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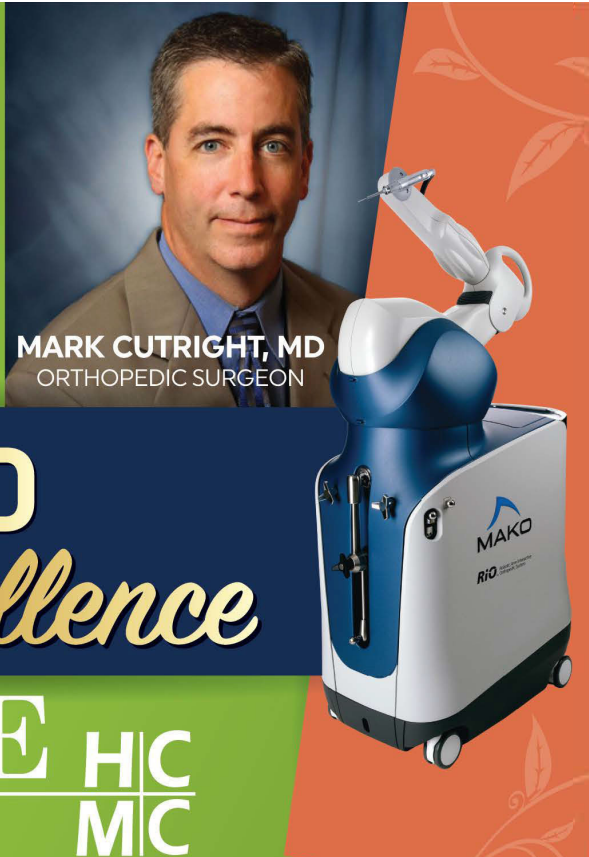
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Photo by Mike Wilson

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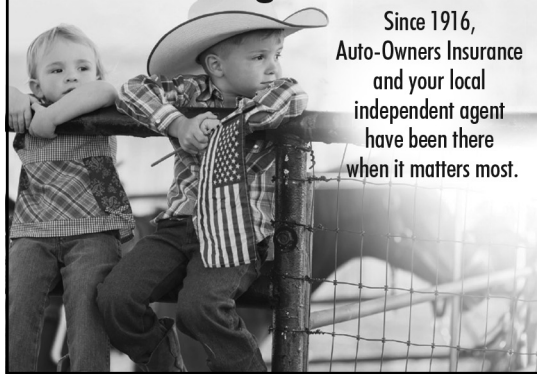
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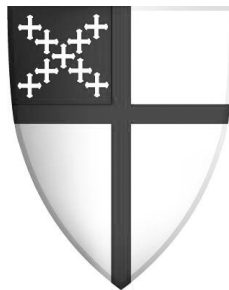
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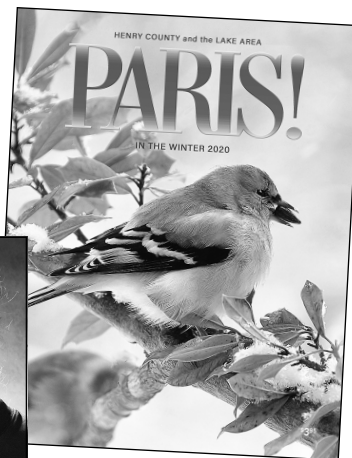
One of my favorite things about winter in Henry County is that we usually get several beautiful snows, but they rarely stay long enough to become tiresome. In fact, it's just the opposite. A snow in our neck of the woods is a license to close schools for a day or two, perhaps leave work a little early, cook a big pot of chili, and build a snowman. Then, before you can say "Abominable Snowman," that warm Tennessee sun pops out and it's business as usual.

So this year, I say, "Embrace it all!" Enjoy those sunny days, but don't shy away from playing in that gorgeous snow. The City of Paris does an amazing job of getting the streets cleared, which makes it easier to get with your friends for a little sledding, canvas the area for gorgeous, snowy photos or take a moonlit walk among the diamonds.

Having said that, a group of people who NEVER slack off in a snow are the fine folks at Helping Hand. That means that no matter what it looks like outside, there will be items for sale, an auctioneer at the microphone and volunteers manning the phones so the auction can hit the airwaves of 97.5 FM or 1000 AM daily (see calendars on pages 34 and 35) at 12:30 pm. In short, the show must go on. So, take

On The Cover

When avid nature photographer Jean Owens saw this cold, puffed up yellow finch dining on a sunflower seed outside her window last winter, she grabbed her camera. Owens is a member of the Paris Photography Club and a volunteer at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge.



Happy New Decade!

a page out of the Helping Hand book. Don't hunker down with the arrival of Old Man Winter, get out there and enjoy. Be it sun or snow, it's great to be in Henry County.

If you do find yourself inside with a cup of hot chocolate on a blustery day, then snuggle in and peruse the Winter issue of PARIS! Magazine. It's full of good reads this time – from Barry Hart's snowman article to what's great to cook in your crockpot on busy days. Also, there's more to read about Bob Hope and Sherlock Holmes visiting our fair town, a spotlight of Lorene Miles, First Christian Church's upcoming fundraiser, Kitty Litter's history in Henry County, Bob Neese's hilarious antics, a little Crockett family history, and so much more!

Happy New Year! Happy Reading!

Smantha



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BACK IN THE DAY



MY FIRST CAR

BY BILL NEESE

Bill Neese is a local attorney, a sportsman, a youth shooting team coach and a grandfather. He began writing stories about his family, work, community and coming of age in the South. While composed primarily for his grandsons, his hope is “that these little stories will bring a smile to those who might read them.”

My Dad’s only sister, Aunt Kitty, was a widow for many years. She was one of the real Rosie the Riveters, building bombers in an aircraft factory in Long Beach, California, during World War II. She never had children, so really enjoyed spoiling my cousin, me, and later, my daughter.

In 1962, when I turned 16, she started looking for a car for me for Christmas. Not a new car, mind you, but a serviceable car, a car not likely to lead me to trouble. She found a doozy owned by an old friend, Henry County General Sessions/Circuit Clerk and

later, General Sessions Judge, Ardell Cole. Now, Judge Cole didn’t have far to drive to the courthouse each day, and it was probably a good thing. But in 1962, Aunt Kitty negotiated for and purchased a 1949 Chevrolet two door sedan – not a coupe, a sedan. A car lover will appreciate the distinction. This vehicle had been ridden hard and put up wet, but for \$150, it was a bargain.

The car was a six cylinder with a 3-speed manual transmission. The shifter was on the column. It was pea green on the bottom with a dark green top, all accented with spots of rust. My Dad made sure the brakes worked and the tires were at least fair.

The interior looked like a homeless family had lived in it for a couple of years. Old carpet piled in the floor covered the holes but to me, it was all about potential. To a 16-year-old boy, it was a CAR!

From the time I took possession of the car, the story was one of priorities, and the best that can be said is that my priorities were ill considered. But then, I had my 16-year old’s reason for each decision.

My first concern was for a nice interior. After all, what girl would sit on a ragged, smelly seat or put her penny loafers on a filthy carpet? I got a deal on seat covers and a head liner. (Did I

mention that the headliner was hanging down from the roof?) I found an upholstery shop that had a cheap price for cheap vinyl door panels. I bought rubber floor covers sized to perfectly fit the floor, installed them, washed and waxed the outside, rust and all, and was ready to go.

Did it impress the girls? It did impress one young lady (who is ironically related to our publisher), but not in the way I had hoped as she clearly told me.

You may have noticed that I haven't mentioned doing any mechanical work on my new ride though I did "soup" it up much later, floor shifter and all. The car had a couple of "quirks" that would cause a scene occasionally and yet, I never fixed them. I guess these "quirks" gave the car its personality.

To release the hood latch, I had to pull a cable inside the car. However, the knob was broken off the cable and the threads stripped so I couldn't screw on a new knob. I kept vice grips to pull the cable to open the hood in the glove box. However, the glove box latch didn't work, so I kept a screw-



driver under my seat to insert and pop open the latch.

All that wouldn't have been so bad except that the battery cable was defective and occasionally caught fire. When it did, I beat the fire out with an old feed sack, but I kept it in the trunk.

So, on the rare occasion when a fire did break out, I quickly grabbed the screw driver from under the seat, popped open the glove box, grabbed the vice grips, pulled open the hood latch cable, took the keys from the ignition, ran to the trunk, opened it, grabbed the feed sack, ran to the front of the car and beat out the fire. I am sure that alternative solutions have occurred to you, including installing a

new battery cable (but that would have cost \$7.00) or even putting the vice grips under the seat with the feed sack.

Well, I fought the occasional fire in the Chevy until I went to college in 1964 and we sold the it. I have often wondered if the new owner of the 1949 Chevy used my fire-fighting technique, developed a new one, or bought a new battery cable.

To this day, I have no idea why I did what I did, and didn't do what I didn't do, and I probably should not publicly confess my idiocy. I wake up sometimes pondering those very questions. The whole episode does reinforce my support for laws prohibiting 16-year-olds from voting.



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Henry County is gearing up for the 2020 Census in a big way, with a local Complete Count Committee already formed and recruitment for Census takers underway.

Yes, it's that time again. Time for the massive head count which occurs in the United States every 10 years. The Census is essential in that it provides the government with important information on the millions of its citizens and their households, but it brings a lot to citizens and communities, too.

The Census information is what the government uses to determine what and how much money local communities receive for their schools, hospitals, public safety, infrastructure and more.

Participating in the Census is also important for this reason: the govern-

ment uses the Census totals to determine how many seats a state will have on the U.S. House of Representatives and states use the numbers to allocate seats in their law-making bodies.

For all of you history lovers, filling out the Census is crucial for another reason: the Census information is essential for determining family history and genealogy.

For this Census, there will be big changes, with citizens encouraged to answer the Census questions online, by phone and by mail. Henry County Coordinator/Partnership Specialist Larry Crowell said with fewer Census takers being utilized to go door-to-door, taxpayers will save money in the long run.

"There will be ample opportunities for people to participate online or by phone," Crowell said. "And let's face

it, many people do not want Census takers coming to their homes."

For people who do not have internet access or do not know how to use computers, they can answer the Census questions online at their local libraries or at sites that will be set up by the census. Crowell said toll-free numbers are set up that the public can utilize to take their census, too.

There will be 10 questions on the Census this time that will determine how many people are living or staying in your home on April 1, 2020: whether the home is owned or rented, the sex of each person in your home, the age of each person in your home, the race of each person in your home, whether a person in the home is Hispanic, Latino or Spanish (needed to help create statistics about this ethnic group), and how each person in the home is related.

Every home in the U.S. will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census by April 1, 2020. At that point, each citizen needs to respond online, by phone or mail.

At the same time through April, Census takers will begin visiting people who live in senior centers, college campuses, assisted living and other facilities. In May, Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted.

Even with the push for the public to take the Census online or by phone this year, there still is a need for Census takers. In fact, 50,000 are needed in Tennessee.

The jobs are good, paying \$14 an hour, plus benefits and 58 cent a mile reimbursement for mileage. Crowell said the schedules are flexible and Census takers are paid weekly. To apply for a job, go online at 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-JOB-2020.

You can apply for the jobs if you are at least 18 years old, an U.S. citizen, and have a valid Social Security number and email address.



The National Archives has United States Census results on microfilm for years 1790 to 1940 and most have now been digitized. Because of a 72-year restriction on access to the Census, the 1950 Census will be released in 2022.

Crowell said the Census program has been working to appoint "trusted voices in each community" for the committees which are overseeing the process in each county.

In Henry County, members of the Complete Count Committee are: County Mayor Brent Greer, Paris Mayor Carlton Gerrell, West District Baptist Association representative Rev. James Twilbeck, County Commissioner Rev. James Travis, Puryear Mayor David Varner, Downtown Paris Association Executive Director Kathy Ray, Cottage Grove Mayor David Jackson, 911 Director Mark Archer, Veterans' Director Bob Nolan, Office on Aging Director Reggie Caldwell, Paris City Manager Kim Foster, Paris Economic Development Director Jennifer Morris, Henry County Schools Superintendent Dr. Leah Watkins, Paris Special Schools Director Dr. Norma Gerrell, County Emergency Management Agency Director Ron Watkins, W.G. Rhea Library Director Kathy Collins, Paris Board of Public Utilities Director Terry Wimberley, Paris-Henry County Industrial Committee Director Ron Goad, and TARP Director Denise Wardle.

Remember to respond and be counted. Our community will reap the benefits!

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LORENE MILES

A Life Well Lived

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN



There's something about a life well lived, and nobody knows that better than Lorene Miles who at 100 years old knows more than a little about life.

"You know what I know?," she asked. "I just know that my life has been a blessing. I have a good, big family. A good family. And they were a part of history and that's good, too."

Born in Como on August 19, 1919, Lorene was looking back at her life and sharing old photos during a relaxing morning conversation. Periodically, she liked to remind the listener, "You know I'm 100 years old, don't you?"

What does she remember about Como as a little girl? "Well, it was as big as it ever was back then," she said. "Bigger than it is now, really. We had a grocery store, a post office, a garage. That store was nice. They had groceries for the main thing, but you could buy other things there, too, like fabric and just a little of everything."

What does she remember of Paris? "Going to Paris was a treat," she said. "Although it took a while to get there on that old road."

Born to Wiley and Lily Belle Owen, Lorene has come by big families natu-

rally. Her father was one of 16 children and she herself was one of nine. Looking through her old scrapbooks, you can see the large number of people at family gatherings over the years. "There were always people," she said.

Her family left Como and moved to Paris when she was young, and her biggest memory of the move was the worry her Dad had. "My Dad loved our cat and when we were putting up the last load to move, he couldn't find the cat anywhere. He looked and looked, but he couldn't find it."

After the family settled in, the cat mysteriously appeared at their new house. "Dad said he must have followed us all that way," Lorene remembered. "But to tell you the truth, I think somebody found her, brought her to our house, and left her on the porch."

Her father was a carpenter by trade and after they moved to Paris, became the superintendent of the former Henry County Home. "That's when we were a part of history," she said. "But it was hard work."

Being superintendent of the county home was hard work for the entire family, with some 30 residents at the home at any one time and all suffering

from old age, physical and or mental handicaps. The family lived on the top floor of the home, with the residents living on the ground floor of the huge two-story structure which used to be located on – where else – County Home Road.

"We had a porch all the way across the house, with flowers hanging. We had gardens all over, with flowers and vegetables," she said. "We got all our food from the gardens and the animals we had—hogs, chickens, what have you. My mother made meals all day for everybody."

Being at the County Home was constant work, she remembered. "We were always cooking, cleaning, fixing things up. The people couldn't take care of themselves. Some could keep their rooms clean, but most couldn't."

Her family could rely on inmates from the county jail to help them with some of the work, she said. "When we needed extra help, like with the gardening or building something, we could call on the inmates to come and they seemed to like it."

She remembered one especially difficult day. "It was the worst thing that could happen. We had a crew

from the jail, and they were helping us pick in the garden, and my mother was putting up the vegetables in jars all day and night. She put all the jars in the pantry and you never saw so many jars. But when she opened the pantry up in the morning, they had all exploded and food was all over, on the ceiling, everywhere. It was too hot in the pantry and they just exploded. All that work for nothing. We lost it all. I never felt so sorry for anyone in my life as I did for my mother.”

Lorene remembered, “It was hard. We had our hands full. We did anything and everything, but I don’t regret any of it because I learned how you should treat people that way. My father was strict about that. Don’t make fun of those people, he’d say.”

Along the way, Lorene met Clarence Miles, a young man who lived near the County Home. He moved to Michigan to find work. “Times were hard, and everyone was going up North for jobs,” she said. He came back for a short time and Lorene and Clarence had a quickie wedding – on the side of the road near the County Home,



Lorene Miles’ family helped manage the old County Home in Henry County.

before he had to quickly get back to his job at a steel mill in Michigan.

Lorene joined him there, but as soon as he raised enough money, they returned to Henry County and bought a farm in Cottage Grove. “He had a good job with good pay, and they had just promoted him. We could have made more money up there, but it was his lifelong dream to have a farm,” Lorene said. They bought a 110-acre farm on Hays Store Road where they raised crops and a family of their own.

Clarence and Lorene loved their farm, even though that was hard work, too. But that didn’t matter, she said. “Clarence grew up in it and he didn’t mind the farm work. He enjoyed it. He had what he wanted back home in Tennessee.”

A big part of what they both wanted was to raise their family in Tennessee – sons Ron, Bob, Steve, and daughter Jan. Jan noted, “I was the youngest and the only daughter, too.” Her brothers Ron and Bob have passed away and her brother Steve lives in Texas now.

Jan remembers that her mother was always busy, working some at the Veazey Country Store near their house in Cottage Grove and at the Salant & Salant shirt factory in Paris for a time. She helped at the Cottage Grove School cafeteria and volunteered at the election commission, too.

Looking back, Lorene said her life has been good. Her husband died in 1980 and she remembers him fondly. “He was a real dandy,” she said. “And my children were all good children. I’ve had a busy life and a good one.”

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REMINISCENCE

WHEN SHERLOCK HOLMES VISITED PARIS

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

The game was definitely afoot in Paris in the fall of 1955, when famed actor Basil Rathbone made an appearance in Paris. In addition to making an appearance, he also made quite an impression on the Parisians of the 1950s, who weren't used to being around someone of his stature.

Rathbone was a star of the stage and the silver screen, best known for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes in 14 movies in the 1930s and 1940s. Elegant, polished and erudite, Rathbone was quite a presence.

By the 1950s, Rathbone had returned to his stage roots, appearing across the United States in theatrical performances. For his Paris appearance, he and Helen Gahagan, more widely known as Mrs. Melvyn Douglas, appeared in a presentation of "One Plus One" at the City Auditorium on October 17, 1955. "One Plus One" was described as dramatic readings and scenes from famous dramas. With that presentation, Rathbone and Gahagan were opening the Henry County Mutual Concert Association season.

Rathbone and Gahagan were wined and dined while in Paris. They were treated to a fancy tea and reception at

the home of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Dunlap, where 70 other invited guests were also in attendance.

Rathbone and his wife, Ouida, a writer and his manager, stayed at the elegant Greystone Hotel and were fortunate to be there while Paris artist Pearl Routon was holding a show of her work in the hotel's Governor's Room.

Routon was known for her beautiful paintings of flowers and portraits of prominent local personages, but she was also a master at china painting. It was the china painting that caught the eye of Rathbone and his wife.

Pearl's granddaughter, Stephanie Tayloe, said they asked Pearl if she would consider painting some china especially for them, which she did, and that began a correspondence between the Rathbones and Routon that lasted several years.

Tayloe still has the letters which Basil Rathbone wrote Routon. In a letter dated April 18, 1956, from an address in Central Park, New York City, Rathbone thanked her for a shipment of china.

Dear Mrs. Routon. I write on the 30th anniversary of our wedding. Tell me, how did you time it that your beautiful china arrived this morning?!!! It was such

a surprise. Mrs. Rathbone could not be more pleased with it. We both appreciate so much all the trouble you went to, to make this for us and then to have it arrive on THE DAY!

In the hand-written note, Rathbone goes on to say that he and his wife will do something special "to show them off". The china collection sent to them by Routon included saucers, cups, a pitcher, and sugar bowl. Rathbone said, "that is very generous of you." He signs the letter, "Very sincerely, Basil Rathbone."

One person who remembers Rathbone's local appearance well is Ray Harding, who saw the actor both at school and at the City Auditorium program.

"This was at Grove School, in the speech room," Harding said. "Our teacher, Ruby Krider, had a little stage in the room and that's where Basil Rathbone spoke to us. I remember it especially because it was such an unusual event for us. He was tall and very British and we'd never been around any British people in those days."

It was a big event for his fellow students, he said, "because that was as close to a movie star that any of us had been. I remember he got on that tiny

stage and spoke to us. I also went with my parents when he appeared at city auditorium.”

Harding recalled, “He certainly held our attention. We knew this was a celebrity and we thoroughly enjoyed him. Of course, being high school kids we were fascinated with his name. We called him Rasil Bathbone.”

One thing that puzzled Harding was that Rathbone veered off into politics during his speech and vented his anger at President Harry Truman. “He absolutely hated Harry Truman and he went on something of a diatribe about him. I was never sure why.”

That mystery may be solved when you realize the background of Rathbone’s acting partner Helen Gahagan. At the time, Gahagan was well-known as both an actress and a politician. She was the first Democratic woman elected to Congress from California. Her defeat as a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1950 by Richard Nixon set a standard for political name-calling, with Nixon using invective against her, including calling her “pink” down to her undergarments.

For her part, Gahagan popularized the nickname for Nixon which became standard, “Tricky Dick.”

It was said at the time that Truman did not give her a political appointment in his administration because of the controversy, which may have led to Rathbone’s feelings for the former President.



As shown in this old newspaper photo, the reception was quite the social event for Paris. From left to right, ???, Harry Neals, Basil Rathbone, Helen Gahagan, Mrs. Arthur Dunlap, and Mrs. Ruby Krider.

The Paris newspaper correspondents of the time had trouble deciding how to refer to Gahagan in their articles. Sometimes they referred to her as Helen Gahagan Douglas or just simply, “Mrs. Douglas.”

In the interviews with her, the local reporters asked her if she ever had any plans to dip her toes in politics again, to which she gave a firm “no.”

Both she and Rathbone praised Paris and its citizens and spoke of how much they enjoyed the reception at the Dunlap home, which was held on Dunlap Street in the home where Dr. David Travis later lived.

The late Ruby Krider, with her literary connections, played a primary role in acquiring the talents of Rathbone and Gahagan. The tea and reception at the Dunlap home made for a long afternoon for the actors, with members of the local Delphian Club, the Henry County Mutual Concert Association, Ruby and Clem Krider, and others. With some 70 in attendance, as mentioned, there were a lot of greetings to be made, which stretched the reception out from 3:30 to 5:30 pm. The actors were exceptionally polite though, saying how wonderful of a time they had.

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THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

College Benefit Brings Famed Comedian To Henry County

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

The people of Henry and Carroll Counties said “Thanks for the memories” to Bob Hope after his appearance here in May of 1975. Especially, the people of McKenzie and Bethel College, as it was known then, who owed everything to the Hollywood legend.

Why would they owe Hope so much, you ask? If it were not for Hope’s appearance and his fundraising of \$100,000 while here, there might not be a Bethel University today.

To say that Bethel College at that time was suffering financially would be an understatement. If it were not for the friendship between Hope and Bethel’s interim president, Dr. Fred Bryson, the famed comedienne would not have been here at all.

The two became friends when Bryson was serving as dean at Southern Methodist University in Texas and when Bryson asked Hope for help in saving Bethel, Hope remarkably said yes.

Hope landed at the Paris Airport in a private plane owned by the family of the late Ben Gaines of McKenzie. He was greeted at the airport by Paris Mayor W.J. Neese and was honored with the “Marquis de Paris” Award, which is the highest award given by the city of Paris.

The idea that a comic legend like Bob Hope would be appearing at either Paris or McKenzie in 1975 was not lost on Hope, and it became grist for his jokes while he was here.

Hope told the crowd how he began his career as a child in vaudeville and worked his way up, eventually working his way up “all the way to McKenzie.”

While still at the Paris Airport, Hope said, “I was on my way to McKenzie and got trapped here. We had to fly all the way from Memphis

upside down because the pilot forgot his suspenders.”

Hope appeared at the benefit on the small Bethel campus on Sunday, May 31, with Ben Gaines serving as chairman of the event. James Washburn, owner and publisher of the *McKenzie Banner*, was in charge of photography and press invitations. (He was the father of current *Banner* owner and publisher Joel Washburn.) Jerry Moran was in charge of developing a special Bob Hope brochure for the occasion.

It was a gala affair with state and local dignitaries on hand, including Governor Ray Blanton, First Lady Betty Blanton, Speaker of the House Ned McWherter, Congressman Ed Jones and Miss Tennessee Debbie Kincaid.

Bob Hope had some fun with Governor Blanton, who was late for the event. The First Lady introduced Hope to the audience for the governor, who was late leaving Jackson because of weather.

ABOVE: Bob Hope is flanked by Miss Tennessee 1974, Deborah Kincaid, left, and Patrician Price, right, at the reception held in Hope’s honor at the Bethel College.

Hope told Blanton that if he had been campaigning, “you would have been on time.” In the photo of Blanton and Hope on stage, Blanton is caught looking rather incredulous at the remark from Hope. (Of course, that fact that Blanton ended up in prison on charges of mail fraud and extortion for selling liquor licenses, gives those jibes extra bite.)

The Governor named Hope as Tennessee’s Ambassador of Goodwill during the appearance.

Among those who saw Hope when he landed at the Paris Airport were Charles and Robbie McNutt and their daughter Samantha, who is now the publisher of *PARIS! Magazine*.

“Samantha got her first autograph from him. She’s collected autographs from other famous people, but he was her first. She was just two years old then,” Robbie said. “There was a big crowd to greet him, and people had said they bet he would be very snobby, but he wasn’t at all. He was really nice and signed autographs for everybody.”

The McNutt’s had such a good time when he arrived, they went back to say goodbye when he departed Paris Airport later that evening. “We went after church, and there was an even bigger crowd then,” she said.

Bob Hope gave his appearance all he had, performing at the Paris Airport for some 30 minutes, followed by two hours in McKenzie. He kept the crowds entertained with songs and jokes, zeroing in on state and local politics as he always did on stage. He was continually interrupting his songs with more jokes.

“This is a nice garage you have here,” he remarked about the Baker Fieldhouse in McKenzie where he appeared.

Bob Neese of Paris remembers Hope’s appearance. Along with his other family members, he was in McKenzie for Hope’s program and remembered, “He was Bob Hope. Very funny and friendly. It was a very warm community atmosphere. Everyone was happy, glad he was there, glad to be there, optimistic. There was unity.”

While in McKenzie, Hope received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bethel. Hope commented, “I have gotten about 20 awards from col-

Bob Hope received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Bethel College in 1975.
© McKenzie Banner



leges that I couldn’t even get into legitimately. I got an Oscar the year I didn’t make a picture, and my country gave me a medal for leaving the country,” referring to his many USO appearances overseas during World War II, Korea and Vietnam wars.

But that wasn’t all the appreciation showed to Hope while in McKenzie. He was presented the Hero’s Award from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church women, and at a reception at the Bethel Student Center, he was presented a five-tier cake that was estimated at weighing 110 pounds. It had been Hope’s 72nd birthday a couple days before his local appearance.

In addition, he was honored with a private dinner at the former Carroll Lake Country Club. After a long day, he was finally allowed to get on the Gaines’ private plane for his return trip

to the Memphis airport and then home to Los Angeles.

Pat and Rachel Terrell of Paris happen to have unique mementoes of Bob Hope’s appearance. One is a sign which says, “Paris, Tennessee welcomes Bob Hope, Gov. Blanton, and Salutes Bethel College.” They picked it up at a local antique sale several years ago.

Pat, who was a former DJ at WTPR in Paris, salvaged a reel-to-reel tape of Bob Hope’s landing at the Paris Airport that was stored at the local radio station.

Jason Martin of the *McKenzie Banner* is a local history lover and said, “It is a pretty remarkable piece of local history having someone with the celebrity caliber of Bob Hope spending a day in McKenzie. I can remember visiting with Mrs. Ludie Gaines in her home, and her reminiscing on meeting Hope and showing off photos of the pair. She said with all heart that Bob Hope saved Bethel College from closing its doors. I’ve always said I owe a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Ludie helping me go to college, but I guess I also owe a few more people, including Bob Hope, for allowing me to attend Bethel College.”



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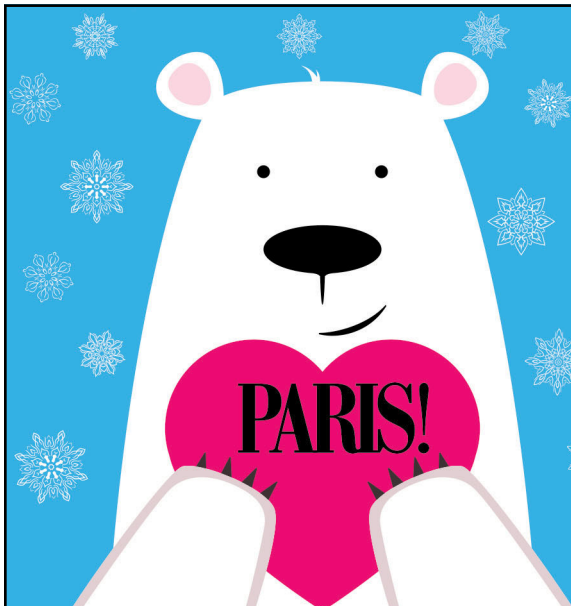
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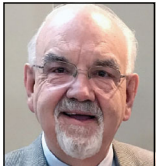
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HOT POTATO!

First Christian Church Serves Fundraiser Lunch For Missions



First Christian Church members have always been passionate about service. They believe that kindness and missions go beyond the walls of the church. Each year they plan two big fundraisers – one benefiting a local organization and one for new water wells in Zimbabwe.

Their annual St. Patrick's Day fundraising event is now in its 23rd year. Some FCCer's gather the shamrocks, lucky charms and decorate fellowship hall. Others sell tickets, put together a big salad and potato bar with all the trimmings and homemade desserts, while the whole church invites the community to participate.

Over the years, they have added musical entertainment with their praise team. The group is renowned for great "big band" tunes, but some Irish melodies will be played.

FCC has been raising money for this community since 1889 by selling quilts, mincemeat, pre-owned items, beef stew, and finally the salad and potato bar.

The Ladies Aid Society of First Christian Church was established in Paris on November 10, 1889. In 1949, the name changed to Christian Women's Fellowship and in 2005, the name was updated to Disciple Women.

In 1902, the long tradition of making mincemeat began under the leadership of Mrs. A. B. Mitchum. The recipe was kept in strict confidence for many years. The mincemeat fundraiser was replaced by yard sales.

By 1997, yard sales were time consuming and most of the Disciple Women were working women so the group voted on a one-day fundraiser. St. Patrick's Day was chosen because no one was having a fundraiser in March.

The original dinner featured beef stew, shamrock salad, and leprechaun desserts. Ten years later, it became the potato and salad bar.

At the first potato/salad bar, 187 were served and over \$1,000 was raised. The first beneficiary of this event was Habitat for Humanity.

Last year, they served almost 400, raised over \$3,000 and donated the money to The Shed.

Besides Habitat for Humanity and the Shed, proceeds have benefited Damascus Road, Tomorrow's Hope, Camp Widjiwagan for a Henry County youth with autism, city and county backpack programs, foster review backpacks, Camp Hazelwood, tsunami relief through the Week of Compassion, Hoofbeats for Hope, Carl Perkins Center for Prevention of Child Abuse, the Navajo water project and the R.E.A.L. Hope Life Center.

This year, the St. Patrick's Day meal will be served on Tuesday, March 17, from 11 am to 1 pm. The church is located on the corner of Blythe and South Poplar Streets in downtown Paris.

Tickets will be a \$10 donation and available from FCC members or at the door. The event is held in the church's renovated fellowship hall with eat-in dining from 11 am to 1 pm. Take-out orders and drive-thru service will also be available.

For more information about the St. Patrick's Day fundraiser or any of the programs or services at First Christian Church, call 731-642-3181 or visit their website at www.firstchristianparis.org.

And if you would like to know how to make mincemeat, it's no longer a secret. You can find the recipe in the latest edition of the First Christian Church cookbook.

So, wear your green, go to First Christian on March 17, and look for the friendly leprechauns waiting to greet you at this annual event.



For years, Walt Peterson and Gaines Hedges were the official St. Patrick's Day Luncheon greeters at First Christian Church.



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PUZZLE SOLVE

PUZZLE ON PAGE 23

ACROSS	DOWN
4. ICE STORM	1. ROBO MOWER
6. CROCKPOT	2. KIMBERLIN
7. POTATOES	3. CROCKETT
9. CENSUS	5. DOUGLAS
10. LITTER	8. COLE
12. RATHBONE	10. LORENE
16. BOB HOPE	11. TECHNOLOGY
17. LOWE	13. SNOWMAN
18. GLEAMER	14. KNOX
19. HELPING HAND	15. ALL TEMP



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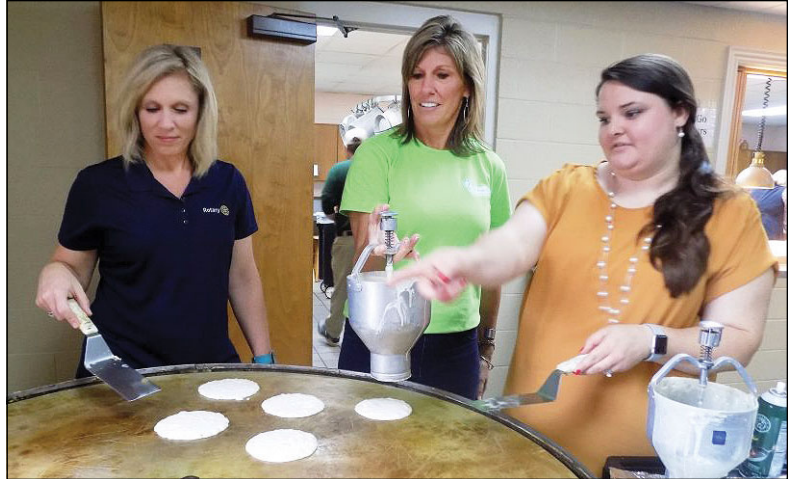


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FACES & PLACES



Jill Snow, left, welcomes new Quota member PJ French, right, who Jill sponsored.



Waiting to serve pancakes at this year's Carl Perkins Center Pancake Day are, left to right, Tory Daugherty, Michele Atkins and Nikki Klopfenstein.



At the CASA chili cook-off, Deputies Captain Steve Dean and Sgt. Daniel Powell took custody of their wives, Debbie Dean and Tiffany Powell – and served up some spicy chili.



Don and John Penn Ridgeway check out the model of the rooms that will be in the new Lodge at Paris Landing during an open house at the Don Ridgeway Convention Center.



Veterans' Parade Grand Marshal Buddy Gardner waves to the crowd.



At the PLUS Endowment 20th anniversary, Steve Blount and Randall Perkins were busy preparing the punch.

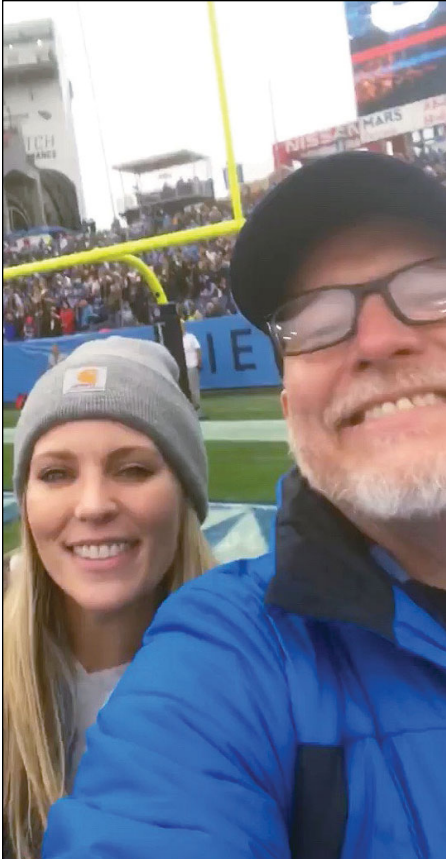


Eagle Scout Levi Hamilton poses with the new sign he created for the Paris Landing State Park Aviary, located right next to the state park office.

Photo courtesy Paris Landing State Park



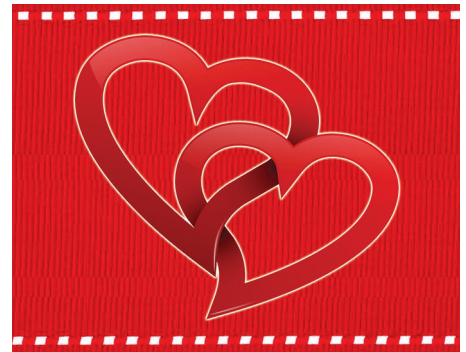
Henry County Juvenile Court Judge Vicki Snyder and her new therapy dogs, Maisy, a border collie, and Tessa, a chihuahua.



Dan Jackson and Cheryl Green say "Titan Up!" as they cheer on their favorite football team at a recent game in Nashville.



Southside Cafe's waitress Debbie Medlock channels her inner elf during the holiday season.



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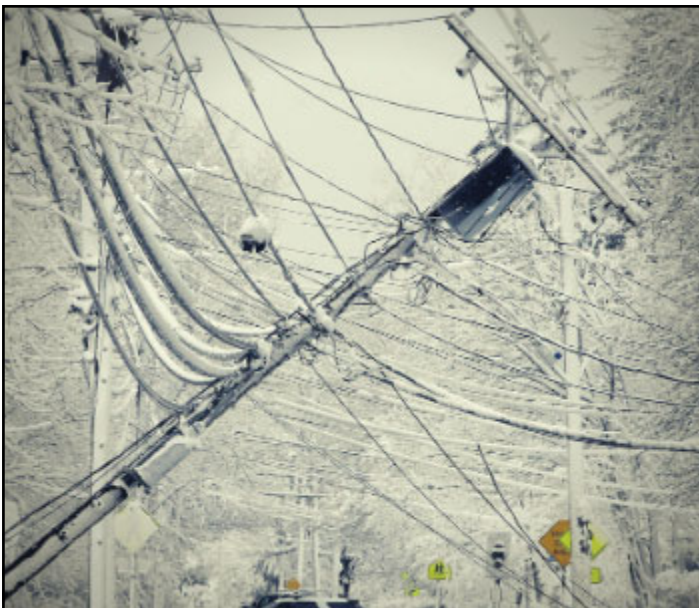
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ACROSS

- 4. BPU can help you prepare for this.
- 6. Great kitchen utensil for making winter dinners.
- 7. First Christian Church will sell a lot of these on March 17.
- 9. Nationwide count in 2020
- 10. Kitties love it; their owners don't.
- 12. Movie's Sherlock Holmes
- 16. He did a benefit for Bethel College in 1975.
- 17. He discovered the "golden cat."
- 18. Robert Crockett founded the Crockett's _____ newspaper.
- 19. Henry County's month of fundraising




DOWN

- 1. John Watkin's favorite new lawn gadget
- 2. A sponsor of the annual Photo Showcase
- 3. Buried in the old City Cemetery.
- 5. Helen Gahagan was married to this well-known actor.
- 8. Neese's first car use to belong to this local judge.
- 10. Her family helped maintained County Home when she was growing up.
- 11. Gardening has come a long way in the field of _____.
- 13. Building this will enhance a child's imagination
- 14. She makes clothing alterations.
- 15. Heating and cooling company



I'M A LITTLE SNOWMAN



BY BARRY HART

A number of songs have been written about the snowman. “I’m a Little Snowman,” “Do You Want to Build a Snowman,” “I’m a Chubby Little Snowman,” and many others. Perhaps the most popular snowman song, “Frosty the Snowman,” was written by Jack Rollins and Steve Nelson and first recorded by Gene Autry in 1950. It has been a winter staple ever since.

Although we consider building a snowman as a fun family activity, snowmen have played important roles throughout history. For example, snowmen have been used to protest unjust treatment, guard the walls and gates of a fort, and simply as a means of artistic expression.

In 1511, the people of Belgium were starving and freezing while the House of Habsburg lived in opulence. 110 obscene snowmen and snowwomen were crafted by residents of Brussels to protest the unjust treatment of the peasants. They made their point, but in the end, unfortunately, the snow-folks melted and caused a massive flood.

In 1690, America was involved in its own snow-covered controversy.

Fort Schenectady in New York was pounded by a brutal snowstorm that froze the front gates of the fort open. The Dutch soldiers decided to build snowmen and dress them in uniforms to guard the front gates from attack and retreat inside to escape the brutal cold weather. The Canadiens and Native Americans were not fooled. They attacked successfully and ransacked the fort, killing 60 civilians.

In 1818, in Zurich, Switzerland, the tradition of blowing up the snowman was started to celebrate the coming of Spring. A snowman would be built with a small amount of TNT packed inside and paraded down the main street in town. After the parade was over, the snowman would then be safe-

ly destroyed. Prince Albert brought the tradition to England, and Hans Christian Andersen used his storybooks to further the tradition.

In the 1950’s, I remember as a young boy building snow creatures with my brothers and sisters (without TNT, of course). We did not have video games, cellphones, and computers to entertain us. Nor did we have television. Snow was the medium we used to express our artistic talents during the winter months. Snowmen, snow angels, and snow dogs were popular with my family. Snow mazes, snow forts, and igloos were attempted, as well. The igloo building did not go well!

In the 1980’s when my children were younger and the first snowflake was spotted, the mad dash to the garage to retrieve sleds, shovels, and the like, began. Boundaries were drawn in the yard, and each child built their own version of a snow creature. Prizes were awarded for the biggest, most unusual, and best-dressed.

In the 21st century, my children have become adults with their own children, and when the snows come, the tradition is still the same – sleds, shovels, and imagination.



I encourage you to find time for this fun family activity and create your own family traditions, and here are a few reasons why:

It encourages creativity: The more you can teach kids to engage in creativity, the more likely they will be to solve problems on their own as they grow older.

It teaches teamwork: Teamwork allows all the kids to carry the bucket toget without bickering or arguing.

It is entertaining for hours: No matter how long you've been packing snow into the body of a snowman, there's always more snow you can add. Is the base big enough? No way, we can make it BIGGER! Is he tall enough? No way, we can make him TALLER! Is Dad's right knee frozen enough from kneeling down in the snow for the past 75 minutes? No way, we can make it FROZEN-ER!

Besides, it keeps the kids from playing video games, listening to iTunes, and fussing from being bored, and the mess stays outside!

Since the 1950's and as the decades thereafter have faded into



Building a snowman may enhance a child's imagination.

history, the opportunity to build a snowman has become more rare. Not every winter brings enough snow and not every snow falls at a convenient time when you aren't working or driving the kids to music lessons or engrossed in the most epic game of Candy Crush.

You'll create memories that you'll discuss later in the evening over warm cups of hot cocoa and later in life when they are packing up to head back to college after Christmas break.

The big payday will come years down the road, when your children have children of their own and text you a photo of your grandkids building a snowman with the caption, "Look who came to visit our house: Frosty."

According to the 2020 edition of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, founded in 1792: "Winter will be warmer than normal, on average, with the coldest periods in early December, late January, and early to mid-February. Rainfall will be below normal near the Gulf but above normal elsewhere, with the best chance for snowfall in mid- to late November and early January."

As the climate warms, our opportunities of a sufficient amount of snow, enough to build a life-size snowman, will diminish. So, when the first snowflake falls, get the sleds and shovels out and turn off the video games. Make those memories while you can!

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KITTY LITTER

Scratching The Surface Of Henry County's Clay Industry



BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Have you ever heard the old saying, “Never judge a book by its cover?” We have a prime example of just how true that is. W.G. Rhea Library Bookstore Manager, Darcy Louer, sees a quite of few books cross her threshold everyday. She goes through each one, checking for torn pages and trying to assess prices.

One day, there was a rather innocuous looking book with an odd title, *The Man Who Discovered The Golden Cat*. The cover featured an illustration of a man holding a gold cat. There was absolutely nothing on the cover that would connect the book to Paris, Tennessee, yet when Louer was glancing through the book, the words “Russell Pottery” and “Paris, Tennessee” jumped out at her.

Turns out the book relates the story of how Edward Lowe invented Kitty Litter, brought the Kitty Litter business to Paris, and made billions of dollars in the process.

Edward Lowe is the man on the bookcover with the cat and he probably felt the feline was more like a “golden goose.”

His finesse for invention, marketing, and finding valuable property

brought good jobs to people in Henry County for several years.

Lowe invented clay cat litter in 1947 and marketed his product first as “Kitty Litter” and later as “Tidy Cat.” By the time of his death, he had expanded the venture into a billion-dollar business.

In 1951, he moved litter packing to the facilities of Russell Pottery in Paris

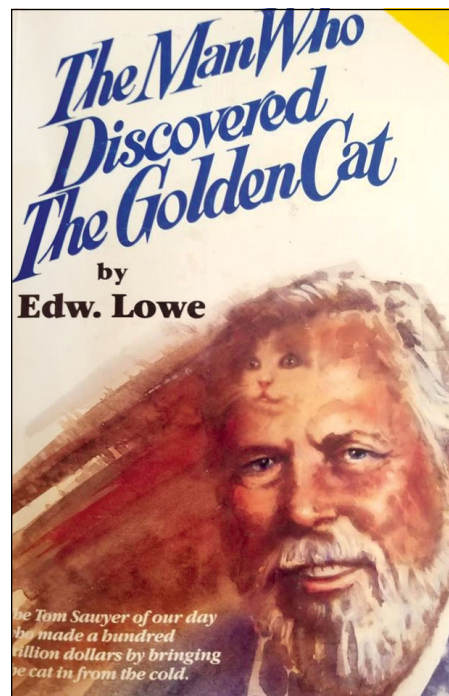
to be closer to the source of clay. He later purchased two more Paris clay manufacturing businesses: Southern Clay Co. in 1965 and the Tennessee Absorbent Clay Co. in 1966.

With Lowe’s invention of litter, he changed the way Americans kept cats as pets. Before litter, cats were thought of as mostly an outdoor animal. People who wanted their cats to be indoor pets used different methods, such as sawdust or ashes from the fireplace or stove in a wooden box, to absorb the cat’s you-know-what.

All of Lowe’s inventions and the Paris jobs may not have happened unless his neighbor started the ball rolling one day.

Lowe was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, and grew up in Michigan. After the Navy, he joined his father’s company, which sold absorbents for industries. Those absorbents included sawdust and an absorbent clay which was called “Fuller’s Earth.”

The neighbor approached Lowe in 1947 and said she was tired of using ashes in her cat’s box because the cat would leave sooty pawprints all over. She asked him for sand to use, but he suggested clay instead. After using the clay, the neighbor gave it two thumbs



up, and the cat apparently also gave its paws up, too. The neighbor said the clay was more absorbent and the cat didn't leave paw tracks everywhere.

Other neighbors started using the clay and came back telling him how great it was. Lowe began marketing the material he had given his neighbors as Kitty Litter, traveling all over to pet shops and to cat shows.

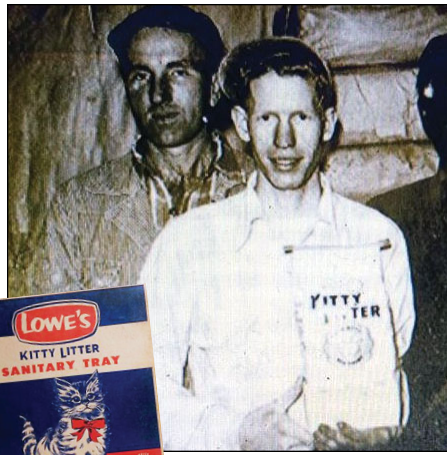
The response was overwhelming, and in two years, he quit working for his father and went into the Kitty Litter business full-time.

By the time Lowe sold the clay division of his company in 1990, the company had 600 total employees and sales of \$165 million.

In his book, Lowe tells the whole Kitty Litter story in great detail. "When you're leading an outfit like this Kitty Litter organization," he wrote, "you're almost like the first man on the Moon. There aren't any street signs up to tell you which way to go and you don't have any radio contact back to Houston. New problems come up to puzzle you every time the Sun rises."

Early on, he learned that Paris, Tennessee, was home to good, natural clay and realized he needed to tap it for his business. "It didn't take any genius on my part to see that it was ridiculous to ship material from Paris, Tennessee, all the way up to Cassopolis, Michigan just to package it and turn around to ship it right back down south," he said.

"I made what I felt was a progressive step by going to Paris, Tennessee.



In 1952, Travis Rose displays a bag of Kitty Litter.

There I arranged to rent a building on a railroad siding close by the Southern Clay Company, the source for our material. Now I was able to load a carload of Kitty Litter at Southern Clay's docks and have it switched over to our new building, formerly the Russell Pottery Company, just down the tracks apiece."

The building was in bad shape and he hired a local part-time carpenter, Hank Robinson, to help get the Russell Pottery building back in shape. Together, they built the first bagging machine and set up a crude conveyor system to carry the bagged product from the basement up to the main floor.

"There the five-pound bags were put in bales ready to ship," he said. "We were doing probably ten tons a day or a total of four hundred bales in ten hours" in those early days.

A man named Kelly Dick was the owner of the Tennessee Absorbent Clay Co. in Paris at that time, and Lowe said he realized that it "wasn't smart to have Kelly bag the material, wire tie it" and then undo it and dump it again in the hopper. Lowe said he took a "smart pill" and walked over to the railroad right next to the Clay Company and leased two big out-of-date hopper cars to pour the clay in bulk.

It wasn't that long before the Paris plant was outgrowing itself and Lowe and the local manager kept abreast of the needs for growth. In the meantime, Lowe and his wife, Darlene, had a home in Paris, along with other homes in Chicago and Florida, where they also owned a ship named "The Golden Cat."

As the company expanded, other manufacturing plants were utilized in other states, notably Illinois.

While it lasted, the local Kitty Litter business provided jobs for hundreds in Henry County. During his life, Lowe secured over 170 patents, trademarks and copyrights for products. Most related to the cat litter business, but others included packaged, pre-cut firewood and a dust-free carrier for agricultural pesticides.

As he grew older, Lowe turned the business over to a management team, and in 1990, the company was renamed the Golden Cat Corporation. After his death, the Golden Cat Corporation was sold to Ralston Purina Company.

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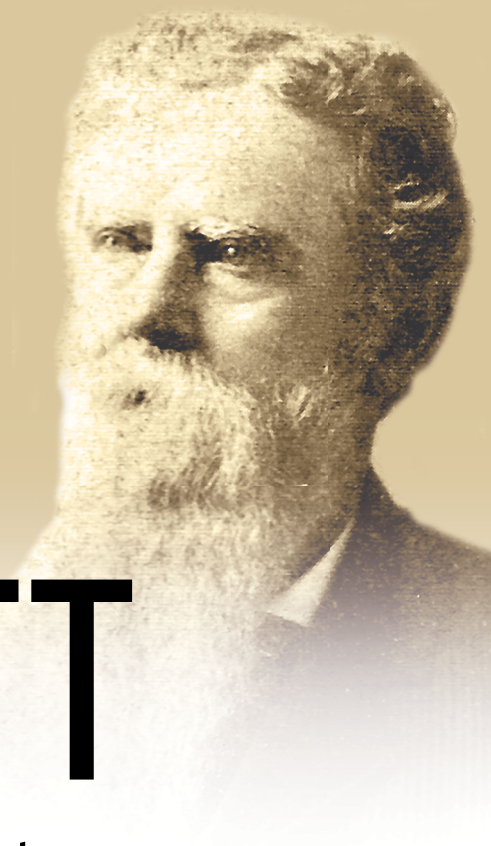
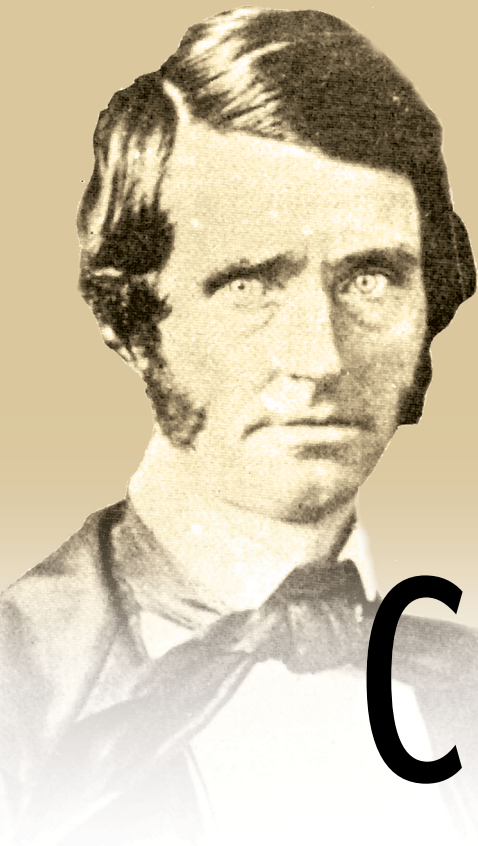
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JOHN WESLEY and ROBERT HAMILTON CROCKETT

Son & Grandson of Davy Crockett

BY LARRY RAY

As part of his quest to help save our forgotten and often ignored history for future generations, Larry Ray is compiling articles detailing the history of some local families during the Civil War. This is the 41st in the series. Previous articles can be read online in the archives of MyParisMagazine.com.

David “Davy” Crockett was a legendary humorist, adventurer, politician, backwoods orator and war hero. Davy Crockett was elected to represent the 12th Congressional District, which included Henry County, in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served three terms between 1825 and 1835.

After he lost the election in 1835, he took a group of Tennessee Volunteers to Texas where they died defending the Alamo. Davy Crockett’s oldest son was John Wesley Crockett, who lived and worked in Paris, later was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

JOHN WESLEY CROCKETT

John Wesley Crockett was born in East Tennessee on July 10, 1807, to Davy Crockett and his wife, Polly. His father, Davy, moved the family to Carroll County in 1821. John Wesley

studied law and started his law practice in Paris. He held numerous local and state offices before being elected to the same seat in the U.S. House of Representatives as his father, Davy Crockett, representing Henry County.

In 1843, John Wesley and his family moved to New Orleans where he was a newspaper editor at *The Crescent*. In 1852, he moved his family to Memphis where he died that same year at age 45.

His body was brought back to Paris and buried in the Old City Cemetery in downtown Paris. A historical marker about his life is at the front gate of the cemetery.

ROBERT HAMILTON CROCKETT

John Wesley’s oldest son, Robert Hamilton, was born in Paris on February 15, 1832. When “Bob” (as he was

often called) was 11, he moved with his family to New Orleans and then to Memphis. As he grew, this rowdy, self-willed boy became increasingly hard for his parents to handle and was sent to the Kentucky Military Institute where he received a traditional as well as military education, and no doubt, training in social skills.

His social skills served him well upon his return to Memphis where he became very interested in the riverboats traveling up and down the Mississippi. On the riverboats, he was a great favorite of passengers and officers alike.

After several trips to New Orleans, he signed up as a sailor and took to the sea for almost a year. After his return, he was swept up in the revolution for Cuban independence and signed on to fight.

Only a third of these freedom fighters returned from the island. The

ABOVE: John Welsey Crockett (left) and Robert Hamilton Crockett (right)

others were either killed in combat or executed. Bob escaped and quickly returned to his parents' home.

In Memphis, he entered the law office of Isham Harris, who was also from Paris and governor of Tennessee during the Civil War. Crockett was admitted to the Tennessee Bar in 1853.

That same year he married Sarah Lewis of Memphis. They had one daughter, Sallie. In 1856, Crockett left Memphis and settled with his family across the river in Mount Adams, Arkansas. He became a public prosecutor and gained an outstanding reputation. It was said that "he did not prosecute to convict, but to find the truth and responsible parties."

THE CIVIL WAR

In 1861, as the Civil War broke out, Crockett answered the call of his state. He raised two companies of infantry. He was elected captain of the first, then resigned to raise a second. This second group became the 18th Arkansas Infantry Regiment known as "The Crockett Rifles" which saw a great deal of action.

Crockett proved himself to be a brave and inspiring leader. He was soon commissioned as a colonel and commanded the regiment until the end of the war in 1864.

AFTER THE WAR

Crockett re-established his law practice in Mount Adams. He and his wife were great entertainers and popu-



lar in the community. Known to most as "Uncle Bob" and "Aunt Mollie," they built a fine home and raised their family – Sallie, John Wesley II, and a foster son, Guy Robert Crockett.

David "Davy" Crockett was elected to represent the Tennessee's 12th Congressional District, which included Henry County, in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served three terms between 1825 and 1835.

In 1881, Robert Crockett moved to DeWitt, Arkansas. Soon after, he was elected to the State Senate and served two terms. A powerful orator, Crockett helped settle the question of religious freedom in Arkansas. During his lifetime, Crockett, like his father, had written for several newspapers and edited several more. In DeWitt, he founded *Crockett's Gleaner*.

There have been several large Crockett family reunions in Paris for several years. Many proud descendants of Davy Crockett and his family still live in and around Henry County and West Tennessee.

In 1889, Crockett's son-in-law, W.M. Price, was a real estate dealer in the Stuttgart area. Since his son, John, was making his own way in politics as the Secretary of State for Arkansas, the Crockett's and their young son, Guy, followed Sallie and her family to Stuttgart. There Crockett practiced law, wrote for local papers, and served as the city's first mayor.

DEATH AND LEGACY

On his 70th birthday, Robert Crockett's many friends sought to honor him with the presentation of a special gift. On February 15, 1902, he was presented with a gold-headed cane. Three days later, on February 18, he died. All Arkansas state offices were closed the next day in mourning. He was buried in Lone Tree Cemetery near Stuttgart, Arkansas.

Thanks to Stephanie Tayloe of the Henry County Archives Office as well as Robert "Bob" Crockett and his niece, Summer Crockett Moore, for their assistance in my research.

Larry Ray is retired and was a past Executive Director of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development. He has had a life-long interest in the Civil War.



2020 FORD
RANGER

JOE MAHAN



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BUILT Ford TOUGH

What Plant Is This?



Purple Hellebore

Hellebores (Hellborus) are commonly known as Lenten Rose given their blooms are a late winter/early springtime staple in zone 4-9 shade gardens.

GARDEN
TECH 1.0

BY JOHN WATKINS

Wow! Here we are in the brand new decade of 2020! You know, growing up in the 1970's (yes, *that seems like forever ago even for me*), I had high hopes for what the world would look like in 2020. My imagination was alive with thoughts of flying cars, hover boards, living on Mars, or maybe even traveling to other stars at the speed of light! Boy, was I way off.

While we have come a long way in the field of technology, what with cell phones for almost every man, woman and child (*by the way, I still can't figure out why my six-year-old nephew needs a smartphone*), I feel that we should be doing better. Is a smart toilet really necessary? Do I really need an app to tell me I'm lazy and eat too much? Does posting a picture of every minute detail of my last meal at that fancy restaurant make my life that much better?

And if you want to get me started on the technological "breakthroughs" in gardening, well, you better pull up a stool. Below are just a few of the new gadgets on the market to help you in

the garden or at least make you look hip while you're pulling weeds.

WHAT THE APP?

Let's start with some of the gardening apps, and believe me, there are no shortage of these out there, that are available for both the novice and seasoned gardeners alike.

One of the more useful tools for any gardener is an app that will help you identify plants. Because if you don't know what you have, how can you take care of it?

Most work intuitively by snapping a picture of the plant in question and, *violá*, you have an answer without all that beating around the bush. There are also similar apps to help identify plant pests or nutritional problems.

Need an idea or a little inspiration on what to do with that empty flower or shrub bed in your yard? Try a landscape design tool to help your project come to life. You just take a picture of the area in question and then you can virtually add trees, shrubs, and flowers to get an idea of what the area will look like before you ever lift the first shovel

of dirt. I still wish they had an app to make all my weeds virtually disappear!

GIVE 'EM WHAT THEY WANT!

Are you confused at the very thought of plant nutrition or proper watering? Never fear, technology is here. How about a wireless monitor that senses temperature, moisture, fertilizer, and light levels? The information is sent to your smartphone through Bluetooth technology so you can determine exactly what your plants crave.

I'm sure a voice app is soon to follow so you can actually converse with your plants. I can only imagine the following conversation:

Plant: "Hey, you, curled up on the couch watching football! A little water and some fertilizer over here!"

Me: "Get up and get it yourself, you lazy loropetalum! I just fed you like two days ago!"

OH, SNAP!

And if you are one of those "helicopter" plant parents, what about a garden camera that lets you monitor their every leaf movement. You can

set the cameras to snap photos of your flower bed from every minute to 24 hours. I'm sure you could set these up in front of a newly painted surface and watch the paint dry if the former use isn't exciting enough for you!

Actually, this item could have some beneficial effects to help determine what critters are destroying your dahlias or mutilating your mahonia.

SMART WATER ZONE

One item I do really like is a smart sprinkler controller. If you have an irrigation system on your property, you know that a lot of water is wasted by irrigating at the wrong time or when it simply isn't needed.

A smart controller can remedy this by actually having sensors in the zones that need covering and develop the best plan for when and how much water to apply.

GO ROBO THE LAWN!

Last but not least, the perennial favorite that has been around for a while and yet still hasn't taken off like I thought it would: The Robo Mower!

These things seem to get smarter every year, what with longer battery life, self-cleaning attachments, uncanny avoidance systems, and auto-docking features. For the small, urban gardener whose yard just doesn't justify buying a large riding or self-propelled mower, these seem like the perfect answer. Granted, you won't end up with a putting green surface that rivals Augusta National, but it will get the job done without you even having to get out of the hammock.

I'm sure some day we will all look back with nostalgia to those days where we actually had to go out and get dirt under our nails. How could we have been so naïve as to think that our drones couldn't take care of all the watering and fertilization? Or that our robotic mowers could not only cut the grass but pull weeds and trim the shrubs as well.

In the meantime, keep those shovels sharpened, clippers honed, and extra herbicide in the basement for that time in the future when the plants decide they might just want to harvest us instead!



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Not only does a robotic lawnmower keep your lawn clipped neatly, it will keep your neighbors entertained.

John Watkins is the grounds director at Discovery Park of America and resides in Henry County.



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WARM UP

With A Slow Cooked Meal

Are you busy? Just too tired to cook after work and helping the kids with homework? Slow cooking enables you to prepare hearty, homemade meals early in the morning and let them cook all day long in a crockpot.

That means no matter how busy you may be, you gain the convenience and flexibility of preparing meals ahead of time so that the entire family can arrive home in to a tasty, nutritious, and satisfying dinner that's hot and ready to enjoy. Forget the frozen dinners

and family-size pizzas. Slow cooking is the healthier, more convenient way to keep your busy family fed and fueled. Healthy, simple-to-prepare and downright delicious, these are meals you can make in advance and then slow cook when you're ready.

CHEESY CHICKEN AND RICE

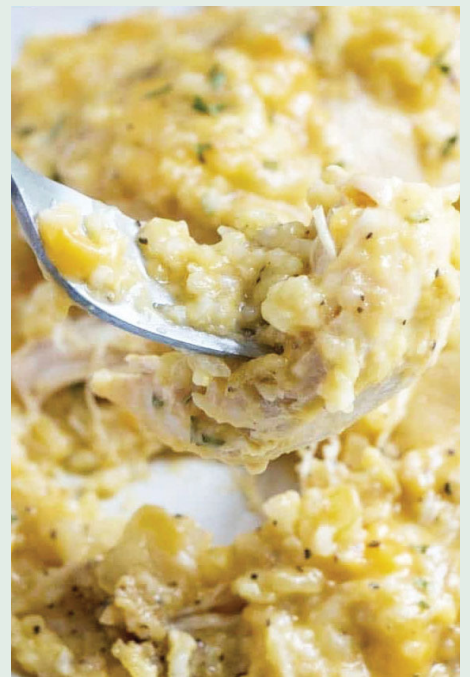
This simple dinner is perfect for busy nights. Easy to make, but filled with protein and lots of flavor, this dish will become your go-to recipe for the craziest of days.

INGREDIENTS:

4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
1 medium onion, chopped
2 cups chicken stock
1 (10.5 ounce) can cream of chicken soup
1 (8 ounce) box yellow rice, cooked according to package
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, or cheese blend
1 (15 ounce) can of corn, drained

DIRECTIONS:

Place chicken in the bottom of your slow cooker and top with salt and pepper, to taste. In a bowl, combine the 2 cups of chicken stock and the cream of chicken soup. Pour over chicken. Cover and cook on low for 7 to 8 hours or on high for 4 hours. Remove chicken and shred with two forks. Return to slow cooker. Add cooked yellow rice, cheese and corn, mixing to combine, until cheese is melted.



BARBECUE BEEF BRISKET

Smoky and savory, this Texas-inspired hearty beef brisket is satisfyingly good. Best of all, except for the beef, each of these ingredients can likely be found right in your cupboard!

INGREDIENTS:

3 pounds beef brisket
1 teaspoon chili powder
½ teaspoon garlic powder
¼ teaspoon celery seeds
⅛ teaspoon black pepper
½ cup ketchup
½ cup chili sauce
¼ cup packaged brown sugar
½ teaspoon dry mustard
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
1 ½ teaspoons liquid smoke



DIRECTIONS:

For the rub, combine the chili powder, garlic powder, celery seed and pepper in a bowl. Rub over beef brisket and place in the bottom of your slow cooker. In another bowl, combine all remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour sauce all over brisket to coat evenly. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours. Remove meat when ready and cut the brisket across the grain, making thin slices. Drizzle remaining liquid over sliced brisket and serve.

VEGETABLE STEW

There are plenty of tasty vegetarian options for busy nights too, including this veggie-filled stew.

INGREDIENTS:

4 large carrots, diagonally sliced into 2-inch pieces (about 5 cups)
2 medium turnips, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes (about 3 cups)
1 large onion, diced (about 1 cup)
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 (14-ounce) can diced tomatoes
1 cup vegetable broth
1 teaspoon kosher salt
½ teaspoon ground cumin
¼ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1 zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch slices
1 (16-ounce) can chickpeas, drained

DIRECTIONS:

Combine all ingredients except zucchini and chickpeas in your slow cooker and combine well. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours or on high for 3 hours. Add zucchini and chickpeas and cook for 1 hour longer. Serve in bowls warm.





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HEN. COUNTY GEMMETRY COM. 336-9764

SUSAN STEWART

STERNHANE TAYLOR 644-3489

HENRY CO. CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

MIKE HOLDEN 676-2772

FEBRUARY 8

AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

DAVE/ANNE CULLEN 641-0097

IN HOUSE NIGHT AUCTION
BEGINS AT 6:00 PM



FEBRUARY 9

OFFICE PHONE

644-1833

OFFICE HOURS

7 AM - 30 MINUTES

AFTER AUCTION ENDS

FEBRUARY 10

HENRY/BURNS COMMUNITY

ALONNA TOSH 243-2221

DEDE WVAIT 353-0568

HENRY BETA CLUB

VAL CODINA 243-7115

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

ANN SMITH 270-293-2705

POINT PLEASANT BAP. CHURCH

CHERL CONNER 247-5622

OPEN DOORS CHURCH

TRISH MCCLURE 731-514-0020

FEBRUARY 11

SUNNYSIDE/COUNTRY WOOD

PENNY LANGSTER 336-3732

JANETTE WONG 641-0282

RHONDA COMPANY

SCENIC HILLS/CASTLETON COVE 644-9903

DEB PATTERSON

FOOD BANK 407-4151

BETTY FLOWERS

CARLTON GERRELL 676-0156

EXTENDICARE OF W. TN INC.

ANDREA NANCE 693-3333

LADIES WITH SWAG

ROBERTA TAYLOR 731-415-5249

HCHS FISHING TEAM

JENNIFER STARKS 676-1303

FEBRUARY 12

PARIS LANDING COMMUNITY

AND RESORT AREAS 644-9360

REGGIE COLES

PEGGY WENZ 232-6146

COUNTRY CLUB ESTATES/

NELSON/SHADY GROVE 676-0145

BETTY PASCHALL

TERESA BAARNHILL 642-6618

HCHS CROSS COUNTRY

AMY LAWRENCE 431-6634

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REAL HOPE YOUTH CENTER

LINLEY WHITE 333-1320

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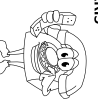
FEBRUARY 15

AUCTION BEGINS AT 12 NOON

HENRY COUNTY

MEDICAL CENTER

JUDY FARRIS 644-8283



- RADIO NIGHT AUCTION -
AUCTION BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

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TY WILSON 336-7163

FEBRUARY 17

PARIS CITY EMPLOYEES

MI STANCOOK 641-1402

COMO COMMUNITY

ETHEL EMERSON 642-3697

TOM WINCHESTER

642-7231

PARIS BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TERRY WIMBERLEY 642-1322

PROJECT HELP

DANI DZIEKONSKI 642-1860

FEBRUARY 18

PARIS CITY EMPLOYEES

MI STANCOOK 641-1402

COMO COMMUNITY

ETHEL EMERSON 642-3697

TOM WINCHESTER

642-7231

PARIS BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

TERRY WIMBERLEY 642-1322

PROJECT HELP

DANI DZIEKONSKI 642-1860

FEBRUARY 19

VAN DYKE/ROUTON COMMUNITIES

SPRING HILL BAPTIST CHURCH 642-9309

VAN DYKE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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NOLA BARRETT 642-5860

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRACI SMITH 571-0052

PEPPERS AUTOMOTIVE

NOEL HATMAN 642-5661

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TENNESSEE VALLEY

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CARLTON GERRELL 693-3333



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ONGOING EVENTS

Make volunteering your New Year's resolution this year. Call the **Volunteer Center** at 731-642-3431 and sign up for one of the many spots that could use you.

Popcorn Anyone? – Enjoy a night out at the **Parisian Theatre** with nightly shows on six screens and matinees on Saturday and Sunday. For more information and movie schedules call 731-642-7171.

Pickin' N Grinnin' – Jam with fellow country music lovers or just listen in at the Civic Center on Volunteer Drive. For information, call Bob Perry at 731-641-7577.

No blades and ice; just wheels and wood – Enjoy skating at Paris Wheels Skating Center. Call 731-642-2245.

Henry County Medical Center's free seminars/screenings including Shopping Smart, Chronic Disease Management, Childbirth Education and many more. To pre-register or for more information, call 731-644-3463.

Get Artsy – Learn to play an instrument, sing, paint, create pottery and more at **Lee Academy for the Arts**. Visit www.schoolforarts.com for more information

Play Inside – The **Paris Civic Center** has an indoor pool, track, weights, and fitness machines. Pay by the visit or become a member. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

Warm Up with a Good Book – **W.G. Rhea Public Library** always has something going on. Internet/phone classes, children's and teens' craft sessions and movies, and, of course, BOOKS galore. Call for more information, 731-642-1702.

— JANUARY —

JANUARY 6 – School students in the Paris Special School District and Henry County School System head **back to school today!**

JANUARY 6 – You've waited all year, now **Helping Hand Radio Auction** is back through February 26. Auction begins at 12:30 pm. Check the calendar on pages 34-35 in this issue for your organization, club, church or neighborhood.

JANUARY 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day! No school in Paris and Henry County. Start your day off with a special breakfast at Central School and then a march downtown in honor of Dr. King. For more information, contact Brother Joe Rawls at 731-644-9520.

JANUARY 25 – What's more fun than making a quilt together on a cold winter's day? Learn the historic art at the **1850s String Quilt Workshop**, 11 am to 3 pm, at the Land Between The Lakes' Homeplace. \$25 registration fee, class size limited. All supplies are provided. For more information, call 270-924-2020.

JANUARY 25 & 26 – The Paris-Henry County Jaycees host the **World's Biggest Fish Fry Pageants** at the Krider Performing Arts Center. Call 731-644-2517 or visit www.worldsbiggestfishfry.com for more information.

— FEBRUARY —

Been fishin' lately? Head out to one of the Paris Landing State Park Marina Fishing Tournaments. For more information, contact Rob Markum at 731-641-4475.

FEBRUARY 1-26 – Continue to support our **Helping Hand Radio Auction!** See the schedule on pages 34-35 of this issue.

FEBRUARY 2- Happy Groundhog Day! How many weeks until spring?

FEBRUARY 6 – Give the "Gift of Life" at the Lifeline Blood Drive, First United Methodist Church, Blythe Street, from noon to 6 pm. Call 1-800-924-6572 for more information.

FEBRUARY 6 – Primo Giovedit (First Thursday) Book Review Assembly will meet upstairs in Stella Nera, 100 N. Market Street at 5 pm. Discussion: Book you were assigned to read in school. Group is open to ages 20+, bring a friend. For information, contact Audrey Hamilton at audreyghamilton9@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY 8 – Learn the ancient craft of spinning. **Beginning Spinners Workshop** at the Land Between the Lakes' Homeplace, 11 am - 3 pm. \$25 registration fee, class size limited. All supplies are included in the fee. For more information or to reserved your space, call 270-924-2020.

CALENDAR

— MARCH —

FEBRUARY 14 – Love is in the air, **Happy Valentine's Day!**

FEBRUARY 15 – **Valentine's Weekend with "The King" - Travis LeDoyt at the KPAC** at 7 pm. Known as the world's best young Elvis performer. Tickets are \$27 and on sale now. For more information, call 731-644-2517.

FEBRUARY 17 – **President's Day!** No school in the Paris Special School District or the Henry County School System.

FEBRUARY 22 – Come one, come all to the **Mardi Gras Ball** with proceeds benefiting the Paris-Henry County Heritage Center. Dinner and entertainment 6-10 pm at the Paris Country Club. For more information or to reserve a table, call 731-642-1030.

FEBRUARY 25 – Yummy, yummy! **Lion's Club Chili Day** at First United Methodist Church, 11 am-7 pm. For more information, call 731-642-4764. February 26- Last day to bid high and bid often! Call 731-644-1695 to scoop up one last goody from the Helping Hand Radio Auction.

Head out fishin' at one of the Paris Landing Marina Fishing Tournaments. For more information contact Rob Mar-kum at 731-641-4475.

MARCH 5 – Help save a life at the **Lifeline Blood Drive**, First United Methodist Church, Blythe Street, from noon to 6 pm. Call 1-800-924-6572 for more information.

MARCH 5 – **Primo Giovedit (First Thursday) Book Review Assembly** will meet upstairs in Stella Nera, 100 N. Market Street at 5 pm. Discussion: A book published in the last year. Group is open to ages 20+, bring a friend. For information, contact Audrey Hamilton at audreyghamilton9@gmail.com.

MARCH 6 – Enjoy a comedy night with **The Funniest Man in America-James Gregory!** performing at KPAC, 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$33 for general admission and \$38 for preferred seating. For more information call 731-644-2517.

MARCH 8 - APRIL 3 – **Captured Moments: 28th Annual Photo Showcase** is open to all ages to enter photography. For rule and entry forms, visit www.phcart.com/photo-showcase. Free to the public at Rhea Library. For more information, call 731-642-3411.

MARCH 8 – Spring forward, don't be late! **Daylight Savings Time begins.**

MARCH 15 – Spring issue of **PARIS!** Magazine is out!





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GOOD HEALTH!

Now that Old Man Winter is here, we wanted to offer some tips for safety in bad weather. We try to follow these guidelines and hope you will, too!

- Slow and steady wins the race, especially in winter. Don't get in a hurry.
- For increased balance, keep your hands free and out of your pockets.
- Keep rock salt and some sand or cat litter on hand. Salt helps melt ice and cat litter or sand can offer temporary traction.
- Plan your steps to the car, office and elsewhere to avoid snowy, icy walkways.
- Look at the bottom of your footwear. Make sure your shoes/boots have good tread.



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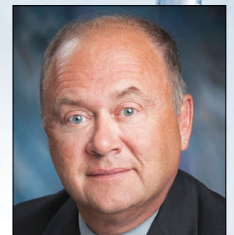
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