

2014

January 2014

PALMER NEWS

Happy New Year. We hope that you started 2014 off on the right foot by having the traditional meal of hog jow, black-eyed peas, and turnip greens on New Year's Day. I sure did and enjoyed it with hot cornbread.

We're sitting here writing by a warm stove while looking out of the window at big white snowflakes blowing in the wind. It's January 17th, and we'll soon have January behind us and turn the corner and head for spring. A few minutes ago, I looked out the front door and saw a pretty scene. Red birds were hopping around my big black pile of coal with the white snowflakes falling around them.

Our title says "Christmas Special" so let's get right into it by telling you who we heard from this holiday. Many times a Christmas card is the only time of the year you'll hear from a distant relative, friend, or someone from your school days.

We got our first card from Angie Northcutt of Pelham on November 20th and then they really started coming in from Helen Parsons Dykes, Randal Nolan, David and Tammy Nolan, Stella Lockhart Dodson, Gary Bouldin, Beverly Kilgore Daniel, Ricky "Rock" and Freda Layne, Tim and Christie Smith, Leo and Brenda Andy, David and Janelle Layne Taylor, Ralph Rieben, Tom and Frieda Meeks Burnette, Bob and Mary Cannon Stinnett, Kat Hart King, Ralph and Susan Thompson, William Ray and Marie Yarworth Turner, Lucyle Pirtle Hampton, Becky Marler Brandt, Delbert and Millie Perry Layne, Mary Patten Priestly, Donny and Jane Rogers Sherman, David and Rosanna Coffelt Cleek, Larry and Debbie McDaniel Henry, Beverly Sissom Riley, Charlotte Sissom Haggard, Bobby Lloyd and Perkie Cannon Greene, Donna Gayle Gifford Basham, Rosemary Doss James, Kay Doss, Darrell and Becky Henry Layne, Dwight and Linda Shrum Tate, Raymond Hargis, Diana Henry Smith, Keith and Barbara Hall Brown, Jean Heard (widow of Homer Douglas Heard), Betty Jo Nunley Turner, Sara Swann Shipley and her friends Dick and Carolyn Johnson, Joy Caldwell (publisher of the Grundy County Herald), David and Janice McAnally and her parents Crandel and Ethlene Sitz McNabb (Janice says their first Christmas card of the season was from me.), Susan Sissom and her

husband Smokey Colston who is the grandson of legendary Grundy County High School English teacher Ethel "Ma" Colston, W. H. "Buck" and Dot Conry Sanders, Bob and Bettye Wooten Sherwood, Jim and Martha Carroll Cox Hensley, Grundy County Sheriff's Department, Bobby and Judy Owen, Dr. David and Karen Whitman Dickerson, Carl "Tubby" Tate, Mark Roberts, Wanda Hampton Meeks, Joe Willard and Jean Worley Fults, Mary Ruth Rogers (widow of Burr Rogers), and also cards from her sons Jimmy and John Rogers, Johnnie Jane Heard Brown of McMinnville, Tn., Shelly McGee Meeks, Gail Bryant Coffelt (daughter of the late Harley Bryant and widow of Bruce Coffelt), Calvin and Charlotte Long Finch out in Riverside, California, Jody and Rolanda Layne Summers, Dean and Venessa Guffey Cleek, Howard and Oma Boyd Lewis, Eddie and Rita Smartt Crabtree, and finally, a card from Mr. A. J. Layne who was our Principal at Palmer Elementary when I graduated in 1961.

Speaking of Mr. Layne, Billy Ray Nunley, 80, had this to say when I told him I received a card from Mr. Layne, "A.J.'s dad, Aylor Layne, was a nice man, a Christian man and a preacher. When I was just a kid he would sit under the persimmon tree on the porch at the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company "Company Store" where men and boys gathered to talk. He would quote Bible verses to me. His neighbor over in Chiggertown, Mr. Henry Turner, was also a nice man, and they would sit under the persimmon tree and talk about the Bible."

We got a number of gifts and some cards after Christmas on January 4th, January 11th, and January 13t when Bobby Stinnett came by and brought me some peppermint candy.

"I don't get around much anymore." Remember that old song"? That's what Joe Willard Fults said with a laugh when we talked to him by phone before Christmas.

The Nolan brothers mentioned are the sons of the late Buddy Nolan. Helen Dykes worked at the Grundy County Herald for years and retired as City Recorder for the Town of Tracy City. Tubby Tate is the son of the Fred Tate.

Grundy County Historian, William Ray Turner and wife, Marie, came out from Tracy City to bring me a box of Christmas presents the Saturday before the holiday. They've done that for years, and we want to say a very sincere "Thank You" to them and everyone for the gifts and cards. We appreciate it very much, and how wonderful to hear from all of you.

The Town of Palmer had their 28th annual "Palmer Community Christmas Celebration" on December 13th. It consists of a parade, church service at Palmer United Methodist, and dinner at the Community Center which is located where the Palmer Service Station and Cleek's Cafe were years ago in that old remodeled building. I was Chairman of the Palmer Municipal Planning Commission when we started it in 1986 and was also myself honored to come up with the name. Kelso Long played the piano at the church this year. Among those attending the celebration were Allie Jean "Shorty" Sanders and Larry and Gayle Weaver Crabtree.

Happy January birthday to Howard Shirley Cunningham 89, his sister, Helen Ackerman Arbuckle 86, and Wanda Hampton Meeks 85, the widow of J. T. Meeks.

Continuing on with our Christmas News, we walked over to Tatesville to take a Christmas card to Danny Lee and Janie Harrison Roberts and their son, Jamie Roberts who runs Sheltering Arms Nursing Home. We also took a card to Thelma Bone Nolan and her cousin Clara Bone Landon who are patients there. Mrs. Nolan is the widow of Buddy Nolan, and Mrs. Landon was Palmer's first Librarian back in the 1950's and is the widow of George Landon. Others there you might know are Margaret Cleek Creighton, widow of Tom Creighton, and Luevina Sanders Rollins, widow of Walter "Smokey" Rollins and first cousin of Buck Sanders.

Danny told us he has Diabetes now. He's a son of the late Rev. James Roberts and Janie's a daughter of the late Hershel Harrison. They run a first class facility and have patients from all different areas and backgrounds. Janie's a good cook, and while there we had lunch.

The Grundy County High School Chorus sang at Palmer Elementary on December 17th, and the school Christmas play was on the 19th. Anna Carol Cook Disheroon is a Palmer graduate as is her husband, E. J. Disheroon. They live in Chattanooga where their son, Grady, is an official with Oakwood Baptist Church. Anna Carol and Grady brought presents from the church that day for everyone at Palmer and Swiss Memorial School. Grady's grandfathers were Paul Cook and Ernest Disheroon.

Pastor Ronnie Partin and the House Of The Lord Church on Palmer Mountain had their Christmas play December 22nd. We walked by the church a few days earlier and talked with Ronnie. "I've been trying to walk, myself, but every time I do

people stop and offer me a ride, and I spend more time talking than walking,” he told us.

Gail Coffelt was invited to the Christmas play at Mt. Ararat Methodist Church in the Flat Branch Community by her friend, Sharon Childers Turner of Tracy City. She said they had a full house and Bobby Jack Carrick and Elmer Green are among those who preach there.

Mt. Ararat was founded in 1951, and Rev. Aylor Layne of Palmer was among the preachers in the early years as was Rev. Ed Nunley who lived at Flat Branch. The Late Rev. Nunley was the father of the late Mrs. Dave (Pearl) Green of Palmer, and he has a grandson, Charles Green, still living here and a granddaughter, Mrs. Johnny (Gail) Irvin of Coalmont.

Pastor John Henry Coffelt and Palmer First Baptist had their Christmas dinner December 15th. The last service before Christmas was the 22nd, and everyone got a little brown sack with a Hershey bar, apple, and orange in it as churches gave years ago.

The Kindness of Strangers: Right before Christmas I was sitting at a back table in Traders Market and Deli enjoying some chips and a Coke when I saw a stranger come in and pick up a fresh baked pizza. He saw me and motioned me to come forward and gave me a slice of his hot pizza. He was deaf and used Sign Language. I asked around and found out that he was the son of Charles Morgan of Coalmont, although, I don't know his first name. What a nice and thoughtful thing to do and “Thank You” Mr. Morgan.

On Christmas, just before dark, Charles Edgar Saunders and his wife, Betty, brought me a Christmas dinner which I enjoyed to wrap up the day.

Not long after that, I heard a knock, and it was Mike Shadrick with a little brown sack of candy and fruit from Gruetli Church of God. He then handed me a box of peppermint canes, and said, “David, Johnnie Ruth gave this to me Friday and told me to be sure and give it to you.”

“Johnnie Ruth” was his sister, Johnnie Ruth Shadrick Trussell. For the last several years she had been the caregiver for her sister, Donna LeCroy, who suffers from Huntingdon's Disease which killed her mother, her brother, Dwight Shadrick, and their uncle, Noah John Brown.

Johnnie gave the gift for me to Mike on Friday. On Saturday, December 21st, she was found dead in Donna's home of an apparent Heart Attack. She was the widow of Howard Trussell, and they lived in Decherd, Tn. They had two daughters. She was taken back to Decherd for burial, and we extend our sincere sympathy to the family. I knew Johnnie for only a short time, but what a nice and friendly person she was, and I'll never forget her.

We visited Steve Garner over in Chiggertown and took him a Christmas card. He gave us some Dayton Mountain tomatoes, and they were really good. His mother, Dorothy Morrison Garner, is in her 90's and lives with her daughter, Debbie, in Gruetli-Laager.

Insects can survive anything, I guess, and on December 6th I found a wasp while sweeping the kitchen floor.

On sick call: Randal Nolan of Chattanooga works as a Security Guard, and said after he finished his shift on December 29th, the next thing he remembers is waking up in Memorial Hospital with a Stroke. He stayed three days or so, and we all wish him the best.

Alyene Layne McBee, widow of Jim Dave McBee, is recovering from a broken hip, and Mary Anderson Turner, daughter of the late Jim Anderson, is recovering from a broken ankle.

Sylvia Henry Hancock, daughter of the late Red Henry, has really been struggling with Diabetes lately. We're also sad to report that Hester Mae Givens Brewer is now in a nursing home.

We've got a lot more news, but we must get out of here for now. The January cold is the big topic here "where the good people live" as I'm sure it probably is where you live. Be watching for our monthly weather reports on this website.

Stay warm, and we'll try to visit again in the "Valentine's Day" month of February.

February 2014

PALMER NEWS

“January, February, the 4th of July.” I’ve been humming the lyrics from this song the past several days. Maybe, I’m longing for the good hot July weather after this miserable winter. It’s 10 P.M. on February 28th, and when we walked out to the mailbox a minute ago, it looked like it was trying to sleet. Be looking for our February weather report soon on this website.

“What’s for supper?” We just sat back down after checking on our little pot of bubbling soup. Do you like soup? I really do winter and summer, but cooking is a funny thing. You do it basically the same way every time, but it doesn’t always turn out like you expect.

We got a nice letter recently from Mr. John Thomas of Falls Church, Virginia. He saw our story on this website about the 100th birthday celebration of Mr. Crandel McNabb last summer. Crandel was a Boy Scout leader for years, and Mr. Thomas gathers Scout history from Southeast Tennessee.

“You had to have so much cover on you that you could barely turn over in bed.” That’s how Mike Shadrick described the old coal mining houses and how cold they were 50 years and longer ago. No electric blankets or heat in every room as we have today. Mr. A. J. Layne, I, and many others went through the same thing.

Our little landmark store, Kelley’s Grocery, burned to the ground on Thursday night, January 16th. The little store on Bottom Road was almost in the road and was in what we used to call the “Other End” of Palmer where Curg Creighton’s and Edd Nunley’s stores and other businesses were years ago. In fact, the “Other End” is where Tom Creighton first got his start in the automobile selling business.

Kelley’s was operated by the Dennis Kelley family and by Junior and Lucille Crabtree Roberts before them. It went back to the 1950’s, and I remember Johnny and Bluedy Crabtree Johnson running it when I was just a kid back then.

Faces In The Crowd: Do any of you remember “Little Bobby” Pocus, son of the late Roy and Louise Pocus? We ran into him back in January at the Gruetli-Laager Piggly-Wiggly, and I think he lives in the Chattanooga area.

Charles Edgar Sanders came by January 17th to get us to sign his qualifying papers to run for another term on the Grundy County School Board.

Inez Carden Winton, widow of Sheriff Lewie Winton, called to ask about tracking down her Grundy County High School classmate from Palmer, Juanita Moneyheffer. At last report, Juanita lived on Signal Mountain. I don't think Inez found her. Inez called later for the phone number of Bobby Owen of Peachtree City, Georgia. She said she used to visit the Floyd Owen Family in Palmer, and I'm sure that was in the 1940's.

We had a nice phone conversation with Nadene Fults Moore recently. She's a volunteer worker at the Grundy County Historical Society Heritage Center in Tracy City. Nadene grew up in Tracy City as a daughter of Edward Fults, and her uncle was James "Shorty" Fults. I believe Nadene has been living elsewhere, and it's good to have nice people like her come back to Grundy County.

"I'm Aubrey Harper." Ricky "Rock" Layne was in Lee Harper's gun shop in Altamont recently when a nice man struck up a conversation with him. It was Lee Harper's dad, former Grundy County Sheriff Aubrey Harper, who now lives in Chattanooga. Mr. Raymond Hargis remembers him well.

Our typist, Donna Landon Lovelace, myself, and Don Boyd are all members of Palmer Elementary School's graduating class of 1961. Don's cousin, David Lewis, tells us that after leaving Palmer, Don worked for TVA in Chattanooga and was transferred to Knoxville where he now lives after retiring. David says he talks by phone with Don occasionally and that he has Diabetes and is in very poor health. His brothers, Wayne, Alton, and Danny, were also in Palmer School as well as a sister, Frances.

Faye Smith Dent, widow of J. D. Dent, and her grandson, Jarvis Dent, have moved into the old Henry Turner house in Chiggertown.

Last Fall, we wrote an article for this website about the late Orange Lemon and Clara Woodlee Northcutt of Palmer. Becky Marler Brandt of Ooltewah, Tennessee helped us gather info and photos. She sent us a nice Christmas card saying what a good job we did. Thanks, Becky, your kind words made all the time and work we spent on that article worthwhile.

Rev. Bobby Payne, pastor of the Westside Baptist Church in Gruetli-Laager called to ask for some info on the Doodle Payne family on Palmer Mountain. Bobby's the son of the late Jerome Payne and can find no kinship to this set of Payne's. However, he's married to former Palmer resident, Betty Fults, who was my 1961 Palmer School graduating classmate. Betty's a daughter of the late Hubert and Pearl Payne Fults, and Pearl was a sister of Doodle Payne.

We ran into Joe Ray Layman and Doyle Doss recently. Joe's a son of the late Homer Layman, and Doyle's a son of the late Jack Doss. One of his grandfathers was Ambrose Magouirk.

Did you ever get a gate for Christmas? Wesley Hampton, son of the late Melvin Hampton, came over before Christmas and brought me a big metal gate after seeing that I had been putting up a fence. Thanks so much, Wesley.

Former Altamont resident, Gladys Tate Meeks Ross, is living with a granddaughter in Gruetli-Laager. She had been living in Michigan and Arizona since leaving Grundy County and was married the first time to Richard Meeks, brother of June Bug Meeks.

Happy February birthdays to Ann Conry Creighton, 91, Grundy County Historian William Ray Turner, 88, Raymond Hargis, 86, and Linda Shrum Tate, 66.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of Hester Mae Givens Brewer Braden, Ethleen Sitz McNabb, Sherry Coffelt Layne, and Helen Knowlan Givens Caldwell who passed away recently. Several years ago, Hester Mae worked at the Gruetli-Laager Piggly Wiggly, and we found her to be a very nice person. Ethleen was the wife of Crandel McNabb. Sherry was the daughter of Dan Coffelt. Helen was the daughter of Fate Knowlan.

Happy 50th anniversary to Larry and Joan Crabtree Lamz of Coalmont. They were married in November 1963 and had only known each other three months. "They said it wouldn't last," Joan said recently. During those days many from Grundy County went to Illinois seeking work, and that's where she met Larry, I'm sure. They are both very nice people, and Joan was my classmate in Palmer School's 1961 graduating class.

Pastor John Henry Coffelt of first Baptist Church of Palmer is recovering from heart valve surgery. David Cleek, son of the late Chet Cleek, and Austyn Cooper,

son of School Board member Jamie Cooper were among several others saved during the January 12th service.

The groundhog saw his shadow most places across the county meaning six more weeks of winter. He really must have because we've had plenty of winter in February in these parts.

My buttercups usually are blooming good during the last week of February, but here it is February 28th and not a bloom. We didn't hear our first frogs singing until the 18th. I look forward to hearing them each year.

Tick, Tick, Tick. No, friends and neighbors, we're not talking about the soothing sound of your clock. Jerry Harrison saw the first tick of the year the 22nd on a dog so check yourself nightly.

Last month, we told you about a young man who is deaf giving us a slice of his pizza at Traders Market and Deli before Christmas. Our typist, Donna Lovelace, says his name is David Morgan and that he's a very kind person and also a talented artist. She adds also that David's dad, Charles Morgan and her mother, Clara Bone Landon, are related.

Speaking of Donna, we had better get out of here for now before we put too much work on her. We've about got old man winter whipped, but it has been a tough one this year, and I know we're all looking forward to Spring.

So, on behalf of everyone here "where the good people live", goodbye for now. Get outside and enjoy the blooming flowers and shrubs of March and meet us at the same time and same station next month.

March 2014

PALMER NEWS

Well, we can say we've lived to see another spring. Life is fragile and none of us are guaranteed another day of it, especially us old people. It's wonderful each spring to see the earth yawn and stretch and shake off the slumber of winter. Sunshine and warmer days bring green grass and blooming flowers. How could that not lift the lowest of spirits?!

Happy March Birthday wishes go out to: Calvin Finch in Riverside, California 90, Lea Ashby, widow of Y. B Ashby, 86, Charlotte Sissom Haggard up in Elkhart, Indiana 79, Alfred Randal Nolan of Chattanooga 66, Gary Bouldin of Brentwood, Tn. 59, and Charles Payne up on Palmer Mountain 54.

If you have a Case “Blue Steel”, what is that? That’s a “pocket knife”, and years ago when men did most of their work by hand, many carried a pocket knife. You could cut off a “chaw of tobacco” from the plug you carried with you or cut open a cloth feed sack that animal food came in, or whatever. Dwight Tate says he’s carried his Dad’s knife since he died in 1988. Dwight’s dad was Harley Tate.

Speaking of “Harleys”, years ago when you heard the name Harley you could be sure it was a male. Times change, and now Harley is a very popular name for girls. What’s the world coming to?

Congratulations to the 2014 Valedictorian at Grundy County High School who is Jon-Luc Roberts of Palmer. He’s the son of Mark Roberts and Michelle Shadrick Yates. Jon-Luc’s grandparents are Monroe (Junior) and Lucille Crabtree Roberts and Gloria Shadrick and the late Dwight Shadrick. To our knowledge, he’s the first Palmer Elementary School graduate to become the GCHS Valedictorian since Samantha “Sam” Sweeton Stephens back in the 1980’s. She’s been a math teacher at GCHS for years and is a daughter of Reggie Sweeton and the late Delbert “Cooney Sweeton.

“50 years from now people will appreciate what you’ve done.” That’s what Steve Garner told me recently about my years of work to preserve local history including this stuff that you are reading right now. It was a nice thing for Steve to say and’s probably right. Like me, you’ve probably noticed over the years that most people didn’t appreciate things when they’re being done, but years later look back on them and are grateful.

With the coming of spring, snakes begin to be seen and that reminds me of a conversation with Jerry Harrison the other day. Back in the 1950’s, Jerry’s dad, Hershel Harrison, was a coal mine operator and had several mines on Daus Mountain. This area was known to be infested with rattlesnakes. Jerry said that one day he killed 7 rattlesnakes on the coal car tracks outside the mine! Makes you shudder to even think of it.

“He had a \$100.00 funeral. That’s good enough?” The late Rev. M.C. “Bud” Hampton preached a lot of funerals in his day. His daughter, Wanda Hampton Meeks, 85, remembers her dad saying that when she was just a kid in the late 1930’s or early 1940’s. All these years later, funerals have really become expensive, and people are turning more and more to cremation because of the cost.

Trader’s Market and Deli has become a popular place to eat since opening on Hwy. 108 next to Buford Jones’ building supply last year. Hallie James Knight, widow of “Gid” Knight, and Bonnie Gipson, Payne, widow of Doodle Payne, stopped recently. Both are former restaurant cooks, and Bonnie said. “I got an egg and sausage biscuit and really enjoyed it.”

Back in December, we saw an engagement announcement in the Chattanooga Times Free Press for Robert Earl Layne and Vikki Ford Hixon to marry this summer. Earl Layne lives in Chattanooga, but grew up on Palmer Mountain as a son of the late Harley and Roxie Graham Layne. (Earl’s a 1st cousin of Lucille Scissom of Grundy County Historical Society.)

What’s for Supper? I’ve always liked cornbread, but as I get older and older, I seem to crave it a lot. I’ve found in my old age that if you’re craving something you might as well go ahead and eat it because nothing else seems to satisfy you. I made some Mexican cornbread recently and really enjoyed it. I like to put enough hot pepper in it to get your attention but not to set you on fire.

“I think of you and Palmer often.” That’s what Bobby Owen told us in a Christmas card back in December. Bobby’s one of my favorite people and grew up in Palmer during the Great Depression and World War II. His father was Floyd Owen, and the family was well thought of citizens in Palmer. Bobby lives today in Peachtree City, Georgia and is a retired air traffic controller.

On March 21st, the Mary Ellen Locher Breast Center at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga brought their “Mobile Mammography Coach” to Palmer School and had a community health fair. Mary Ellen Locher was a popular Channel 9 television anchor until she was fatally stricken with breast cancer.

Get Well Wishes go out to Donna Shadrick LeCroy, Judy Morrison Kelley, and Willie Mae Flynn Tate. Donna has Huntingdon’s Disease, and had to have an ambulance after falling at her home. Judy’s recovering from a broken hip, and Willie Mae’s still recovering from a heart attack and stroke last fall. She’s the wife

of Gabby Tate, and when we talked to her on March 10th, she said, "When I went to the store the other day, it was the first time since last October." She also said Gabby cooked Sunday dinner on March 23rd.

The Diaper League: We were at Mike Shadrick's house earlier this month when his wife and daughter drove up with Mike's great-granddaughter which is a very young child. They said they had taken the little girl to play T-Ball. I was shocked, and said, "She's too little to play." Mike told me that they can start playing these days as young as 2 ½ years old, and his wife added, "They call it the Diaper League."

Joe Willard Fults lives in Coalmont, and another former Palmer resident, Anthony Nunley does also. Anthony's a son of the late Glenn and Boots Finch Nunley. Joe Willard says, "Anthony's a big help to Jean and I since I'm not able to take care of things like I used to."

McFarland for Mayor: Would that be Mayor of Monteagle? No. That is Mayor of Murfreesboro. Shane McFarland is the candidate, and he's a son of Monteagle Banker Lee Mitchell McFarland and Sandy Flynn McFarland. We saw his campaign signs March 5th when we were going to the VA Hospital down there. Shane's a grandson of former Palmer resident, Leota Summers, and I believe his grandfather was the late Dwight Flynn.

Faces in The Crowd: I'm sure Mr. Raymond Hargis and Mr. A. J. Layne remember the Isham Hobbs family when they were principals at Palmer School. Mr. Hobbs was the Forest Ranger at the fire tower on Palmer mountain in the 1950's and 60's. I ran into his daughter, Linda Hobbs Coppinger, recently. She's married to Benny Coppinger and lives in the Ducktown community in Palmer.

You don't know who I am, do you? I was walking up School House Road when a car stopped, and a man asked me that. It was Bobby Joe Campbell who has lived in Tracy City for several years. He grew up in Palmer as one of the large family of Raymond and Hazel Dishroon Campbell. I'm sure Mr. Hargis and Mr. Layne remember them from school days.

Another former student they'll remember is Kirby Dan Wideman. We saw him the other day. His older brother, Dennis Wideman, was my classmate.

Mike Lamz, son of Larry and Joan Crabtree Lamz, said he talked with an old school friend, Audrey Campbell Anderson, recently at the Dunlap Wal-Mart. She's a daughter of Rod and Norna Mae Slatton Campbell.

Jacqueline "Jackie" Cantu is working at the Palmer Medical Clinic. Jackie graduated from Vanderbilt University not long ago and is also a graduate of Palmer Elementary and Grundy County High School. I imagine she's doing some kind of internship because she plans to be a Family Nurse Practitioner and will have to return for more schooling. She's a granddaughter of Jack and Winnie Sissom.

So as you can see, this is "where the good people live". Be sure to join us next month for more good tidings. A very "Happy Spring" and Easter season to you and yours.

April 2014



Grundy County Director of Schools, Mr. Joel Hargis (pictured left) and Palmer Town Historian, Mr. David Patton (pictured right), congratulate the 2014 Grundy County Spelling Bee Champion Miss Brittany Church (pictured center) after the February 11th event.

A HISTORY- GRUNDY COUNTY SPELLING BEE

On February 11, 2014, we held the 30th Annual Grundy County Spelling Bee at Coalmont Elementary School. The years, they do fly by.

Let's begin by saying that this isn't an official history of those years, but we do hope that this information will be useful as a reference and serve as a valuable source for future historians.

Most of us old people (I'm 66) remember little spelling bees in the classroom during their school days, but not the County-Wide Bee that we know today, in 2014. However, there is one exception I've been able to find. In 1937, during the Great Depression, a Grundy County Spelling Bee was held at Shook Grammar School and was sponsored by The Nashville Banner Newspaper. This was during the heyday of newspapers and The Banner was an afternoon daily, similar to the old Chattanooga News-Free Press.

The 1937 Grundy County Spelling Bee Champion was Anna Polk Conry Creighton, from Palmer Grammar School. The Runner-Up was Howard Wright from Shook Grammar School, in Tracy City (what we call elementary schools today, were referred to as Grammar Schools in those long ago days).

In 2012, I organized a visit to Palmer Elementary School for Mrs. Creighton and she met with the Palmer Spelling Bee team and told them about her experiences way back in 1937. When I wrote a story about the visit for the Grundy County Herald, she couldn't remember what her prize as the Champion was. According to an old newspaper account, Mr. Wright received \$1.00 and a subscription to The Banner for his second place finish, so I assume Mrs. Creighton got \$2.00 and a subscription. She soon went to Nashville and represented Grundy County in the State Spelling Bee.

Mr. W.H. "Bill" Nunley of Coalmont, was the pronouncer for the 2014 Grundy County Spelling Bee. He lived in Nashville for many years and will remember The Banner, which ceased publication many years ago.

Shook Grammar School burned in 1976, but Palmer Elementary School is still going strong at 86, and is Grundy County's oldest school today.

Mr. Howard Wright passed away in 1977 and is buried in the Tracy City Cemetery. Mrs. Anna Polk Creighton celebrated her 91st birthday on February 22, 2014, and lives in Chattanooga, TN today. Some of you will remember her sister, the late Frances Conry. Miss Conry began her teaching career at Tatesville Grammar School in 1940. The next year she returned to Palmer School where she had been a student. Still loved in many hearts today, she became a Palmer School legend, teaching there for 45 consecutive years, 1941-1986.

The modern era of the Grundy County Spelling Bee began in 1985 at Coalmont Elementary School. The smallest and only valley school in the county, Pelham Elementary, produced the first champion. Janelle Layne Taylor, of Pelham, now a retired teacher and past President of the Grundy County Historical Society, was the teacher and Spelling Bee Coach of that student. It would be a long dry spell and a new century before Pelham Elementary had another champion, that being in 2012.

Grundy County Spelling Bee Champions 1985-2014

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

2007 – Caleb Brown, Swiss Memorial Elementary
2008 – Stella Parris, North Elementary
2009 – Stella Parris, North Elementary
2010 – Kaitlyn Evans, Tracy City Elementary
2011 – Kaitlyn Evans, Tracy City Elementary
2012 – Lacy Nunley, Pelham Elementary
2013 – Kendale James, Pelham Elementary
2014 – Brittany Church, Coalmont Elementary

DAVID PATTON SPELLING AWARD

When I was a student at Palmer Elementary, spelling was one of my favorite subjects and in 2006, I became involved in the Grundy County Spelling Bee and founded the “David Patton Spelling Award.” This award goes to the Spelling Bee Champion and in recent years, also to the First, Second and Third place runners-up.

2006 – Ashlyn Fincher, North Elementary
2007 – Caleb Brown, Swiss Memorial Elementary
2008 – Stella Parris, North Elementary
2009 – Stella Parris, North Elementary
2010 – Kaitlyn Evans, Tracy City Elementary
2011 – Kaitlyn Evans, Tracy City Elementary
2012 – Lacy Nunley, Pelham Elementary
2013 – Kendale James, Pelham Elementary
2014 – Brittany Church, Coalmont Elementary, Second Place – Gracie Scissom, Third Place – Bailey Brown, and Fourth Place – Savannah Layne

LOUISE GEARY LAYNE COURTESY AWARD

In 2007, we founded the Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award to promote courtesy among the spelling bee contestants. The first recipient is now a Junior at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC).

2007 – Jerica Davis, Swiss Memorial Elementary
2008 – Robert Northcutt, Pelham Elementary
2009 – Keon Meeks, Palmer Elementary
2010 – Brianna Weaver, Swiss Memorial Elementary

2011 – Alexa Fults, North Elementary
2012 – Amanda Morgan Fann, Palmer Elementary
2013 – Alexa Fults, North Elementary
2014 – Ericka Childers, North Elementary

Y.B. ASHBY TEAMWORK AWARD

In 2008, we founded the Y.B. Ashby Teamwork Award to promote teamwork and cooperation among the spelling bee contestants and the recipients are:

2008 – Hunter Smartt, Palmer Elementary
2009 – Kirsten Jones, Palmer Elementary
2010 – Alexa Fults, North Elementary
2011 – Levi Higgins, Swiss Memorial Elementary
2012 – Brianna Weaver, Swiss Memorial Elementary
2013 – Hagen Stiefel-Cash, Palmer
2014 – Brittany Church, Coalmont

FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE AWARD

In 2012, we founded the Faithful Attendance Award to encourage good school attendance among the spelling bee contestants. This award is restricted to students in the Grundy County Spelling Bee who have perfect attendance and goes to the one among the participants who finishes highest in the spelling competition itself. Perfect attendance means no missed days, no tardies, and no early dismissals.

I had wanted to name this “The Perfect Attendance Award”, but was worried that we might not have anyone with actual perfect attendance. Man, were my worries unfounded, at the 2014 event, we had eight of the spelling bee contestants with perfect attendance!

Perfect attendance has really caught on in Grundy County Schools. All of the schools are doing a great job promoting it. Ms. Kasey Woodlee, Principal at Swiss Memorial Elementary, was one of the first to recognize the importance of perfect attendance and has been a leader in this regard.

2012 – Jase Rollins, Palmer Elementary

2013 – Brittany Church, Coalmont Elementary
2014 – Gracie Scissom, Palmer Elementary

SHANNON BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD

In 2011, Mrs. Tressie Jo Kennedy of Pelham, founded the Shannon Brown Memorial Award in honor of her daughter. Shannon had been a teacher and spelling bee coach at Swiss Memorial and Pelham Elementary, and according to Mrs. Kennedy, she loved the Grundy County Spelling Bee.

Mrs. Kennedy is a kind and gracious lady and we feel blessed to have her involvement in the Grundy County Spelling Bee. The Shannon Brown Memorial Award goes to the spelling bee champion.

2011 – Kaitlyn Evans, Tracy City Elementary
2012 – Lacy Nunley, Pelham Elementary
2013 – Kendale James, Pelham Elementary
2014 – Brittany Church, Coalmont Elementary

We are proud to be associated with the Grundy County Spelling Bee because it brings together some of the “Best and Brightest” students in the local school system. Soon after our involvement began in 2006, we realized the opportunity was there to benefit the total student, not just in spelling. That is why we added the Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award, Y.B. Ashby Teamwork Award, and the Faithful Attendance Award. To promote real life characteristics that will enrich the lives of these students as they become responsible adults.

Regardless of how much “book sense” you have, you will never reach your potential as a human being without the social skills needed in the real world. Miss Alexa Fults of North Elementary is a good example of what we’re talking about. Although she never won the Grundy County Spelling Bee, this Principal’s List student always finished high in the spelling competition and showed how versatile she is. She won the Y.B. Ashby Teamwork Award in 2010, and the Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award in both 2011 and 2013. Now, a freshman at Grundy County High School, in February 2014, she became the first student in school history to represent GCHS in the State Swimming and Diving Championship Tournament in Nashville. No, it’s

not just about spelling. Just think what a talented and versatile young person like Alexa has to offer the modern world in the 21st Century.

When we first began to study the history of the Grundy County Spelling Bee and its participants, we were amazed at the success they were enjoying as adults. One is a physician, another a lawyer, and so many have earned college degrees and entered various professions. The Grundy County Spelling Bee is one of the great success stories in local education and we expect to hear even more great things in the future. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Shelly McGinnis Meeks in bringing you this narrative. It may be viewed on the Grundy County Historical Society website at www.gchs.homestead.com.

May 2014

PALMER NEWS

Time does fly by so fast when you get old. Doesn't the Good Book say that "life is like a vapor and soon gone"? Here we are on the last day of May with July 4th just a month away.

I took my morning walk around the neighborhood this morning and always go by Palmer School. May 31st (today) was the last day of school, and there sat a bunch of kids in front of the school. They just had to come today and get report cards, and were waiting for parents to pick them up. The 2013-2014 school term was so long because it started late due to renovations at Coalmont Elementary plus the extra bad winter weather that closed the schools a lot.

We went to the 8th grade graduation on the 29th, and it was an emotional one for me. In 2011, the Friend of Palmer School, as part of the graduation event, was started, and I was honored to be the first recipient. This year, Mr. Raymond Hargis, 86, was the fourth annual recipient of the award. He was Principal from 1955-58 and was Grundy County School Superintendent for 13 years including 1988 when the old landmark gym burned. He worked tirelessly to get funding for a new gym. If he hadn't been superintendent and a real friend of the people of Palmer, we probably wouldn't have a school today.

Where were you in 1964? Willene Nunley Campbell of Pelham graduated from Grundy County High School 50 years ago this month. "I wasn't able to afford a high

school annual until my senior year, and they were \$6 in 1964. In 2014, they are \$70.” Willene’s on the School Board, and her mother was the late Molly Coffelt Nunley, a sister to Dan, Luke, Matthew and a bunch of others from that big family. The only Coffelt’s from that set living today are Leck and Margaret, the widow of Walter Burnett.

What’s For Supper? Mr. Raymond Hargis said he always liked “salmon cakes” or as some people said “salmon patties.” I remember them from 50 years ago myself. They would take a can of salmon, put an egg in it, I think, along with a little flour and salt and black pepper then form the mixture into cakes or patties and fry them.

Jeanette Tate Smith brought us some turnip greens and green onions from her garden, and we really enjoyed them. She’s the widow of Otto Smith’s son, Leon, and I’m sure Billy Ray Nunley remembers her dad, the late Rev. Herbert Tate.

Speaking of Tate’s, we visited Carl “Tubby” Tate the other day. He’s the son of the late Fred Tate and lives in a newer home on the property where Fred lived for years before his death. Tubby and his brother, Charlie, were well known guitar players years ago, and I think Charlie may live around Manchester. Tubby’s 74 now.

Let’s hit the rewind button and go back to our Birthday List. I’ve got to add Billy Ray Nunley’s wife, Ruth, to this list and her sister-in-law, Edna Crabtree. I’d say Ruth is 60 something and Edna 70 something. Maybe, Billy Ray can help.

“On Sick Call” is what they used to call it when I was in the U.S. Army, but when you’re sick or injured you want to be up and about as soon as possible.

Mike Shadrick was airlifted to a Chattanooga hospital on May 12th after suffering a heart attack. He was back home two days later after having a stent put in for one blockage and the other one will be treated with medicine. Jerry Cannon, 77, fell and broke some ribs recently. He says it’s a painful injury, but he is still going strong. Raymond Trussell, 78 son of the late Ruby Nunley Long, had a light stroke within the last week but is still driving and going. I’m sure that all of these good people would appreciate your prayers.

Did you know that nearby Whitwell, Tn. once had a skating rink? Billy Ray Nunley says that back in the 1940’s a group of Palmer boys would go there. “We’d give A. J. Layne a quarter apiece for gas money. I guess it was his Dad’s car. I always liked

A. J., and he and Bill Cunningham were good skaters.” Billy Ray’s number is in the phone book at 931-779-3877.

Billy Ray spent May 20-29 in Colorado where he saw a granddaughter graduate from the University of Colorado. If you follow the news, you know about the wildfires and other weather events that plague that state. He said his son, Allen, has had three roof replacements due to hail in the last five years. Allen has a car dealership, and over 50 of his cars were damaged by hail recently. He took his Dad to see the “Black Forest” where miles and miles of burned trees without limbs stood like toothpicks, and the smell of smoke lingered although the wildfire that did this happened last year. He said chimneys of burned homes also stood in the nightmarish landscape.

Tyler McCullough, son of Danny and Betty Carrick McCullough and grandson of the late Scooter McCullough, was elected Grundy County Trustee in the May 6 election and takes office September 1st barring a successful run by a write-in candidate. Can you believe it? He won a County wide election by 5 votes.

Sympathy is extended to the families of Christine “Queenie” Sanders Baker and Hallie James Knight in their loss. Queenie was the daughter of the late Arthur “Ott” Sanders, and Hallie was the daughter of Gordon James and the widow of “Gid” Knight.

Mary Ruth Mayes Rogers was a secretary at Palmer Elementary for over 30 years and got a visit this month from Miles Thomas, a former Palmer and Swiss Memorial Elementary teacher. He’s nearing 80 and had been to see a dentist. He still has all of his teeth. Mr. Raymond Hargis says that during his time as School Superintendent, Mr. Thomas came to Grundy County after teaching in Pontiac, Michigan. Mr. Hargis hired him for the two-teacher Mount Vernon School in Gruetli-Laager, and says to his surprise Mr. Thomas enjoyed being there that year.

Those with Palmer ties played a prominent role in 2014 graduation exercises at Grundy county High School. Jon-Luc Roberts was the Valedictorian, and Dr. Keisa Birdwell, daughter of the late Don Birdwell, was the featured speaker. She works in Research and Development for Proctor and Gamble. Finally, to top the night off, the awarding of diplomas was by Mr. Joel “Jody” Hargis, a native of Palmer. The son of Raymond Hargis and the late Doris Brown Hargis, he is retiring as the Grundy County Director of Schools.

Palmer United Methodist Church had their annual fish fry Labor Day weekend. We were out walking that Saturday, but Mark Roberts brought us a plate and left it in the house. Thanks Mark. Jack Summers and Charles Green both have their houses up for sale. Charles is in his 80's now and plans to live with his son in Beersheba Springs, I believe. Jack plans to live near his children in the Shelbyville area, I think. Both are U.S. Army veterans, and both of their wives died in recent years.

We ran into Marie Higgins Savage recently. She's the widow of Glenn Savage, and it was good to see her. Mr. James Brown, 85, is the brother-in-law of Ida Pearl Brown and always waves or blows his horn when he sees me walking. Thanks, Mr. Brown.

Here in "Rainy Palmer", we only recorded 3.8 inches of the wet stuff in May, but it came in a timely manner and my little backyard garden looks pretty good, especially the cabbage.

On that happy note, we'll sign off for May. If you're traveling through this neck of the woods pull over "where the good people live" and visit for a while with us and reconnect once again with your old hometown. Happy summer!

June 2014



“It seems that almost every vehicle these days has a License-Plate-Like-Thing on it with a Message and I enjoy photographing them” says Palmer Historian David Patton. Most of them are funny and have a lot of truth in them. It’s always amusing to see a Porch Dog trying to be a Big Dog and impress other people. An old saying describes such people as,
“Putting on the Dog.”

PALMER NEWS

Here it is Saturday night, June 28th, with the big July 4th holiday coming in less than a week. With Palmer school closed for summer vacation this old town is “dead as a door nail” as they used to say.

The graduation this year was on May 27th, and in the eighth grade class of 14 students, Trey Hampton was valedictorian, and Olivia Payne the salutatorian. Our very own Donna Rose Landon Lovelace, who types our Palmer News and sends it to the Grundy County Historical Society Website, was the Palmer School valedictorian in the class of 1961.

We had a good conversation with retired businessman James McCullough recently. James grew up in Palmer and during his school days worked at the Palmer Theatre and the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company “company store.” “My daddy died of a brain tumor in 1954, and I’ve been working ever since,” he said. James’ daughter, Cindy LeCroy, runs the Traders Market and Deli in Gruetli-Laager where he helps out. “I get up at 4:30, and I’m at the store by 5:30 to get ready to open for breakfast at 6:00.”

The big news this month in Grundy County is political, and we expect that to continue until the August General Election on August 7. All of us old people remember when winning the Democratic Party primary in May got you elected to county offices for all practical purposes but not in 2014.

We have two Republicans, two write-ins and one Independent running against the Democratic Party candidates in August.

Rev. Tyler McCullough is home after a mission trip to Honduras this month. He won the Democratic Party nomination for Grundy County Trustee by 5 votes and will face write-in candidate Linda Childers.

We ran into Linda's son, Dr. William Childers recently. He's a former Palmer Principal and now has that position at Pelham Elementary.

Back in the winter, we wrote an article featuring Palmer Church of God pastor Jerry Daniel who came here in 2013 from Florida. In April, 2014, Pastor Daniel, wife Dana and their three sons went back to Florida where he continues his ministry. We enjoyed doing that article and send warm greetings to the Daniel family for continued success.

The TV show, Dog the Bounty Hunter was in Grundy County to arrest several local "bond jumpers" who were out on bond and failed to appear in court. I've heard the episode may air in September.

Janie Brown Bivens of Gruetli-Laager is 85 now and is known as a godly woman far and near. Her son, Anthony, says she still prays continually and has many requests to pray for the sick. She's the widow of Glenn Bivens. Mr. Raymond Hargis remembers her father, Rev. Gilliam Brown.

Anthony asked me if I remembered Zyndel Ward who used to live in Palmer. The last time I saw Zyndel was in 1980. Anthony said Zyndel's dad, Rev. Jim Ward, used to drive a Greyhound bus. I don't know what became of this Ward family.

Wanda Hampton Meeks attended the Creighton reunion last month where she saw Arthur Creighton's widow, Mary Lou Roberts Creighton. Mary Lou and her sister, Nancy Rigsby, are the only survivors of the Henry and Oda James Roberts family.

Jimmy Long, son of the late Jim Long, attended the Memorial Day reunion of A.W. and Ova Owens Long's family at the Palmer Community center. A. W. and Ova had a large family and a lot of you will remember Jack, Ted, and Sherwood Long. I believe Jimmy said that his Aunt Lenore Long from Washington State flew in for the reunion.

We noticed that Joe Turner doesn't have a garden this year. Tommy Burnette has a garden at the old Bailey Brooks place across the highway from his house. Bailey's son, Gene Brooks, lived there until his death. The old house sits there empty now next to the Palmer Church of Christ which is also empty.

The family of the late Robert and Gladys Barnette Summers had a reunion on June 7 at the home of their son, Jack Summers. They had a big family including Tony,

Lewis, Robert Jr., James, and daughters Margaret (Jip) Crabtree and the youngest, Faye (Roland) Smith and several others as well.

Happy 101st birthday to Mr. Crandel McNabb of Dunlap who started his second century of life on June 9. Happy 86th (I believe.) birthday this month also to Mr. James Brown who is the brother-in-law of Ida Pearl Brown.

What's for supper? Michelle Campbell Travis brought us some fish and hush puppies the other evening. Her dad, James Campbell, fishes a lot, and they have a fish fry pretty often. Thanks, Michelle.

Lightning struck and burned the Marshall James home over in Tatesville on June 10. He's a son of the late Gordon and Gladys Banks James.

Randy King and wife Sallie were seriously injured in a 4-wheeler accident on Memorial Day weekend. He's the son of the late Jim and Margaret Rankin King.

Palmer Free Will Baptist Church had an outdoor singing in front of the church earlier this month. Carl "Teeter" Morrison is a leader in the congregation, and I often think of it as the "Teeter Church."

We got our first cabbage today (June 28) from our little backyard garden and gave it to Mrs. Eddie (Rita) Crabtree. I see a lot of pretty gardens while out walking.

Grundy County Historian William Ray Turner and wife Marie canned 41 cans of kraut today. They live in Tracy City and got the cabbage from a man there who was selling them for a dollar a head. They were "stonehead" cabbage.

That wraps up June from here, "where the good people live." Happy July 4th. To everyone. Get yourself some watermelon and ice cream and remember the good old days.

ELECTION TIME

The Democratic Party primary is the big political event in the history of our county, and as usual the May 6, 2014, election was red-hot.

It was especially competitive this year with incumbent trustee Lucyle Hampton retiring along with Marcia Bess. Another incumbent, Tammy Cleek Sholey, had a one-on-one race for her survival as county clerk. Add to the mix bitter races for road superintendent, sheriff, and county mayor, and the political pot almost boiled over.



“Change of Leadership”

For the second consecutive election cycle an incumbent Grundy County mayor has lost his bid for re-election. In 2010 Lonnie Cleek unseated Ladue “Boo” Bouldin, and now he leaves office after only one term.

In a crowded field with no runoff system, anyone can get a fraction of the vote and win, and that’s what Michael Brady did with just 30%. Congratulations to Mr. Brady who goes eyeball-to-eyeball with Republican Aubrey Lee Harper in the August general election with no third candidate to influence the outcome.



“The Big Sign”

We don't ever recall a candidate having a big advertising billboard. In a Grundy County election and this was on located in Tracy City. Sheriff Brent Myers was defeated for re-election but went down swinging and campaigned right up to election-day.

The job of sheriff is a “damned if you do, and damned if you don't” one, and as I hear so many people say, “It doesn't matter who's sheriff. He takes them to jail, and they beat the law back home”. Another comment you hear a lot is, “The sheriff arrests the same ones time after time, and the court system pats them on the back and sends them home.”

The late Rev. Henry Morrison was the last preacher to serve as sheriff in the 1970's. Rev. Clint Shrum, associate pastor of Living Water Independent Church in Tracy City, won the 2014 Democratic Party nomination and will face independent Russell Baker in August. Congratulations to Clint. Elijah “Uncle Lige” Shrum (1867-1955) was Grundy County Sheriff from 1910-1914, and we still have people living today who remember him.



“Miss Melody Wins”

During her teaching days at Palmer Elementary, Melody Knight McGee Oliver was known as “Miss Melody”, and this big sign on Hwy. 108 in Gruetli-Laager is in the yard of one of her former students.

Melody won the Democratic Primary nomination for Circuit Court Clerk in a woman – to – woman race against Kelly Griswold Ruehling, and it’s a shame that either of these hard workers had to lose. Congratulations to Melody who faces Republican Tosha Barrett in August. By the way, who was the last man to serve as Circuit Court Clerk?



“He’s A Good Boy”

Sadly, not everyone can win, and when good people are involved that's the down side of politics. Nathan Sanders is one of the most popular young men in Grundy County, and when I hear his name come up, people will say, "Nathan Sanders is a good boy."

Since he was in a one-on-one race with incumbent county clerk Tammy Cleek Sholey, many predicted he would win. But, Miss Tammy showed "True Grit" and came out fighting to save her job. Congratulations to Tammy, and we do hope Nathan stays involved in local government. It's a tradition in Grundy County to call grown men, some in their 50's and 60's, "boys".



"He's No Turkey"

During his political career Turkey Hargis has been able to win close elections as he did in 2014 by capturing the Democratic Party nomination for his fourth consecutive term. Back in the winter a state audit report was critical of county government including the office of Grundy County Road Superintendent.

Smelling blood, Turkey's political enemies swarmed, and by the time Turkey season opened in the spring, some said he would finish last in a three-man race. That was premature. Ask any hunter, and he will tell you how hard it is to bag a turkey.

That's when he remembered the adage, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going, hit the campaign trail like never before, and on election-day snatched another victory from the jaws of defeat.

Congratulations to Turkey who begins the next four years on September 1. And a tip of the hat to Johnny Ray Fults and Michael Meeks. They were both good candidates, and I believe one of them will be the next road superintendent in 2018.



“The Man”

Since retiring from TVA and the Grundy County Highway Department, John Doug Shrum of Palmer has gained a reputation as a top political operative, and the man to have on your side in local elections. He was a key player in Tyler McCullough’s dramatic 5- vote- victory in the race for Grundy County Trustee. Note political historian Raymond Hargis, 86, says this was the closest margin of victory that he ever remembers in the Democratic Party Primary for county offices.

Congratulations to Rev. Tyler who has preached across the county in recent years. He takes office September 1. Who was the last man to serve as trustee?



“Young Poll Worker”

This fine young man is Dylan Mooney of Coalmont who was a machine operator at the Palmer precinct. “State law allows us to use 17 and 18-year-old high school seniors,” said Ms Donna Basham who is the Grundy County administrator of elections. They are a big help and really good with the high tech equipment we have to use in modern elections.”

Dylan is a 2014 graduate of Grundy County High School and will be attending Chattanooga state and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). I’m sure principal Amanda Lance and his teachers at GCHS are proud of him as I am.



“Lookin’ Back”

Big signs and big dinners were something that I’ll always remember about Campaign 2014 in the Grundy County Democratic Party primary. Throw in media advertising along with cards, caps, T-shirts, and other trinkets, and it was probably the most expensive county election ever. And, just think of all the gasoline bought by candidate and supporters. Tyler McCullough had a whole cooked hog done up by Darrell Gipson at one event. Maybe a candidate in the August election will have a barbecued goat like they did in the old days.

Yes, Campaign 2014 had it all, including those irritating “robo calls”. If you’re not registered to vote, do so as soon as possible for the August General Election, which is shaping up to be “interesting”. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Janelle Taylor, Bettye Sherwood, Raymond Hargis, and Mike Shadrick in bringing you this story.

July 2014



The Great Summer Holiday of July 4th was one of the most Beautiful in memory in 2014 with temps in the 70's and clear blue skies. Josh Meeks fires up the family grill on Tatesville Road for an afternoon cookout. He's a son of Rev. Brett and Anita Meeks.



John Doug Shrum in 1990 at Savage Gulf Market which is known today as Palmer Market. Mr. John Doug Shrum of Palmer will celebrate his 65th Birthday July 8th. A U.S. Army Veteran who is retired from TVA and the Grundy County Highway Department, he is the son of the late John Shrum and Tootsie Cannon Smith and attends Bivens Chapel Congregational Methodist Church. If you would like to send a card the address is Mr. John Doug Shrum, 117 Martin Lane, Palmer, TN 37365



June apple tree? We took a photo of this apple tree about the middle of June in the yard of Reverend Jeremy and his wife. These apples were "Mellow" like the old fashion June apples that were popular in Grundy County years ago and used for pies I think.



Mrs. Bonnie Gipson Payne up on Palmer Mountain will celebrate her 80th Birthday on July 23rd. She's the widow of James Edward "Doodle" Payne and the mother of Rose, Diane, Wayne, Charles and the late Roy Payne. A lot of you will remember Bonnie's parents, the late Joe and Nellie Poff Gipson and her big family of brothers and sisters. She is a retired Restaurant cook and is pictured in her kitchen at home in 2010. I always enjoy visiting with her and her son Charles when I go walking up on Palmer Mountain says Palmer Town Historian David Patton who took the photo. She still raises a garden and cans kraut, beans, pickles and even turnip greens. If you would like to send a card the address is,
Mrs. Bonnie Payne, 36873 Hwy 108, Palmer, TN 37365



One of the great pleasures of summer is getting to enjoy vegetables from your own back yard. Palmer Town Historian David Patton cut this Big "Mega-Ton " Cabbage on July 18 and shared it with Johnny Michael Hill along with Becky Coffelt Guffey and her cousin John Ross Jones who is the Principal at Palmer Elementary. A fresh juicy Cabbage can be used to make delicious Cole Slaw, boiled Cabbage (good with corn bread), Cabbage Rolls and even fried Cabbage in a skillet with a little

margarine or butter. Almost everyone in Grundy County just calls it “Slaw” but where did Cole Slaw get its name? In gardening terms, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Broccoli and Brussels Sprouts are called “Cole” crops.

JOHNNY REMEMERS BASEBALL DAYS



Back in April we wrote an article for the Grundy County Herald entitled “Johnny Remembers Baseball Days” about Mr. John A Dickerson of Altamont, TN. Mr. Dickerson played Professional Baseball in 1953 and 1954 for the Union City Dodgers in West Tennessee. They were a Minor League Team of Brooklyn Dodgers before Brooklyn became the Los Angeles Dodgers. Before that, Union City was a Minor League Team of the St. Louis Cardinals in the Great Depression. Mr. John A. Bell, 88, still lives in Union City and remembers that Season Tickets were just a dollar back in those hard times. “I didn’t have a dollar but a relative got me a Season Ticket”, he said. Our photo shows Mr. Dickerson on the mound at Turner Field in Union City in probably 1953 and our newspaper clipping describes a shut-

out the hard throwing right hander threw against Owensboro, KY. "He must have been good if he did that," said Mr. Bell. Owensboro had a good team.

which it was all Union City the last half. The tie game was with Trenton, 27 to 27, with Union City roaring back from a 20 to 7 deficit at the end of the first half to salvage a tie.

Dickerson Shuts Out Owensboro

By Dave Capps

John Dickerson took the mound Thursday night against the Owensboro Oilers and when the game was over the Oilers wished he had not been in Turpin field for he beat them 3 to 0 to get a sweet revenge for the 2 to 0 goose egg they gave the Dodgers Wednesday night.

Thus the Dodgers took the odd game of the series to give them two out of three. It was Owensboro's last trip to Union City this year.

Brilliant play on the part of the Dodgers gave Dickerson perfect backing and only two more men batted than the required 27 for nine innings which gave Dickerson one of the best pitched games in the Kitty this year.

In the opening round, the first man up, Caradonna, singled and then Stewart hit into a double play. The third inning was the only one in which Dickerson did not pitch a three-up and three-down round, something that is seldom seen in this town. The third inning came very near being a run-making inning for the Oilers, as Tucker singled and Liptak drew a base on balls. That however, was the end of base runners for these Oilers as Dickerson made Young foul out to the catcher Crisp.

From then on until the eighth inning not a single runner got to a base and then Tucker singled but Liptak hit into a quick double-play to wash that base runner out.

Officially, 28 men came to bat against John Dickerson last night. However, too much credit can't be given one pitcher against the other as McMahon hurled a splendid game also against our Dodgers. He allowed his first hit late in the second inning when Enrique Salazar singled John Bohna home from second following a base on balls and a fielder's choice by Sonny Crisp that placed Bohna on second.

Two hits, a single by Matskouides and a double by Allen Shinn, produced a run in the third for the Dodgers.

The last score for the Dodgers came in the sixth inning when Bishop was safe when hit by pitched ball. Crisp moved him second on a single and he scored when Young committed a double error at second trying to field the ball allowing Salazar to reach first safely, then threw wild to first to allow Salazar to take second. Meantime though, Bohna had crossed home plate for the third and final run of the night.

The fans were royally entertained. The one and only Vernon "Lefty" Gomez, who hurried them so long and so fine for the New York Yankees of a few year back, was a guest of the Dodgers and talked to the fans for several minutes during the game, telling some of his experiences.

The Dodgers will move up to Paducah tonight to open a three-game series which will be the last time this year the Dodgers will go to Paducah.

Owensboro	AB	R	H	F	O	A	E
Caradonna cf	4	0	1	2	0	0	0
Stewart lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miller ss	3	0	0	1	3	0	0
Gilbert 1b	3	0	0	6	0	0	0
Crater rf	3	0	0	4	0	0	0
Tucker 3b	3	0	2	1	1	1	0
Liptak c	3	0	0	6	0	0	0
Young 2b	3	0	0	3	2	3	0
McMahon p	3	0	0	1	3	0	0
a-Wilson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	0	3	27	11	4	0

a-Fouled out for McMahon in 9

Union City	AB	R	H	F	O	A	E
Matskouides 3b	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
Stasko 2b	4	0	1	3	4	0	0
Cofer lf	4	0	1	1	4	0	0
Shinn 1b	4	0	1	10	0	0	0
Bohna cf	3	1	0	3	0	0	0
Bishop rf	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Crisp c	4	0	1	9	0	0	0
Salazar ss	3	0	1	0	4	0	0
Dickerson p	3	0	1	0	3	0	0
Totals	32	3	7	27	11	0	0

Owensboro 000 060 000-0
Union City 011 001 00x-3

Summary: RBIs—Salazar, Stasko. 2B—Shinn. SB—Bohna. HFB—Bishop by McMahon. Left—Salazar to Stasko to Shinn (2). McMahon to Young. BB—Off McMahon 2, off Dickerson 1. SO—by McMahon 5, by Dickerson 8. WP—McMahon. U—Levin and Suffill. T—2:07.

SPORT LAUGH

(By Associated Press)

A short conversation between Indiana basketball coach Branch McCracken and his assistant, Ernie Andrek, as relayed by the Indiana publicity office.

McCracken: "We've got a wonderful prospect for the team. He's 7 feet tall and a good student."

Andrek: "How do you know he's a good student?"

McCracken: "Because he's 7 feet tall."

CHURCH SIGN



Palmer Town Historian David Patton snapped this photo July 24th at The House Of The Lord Church on Palmer Mountain. July 2014 saw fighting between Hamas and Israel in the never ending Mideast troubles. Like most fundamentalist Churches Pastor Ronnie Partin and the Congregation strongly support Israel.

WHO ARE THEY?



Mrs. Roxanne Seagroves Fults, City Recorder of Tracy City was the subject of the feature "Meet Your Neighbor" in the July 24th Edition of the Grundy County Herald. Palmer Town Historian David Patton shared this photo with us from his files which show Roxanne back in the 1980's when she worked for the Grundy County Herald. She's drawing names for door prizes at the opening of a new business in the old Monk Land Gas Station location on Hwy 108 in Palmer. The young boy behind the box with the cap is Neal Morrison who lives today in Gruetli-Laager .

ROLL TIDE



Palmer Town Historian David Patton took this photo recently and says, “The cool snap at the end of July reminded me that football season is just around the corner” Grundy County is Big Orange Country but Mrs. Jimmy (Kathy) Long of Gruetli-Laager proudly displays this plate on her truck showing support for the Crimson Tide. She’s a former resident of the Bridgeport, Alabama area. The Tennessee-Alabama game is one of the great football rivalries in the south and will have an extra touch of drama this fall since former Tennessee head coach Lane Kiffin is now the offensive coordinator at Alabama.

PALMER NEWS

When you say “summer”, I always think of July, Probably because the weather is usually hot and muggy. From what I’ve read, the month got its name from “Julius” of Julius Caesar fame.

The calendar we use today was reformed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1583, and since Julius Caesar was born in the seventh month many years before that, the pope

apparently named July for him. That's probably more history than you want to know.

Some of you may remember Howard Lewis' sister, Helen Lewis. She married Cecil Harris of Shelbyville, Tn. in the early 1940's, and they lived there. Cecil went into the U.S. Army and was killed January, 1945 in Europe when their son Eddie Harris was just an infant. Helen and Eddie then moved back to Palmer and lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lewis. She later married Wayne Cook who was the youngest brother of Paul Cook. After almost 70 years, Cecil's body has been found in Europe, and he will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Helen lives in Chattanooga, and her second husband, Wayne Cook, is also deceased. Eddie lives in Mountain City, Tennessee, I believe. Although it's always an awful thing to lose a loved one, at least, they now know that Cecil will be coming home to America. We extend our condolences to the family.

Dr. Byron Harbolt, a physician in Grundy County for over 50 years, attended services this month at the Cumberland Heights Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He's living with his son now in I believe they said West Tennessee. We've also heard that another doctor may move into his place near Altamont where he had his clinic.

When Herbert Garner passed away a few years ago, his widow Dorothy moved out of their Chiggertown home and went to live with her daughter Debbie in Gruetli-Laager. The old home was sold this month to Larry Caldwell, but I don't know which set of Caldwells he's from.

He's the read deal. I hadn't heard that in a long time. That's what a supporter of Russell Baker told me recently. Mr. Baker is running as an independent for Grundy County Sheriff in the August 7th general election.

Jerry Cannon, along with his grandchildren Caleb and Rasha Cannon, traveled to Alabama to visit Jerry's son Teddy Cannon on Teddy's birthday which was this month.

On Sick Call: Darrell Sanders, Son of the late Sham Sanders, reportedly suffered a stroke recently. Sam Scissom of Gruetli-Laager was treated for a snake bite, and Mrs. Taylor (Barbara) Creighton has been diagnosed with cancer. Please remember them in your prayers.

Mrs. Jerry (Judy) Harrison attended a Jehovah Witness convention on the July 4th weekend at Thompson-Boling Arena in Knoxville. Some 13,000 were present and similar gatherings were held across the world, and they were all linked together by big screens showing events by satellite which is common today.

Keith McBee has retired from Ben Lomond Connect (Telephone Company). He was the Grundy County Trustee for several years and has worked for Ben Lomond the last 20 years or so.

Happy July birthday wishes go out to Dr. Byron Harbolt 91, Mrs. Howard (Oma) Lewis 90, Joe David Tate 81, Bonnie Gipson Payne, widow of Doodle Payne 80, and John Doug Shrum 65. Isn't it amazing how long people are living? With so many young people using drugs a lot of our older people are in better shape than the young people. The obituary page always seems to have names of people in their 20's, 30's, and 40's who have passed on because of suicide and drug abuse.

What's for supper? A lot of people say they don't like soup in hot weather, but I like it anytime. We had some cool snaps in July this year so I made a pot of soup and really enjoyed it.

J. R. Jones, Principal at Palmer Elementary, has been working this month to get the school ready for opening day August 7. "We've been painting and cleaning up the grounds and hopefully we'll get some new students this year," he said. "Nobody wants to go to a dirty and rundown school."

We ran into Tommy Layman the other day. He lives about as far over in Dock White Hollow as you can get. He says there are four graves on a hill behind his house and he thinks they're a mother and father and two children but have no tombstones. Tommy's had a bad case of Diabetes in recent years, and says it has really damaged his eyes. Tommy's a nice guy.

The home in Chiggertown where the late Monk and Jessie Land lived for years burned June 25th. The late Christine "Queenie" Sanders Baker lived in a trailer where the home of the late Albert and Maude Nunley once stood. The trailer burned in June also.

Marty Layne, son of Gene and Bonnie Finch Layne, says his dad, Gene, is 86 now and doing better health wise lately. Marty has a restaurant in the old Joe Layne gas station on Hwy. 108 in Gruetli-Laager.

We run into Wesley Hampton pretty often now that he has retired from Hampton Trucking in Jasper, Tn. Wesley and his brother, Randy Hampton, turned it over to Randy's sons Matthew and David Hampton. The late Melvin Hampton, Wesley and Randy's dad, founded the company.

Well, July is over, and the way time flies, fall will be here soon. I hope your garden is doing well and that you're enjoying a good fresh salad like I do most every day.

From here "where the good people live," we'll exit out of here for now and hope you'll join us again next month.

August 2014



It was August 1977, 37 years ago this month, when the unexpected death of Elvis Presley shocked America and the World. Known as the “King of Rock’n Roll” he was one of the greatest entertainers of the 20th Century. All these years later Elvis is fondly remembered in Grundy County. Just recently, Palmer Town Historian David Patton took this photo of a plate on a car at the Gruetli-Laager Senior Center.

CHURCH SIGN



Screaming tires and black smoke filled the air on August 22 between Palmer Market and the Palmer Volunteer Fire Dept. on Hwy. 108. Palmer Town Historian David Patton snapped this photo and says “Burning Rubber” is an old Hillbilly and

Urban Tradition and most call it “Doing Donuts” these days. It goes way back and check out the 1967 Movie “Hot Rods to Hell” to see what I mean.”



September 2014

If you’ve read this column over the years, you know that September is my favorite month with its mixture of summer and fall weather.

September 2014 in Palmer was warm, humid, and dry for the most part. They keep official stats at the Big Creek Utility District Dam in Coalmont and recorded only 0.93 inches of rain for the month, and I had only 1.5 inches here in rainy Palmer. In August, I recorded 7.6 inches of rain in Palmer.

Why was September 2014 so dry? Hurricanes used to hit Florida and the Gulf Coast frequently in September, and we would get rain off of that. But, thankfully, the hurricanes have stayed away recently. We finally had a dry Labor day with an official high of 84 degrees at Big Creek.

Happy Birthday To You: May Ruth Gipson Smith 90, Mrs. Calvin (Charlotte) Finch turns 90 out in Riverside, California, Joe Willard Fults 87, Bobby Lynn Stinnett 78, Linda Caldwell Mainord, widow of Corky Mainord 70, Billy Patton 63, and Keith McBee 56. Mary Ruth is the widow of Lester "Snooks" Smith and Perry O'Neal and is the sister of Bonnie Payne.

Tent revivals are a southern tradition, and one was held this month on Big Mine Road with one of the preachers being Wayne "Hog" Norris of Beersheba Springs. You seldom see a brush arbor revival these days, but we did have one in July 2013 beside the Palmer Veterans Memorial Park near Palmer School.

Do you remember "Partin's Bridge"? This was a wooden bridge on Hwy. 108 near the Palmer City Cemetery (called the Company Graveyard back then), and I believe it must have been the fall of 1964 when it burned. That was 50 years ago, and I remember that a woods fire was supposed to have caught leaves around the bridge on fire. A lot of traffic went over that bridge, and I'm sure Donna Landon Lovelace and Mr. Raymond Hargis remember the bridge. It was called "Partin's Bridge" because the Barney Partin, Sr. and later Alvie Partin families lived next to it.

I've noticed that the J. B. Hart home in Gruetli-Laager is up for sale. J.B.'s widow, Olean Cleek Hart, died not long ago. J. B. was a County Commissioner when the present day Grundy County jail opened some 40 years ago, I think in 1972.

Jerry Cannon goes to the VA Hospital in Murfreesboro frequently, and he said Richard Meeks drove him on his last visit. Jerry said Richard's about 79 now, and he's the brother of former Grundy County Road Superintendent Junebug Meeks.

We talked with Margie Sanders Ramey the other day, and she was having a moving sale. She'll be now living with or near her daughter, Clayta, in Soddy Daisy. Margie's other daughter, Susan, is a teacher in Atlanta. Margie and her first husband, the late Clayton Anderson, had the two daughters and a son, Andy Anderson. We are saddened to lose a good citizen like Margie but wish her well in her new home.

Darrell and Valerie Sanders of Coalmont have sold the Palmer Drug Store. He grew up in Palmer as a son of Sham and Shorty Sanders.

You've probably seen reports in the news about "Pain Clinics" popping up all over the country. The Pain Clinic next to Layne Funeral Home closed earlier this summer, and the building is now up for sale.

Dr. David Dickerson, Grundy County Director of Schools, came by for a short visit September 14, and we gave him a fall cabbage from our garden. Just about everyone likes a crisp and juicy cabbage right from the garden.

Rev. Jacob Anderson of Gruetli-Laager grows a big garden, and says he has potatoes for sale. He grew up in Palmer as the son of Jim and Tootie Nolan Anderson.

The Fann sisters: Amanda Morgan Fann is Junior Class President at Grundy County High School, and her sister, Alivia Jade Fann, is President of the Sophomore Class. They were valedictorians of the Classes of 2012 and 2013 at Palmer Elementary. Way to go girls!

The newly elected Grundy County Sheriff, Clint Shrum, took office September 1 which was Labor Day, and he led the Labor Day parade here in Palmer. It has been a 100 years since a Shrum (Elijah Shrum 1910 - 1914) was Grundy County Sheriff, and we're counting on Clint to do a good job.

What's for supper? Bobby and Mary Cannon Stinnett have lived in Indiana in recent years but still have a home in Palmer and visit often. Bobby knows I like Krystal hamburgers and brings me some just about every time he visits. Bobby Stinnett is a fine man and will do anything he can to help others.

Linda Caldwell Mainord retired this month after ten years as Director of the Gruetli-Laager Senior Citizens Center. Among the guests at her retirement dinner were Joyce Conry and her sister Ann Conry Creighton of Chattanooga. Ann really enjoyed the Center when she lived in Palmer.

The Cordell Brothers: These boys really made history in the August 7 General Election and made all of us proud. Gary Cordell was elected Coffee County Mayor

as a Republican, and that same day his brother, Mike Cordell, was elected Grundy County Commissioner as a Democrat. The brothers grew up in the Barker's Cove community of Palmer as the sons of Clifford and Joyce Brown Cordell who are still living. They are first cousins through the Browns of former Grundy County Director of School Jody Hargis.

Tom Burnette had a good garden this summer at the old Bailey and Gene Brooks place and took vegetables to Sunday services at Palmer First Baptist Church to share with others.

On Sick Call: James Henry McBee has had successful cataract surgery, and Anthony Nunley is still in pain over a car wreck this summer. John Rogers is back teaching at Swiss Memorial Elementary after surgery, and Johnnie Michael Hill got to the doctor fast after his blood pressure shot up to 200 over 100.

Mike and Mary Ruth Shadrick attended funeral services on August 29 for Cecil Harris in Chattanooga. He was killed in combat against German soldiers during World War II in January 1945. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery. His widow is Helen Lewis Cook.

Debby Hargis Brown of Tracy city works at Grundy County Primary Care in Coalmont, and we got to know her when the clinic was in Palmer. She likes banana pepper on sandwiches, and each summer we give her some fresh from the garden. She's a first class person and sent us a nice Thank You card the other day. Debbie's a daughter of the late Carl Hobart Hargis and Alice Faye "Trixie" Lockhart Hargis who is still living.

I've about worn my ink pen out, to say nothing of my hand, so we'll put the "Closed" sign on the door, and get this on the way to our inimitable typist, Miss Donna Lovelace. Fall has fallen here "where the good people live" so enjoy the colors of the beautiful leaves and take a walk in the cool crisp air. Until next time, all of the very best to you and yours.

25 YEARS OF MEMORIES- PALMER VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

It was probably in the very early part of 1989 when Mayor Mike Shadrick told me that he would like to see a place set aside to honor Veterans before he left office. He suggested maybe on school house road across from where Howard and Frances "Tops" Geary Henry lived then.

At that time I was Chairman of the Palmer Municipal Planning Commission and suggested that what was called the "Indian Graveyard" next to Palmer School might be a good location because Civil War Soldiers were buried there. Also, generations of children had walked through the Cemetery on the way to Palmer School and in addition it was a route used by adults going to various parts of Palmer in the days when people walked just about everywhere they went.

To my knowledge, no Indians are buried there and I've always felt that school children with their big imaginations started calling it the Indian Graveyard. I've been told that early settlers like the Palmer's, Ransom's and Bryant's are among those buried there and that bones were found when the cellar was dug for the Big "Henninger House" next to the Graveyard still standing today, it was probably built around 1915-1920 and is now occupied by Eddie and Rita Smartt Crabtree.

Ronnie Finch and the late Tom Moore Sr. both grew up in Palmer. Ronnie remembers seeing Tombstones of Civil War Soldiers with the names of their units. Tom said he'd heard there was a "Skirmish" at this location and that's why the soldiers were buried there. I'm 67 and remember seeing the Tombstones of a Civil War Soldier and I believe it said he served with a Unit from Illinois.

Almost everyone who can remember when Tombstones where there can recall a little square lined with concrete blocks and a little black iron fence sitting atop the blocks. The late Peggy Brown Weaver told me that some of the Ransom Family hired her Father-In-Law, the late

Andrew Weaver, to put the fence up. One of the great mysteries of Palmer History is what became of the Tombstones and little fence that I can remember being there as late as the early to mid 1960's? Around about 1986 or 1987 Mayor Ray Crisp and the Town Council hired me and a bunch of school kids to clear off the site. They were Jimmy Rollins, Patrick Morrison, Lebron Crisp, Rhonda Watts and Kirby Fults. We used hand tools to cut bushes, briars and weeds but no Tombstones were found. The fence was gone too but the concrete blocks it sat on were still there as they are today.

In any event, the Indian Graveyard was chosen as the site of The Palmer Veterans Memorial Park and although the Tombstones are gone we've still saved a part of Palmer History that was about to be lost. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Mike Shadrick in bringing you this Story.

August 1989- David Patton lifts the first shovel of dirt to build the Palmer Veterans Memorial Park.



September 1989- Steve Privett designed the layout of the Park as well as worked faithfully to see its completion.



August 1989- William "Wet Duck" Dishroon and young B.J. Tate mix cement. B.J. is the son of U.S. Navy veteran Jack Tate. The late Mr. Dishroon was a U.S. Army soldier in WWII where he was captured by the Germans and held as a POW.



August 1989- Steve Privett and 6 year old Chad Smith work on the footing for the monument.



October 1989- Pictured from left is Roy Pless and wife, Mae Patterson Pless of Elberton, GA assisting Steve Privett in placing the memorial plaque on the monument. The plaque was purchased from the couple who had a monument business at the time and probably still does. Mae is originally from the Tracy City-Monteagle area.



October 1989- Kneeling from left are Roy Pless and Steve Privett. Standing from left are David Patton, Pat Morrison and Wet Duck Dishroon. Pat and Wet Duck were Palmer Town Aldermen and really worked hard to complete the park. Both are now deceased.



October 1989- These young boys stopped by to see what was going on and David Patton took their picture. The plaque on the monument features the names of the Palmer men who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. military. Billy Sanders (left) and Bruce Anderson.



November 10, 1989- Mayor Mike Shadrick (left) and Steve Privett work feverishly on the part sign to have it ready for the dedication ceremonies the next day. The sign was furnished by former Palmer resident Hobart Henry of Davenport, Iowa.



Veteran's Day, 1989- The big day finally arrived for the dedication ceremonies on 11 Nov 1989. Veterans Day was on a Saturday and a big crowd attended under sunny skies and mild temperatures. Members of our local National Guard Unit, the

212th Engineer Company were on hand. Paul "Pepper" Sanders hands Dewayne Privett (with sunglasses) a flag to be flown over the park which was given by Congresswoman Marilyn Lloyd.



Veteran's Day, 1989- David Patton took this photo of the Color Guard from the 212th Engineer Company. Little did they know that soon they would be shipped overseas to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to be engaged in the Desert Storm War against Iraq.



WWII veteran Y.B. Ashby was the featured speaker for the day. He stayed active in promoting local veterans and their causes until his death in November 2013.



Mayor Mike Shadrick presents a framed certificate of appreciation to the last WWI veteran still living in Palmer, Mr. Malcolm Rankin. Palmer town Historian, David Patton presented Mr. Rankin with the first annual Palmer Veterans Appreciation Award on Veterans Day, 1986. Looking on are Jerry and Charlotte Cannon, Ann Nunley Cleek, Joy Partain and Agnes Dugan Partin. Agnes grew up in Palmer on "Dugan's Curve" where Amy Guffey lives today. Her brother, James Alvin Dugan, died while in the U.S. Army, just weeks before Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entry in WWII. His name is on the monument.



1990- Well known stonemason Ples King did the rock work on the monument and the sign and was very proud to be a part of the Veteran's Park Project. At the time of the dedication ceremonies on Veteran's Day, 1989, the rock work wasn't finished but it was decided to go ahead anyway. Mr. King himself served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War era and is now deceased.



Mr. David Scissom has kept the Palmer Veterans Memorial Park mowed for the past several years and we appreciate the good job he does.

David's Dad, the late J.C. "Tommy" Scissom was a World War II Veteran who served in the Pacific with the U.S. Army. He was the 1998 Recipient of the Palmer Veterans Appreciation Award.



As we told you earlier, the Palmer Veterans Memorial Park is actually located in a Cemetery.

Michelle Campbell Travis is shown “Grave Dowsing” and said, “This was a big Cemetery”. By using this method Michelle has found graves in unexpected places. Her Dad, James Edward Campbell served with the U.S. Army in Germany during the Vietnam War.



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER PALMER NEWS



Former Palmer resident Joel Patton of Coalmont, TN planted this Red Maple in the driveway circle at Palmer United Methodist Church in December 1996. What was then just basically a piece of root with about 3-4 inches of growth above ground is now a beautiful tree. David Patton took this photo in October 2014.

Thanksgiving 2014 hasn't been a nice one weather wise but we've got so much to be Thankful for we hardly noticed. It was cloudy most, if not all the day and we even had snow on the grass in patches this morning. It's almost 7:00 PM as I'm writing and I'm as stuffed as can be. Mark Roberts, Dr. David Dickerson and wife Karen and Charles Edgar Sanders all brought dinners this afternoon. Living alone, you always enjoy someone else's cooking and thanks to these dear friends for sharing their Thanksgiving Feast with me.

Dr. Dickerson is our Grundy County Director of Schools and says they go to his mother's house for Thanksgiving Dinner and his wife's' family for supper. Charles Edgar said he had around 30 at his place.

Joe and Delores Shadrick Silver from the Detroit area was the guest of her Uncle Mike Shadrick. Mike and Delores went the day before Thanksgiving to visit his sister Novella Shadrick Patton in Chattanooga who is 97 now. Delores is the daughter of the late Joe Brannon Shadrick.

Susan Faye Sissom, daughter of Jack Sissom resigned in November as the Director of The Palmer Public Library. A replacement is expected soon. She had been the Director for the past 17 years.

Happy October Birthday to Hershel Finch Jr. 85, Faye Layne Hanson 79, Darlene Brooks 72, and David Patton 67.

Happy November Birthday to Sara Swann Shipley 98, Bobby Owens 85, Betty Finch Bush 82, Joel Patton 65 and David Scissom 61. Sara lives in Johnson City, TN and Bobby lives now in Peachtree City, GA. They grew up as neighbors in Palmer. Sara says she was looking forward to her 13th Birthday and becoming a teenager on November 13, 1929. But a baby boy was born on her Birthday to her neighbors the Floyd Owens Family and he got all the attention. What a time to be born! Just less than a month after the Stock Market crashed and started The Great Depression.

Lowell Thomas Cantrell of Athens, TN called us back in October. He grew up in Palmer as the only child of Noble and Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell and is in his early 70's now.

Suzette Nunley, Daughter of the late Glenn and Boots Finch Nunley is now a resident of The Haven of Rest Assisted Living Home in Tracy City. Bill Merciers is in such a Facility in Marion County.

Former Palmer School Principal Dr. William Childers is now principal at Pelham Elementary and we visited him at the school on November 19. Donna Layne, Granddaughter of the late Clell Layne, is a teacher there and we got to speak to her also. That same day we also went by Monteagle Elementary School and visited Principal Janet Layne. She's the Daughter of Phillip Fults.

We got a Birthday Card and also a Thanksgiving Card from former Gruetli-Laager resident Gary Bouldin who now lives in Brentwood, TN. He's a son of the Late Wade and Connie Bouldin. Thank you Gary.

Halloween2014 marked the 20th consecutive year that I've night watched at Palmer Elementary School. I graduated in 1961 and can you imagine going back to your old school over 50 years later and staying all night. Just you, and the school and the memories of days gone by. A Book Fair and Grandparents Day were also held at the school this Fall. Palmer is Grundy County's oldest school and turns 87 on November 14.

Bailey Pickett of Gruetli-Laager, son of the late Lillard and Beatrice Caldwell Pickett, came back to Lagger to live several years ago after retiring from DuPont in Chattanooga, I believe. Bailey said as a young man he spent nine-years in the U.S.

Navy and after that was in the Naval Reserve for 21 years. He lives in a newer house on the same property where he grew up. So, you can go home again.

What's for Supper? On this Thanksgiving Night I've about made myself sick eating portions of those three dinners mention earlier. The Mark Roberts plate was delicious with turkey, dressing, ham, rolls, cornbread, potato salad, good sweet cole slaw and other things. The Dickerson's had a delicious fudge pie and I've been to full to try the main plate. The Charles Edgar Sanders plate had a delicious dessert and again I've been to full to try the main plate yet.

Charles Edgar is married to the former Betty Sue Magouirk and what a nice and kind person she is.

We attended the Veterans Day Celebration at Grundy County High School and really enjoyed speaking to the students and being part of the program. This was the 10th annual presentation of the Bill and Mendia Patton Patriotic Award at the school which is named in honor of my late parents. The Junior Class Students write Patriotic Essays about Veterans and what they do to protect our freedom and three winners are chosen.

During the celebration we presented a special plaque of gratitude to Dr. David Dickerson. When we presented the first Award in 2005 he was Director of Schools and is now back in that position once again.

Also during the Celebration we presented the 29th Annual Palmer Veterans Appreciation Award to Lecil Nolan, an Infantryman who served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. We founded this award and look forward to presenting it each year. Lecil comes from the large family of the late Claude and Ruby Haynes Nolan.

Sympathy is extended to the families of Vernon Lewis, Ricky Keener and Gene "Eyeballs" Rogers in their loss. Vernon was 83 and the brother of Howard Lewis. Ricky was in his 50's and the only child of Joann Campbell Keener and the late L.H. Keener. He had fought Cancer for years and years and had even been treated in the famous Cleveland Clinic. Eyeballs was Grundy County Road Superintendent for twelve years and grew up in Coalmont.

Palmer United Methodist is our oldest church and didn't have services November 23rd due to repair work. I think new carpeting was installed.

A new restaurant opens in December on School House Road called "Polar Bear Munchies" It's located in the building where Margie Sanders Ramey had a store in the 1970's and the last use of the building was Pastor Charles Slatton's Gospel Trumpet Holiness Church. Louis and Wanda Clark of Valdez, Alaska moved to the Griffith Creek Community back in the summer and will be running it. Welcome to Palmer.

Another Restaurant will open, probably in January, on Hwy. 399 in what old people used to call the “Camp4” Community just outside Palmer. It’s located on the property where the late Gordon Northcutt had a store for years. It will be operated by the daughters of David and Rosanna Coffelt Cleek.

Faces in the Crowd: Drema Roberts, daughter of the late Gene and Opal Roberts is back in Grundy County after living most of her life in Chattanooga. She’s a 1964 Graduate of Grundy County High School and grew up in Palmer. She’s now working at Citizens Tri-County Bank in Palmer and lives in Gruetli-Laager.

We enjoyed talking with Mary Jo Gallagher recently. She lives in Pelham and is a former Principal at Pelham Elementary and still works in the Grundy County School System.

It was good to see Clarence Sanders at Trader Market and Deli. He’s the son of the late “Tom Tit” Sanders and was raised in the wooded area where Sham and Shorty’s Package Store used to be.

We ran into Stanley Partin mowing the yard of his Sister-In-Law Kat King. He’s the son of the late Alvie and Agnes Morrison Partin.

We were over in Chiggertown back in the fall visiting Steve Garner and met Bob Willems. He grew up in Kansas and since settling in Grundy County has become a Republican Member of the Grundy County Election Commission.

Speaking of that Body, former Palmer resident Donna Gifford Basham of Tracy City became the Grundy County Administrator of Elections in 1984 and her 30 consecutive years in the position probably makes her the longest serving on Grundy County History. I’ve never heard of anyone else who ever came close to 30 years. Congratulations, Donna, you’re a first class person and have done a first class job.

What’s the World coming to? The lowly acorn used to be taken for granted and sometimes people would feed them to hogs when most people had pig pens. Before that, people let their hogs roam in the woods and they ate them there I’m sure.

In this age of the Internet you can apparently sell anything. One man told me he was selling acorns on the Internet for \$1.50 a gallon and the buyer pays the shipping. He’s shipping them “Up North” to hunters who scatter them out to attract deer.

This may be our last Edition of the “Palmer News.” Our Webmaster Sharon Goodman is closing this Website as of December 31, 2014. Sharon has been the Grundy County Historical Society Webmaster since 2004 and if not for her the GCHS would not have had a website for the past 10 years. Thank you Sharon for

your dedication to the GCHS and that includes your role as the Editor of the GCHS "Pathfinder" Magazine. We wish you all the best in the years ahead

TAKING THE HEARLD ALONG FOR THE RIDE



Earlier this year, Gary Bouldin and Mona Moore Brittingham took a tour of LP Field which is the home of the Tennessee Titans Football Team. They both live in the Nashville area and are former residents of Gruetli-Laager.

Gary is pictured (left) with Mike Keith the "Voice of The Titans". The games can be heard across the Mid-South on the Titans Radio Network including WGOW in Chattanooga and WAKI in McMinnville. "I'm old fashioned and like to listen to the play-by-play of Sunday Afternoon games on the radio with Mike Keith and Frank Wycheck," says Palmer Town Historian David Patton.