember the town.) when something happened to one of the bus tires, a rim flew off or something. Amazingly a gentleman stopped in his truck. I got in with him, and we went to a small Georgia town where he flagged down a buddy of his who just happened to be a police officer. We borrowed his big flashlight and headed to the local truck stop where we found the part we needed. Instead of paying with a traveler's check I had, I was told to slip him a \$10 bill. We then went back to the bus, got the tire repaired and headed on getting back to Palmer around 2 AM, some 5 hours later than projected. The parents were there waiting for the children when we pulled up.

I still bump into some of the students from time to time and consider it one of the best years of my life."

Mrs. Cindy McCullough LeCroy was a student, and like Mr. Maxon, looks back fondly on that "unforgettable" year at Palmer School.

"My 8th grade year was one of the best years of my life. I'll treasure it always. Mr. Maxon was the main person who helped us get to Disney World. He was originally from Clearwater, FL, and if not for his efforts, we would never have gotten to go. We sold Tom Watt products out of a suitcase type box and even had a donkey ball game. I believe each student also gave money toward the trip. One reason we didn't want to go to Nashville was because Mr. Mike Bryant, our 7th grade teacher, took us there to see all of that the year before. My parents (James and Minnie McCullough) flew down to Orlando and encountered a terrible storm, which was scary for them since it was their first flight. We also had some trouble with the weather, and they told us a tornado passed in front of us somewhere near the Florida line. We sang songs on the bus mostly, and I can still see Donna Sanders and Roxanne "Rocky" Cleek sitting on their luggage and singing the song, 'Locomotion'.

Disney World would have only been open for a little while when we went. I know some of us rode the monorails while others took a steamboat over a river. It was beautiful. We all rode a lot of rides, but the buses were terrible even back

then. The Disney World of 33 years ago does not compare to the one of today. It was much, much smaller.

We all enjoyed the swimming pool at the motel, and a lot of us had more fun there than at Disney World. Before the trip Donna Green, Kathy Sissom and I went shopping for new bathing suits. We all bought one alike, except Donna's was pink. We thought we were grown!

Most of us also enjoyed Daytona Beach. We got to swim in the ocean, but it was very cold. I remember that we didn't get to shower before we left the beach, and we rode home those hundreds of miles with sand on us. I had a sore throat for a week! Most of us brought back souvenirs, and mine was an ashtray shaped like the Magic Kingdom."

Mrs. Mary Ruth Rogers was a parent chaperone on the trip and describes it as "one of the best times I've ever had in my life". She worked as a teacher's aide/bookkeeper at the school for over 30 years.

"We paid Sherwood Long a hundred dollars to drive the bus, and his wife Maxie went with us.

We left in the morning and several of us women were sitting up front laughing and talking to Sherwood. Late that afternoon we were way down in GA and noticed the gas gauge sitting on empty. We told Sherwood, but he wasn't worried and said we could go a lot more miles before we actually ran out of gas. Sure enough, though, we ran out before we could get to a station, and Mr. Maxon had to hitch-hike and go get gas.

The Tom Watt products we sold were kits with things like shoe brushes in them, and we also had a road block to raise funds.

At Disney World you bought one ticket that paid for all the attractions. Of course, souvenirs were extra, and I remember Lynn Green borrowing some money from Mr. Dick Coutu so she could get one. Oma McNabb got a t-shirt for her daughter Marion and tickled Margaret King and me by asking us over and over if we thought Marion would like it. I brought back an ash tray with an alligator figurine on top of it. Some of us also bought bags of oranges, and they rolled all over the bus coming home.

When the part flew off the bus tire coming back, we got off and tromped through the grass and weeds looking for it. It's a thousand wonders we didn't get bit by a rattlesnake.

We thought Georgia was the meanest place. On the way home we'd pull into a restaurant late at night and when they'd see us pile off the bus, they'd put up the "Closed" sign. It had snowed while we were gone, and when we got back to Palmer in the wee hours of the morning there was still a little on the ground. The kids were well behaved and I'll never forget the trip."

Just a few mothers made the trip, but all helped make this adventure possible and Mrs. Jeanetta Finch recalls that "We made doughnuts at the school and sold them to raise funds." Mrs. Bonnie Payne says that "I couldn't really afford it, but I'll bet I bought \$200 worth of stuff from the kids. They called us from the school to pick Charles up after the bus rolled in that morning and the hall was full of kids lying on the floor worn out from that long trip."

The class of 1974 consisted of Julie Callahan, Martha Campbell, Roxanne "Rocky" Cleek, Eric Coutu, Danny Cox, Troy Crabtree, Joe "Proxy" Curtis, John Finch, Donna Green, Lynn Green, Kathy Keel, Jerry King, Cindy McCullough, Bob Moon, Deborah Morrison, Wilma Nolan, Charles Payne, Debbie Potts, Ronald "Jungo" Potts, Ramona Rogers, Donna Sanders, Kathy Sissom and Clara Slatton.

To our knowledge, most of them still live in Tennessee with the exception of John Finch who lives in San Gabriel near Los Angeles and Jerry King who is a businessman in the northern California city of Arcata. Troy Crabtree, Wilma Nolan and Ramona Rogers are deceased.

Adults in addition to Mr. Maxon on the trip were Sherwood and Maxie Long; Teachers Velma Jean Grooms and James Meeks; School cook Oma McNabb; Staff members Margaret Rankin King and Mary Ruth Rogers; and Parent chaperones Edna Crabtree, Dick Coutu and Frances Moon.

The Longs, Mrs. Meeks, Mr. Coutu, and Mrs. King are deceased. Mrs. Crabtree, Mrs. Grooms, and Mrs. Roberts still live in Palmer and Mrs. Moon lives in Gruetli-Laager. Mrs. McNabb celebrated her 90th birthday last month in Tracy City and still lives an active life. Mr. Maxon is a retired teacher/principal, an affiliate real estate broker in Winchester, TN, and lives in Belvidere, TN. He and his wife Kimberly have three daughters, one son and a grand daughter, Amelia.

We hope you've enjoyed this stroll down Palmer School's memory lane. The world has changed dramatically since 1974 and this "once in a lifetime" adventure would not be possible for school kids in today's world.

For a quarter-century we've researched Palmer School history and this has been the most enjoyable article that we've ever written about our beloved school.

A sincere thanks to everyone for their cooperation. School memories live in our hearts forever. Pass them along to the next generation.

Church Message

Rev. Charles "Cotton" Ross, better known as "Brother Cotton" has pastored this church for well over 40 years. Mrs. Gail Crabtree has an excellent article about him in The Heritage of Grundy County, TN and we're sure you'll enjoy reading it.

August 2007- Palmer News

Welcome to the red-hot month of August! Palmer looks like a ghost town in the late afternoon with everyone under their AC. Years ago in Grundy County we never dreamed of having AC, just threw the windows up and grabbed a little paper fan. So many suffer from the extreme heat though and we're glad that these modern conveniences make life so much more comfortable now.

Curtis Garner, the son of Debbie Magouirk and the late Allen Garner, graduated recently from Motlow State. His teacher at Palmer Elementary, Mrs. Lavona Cookston, was his inspiration to go on to college. She wasn't able to attend his graduation but vows to be there when he gets his degree from Tennessee Tech.

Rev. James Roberts preached July 22 at Palmer Freewill Baptist Church. Teeter Morrison, Martha and Lynn James, Marvin Nolan and Mallory and Ruby Nell James are among those who worship there.

Palmer Folklore: Our friend MacArthur McPherson says to turn your socks down when in the weeds or woods and that will keep the ticks from crawling on up. Mac also says snakes are blind during dog days (July 3-August 11) and will strike at anything and that cuts and scratches take a long time to heal up then also.

We enjoyed talking with Ricky Keener recently at the thrift store on Hwy 108. He played on the softball team we coached in the 1970's and we've always thought highly of him. He's the son of Joann Campbell Keener and the Late L.H. Keener.

We also ran into old friend Joel Hammers at the store and he told us his grandmother Mattie Britton Turner is now deceased. If you went to Palmer School in the 1950's you will remember the good food Mrs. Turner and Jewel Meeks served in the lunch room. And they'd give you "seconds".

Mr. Joe Willard Fults is recovering well after surgery at the Nashville VA. He always is a source of Palmer history and says the three bus lines that ran

through Palmer over the years were Consolidated, Cherokee and Trailways. “In the 1930’s my Dad, Theron Fults, and his brother, Herman, rode on top of the Consolidated Bus from Tarlton Valley to Palmer because it was so crowded. That’s where the passengers put their luggage.”

Sgt. Justin Smith of Palmer recently spent 18 months in Afghanistan and is now stationed in Fort Drum, N.Y. after a nice leave with family and friends in Palmer. He and his uncle Melvin Smith drove to N.Y. but he hopes to be stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. by this fall.

As of August 12 no rain to report in Palmer but with 7.5” in July we’re still in pretty good shape despite the sunny heat.

In Palmer School news, the new auditorium seats are in and the place looks like a first-class movie theatre. Mrs. Margie Ramey has retired as a teacher and Mrs. Jeanette Smith and Mrs. Marguerite Cleek Turner have retired from the lunchroom. We wish all these ladies the best and say “Thank you” for all your years of service to the kids. You will be missed!!

Mrs. Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell, 93, enjoyed a recent trip to Gatlinburg with family members including Glenn and Donna Basham, Mike Gifford, Lowell and Janie Cantrell, Butch Patterson and Tonya and Billy Gifford. Many of you remember Tonya and Billy’s dad, the late Bobby “Pearly” Gifford.

John Doug Shrum was moving for his Mother, Tootsie Cannon Smith, and we had a good talk about upcoming GCHS yellow jackets and UT football season. He’s a big talker like his late grandfather, Freddie Cannon, and a nice guy!

It was nice to meet Mr. Josh Terry Lee recently. He’s the grandson of Bobby Stinnett and will be a freshman at UT this fall. We want to wish this well-mannered young man all the best as he travels the road of life.

We received some wonderful Palmer photos last month from our website visitor, Mrs. Diana Henry Smith of Cleveland, Tn. She’s the daughter of James Henry and the Late Willie Mae Land Henry and grew up on Burnt Orchard Hill. This is an important contribution to Palmer and Palmer School history and we appreciate it Diana!

Ms. Susan Faye Sissom continues to have a busy summer with all kind of activities for the Palmer Library patrons. She has things for young and old alike and the two computers for patron use are occupied almost all the time.

What’s for supper: As of August 12, our tomatoes still hadn’t got “ripe” but friends are keeping us supplied and we’re enjoying squash, cucumbers and green beans to go with the tomatoes. The summer will soon be gone so enjoy these “once a year” fresh garden goodies. Speaking of “goodies” to describe a variety of foods, this is a relatively new term in that sense and years ago the only time you heard “goodies” was to describe the kernel of hickory nuts or walnuts.

Happy 91st Birthday August 29th to Mr. Tom Creighton of Tracy City. He began his business “Creighton Motors”, in Palmer after returning as a soldier in

World War 2. He's married to the former Margaret Cleek and they have a son, Bruce Creighton.

We received a nice letter from website visitor, Mrs. Angela Coffelt McBee of Gruetli-Laager. Her mother, Betty Coffelt, is one of our favorite people and Thank's Angela for your kind comments about the website and the unique World War 2 article you enclosed.

It was also good to hear from Mrs. Lucille Campbell Scissom of Tracy City who was a big help on our "Valedictorian Project" at Palmer School. She's a member of the class of 1958 and says Linda Rollins (sister of Bob and Jim) was the valedictorian and Lucille's cousin Mary Katherine Campbell Gifford was salutatorian.

Penicillin- the miracle drug! It was called that and rightfully so because it saved many lives in Grundy County and millions around the world after becoming widely available in the 1940's especially after the end of World War 2.

Mrs. Opal Mitchell James of Nashville says her late husband, Jesse James, was the first person to receive it in Palmer and that was August 1944 when Dr. O.H. Clements treated him for an infected knee. Their son, Glen, was just six weeks old. Knee problems were common among miners because of the occupation and thank God for penicillin and all the other "wonder" drugs that originated from it. Mr. James was later a town barber for years.

Mrs. Becky Morrison attended her grandson, Brody Morrison's VBS graduation at First Baptist Church of Gruetli-Laager and says Greg Ross and many others were in attendance. Brody also went to VBS at Palmer Church of God and really enjoyed it as well.

That's what friends are for: Let's close this month with a heart-warming story of a 50+ year friendship that's still going strong.

Janice Layne Gulas and Donna Gifford Basham grew up as childhood friends in Palmer and Donna says "Janice and I played together even before we started to school."

In recent years Janice has had many health problems so in January the friends started meeting monthly to eat out and are joined by Janice's sisters Faye Hanson and Dot Lockhart as well as the Roberts sisters, Lana and Drema. What an inspiring example of "true" friendship in these uncertain times.

That's all for now, but do stay "cool as a cucumber" in this August heat wherever you are across this great U.S.A. You're invited back next month and do pass the word along about our website.

September 2007

Childhood Memories of Palmer

By: Mrs. Dola Ivey Rector as told to David Patton

“Frank Sitz and Charlie Martin were the first men I remember in Palmer that made enough money to pay income tax. They were in the saw mill and lumber business and I guess had all the work they could handle supplying Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company.” (These men married the sisters of Simon “Sime” Nunley and their sister, Ruby Nunley Long is still living in Gruetli-Laager.)

“Mill Creek ran between Ducktown Circle and Big Mine Road. There was a little swimming place called the “cat hole”. It got the name because an old lady in Ducktown would take a tow sack of kittens there and drown them to keep down the over population of cats. There were no such things as a “dog pound” or “animal shelter” in rural areas back then.”

“My family went to the Methodist Church but every summer the Church of Christ would have a revival and the Methodists would attend. If someone got saved the Church of Christ would take them to the cat hole that night and baptize them. Although the person repented they believed that if they died before baptism they would be lost. I had been “sprinkled” at the Methodist but later some of the Methodists wanted to be immersed and I was baptized at the cat hole.”

“My parents were Jim and Clara Ruth Poe Ivey. People moved around a lot in Palmer and at one time they were neighbors of Reece and Corrine Pocus Fletcher. Mama was the type of person that was always helping other people. The Fletcher’s little boy, Johnny, took pneumonia (which was deadly before sulfa drugs and penicillin) and Mama nursed him night and day and pulled him through it. (Today, Johnny Fletcher is still living in Chattanooga). Mama died on March 1, 1937 of pneumonia in the house on Martin Lane where Chester “Chet” Cleek lives today. Dr. O.H. Clements told me years later that he could have saved Mama if he’d had sulfa drugs.”

“Harriet Roberts was one of my classmates at Palmer Elementary and I thought a lot of her. She was the only one of us that had a watch. I thought it was beautiful and she would let me wear it sometimes. I have fond memories of dear, old Palmer. It was a wonderful place to grow up.”

A sincere thanks to Mrs. Rector for sharing these memories from the 1920’s and 1930’s. Let’s all wish her a Happy Birthday on October 12!

9/11 Remembered

The following was written by Mrs. Donna Basham, the former Donna Gayle Gifford, in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks on our nation that stunned the world.

“I was asked to write this on very short notice to commemorate the first anniversary of 9-11 in 2002,” Donna said. “I’d written poems before but nothing like this. I finished it in less than two hours in order to have it ready for the commemoration the following day.”

We're sure all of you across the country will be touched by this amazing tribute. It's one of the best we've ever read.

Donna lives in Tracy City and has been the Grundy County Administrator of Elections since May 1984. She's a native of Palmer and the daughter of the Late Eugene Gifford and Georgia Lee Lockhart Nunley. Her aunt, Ethel Mae Cantrell, still lives here and is the last surviving member of the R.W. "Russ" Gifford family.

Always eager to reminiscence about her old hometown Donna says "I was born at the Clements Clinic operated by Dr. O.H. Clements. Mrs. Harvey (Mac) Brown was the nurse and gave me the middle name of "Gayle". Mama wanted to name me Donna Jean for Daddy."

Mrs. Mac Brown and her husband, Harvey are both deceased. She was later the county nurse for Grundy County and many of you still remember getting your school "shots" from her when she came around to all the county schools. After the Salk vaccine came out to prevent polio she was especially active in the schools.

Fallen Heroes

By Donna Basham

(In Remembrance of September 11, 2001)

It was a sunny day, the sky was clear
They arose as usual, with no thought of fear.
Some hurried to make their flights on time
While others, hoped to be at work by nine.

Americans like us with no evil intent
Left home, the last time, without even a hint
That this day, the faceless cowards were sent
To destroy the symbols of what our freedom meant.

No way of knowing, this was their last goodbye,
Families and little children would soon begin to cry.

The making of heroes can never be planned or schooled
Some are bankers and cooks, others the maker of tools.
They commute with cars, bikes and maybe a train-
This day....They met and all took an early plane.

Heroes.....were aboard United Airlines Flight Ninety-Three,
Heroes....Although, they will never know to what degree.

Destiny was upon them.....they surely had to know

With last words to loved ones.....tears so hard to control,
Charging forward with their heart and soul
Saving so many-as they yelled "Let's Roll"!

They will live in our hearts forever, the 3,000 plus
Who awoke on a sunny, clear day just like the rest of us.

Palmer School Memories

By Mr. Jerry Cannon as told to David Patton

"When I went to Palmer School in the 1940's Mr. Beecher Smartt was the janitor. He was a good old man and I used to help him clean up sometimes after school was out for the day."

"Mrs. Horace Moore Sr. was my teacher when I was in the third grade. Back then the lower grades had tables with benches for the students instead of individual desks. One day Gene Cleek and I were sliding and scooting around on the bench when a nail caught my pants and ripped them. Mrs. Moore took me behind the coat room and sewed up my pants. I stayed with the Moore's for a while when my sister Rosalyn was born. They were good people."

"In another grade one of the boys in my class was Jerry Rogers. I don't know where his family was from but they lived in the back of the old Palmer Theatre. He'd come to school with lard on his hair to make it stand up. Back then lard came in five-gallon cans called "lard buckets" and he said he stuck his head in one of those to smear it with lard."

"I got turned against milk while a student at school. One time the dairy brought goat milk to the lunch room and they wanted us to drink it but I wouldn't. Now the only milk I use is a little on cereal."

"In the 8th grade Mrs. Mary Henninger was our teacher. One of my classmates would never come in the school door. He'd crawl in the classroom window in the morning and leave through the window that evening. One day Mrs. Henninger grabbed him and tried to get him to leave through the door but he broke away and went through the window."

Comments:

Mrs. Horace (Evelyn Northcutt) Moore Sr. told me that was her only year to teach school. This was in World War 2 and many of the male teachers had to go in the military service. Mrs. Moore said she had some 60 students in the class.

The Moore's had two sons; Horace Jr. and Thomas D. "Tom". Horace is deceased and Tom lives in Gruetli-Laager.

Mrs. Henninger was the wife of Dave Henninger, Manager of the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. "company store". After Mr. Henninger's death, Mrs. Henninger taught at Grundy County High School for a number of years.

Palmer News

“Labor Day is the one day of the year we can make Palmer shine” said Denise Cannon Morrison as she worked under the blazing August sun with her mother Connie. The ladies had the landscaping in tip-top shape and indeed our town did “shine” for its big event of the year.

Among the notables spotted in the big crowd were Cecil White and his brother MacArthur Mcpherson, Mrs. Coose(Wilma) Morrison, Ted Nunley, Junior Roberts, Susan Faye Sissom, son Ross and niece Lauren; Jack Summers, Jackie Scruggs, Rev. John Creighton Jr. and Carl Worley. Hazel Hornbuckle enjoyed the Bingo and Mara Lee Caldwell attended the fish fry at Palmer United Methodist Church.

Labor Day 2007 was a huge success with games, food, music and something for everyone including politics as the Democratic and Republican parties handed out leaflets to potential voters. “I stayed in the Miner’s Museum and we had visitors there as well” Mrs. Shortie Sanders reports.

Happy 80th birthday September 17 to Mr. Joe Willard Fults. Joe’s a dear friend and is always so helpful with our Palmer history work.

Former Palmer resident Bobby Owen attended services at Palmer United Methodist recently for the first time since the Floyd Owen family left Palmer over 40 years ago.

Bobby lives today in Georgia.

The family of the Late Pat and Mable Dishroon Morrison had a reunion Labor Day week-end at the home of Robert Morrison. All the siblings were present except Randal Morrison.

Blood Assurance of Chattanooga had a donor drive August 31 at the Palmer Fire Dept for Nick Layne who was badly injured in an auto accident. Among those giving the “gift of life” were Tonya Guffey Kilgore, Courtney Van Hooser, Jonathan and Hollie Grimes, David Patton, Jeff Scruggs Sr. and Jeff Jr, David Cleek, Nikki Ross, Michelle Campbell Travis, Dewayne Privett, and Grundy County Deputies Jason Coffelt and Leslie Turner.

What’s for supper? “I stood there at the microwave and ate the whole thing with just a little salt and pepper” was how Mrs. Ann Conry Creighton described the delicious squash given to her by Miss Christy Meeks. Christy is the daughter of Tommy and Mary Braden Meeks of Gruetli-Laager and brought the squash from her Mother’s garden.

Speaking of “home-grown”, our friend Franklin King brought us three of the famous Johnny Ruehling “Rattlesnake” watermelons that Mr. Ruehling grows every summer in Gruetli-Laager. They were absolutely delicious as they are every year.

We need your help! If you were a valedictorian or salutatorian at Palmer School or knew someone who was please send the name and year to us at 50 Dogwood

St., Palmer, Tn 37365. Our school will have its 80th anniversary Nov. 14 and let's honor these "brainy" alumni.

We've also received letters from Beverly Kilgore Daniel of Chattanooga and Lucinda Brown Swindell of Michigan. Beverly is the daughter of the Late Rufus Kilgore, Jr. and Lucinda is the sister of the Late Noah John Brown.

Mr. Calvin Finch is a dear friend and called recently. He's been in Riverside, California for close to 45 years. We extend sympathy to Calvin on the loss of his brother, Charles Finch.

It was good seeing Howard Lewis and Wesley Hampton recently. Wesley's a grandson of the Late Rev. M.C. "Bud" Hampton. We also enjoyed talking with Gerald Smith. E.J. and Ann Cook Disheroon and Gerald were among a group of Former Palmer Residents enjoying a Caribbean Cruise this summer.

Harold Grooms of McMinnville, Tennessee was visiting here recently. He's a son of the Late Hobert and Bessie Parmley Grooms.

If you're a former Palmer resident send us some news and pass along our GCHS website address to others. Here's a special invitation to join us here again next month.

We received a nice letter from Mrs. Edna Layne Brewer of Manchester, Tennessee recently. She reports that her brother A.J. had heart surgery last December but is doing fine and back driving his tour bus. He's a former Principal at Palmer Elementary and Edna was the salutatorian in the class of 1942.

Harold James restored a 1946 Chevrolet for Darrell Sanders recently. Harold's in his 70's now but still doing quality work at his body shop.

Visitors during Palmer School's recent "Grandparents Day" were Larry Crabtree, Becky Coffelt Guffey, Larry and Donna Shadrick Lecroy, Becky Morrison, Greg Ross and James and Theresa Campbell.

It was nice talking with Mr. Dale Maney of Griffith's Creek. He attends Westside Baptist Church in Gruetli-Laager and is married to the former Sandra Shadrick. It was also good to see our good friend Clara Layne Henry, widow of Red Henry. Clara's brother Barney Layne passed away and we extend our sympathy to the family.

Pastor Cotton Ross and the Congregation at Laager Independent Methodist Church had a special homecoming service August 12 as two young preachers brought the message, Danny Gipson and Jessie Lockhart.

We had just one-half inch of rain in August so like most of the country we hope to make up the deficit this winter.

Attention Palmer School Alumni

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of Grundy County's oldest school, a reception will be held at Palmer Elementary on Saturday, October 27, 2007 beginning at 11:30 a.m.

If you live out of town drive up and enjoy the beautiful fall colors, renew old friendships, see the renovated auditorium and all the other improvements since your last visit.

Stay with us for the latest details as the event draws near. We also need the year and names of all Valedictorians and Salutatorians.

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy Co. TN

“How you making it?” Most of the time when someone asks me “How you doing?” or “How are you today?” I’ll say, “Pretty good, how you making it?”

I’m one of the few still saying this instead of the modern greetings of today.

“He was raised right.” This was often used when describing someone who had committed a crime although they came from a good family and especially if the family was church going.

“Don’t get side tracked.” Railroad cars were often put on a side track and picked up later. This term meant to stay focused and keep at something until you finished it. Today, they say, “Keep your eye on the prize.”

“He’s trifling.” Pronounced “TRI-flin”, described a lazy person and often a man who was too lazy to work and support his family.

“I’ll ring her jaws.” or “I’ll box his jaws.” People would get angry and say this and sometimes would smack someone in the face with the open hand.

“He’s a runt.” “He’s the runt of the family.” When a litter of pigs were born, one always seemed to be the smallest and slowest growing. People called this pig a “runt”, and in the days of large families, the same description was sometimes used to describe kids as in “He’s the runt of the family.” Sham Sanders’ father was called “John Runt” or “Daddy Runt” Sanders.

“He’ll accommodate you.” or “He’s awful accommodating.” This meant that he would do you a favor or go out of his way to help you. This was widely said in Grundy County, but seldom heard today.

“Knick-knacks” and “Nabs” People would say, “Come on in, we’re just knick-knacking.”, which meant eating a little snack like the little store-bought packs of crackers and peanut butter or cheese and crackers which were also called Nabs. It could also mean a cheap little gift from a junk or thrift store.

“It’s 15 ‘til 5. or “20 minutes after 2” For most of my life that’s how people have reported the time in Grundy County, but that’s about a thing of the past. With modern digital clocks, it’s now 4:45 or 2:20.

“Come and take dinner with us.” or “Come on in, we’re about to take up dinner.” Dinner was the noon meal, and is mostly called “lunch” today. Take dinner with us meant come and eat dinner with us. If someone said, “Come on in, we’re about to take up dinner.” that meant they were about to put it on the table and come on in and wash your hands. Supper was the evening meal.

“The more the merrier” This was an invitation to join in some activity or celebration such as “Come to the dance tonight, the more the merrier.” or “Help us work on the school playground Saturday, the more the merrier.”

“You could have knocked me over with a feather.” This was someone who was totally shocked or amazed at what they saw or heard.

Mrs. Caldwell said, “We were working for a song and singing it ourselves.” Years ago when people had a low paying job, this was a popular saying. “When I became a full time clerk at the Palmer Post Office around 1952, we were just making 59¢ an hour.” Mrs. Mara Lee Roberts Caldwell said recently. “Frank Moore was the Chattanooga postmaster, and he and I organized the postal workers union in this part of Tennessee. After that I worked less hours, but made more money and we also had a good retirement pension plan.”

Mr. Moore passed away last month. Mrs. Caldwell retired as Palmer’s postmaster in 1988 and still lives in Palmer. She’s 31 now and the widow of Robert “Poss” Caldwell.

Keith Brewer Road

Keith Brewer Road is located in the Tatesville Community of Palmer. Mr. Brewer lives today in Manchester, TN, and is a former Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of TN. He's now the Executive Director of the Tennessee Association of School Superintendents. The son of Edna Layne Brewer and the late Echerd Brewer, many of you will remember his grandfather, Rev. Aylor Layne.

Palmer Baptist Church sign

This church sign really needs no explanation!

October 2007

Palmer School Memories

Grundy County School Superintendents during the Palmer School History, 1927-2007

By Mr. Raymond Hargis as told to David Patton

J.L. Rollings 1927-1940

E.J. Cunningham 1940-1960

Glenn Bonner 1960-1968

Raymond Hargis 1968-1976

Glenn Bonner 1976-1980

Keith Brewer 1980-1987

Raymond Hargis 1987-1992
Ronnie Fults 1992-1996
Joe Nunley 1996-2003 (director)
David Dickerson 2003-2006 (director)
Joel "Jody" Hargis 2006-present (director)

We appreciate the help of Mr. Hargis in compiling this vital history as it relates to Palmer School. He served as principal from 1955-1958 and has always been a friend to our school and the town of Palmer.

In 2006 Mr. Hargis; son Joel was appointed as director of the Grundy Co. School System. In 1995 Joel Hargis became Palmer School principal, 40 years after his father took the position. They are the only father-son to be principal in the 80-year history of Palmer School and are believed to be the only father-son to hold the position of school superintendent in the history of Grundy County.

Birthday celebration

November 14, 1997 was the 70th birthday celebration of Palmer School (l-r) principal Sadie Smartt, Grundy Co. School Superitntendent Joe Nunley and Harvey Brown. This was one of the greatest celebrations in school history. Mr. Brown was a member of the first graduating class of 1928 and is now deceased. Photo by David Patton.

Attention Palmer School Alumni!!

Final Update

The great gathering to celebrate Palmer School's 80th birthday is Saturday, Oct. 27, beginning at 11:30 A.M. central standard time. Everyone in Palmer is excited about this event, and if the weather is good, we expect the largest crowd since the "Homecoming '86" Celebration at the school. Everyone is urged to bring a camera and take as many photos as possible so this historic day can be revisited later.

call the school at 931 779-3383 for information.

Last Palmer School Reunion

August 31, 1996. Last Palmer School Reunion. Mr. Raymond Hargis (left) and David Patton.

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy County, TN

Special Edition

We want to remind everyone of the great gathering at Palmer Elementary on October 27 to celebrate the 80th birthday of Grundy County's oldest school. So make plans to attend and let's get in a nostalgic mood as our minds drift back to long ago school days.

"If you get a whipping at school, you'll get another one when you get home." And many times this was carried out. Up until recent years families were embarrassed if their kids had to be disciplined at school.

"He got a paddling today." or "He got sent to the office." Almost all teachers kept a wooden paddle in their big classroom desk and, of course, the principal had one in his office.

Back in the 1957-58 term Jimmy Carpenter and I were students in Mrs. Margaret Brown Coppinger's 5th grade class and got into a shoving match during recess. Mrs. Coppinger was a very stern teacher and sent us to Principal Raymond Hargis' office. A few licks from his "board of education" cooled us off and things returned to normal.

Mr. Hargis was at Palmer Elementary 1955-58 and was one of the great principals in school history. He was a natural leader who knew how to relate to people and kept discipline in the school while working well with the teachers and parents.

"In time of book" This meant while classes were in session and the late Mr. Louise Geary Layne told me the following story. "Before we came to Palmer in May 1923, we lived for a short time in Freemont. The little school there also served as a church. I was a little kid, and one day cracked some walnuts and took them to school for recess. I didn't know you weren't supposed to eat them in time of books and a tattletale told the teacher, 'Louise is back here eating walnuts.' The little on-room school had a stage and I had to stand up there for 10 minutes as punishment."

Mrs. Layne was the last member of Palmer School's first graduating class of 1928 when she passed away on March 3, 2006.

"She's a tattletale." As Mrs. Layne just described, a tattletale was a student who "told on" fellow students who broke the rules.

"Let's go get seconds." When we went to school in the 1950's, Mattie Turner and Jewel Meeks were the cooks and we can still recall the scent of that delicious food drifting up as the classes marched down the steps in to the lunchroom.

Kids would say, "Let's go get seconds." And if there were any leftovers Mattie and Jewel would cheerfully do so. We regret to report that both of these fine ladies are deceased. Jewel was famous for her yeast rolls, which are still talked about today.

"He's a copycat" or "Keep your eyes straight ahead." Some students would get their homework by copying from fellow students or cheat on a test by copying. Teachers would patrol the aisles during a test and tell you to keep your eyes straight ahead and not be looking at other students' answers.

"She's a teacher's pet." If a teacher seemed to be overly fond of a particular student they were sometimes labeled as a teacher's pet.

"I'm not good at 'rithmetic'." This was said a lot, but today's students know it as math.

"That's as easy as eating pie." or "That's as easy as falling off a log." Don Boyd, son of Lonzo and Nellie Lewis Boyd, was our classmate and used to describe easy things this way. We haven't seen Don in at least 40 years, and if you know of his whereabouts, please let us know.

"I've got a box of cherry candy." - The holidays will soon be here and "I got a box of cherry candy." was said often at Palmer School when students exchanged gifts on the last day of school before Christmas vacation. The boxes of chocolate-covered cherries were good and could be bought for a small price back when students had very little money as compared to the better economic times of today.

"She's a school marm." meant that the lady was a schoolteacher.

Pass along the website address www.gchs.homestead.com and visit with us often as the Grundy County Historical Society goes back in time to revisit our past. Please join. Become a member today. Contact jcoats@cafes.net . The current cost of membership is \$15, which includes 4 issues of the Pathfinder each year. Mail your check to GCHS; Box 1422; Tracy City, TN 37387.

Legends of Palmer School

Miss Frances Conry (left) and Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. are shown at a PTA meeting in Gatlinburg during the early 1960's. After beginning her career by teaching for the 1940-41 term at Tatesville Elementary, Miss Conry returned to her alma mater and taught for 45 consecutive years. (1941-1986) which is a Palmer School record for consecutive years at one school also.

Mrs. Roberts was one of the greatest advocates for education not only in Palmer but in Grundy County in the history of the state of Tennessee. She was the first president of the Palmer PTA when it was organized in January 1927 and served from 1951-1954 as state president of the PTA. The PTA during this era was a highly respected and influential organization and to our knowledge she was the only Grundy Countian to be so honored.

Rachel Rollings Geary

Mrs. Geary was one of the all time greats at Palmer School and taught here for 23 years. She was an inspiration to Wanda Layne Meeks, longtime teacher at Coalmont Elementary. A teacher who commanded and got respect in the classroom and used the "board of education" if need be, Mrs. Geary was also a compassionate and caring teacher. We have fond memories of her sitting at the 7th grade desk and reading stories to the class, and we paid attention too. She was a lifelong reader and was never far away from a book. A story was told that she sometimes would have a book in one hand and be glancing at it while driving. A stickler for detail, Mrs. Geary once confounded her students during a class spelling bee. The word was "God" and everyone knew how to spell it, but Mrs. Geary kept telling them they had it wrong. "It's capital G", she finally said.

Mrs. Geary's sister Florence Scruggs was also a well known teacher in Altamont. Mrs. Geary is survived by her niece, Jenny Scruggs Thomas of Monteagle. Mrs. Thomas is the third generation of the famous J.L. Rollings family of teachers.

Dennis Mainord

Mr. Mainord was the best known teacher at Palmer Elementary from the last 30 years. His innovative way of teaching history caught the attention of students. "I became interested in history because of Mr. Mainord's class", said Michelle Campbell Travis, a member of the Grundy County Historical Society. "He made learning fun and interesting." John Rogers, long time teacher at Swiss Memorial School, credits Mr. Mainord with inspiring him to become a teacher. Mr. Mainord also served several stints as principal. He retired after the 2006-2007 school year.

Thanks for the Memories- 80 Years of Palmer School

On Oct. 27 a great gathering will be held at Palmer Elementary to celebrate the 80th anniversary of Grundy County's oldest school. When the school officially opened in the not yet finished building on November 14, 1927, the jubilant crowd of students, teachers, and officials had little inkling that the "heart beat of palmer; would still be going strong into another century 80 years later.

"It's still the best built school in the county." You often hear someone say, and that's a testament to the builder Henry Brown of Beersheba Springs. He was a renowned builder of his day and newspaper accounts say that he used the best material and put much thought in building one of the best grammar schools in Tennessee. Mr. Brown was the uncle of Mrs. Raymond (Doris) Hargis and the great uncle of current Grundy County School Superintendent Joel Hargis.

Mr. Joseph S. Geary (great grand father of Dale Layne) was our school board member and there on opening day as was Dr. C.W. Hembree (the first mayor of Palmer in 1925) and fellow building committee members Ted Starbuck (a mining engineer who lived in the home occupied by Tootsie Cannon Smith today) and John Barker. The PTA president Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. and Mr. & Mrs. Raymond (Hattie Hampton) D. Swann made short talks and announced that a fine new piano had already been installed in the auditorium. This auditorium was located where the school library is today and the 2007 auditorium is on the opposite side of the school.

Mr. Eugene H. Ward of Tullahoma was the first principal and the well-known teacher, and later principal, Louie D. Berry, was on his faculty. A string of other great educators followed over the years that included Frances Conry, Margaret Brown Coppinger (daughter of Henry Brown), Robert L. "Bob" Crouch, Jr., Haysel Goforth Hunziker and her brother Douglas (members of the famous Goforth family of teachers. Their father John A. Goforth was principal of the old Palmer School which was located where the Jerry Harrison home stands today.), Nellie Geary, Rachel Rollings Geary (Her father J.L.

Rollings was Grundy County School Superintendent when the school opened and her brother Frank Rollings was later principal.), Martha Hampton, Fayna Cleek Nunley, Paul David Meeks, Joe Ingram, Raymond Hargis, Clara Parsons Hill, A.J. Layne, Ronnie Fults, Herbert Lawson, Mrs. Johnnie Gates Harris, Frances "Tops" Geary Henry, Miles Thomas, Dennis Mainord, Margie Sanders Ramey, Mary Henninger (who later taught at Grundy Co. High School), Keith Brewer (nephew of A.J. Layne), Sadie Carrick Smartt, and the list goes on.

Famous support staff members include bookkeeper Mary Ruth Rogers and teachers' aide Mary Anderson Turner. Custodians Mr. Beecher Smartt and Bob Flynn will be remembered as well as Clyde Sissom and Jim Layne. And who could forget Jewel Meeks whose over 30 years as a lunch room cook is a school record and Mattie Turner, Grace Crabtree (grandmother of Eddie Crabtree), Troas Layne and Jeanette Smith.

Volunteer workers are a key to the success of any great school and those that come to mind over the years include Mrs. Henry Hampton (mother of Martha Hampton), Mrs. Raymond D. Swann, Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr., Mrs. Ollie Brooks McBee (grandmother of Jerry Cannon and Keith McBee), Mrs. Perkie Cannon Greene, Mrs. Reggie Sweeton, Mrs. Lean Dykes Dishroon, and Mrs. Betty McCullouch.

We disavow any claim that this is the "official history: of Palmer School. It would take a book and a big one at that to cover all the facets of our rich and interesting history.

Palmer will be Palmer as long as the school bell rings in the red brick school on the hill. Let's celebrate this 80th birthday and then begin the next chapter in the history of our beloved school.

Blizzard of 1993

Up to 2' of snow and howling winds made this blizzard one of the most unforgettable weather events in Grundy County history.

The Nunleys

Graham and Sarah (Cannon) Nunley, both of Palmer, TN.

Naomi Geary Pocus

The late Naomi Geary Pocus, one of Palmer's most beloved citizens prepares a delicious dinner.

Stewart's Produce

Owner Danny Stewart (left) and customer Steve Privett pause for a photo at this Coalmont business. Photo taken Feb. 1992 by David Patton.

Palmer School Memories-Special Edition-“The Principals” (1927-2007)

“The principal” The term rings with authority and rightfully so. To use military jargon, the principal is the “commanding officer”. The type of school you have depends a lot on the leadership ability of this school commander.

Like all schools with a long history, Palmer Elementary has had the good, the bad, and the indifferent. Whether it was being sent to the “principal’s office” or just seeing this authority figure patrolling the halls, most alumni will have a vivid memory of these leaders from their school days as we remember “The Principals”.

1927-1974

Eugene H. Ward (1927-1930)

J.J. “Jason” Dugger (1930-1932)

W.L. Cunningham (1932-1935)

Louie D. Berry

Robert L. “Bob” Crouch, Jr.

Joe McAllister

Paul David Meeks

Joe Ingram

Frank Rollings

Gerald Reid

Raymond Hargis (1955-1958)

Jimmy Garner

A.J. Layne

Mrs. Johnnie Gates Harris

Ronald K. Fults

Herbert Lawson (1965-1966) (1969-1970) (1970-1972)

Fred “Sonny” Morrison, Jr.

Sahib Al-Haddad

Buford Newsome

Roy Landrum

Claude Parson

Ralph Walling

1975-2007

Keith Brewer (1975-1980)

Dale Howard

Dennis Mainord

Mrs. Wanda Yarworth Lawson (1985-1986)

John Raines

Darrell Brown

Eugene Watson (1987-1988)

Miles Thomas
Joel Hargis (1995-1996)
Mrs. Sadie Carrick Smartt (1996-present)

Where are they now?

Raymond Hargis, Ronald K. Fults, and Keith Brewer live in Manchester, TN.

Buford Newsome later became principal at Grundy County High School and then a member of the Grundy Co. School Board. At last report he was living in Monteagle, TN.

At last report A.J. Layne, Dennis Mainord, and Dale Howard lived in Marion County, TN.

Claude Parson lives in Altamont, and at last report Paul David Meeks lived in Coalmont, TN. He is probably the oldest living Palmer principal.

Herbert Lawson and Wanda Yarworth Lawson live in Tracy City, TN. Miles Thomas lives in Beersheba Springs, TN.

Frank Rollings

His father, J.L. Rollings, was Grundy County School Superintendent when Palmer School opened on November 14, 1927. Principal Rollings sister, Rachel Rollings Geary, taught at the school for 23 years.

Uncle & Nephew

A.J. Layne is the uncle of Keith Brewer.

Father & Son

Raymond Hargis is the father of Joel Hargis.

Brother-In-Law & Sister-In-Law

Herbert Lawson is the brother-in-law of Wanda Yarworth Lawson. Mr. Lawson said his parents were present when the cornerstone was laid for Palmer School.

Principals and later Superintendent

Raymond Hargis and Joel Hargis were the only father-son principals in Palmer School history. They are believed to be the only father-son to serve as Grundy Co. School Superintendent.

Ronald K. Fults and Keith Brewer also served as superintendent. Mr. Brewer later served as Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of TN.

Claude Parson

Mr. Parson retired from the U.S. Air Force before becoming principal.

The Women

It's amazing that only three women have served as principal during these 80 years. Others could have served as "acting principal" during an emergency, but to our knowledge only three have "officially" been appointed by the superintendent or school board.

This is understandable though. For much of its history Palmer School has existed in a male dominated world and the larger schools most always seemed to have a male principal.

Sadie Carrick Smartt

Our research shows that the present principal, Mrs. Smartt, has held the position longer than any principal in Palmer School history, 1996-2007.

Comments

We don't claim to be a "know-it-all" about Palmer School history, but we believe this list is highly accurate and will be an important reference when an official history of Palmer Elementary School is compiled.

Louie D. and Ruth Berry are shown in this 1990 photo on a visit to Grundy County. They are holding a "certificate of appreciation" presented by Mayor Mike Shadrick for Mr. Berry's years as Palmer School principal.

Mr. Berry was one of the greats in school history. He served as principal in the mid-1930's and early 1940's and ended his teaching career in Florida.

Dr. Hershel Hughes

Dr. Hershel Hughes was a dentist in Tracy City. These photos were taken in 1990 by David Patton.

James "Jim" Ivey

Mr. James F. "Jim" Ivey was one of the first men to bring his family from Tracy City to settle the new town of Palmer in early 1918. He was a blacksmith at the Palmer Big Mine. Mr. Ivey is shown with his children from left, Dola Ivey Rector, R.B. Ivey, Becky Ivey Teague, and Vaudie Ivey Barker in this 1942 photo. Mrs. Ivey, the former Clara Ruth Poe, died in Palmer on March 1, 1937. The only surviving members of this family are Mrs. Rector and Mrs. Teague.

Turnip 'Green Time in Tennessee!

Palmer is still a "neighborly" place as this sign indicates. Larry "Farmer" Crabtree shares his turnip green patch with everyone and what could be better in the crisp fall weather than turnip greens, pinto beans and cornbread? They're a Palmer, Grundy County and Southern tradition.

All Dressed Up!

As the song says, "A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody" and Diana Henry is all dressed up to compete in the 1959 Halloween King and Queen contest at Palmer School which was the social event of the year. Diana and A.C. Cannon represented the 8th grade. She lives today in Cleveland, TN and is a daughter of the late Willie Mae Land and James Henry who lives in Birmingham, AL. A.C. Cannon lives in Gruetli-Laager, TN and is the son of the late Leon and Rosa Lee McBee Cannon.

Church Sign

Palmer First Free Will Baptist Church sign.

Margie Sanders Ramey

Margie Sanders Ramey, Palmer school teacher.

Palmer School Memories, Special Edition- Valedictorians & Salutatorians "The Brainy Ones"

We just began this project recently and it's still a "work in progress".

Academics is what school is all about and these "brainy ones: deserve our highest respect and recognition. We're proud of this list because it represents the different eras in Palmer School history. If you know of anyone who should be listed, send the name and year to me at 50 Dogwood St; Palmer, TN 37365 or contact Mary Cannon Stinnett at 931 779-5134. A sincere "thanks" to everyone for your help on this project.

1934-Val. Harriet Roberts London

1937- Val. Anna Polk Conry Creighton

1938- Val. Frances Levan, Co-Salut. Nancy Roberts Rigsby

1941- Val. Earnestine Ross; Salut. Edna Layne Brewer

1942- Val. Betty Nunley Layne; Salut. Franklin Rust Brewer
1947- Val. Margaret White Tuggle; Salut. Benny Hayes Disheroon
1948- Val. Alyene Layne ncBee; Salut. Peggy Ruth Sissomn
1949- Val. Val Margie Sanders Ramey
1951- Val. Joyce White Nolan; Salut. Bobby Lynn Stinnett
1953- Val. Marjorie Carpenter Harrison; Salut. Martha Carroll Cox Hensley
1954- Val. Charlotte Long Cannon; Salut. James McCullough
1956- Va;/ Perky Cannon Greene
1958- Val. Linda Rollins; Salut. Mary Catherine Campbell Gifford
1961- Val. Donna Rose Landon Lovelace; Co-Salut. Carolyn Scissom Fults
1962- Val. Lana Roberts Summers; Co-Salut. Suzanne London Nerren and Ima
Jean Doss
1967- Val. Teresa Ann Crabtree Myers
1968- Val. Clayta Anderson
1970- Val. James A. "Jimmy" Rogers; Anthony Nunley
1972- Val. Cynthia Layne Meeks; Salut. Jeff "Rabbit" Morrison
1974- Val. Kathy Sissom Cantu; Salut. Cindy McCullough Lecroy
1977- Val. Tannis Overturf; Salut. Susan Anderson
1979- Val. Kathy Smith Hargis; Salut. Neal Morrison
1981- Val. Jeff Smith; Salut. Sandy Garner Layne
1983- Val. Sam Sweeton Stevens; Salut. Randy Coppinger
1984- Val. Crystal Overturf Caldwell; Salut. Kin Shadrick Rollins
1986- Val. Co. Val. Melanie Lee Myers Hampton and Kathy Nolan Crawford
1988- Val. Ramona Franklin; Salut. Sandy Kelley
1990- Co- Val. Dion Burnette and Allison Scissom
1992- Val. Randy Burnette
1994- Val. Monica Shrum Turner; Salut. P.J. Campbell
1996- Val. Cody Cookston; Salut. Candis Coutu
1998- Val. Brooke Layne
2005- Val. Jacqueline Cantu
2006- Val. Nathan Layne
2007- Val. Hillary Curtis; Salut. Halee Eads

Sisters

Joyce Nolan and Margaret Tuggle are the daughters of the late Mr. & Mrs. Noah White.

Mother/Daughter

The late Betty Nunley Layne was the mother of Cytnthia Layne Meeks.

Margie Sanders Ramey is the mother of Clayta Anderson.

Kathy Sissom Cantu is the mother of Jacqueline Cantu.

Teresa Ann Crabtree Myers is the mother of 1986 co-valedictorian Melanie Lee Myers Hampton.

Brothers

1990 Co-valedictorian Dion Burnette is the brother of Randy Burnette.

Brother/Sister

Nathan Layne is the brother of Brooke Layne.

Palmer & GCHS Honors

Sam Sweeton Stevens was the 1983 Palmer valedictorian and took the honors at GCHS in 1987.

Tie-Breaker

In 1958 Linda Rollins and Mary Katherine Campbell Gifford had the same GPA. Linda was named valedictorian because she had perfect attendance.

Salutatorians

Father/Daughter

James McCullough is the father of Cindy McCullough Lecroy

Palmer & GCHS Honors

Benny Hayes Disheroon was the 1947 Palmer salutatorian and also 1951 Grundy Co. High School salutatorian.

The Roberts Medal

This medal was presented to the class valedictorian by the Everett B. Roberts, Sr. family for over 30 years. Sara Swann Shipley was the first recipient in 1931.

Palmer News

The buzz in Palmer is all about the great gathering to celebrate Palmer Elementary's 80th anniversary. It's Oct. 27 beginning at 11:30. The excitement is growing daily so be there for speeches and food, but most of all to reunite with old friends from your school days.

How dry is it? Bone dry according to Herschel Finch, Jr. who says Mill Creek that runs through Chiggertown and the old ball diamond is completely dry over that way. He's 78 and has never seen it this dry in Palmer. Our rainfall total for September was 1.6 inches.

You may have noticed Tyler Brown's Sports reports in the Grundy County Herald. He's the grandson of Herby and Bonnie Cook Caldwell, former Palmer residents.

What's for supper? What about a pot of pinto beans simmering in this crisp October weather?

Mara Lee Caldwell says when buying dry pintos to look for those with a light color because they will be fresher. Always add cold water to the simmering beans and that will make the juice thicker. To de-gas pintos, put a potato in the pot while they're cooking and throw it away when they're done.

Jeff "Smokey" Colston and Jackie Henry are recovering from injuries suffered in accidents and we wish them well.

Kim Hill Taylor, granddaughter of Clara Parson Hill, sent us a photo of Mrs. Hill who was Palmer School's first kindergarten teacher in 1968. Thanks to Kim who is a family nurse practitioner at Grundy County Primary Care.

What's a hillbilly hummer? We'd wondered but finally saw a young whippersnapper driving one. It's a jeep, which is great in these days of record high gas prices.

We re received a note from Mary Owen Reynolds of Cookville, TN, saying that she was a former teacher at Collins Elementary. We mentioned this to Bruce Coffelt and lo and behold he remembered her being his teacher some 50 years ago. Mary's a daughter of the late Floyd Owen and Bruce is a son of Dan and Nell Brewer Coffelt.

Happy 86th birthday Oct. 14 to Frances Britton and Frankie Bryant. They're twin sisters and probably the oldest twins still living in Grundy Co. Many of you went to school with their children which include Gail and Joann Bryant, Joe "Proxy" Curtis and June, Anna, Glenda, Charles, and Tony Britton. Only one percent of Americans live to be 85 or older, and that would be doubly hard for twins.

Palmer folklore:

We're not sure what a hedge apple is, but have been told that if you'll throw some under or around your house that they'll get rid of any animal or insect. Have any of you heard that? If true, let's go find some.

It was good to talk with Mrs. Leean Dykes Dishroon recently. She has semi-retired from the Grundy County Center for Exceptional Citizens, which serves our handicapped citizens. Leean's a fine lady and was the first Palmer woman to represent Palmer Elementary on the Grundy Co. School Board back in the 1980's.

Teresa Turner King, daughter of Joe and Mary Turner, is on the dean's list at Tennessee Tech. She'll soon be a schoolteacher, and Teresa and her sister Ann are also talented singers.

Former Palmer resident Edna Layne Brewer is on the sick list. Edna grew up in Chiggertown, and if you would like to send a note or card, the address is: 205 Brandywine Dr.; Manchester, TN 37355. Get well soon, Edna.

We received photos and a nice letter from Aleene Nunley Hargis of Tucson, AZ, recently. She's the widow of "Little Ray" Hargis and a daughter of the late Graham and Sara Cannon Nunley.

"If you have apples, you'd better be standing there when they fall off the tree." A person said this about the over population of deer, but this year we've not seen any apples in Palmer due to the infamous Easter freeze.

Kathy Hargis McCullough and Larry Meeks were married September 21 at Palmer United Methodist Church. She's a teacher and a daughter of Clayton and Joyce Roberts Hargis.

Many of you across the country remember where the large Clell Layne family lived. Patrick and Denise Cannon Morrison live there now and report that the drought has caused the spring to go dry.

Tonya Guffey Magouirk enjoyed a recent trip to the Smoky Mountains and Darrell and Becky Layne traveled to the Amish country around Lawrenceburg.

Jerry Harrison lives where the old Palmer School once stood and cut one of the giant trees there. It made a lot of firewood.

Bobby Lynn and Mary Stinnett along with daughter Vanessa went to Indiana while Vanessa was on fall break from Palmer School.

If you're coming for the Palmer School event on Oct. 27, check out the Palmer Veterans' Memorial Park (former Indian Graveyard) and the Palmer Community Park (old railroad wye). You'll enjoy both.

In the meantime, get outside and enjoy the beautiful October weather. We'll do our best to be back with you next month if the goblins allow. Happy Halloween!

November 2007

Old sayings and figures of speech in Grundy County, Tennessee.

1. "Ease away from them"- Today we'd say "Distance yourself from them".
2. "Leave yourself some wiggle room"- This meant to be flexible in a situation and able to change if circumstances changed. Pretty wise, Don't you think?
3. "He chimed in"- This meant that a third party gave their opinion without being asked which was unwelcome most of the time.
4. "It's a rigamarole"- People used to say it a lot here and pronounced it "rig-uh-muh-roar". It meant a chaotic situation or a hassle to deal with.
5. "He's skating on thin ice"- Meant taking a chance. Today you'd say "he's pushing the envelope".
6. "I'm satisfied he did it"- Meant "I'm "sure" he did it". People in Grundy County used "satisfied" instead of sure a lot of years ago.
7. "She's a floozie"- Meant an immoral woman and today you'd probably say a "slut".
8. "Not changing the subject, but"- But you really were changing the subject. Years ago this was said a lot when two people were talking and one wanted to change the subject. It can still be heard today occasionally.
9. "He was dressed out of his socks"- This meant a very well dressed person.
10. "It didn't pan out"- This was an expression of disappointment about something that didn't happen as expected.
11. "Everybody and their dog"- This was said by someone who had been to an event that drew a large crowd as in "I got there late and everybody and their dog was there". These days dogs would likely be there but years ago, no.
12. "He likes to toot his own horn"- This was someone who liked to talk about their accomplishments and was viewed as boasting or bragging.
13. "She's dead and gone, but"- When you hear "but" with one "t" look out, it's a powerful little word. When people said this they would regretfully tell something bad about a dead person.
14. "He's out in left field"- Today we'd call this person a nut or weirdo.
15. "She's not as big as a minute"- Of course meant a very small person. It used to be said a lot in Grundy County and I heard it back in the summer for the first time in a while.

To "Let Go" takes love

Author unknown.

To "let go" does not mean to stop caring,
it means I can't do it for someone else.

To "let go" is not to cut myself off, it is

the realization I can't control another.

To "let go" is not to enable, but to allow learning from natural consequences.

To "let go" is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

To "let go" is not to care for, but to care about.

To "let go" is not to fix, but to be supportive.

To "let go" is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

To "let go" is not to be in the middle of arranging all the outcomes but to allow others to affect their own destinies.

To "let go" is not to be protective, it is to permit another to face reality.

To "let go" is not to deny, but to accept.

To "let go" is not to nag, scold, or argue, but instead to search out my shortcomings and to correct them.

To "let go" is not to adjust everything to my desires but to take each day as it comes, and to cherish myself in it.

To "let go" is not to criticize and regulate anybody but to try to become what I dream I can be.

To "let go" is not to regret the past, but to grow and to live for the future.

To "let go" is to fear less and to love more.

Palmer News

Happy Thanksgiving! It's hard to believe that 2007 is almost gone. "Time flies when you're having fun" one old saying goes and "the older you get the faster time flies" is another. In any case, let's enjoy the good food and most of all pause

and “give thanks” for the blessings we enjoy in the wonderful country called “America”.

Pastor Cotton Ross and the Laager Methodist Church enjoyed “old timers” day Oct. 14 with old fashion attire and old fashion vittles. Rev. Tony King, son of the Late Rev. Lee King, was one of the guests.

We enjoyed a visit from Mrs. Stella Dodson recently. She’s the widow of Tommy Dodson and many will remember her father, Oscar Lockhart who was a coal mining inspector.

The three daughters of the Late Graham and Sara Cannon Nunley were here last month to attend the Palmer School 80th birthday celebration and worshipped at Palmer United Methodist, their childhood church. Aleene Hargis, Judy Elliott, and Clara Ruth Holt have a brother, Billy Ray Nunley of Monument, Co., who many of you will remember.

We had 2.8 inches of rain in October which we’re thankful for but the dangerous drought persists here and most places across the nation.

We night watched again this year on Halloween at Palmer School and had a great time. Several little spooks came by for treats and our friends Mark Roberts and Christy Meeks paid us a visit. Miss Christy visited Palmer School for the first time and declared “I thought Coalmont was the prettiest school in the county but this has it beat”. She especially enjoyed the renovated auditorium. Many of you will remember her great grandfather, Mr. Beecher Smartt, who was the custodian in the 1930’s and 1940’s.

Halloween was a beautiful starry night and Rev. Sam Allen and the Beacon of Hope Church hosted the second annual “Trunk or Treat” at the Palmer Ballfield. This fun event featured free refreshments and we appreciate Rev. Sam Allen doing it for the kids. Many will remember his grandfather, the Late Alvin Partin.

Bonnie Payne and Jewel Pickett were among those enjoying a fall event October 27 at Pastor Donald Partin’s “House of the Lord” Church on Palmer Mountain. Some enjoyed a hayride and all savored the good food out in the fresh air. Bonnie is the widow of Doodle Payne and daughter of the Late Joe Gipson. Jewel’s the widow of Clint Pickett and the daughter of the Late Pat and Cleo Layne.

Did any of you have Bertha Schulze as a teacher at Palmer Elementary in the 1930’s and 1940’s? We talked by phone with her recently. Now Bertha Schultze Ashley, lives in Manchester, Tn. and is 99 years old.

What’s for supper? The pioneers ate venison and with the over population of the deer and high food prices it’s popular again. We had some venison stew and really enjoyed it in this crisp fall weather.

We met Mrs. Diana Henry Smith Nov 3 at the home of her cousin, Becky Henry Layne. She lives in Cleveland, Tn. and is a daughter of James Henry of Birmingham, Alabama and the Late Willie Mae Land. We featured Diana in our Palmer School 80th birthday article in the Grundy County Herald. We

appreciate the photos she shared and the nice comments about this website and look forward to seeing her again soon.

Our first killing frost Oct. 30 wiped out the peppers and tomatoes. We gathered the green tomatoes the night before, wrapped them in newspapers, and will have ripe tomatoes in the days ahead.

Rev. John Creighton Jr. and sister Betty Coffelt attended a meeting of the Savage Gulf Preservation Society last month at the Beersheba Springs Hotel. Many of you will remember their parents, Johnny and Mable Hobbs Creighton who ran the Palmer Restaurant many years ago.

Many of you will remember the Ernest "Dutch" Henley store in the 1930's and 1940's.

We have received word that Mrs. Dutch Henley passed away last month in Manchester, Tn. at the age of 100!!

We enjoyed a Sunday afternoon visit from Gerald Smith and Ricky Layne who talked about old times in Palmer. Gerald's a son of the Late Rev. Hub and Pearl Green Smith.

As part of Palmer School's 80th birthday year, a cookbook is being compiled. You are urged to submit recipes, photos, and memories of your Palmer School Days. It will be published in the spring and for more info call the school at 931-779-3383 as soon as possible.

We still have a lot of beautiful leaves on the hills and mountains around Palmer and the stage is set for a great Thanksgiving Holiday.

Wherever you will be celebrating, we wish you peace, joy and contentment and hope to be back with you as soon as possible. Say a special prayer for all our military personnel in the states and around the world.

Palmer School Memories- Special Edition- Part I 80th birthday celebration

October 27, 2007, will go down in Palmer history as one of the most joyous days in recent times.

The occasion was a great gathering to celebrate the 80th birthday of Grundy County's oldest school and guests ranged from 94 year-old Ruby Long, widow of Jack Long, to the just months old daughter of Mayor Daniel Crabtree.

We've heard nothing but favorable comments about this event. When people like even the speakers, you know you've been successful and the food was also a hit. "I believe that was the best ham I've ever eaten," said 89 year-old Dola Ivey Rector of Jefferson, GA.

The speakers included former principal Keith Brewer and Raymond Hargis as well as former principal and current superintendent of Grundy County Schools

Joel Hargis. County Mayor LaDue Bouldin also spoke and all emphasized the importance of local schools like Palmer Elementary. State Rep. Bill Harmon of Dunlap spoke of what happened in Sequatchie County when all the elementary schools there were consolidated.

Faces in the huge crowd that were spotted included Palmer Postmaster Rosanna Coffelt Cleek, our town librarian miss Susan Faye Sissom and son Ross, Palmer Improvement Committee President Denise Cannon Morrison and son Brody, Lucille Crabtree Roberts, Former Mayor Mike Shadrick (son of miner Barney Shadrick), John Doug Shrum, Edna Crabtree, widow of Alf Crabtree, Larry & Gail Crabtree, Clayton & Joyce Roberts Hargis, Earl Grimes, and wife Brenda Rogers Grimes and Brenda's sister Delia Sherman. They are the daughters of the late Hade Rogers.

Out of town guests spotted were Benny Hayes Disheroon, Carl Wayne Sissom and brother Roger, Raymond & Doris Hargis, Danny Howell Sanders, son to the late Sham Sanders, Stella Lockhart Dodson whose father, Oscar Lockhart was a miner and later state mining inspector, Everett B. Roberts, Sr. and his niece Suzanne London Merren (daughter of the late Harriet Roberts) and Anna Lou Hill Hatfield whose parents were the late Morgan and Clara Parsons Hill of Chiggertown.

It was a special honor for me to meet Bobby Owen, his son John, and Bobby's sister Ruth Owen Black. There were highly complimentary of our Grundy County Historical Society website. Back in June we featured a tribute to Mr. Floyd Owen written by grandson John Owen. It's the best tribute that we've ever read and shows the love between the generations of a family and we urge everyone to read it. When you do, you'll be as impressed as we were.

We'll have more memories of Palmer School's 80th birthday as soon as possible. Please send us photos you took on the "unforgettable day". Send photos to David Patton; 50 Dogwood St.; Palmer, TN 37365.

PHOTOS

Let's get this show on the road." The stage in the beautifully renovated auditorium awaits speakers to kick off the school's 80th birthday celebration.

Mr. Dennis Mainord with former student Michelle Campbell Travis. Michelle's a new member of the Grundy County Historical Society and her interest in the subject was sparked by Mr. Mainord's innovative teaching.

Town historian David Patton and Henrietta Nunley Tucker. Henrietta's mother, the later Marie Worley Nunley, was a former school P.T. A. President.

Raymond and Doris Brown Hargis. He is a former principal and Grundy County School Superintendent and her uncle, Henry L. Brown, built Palmer School. Their son, Joel R. "Jody" Hargis, is a current Grundy Co. Director of Schools.

Tennessee State Representative Bill Harmon of Dunlap spoke of how the consolidation of Sequatchie County Elementary Schools changed the county. Those communities that lost schools lost their identity." he said. Hold on to Palmer Elementary School.

Mr. Herbert Lawson (left) with town historian David Patton. Mr. Lawson is a former Palmer principal and his parents were present when the cornerstone was laid for Palmer School.

Dr. Keith Brewer, principal (1975-1980) was a well-received speaker at the great gathering and is the son of Edna Layne Brewer of Manchester and the late Echerd Brewer. Many of you will remember his grandparents, the late Rev. Aylor and Maude Morrison Layne of Chiggertown.

"A knife anyone?" What would a birthday celebration be without a cake? If you make it to 80, you deserve two. Dola Ivey Rector really enjoyed the cake.

"The Twins"- Grundy County Mayor LaDue Bouldin and his twin sister Sue Bouldin -Parrott were present. Mrs. Parrott retired as Grundy County Circuit Court Clerk. Their parents were the late Jerome and Florence Lockhart Bouldin of Tracy City. Jerome Bouldin delivered coal to Grundy County Schools for over 30 years. "Miss Sue" is a wonderful friend to the people of Palmer and is here frequently.

(l-r) Becky Ivey Teague and Ruth Owen Black from the class of 1937 with Becky's sister Dola Ivey Rector from the class of 1934. These ladies really enjoyed the event.

Attention, Visitors to this page!

Our Webmaster, Sharon Goodman, of Georgetown, TX is scheduled for non-life threatening surgery Nov. 7, but will be out of commission for 4-6 weeks. Therefore, we will be unable to get any new material on during this time.

We began this page in Sept. 2006, so during this hiatus, look back at past articles that you may have missed. We appreciate all your kind comments about our page. We are all unpaid volunteers and do this as a labor of love.

Please remember Sharon in your prayers. Enjoy Thanksgiving, and we” be looking forward to being back with you as soon as possible. God bless!

December 2007

Patriotic Essay Awards (Click to view image)