

Articles by David Patton

July 2013

HE'S BAAAAAACK!

Michelle Travis snapped this photo of town historian David Patton next to the city limits sign on Camp 4 curve as you come into Palmer.

Patton was on the GCHS website from 2006 to 2011 and since then has been a volunteer writer at the Grundy County Herald. David says that, "Webmaster Sharon Goodman, Janelle Taylor, and all the hard workers at the Grundy County Historical Society are first class people and it's good to be back with them. Michelle Campbell Travis, a young lady interested in local history has been helping me for quite some time and we are grateful and appreciate all she does". Please give us some time to get back in the grove and we think you will enjoy our work!"



BRUSH ARBOR PREACHERS

The historic Brush Arbor Revival in Palmer which started July 7, will conclude this Saturday night, July 20th. Palmer town historian, David Patton, says that, "The organizers have had to deal with a lot of rain, but have carried right on like the pioneers of long ago did. A lot of younger people have never seen or heard of Brush Arbor, including my assistant, Michelle Travis; and one man even brought his grandson to see it."

Michelle Travis snapped this photo before the July 12th service and the preachers present that night include (L-R) former Palmer Church of God Paston Russell Irvin, Mark Campbell, Bibleway Holiness Church Pastor Jeremy Robinson, Stevie Nance, current Palmer Church of God Pastor Bill Smith, James Nolan, Matthew Meeks, Tyler McCullough, and former Bibleway Holiness Church Pastor Don Layne.



CHURCH SIGN

If you are of the Christian faith, this sign is the only "link" that really matters. Palmer town historian, David Patton, snapped this photo in 2010.



JOE DAVID TATE TURNS 80

Mr. Joe David Tate of Palmer will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 28th. He is the son of the late Arthur "Doc" and Mary Tate and his siblings were William Ford, Charles Aylor, Marie, Joyce, Helen and Iris.

"I sometimes run into Joe David when I'm out walking and he'll also be walking," says Palmer town historian, David Patton. "He's a U.S. Army veteran and a nice friendly fellow who we always enjoy talking to. Let's send a card to mark this milestone birthday to Mr. Joe David Tate, 182 Ivey Street South, Palmer, TN 37365.

David Patton snapped this photo of Joe David Tate in 2012. He is standing on the side of Hwy. 108 where "Partin's Bridge" was for many years until the wooden bridge burned in

the early 1960's. You can see the Palmer City Cemetery (once called the company graveyard) in the background. How many of you remember "Partin's Bridge"?



DR. HARBOLT TURNS 90

David Patton snapped this photo in January 1990 of Dr. Byron Harbolt in his office at Cathedral Canyon Clinic. Dr. Byron Harbolt will celebrate his 90th birthday on July 30th. He was born at Bryant, Alabama that date in 1933.

When Dr. Harbolt began practicing medicine in Grundy County in 1960, Dwight D. Eisenhower was President of the US and for the past 53 years, he has touched thousands of lives both physically and spiritually through his Seventh Day Adventist faith and his Christian radio station, WSGM 104.7 FM.

""A year or so ago we wrote a lengthy article in the Grundy County Herald about Dr. Harbolt's lifetime of good works", said Palmer town historian, David Patton. "He's still treating the sick and afflicted at his Cathedral Canyon Clinic in Altamont and lets all show how much we appreciate him by sending a card to mark this milestone birthday to Dr. Byron Harbolt, PO Box 99, Altamont, TN 37301.



BRUSH ARBOR REVIVAL

Pastor Jeremy Robinson and Bibleway Holiness Church have organized an old fashioned Brush Arbor Revival scheduled to run from July 7-20th at 7 p.m. nightly, between Palmer School and the Palmer Veterans Memorial Park, and say they are "looking for an old time Holy Ghost movement from God".

Michelle Travis snapped this photo of volunteers spending part of their July 4th holiday working on the Brush Arbor.

"Give me that old time religion, give me that old time religion, give me that old time religion, it's good enough for me. It was good for Paul and Silas, it was good for Paul and Silas, it was good for Paul and Silas, and it's good enough for me. Makes you love everybody, makes you love everybody, makes you love everybody, it's good enough for me".

Yes, friends, that "Old Time Religion" has returned to Palmer and this song was heard in the Oscar winning 1941 movie "Sergeant York", which was about Tennessee's World War I hero, SGT Alvin C. York, from whom the VA hospital in Murfreesboro is named.

The last Brush Arbor Revival we remember in the Palmer city limits must have been in the early 1990's. Gary Anderson and David Scissom were among the preachers and the late Rev. Rodney Campbell was probably among them, too.

All these years later the 2013 Brush Arbor Revival has twelve preachers scheduled including Don Layne, James Nolan, David Roper, R.B. Slatton, Matthew Meeks, Mark Campbell, Russell Irvin, Bill Smith, and son, Tim Smith, Stevie Nance, Jeremy Robinson, and Tyler McCullough. What a great blend of young "whippersnappers" just starting out and old men with years of experience behind the pulpit.

They say that history repeats itself and are we living in Sodom and Gomorrah today? You'd better believe it! In fact, the wickedness of that Bible time pales in comparison to the conditions of America and the world today. Are we living in the last few days of the "Last Days"? It seems that we only have a short time until the real "Global warming" begins.

The most interesting history is that which connects the past and the present. I remember as a kid in the 1050's when the late Gentress "Gent" Tate and others built a Brush Arbor near where Troas Layne lives today. It was on the big hill past White Cemetery and was called "Everetty Green Hill" back then. They had sawdust spread on the ground and many years before is where the term "hitting the sawdust trail" originated. It described a tearful sinner running down the aisle of a tent or Brush Arbor to repent at the altar.

It is the hope and prayer of this year's Brush Arbor Revival organizers that all men (and women) would open their hearts to repentance and turn from their sinful ways. That none should perish but that all would have everlasting life thru Jesus Christ.



LITTLE BLAKE AND THE "WAYNE BUSH"

Blake Morrison stands beside the "Wayne Bush" at the Palmer Veterans Memorial Park a couple of months ago. This beautiful Rhododendron was named for his great uncle, Wayne Morrison, who planted it many years ago.

This park features a mountain stone monument with the names of Palmer's war dead and years ago the site near Palmer School was called the "Indian Graveyard". If you haven't been to Palmer in a while, go by. You'll be impressed and the names will bring back memories.

Little Blake will be a PreK student at Palmer School this fall and is the son of Patrick and Denise Cannon Morrison. A lot of our older people will remember his grandfathers, Teeter Morrison and the late Wayne Cannon.



CAMPBELL BROTHERS CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS TOGETHER

A planned holiday cookout on July 7, 2013 at the home of James and Theresia Campbell on Big Mine Rd in Palmer was really a surprise birthday party for James and his brother, Charles. They are the sons of the late Alec and Jessie Lowe Turner Campbell of Palmer. James has been a life-long resident of Palmer. Charles now lives in Powells Crossroads near Whitwell, TN. James turned 67 on July 10th and Charles turned 70 on July 20th. Also in attendance was their sister Mary Katherine "Mary Kat" Campbell Gifford of Columbia, TN.

James's daughter, Michelle Campbell Travis said, "I wanted both to have candles to blow out. I made Daddy a Pineapple pie and baked Uncle Charlie a cake. My two youngest boys, Ryan and Nathan Travis came out of the house carrying each a birthday surprise. To my knowledge this is the first time they have celebrated a birthday together. The surprise birthday party went off without a hitch."



WELCOME TO GRUNDY COUNTY!

Welcome to Grundy county and welcome to the Grundy County Historical Society website. Hello, my name is Michelle Campbell Travis and I will be helping Palmer town historian David Patton. We believe in making history fun and exciting and we do hope that you will enjoy our work.

I'm the daughter of James and Theresia Klein Campbell of Palmer. They live on big Mine Road in the home once occupied by the Ewing Hampton family and I live next door in the home once occupied by the Orange Lemon Northcutt family. Many of our website visitors will remember my grandparents, the late Alec and Jessie Lowe Turner Campbell and my Uncle Charlie and Aunt Mary Katherine "Mary Kat" Campbell Gifford.

I have always been interested in history as far back as I can remember. From the time that I was old enough to go to the Palmer Library I have been reading and learning everything I could about the past. I also have to give credit to Dennis Mainord, "Mr. Mainord," my elementary school history teacher for making it fun to learn about history. He had a way of teaching that you didn't think of it as learning, you were just having fun. Naturally, as I got older I wanted to learn more about where I grew up, my family, where we came from and the history of the other families in Palmer. So much of our history is being lost it is very satisfying to help preserve the heritage of our people and community for future generations.



BONNIE'S HAMBY BEANS

Michelle Travis snapped this photo July 25th of Bonnie Gipson Payne's Green Bean patch on Palmer Mountain. She's the widow of James "Doodle" Payne, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gipson Sr. and attends The House of the Lord church pastored by Ronnie Partin on Palmer Mountain.

Years ago In Grundy county the "Kentucky Wonder" was probably number one but in recent years Hamby beans seem to be the most popular. The big long flat beans are tender and easy to string and a lot are canned each summer.

Bonnie puts chicken litter on her garden in the spring and has it plowed in. At one time Horse and cow manure was used and the late gene Brooks of Palmer said his mother would walk to the old mule barn on Ducktown Circle and carry manure in a bucket to put on the garden.

Something stronger must have been needed for the potatoes though, because the late Jack Partin told town historian David Patton that before the use of bags of fertilizer now common potatoes didn't get much bigger than a hens egg.

The poultry business started in Grundy County in the late 1950's and soon big long "chicken houses" popped up everywhere with growers sending them to Tyson and probably others. Now they're mostly gone but today a number of "super houses" in Gruetli-Laager can reportedly hold 44,000 chickens in each. Regular fertilizers have gotten so expensive that if they can find it many farmers are using it on pastures. "She comes from a good family ad we always stop and visit with Bonnie and her son Charles when we're walking on Palmer Mountain" says Palmer town historian David Patton. "Bonnie's 79 now and remembers the "Good Ole Days" (actually, the hard old days) in Grundy County. She's always canning and freezing because she remembers when food was hard to come by."





WHERE ARE THE BEES?

One of the most talked about stories across the country this Spring and Summer has been the lack of honey bees to pollinate the crops.

Michelle Travis snapped this photo of Palmer town historian (with hat) and Jerry Harrison on July 25th next to Jerry's beautiful "Rooster Combs" flowers at his home. Jerry's dad was the late Hershel Harrison Sr. and he also grew them many years ago.

Jerry's garden looks green and full of blooms yet he's getting almost nothing out of it. the cucumbers and squash may have a few small one on but they won't grow. "It has to be the lack of pollination," he said. The little round cage with a vine holds a "Hummingbird Vine."

David Patton says that, "When you see a patch of Rooster Combs and no honeybees or blackbees you know the party's over. I enjoy just sitting in a chair watching them swarm the flowers like planes at LA-X airport but I won't get to this year.



RAINY SUMMER GARDEN

Joe D. "Jody" summers always has one of the prettiest gardens in Palmer and you won't see a weed in it.

The Marigolds are said to run away insects and the taller purple flowers are the old fashion "Needle and Thread". The taller dark purple plants are "Mole Bean" plants which is said kills moles which are a problem in many gardens.

Jody's a son of the late Robert Summers Jr. and Junior used to raise a big garden and make kraut and other good things. Jody said he got the seed for the mole beans planted from his Grandpa the late Robert Summers Sr. What has backyard gardens got to do with history? Are you Kidding! How do you think most people survived in the "good ole days" of long ago Grundy County?

We're glad to see the gardening tradition continue in Grundy County although, Its not a matter of survival today. Jody has okra, corn, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and cucumbers yum, yum. Fresh garden goodies is the best eating in the world.



PALMER SCHOOL WAX MUSEUM

Back in December 2012, before the Christmas break, Palmer School had a fun event in the Gym that everyone enjoyed.

It was a "Wax Museum" with each student having a booth about famous Americans and Desiree Layman was Jane Edna Hunter. They say that you can be whatever you want if you want it bad enough and are willing to work for it and her inspiring life proves that.

Jane's parents, Edward Harris and Harriet Millner were sharecroppers. Following her father's death when she was ten, she and her three siblings were raised by various relatives. Jane was taught to read and write by the daughter of her employer where she was a live in servant.

Graduating Ferguson College in 1896, she then completed nursing training, attended Marshall Law school in Cleveland and passed the bar exam in 1925.

Improving the conditions of African-American women was the focus of Jane's adult life and she founded the Women's Civic's League of Cleveland in 1943. There is a Jane Edna Hunter Museum at the Phillis Wheatley Center and in 1940 she wrote her autobiography, " A Nickel and a Prayer." Jane Edna Hunter, A True American Hero!

Desiree Layman is a 13 year old eighth grader at Palmer School. She's the daughter of Andrea Turner and Billy Layman. Her Grandparents are Ernie an Annetta Turner, Elsie Layman and the late John Layman all of Palmer.

"We never forget our school days and I'm sure the kids will remember the wax museum when they're old people like me." says Palmer town Historian David Patton. "Desiree's a nice young lady and did a great job with her exhibit. It was a lot of fun for me to meet her and all the kids that day."

August 2013

GRUNDY'S JULY WEATHER REPORT

While at the Grundy County Hearld we wrote a monthly weather report and I think you'll enjoy it on the GCHS website as well.

The Weather" is always a topic of conversation and rightfully so. It can make us happy or it can make us miserable. And, in extreme cases it can even kill us.

"Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day." That has been the battle cry of Grundy county so far in 2013. A friend told me that in July he heard a Chattanooga TV weatherman say that if they didn't get another drop until Thanksgiving they would be okay as far as normal yearly rainfall.

the Big Creek Utility District dam in Coalmont is a official reporting station for the National Weather Service and our good friend Wally Nolan measured 9.96 inches of July Rainfall with the With the big rainfall event of the month on the 10th with 2.28 inches. He had .81 inches of July 4th. with a high temperature of only 71 degrees. Eat your heart out Texas Sharon! The High for July was 88 degrees on the 17th.

People as so used to air conditioners these days that they seldom cut them off and raise the windows but you could in the mountains Grundy County even in July. Wally says we had 10 mornings in the 50's with the low temperature on the month coming on July 28th with 52 degrees.

Here in "rainy Palmer" I had 11.1 inches of July rainfall and in the first week of the month alone had 5.7 inches of course rainfall amounts vary and on July 23rd Michelle Travis ran into a "gully washer" from the Palmer bank to Greg Mcbee's Auto Parts but I didn't get a drop at my house near Palmer School.

Grundy County has valleys as well as mountains and Mr. David Taylor of Pelham had 6.67 inches of July rainfall. thanks to Wally, Michelle, and Mr. Taylor for your assistance.

MAYOR LANE CURLEE TURNS 58

David Patton snapped this photo of Tennessee State Representative Lane Curlee during his visit at Palmer City Hall in January 1990.

Tullahoma Mayor Lane Curlee will celebrate his 58th birthday on August 20th. He was born on that date at Woodbury, TN in 1955. For the past 30 years Curlee has been in public office for much of that time. He was elected Tullahoma city Alderman in 1982, to the Tennessee State House of Representatives in 1984 where he served eight years, and became Tullahoma mayor in 1993. In 2011 he again was elected Tullahoma mayor for a three year term.

Mayor Curlee and wife Evelyn are members of the Church of Christ at Cedar Lane. They are the parents of a son Rob and a Daughter Rosalyn.

If you would like to send a card the address is Mayor Lane Curlee, 707 Twelve Oaks Rd., Tullahoma, TN 37388.



"JERRY" TURNS 72

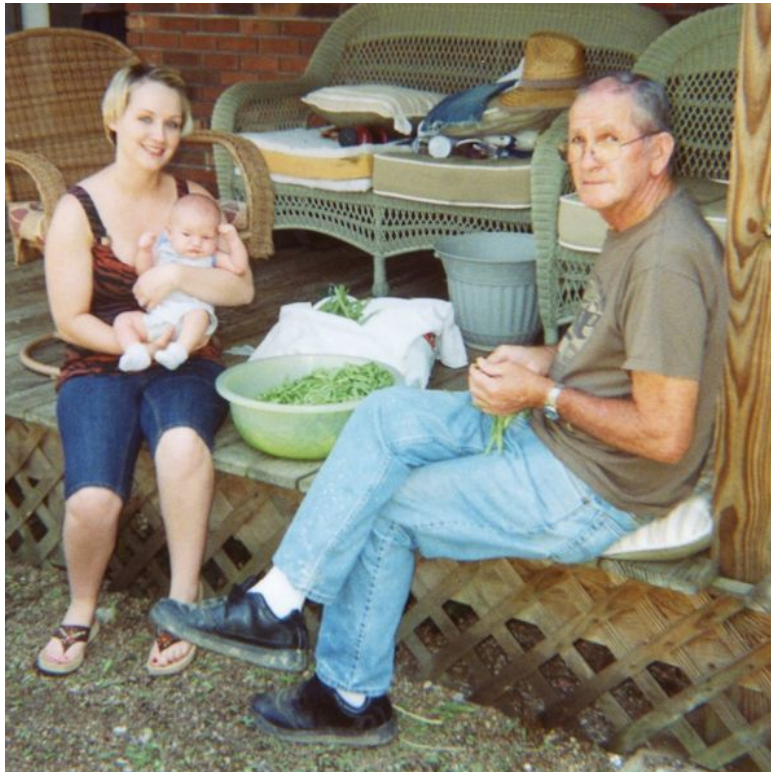
Jerry Harrison is pictured with his granddaughter Brittany Green and her son Bo as the family breaks green beans for canning in the summer of 2009. Brittany is a R.N.

Mr. Jerry Harrison of Palmer will celebrate his 72nd birthday on August 29. He's the son of the late Hershel and Willie Mae Sissom Harrison and grew up on Burnt Orchard Hill which is now known as Burnt Orchard Circle.

Jerry and his wife Judy Anderson Harrison have been married for over 50 years. The couple live on the site of the "old" Palmer School and actually lived in the old school itself in the early days of their marriage. This school preceded our current Palmer Elementary School which opened in 1927.

They are the parents of four daughters; Renee, Rhonda, Tresea, and the late Jerri Harrison Cannon. He is retired from AEDC in Tullahoma as a union carpenter and enjoys gardening and being with his family.

Palmer town historian David Patton said, "Jerry's a fine man and we always enjoy visiting with the Harrison's. He's very "Good hearted" and always willing to help others." If you would like to send a card the address is Mr. Jerry Harrison, 257 East Lee Dr., Palmer, TN 37365.



"TOM" TURNS 70

Mr. James T. "Tom" Coffelt will celebrate his 70th birthday August 17. He was born on that date, right in the middle of World War II, in 1943. He's a son of the late Irvin "Irv" and Agnes Roberts Coffelt.

On July 18, 1964 Tom married Carrie Whitman of Beersheba Springs and they celebrated their 49th anniversary last month. They are the parents of Palmer Postmaster Rosanna (David) Cleek, James Allen (Sandy Kelly) Coffelt, and the late Michelle Coffelt. The Coffelt's have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The couple attend First Baptist Church of Palmer which is Pastored by his brother Rev. John Henry Coffelt. Tom worked for 30 years at TVA and in his retirement enjoys fishing and watching his great-grandchildren.

Carrie's parents were the late Marshall and Lucille Green Whitman of Beersheba Springs and many of you know her brother Lonnie "Bud" Whitman who ran a store there for years. Palmer town historian David Patton said that, "Tom and Carrie both come from fine families and I got to know them years ago at the home of the late Mamie Geary where we would all sit around and talk and visit like people used to do."



If you would like to send a card the address is Mr. James T. Coffelt, P.O. Box 134, Palmer, TN 37365

THE CIRCLE IS BROKEN

Do you remember the old song, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken, In the Sky lord In the Sky." Hopefully not, but the earthly bond has been broken.

Pictured from left at the Palmer Elementary School 80th birthday celebration in 2007 are Martha Carroll Cox Hensley of Weeki Wachee, FL and Anna Lou Hill Hatfield and Dolly Dyer Shadrack both of Jasper, TN.



Many of you will remember their brothers who are all deceased now and includes Ronnie and John Allen Cox, Johnnie Hill, and Bobby "Shakey" Dyer.

These "Girls" grew up together in Palmer and went to Palmer School. Dolly passed away at age 73 earlier this year and Martha Carroll told Palmer town historian David Patton recently that, "Dolly and I met when we were 5 years old and starting our first year in Palmer School (The Primer) with Miss Hayesel Goforth as our teacher. I came back to Tennessee for her funeral. I miss her!"

Anna Lou and Martha Carroll grew up "In the hood" over in Chiggertown and she says, "Anna Lou's mother, Clara Hill, was at our house the night I was born. We lived in the house where Herschel and Ruby Finch later lived as the Hill's lived across the street."

Clara Parsons Hill was a well known school teacher and the grandmother of Johnnie Michael Hill and Dr. Kim Hill Taylor, FNP.

MEEKS KIDS "JUST PERFECT" "THEY DID IT"

When Ethan Meeks graduated from Grundy County High School on May 23, 2013. the dream of a lifetime came true for the Meeks Family of Gruetli-Laager, TN.

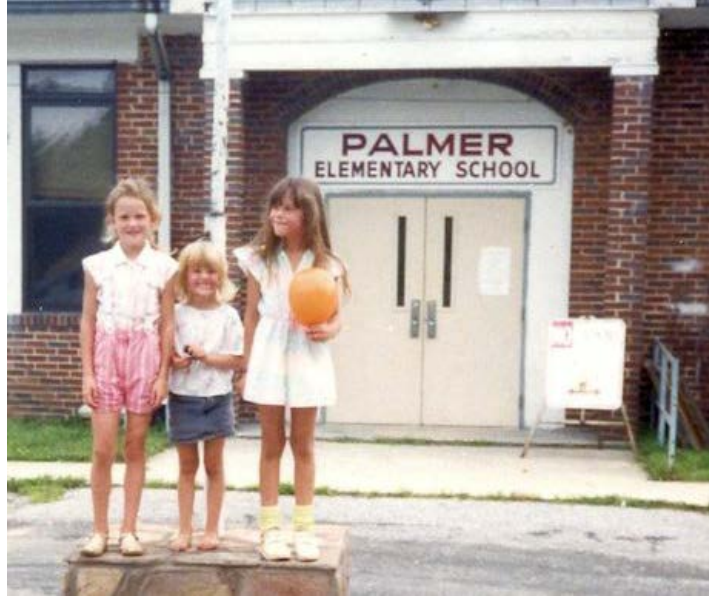


He's in cap and gown and pictured with his brother Jared Meeks and sisters from left Brittany Barrett, Sarah Meeks, and Rebecca Meeks.

As the last of five to graduate the baton was passed to Ethan. He was expected to complete the Meeks family tradition of "perfect attendance" and what a nerve wracking senior year it must have been for him.

"WHERE IT ALL STARTED"

In the summer of 1990 Palmer town historian David Patton snapped this photo of the Meeks sisters standing atop the big cement foundation of the flagpole at Palmer Elementary School. Pictured from left are Rebecca, Brittany, and Sarah.



Major renovations several years later changed things and this flagpole that so many remember has been moved as has the fire hydrant.

Earlier this year one of the great success stories in American Education, and I did say American Education, not just Palmer or Grundy County, happened right here in our own back yard.

When Ethan Meeks graduated from Grundy County High School back in May that meant that all five children of Dewayne and Pam Henry Meeks completed grades K-12 with perfect attendance. That's a total of 65 years of not missing a day of school! The tradition continues with the next generation when Rebecca's son Paul Allen Wise starts fourth grade this fall at Palmer Elementary with his own perfect attendance streak going.

Success is just not for the "Rich and famous" and this working class family proves that. Dewayne has worked at the Rock Tenn factory in Chattanooga for 28 years and Pam has been a teacher's Aide and Bookkeeper at Palmer Elementary School since 1990.

'I've always told my kids that they have to work for what they have and that nobody owes them anything,' Pam said. 'I've had people tell me that perfect attendance wasn't important and it was okay to miss a day of school. When we had the Swine flu scare I was afraid that would hit us but the shot apparently kept it away.'

Longtime Grundy County educator Mr. Rick Rust of Coalmont, TN retired at the end of the 2012-13 school term after 40 year career and said, "I was the principle at Grundy

County High School for the last seven years and I could tell that Ethan was really focused and conscious about coming to school every day and not being late or leaving early."

The proud Grandparents of the Meeks kids are Richard Meeks of Gruetli-Laager and Gladys Tate Ross of Michigan along with Hobart and Willie Mae Ruehling Henry of Davenport, Iowa. Many of our older citizens will remember their great-grandparents, the late Hubert "Hube" and Gladys Davis Henry.

Bringing much honor to Grundy County, the Meeks family was featured in the June 1, 2013 edition of the Chattanooga Times Free Press. What a wonderful job of parenting Dewayne and Pam have done and I'm sure the late Jackie Kennedy Onassis would agree. She once said that, "If you fail with your children nothing else really matters." What a better world it would be if more parents remembered that.

PALMER LABOR DAY

Palmer town historian David Patton (left, with hat) watches the activities while Jack Smedley (with hat) and Charlie "Steamboat" Layne, the father of undertaker Dale Layne, talk old times in this photo snapped by the late James "Burr" Rogers.

Patton says that, "this year the celebration will be on September 2nd.

Labor Day over the years has usually been dry but the last two years have been awful. The rain cancelled the celebration 2011 and rain caused a lot of problems in 2012. Let's hope for good dry weather this year. I do believe we'll have it."



CHURCH SIGN

Bufard Jones Building Supply is a landmark business in Gruetli-Laager where Michelle Travis snapped this photo recently.

"The "Blame Game" has become one of the most popular in America today. Whether it's "my kids wouldn't do that" or "it's not my fault" as the character in a old TV show used to say, refusing to accept responsibility for your actions is a self defeating attitude of far too many.



PALMER NEWS

It's 7:00 P.M. in old Palmer Town and I'm doing what any true hillbilly would be doing on a Saturday night. Listening to the "Grand Ole Opry" on the legendary 650 WSM from Nashville. It's America's longest running radio show. How did WSM get those call Letters? They stand for "We Shield Millions," the slogan of the Insurance company that founded WSM.

Tonight is August 10th and Jim Ed Brown is celebrating 50 years on the Grand Ole Opry. Years ago he and his sisters were a famous singing group in country music.

Our friend up in Nova Scotia, Mr. Paul Hilchey, says he visited Tennessee several years ago and went to the Grand Ole Opry. One of his fellow Canadians, the late Hank Snow, was a famous singer in country music and will forever be remembered for his big hit, "I'm

Moving On." That song was very popular here and the late Melvin "Poss" Pocus of Palmer used to sing it.

What a rainy year we're having here in the metroplex (Griffiths Creek-Palmer-Gruetli-Laager). Our webmaster Miss Sharon Goodman out in Round Rock, TX knows all about the "Metroplex" Texas style. A lot of places in America and the world would fall to their knees and give thanks if they had our rainfall so let's remember that.

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Have you seen any snakes?" That's what Palmer town librarian Susan Faye Sissom asked me recently. Her husband, Jeff "Smokey" Colston, spoke up and said he got rattlesnake bit as a little boy coon hunting in Layne's Cove in Pelham Valley and still has the scar. Gives you the creeps and if you really want a scare read, our article, "Snakes! Copperheads and Rattlers," on this website. Smokey is A Grandson of the late Grundy County High School English teacher Ethel "Ma" Colston.

We got a visit today from Ricky "Rock" Layne and his son Lebron. They both grew up in Palmer but live on Colony Road near Altamont now. Ricky's a son of the late Roy and Louise Geary Layne. Lebron's one of the finest young men in Grundy County. He's an excellent worker, always helpful, and a friend to all.

Welcome Back: Ellis Magouirk Jr. has moved back to Palmer after living in North Carolina in recent years. He's staying with Jerry Cannon right now. Junior's a U.S. Navy veteran and the brother of Mrs. Charles Edgar (Betty) Sanders.

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What's the world coming to?" I knew I was old fashion and behind the times but when Palmer Postmaster Rosanna Coffelt Cleek told me "you're the only one that still buys postcards" I was shocked and it made feel like a T-Model in a Volkswagen or Toyota world. Rosanna's a fine young woman and a lot of our older readers will remember her late Grandparents Irv and Agnes Roberts Coffelt.

Tim Tate of Gruetli-Laager has retired after some 40 years at Signal Mountain Cement Company. He's a nice fellow and we wish him well. Tim grew up in Coalmont and people everywhere knew his late father Clifford Tate who worked for Big Creek Utility District.

Jack Benny Morrison was banged up in a 4-wheeler wreck recently but didn't break anything. He left Palmer in the 1960's and lived in Illinois for years. He came back several years ago and lives in the old P. T. Nunley house and is a son of the late Little Ben and Jessie Tate Morrison.

"

Ouch that Hurts." I hadn't been stung by a wasper in years but I got careless and got popped recently. Now people say "wasp" but years ago they said wasper in these parts and a home remedy was to take a little wad of chewing tobacco out of your mouth and put on the sting to relieve the pain.

Louise Pirtle Hargis has retired after many years as a secretary at Swiss Memorial Elementary School in Gruetli-Laager. She and her twin sister Lucyle Pirtle Hampton, grew up in Tracy City and their late father Bill Ed Pirtle was once chairman of the Grundy County School Board. She's a nice lady and we wish her well. Louise is married to Jack Hargis and Lucyle is married to Glenn "Rip" Hampton and she has been Grundy County Trustee for years.

I What's for supper? picked some green beans up at Jerry Harrison's and cooked them in a little pot with a small potato or two on top and several pieces of smoked hog Jowl thrown in for seasoning. Then I cut up some tomatoes and cucumbers from my backyard garden and peeled an onion. Talk about "hog heaven." It doesn't get any better.

Mike, Gary, Laura and Amy Bouldin of Brentwood, TN were among those attending the wedding of Nathan Bouldin and Morgan Lorance in McMinnville, TN on July 27th. Nathan's a son of Wade Allen Bouldin. Mike, Wade Allen, and Gary are sons of the late Wade and Connie Casey Bouldin of Gruetli-Laager. Laura is Mike's wife and Amy is his daughter. Connie Bouldin was once Postmaster in Gruetli-Laager.

Queen of Big Mine Road: If you went to Grundy County High school in the mid 1960's you probably remember Becky Taylor Morrison who graduated in 1968. She was a fiery redhead then but old man time has swatted her and that once shiny red hair is now white. She's a daughter of the late Everett "Broad" and Edna Caldwell Taylor and is married to Teeter Morrison. They have a son Patrick Morrison and two grandsons, Brody and Blake Morrison.

The Grundy County High School class of 1953 had their 60th year reunion last month at the Gruetli-Laager Community Center. Among those present were Margie Sanders Ramey, Mary Cannon Stinnett, Joyce Grooms Scruggs, Sis Cannon Layne, Betty Magouirk Sanders, Joyce Roberts Hargis and John William Greeter. Wayne Cannon was President of the class, Billy Ray McGovern was VP, Billy Ray Fults was secretary , and Betty Nan Schaerer Church was the reporter. Wayne and the two Billy Ray's are all deceased and Betty Nan still lives in Tracy City. Other deceased members are Lee Doug Ross, Fred "Sonny" Morrison, and Betty Sweeton Rogers of Palmer.

Palmer Church of God had their homecoming July 21th. Some 150 - 200 attended and the homecoming sermon was preached by Bro. James Scott of Florida and he did a good job according to Mrs. Eddie (Rita) Crabtree. Ruth Crabtree Bouldin Nunley played the piano there many years ago and she and her husband Billy Ray Nunley enjoyed the day. The couple married in 2012 after the deaths of their spouses. He's a son of the late Graham and Sara Cannon Nunley.

Mrs. Parthenia McHone Fults of Palmer was in her 90's and the oldest member of the Gruetli Church of God when she passed away this summer. She was the widow of Wesley Fults and sister of the late Bill McHone. Many of you know her daughter, Mrs. Horace Ray (Zella) Slatton, and we extend our sympathy to the family.

Former residents Vernon Givens, Martin Smith, and Raymond Hargis were here due to the death of Herby Caldwell. We regret to report that Herby's widow Bonnie Cook Caldwell has been seriously ill since his death.

We enjoyed talking with Mamie Cox McPherson and her cousin Melinda Nolan who were having lunch at Traders Market and Deli recently. Cindy LeCroy, daughter of James McCullough, and her daughter Gabrielle run this popular spot in Hwy. 108 next to Bufard Jones Building Supply. Melinda and Mamie are first cousins through the Nolan's and Marshall was Melinda's dad. Mamie is the former wife of MacArthur White McPherson.

Wanda Hampton Meeks is 84 now and the widow of J. T. Meeks. She and her first cousin Naoma Patrick Price attended a reunion last month for the descendents of Smartt Hampton near Tracy City. He was their grandfather and the only child of of Smartt Hampton living now is Weldon Hampton of Ohio who was present. Naoma's mother Veola Patrick was the sister of Wanda's father Rev. M. C. "Bud" Hampton.

"

I always liked Wanda." that's what Dennis Wideman said upon hearing of the death of his Palmer School classmate Wanda Patton Sweatt. She was the daughter of J. R. and Alma Overturf Patton and we hope to have details later. Sympathy is extended to the family.

"

It's good to be back on the Grundy County Historical Society website and let us hear from you. From right here in the middle of "where the good people live" we'll say good bye for August. IF the crick don't rise we'll see you in September.

REMEMBERING BRUCE

Mr. Bruce E. Coffelt of Gruetli-Laager, TN, departed this life on July 27, 2013. He was the oldest child of the late Dan & Rosa Nell (Brewer) Coffelt and grew up in the Batesville Community of Palmer. Bruce and his wife Gail had celebrated their 28th wedding anniversary just a week or so before his death. They were married all those years ago by his brother, Rev. Danny Coffelt, who is now the pastor of Tracy City First United Methodist Church.

It must have been around 2006 that I was walking down Hwy. 108 in Gruetli-Laager when someone in the front yard of a home asked, "Are you David?" When I replied, "Yes", the lady said, "Would you go in and talk to Bruce?" It was his sister Sherry (Coffelt) Layne.

At one time active in sports and a hunter, for the last several years of his life Bruce was a "shut-in" suffering from a number of health problems. Since we walked by his house weekly anyway, we made it a point to stop for a few minutes, drink a Coke, eat some crackers, and talk about this and that and memories of days gone by.

One of Grundy County's most well - known veterans, Bruce was interested in all things military and watched the History Channel almost constantly from his bed and liked to discuss it with visitors.

Bruce served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam in the 1960's and in the 1980's when the Tennessee National Guard organized the 212 the Engineering Company in Grundy County, he joined up and served with the unit as a sergeant in Desert Storm.

The 1960's was a decade of turmoil not seen before or since. If you lived through it, you have never forgotten it, especially if you were in uniform in that far off place with the strange sounding name of "Vietnam". One of the last requests Bruce made to me was to gather the names of local people who were over that and to find out how man and who had died since coming home from the war.

My point in writing this story is to encourage everyone to visit those who are sick, shut-in, and forgotten. You don't have to stay all day. If you claim to be a Christian, stop and have prayer with them. Even if you just stop for a few minutes once or twice a year, it will do a world of good.

September 2014

SNAKE ALERT!

Palmer Town Historian David Patton reminds everyone that he sees more snakes in September while out walking than any other month. Patton says that, "If you don't think snake bites are serious business please read my September 2006 article "Snakes! Copperheads, and Rattlers!" on my page. It will make a believer out of you.

THE ORANGE LEMON MYSTERY- SOLVED!

This special story is dedicated to the memory of Mr. A. Irvin Hilchey of West Gore, Nova Scotia. He never forgot the American with the unusual name of Orange Lemon who came to Canada over 100 years ago. Now, here in 2013, those remembrances he passed on to his son Paul have triggered a chain of events unraveling this mystery and forged new friendships between the people of America and Canada.



Handsome Young Man”
Mr. Orange Lemon Northcut is pictured as
a young man over 100 years ago.

“Canadian Patriot”

World War I began in 1914, eventually involved 29 nations, and was called “The Great War.” The British Empire joined the fight in 1914 and the United States in 1917. An idealistic young man with strong ties to Canada, Mr. Northcut joined the Canadian Army before his own country of America declared war on Germany in 1917. Loss of life and

destruction was so great that World War I was also called “The war to end all wars” but tragically just a generation later World War II began



“Maritime Bible and Literacy College”

(West Gore, Nova Scotia-faculty and students 1912)

First row from left: Viola Wallace, Edith MacDougall, Ada Sim, Alice MacDougall, Rose MacPhee, Dorothy MacInnis, Lorine MacDougall, Evelyn Sim, Winnie Cameron, Verna Cameron, Mabel Tallman, Hallie Tallman with Avononelle.

Second row from left: Munroe MacDougall, Gaston Collins, Winnie Rogers, Pearl Wallace, Myrna MacDougall, Merta Mason, Bernice MacDougall, Gladys Harvey, Eva MacInnis, O.E. Tallman, O.H. Tallman.

Third row from left: Nora Tallman, Merle MacDougall, _____ MacPhee, Stella MacDougall, Lois MacDonald, Clyde Harvey, Guy Wallace.

Fourth row from left: Loney MacDougall, Orange Lemon Northcut, Earl MacDonald, Erma Burgess, Nellie Brison, J.W. Hayter, Loran Wallace, Fred Wallace, Gordon MacPhee.

Mr. Paul Hilchey of Conquerall Bank, Nova Scotia grew up in West Gore and says, “about 1909 The Church of Christ Disciples in West Gore decided that a Bible and Literacy College should be built in our village. The Minister, O.H. Tallman had letters written to churches, schools or other ministers whom he knew in both Canada and the United States. He encouraged students to come to West Gore to attend our college. It seems a few students came from Tennessee.”

“West Gore is a small community where everyone knew everyone. I imagine that being a young man at the time, Orange Lemon would have boarded with a member of the Church of Christ (Disciples) of West Gore. There is much more information available about the Bible college if you “Google”: “The Maritime Bible and Literacy College” by Geoffery Ellis. The college lasted from 1909 to approximately 1915.”

O.H. Tallman and his brother O.E. Tallman were famous preachers in Church of Christ circles some 100 years ago and are still remembered In Grundy County. Minister Ray Winton, 83, of Coalmont, TN says that, “I’ve heard my mother talk about the Tallman’s preaching in Northcut’s Cove and Grundy County. They didn’t just come to the mountain but preached in the valley’s too. Orange Lemon’s brother, Vernon Northcut, would take preachers like that around all over the area to hold services.”

“The Pretty Bride and Parents”

In 1948 Patsy Northcut of Palmer, daughter of Orange Lemon and Clara Northcut, married James “Jamie” Marler of Tracy City at Palmer Church of Christ with Bro. Lester Massey officiating. Bro. Massey was a well-known Church of Christ preacher and later married Ray and Doris McCormick Winton of Coalmont, Tennessee.

“Pillars of the Community”

Mr. Orange Lemon Northcut (April 3, 1886- March 21, 1971) and wife Mrs. Clara Woodlee Northcut (April 30, 1901- January 29, 1974) are pictured in their twilight years. The Northcut’s were prominent citizens of the Town of Palmer and Grundy County , Tennessee. He was an Electrician and Carpenter for Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company and she was a nurse for Dr. Oscar Howell Clements at his “Clements Clinic” and later a nurse for Dr. Walter Huling at the “Palmer Clinic” which opened in 1956 and is still going strong today. The couple were the parents of two daughters, Wilene and Patsy, and a son Leon. Wilene and Patsy are deceased and Leon has lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee for many years.



“Granny’s House” –Precious Memories

The Orange Lemon Northcut home on Big Mine Road in Palmer was probably taken in the 1960’s. It still stands and is now occupied by Mrs. Michelle Campbell Travis.

“Precious memories, how they linger,” as the song says and the old home place does hold precious memories for the Northcut’s granddaughter Becky Marler Brandt of Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Becky’s an Art teacher at Boyd-Buchanan High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee and you can sense the deep love she felt for her grandparents in her conversations about them.

The Story Begins.....

My interest in this story began several years ago when I ran across a copy of Mr. Orange Lemon Northcut’s obituary and read that he served in the Canadian army in World War I. This fascinated me because why would a member of a prominent Grundy County family not have served in the American army?

The volunteer history work done by myself and other small town historians is fun and exciting but also time consuming so I vowed to look into the matter at a later date and moved on.

In 2012 I was contacted by Mr. Paul Hilchey of Conquerall Bank, Nova Scotia. He remembered his father talking about an American named Orange Lemon who was quite a slugger at the plate and a fine baseball player and worked at a wood shingle mill. Mr. Hilchey also discovered a photo of a Church of Christ College in Canada and Orange Lemon was pictured as a student. This made sense because the Northcut's are a well-known Church of Christ family in Grundy County.

The key to solving any "History Mystery" is finding that one person who will go out of their way to help you and I found a gem in Becky Marler Brandt. She not only provided information on the Northcut's but also came up with these amazing photos that have added so much to this story.

Becky is the daughter of the late James and Patsy Northcut Marler of Tullahoma, Tennessee. She gave me the following information on the family. "According to my brother, David, our grandfather, whom all the grandchildren called "Pop-Pop," served in the Canadian army because when he got ready to serve the United States had not entered World War I yet. Pop-Pop had family in Montreal and went through them to enlist.

My mom had a remembrance book and had notes that he was a sergeant, served in the Canadian army for 9 years, and was injured. She did not know how he was injured but that might explain why he never served in the United States.

Mom also wrote that her dad was born in Grundy County , Tennessee. He went to Irving College in Tennessee and later to a Christian College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. O.L. Married Clara Woodlee June 9, 1921 in Tracy City, Tennessee. They were married in what is now Foster and Lay Funeral Home."

Mona Brittingham of Nashville, Tennessee had articlenumber 1028 about the Northcut's in the Grundy County Heritage Book and said that Orange Lemon's parents were William Elihu and Clara Fults Northcut of Northcut's Cove and that they were the parents of six sons and two daughters. Two of Orange Lemon's brothers were Gordon Northcut who had a store in the Camp 4 community just outside of Palmer and Vernon Northcut of Altamont who had a successful lumber and sawmill business near Altamont, Tennessee.

The name "Orange Lemon" drew instant attention and some thought it wasn't his real name. The late Rudolph Schild was a stern mathematics teacher at Grundy County High School in the 1940's and had a short fuse in the class room.

At the start of the new school year he would have the students introduce themselves and tell everyone who their parents were. The story was told that one of the Northcut girls was in the class and when she said her father was Orange Lemon he said, "young lady, I'll have you to know that I don't put up with any foolishness in this class!"

Becky continues and says, "Pop-Pop came from a large family. They were living in Florida when he was born and must have ran out of names." Here's a guess that (David Patton) I have. The state of Florida is known for citrus and could that have been where they got the idea for the name Orange Lemon?

"I remember that Pop-Pop worked for the electrical company at one time (Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company had their own power plant and furnished electricity to the company houses and this could have happened when Mr. Northcut was an electrician for them) and while on an electrical pole, they accidentally turned the power on. Workers had to go up and get him. Mom said that was why his hair turned white at such an early age. He raised Boxwood Bushes behind his house and was always very proud of them.

My parents married in 1948 and Mom (Patsy) told me her dad (Orange Lemon) sat on the front porch of their home and cried the night before she got married, because she would be moving to Fort Wayne, Indiana right after the service. My dad (James Marler) worked for the railroad in Indiana. Mom and Dad got married at Palmer Church of Christ and had the reception on the front porch of "Granny's House" which is what we called it.

When my brother and I were young we pulled up little pine trees across from Granny's house and took them to Tullahoma to plant. Mom pointed to the end of the back yard for us to plant them, thinking they would not live. The giant trees are still standing today.

I remember my granny (Clara) being a nurse and she was well-known for delivering a lot (most) of the babies in Palmer and even helped name a great deal of them. I do not remember them living anywhere else other than Palmer except after Pop-Pop died and granny came to live near Mom and Dad in Tullahoma until she died of cancer. Even in old age my Granny never had to dye her hair. It stayed dark."

Mary Katherine "Mary Kat" Campbell Gifford of Columbia, Tennessee grew up in Palmer and remembers Mrs. Northcut very well. As a young girl she remembers going with her

father Alexander "Alec" Campbell to the Northcut home. All these years later, she still remembers how dark Mrs. Northcut's hair was, and that it was braided and in a bun a common hair style of that day.

"After a stroke took away his speech, my Pop-Pop carried a small note pad and wrote scriptures to us. He was an elder in the Palmer Church of Christ and read his Bible every day.

Mom worked for Dr. Roles in Tullahoma for many years as his office manager. My Aunt Wilene and Mom both died in February 2002. My Dad died that same month also. Tough month!"

Mr. James McCullough, 73, of Gruetli-Laager, Tennessee grew up on Big Mine Road in Palmer as a neighbor of the Northcut's and says, "if we had any electrical problems at our house Mr. Northcut would fix them. I remember that the Northcut's would play croquet in their yard on Sunday afternoons Mrs. Northcut was a nurse and they were a good family."

"Unsolved Mysteries" was a hit television show that many of you remember. At the end of each show the host, Robert Stack, would say, "For every mystery, there's someone, somewhere, who has the answer." Remember that when you're trying to find answers and keep on pushing.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Paul Hilchey, Becky Marler Brandt, Michelle Travis, Ray Winton, Janelle Taylor and Sharon Goodman in bringing you this story.

Paul Hilchey sent David Patton an email responding to David's questions. Below is his email.

Hello David and Michelle,

I believe that there is an interesting story here that many of your readers will enjoy.

It is true that I remember my Dad (A. Irvin Hilchey, 1909-2005) mentioning Orange Lemon on many occasions over the years. However, I am afraid that like many, I did not ask enough questions when there was someone who may have been able to answer them. Dad played baseball as long as he was able and always enjoyed watching the game around our area or on television. All that I recall him saying was that Orange Lemon was quite a slugger when he was at the plate and a fine player. Dad lived almost all of his life in West Gore and died in the Colchester Hospital in Truro, Nova Scotia. You asked if my father served in the Canadian Armed Forces. Dad was, of course, only five years old when WWI

began. When WWII started he was 30. He went to enlist, but as he was a dairy farmer, he was told that he should stay on the farm as his two younger brothers had enlisted and there was no one else to take care of the cattle in his absence.

Until I saw your articles, David, I had no idea where Mr. Northcutt was from.

West Gore, Hants County, Nova Scotia is a small community where everyone knew everyone. I imagine that being a young man at the time, Orange Lemon would have boarded with a member of the Church of Christ (Disciples) of West Gore.

The dates that Orange Lemon lived in West Gore is probably unknown unless his family has this information. The West Gore College as I have always heard it called existed only between 1909 and approximately 1915. If Orange Lemon was here during this period, then my Dad would have only been six years old as he was born in 1909. David, you found out that Orange Lemon enlisted with the Canadians during WWI. Is it possible that he returned to this area after the war ended? Possibly so, if he married a local girl.

These were "boom years" for West Gore and surrounding areas. Around 1880, antimony was discovered in West Gore. Later it was discovered that there was gold as well. A mining operation started about 1885 which brought in many new people to the community. Production varied from year to year, but with the beginning of "The Great War" production increased considerably at least for the period to 1917. I was told that antimony was used to stabilize certain explosives, but could not confirm this information at this time.

My renewed interest in Orange Lemon began with a book that had been written by a cousin. Gwen Lefton wrote "West Gore to 1950" in 1987. The picture of "College Faculty and Students" of 1912 which includes Orange Lemon is one of the pictures included in this book. (I do not know who might have this original picture. Gwen interviewed many of the people from West Gore for this book and as you can imagine most were older folks who have passed on since then. In this book, it states that Orange Lemon was working at a shingle mill which was owned by Foster Brison at some time after 1903. I began making a list of the people mentioned here with their pertinent dates when available. The 1921 Canadian Census is now available, so perhaps that will give us more information.

There is much more information available about the Bible College if you google: "The Maritime Bible and Literary College" by Geoffrey Ellis. The current minister of the church is Reverend Angus MacDonald. Rev. MacDonald or some of his congregation would

probably have more information about the Bible College. I was told that Gwen Lefton is presently enjoying retirement in Florida.

Thank you for your interest. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know. When your article is written, I would enjoy receiving a copy.

Yours truly,
Paul Hilchey

PALMER NEWS

We're coming to you this month on September 11th. Lately, I've been "going like fighting fire," and didn't even realize it was time to pause and remember the victims of the terrorist attacks on "9/11" until I heard it on the radio today.

Where were you on that nice and sunny Tuesday morning of September 11, 2001?

About 4:00 A.M., I caught a ride with Dewayne Privett who was going to work in Chattanooga and got out up on top of Palmer Mountain near the old fire tower. When daylight came, I started walking back down the mountain home while picking up cans and when I got here I flipped on the TV and fixed a snack. A plane had hit the World Trade Center Tower in New York. We all knew it was something major but at that point didn't know why or who was involved.

Exhausted, I went to bed, and when I got up a few hours later and turning on the TV again, America and the world was a different place than it had been when the morning began. Now, twelve years later, we're still dealing with aftermath of 9/11 and will be for the foreseeable future.

Palmer Elementary School students and staff showed their respect on 9/11 this year by wearing red, white and blue colors.

"Rocking Chair Days": Jimmy Rogers, son of Mary Ruth Mayes Rogers and the late James "Burr" Rogers, retired just a few months ago. He spent his entire career teaching in the Chattanooga public schools. Jimmy lives in Tray City now, and his brother, John Rogers, is also a teacher. John is still teaching at Swiss Memorial Elementary where he had spent his entire career, and he lives in Gruetli-Laager.

Rev. Brett Meeks of Palmer pastors Campground Freewill Baptist Church in Pelham and is the only child of Wanda Hampton Meeks and the late J.T. Meeks. Homecoming was on August 17th. and the featured singers were the famous “Dusty Road Boys” from Bowling Green, Ky.

“I love coming to the Palmer Labor Day Celebration.” That’s what Mr. Rick Ruehling told us recently , and he also said, “My wife, Vicky, and I go over to the Methodist Church fish fry, get a plate then walk over to the Ball Field, talk to people and listen to gospel music.” Rich works for Ben Lomand Direct (telephone company) and is a former Mayor of Gruetli-Laager. He’s married to Ralph Burnett’s daughter, and many of you know his brother, Rev. Bob Ruehling.

We enjoyed meeting a very nice young lady recently who was driving around looking for a lost dog. Amanda Fults is married to “Topper” Fults who is a son of Clifford Fults. She told us she was either the daughter or grand-daughter of the late Harley Braden, I can’t remember which. Over the years in public office, Mr. Raymond Hargis knew just about everyone, and I’d say he knew Harley.

What’s a “Buck Moon”? I’d never heard of it, but Billy Wade Taylor of Gruetli-Laager says that’s what the full moon in July is call because deer are putting on new antlers. He’s a longtime hunter, fisherman and logger and a son of the late Everett “Broad” Taylor.

Let’s rewind the tape and wish Happy July Birthdays to: Dr. Byron Harbolt (90), Mrs. Howard (Oma Lee Boyd) Lewis (89), Allie Jean “Shorty” Sanders (80), Joe David Tate (80), Mrs. Doodle (Bonnie Gipson) Payne (79), Horace Ray Slatton (70), Larry Crabtree (65), and John Doug Shrum (64).

Let’s rewind the tape just a little more back to August and wish Happy Birthday to Clara Bone Landon (93) who is the widow of George Landon, Jerry Harrison (72), Horace Ray Slatton (79), Tom Coffelt (70), and Gail Bryant Coffelt (63).

Now, we’re caught up, and let’s wish the following a Happy Birthday in September: (All are good friends of mine.) Mrs. Calvin (Charlotte Long) Finch out in Riverside, California turns 89. Her husband Calvin is the last surviving member of the large John

and Carrie Partin Finch family, and many of you remember Calvin's brother, Herschel Finch Sr. who was a neighbor of Mr. A. J. Layne over in Chiggertown.

Bobby Lynn Stinnett turns 77 up in Newburgh, Indiana. He's married to Mary Cannon Lovell Stinnett, and they still have a Palmer home next to Mary's old home place (Scott Cannon place). They grew up as neighbors in Palmer and married some 20 years ago after their spouses passed away.

Ethleen Sitz McNabb turns 97 over in Dunlap, Tn. She taught at Palmer Elementary in the late 1940's, and after she and her husband Crandel moved to Marion County she made it a career. Crandel turned 100 back on June 9, 2013.

Joe Willard Fults turns 86 out in Coalmont, Tn. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1943 at the age of 15 and served overseas in the Pacific Theater of World War II. His wife, Jean, is the daughter of the late Clayton Worley, and Joe's a son of the late Theron Fults.

Keith McBee turns 55 down in Gruetli-Laager, Tn. He held the office of Grundy County Trustee for several years before deciding not to run again. For a number of years now he has worked for Ben Lomand Direct. He's a son of Alyene Layne McBee and the late Jim Dave McBee.

Tommy "Lemons" got himself a "motorsickle". That's Hill Billyese for Tommy "Layman" got himself a "motorcycle". Years ago around here the Layman or Laymon family was pronounced "Lemons" and a motorcycle was often called a "motorsickle." I heard the terms September 9th. for the first time probably in years. The famous Chattanooga radio personality, Luther Massingill used to get a good laugh on the air occasionally by calling a motorcycle a motorsickle.

"What's For Supper?"

We hadn't seen William Randal "Pig" Harrison in years until we ran into him at the home of his brother, Jerry Harrison. Pig is married to the former Glenda Britton, and she makes a dish that sounds really good and that I'm going to try.

Glenda Cuts up green tomatoes, potatoes, squash, okra, or anything else you might want to add and fries it with cut-up Spam in it. I'm going to add some onion and maybe cabbage.

Retired from Signal Mountain Cement Company, Pig lives today at Cumberland Heights near Altamont. He's a U.S Army veteran who served in Vietnam during the Vietnam War, and is a 1962 graduate of Palmer Elementary.

Continuing on with "What's For Supper?" Janelle Taylor and her daughter, Megan Benton, came by recently and brought me six pints of beets from Janelle's garden. I've eaten them before, and Janelle makes delicious pickled beets. They live in Pelham and were on their way to attend the annual reunion of the Buddy and Lucy Green Payne family. Buddy was a sister of Janelle's late mother, Mrs. Ebb (Elsie Payne) Layne.

"Where's Miss Ruby?"

As you go up Hwy. 108 past Burnt Orchard Hill and start up Palmer Mountain, you'll see a house on the right across the Hwy. from the old Ernest Dishroon home. The late Dibrell "Dib" and Ruby Land Henry lived there for years, but both are deceased. Their sons and a grandson, Eddie Henry, live there now. Eddie says earlier this year a stranger drove up and asked, "Where's Miss Ruby?" Eddie told her, "Why, Ma'am, she's dead." The lady was Clara Ruth Nunley Tate who is the widow of Billy Holt Tate. Back in the coal mining days Clara Ruth was a neighbor of Ruby's up there and didn't know she had died. This was probably 60 years ago, and like so many others there the, the Tate's moved "up north" to Michigan to find work.

The family of the late Pat and Mable Dishroon Morrison gathered the Sunday before Labor Day for their annual reunion. The Morrison's children are: Helen, Mary, Robert, Randal, Wayne, Carl "Teeter", James "Dutter", and Shelva Jean who is deceased.

"Nancy Brown, where are you?" Retired Palmer Elementary Principal, Miles Thomas, visited Mary Ruth Rogers recently and asked her whatever became of Nancy Brown who was a teacher when he was there. Mr. Thomas now spends most of his time in Bangkok, Thailand, but still has a home in Altamont.

Welcome Back: Drema Roberts, daughter of the late Gene and Opal Roberts, has moved back to Grundy County and lives next to the Baptist Church on Hwy. 108 in Gruetli-Laager. Drema, I think, has probably lived in Chattanooga most of the time since graduating from G.C.H.S. in the early 1960's. She grew up in Palmer, and on August 13, longtime friend, Donna Gifford Basham, took her to dinner to celebrate her birthday. Donna's brother, Mike Gifford, gave her a gift for her home to welcome her back.

Mrs. Mike (Mary Ruth) Shaddrick has been canning pickles this summer. She's a daughter of the late David and Ruby Nell Davis Phillips. Mike retired this summer, but still has plenty to keep him busy around the home and his church. He's a former Mayor of Palmer and was a very good one.

Long Time No See: We ran into Dana Cleek recently, and hadn't seen her since she was a little girl. She's the daughter of Paulette Coppinger Cleek and the late Cleston Cleek. Her brother is Grundy County Mayor, Lonnie Cleek.

We also saw James Knight. He's a son of Hallie James Knight and the late "Gid" Knight.

We also talked with James McCullough at Traders Market and Deli. His daughter, Cindy, runs the business. It's located next to Buford Jones' Building Supply on Hwy. 108 in Gruetli-Laager. The place is very popular with good food and looks like a 1950's diner with the little tables. The posters and old photos will take you back in time. If you haven't been to Palmer in a while stop by to visit. James is 73 now.

Wanda Meeks and her sister-in-law, Kathy Hampton, of Jasper had lunch there recently. Wanda said they saw Delbert "Cooney" Sweeton's widow Reggie and her son, Vince Sweeton, and Jason Coffelt who is a grandson of the late Dan Coffelt. Kathy's the widow of Melvin Hampton.

"Don't Give Up Driving:"

Wanda Meeks is 84 now, and it must have been around two years ago that she broke her leg and had surgery and a long recovery period. After that, she decided not to continue driving and let her license expire, but that was a huge mistake. "I just made a mistake," she said. "I could still be driving to the store and places here on the mountain." Wanda started driving as a teenager, and I'm sure wishes she could still be independent and not

have to depend on others. So, let's repeat it again, unless you absolutely have to, "Don't Give Up Driving."

Friends and Neighbors, I've gotten carried away this month with all this news, and my typist is going to get me if I don't wrap it up.

So, from right smack dab in the middle of "where the good people live," we'll say good bye for now. We should have some nice fall weather in the weeks ahead so get outside and walk awhile. Let's all plan to meet right back here in October, the good Lord willing.

October 2013

THAT'S A BIG POTATO!

David Patton dug this 1lb 11 oz Kennebec potato from his backyard garden in September. A few days before he dug a 1 lb 2 oz Kennebec from the same little short row of potatoes.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!

With Photos by Janie McNabb

How do you celebrate a 100th birthday? In a big way of course and that's what the McNabb clan did in Dunlap, TN back on June 8th to honor family patriarch Mr. W. C. "Crandel" McNabb. Relatives, good food, and even a fireworks display to end the day, made it memorable for everyone.

Mr. McNabb was born in Dunlap on June 9, 1913 to Thomas Crawford "Tom" and Florence Knight McNabb and grew up in Palmer, TN. He and his wife Ethleen Sitz McNabb have also lived in Gruetli-Laager, TN and Chattanooga, TN but spent most of their married life in the Jasper, TN area.

Life has its twists and turns and I'm sure Mr. McNabb never dreamed he'd live to celebrate a 100th birthday, much less do it in the town of his birth.

This came about due to the retirement of his daughter Janice and her husband David McAnally. Land was available in Dunlap and the two couples had a big home built which they share. David and Janice have done a wonderful job as caretakers for her parents and we respect them so much for that.

When you live to be a 100 you should get at least a 100 birthday cards and he has received that many and more. If you forgot to send one it's not too late and he would enjoy it. The address is Mr. W. C. McNabb, 2778 Kelly Cross Road, Dunlap, TN. 37327.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Michelle Travis, Janice McAnally, and Janie McNabb in bringing you this story.

A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE...



Crandel McNabb and his sister Charlotte Pattie are the only survivors of the Tom McNabb family. Charlotte is the widow of William Benjamin "Bill" Pattie Jr. and she has lived in Florida for many years.

David and Janice McAnally live with and serve as caretakers for her parents. Janice and her brother Lanny McNabb are the only children of Crandel and Ethleen.





Lanny McNabb is pictured with his grandchildren Grace McNabb and Charlie McNabb. Lanny and his sister Janice are both former Palmer Elementary School students.

As many of you know Crandel and Ethleen grew up in Palmer and Grundy County. Former and present Grundy countians came to help them celebrate Crandel's special day.



Pictured front row from left: Hazel Brown Davis, Ethleen McNabb, Crandel McNabb. Back row from left: Kenneth Caldwell, Billy Ray Nunley, and wife Ruth Crabtree Bouldin Nunley, Melba Grooms Wilson, Palmer Town Historian David Patton, and Charlotte Pattie.

Hazel grew up in Beersheba Springs and graduated from Grundy County High School in 1935 with Crandel and Ethleen.

Kenneth is a son of the late Grover and Ruth Caldwell. Billy Ray is the son of the late Graham and Sara Cannon Nunley and Ruth is the only surviving member of the Will and Grace Smartt Crabtree family. Melba is a daughter of the late Hobert and Bessie Parmley Grooms. She once taught school in Grundy County but has lived in Chattanooga, TN for many years.



Janice McAnally and Raymond Pirtle are pictured. Both are of the Church of Christ faith. Mr. Pirtle grew up in Grundy County and is the uncle of Grundy County Trustee Lucyle Pirtle Hampton.



Crandel and Ethleen are pictured with their grandson David McAnally Jr. and wife Cathy. In August 2013 the McNabb's celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary. Will David Jr. and Cathy match that record? You never know.



Palmer Town Historian David Patton and Bill Campbell of Soddy-Daisy, TN for the first time at the celebration. Bill has family connections to the land where the McNabb's home now stands. He's a retired TVA Engineer and a big Bluegrass music fan. "Bill is a really nice guy and I enjoyed talking with him," Patton said.



J. B. Glass and his mother Janie McNabb are pictured with Crandel's grandson Nathan McNabb. Janie was the photographer for the celebration and did a great job.



Crandel's grandson Casey and wife Kellee with the "man of the hour".



John Moore(front) and Ben Cagle were scouts in Crandel's Boyscout Troop in Jasper. Ben's a son of the late Berton Cagle. Berton grew up in Palmer and after moving to Marion County became a Constable and served in that position longer than anyone in Tennessee history.



David McNally and his grandson Zack McNally enjoy the celebration during one of the wettest summers in memory. The day stayed dry and that itself was something to celebrate.



Lanny's son Scott McNabb and Crandel's grandson, with wife Sarah and their children Grace and Charlie McNabb.



Jim McNabb, Crandel's grandson, with Jim's son Jake McNabb.



Amy Ethleen Lamitina with her namesake and grandmother Ethleen McNabb.



Crandel's granddaughter-in-law Kellee and his great-granddaughter Haley.



Janie McNabb's grandsons Johnnie Edwards and Zachary Glass are pictured in the corn patch of David McAnally's garden with Palmer Town Historian David Patton. These young boys have their whole lives ahead of them and while the old folks sat and talked of

days gone by they were full of energy and had a ball running through the corn rows and just doing what boys are made to do.

David remembers doing the same thing over 50 years ago and it brought back so many good memories that he asked Janie to snap a photo of the boys with him.

The Alpha and the Omega



Mr. Crandel McNabb, born in 1913, holds little Wes Hoschar, born in 2013. The McNabb's attend Kimball Church of Christ with family of Wes.

Just close your eyes and try to imagine what the world was like in 1913. We will never know the hardships Mr. McNabb endured in these last 100 years of life. But, for this "Good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ, eternal life is assured when his days on Earth are done.

His daughter Janice McAnally says that, "I think that eating and doing other things in moderation plus his good disposition and patience have been key things in Dad living to be 100 years old."

If baby Wes lives to be 100 what will the world of 2113 be like? Will his 100th birthday party be on Mars or some other out of this world place?

Don't laugh. The future and what it holds has fascinated the human race since the dawn of time. What seemed impossible in 1913 is reality in 2013. Why should 2113 not follow the same pattern?

PALMER NEWS

"What's New? How is the world treating you?" If we can answer in the affirmative to both of these we're in good shape, aren't we?

We've been listening to some great music by Linda Ronstadt as she sings the classics from the Big Band era. "What's New" is one of the songs, and with Linda's voice backed by a big orchestra and lush string arrangements it doesn't get any better if you like beautiful music.

Speaking of being treated good, old Mother Nature has really been good to us here in Grundy County lately. Earlier this year, we thought the rain would never end, but August and September were wonderful, and now it's already the 10th. Of October and this month has been picture perfect.

"Apple, apples, everywhere?" I do believe I've seen more apple trees loaded down this summer and fall than I've ever seen in my life. Edna Crabtree lives at the old Bob and Effie Overturf place, and her trees are loaded. Two small trees at the old Floyd Owen place have big red and yellow apples, and we picked up some of the yellow ones the other day. A big tree at the old "Uncle Will Tate" place is almost hidden by weeds, but I wonder if they're the old fashion "June apples" people liked so well years ago.

After a washout in 2011 and near washout in 2012, the Palmer Labor Day celebration finally had its typical dry, mostly sunny, not too hot breezy day.

I spent the day picking up cans and walking and ran into Margie Sanders Ramey and her daughter, Clayta. I hadn't seen Clayta in many years. She was a fine basketball player at Palmer Elementary and Grundy County High School. Her father the late Clayton Anderson, was a cousin of the late sheriff, Robert Meeks, I believe.

As I was walking home Charles Edgar Sanders and wife, Betty, stopped and offered me a ride. When I got home there was a fish dinner from the Palmer United Methodist Church fish fry left by my good friend Bobby Stinnett. So Labor Day, 1013 was a very enjoyable day for me.

The Joe and Naomi Geary Pocus family had a reunion this summer with other branches of the family attending at the Gruetli-Laager Community center. Joe and Naomi are deceased, and their children are Joyce, Marie, Sue (who is married to Junior Creighton), Larry, James and Melvin "Poss", who is the only one, deceased.

The Pocus family has been in Palmer since the very early days of the town when Joe's parents Henry and Nora Sitz Pocus came here from Tracy City. Joe had two brothers George and Roy Pocus, and several sisters, and they are all deceased now to our knowledge.

Rocking Chair Days: Rick Rust of Coalmont retired earlier this year after a 40 year career in teaching. Thirty-three of those years were at Coalmont Elementary, and the last seven were as Principal at Grundy County High School. He's a U.S. Army veteran and son of the late Louie Rust. Many of you will remember his late grandfather, Ernest Uncle "Cooney" Rust and late "Boog" Rust of Palmer.

Pastor Ronnie Partin (son of the late Alvene Partin) and congregation had homecoming August 11th at "House of the Lord" Church on Palmer Mountain. Rev. Gene Richard of Coalmont was the guest preacher. The best eating in the world is at a church homecoming, and Bonnie Payne says she took chicken and dressing and dumplings and green beans with potatoes cooked on top of them.

Pastor John Henry Coffelt and the congregation at first Baptist Church of Palmer had homecoming on August 11th. Also. There was no preaching before the noon meal as everyone enjoyed undertaker, Dale Layne and his singing group, "The Rock." Former Grundy County School Superintendent Joe Nunley and his wife Ann Burnett Nunley have attended the church in recent years, and he sometimes preaches at the Sunday morning service. A daughter of the late Arthur and Martha Layne McCoy attended a recent service. Martha McCoy was a daughter of the late J. Hugh Layne and a sister of the late Roy and Andrew Layne.

Last month, we mentioned the late Harley Braden and said we figured that Mr. Raymond Hargis knew him, and he says that he did and that he also knew most of the Braden's in Gruetli-Laager. Many of you know Lewis Braden who has been as local car dealer for years with a lot on Hwy. 108 near the G-L Piggly-Wiggly.

Mr. Hargis said that years ago he worked with Lewis cutting logs for Pete Leitsinger. Mr. Hargis is a highly educated man who was once Grundy County School Superintendent and

County Court Clerk. He also knows what it's like to work with your hands. He's 85 now, but in his young days he drove a coal truck and worked in sawmills. Sawmill work was considered one of, if not the hardest, backbreaking jobs--years ago when most hard labor was done by hand.

"What's For Supper?" We stopped to visit with Dwight and Linda Shrum Tate recently. They live where the Clyde Sissom family lived years ago. Linda gave us a slice of homemade lemon cake which was moist and not too sweet and tasted very good along with a can of cold Dr. Pepper. Linda is the daughter of the late Lawrence Shrum who was a well-known Tracy City store owner. Dwight's a son of the late Harley Tate, and he and Linda were classmates at Grundy County High School and graduated in 1966.

I've been "dyeing" my hair before it gets completely gray. Michelle Campbell Travis says she remembers her late grandmother Mrs. Alec (Jessie Lowe) Campbell dyeing her hair to keep it black. She said she remembered the stuff was called "bluing" and that she believes her grandmother had to apply it each time after she washed her hair.

The family of the late Joe Sr. and Nellie Poff Gipson had their annual reunion last month in Manchester. "There were 16 of us, but only 8 survived to get grown," Bonnie Payne said. Out of that eight only Bonnie, Mary Ruth (who was married to Perry O'Neal and Snooks Smith) and their brother Rev. Johnny Gipson are still living.

Most people didn't know his real name, but Bonnie is the widow of James Edward "Doodle" Payne. "Two of my boys, Charles and Wayne, have also been called Doodle," she said. "When they were in school, kids would call up and ask for "Little Doodle" or "Big Doodle."

It must have been seven years or so ago when someone built a big home on Palmer Mountain just off Hwy. 108 before you get to the Palmer Electric Substation going up the mountain. Bonnie says that when the basement was being dug a body was found. She said that her late mother-in-law, Ida Layne Payne, told her that when Highway 108 was built (in the late 1920's or 1930 I think) that most of the workers were black people and that they lived in tents in a camp not far from where the body was found. Bonnie thinks the body found could have been one of the people who lived in the camp, and it could have been. I remember when I was a kid in the 1950's that so many Laynes lived on Palmer Mountain that some people called it the "Layne Settlement."

Today (Oct. 10th.), we walked through "The Bottom" part of Palmer and saw Arnold Cleek picking apples at Edna Crabtree's. I believe he told me he was 77 now. Arnold's a son of

the late John and Lizzie Shrum Cleek and has had a lot of heart-related problems in recent years but is still driving and going. He's a retired Ironworker with 30 years' service and worked 15 years in the coal mines.

Also, this afternoon, a "Parent-Teacher Conference" was held at Palmer School from 3:00 – 5:00. These are great and give parents a chance to talk with their kids' teacher about their progress.

Also, while out walking today, we stopped and talked to Bobby Lloyd and Faye "Perkie" Cannon Greene. They have lived in Starke, Florida for some 30 years but still call Palmer home and will be buried at Palmer City (old company graveyard) Cemetery. Perkie owns the old Scott Cannon place on Tatesville Rd. where she and her sister Mary Louise grew up as daughters of Scott and Velma White Cannon. Bob and Perkie will be attending the Greene reunion at Griffith's Creek Saturday. The White reunion will be held the same day in Gruetli-Laager. Perkie's grandfather was Dock White of Dock White Holler fame.

Faces in the crowd: "Sir, are you the one that puts things in the (Grundy County Herald) Paper?" When I said "Yes", the man on the motorcycle shook hands and said, "I'm Anthony Bivens, the son of Janie Brown Bivens." Anthony's late father was Glenn Bivens, and his late grandfather was Rev. Gilliam Brown. Mr. Raymond Hargis was elected County Court Clerk of Grundy County in 1958, and said that several years before Rev. Gilliam Brown ran for the position and although he didn't win ran a strong race.

While shopping at the Whitwell Save-a-Lot, we ran into Pat Tate, son of the late Ernest Tate of Coalmont. We also recently met Brandon Weaver, grandson of the late Gene Weaver. He's a Sheriff's Deputy on duty at Palmer School. Would you have ever dreamed schools in Grundy County would have a policeman stationed there, but the school massacre in Newtown, Conn. brought us to this.

We graduated from Palmer School in 1961 with Sharon Garner and Doris Sanders. Back in the summer Doris' niece, Kim Curtis, said Sharon and Doris had been visiting each other in their retirement years. Sharon lives in Georgia and Doris in Whitwell, Tn.

Happy October birthday to Faye Layne Hanson of Chattanooga who turns 78, I believe, and Perkie Greene of Starke, Fl. who turns 71.

"There's many a slip, twix the cup and lips." Have you ever heard this old saying? I hadn't either until Hallie James Knight said it after I told her how tickled I got at a lot of young people who "count their chickens before they hatch." Some of them plant a little

backyard garden and are already talking about how much they're going to eat and can out of it before it even comes up.

Our Administrative Assistant, Michelle Campbell Travis, is taking a heavy load of college classes at Tennessee Tech. Michelle's the daughter of James Campbell and granddaughter of the late Alec and Jessie Lowe Turner Campbell. Michelle has three teenage sons in Grundy County schools and works part time at a convenience store to earn gas money for the trip to Cookeville. She's 43 years old and back in school some 25 years after High School. Her lifelong dream has been to become a teacher, and if she gets her college degree will be the first in her family to do so. We admire her courage, and please keep her in your prayers.

Old man White will probably kill old man Green any frosty morning now, but I'm still getting peppers and cabbage out of my backyard garden and have a lot of green tomatoes ripening here in the house.

Donna Landon Lovelace, daughter of Clara Bone Landon and the late George Landon, Sr., is our typist for the "Palmer News", and Michelle Travis and I appreciate her help so much. We were classmates at Palmer Elementary, and Donna is a retired R.N. living in Monteagle, Tn. today. Thanks, again, Donna.

"Happy trails to you, until we meet again. Happy trails to you, keep smiling until then." From here "where the good people live", we'll leave you this month with the theme song from the Roy Rogers television show in the 1950's. Roy Rogers and his wife Dale Evans were wonderful role models for kids in that era and touched many lives in their acting careers.

November 2013

REMEMBERING JFK- 50 YEARS LATER

Where were you on that very early afternoon of November 22, 1963?

Probably, like most of us, you were in school or at work. It was just another Friday in America until suddenly gunshots rang out in Dallas, TX, around 12:30 P.M.

A few minutes later television and radio flashed the horrible news around the world. John F. Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, had been assassinated.

For the next three days the shock and questions of, “How could it happen?” only seemed to grow. Just two days after the assassination, millions witnessed the assassin himself being shot and killed right before their eyes on live television.

Looking back 50 - years - ago, how different would the world have been had President Kennedy lived to win and serve a second term in the White House?

Would the quagmire of Vietnam have been avoided, and would thousands of American war dead be alive today as a result? We’ll never know, of course, because history happens in real time and doesn’t give us the benefit of 20/20 hindsight.

Donna Gifford Basham: “I am a native of Palmer and the daughter of the late Eugene & Georgia Lee Lockhart Gifford. After my parents divorced in the early 1950’s, my mom married Isaac Nunley, and we moved to Cleveland, Ohio. In the summer of 1960 John F. Kennedy was running for President, and it was announced that he was coming to Cleveland to campaign. We went to the corner of 72nd Street and St. Clair Avenue to see his motorcade come through. He was sitting on top of the back seat of an open car smiling and waving. As he got closer, Mom yelled, “Hey, Kennedy”. He looked right at us and grinned from ear to ear and waved as he passed within six feet of us.

On November 22, 1963, my sister Kathy and I were home from school with the flu. Mom was at work and we were watching television when Walter Cronkite announced that the President had been shot. Not long after that a knock was heard at the door. A telegram delivery man had one for Mom. We told him we couldn’t open the door, so he slid it under the door. I’ll never forget what it said, ‘Dimple dead – call me. Trixie’. It was from Mom’s sister Trixie Hargis telling her that their niece Dimple Bouldin Rollings had died.

In Cleveland at that time you walked or rode a bus about everywhere you went. Mom and some other women worked in a factory not far from where we lived. The bosses didn’t tell them that the President had been assassinated, and she didn’t know it until she walked home from work. She voted for Kennedy in 1960. On Sunday November 24, we were watching television and saw Jack Ruby shoot Lee Harvey Oswald.”

Mrs. Basham graduated from East High School in Cleveland and today lives in Tracy City in the old homeplace of her maternal grandparents the late Frank and Alice Van Hooser

Lockhart. She has been the administrator of elections for the Grundy County Election Commission since 1984.

Betty Jo Nunley Turner: "I turned 3 - years - old in October 1963, and I remember my mother and aunt crying as we watched the funeral procession with the horse drawn coffin on television. What has always struck me was John F. Kennedy Jr. saluting the coffin as it passed down the street. He turned 3 the day of his father's funeral, and I can still see him with his little coat and short pants. I had always followed the escapades of JFK, Jr. In later years and always, I hoped that one day I would get the chance to vote for him for President."

Mrs. Turner grew up in Coalmont and lives today in Gruetli-Laager. She is a former employee of the Grundy County Post and the Grundy County Herald.

Jackie Layne Partin: "On November 22, 1963, the date of the death of President John F. Kennedy, I was teaching school at the Monteagle Elementary School. It just so happened that I was in the teachers' lounge where there was also a restroom. There was an old radio in that lounge, and someone had turned it on. The announcement of the assassination attempt was all over the news. If I remember correctly, the doctors were not releasing the fact that the President was actually dead, but that he was in surgery. Of course, the news came fast that he had succumbed to his wounds.

His election was not a popular thing among some conservative voters because he was a Catholic. However, those who voted against him for that or any other reason were simply overwhelmed and heart-broken that the President of the United States had been so brutally removed from our presence. It would have made no difference what his name and party affiliation were; the fact that he was our President, made the pain and anger felt deeply within all citizens.

A friend of ours promised us a German Shepherd puppy out of his dog's litter when they were born. They were born on November 22, 1963. The call came to us that we could look at the puppies anytime and have the pick of the litter. I never forgot our dog Captain's birthday because of the death of the President. One might say that Captain was a bright, happy part of a deeply emotional and heartbreaking day.

Folks could not take their eyes away from the perpetual television coverage of the life, death, and burial of President John F. Kennedy. What a sad day in the history of the United States of America."

Mrs. Partin grew up in Monteagle, and today she and her husband, Grady Ward Partin, live in Tracy City.

Diana Henry Smith: “You asked about John F. Kennedy’s assassination. Yes, I remember what I was doing the minute it came on the radio. We lived up on the hill next to Uncle Will Tate. I was in the kitchen fixing supper. I went to crying, and Ramona went to crying also. I just sat down in the floor and cried. It was the day after Ramona’s first birthday. I believe America has been going downhill ever since. To me, it is hard to believe it has been 50 years.

When Ramona got married she moved to Dallas, TX. We went to visit her, and they took us to Dealey Plaza. It had a bad feeling all around it. I still don’t believe Oswald did it alone. I do think the C.I.A. had something to do with it. I was in Chicago, IL, when Robert F. Kennedy was killed and was working at Motorola. I worked on day shift, and Wesley worked on 2nd. It worked out just fine. Then Wesley’s brother got killed in Vietnam, and we had to move back to Tennessee to help with his sister’s kids. I’ve been in Tennessee ever since. I am too old to move any more. I may one day move back to Palmer but nowhere else.” Diana grew up on Burnt Orchard Hill in Palmer as a daughter of the late James and Willie Mae Land Henry and still has a number of cousins here. We appreciate all of her help over the years with our history work.

Mary Patten Priestley: “I was 13 and in eighth grade when President Kennedy was shot. I had had an adolescent’s ‘crush’ on the First Family--handsome husband, stunning wife, and adorable children, all living in the White House. I poured over photos of them in Life Magazine and watched Jackie’s tour of the refurbished mansion on television. I still have a cover from a Time Magazine with her picture on it.

We were in school - English class. One of my classmates came running in, overcome with tears, to tell us the President had been shot. I was in shock; several of the girls were crying. It was the end of the school day. Mothers were parked outside, waiting to pick us up to carpool home. They were sitting in their cars, doors open and radios on. Maybe, opening the car doors made them feel less isolated from each other at this time of national crisis?

We hung on every bit of news we could get. I didn’t see Oswald get shot, but, of course, this was another shocking twist to the whole dreadful story.

That was late November. The next month, my family flew to Canada for Christmas vacation. We had several hours between planes in Washington, D.C., so Daddy hired a

taxi to take us out to Arlington Cemetery to visit President Kennedy's grave. The site wasn't elaborate, but they already had the Eternal Flame installed and burning. I'm so glad he did that. Being there helped me out.

At the time, I didn't really grapple with the implications of the assassination for the country. That came later. I was just a child who adored that beautiful young family and mourned the loss."

Mrs. Priestley lives in Sewanee, TN, and is the author of the popular book, *Dad's Railroad-The Mountain Goat*," about the railroad that once ran from Cowan to Palmer.

Marie Wooten Goolsby: "I was working at Oster in McMinnville when President Kennedy was shot. They announced over the intercom, 'The President has been shot.' Dead silence was all over the plant. I may be wrong, but as I recall they let us go home early. I came and picked up my son from the sitter. He was just one and a half years old. It was a sad time; yes, I watched it all on TV.

I remember that everyone seemed to be scared as to what would happen next. I think John Kennedy was a great president and changed a lot of thinking in the U.S.A.

My mother was a Henley from Tracy City. Her sister, Jessie Henley Wooten, and husband, Francis, ran a store in Palmer years ago. Francis Wooten was from Monteagle and wasn't related to my dad. My mother also had a sister at Laager, Joyce Sweeton Long, who passed away not long ago."

Some of our Grundy County Herald readers may remember Mrs. Goolsby when she worked at Carrier. She lives in Morrison, TN, and is a cousin of Bettye Wooten Sherwood of Hubbard's Cove.

Theresia Klein Campbell: Mrs. Campbell was a citizen of and lived in West Germany at the time of the Kennedy assassination. Just a few years later, she met and married U.S. Army Soldier James Edward Campbell of Palmer and came with him to the United States.

"The only thing my dad watched on television was the news. We didn't have a television, but I was with him at a neighbor's house watching the 7:30 news when we heard about it. Our reaction was disbelief. We thought he was a good man. I still have a necklace made from a 1964 Kennedy half-dollar.

At that time over there, we watched Bonanza and Rawhide on Sunday evening. It was dubbed in German. The commercials were all at one time, one after another for an hour or so. They didn't break into shows with commercials like they did in the United States.

After Germany was defeated in World War II, the nation was divided into West Germany with the United States and their Allies having a great presence, and East Germany with the U.S.S.R. (Russia) Communists in control. The Communists built the Berlin Wall to keep their citizens from fleeing to the West.

One of the great moments in President Kennedy's short presidency was when he went to West Berlin to make a speech and show his solidarity with the German people. Ich Bin Ein Berliner, I am a Berliner, inspired freedom loving people around the world."

Howard Lewis: "I was in the storeroom at Signal Mountain Cement Company when I heard the news. A co-worker made a remark, and I told him, 'If you come across that again, me and you are gonna fight. I thought Kennedy was a good president.'"

Mr. Lewis is 90 now and retired from the cement plant after being a coalminer in earlier years.

Rhonda Caldwell LeCroy: "I wasn't even born when President Kennedy was assassinated, but I'm well aware of it. During my years of selling Home Interior, I went to several seminars in Dallas. On one of those trips I went to Dealey Plaza and the Texas School Book Depository building. They had a tour guide showing us around and everything was marked. You could see through where Oswald fired the shots, and the street outside was marked where the Kennedy motorcade was."

Mrs. Lecroy is the widow of Darin LeCroy, and many of our older citizens remember her grandfather the late Hill Caldwell.

Thomas M. Burnette: "My dad, Richard Burnette, died in November 1962, and that happened in November, 1963. A lot of you will remember the truck my dad had that he used to deliver dynamite to the coal mines. We still had it and were still living at the old home place behind the Palmer Church of God. My mother came out of the house and said somebody had shot the President."

Just a few years later Tom was serving with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He was the recipient of the Palmer Veterans Appreciation Award in 2001.

Mary Louise Cannon Stinnett: "I was working with Dr. Charles Littell at his clinic, and we were suturing up a young patient. His brother, Dr. Ned Littell, had a dental office in the same building.

Mrs. Lallie Hoover was an elderly lady and our friend there in Tracy City who called the office on a regular basis with all kinds of news. When the phone rang Dr. Ned answered it, and she told him that President Kennedy had been shot.

When he ran for President in 1960, there was a lot of talk about him being a Catholic, but I voted for him and so did my father Scott Cannon of Palmer. Dad was a World War I veteran who believed strongly that a person's religious convictions were between them and their God.

November 22 was the birthday of my first husband, the late J. R. Lovell. Miss Lallie didn't have any family in Tracy City, and we tried to help her in any way we could. He would carry buckets of coal into her house, and I took her to the hospital in Chattanooga and sang at her funeral.

I wish President Kennedy and his son, JFK, Jr. were still living. Princess Diana was another one who left us too soon. She wore such pretty clothes."

Raymond Hargis: "November 22, 1963, was a pleasant fall day in Grundy County. It was sunny with mild temperatures and no wind. Whatever activity one might plan, the weather would be fine for it. Being Friday, it would be a good day to start a long weekend.

Many of you remember the old Grundy County Courthouse in Altamont. (It burned in 1990.) Things were going at a slow pace there that day. None of the courts were in session. There were no tax deadlines to be met and no urgency for any local government activity. Probably the only steady work taking place was that of the state auditor who was performing the annual audit of county officials. He would be checking the receipts and expenditures of each office and the records that tracked those financial accounts.

About two months earlier I had completed the first year of my second term as county court clerk. My wife, Doris, was my 'unpaid assistant'. She was an excellent accountant and bookkeeper and also an excellent typist. Our records were accurate and up to date, and we had never had a negative audit. Since customers were few, Doris had taken Friday off because I knew I could take care of what business the office would have. She would prepare lunch, and I would take the 10 minutes or so to drive home. I left the courthouse

at 12:00 noon, and when I got to our house on Ranger Creek in Coalmont, Doris asked me if I had the car radio on. I said I did not, and she said the TV news said President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas, TX. The news said the President had been rushed to nearby Parkland Hospital, and doctors were working to save his life.

When I got back to the courthouse at 1:10 P.M., I was told the news was reporting that the President had been officially declared dead at 1:00 P.M. Everyone was in stunned disbelief. The rest of the day was a very quiet time with people speaking in subdued tones. They could hardly believe what had happened. We all tried to keep up with the events that followed – Lyndon Johnson being sworn in as President on Air Force One with Jackie Kennedy present as they were heading to Washington where President Johnson would assume the President's duties.

More events followed: Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested for the President's murder. Then, on Sunday, November 24, Oswald was murdered by Jack Ruby. Yet nothing really changed the stunning news of the President's death. All of us kept talking to each other in a sort of daze hoping that someone might say that the event never happened.

Perhaps the best example of individual reaction was that of the state auditor. I passed his work station several times that afternoon, and each time he was vacantly staring out the window in complete silence. He was a quiet, friendly man in his late fifties or early sixties. I do not recall his name now, but he was from Woodbury, TN, in Cannon County, and his stunned silence expressed a feeling we all felt.”

Mr. Hargis is a retired teacher, principal, county court clerk, and Grundy County school superintendent. He's 85 now and lives in Manchester, TN.

W.H. “Buck” Sanders: “I very well remember the awful days during that time of November 22, 1963. We had gone Christmas shopping in Chattanooga on that eventful day. We had parked in the parking garage at Sears and entered the store, I think, on the third floor. Everyone was gathered in the area of the T.V.'s, and we learned of the shooting. It was an unbelievable thing that had happened. I thought President Kennedy was a good president.

I think of all my childhood friends at Palmer, and I'm glad to hear from them through your articles in the Grundy County Herald.”

Buck grew up in Palmer and has lived in Tracy City for many years. He's a retired postmaster of the Tracy City Post Office. Many of you know his first cousins Charles Edgar Sanders and Harold James of Palmer.

Hallie James Knight: "I was working in a shirt factory at the foot of the mountain in Dunlap. We kept a radio on at work, and that's how we heard it. I was born in 1932, and in my opinion, Kennedy was the best president in my lifetime and Bill Clinton would be next. Mama lived to be almost a hundred- years-old, and she said Franklin D. Roosevelt was the best President during her lifetime because of how he helped put people back to work in the Great Depression.

President Kennedy took to many chances like riding in an open car and probably more guards wouldn't have prevented what happened. It looks like that if anyone else other than Oswald had been involved that they could have found out in the last fifty years."

Mrs. Knight lives in Gruetli-Laager and is the widow of Horace "Gid" Knight.

James Henry McBee: "On November 22, 1963, I was working at the Boeing Company in Huntsville, Alabama. It came over the intercom that President Kennedy had been shot and then a few minutes later that he had died. A great silence fell over the plant, and some people cried. It affected a lot of people.

In February 1964 I was drafted into the U.S. Army along with Tommy Sissom of Coalmont and the late Bill Nunley of Laager. We were all sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana, for basic training. I don't know where Bill went after basic, but they sent Tommy to Ft. Sill, OK, for artillery AIT and then on to Vietnam.

After basic, I thought I would be sent on, but they trained me to type. I became a clerk-typist. All of my Army time was spent at Ft. Polk, and I was discharged on my birthday, February 5, 1966.

Mr. McBee is a 1960 graduate of Grundy County High School and says he didn't take typing there because he was afraid he couldn't type as fast as they wanted you to. He's a son of the late John Henry and Irene Layne McBee and still lives in his old hometown of Gruetli-Laager.

Dennis A. Sweeton: Can you imagine being in uniform on the other side of the world and hearing that your commander-in-chief had been assassinated?

Mr. Sweeton was one of the first Americans to serve in Vietnam and was a U.S. Army soldier when he heard the news on the radio in the mess hall. He grew up in Tracy City, married the former Dottie Nolan of Palmer, and today they live in the Barker's Cove Community where they have made their home for many years.

Carolyn & Dick Johnson: The Johnsons lived in Roan Mountain, TN, at the time, and Mrs. Johnson says, "We heard the news on evening TV. How sad for our great nation and more so for the Kennedy family. I was impressed with Jackie's (his wife's) & her children's ability to handle it so well publicly - so sad for President Kennedy's mother to lose a child.

The Johnsons have visited Grundy County several times with Sara Swann Shipley and live today in Elizabethton, TN.

Sara Swann Shipley: At that time Sara and her late husband, R. Bruce Shipley, were living in northwest Philadelphia, PA, and heard the news on the radio while traveling to Knoxville, TN, to meet the new baby of University of Tennessee friend, Jimmy Smith.

Sara grew up in Palmer and is a 1935 graduate of Grundy County High School.

Ralph Rieben: "Yes, I remember the John Kennedy assassination. I had been working at the Arnold Engineering Development Center for a little over a year.

As I recall it happened on Friday, November 22, 1963. One of my work associates was at home sick that day, and he called and said the President had been shot. He did not have any of the details, and I assumed that the President would be OK. I think that most of us were in shock that someone would shoot the President of the United States. However, I must mention that we had one individual who stated, "He had it coming". After a lengthy discussion, we all went back to work for the rest of that day. The best that I remember, I did not know the President was dead until I got home from work and got the news on television. We only had black and white television back then, and we, my whole family, stayed glued to the television until very late that night. The TV coverage went on for the entire weekend and through the next several weeks, which included reports on Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby.

It was a very difficult time; there was a lot of contention with the country being divided over liberal versus conservative values, along with the threat of a nuclear war hanging over our heads. Considering the situation, I think President John Kennedy did a remarkable job."

Mr. Rieben is a longtime civic leader and former chairman of the Grundy County Commission.

Joy Walker Caldwell: "I was a student at Thomas Jefferson High School in Alexandria, VA, which is now a technical college. That day I remember coming home from school and seeing my mother standing in the door crying. My parents were very concerned about

what would become of the country after the Kennedy assassination. We didn't watch much television at our house, mostly 'Bonanza' and 'Lawrence Welk' so we didn't see as much of all the TV coverage that probably most people did."

Mrs. Caldwell has been publisher of the Gundy County Herald since 2002.

Billy Ray Nunley: "At that time I was part owner of a car dealership with Bob Borst in Birmingham, MI, which is a suburb of Detroit. I had probably been to lunch and had just pulled back up to the business when I heard it on the car radio." (In those days car radios were very important as sources of news, weather reports, music, and sports.)

"That was Thursday and on Sunday when Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald, I was deer hunting in Roscommon, MI, with Melvin "Poss" Pocus. Snow was on the ground and, when we came back to the car to drink some coffee, we heard about it on the car radio.

In 1960 I voted for Kennedy and believe that he would have been a great president if he had lived and served a second term. Bob Borst died just a few months ago at the age of 95. He was a fine Christian man and an honest businessman who made sure his employees conducted themselves likewise."

Linda Caldwell Mainord: "Back then I enjoyed watching soap operas like 'As the World Turns' which came on from 12:30 -1:00. My daughter Carol (now Carol Parsons and a teacher at Swiss Memorial Elementary) was born October 30, 1963, and I had just sat down to give her a bottle when they announced President Kennedy had been shot in Dallas. I cried.

On Sunday I saw Jack Ruby shoot Lee Harvey Oswald on live TV. I've got six VHS 'Kennedy Tapes' which go into the assassination in depth. Like a lot of people I've always thought there was more to it than what we were told at the time. If I could have I would have voted for President Kennedy when he ran in 1960, but I wasn't old enough."

Mrs. Mainord is the widow of Corky Mainord and has been director of the Gruetli-Laager Senior Citizens' Center for a number of years.

David and Janice McNabb McAnally: Many times today we take modern medical care for granted, but 50 years ago things that we don't think of much today could be life threatening, especially for children and the elderly. "David and I were at Tepper's Clinic in Chattanooga with David, Jr. who had been admitted for bronchitis. He was about two years old at the time. When they gave him oxygen they would put an "oxygen tent" over

the crib. When I was off work, I would stay, and when David was off work, he would stay. Just as everyone else that day, we saw the drama of that awful day unfold on TV. There was such a feeling of unrest and disbelief which stayed with us for days. The TV was rarely turned off until after JFK's funeral. Just five short years later, his brother, Senator Robert Kennedy was also assassinated.

Thanks, David (Patton) for all you do to bring historical events alive for the enjoyment of your readers and to educate those of us whose memory might be fading just a little."

Mrs. McAnally is a native of Palmer and the daughter of Crandel and Ethleen McNabb. She, along with her husband David and her parents, live today in Dunlap, TN.

Charlotte Sissom Haggard: "I remember vividly the day President Kennedy was shot. My husband was out of town for a few days. My phone rang, and I answered. His first words were, 'Have you seen the news?' I hadn't. I absolutely could not believe this could happen in America. I don't think I even tried to do anything but sit in front of the TV the rest of the week. How could this happen in America – the land of the free - built on freedom so that we could walk our streets in safety and love and help our neighbors? I do believe this was the beginning of America's problems. We surely do need to get back to the old ways. Some of our first Presidents were trustworthy and honest.

President Kennedy wasn't a perfect person and did not always do things in his personal life, maybe, the way he should have. But I do believe he was truly for America all the way. I can still see his casket being pulled by horses down the street and his family, especially the little boy, John Jr., saluting him as he passed in front of them. In my opinion John F. Kennedy was one of the best, if not the best, president the United States has ever had. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was also a great president."

Charlotte is a daughter of the late Rev. Buford and Gladys Overturf Sissom of Palmer and lives in Elkhart, Indiana.

Bettye Wooten Sherwood: "On November 22, 1963, I was teaching at Eighth District Elementary School in Fayetteville, TN. At 1:00 PM, the teachers took their customary break. We assembled as usual in the cafeteria, but on this day our principal joined us to deliver the devastating news that President John F. Kennedy, our 35th President, had been assassinated a few minutes earlier while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, TX. We were all shocked, saddened, and some even cried. It was, then, the responsibility of each teacher to relate the news of this tragedy to his or her students. As expected my fifth graders were very emotional and shed many tears. They had many questions, most of

which I could not answer, so I just tried to comfort them and told them that all the details of this tragic day would be played over and over on television that night. When the students were dismissed at 2:45, they were met in the parking lot by grieving parents who embraced them and reassured them that all was well.

After school I went to get my daughter, Sherri, at her grandmother Sherwood's. As expected, I found Mrs. Sherwood was very disturbed and saddened by what she had learned of the dreadful occurrence of that day. When I arrived home I called my parents, Clarence and Julia Mai Wooten, in Hubbard's Cove. Mother was home from Altamont Elementary where she taught. Someone had called her school to break the news of the horrible happening in Dallas. The teachers had turned on their TV's, and the students watched the unfolding events until the time that they were dismissed. One of those students told me recently that all children watched the television in complete silence, and she said, 'It as one of the saddest times that I ever knew.' By 3:30 my television was on, and I remained glued to it all weekend and the following Monday, which was declared a National Day of Mourning with schools and federal and state offices closed and flags flown at half-staff. One of my most vivid memories is what happened shortly after the body of President Kennedy was placed on board Air Force One for the trip back to Washington, D.C. It was so touching to watch the dignity and grace portrayed by the first lady, Jacqueline Kennedy, as she stood solemnly, still wearing her blood smeared pink suit and witnessed as Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson was sworn into office as our next president.

I watched intensely all aspects of the funeral which had been meticulously planned by Jacqueline Kennedy in order to allow a grieving nation to honor its fallen president. Still etched in my memory is the sight of John John (JFK, Jr.) on his third birthday as he saluted his father's casket. And then there was the unforgettable scene of Jacqueline with her daughter Caroline as they knelt by the casket to say their final goodbyes.

Mrs. Sherwood and her husband Bob live, today, in Hubbard's Cove.

Janelle Layne Taylor: Janelle was a senior at Grundy County High School in Tracy City. An announcement came from the intercom while she was in Mrs. Dorothy Schaerer's English class. She and the friends who sat around her, Richard Laxson, Dave Melton, and Willene Campbell were in disbelief that anything like that could have happened. After all, they lived in the United States, not some uncivilized area of the world.

Transistor radios were new technology at the time, but Janelle had brought hers along that day, so the group held the little radio up to a metal pipe in the corner of the room. It

brought the signal in more clearly so that they could hear the news. Mrs. Libby O'Dear let them continue listening to the radio during the next class as the story of the assassination unfolded.

Today Janelle is a retired teacher married to David Taylor and is active in the Grundy County Historical Society.

Donna Landon Lovelace: "On November 22, 1963, I was in U.S. History class at Grundy County High School with Mrs. Marean Crabtree as the teacher. Our principal, Mr. John A. Anderson, came on the intercom and announced that the President had been hit by gunshots while in Dallas, TX. The class was stunned and just sat there for a few minutes. The students slowly began to ask questions of Mrs. Crabtree and to talk among ourselves. No one could believe that such a horrible thing could be done. The class simply sat there and waited for any further news about the incident. Sometime before school was dismissed, Mr. Anderson came on the intercom again and announced our president was dead and that Lyndon B. Johnson had been sworn in as President.

Riding home on the school bus was a very muted experience. The students were still asking questions and were very upset that such a thing could happen in the land of the free. I got off the bus at Mr. Mose Birdwell's Service Station in Gruetli and walked home. Mom and Dad had heard the news also and were talking about it when I got to our house. To me they didn't seem as shocked as I was, and when they asked how school had been I broke down crying and said, 'Don't you realize that the President has been shot?' and ran in the house crying.

I remember that the family sat and watched all the newscasts that were constantly on that day and after that. I remember the scene of the theater which Oswald was supposed to have hidden in. I remember the crowd of policemen, reporters, and others that were in the basement of the police station when they were moving Oswald to a more secure place, I guess, then suddenly this man in a hat pushed his way into the crowd, and a shot was heard, and Oswald slumped with the near-by policemen trying to catch him as he fell. Other policemen were seen grabbing the man in the hat. The announcer was excited and didn't seem to know what to say.

This was on the news for several days and weeks. I really don't remember what I thought of Mr. Kennedy. I guess I was just not interested in politics at the time. I just remember how upset I was when he was killed."

William Ray Turner: “ We were living in ‘Black Bottom’ in Tracy City next to the shirt factory at that time. Me and Wilburn Fults and Charlie Dykes were putting shingles on a garage at the house when someone from the shirt factory called and told us about it.

During President Kennedy’s term we almost got into a nuclear war with Russia over them putting missiles in Cuba. I remember that President Kennedy called Cuba ‘Cuber’. Maybe when the 100th year of this assassination comes around they’ll tell who else was involved in it.

Wilburn Fults and Charlie Dykes are dead now as well as Paul Wilhelm who ran the shirt factory then. His wife, Mae King Wilhelm, just passed away earlier this year.” Mr. Turner has been our Grundy County historian for many years.

David Patton: “I was a student in Isabel Gunn’s math class at Grundy County High School on that very early Friday afternoon. I don’t know if he was at school that day, but I remember that Pig Harrison of Palmer was also in the class.

One of the most amazing things to me was the assassin himself, Lee Harvey Oswald, being murdered right there on television forty-eight hours after he killed the President. Talk about poor security! In today’s age of terrorism that would be very unlikely to happen.

Everybody talks about what a shock it was, but we had three presidential assassinations before Kennedy, all within the time span of just 36 years. McKinley was the last of those in 1901. That was sixty-two years before Kennedy and maybe because it had been so long was why people had largely forgotten that it could happen again. President Reagan was the last to be shot in the 1980’s and came within a hair of dying. Today we realize it as an ever-present danger, and security is much tighter than it was in 1963.

On October 12, 1963, I turned sixteen-years-old. Before Kennedy our images of presidents were of old gray-headed or bald men wearing glasses and looking like your grandpa. To the young people of 50 year ago, President Kennedy and his wife Jackie looked more like them than old people, and you could relate to them.”

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Janelle Layne Taylor, Donna Landon Lovelace, and Michelle Travis in bringing you this story.

PALMER NEWS

Here it is already November 5th, and Thanksgiving is almost upon us. What a wonderful day of good food and being together with family and friends. I like turkey and dressing any time of year but it tastes especially good on Thanksgiving.

This November has special meaning for those of us old enough to remember where we were on November 22, 1963 when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Tx. Be sure to check out our special story “Remembering JFK—50 Years Later” on this website and in the pages of the Grundy County Herald.

I turned 66 years old on October 12th, and it seems only recently that I was a student at Palmer School, but it has been 52 years ago instead. Thanks to Mr. Raymond Hargis, Mary Ruth Rogers, Janice McNabb McAnally, Gail Coffelt, Charlotte Sissom Haggard, Gary Bouldin and Randal Nolan for the cards.

Speaking of Palmer School, for the 19th consecutive Halloween night, I stayed there and watched the school. I enjoy it every Halloween and walk around the halls and classrooms all night and let the memories flow. The old school turns 86 on November 14th and be watching for a special story on this website and the Grundy County Herald about Grundy County’s oldest school.

Halloween 2013 was dry and breezy during the day, and the rain that night happened after the trick or treaters made their rounds for the most part. Hallie Knight down in Gruetli-Laager made four pounds of candy last year and a big batch this year. One place there, they had 260 kids come by. Eddie and Rita Crabtree live in the old Dave Henninger house next to Palmer School, and she had about 40 kids come by. Blake Meeks and his daughters were the only ones to come by Palmer School, and I had some candy for them. He’s a grandson of the late Buford Meeks and Alf Crabtree.

Jimmy Long traveled to Crossville, Tn. to watch the Grundy County Yellow Jackets beat the Cumberland County Jets on October 25th and says it was a bitterly cold night for a football game. Back in the coal mining days the Longs came to Palmer from the Crossville area. Jimmy was a good football, baseball, and softball player in his young days and now plays a lot of golf.

Palmer School had their annual "Book Fair" last month which featured a family reading night on October 17th. The school has a security system with cameras now, and the doors are kept locked. If you're not a staff member you have to push a buzzer and stand in front of a camera so those inside can see who you are and then the door is unlocked.

Rev. Tim Geer of the Sparta-Crossville area held a revival last month at the Gruetli Church of God. He's a friend of Bobby Stinnett whose family came to Palmer from Sparta to work in the mines in the spring of 1942.

Yellow Jackets go away! Yellow Jackets have stayed around longer this fall than at any time in recent years. I got stung while walking on Palmer Mountain a few days before Halloween, and it really hurt but a Benadryl pill gave almost instant relief. On November 2nd, I saw a snake sticking its head out of a stack of wood in my backyard. It looked like a black snake, and I hope so instead of a poisonous one.

The most popular sign in Grundy County has to be "For Sale". They're everywhere I go, and the other day I noticed the old Margie Sanders Ramey store building on School House Road for sale. Margie must have built the store in the late 1960's, and over the years it has been a pool hall, day care center, etc. Rev. Charles Slatton, son of Horace Ray Slatton, had the Gospel Trumpet Holiness Church there until closing it a couple years ago. The little building next to it was the Palmer Post Office for a short time then Foxy Sanders had a store there until his death in the mid 1960's.

The old Charlie and Velloa Hampton Patrick house at the corner of Hwy. 108 and Chiggertown Loop is a Palmer landmark. After they died their daughter, Juanita "Weedy", lived there until her death. Then their grandson, Lindley Long, lived there until his death.

Since then Lindley's widow, Carol has lived there, but recently moved to the Cleveland or Chattanooga area to live with a daughter. Carol's a sister of the late Willie Dee Meeks. The old home place is still in the family and owned by Weedy's daughter, Joan Nasso, who rents it out.

The Big 8 Basketball Conference for elementary schools opened Nov. 5th, and the Palmer Bulldogs played at home against the Pelham Tigers. Palmer boys won, and Pelham girls won by one point.

Where did the teams get their names? When Jimmy Northcutt was coach, and I played in the 1960-61 season for Palmer I don't remember the teams having nicknames.

The late Jim Rollins graduated from Palmer in 1962 and told me he believed it was the fall of 1961 when Palmer became the Bulldogs and that was probably when all the schools named their teams. Mr. A. J. Layne was Principal at that time, and maybe, he remembers something about that.

“What’s For Supper?” Donna Gifford Basham called recently, and said she was cooking “Sunday Dinner” which included among other things roast, green beans, deviled eggs and cornbread. Sure sounds good. Donna Lovelace says she loves cornbread, and Mary Stinnett likes cornbread and milk. Mary says that when she was growing up a favorite snack she and her dad enjoyed was saltine crackers topped with a little butter or margarine and sprinkled with sugar.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Oma James McNabb in their loss. Oma was the last surviving member of the Uncle “Jessie” or “Will” James family, and he was a Justice of the Peace in the early days of Palmer. She was the widow of Marion “Soap” McNabb, and many of you remember her brothers, Little Red and Emmett, and sisters, Oda Roberts and Minnie Sanders, as well as other siblings. Oma was 96, and church friend Tom Burnette spoke at her funeral and said her favorite breakfast was cucumbers and coffee. He said when they went to Cracker Barrel, and they offered her salt or butter, she would say, “I don’t use it.” Tom said, “No wonder she lived so long.” Rev. Danny Coffelt preached the funeral, and the songs were “Amazing Grace” and “I Want to Stroll Through Heaven With You.”

As of November 6th, we still have a couple of fall cabbage in the garden, and we’ve given the others to Betty Finch Bush, Eddie Crabtree, Larry Henry, Jerry Harrison, Mike Shadrick, Howard Lewis, David Scissom (grandson of the late Albert “Hatchet” and Alice Mae Sanders Sweeton), and Betty Magouirk Sanders. Our first killing frost was October 25th, and it wiped out everything, but we had the cabbage covered.

“On Sick Call.” It seems that all you hear is “Cancer, Cancer, Cancer.” A fundraising dinner was held November 2nd for cancer patient Ricky Keener at the Palmer Community Center. He’s the son of Joann Campbell Keener and the late L.H. Keener.

Martin Charles Morrison, first cousin of Mr. A. J. Layne, is seriously ill as is Joyce Hargis and Bruce Knight. Becky Guffey is recovering from surgery, and Mark Roberts says he has heart problems now. Former Gruetli-Laager Mayor Donna Meeks Rollins has been hospitalized with heart problems in Nashville. Mike Shadrick and Randal Nolan have

diabetes, but thankfully right now are on pills instead of having to take shots. Remember all of these sick ones in your prayers.

A "Cruise In" was held on October 19th at Foxy Sanders Memorial Field to benefit the Palmer Volunteer Fire Dept. These antique car shows are popular all over Grundy County. The Field is located on what was the old railroad "Wye" and is named for a popular softball manager when that sport was big years ago.

Happy November birthday wishes to Sara Swann Shipley of Johnson City, Tn. who turns 97 on the 13th and to Bobby Owen of Peachtree City, Ga. who turns 84 on the same day. Both are former residents of Palmer, and Sara told me the following story several years ago.

"In 1929, I was really looking forward to my 13th birthday and becoming a teenager. We were neighbors of the Owen family in Palmer, and on my 13th birthday Bobby Owen was born. Instead of me being the center of attention because I had become a teenager all the talk was about the new baby in the neighborhood, and I was really disappointed."

Other birthday wishes go out this month to Betty Finch Bush who still lives in Chiggertown and turns 81. My brother, Joel Wade Patton, lives in Coalmont and turns 64. Betty's a retired R.N., and Joel's still working at the Sewanee Water Plant.

Faces in the Crowd: We ran into Herby Hart, and he was clearing off his old home place where he grew up in the Laager part of Gruetli-Laager. He's a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Hart.

"Hello, Rick." That's what a stranger said to Ricky "Rock" Layne at Cindy McCullough's Traders Market and Deli. Ricky is legally blind and didn't know who it was. It was Hugh Thomas Layne, his second cousin, and a son of Willie Mae Brown Layne and the late Andrew Layne. I'm sure the "Hugh" comes from his late grandfather Rev. J. Hugh Layne. Hugh Thomas has lived away from Grundy County most of his life in places like Texas and California. He had been living in Arizona until his wife died and moved to Laager in February.

Chester Lockhart of Oakwood, Ga. has been visiting his sisters, Stella Mae Dodson, Winnie Sissom, and Minnie McCullough. He turned 80 earlier this year.

Stella Mae said she visited Rhodie King Rankin recently. She's the widow of Murph Rankin and 90 now. Mr. Raymond Hargis said Murph was a well-known fisherman and

people used to call him the “Mayor of Laager.” Mr. Hargis is working on a story about local fishermen from years ago.

Arlene Brown Shadrick, along with her daughter Delores and son-in-law Joe, visited Mike Shadrick and other relatives. She’s the widow of Mike’s brother, Joe Brannon Shadrick, and they live in the Detroit area. Arlene also visited Billy Ray Nunley who grew up friends with Joe Brannon in Palmer. She’s a Coalmont Brown, and I believe Billy Ray said her dad was Clarence Brown and that he had a machine shop in Michigan many years ago.

“From out of the blue of the western sky comes Sky King.” Do you remember the “Sky King” show on TV in the 1950’s? Kirby Grant was Sky King who piloted his twin engine plane, “The Songbird”, around the West accompanied by his niece Penny. It came on Saturday morning and was sponsored by Nabisco. It was a good clean show for kids and others from a more gentle time in television history.

We have more news, but we’ve absolutely got to get out of here before we put too much work on our typist, Donna.

As always, we’re coming to you from right here “where the good people live” and wish all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving. Along with all the fellowship, good eating, football games or whatever, pause just a moment and be thankful for all the blessings that we too often take for granted.

December 2013

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us!
David, Michelle and Donna

PALMER NEWS

Merry Christmas! Yes, it’s once again time to enjoy “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year” as the old song says. I’ve noticed over the years that Christmas does seem to bring out the best in most people, and they seem to be more kind and think of others and that’s the way it should be.

Gail Bryant Coffelt lost her husband, Bruce, in July, and says she was really touched by receiving a sympathy card from Gary Bouldin. The card had butterflies on it, and unknown to Gary that is one of Gail's favorite things.

"I'm glad you're back at the Grundy County Herald. It's not the same without you." Thank you, Leon Christian, for those kind words. Leon was mowing the sides of the road with the big machine he runs for the Grundy County Highway Department. He turns 72 this month so "Happy Birthday."

Another "Happy Birthday" wish goes out to David Scissom who turned 60 last month. He's a brother of my Palmer School classmate, Carolyn Scissom Fults.

Last month, we told you about former Palmer resident, Sara Swan Shipley, having her 97th. birthday up in Johnson City, Tn. Sara's friend, Carolyn Johnson, of Elizabethton, Tn. called and told us Sara is in an assisted living place and although having very poor eyesight is still mentally alert and active physically as much as possible. To our knowledge, Sara's closest living relative is a nephew, Lee Swann, son of Sara's late brother, Hampton Swann.

Doesn't the "Good Book" say something to the effect that in the last days the seasons will be so mixed up it will be hard to tell them apart? On November 9th, I noticed the yellow forsythia shrubs in Darwin Shipley's yard almost in full bloom. They normally bloom in spring or late winter.

Veterans Day 2013 was beautiful and sunny and mild, and we attended the celebration to honor our veterans at Grundy County High School. While there we enjoyed meeting Dorie Sanders Bryant. She's a daughter of former Palmer resident W.H. "Buck" Sanders, and is a very pretty and friendly girl.

Speaking of Veteran's Day, we've been telling you about yellow jackets hanging around so long this fall. We saw our last ones Veterans Day. It turned bitter cold the next day so maybe they're gone for good.

I put lime and dead leaves on my little backyard garden spot in November. They say leaves really enrich the soil. I cut my last fall cabbage November 12th. and gave it to Jerry Harrison. I enjoyed my last garden tomato around November 5th. I picked the green ones off and brought them inside to ripen.

We received our first Christmas card on November 20th from Angie Northcutt Burnett of Pelham. Angie grew up in Altamont and was an outstanding basketball player for Petie Baker at Altamont Elementary. She later played at Grundy County High School. She's one of our favorite people and is involved in all kinds of community work, including the first annual Fannie Moffitt Stomp. It is a big celebration and brought a lot of people to Altamont this fall.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Joyce Roberts Hargis in their loss. Joyce, a retired teacher, was known in a lot of different ways during her long life in Grundy County. I enjoyed stopping and visiting with her and her husband, Clayton, when out walking. I'll always remember Joyce for her hospitality. She knew how to make you feel welcome in her home. A large crowd attended the visitation and funeral. Some 603 people signed the register at Layne Funeral Home. Among the pall bears were her nephews: Tom Coffelt, son of Agnes Roberts Coffelt; Harold Roberts, son of Rev. James Roberts; and the Jones brothers, John Ross and Zack, grandsons of Kat Roberts Jones

“What’s the world coming to?” Years ago, people were embarrassed if they or someone in their family caught “lice”, but apparently that’s not the case these days.

When we stayed at Palmer school Halloween night we saw an advertisement for a company that would come to your house and get rid of the lice.

Lice has always been associated with people who didn't keep their bodies clean then when they went to school or other public places other people would catch the lice from them and then it spread all over the place. You wouldn't expect in 2013 to hear about lice with all the modern conveniences which make it easy to stay clean, but apparently, the old saying is still true, “The more things change the more they stay the same.”

“What’s for Supper?” We enjoyed visiting Dr. Kim Taylor, FNP and her mother, Betty Finch Bush, over in Chiggertown recently. Kim served us a delicious chicken salad sandwich with grapes and nuts in it on toasted bread, and even gave us one to take home. Betty gave us some candy bars. Thanks to both of you for your hospitality.

Earlier this fall, Charles Edgar Sanders brought us some apples and told us about his wife, Betty, making good apple pies. Sure enough, a couple weeks later, Charles brought me one. I said pie, but it was in a pan. It was thin and might have been apple strudel. Talk about good! By the next night, I had eaten it all. Thanks, Betty and Charles.

I was telling Mr. Raymond Hargis that I liked cheese and crackers and also mentioned peppermint candy. He said that years ago people would eat peppermint candy with the cheese and crackers. That sounds good, and I bet would give it a zing. I'm going to try it soon.

Mr. Hargis is a former Grundy county School Superintendent and County Court Clerk. He says he would sometimes go to a restaurant with General Sessions Judge J.C. "Red" Ray. Back then a lot of people put a piece of fatback in beans to season them as they cooked and many still do. He said if there was a piece of fatback in the beans when they served them to Judge Ray he would eat it too. Pork really seasons things, and I like it too. Judge Ray's wife, Henrietta, taught Biology at Grundy County High School for years, and both are now deceased.

"If you want to die eat bacon and sausage." That's what retired R.N. Mary Cannon Stinnett told a friend of mine back in the fall. Mary's husband, Bob, almost waited too late, but he had open heart surgery just in the nick of time a few years ago and it saved his life.

"Give me that old time religion, its good enough for me." The words from that old song bring back precious memories for me. Rev. Aylor Layne, father of Mr. A. J. Layne, and Rev. M. C. "Bud" Hampton, father of Mrs. Wanda Meeks, were two of the most well-known preachers in the early days of Palmer.

In those days you didn't have a lot of big churches where people could gather, and Wanda says that her dad and Rev. Layne once held a revival at the old Grundy County Courthouse in Altamont. Times have changed, and the religious influence in America declines more and more each day, in my opinion.

A few weeks ago, I was walking down Cannon Road and glanced in the woods across from the Jerry Harrison's home and saw a possum in a little cage-like trap. I stopped and told Jerry, and he said his grandson, Caleb Cannon, put the trap out hoping to catch a coon. "Possums like to roam around on moonlit nights, and he got in the trap," Jerry said.

We asked Jerry if he'd ever eaten a possum, and he said, "My Aunt Minerva Harrison Banks, who married Robbie Banks, used to fix them for us all the time. They're good baked with sweet potatoes around them." Up until recent years people in Grundy County ate all the rabbits and squirrels they could get and some ate coons and possums. There were no deer or turkey around, or they were so few no one could find them. These days,

wild turkeys and deer are plentiful, and you seldom hear of anyone eating the other animals we just mentioned.

“The ground was spewed up.” Years ago November was the big hog killing month in Grundy County, and it had to be cold in order to do that.

In the winter after a rain and a hard freeze you can walk through the yard and see little mounds of dirt pushed up with frost or ice on them and that’s what “the ground was spewed up” meant.

According to Wanda Meeks the ground was like that in November the last time her father-in-law, Henry Meeks, ever killed hogs. “He had some men helping him, and they killed eight hogs in one day.” Wanda said. “The next day, he walked to our house and brought us some pork chops and liver.”

“Memories of Waynie or Wayney.” Like most of the Cannon, the late Wayne Cannon was a friendly and sociable person, and his niece, Pam Cannon Morrison, has fond memories of him. “At Christmas, he gave everybody, and I mean everybody, in the family a present.” Pam’s the daughter of Jerry Cannon.

“Faces in the Crowd:” “I should know you”, and they did remember each other from their childhood. Donna Rose (our Palmer News typist) Landon Lovelace was at Sheltering Arms Nursing Home in Palmer to visit her mother, Clara Landon and talked to Glenda Britton Harrison.

Joel Patton ran into Jimmy long recently and also James Campbell and wife, Theresia, who live in the old Ewing Hampton home.

The day before Thanksgiving, we saw Kenneth Brewer and Jim Crabtree. Others we’ve seen lately are Herby Hart and his sister, Kat King, Don and Brenda LeCroy, Joe David Tate, Sherry Cookston, Preston Nolan, David Nolan, Marvin Nolan, GCHS Coach Ricky Richards, retired Palmer Postmaster, Darlene Brooks, Danny Green, Darrel and Becky Henry Layne, and Danny “Muzzy” Morrison.

We walked over in Chiggertown and visited with Jimmy King, brother of Robert Earl King and the late Franklin “Frank” King. David Nolan lives in Soddy Daisy and is a son of the late Buddy Nolan. Danny Green’s a well-known brick mason and son of the late Clyde Green. Kenneth Brewer is a former Grundy County Commissioner, and Jim Crabtree’s a son of the late Gordon and Ethleen Crabtree.

“Thanksgiving 2013 Round Up”: It all began with a Thanksgiving card from Gary Bouldin a week or so before the big day. Then on November 23rd. Mike Shadrick brought us a delicious Thanksgiving dinner from the Gruetli Church of God. His church started doing this four or five years ago, and this year gave away over 2,000 meals with Mike delivering 50 of them this year himself.

On the afternoon before Thanksgiving, we found a box of Moon Pies and a carton of Double Cola in glass bottles inside our front door. What a treat, and thanks to Rev. Brett Meeks.

That night, Brett, along with wife, Anita, son, Josh, and Brett’s mother, Wanda, went to Tracy City for a Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Jacob and Stephanie Yarworth Meeks. Jacob’s his son, and Jacob’s wife, Stephanie, is the daughter of well-known pharmacist, Mike Yarworth.

Thanksgiving 2013 will always be remembered for the bitter cold spell in the preceding four days and on Thanksgiving morning a low of 15 degrees was reported.

However, the day was filled with beautiful sunshine and turned out to be very nice and pleasant. Dr. David Dickerson, Supervisor of Instruction for the Grundy County School System, and wife, Karen, drove out from Altamont and brought me a delicious Thanksgiving dinner. A couple hours later, School Board member Charles Edgar Sanders came over from Tatesville and brought me another delicious Thanksgiving dinner from his wife, Betty.

So, I’m a very lucky man, and believe you me, a very thankful man, to have good food and good friends that made Thanksgiving 2013 wonderful for me.

“Good night, David. Good night, Chet, and Good night for NBC News.” This was one of the most famous sign offs in television history and a lot of you out there still remember it.

Mr. Raymond Hargis was Palmer Elementary School Principal from 1955-58, and in the early days of television the “Huntley-Brinkley Report” with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley was the top rated television newscast.

During Mr. Hargis’ time as Principal, the United States and the U.S.S.R. (Russia) were bitter rivals to be the first to explore outer space and land a man on the moon.

Also, probably 1957, during one of those years Palmer School's Christmas play was entitled Santa and the Space Men.

Can you imagine sitting in your home in Palmer and hearing your school Christmas play being mentioned on the Huntley-Brinkley Report? He was sitting in a chair watching it and reading the Chattanooga newspaper. He has written about this before and said, "To this day I have no idea how Chet Huntley knew about our Christmas play at Palmer School."

"To all a Merry Christmas and to all a good night." That's our wish for you from all of us here "where the good people live." We do hope you'll continue to visit with us in the New Year of 2014.