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We're Ready For Spring!

Spring is an exciting time, and we've got a magazine that covers it all, plus our terrific calendar and dining guide to help you get the most out of this gorgeous season.

This was a banner year for Helping Hand. Some of the radio auction's most enthusiastic participants were youngsters from Sulphur Well Church of Christ. Don't miss their story in *Around Our Town*.

Arts and Entertainment is brimming with news of an upcoming visit from Bethel University's Renaissance Theatre. "Matilda the Musical" comes to the Krider Performing Art Center stage in April, thanks to a trio of partners – KPAC, Arts Council and the Chamber. Buy tickets now to see talented performers tell Matilda's endearing story.

Warm weather is the start of camping and gardening season, and no one has funnier camping tales than Bill Neese in *Back in the Day*. Our other favorite humorist, John Watkins made me laugh out loud with his garden history, especially the invention of the garden hose.

If you attended last year's World's Biggest Fish Fry Grand Parade, you'll remember Grand Marshal George Combs, Jr. Our *Neighbors* features snippets from this local icon's interview with Paris Podcast. Coinci-

dentally, Combs discusses attending Atkins-Porter Elementary School, which is featured in *Reminiscence* and *Remember When*. The history lesson continues with a fascinating piece about the Swor family, whose lineage may be more thoroughly researched than the Royals!

This issue points the spotlight on long-time, Paris barber Jerry Maddox. I was so excited to read what he has been up to in retirement. No one will be surprised that he has a new project that folks are already loving.

From pickleball to a locally filmed movie, there's lots more to read. And last, but not least, springtime in Henry County means it's time for the World's Biggest Fish Fry! Be sure to check out the inside back cover for a full list of events.

Happy Hushpuppies Y'all,

Smantha



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ON THE COVER

Tiny Tot Queen Landry Kate "Birdie" Flowers, daughter of Lydia Flowers, loved riding through the Fish Fry parade on her unicorn float that won Most Beautiful and General Manager's Choice. Photo is by Mary Paschall

PARIS!

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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."

SLEEPING

On A Railroad Bed

BY BILL NEESE

I had always heard stories of a small gauge railroad that carried clay from the pits to the processing shed in Whitlock. The best I can tell, it wasn't even a narrow gauge, just a special built train with open cars and a small steam engine. I have been told various routes, but I do not have any solid information.

I do know there were trestles over creeks and ditches. My Mother used to tell me of being brave as a little girl and walking across the trestle on the cross ties. It must not have been too high or long because she was a big chicken. I will keep looking.

One Spring weekend, several of us boys decided to be brave and camp out away from the house instead of the yard. We gathered up food, water, blankets and an old tent and loaded it

on our pack horse. Well, to be honest, he wasn't really a pack horse. He was an old ill-tempered palomino gelding named Buster, but he got the job done, more or less. The "less" was that Buster didn't see himself as a pack horse. Buster saw himself as a cow horse and openly resented his new role. This led to an occasional temper fit and some bucking, but Buster was too lazy to do too much of that, so we got him loaded up okay.

We saddled our other horses and rode off down the road, across the landscape and up an old field road on the Smith farm to what our inexperienced eyes saw as a prime camp site and made our camp. I am sure we were a sight to behold. We had enough equipment and supplies to cross the Great Plains strapped to and dangling

from old Buster and our saddles. We had no fancy, dedicated camping gear. We had old skillets, pots, bottles of soft drinks, bags of candy and hot dogs, gallon water jugs, fishing poles, old blankets and anything else we thought we might possibly need tied on with baling twine and rope.

At the campsite, we tied our horses out, pitched the old tent and built a fire. We warmed up canned soup, roasted hot dogs and marshmallows, told ghost stories, stayed up much later than normally allowed and had a big ole time. Sleep finally won out and we turned in for the night, some in the tent and some outside. We pretended to be brave, but no one slept far from the fire or one another.

It was clearly a rough night because when we all crawled out the next

morning, everyone was stiff and sore and no one had slept much. Now we were young kids, used to sleeping on the ground in our yards and on thin pallets at sleepovers and family gatherings. We couldn't figure out why we were so sore and stiff.

We cooked breakfast, played around, bragged about our camping skills, planned our next camp out and fished in a nearby pond. We finally slowly and stiffly broke camp, loaded up an irritable but resigned Buster, and headed home.

When I rode in, my grandfather asked how it went. I told him how much fun we had and what good outdoorsmen we were, but said I was surprised at how sore we all were from just sleeping on the ground, being such tough guys and all. He rolled his eyes and laughed and said, "You young'uns are soft. You shouldn't be sore just from sleeping on the ground."

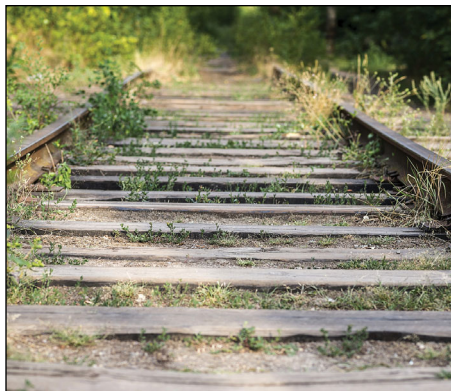
Then he asked a bunch of questions about exactly where we camped. I answered his questions and he got it narrowed down and just laughed. "Did you have any trouble setting up

the tent?" "Well, yeah. I thought we would never get those stakes in the ground. Lucky for us we took the big shop hammer."

"You boys slept on the old Dinky track bed. Hard as a rock," he said laughing. "No wonder you're sore. Might as well slept on a concrete slab."

Now, if I could remember exactly where we camped, I would know at least one place the Dinky line ran, but I can't and so I don't. But my search isn't over.

Still, if I was dumb enough to sleep on an old railroad bed, why do I think I can research the Dink's history?



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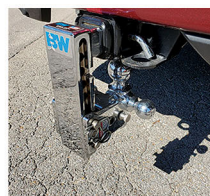
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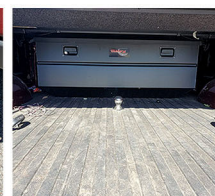
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UNCLE JESSE'S SWORTOWN

This story is part of an ongoing series by PARIS! Magazine for the Henry County's Bicentennial.

BY JAMES H. SWOR, JR.

One of my most memorable experiences growing up was listening to my grand-uncle Jesse F. Swor and my grandparents talking about the subject of "Swortown." To a shy pre-teen who was curious about anyone outside of our small family unit having "my" name, it was magical to hear that there was actually a "town" named after me.

The details of the story weren't important, nor was the time frame, or even the characters for that matter. It was just the idea that gave me so much to dream about. Even though my granddad "Pappy" had only a few years before told me, with a now tell-tale glint in his eye, that he had been a Confederate soldier, I was still enthralled with this new idea. My second grade teacher upon hearing me claim that my grandfather was a real Confederate exclaimed, in class, with the appropriate amount of doubt, "I would really like to meet your grandfather!" My grandmother, however, was not at all amused.

I learned later my grand-uncle Jesse had made his first genealogy related trip to Paris, Tennessee, in 1960 where his curiosity attracted the likes of David Hugh Jackson and John Quincy Adams, who being descendants of the Swor

family, wanted to assist in any way possible. Jesse received the grand tour that included the old Swor Distillery site at Owens Hill, the remains of several nearby log homes, and a trip out to Springville to see Wymer C. Swor whose family had been uprooted from the 23rd District.

At the time, Wymer's house couldn't have been more than 20 years old, but based on Jesse's description, it was at least 100 years old. After all, the floorboards had gaps wide enough to lose your coins, and the bathroom was, well, an outhouse. Wymer chose to serve his guests a length of freshly pulled goobers, still on a vine, that he pulled out of his closet. Uncle Jesse was no city slicker, but this Tennessee living and hospitality was to beat all in comparison to his native Dallas.

Although Uncle Jesse's interest in our family's genealogy was – to say the least – enthusiastic, his research abilities were far exceeded by his organizing, marketing, and public relations skills. Skills that in the early 1970s he used to inspire far-flung members of the Swor family to travel hundreds of miles each year to attend Swor Family reunions here in Henry County. One of his main methods of enticement was the concept of "Swortown."

In the meantime, another Swor family character emerged that completely turned our understanding of the Swor family tree upside down. Bruce Swor, and his wife Julia, from Oxnard, California, had retired in 1970 and proceeded to crisscross the country visiting county libraries, courthouses, and previously unknown Swor kinfolk along the way.

They pulled into Paris sometime in 1973, immediately met Georgia Swor Lax, her sisters Eva Cornell, and Ola, and found the area to be the mother lode of all Swor research. In the ensuing years, Uncle Jesse, Bruce and Julia, and the Henry County Swor kinfolks would combine their efforts to form the National Association of Swor Families, organize annual reunions, and mail out a quarterly newsletter.

In 1979, Bruce Swor published the family tree book, *Swor Kinfolks*, that brought together nearly 10 years of information gathering. To this day, even with the availability of the Internet, this 200-page compilation stands as the basis of our family research.

My personal interest in our family genealogy and history grew out of these early discussions and developments at my grandparents home. Many names, dates, and short stories were discussed that went complete-

ly over my head and were not to be recalled until I was older.

It was after I had made my first of many trips to Henry County in 1986 that I began to take up the mantle of our Swor Family organization. With that responsibility came the research. Once the Internet became a source for records and information, the research became something that could be done from home. With the exception of some nuanced clarifications and discoveries along the way, little has been found that supplants the original research done throughout the 1970s by Bruce and Julia.

The essence of our family story is that sometime before 1810, Richard Swor, Joseph Smith, sister Sarah Swor Smith, and several other families traversed the Great Wagon Road together from Anson County, North Carolina, to Stewart County, Tennessee.

Richard and Sarah were followed by younger brothers John C. Swor (1785-1859) and Robert Swor (1790-1872), who themselves arrived in Tennessee before 1820. Even though Henry County did not exist at the time, it is believed that John and Robert and their families were landowners in what is now the Buchanan area.

By 1850, there were at least 60 Swor family members in the area, and their land holdings were spread across Buchanan, Beaverdam, Mount Vista, Holly Fork, and the Elkhorn area. Although many Swor families eventually moved from the area to locations throughout the Deep South and Texas, the continued presence of Swor kinfolk in the area could give one the impression that there was really such a place as "Swortown."

The sheer number of family members and kinfolk in the area was prob-

ably the reason for the lighthearted inference. That impression may have been reinforced by George Washington Lafayette Swor (1842-1920) who, after losing his left hand at the Battle of Perryville in 1862, came back to Buchanan and developed the Swor Distillery. However, as far as can be told, there is no research that would lead us to believe that Swortown was an actual designation or location.

Uncle Jesse passed in 1987. All of the old-timers from his era are gone. I'm sure that if he were confronted with the issue today, he would confess that it was all a part of the excitement and romance of the time spent bringing our Swor family together and helping to perpetuate our proud Henry County heritage. After all, doesn't everyone dream of having a town named in their honor?



OWEN'S HILL SCHOOL (The Little Round Schoolhouse) was built by George Washington Lafayette Swor in the late 1800's, according to Ola French of Paris. She was the daughter of Sivers Swor and granddaughter of "Wash" Swor.

In numerical order, those pictured are: Freeman Bennett, Willie Swor, Martha J. (Sadler) Pfleuger, Ola (Swor) French, Grady (Bucy) Robinson, Vera (Swor) Hickey, Ila Mae (Sadler) McDaniels, Unknown _____, Quintus Bucy, Mary (Swor), McKinney, Mae Wilson, Minnis (Moody) Kemp, Ila (Evans) Wallace, Ruth (Bucy) Adams, Unknown _____, Minnie (French) Moody, Bessie French, Bedie Wilson, Lottie (Bennett) Caldwell, Dottie Bennett, Rupert Bennett, Bertha (Oliver) _____, Flora (Oliver) _____, John Wilson, Lizzie Wilson, Ida Thomas, Dave Swor, Ada (French) Swor, Joe Williams, Lillie Moody, Bessie (Wilson) Wms., Riley Miller, Ed Miller.



Remembering Atkins-Porter School

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

You know you've had a good childhood when your memories of your grade school are sweet ones. That's the case of Atkins-Porter School, which remains a good memory for generations of Paris residents even many years after the school has been gone. We realized just how important Atkins-Porter School was to its former students when we posted a photo of the school on our Facebook page and 144 people shared their memories with us.

What did most people remember about the school? They loved that it was the neighborhood school and they could walk to and from their homes. They loved the May Day celebrations that involved dancing around the May poles. They loved the safety patrols and the feeling of authority it gave them. They loved the big library upstairs and the graduation parties where they all got dressed up to the nines. They loved the smells from the cafe-

teria and oh yes, the homemade rolls. But not forgotten, they loved the people at the school. From the principals to the teachers to the cafeteria staff and the custodians, they all became like an extended family.

For many generations of students and local families, Atkins-Porter School's front steps were the place to take photos and many of my mother's generation remembered walking home from school and stopping at the neighborhood store on Walnut Street for some gum or candy to tide them over until they reached their destination.

According to the book, *A History of Henry County, Tennessee*, the land for Atkins-Porter School was presented to the city of Paris in 1913 and there were only two homes on Walnut Street at that time – the 308 and 404 Walnut. The original school building was constructed in 1914-1915 by the city and it consisted of two offices, five classrooms on the first floor, four

classes and a study hall on the second floor, with the restrooms and a small play space in the basement.

The school opened in 1915 with its first Principal Clara Roach. In its early days, there was no cafeteria in the school and soup was transported to Atkins-Porter from Lee School across town every lunch hour. Milk could not be served because of lack of refrigeration. After a few years, the school board and PTA equipped the school with a small kitchen, which could only serve sandwiches at first.

It was a sad day when the school was demolished after the roof collapsed, and generations and generations had attended there.

John Harrison said, "Loved that school. Went K-6th. Walked home every day, even after the tornado that hit in '83,'84. I remember how Mr. Chilcutt would raise his arm up and the entire student body would be so quiet you could hear a pin drop. I had

and still have so much respect for him. Love that man.”

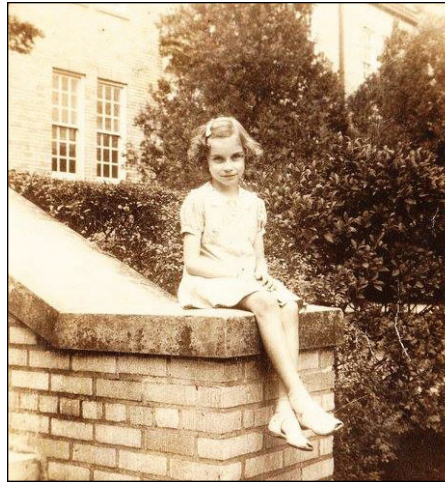
Former Long-time Principal Keith Chilcutt was remembered fondly by many of the people who attended the school. Sadly, he passed away in February of this year.

Valerie Godbott said, “Loved Atkins Porter have lots of good memories there. Went there 3rd grade. Mrs. Beale was my teacher; she had goldfish in her room. Reading was one of my favorites, I learned so much from her teachings. My 4th grade teacher was Mrs. Adams. Her room was upstairs by the library. 5th grade teacher was Mrs. Clendinin and she had a small wooden hippo on her desk named Henrietta. My 6th grade teacher was Mrs. Crosser. I was the tallest girl in the classroom; she always told me how pretty I was. P.E. was one of my favorites down in the basement. Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Redding, music in the basement. Loved Mrs. Sykes. We used play kick ball outside behind the school.”

Melissia Maupin also said she loved going to A-P. “I can still smell the way the basement smelled and those divine rolls from the lunchroom!!”

Theresa Comer loved “the old open wooden staircases and wide hallways! I was so sad to see they had closed them up with big walls and doors and replaced the beautiful wooden steps by the time my kids attended AP.”

Jan Latimer remembers the “Safety patrol, PE classes in the basement



The front steps of the Atkins-Porter School were a popular spot for photo-taking. This cutie was Jeannette Snow McFarlin, who loved her neighborhood school and liked having her picture taken there. She is the mother of Shannon.

during the winter... gymnastics and square dancing.”

“I loved AP!,” **Renee Caraway** said. “Attended from 1st - 6th grade (1966-72), walked or rode my bike to school, weather permitting. I remember the beautiful, wide wooden staircase, the classroom cloakrooms, clapping erasers outside, a wonderful playground – kickball and dodgeball, and a fantastic library. So many excellent teachers. Mr. Atkinson was my very favorite. Oh! Music class in the basement with Mrs. Godfrey was the best! And the custodians, Mrs. Nellie and Mr. John, I think.”

Leslie Overby said, “I remember being on the school’s Safety Patrol and thinking I had so much authority, LOL.

I loved my little belt/strap I wore. I think we had badges, too.”

Breck Frye remembers, “My favorite school memories are playing kickball with Roland Atkinson. He is and will always be my favorite teacher ever! Many other great memories there, like the peanut butter squares, the potato bar & salad bar. We were living large!”

“Some of the best memories ever,” **Cindy Stutzman** said. “I started the second grade there. The teachers were all awesome. One of my favorite teachers was Mrs Carolyn Brisendine, my 4th grade teacher. After lunch, she would pick one of us to read aloud a chapter in whatever book we were studying. It started my love for reading. She made reading so fun and was so sweet to all.”

Randall Buie said his most memorable times were taking board games of popular game shows to show and playing emcee during recess.

Cheryl Duck fondly remembers the teachers. “Went there, 1st-6th grades. I was 5. 1960. No kindergarten then. Anne Crosswy was my 1st grade teacher. So many wonderful memories and wonderful teachers! Mrs. Agatha Murphy was my 5th grade teacher. Every morning she started class by standing and reading from a big Bible. I was blessed to have all of them to build character and teach me so much.”

It was **Mandy McDevitt** who seemed to speak for everyone when she recalled “so many fond memories. I just wish it was still standing.”

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REMEMBER WHEN



LEFT: Third grade class at the former Atkins-Porter School, taught by Mrs. Ramsey, in 1945-46. And, of course, they're posing on the familiar front steps at the former school.

Row 1: Louise Taylor, Norma Faye Williams, Joe Don Allen, Crocket Mathis, Ernest Betram, Jerald Redmon, Jimmy Diggs, Faye Miles

Row 2: Jimmy Williams, Dickie Reynolds, unknown, unknown, Theresa Owens, Gayrene Shemwell, L.J. Richie, Billy Ewing

Row 3: Jo Carolyn Welch, unknown, unknown, Robert Dortch, unknown, Mittie Ellis, Mary Catherine Trotter, Billy Ray Humphreys

Row 4: Dickie Ellis, Harry Walker, Fred Wainscott, Mrs. Ramsey, Dora Stone, unknown, Mervin Norwood, Joe Hooper



LEFT: Atkins-Porter School graduation party at the old Paris City Auditorium. May 13, 1947. The graduation party included a dance and marching around the auditorium. The teacher is in the front row, dressed in a dark-colored dress. Her name was Fanny White. Some of the photo was cut off at the top, but this is what was legible.

Row 1: ...Donnie Wh..., Joan Redmon, Bobbie Joyce Younger... Sylvia Jean Wilson, Wilna Ann Riley, Anne Ryals.

Row 2: Martha Lee Wilkerson, Betty Carol Robbins, Harriet Ellen ..., Betty Jo Workman, Bobby Lane Tratter, Joyce Todd, Anna Mae Rogers, Elizabeth Ann Pepper.

Row 3: Jo Ann Paschall, Richard Ross, Jeannette "Brady" Snow (Shannon McFarlin's mother), Earl Thompson, Barbara Jeanne Womack, William Gardner Rhea, Jr., Imogene Underwood.

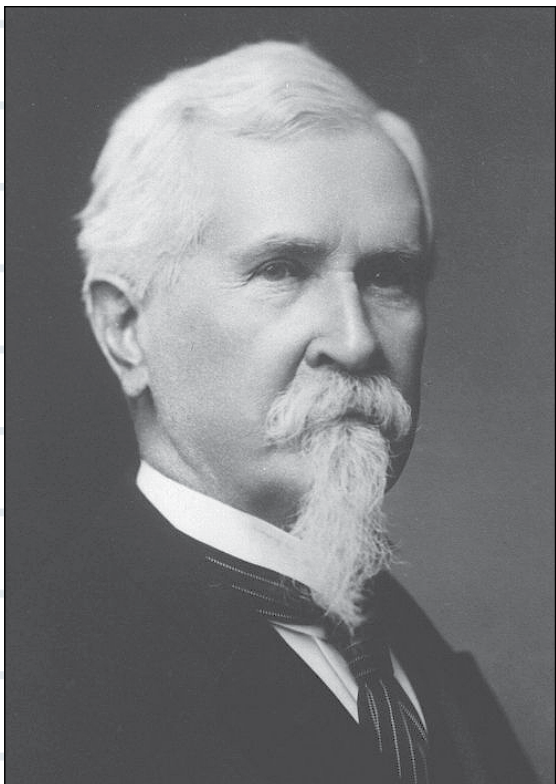
Row 4: Ben Whitehead, Doyal C. Reece, Robert Owen Scarbrough, Dorothy Ruth Oakley, Faye Underwood.



Full student body photo of Atkins-Porter 1955 graduation class.



Atkins-Porter boys basketball '57-58. Row 1: Larry Howard, Unknown, Scotty Hamilton, Jerry Mustain, Unknown, Howard Williams, Row 2: Jerry Guthrie, Larry Guthrie, Jack Veazey, Coach James Underwood, Ross Chapman, Bill Robinson, Unknown, Row 3: Ray Norwood, Walter Veazey, Joel Phelps, Ronnie Chesemore, Larry Laycock



The land for the Atkins-Porter School was a portion of the late Gov. James D. Porter's estate. Gov. Porter's home fronts Dunlap Street, just a few blocks from the site of A-P School. The school was named for Gov. Porter and JDC Atkins, who was a congressman.



LEFT: Atkins-Porter School was known for its great teachers and one of the best-remembered is Lamar Roberts, who always had a smile on her face. She knew a lot about basketball, too.



RIGHT: Atkins-Porter School had many quality teachers, including W.O. Inman. Inman is a familiar name to many--he was on the faculty at Atkins-Porter for several years and became the Superintendent of Paris Schools District from 1933-1965. At A-P School, he founded the school basketball team as well in 1936. He also was Henry County Historian and wrote the "Pen Sketches" books on the county history. Inman School was named for him.

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JUST A SWELL BUNCH OF KIDS

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Despite all the obstacles faced by the Henry County Helping Hand Radio Auction due to the COVID pandemic, Helping Hand is having a banner year.

With scores of volunteers and seven auctioneers raising the phones over the WTPR airwaves, Helping Hand raised a grand total of \$376,140 for over 80 non-profit and service organizations in the county. That places this year's Helping Hand Auction in second place all time, just some \$3,000 shy of breaking the record of \$379,163 in 2020.

Here's a little back story on the journey Helping Hand has taken from its beginnings until now. It started in 1978 when six men met in the basement of the Paris post office where the county agriculture extension office was then located. All six men had been active in the annual March of Dimes Radio Auction and were concerned that each year a large portion of the

money raised went out of town and only a small amount remained right here. The men at the meeting were John Caldwell, Bob Jelks, Bill Davis, Bill Williams, Bill Looney and Bill McCutcheon (who was a WTPR disc jockey at that time.)

Out of the meeting came a proposal for a unique, all-local organization that would raise funds that would be used for charities right here at home. The group proposed a name "Henry County Helping Hand" at that meeting. As Helping Hand officials say, "The name stuck and so did the cause."

The first Helping Hand Radio Auction was held in 1979 and raised \$11,519.78. At that time, 10 organizations benefited from the funds raised. Fast forward to today where over 80 non-profit and local service organizations receive the funds. The auction is broadcast daily, still over WTPR.

More that has remained the same over the years is the volunteer support

from literally scores of people over the years. Items that are donated for the auction each year come from peoples' homes – whether baked goods or crafts – and volunteers help keep things moving by auctioning off the items over the radio, cataloging the items, receiving telephone bids, giving the buyers their merchandise each day and more. The number of volunteers grows each year and helps the Helping Hand Radio Auction keep administrative costs low.

And it appears that young people are ready to continue in the footsteps of those volunteers. One especially shining quality in this year's Helping Hand Auction was the headlong involvement of the Sulphur Well Church of Christ's young people and knowing there's a younger generation coming up who will continue the charity auction concept.

The Sulphur Well Youth Ministry and Swell youth groups worked hard on making items for the auction, and it

was a fun and gratifying activity for everyone involved. They commandeered the kitchen, making a wide variety of tasty treats as well as creating gift certificates, making sun catchers, and other crafts.

The concept of youth involvement through the “Swell Kids” started when Bro. Randy Stephens and his wife, Donna, were at Sulphur Well, and it has grown over the years. Jan Maupin said the leaders of the youth groups at the church “planned and promoted” this to encourage cookie-making and baking other treats and making gift certificates promising they would help the bearer of the gift certificates with things like raking leaves and other yard work.

At Sulphur Well, there are three groups for separate age groups, including the Swell Kids (for third grade and lower), the Middle Crew (for grades 4-6) and the Sulphur Well Youth Ministry (for the older kids, grades 6-12).

Church Pastor Bro. Bob Palmer said, “We had 40 kids in the kitchen...” the night they made treats for Helping Hand “...and they had a blast. They took it really seriously and had fun with it.” The SWYM (Sulphur Well Youth Ministry) kids are serious about cooking, he said. “We’ve got kids who really do like that. They like to be creative and often watch the Food Network’s youth competitions. They really get into it.”

Sulphur Well Church, he said, is serious about service. “Our leadership and staff want to be a church that serves the community, not a church where the community serves us.” To that end, he said, it’s important that the youth of the church begin feeling invested in the service concept early on.



Above: Aden Crawford and Tyler Puckett are ready to lend a helping hand for the Helping Hand Radio Auction.

Previous page: Neely Clendenin, Aubreigh Berry, and Audrey Hart use teamwork to get baked goods prepared.

Maupin’s daughter Erin is one of the many who was involved in the Swell Kids as a youngster and now she and Kelly Whiting lead the Middle Crew.

The three youth groups are busy all the time with activities “...and Helping Hand got worked in there, too. We saw that the Elkhorn community had their own day on the Helping Hand calendar, and we thought that would be a good way for us to get more involved,” Maupin said.

The activities “...keep the kids interested,” she said, “and we thought getting involved with Helping Hand would help with the turnout. There’s been a lot of energy around here, and we’ve loved it.”



Bo & Co.

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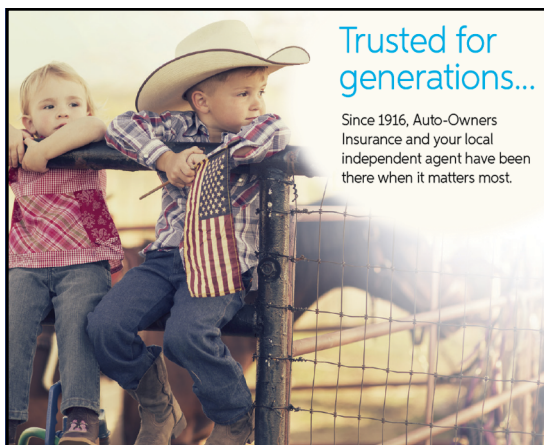
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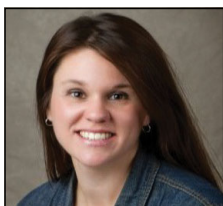
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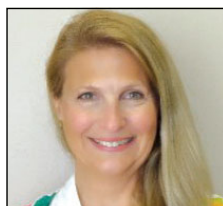
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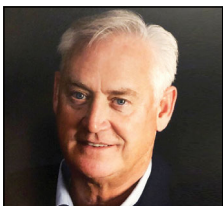
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11. FAVORITE AT KFC

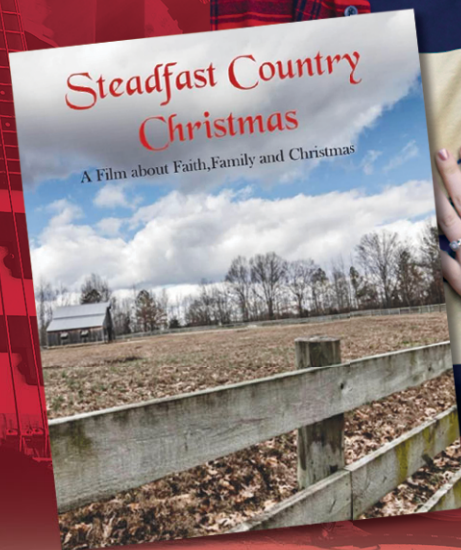
12. _____ THE ELDER
13. HE'S A PARISIAN GEM
14. LOCAL BARBER FOR 61 YEARS
16. LOCAL MUSICIAN IN MOVIE
18. HE WROTE "MATILDA"
20. THIS FAMILY HAD THEIR OWN TOWN
21. HE IS HAVING A SENIOR THESIS EXHIBIT

DOWN

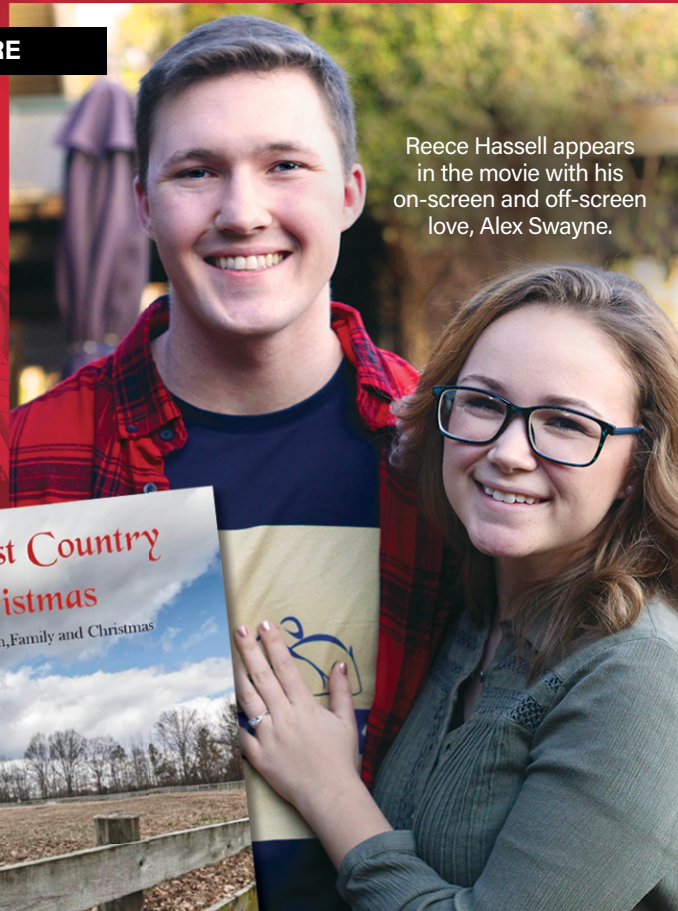
2. SULPHUR WELLS CHURCH YOUTH
4. _____ RECIPES
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ACTING “STEADFAST”

Local Actors To Appear In Upcoming Movie



Reece Hassell appears in the movie with his on-screen and off-screen love, Alex Swayne.



BY KAREN GEARY

It's been quite a year for Reece Hassell. The former sportswriter for Jackson's WBBJ-TV is currently a grad assistant at the University of Memphis-Lambuth Campus, but he has also scored as a “feature extra” in Luke Bryan’s music video, “Up”, and a major character part in the upcoming movie, “Steadfast Country Christmas.” And he became engaged, too!

“I’ve just been in the right place at the right time,” said Hassell. He majored in communications at Freed-Hardeman University but has always wanted to dabble in acting.

“I watch for casting notices online, and if one interests me, I try out,” he said. “My last production was in ‘Twelve Angry Jurors’ at KPAC. Rhonda Stanton has been great helping me. She knows I enjoy acting. One day, she called me about this movie coming to Henry County to be filmed, and she asked me if I would be interested. I

never thought I’d have a chance in a movie, but sure enough, I got cast as one of the main roles. I will play the son of a rancher. I feel so blessed for this opportunity.”

“Reece is a great guy,” said Michael Mai, director of the movie. “I can’t wait to work with him.” The movie is a family, faith-based production to be aired on Pure Flix streaming service.



Reece Hassell appears several times in Luke Bryan’s country music video, “Up.”

If Mai’s name sounds familiar, he has filmed three movies in the Henry County area: “Painted Horses” (2014), “Until Dawn” (2019), and the recently completed, “Blood River Reckoning” (2020).

Mai detailed that the movie’s storyline centers around a family horse ranch near bankruptcy due to its COVID-related shutdown to visitors. The ranch owner, Daniel Steadfast, is played by local musician, Johnny Mac, and is the father to Reece’s character, Levi. Levi belongs to a band aspiring for greatness, and to save the ranch, the group enters a Battle of the Bands contest. The band is managed by the “new girl in town” Bell, and as in all charming Christmas movies, a little magic happens along the way. The role of Bell is played by Alex Swayne, Hassell’s love interest on screen and offscreen.

“Michael (Mai) asked me if I knew

a young lady who had experience acting – someone I would feel comfortable with in scenes,” said Hassell. “I told him my fiancé could act. Later, she was hired, too. My fiancé became my girlfriend in the movie! She’s just giddy about it.”

For Swayne, working with Hassell on the movie will be a part of their love story for years to come. “Being Bell in this film has been a dream for me. Getting to be the love interest with the man I’m going to marry in several months is the best opportunity I’ve ever had,” she said. “Going through the lines with him and acting in scenes with him makes me feel like we are kids, falling in love again, just like we did two years ago! This film has been so much fun and getting to know all the people who are a part of it has been wonderful, too!”

Working on a film has its ups and downs, but Hassell is taking it in stride. “After reading the script, I wasn’t expecting to play such a big role so early on in my acting career, so I wanted to make sure I did a great job for everyone watching me,” he said. “Also, I found out that a lot of my dialogue would be improvised which I’m not really used to. Previously, I have always had the security of my script to rely on. But getting to know all of my cast members off-camera has helped me form a better rapport with them on camera. So far, I have had a great relationship with all the cast and crew, and they’re always happy to share their



“Steadfast Country Christmas” director Michael Mai discusses a movie scene with performer Johnny Mac.

experience and advice with me whenever I have questions.”

Other familiar faces will appear as extras in movie scenes, and others have helped behind the scenes. “Rhonda Stanton has been a big help locating talent to send my way,” said Mai. “She’s the best. She has been instrumental in finding talent for my movies.”

Former DPA president, Kathy Ray, has served as an assistant for the director. “Michael is our friend,” said Ray. “Larry and I have helped whenever possible.”

When asked why he picked Henry County as a film location, Mai replied, “I really liked the area when I did ‘Painted Horses.’ The area and the

townspeople. Everyone in the county came out to help. It was great. If I needed something, say a boat for a scene, someone would come up with a boat. Walking through town and visiting shops, the people were so friendly. Plus, there is an amazing amount of artistic talent in the county. I’ve worked with musicians from there, and they are passionate about their craft. And their talent from music to the screen transitions well.”

“Steadfast Country Christmas” is expected as a Christmas release, and plans are being made for a possible local screening. “I can’t wait to see the finished product,” said Hassell. Henry County can’t wait, either.

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Matilda

THE MUSICAL IS COMING TO KPAC!

The Krider Performing Arts Center, the Paris-Henry County Arts Council, and the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce are proud to partner with Bethel University to bring Bethel University's Renaissance Theatre program back to the Krider Performing Arts Center this spring.

Bethel has partnered with the Krider in the past, as they presented *Godspell* (2010), *Steel Magnolias* (2012), *Smokey Joe's Café* (2013), and *Once Upon A Dream* (2016). Each performance brought a taste of Broadway and professional quality theatre performances to Paris.

Matilda the Musical is under the direction of Aubrey Doyle, Director of Renaissance Theatre, from McKenzie, and Bala Boyd, Associate Director of Renaissance Theatre, from Paris. "As a student and charter member of the Renaissance Theatre program, I am thrilled to see Renaissance continue to partner with beautiful venues to bring the joy of live theatre to other communities," states Doyle. "With magical elements, bright and energetic choreography numbers, and a creatively brilliant set, *Matilda* is sure to be a musical that families will remember for years to come."

"We are pleased to offer three school performances during the week of April 4-8," states Matthew Holt,

Executive Director of Renaissance. "Our hope is to expose these school age children to live musical theatre and spark some creativity and love for the arts in the next generation." The Krider will host several school groups during these morning performances.

Bethel's Renaissance Theatre students receive a scholarship to do what they love, while completing a degree in the major of their choice. The students boast a wide variety of business majors, music majors, education majors, theatre majors, and many others. The passion these students exude from the stage is contagious. The friendships and memories made while performing with Renaissance will last a lifetime.

"This is just a win for everyone involved," commented Travis McLeese, CEO of the Chamber. "Selfishly, the idea of bringing my alma mater to my home stage is a no brainer. This project will check all the boxes for us. It enhances our quality of life, promotes arts in our community, has an educational component for our schools, and I believe there will be an economic impact attached to it as well."

This classic Roald Dahl children's book and popular 90's film will come to life with fun-filled song and dance numbers as the Renaissance Theatre students bring the magic of *Matilda the Musical* to life.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly loveable Miss Honey. Over the course of her first term at school, Matilda and Miss Honey have a profound effect on each other's lives, as Miss Honey begins not only to recognize but also appreciate Matilda's extraordinary personality. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!

Children and adults alike will be thrilled and delighted by the story of the special little girl with an extraordinary imagination.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

Friday, April 1 – 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 2 – 7:00 pm

Friday, April 8 – 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 9 –
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Tickets can be purchased at
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FACES & PLACES



Harrelson School Principal Lisa Wyatt entertains the kids with a book reading during Read Across America Week. It was Hat Day, can't you tell?



Paris Fire Chief Michael Williams was honored with the Drum Major for Justice Award at a special presentation at the Martin Luther King Day evening service at Mt. Zion Church. Judge Vicki Snyder congratulates him.



Perrylodgic Brewing Company and the Paris-Henry County Arts Council host trivia night every fourth Tuesday of the month. Congratulations to recent winners David and Lesley Webb, Aaron Daniel, Caren Teichmann, Pat Terrell, and Craig Harris.



Robbie McNutt, right, was recently surprised and all smiles when her sister Janice Wolfe and her husband, Bill, visited from Arlington.



Many local artists and artisans displayed their works at the Valentine Day Bazaar at the Paris Academy for the Arts. Here, Tim and Amanda Mason are at her booth.



In observance of Black History Month, the Paris City Commission honored firsts at the recent meeting. Pictured are the first black fireman James Palmer, first black policeman Jimmy Rowe and first black city commissioner Billy Byars and their families.



Henry County Mayor John Penn Ridgeway visited Mrs. Rikkilynn Brown's fourth grade class at Paris Elementary for Read Across America Day and brought one of his favorite books to read, "I Can Read With My Eyes Closed". One of the kids asked him if he could give the President orders.



Left to right: Leisa Bowling, Jacki Bowling, and Judy Presson enjoy making a delicious charcuterie board during a class by LOWEed Boards. The event was sponsored by the PHC Arts Council.



The HCSS Board recognizes the Teachers of the Year: Lisa Williams, Christie Wimberley, and Alex Cox.



A huge crowd was on hand for the musical "We've Come A Long Way" at KPAC. The musical, written and directed by Brother Andre Richardson, told the African American story through music and dance.



One of the many volunteers for the Helping Hand Radio Auction, Carol Doster helped with organizing the donations.



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JERRY MADDOX: A Cut Above

BY SHANNON MCFARLIN

Before his retirement, Jerry Maddox had cut hair for generations of Henry Countians –and he loved it. “I enjoyed the people. I’m a people person,” he said. “And most of my customers I now count as my friends.” Maddox started cutting hair in 1961, and he’s met a lot of people and heard a lot of stories. And he’s told a lot of stories.

Jerry’s Barber Shop was a destination for many over the years – and not just for people wanting a haircut. It was a good place to sit a spell, relax and visit. With his blues music playing and his cool knick-knacks, you could really enjoy your time there. “I love the blues and I always played the blues channels,” he said. His collection of unique trinkets, including photos of his beloved dog, Marly, created a comfortable little nook for his customers and friends.

Maddox came to Paris from his hometown of Murray when he was 15 and had several jobs in his early years, such as working at Fry’s Drug Store, the National Store, and the Holley Carburetor Plant.

“Doc and Flossie Fry were my aunt and uncle and I worked for them at the drug store for quite a while, doing a bit of everything. I put up the merchandise, worked the soda fountain and made sundaes and milkshakes for everybody that came in. It was a busy place, especially right after school when all the kids came in and on Saturdays which was the busiest day downtown then,” Maddox said.

After he married his late wife Gail and started building a family, Maddox realized he needed something more lucrative to do. “I knew I was going to need an occupation, not just a job. Jerry Cutcher was a barber in town then, and he was good at it. He helped me decide.”

Maddox attended Moore’s Barber College in Memphis, staying with relatives who lived there. “I didn’t want to be away from my family that long and this was a six-month course and I thought, ‘That’s what I need to do.’”

As a barber, Maddox always worked on the same block of Wood Street in Paris – first with the Dixie Barber Shop and then with his own shop. He

remembered when he first started there were 20 full-time and part-time barbers in Paris, several of whom were right in the same area of town.

“There sure aren’t that many barbers here anymore,” he said. “That was before the Beatles and when long hair became popular,” he chuckled. “Some of the barbers here didn’t know how to deal with long hair and didn’t want to learn. Some mothers started taking their boys to beauty shops, and the beauticians started doing the long hair styles. A lot of the local barbers quit at that time.”

Maddox has observed a lot of life in his decades as a local barber. “I remember how Paris used to be on Saturday nights. That was the big day for everybody to come to town. The banks and courthouse stayed open, and the stores were open until 8 or 9 at night. Everybody came to town to do their business and that court square was full,” he remembered. “You couldn’t even walk through town because the sidewalks were so crowded.”

Maddox’ wife Gail was a beautician, and she had her own beauty shop on

the court square where Moon's Jewelry is now. "It was a dress shop called The Hanger and my wife bought it, and she had the dress shop and a beauty shop there, too." Later, Gail moved her beauty shop in with Jerry's Barber Shop, and the two shared it, with a partition put in between the two businesses.

At 83 years old, Maddox said people probably wonder why he "took so long to retire." He said, "To tell you the truth, I was afraid I was going to be bored. With Gail being gone now for three years, I was afraid I would have too much time on my hands and I'd just not do anything." But his bad knee was speaking to him and Maddox said, "I've enjoyed retirement more than I thought I would. I have my dog, Marley, and we hang out and that's nice."

Maddox also is part of the new Jerry & Co. Marketplace, a new monthly marketplace in Paris. With Maddox, his daughters Sherry Taylor and Dee Dee Hinton and her husband David Hinton have made the marketplace a family affair. The marketplace helps vendors who don't have brick and mortar shops



On the courthouse square, Jerry Maddox and his dog, Marley, enjoy an outdoor concert.

to bring their goods to Paris. Their recent first venture was a great success, drawing a large crowd.

Maddox has certainly made his mark on the city of Paris, and he's one of the local personalities on the downtown mural painted in the alley of the Paris BPU office by Artist Dan

Knowles, an honor which Maddox enjoyed.

Maddox said, "I do miss my customers and visiting with everybody. But it was just time for me to retire. I appreciated everybody's business and they're all still my friends. I thank God that he let me do it for 61 years."

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A Parisian Gem

Maybe you know him as Tink or maybe you call him Little George. He has at least four monikers: Tink, Dr. Love, Little George and George Combs, Jr.

He's probably checked the water meter at your home or tended bar as you enjoyed a meal from Show Thyme Catering. If you've ever admired the cleanliness of Commercial Bank in Downtown Paris, you can thank Combs. And if you've ever attended Quinn Chapel AME Church, he's welcomed you. If you were lucky, he shook your hand last April as he happily walked the parade route as the Grand Marshal of the 2021 World's Biggest Fish Fry.

In February, Paris Podcast hosted this legendary Parisian at the kitchen table on Walnut Street. As the birds flitted on and off the feeder and the dog dozed in the corner, Tink shared some of his colorful history. He told how he got his first job...and his second job...and his third job, which currently add up to more than 100 years of service.

Tink discussed important things that are central to his life, such as the importance of simply speaking to

people and why everyone deserves to be acknowledged and appreciated. "That's one thing I miss being retired; I miss the people. In my BPU job, I enjoyed seeing and visiting with the old folks sitting on the porch or folks in downtown."

Surprisingly, a parent's friendliness can wear on their children. As a child, the Combses' daughter, Khadijah, told her mama that she didn't like going places with her daddy. "I was always talking to people and they were talking to me, and Khadijah always thought it took too long to get home."

But he stands by the words of his father, George Combs, Sr. who said, "You never know what folks are going through, but if you visit with them a few minutes, that's a few minutes that they don't have to think about their troubles."

It's no surprise that a man who loves people like Combs had a hard time being isolated during the Covid-19 pandemic. "I spent a lot of time driving around, going to get some iced tea at McDonald's drive-thru, just trying not to get cabin fever."

A lifetime member of Quinn Chapel AME Church, Combs was one of the first people back inside the

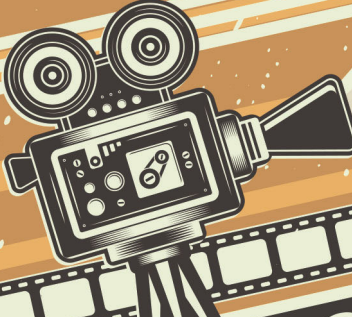
church sanctuary once the governor approved churches to begin meeting with a maximum of 10 worshippers in the sanctuary. "That was a happy day," he says.

While Combs loves the Lord and his family, he doesn't have much use for the politicians in Washington, DC. But thanks to his catering job, he enjoyed great relationships with many local and state politicians, including Tennessee Governor Ned Ray McWherter. The folksy governor, who never met a stranger, probably saw a lot of himself in Combs, who could work a room, tell a joke or make a speech better than most career politicians.

Read more about George Combs, Jr., A Paris Gem at Paris Podcast on SusanJonesPR.com, now featuring improved connections for listeners using Apple devices.



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Celebrating the Importance of Pets!

PLAY BALL!

(No Pickles Required)

BY RHONDA STANTON

What do you do when it's 1965 and you need to entertain your kids with no cable TV, DVD's, video games, computers or cell phones? You use what you have and make the rest up! That's exactly what dads Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum did in Washington State when they took the sports equipment they had on hand and created the game of pickleball. They took rules from tennis, badminton, and table tennis to create a new game for their families to enjoy.

One might wonder how the name of pickleball came about. More than one explanation has been offered, but the most likely story comes from Joel Pritchard's wife, Joan. She had been involved in rowing on the collegiate level. When teams had extra oarsmen, those extras got to row in a boat called the "pickle boat." It was usually the last boat in, as the team was mismatched and unaccustomed to working together. The thrown-together nature of the equipment and rules for the game reminded her of the hodge-podge crew of the "pickle boat," and thus the sport was named.

By 1967, the first court designed specifically for pickleball had been built. Since then the sport has gained popularity across the country and is

rapidly expanding to Canada and in Europe. An estimated three million people play pickleball in the United States at this time, with that number growing about 10 percent each year.

Rather than a racket, pickleball uses a paddle and a ball that looks much like a wiffle ball. Compared to tennis, the smaller court size makes it much easier to keep the ball in play, and the lighter ball makes the game a bit slower and easier on the joints. Like tennis, the game can be played in singles, doubles, or mixed-doubles.

The court is 20 feet wide and 44 feet from baseline to baseline. The net divides the court into 22 feet sections, but on either side of the net there is a non-volley zone of 7 feet. This leaves only 15 feet of ground for the players to cover as the ball is in play.

Ironically, that non-volley zone is often called the "kitchen." A real kitchen is a great place for pickles, but as no pickles are used or required in the game, the goal is to not serve or volley into the kitchen.

While the pickleball craze has gained momentum among senior adults, Paris Parks and Recreation Director Tony Lawrence states, "I have personally seen players from about eight years old all the way into their 80's playing pickleball. We saw a large group of teenagers play this past sum-

mer after one of our concerts in the park, and there are many people of all ages who play weekly here in Paris."

About 10 years ago, Lawrence went to a seminar about pickleball and became interested in developing the sport locally. When the Parks Department first introduced the sport, interest was slow to develop. Oddly, our local interest began to pick up as folks from other parts of the country moved into the Paris area. Parisians new and old began to play in increasing numbers.

At first players had the option to play on a tennis court or indoors at the Atkins Porter Recreational facility, but as demand grew the City began to look for a good space for permanent pickleball courts.

Eiffel Tower Park is now the home of four beautiful, recently-completed courts, and the ribbon-cutting celebration is scheduled for March 22 at 5 pm. Afterwards, the city is hosting a free "How To Play Pickleball" Clinic with plenty of paddles, balls, and experienced players on hand for everyone who wants to learn to play the fastest growing sport in the U.S. The first area pickleball League is scheduled to kick off in April.

Anyone interested in learning more should call Paris Civic Center at 731-644-2517.



COPYCATS

Restaurant Dishes Made At Home

What's better than going out? Staying in and cooking the most delicious dishes in the comfort of your own

home. Get ready for a takeout fake-out with these easy copycat recipes. "What's that," you ask. Well, copycat recipes are an attempt to recreate famous dishes from our favorite restau-

rants and brands. They might not have all the exact same ingredients as the original recipes, but they aim to look and taste the same. Give these a try and you'll see what all the fuss is about.

COPYCAT KFC BISCUITS

Just seven ingredients and 20 minutes are all it takes for some of the fluffiest, most satisfying homemade biscuits with just as much flavor as the KFC classic side.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon cream of tartar
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup chilled butter, salted
- ¾ cup milk



INSTRUCTIONS

- Preheat the oven to 415° F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In a medium mixing bowl sift together flour, baking powder, sugar, cream of tartar and salt.
- Using a pastry blender, your hands, or a knife and fork, cut in the butter until the flour resembles coarse crumbs.
- Add the milk and stir with a fork until the mixture comes together. On a lightly floured surface pull out the dough and knead until it is smooth.
- Roll out dough until it is ½ inch thick. Cut out dough using a 3-inch biscuit cutter, or you can cut into squares. • With remaining dough, reform and roll out to ½ inch and repeat until all the dough is used and made into biscuits.
- Arrange biscuit dough on prepared baking sheet, and bake for 10-12 minutes, or until risen and a golden brown.



COPYCAT CRACKER BARREL HASHBROWN CASSEROLE

This homemade Copycat Cracker Barrel Hashbrown Casserole is so cheesy and so easy to make. Great for breakfast or dinner.

INGREDIENTS

- 30 oz frozen hash browns, thawed
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 8 oz shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 cup sour cream

INSTRUCTIONS

- Grease 9x11" baking dish. Preheat oven to 350.
- In a bowl mix onion, soup, black pepper and all but one cup of the cheese.
- Add sour cream and mix well.
- Add hash browns and melted butter. Mix well.
- Transfer to prepared dish. Bake 45-55 minutes until bubbly.

COPYCAT OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE CHICKEN

One of the favorite menu items at the Outback Steakhouse has been their Alice Springs Chicken. Why is their chicken so tasty? Their grilled chicken breasts are topped with honey mustard, bacon, and cheese!

INGREDIENTS

Honey Mustard Sauce

- ½ cup prepared mustard
- ¼ cup honey
- ¼ cup light corn syrup
- ¼ cup mayonnaise

Chicken

- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, 4 portions
- ½ teaspoon seasoned salt
- 6 pieces bacon, fried crisp and cut in half
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms, canned or in a jar, drained
- 3 cups shredded Colby Jack cheese
- 2 teaspoons chopped parsley



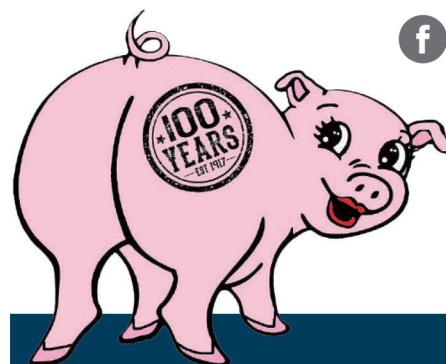
INSTRUCTIONS

Honey Mustard Sauce

- Blend ingredients for the honey mustard until smooth and free from lumps. The corn syrup may be adjusted depending on how sharp the mustard might be or to your taste.

Chicken

- Rub chicken breasts with seasoned salt and set aside to marinate for 1 hour.
- While the chicken is marinating, fry the bacon until crisp and drain it.
- Sauté the chicken in a pan over medium heat with just enough oil to prevent sticking.
- Cook the chicken on both sides until slightly golden and cooked in middle but not dry.
- Remove the chicken from the pan.
- Spread honey mustard on the chicken breasts.
- Top each chicken breast with a layer of mushrooms and three slices of bacon
- Sprinkle enough shredded Colby-Jack cheese on top to completely cover chicken.
- Bake in a 350°F heated oven just until the cheese melts.
- Sprinkle with parsley and serve with honey mustard sauce.



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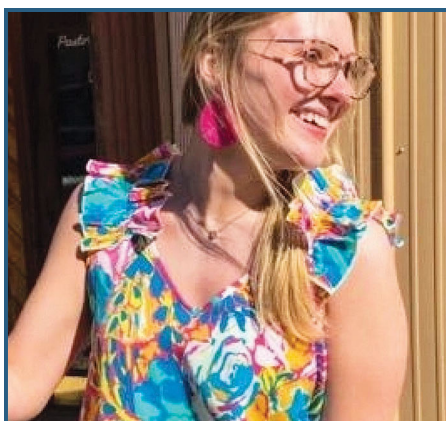


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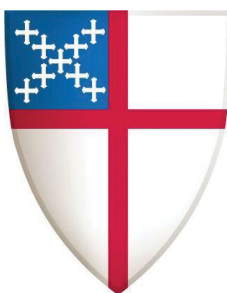
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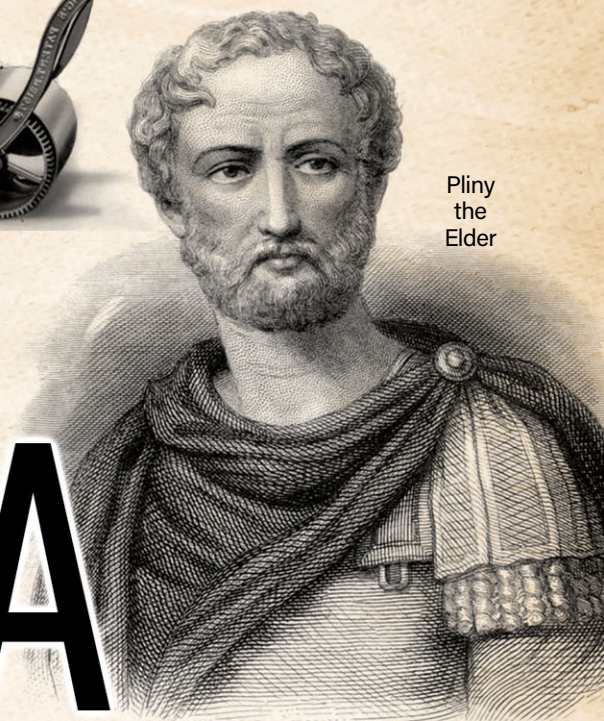
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IN THE GARDEN



Pliny
the
Elder

JOHN'S GARDENING TRIVIA

BY JOHN WATKINS

Spring at last! Looking back through some previous articles and trying to come up with some worthwhile ideas to write about, I noticed that I have been submitting these short compositions for over 10 years now (and for some reason, they keep encouraging me!) So with that kind of history behind me, I got to thinking that while we're on the subject what better time than now to look back at a little garden history as well.

Now before you doze off or flip the page, let me assure you that you won't have to memorize dates or know who was president of the Federated Garden Clubs of America in 1947 (Ruth Corley, by the way). Instead, I thought we would look at some random, yet equally important milestones that have shaped the way we garden today.

Let's start way back at the beginning. (No, not the Garden of Eden.) But just when did we actually start gardening as a way of creating beauty? You have to remember that way back when, gardens were primarily utilitarian with plants being grown for sustenance and survival. But some evidence shows that gardening for enjoyment

dates back to almost 4,000 years ago in ancient Egypt. Even that far back, avid gardeners recognized the need for innovations that we still use in some form today. Take flower pots for example. Egyptian pharaoh, Ramses III, was credited with popularizing this form of gardening as far back as 1230 BC.

And you think the garden hose is a new invention? Some enterprising young Greek gardener in about 400 BC came up with the idea of ripping out an ox's intestines, being mindful to include the large stomach bladder, and voilà, the first flexible pump and hose! Or how about landscape architecture? The oldest surviving garden design manual, the ever popular "De Architectura Libri Decem" (or "The Ten Books on Architecture") was written by Vitruvius Pollio dating from 27 BC.

Greenhouses have been around for some time and can range from the simple backyard plastic hoop house to the grand glass conservatories, but did you know that the first known greenhouse dates back to around AD 30 and was built for Emperor Tiberius Caesar Augustus? It seems Tiberius had a thing for cucumbers, believing that is

was necessary for his health to eat one cucumber per day.

According to Pliny the Elder, noted naturalist and natural philosopher, Roman scientists and engineers developed a system of "beds mounted on wheels which they moved out into the sun and then on wintry days withdrew under the cover of frames, glazed with transparent stone or mica." Ah, to be an emperor back in the good old days! "Let them eat cucumbers", I'd say.

I'm sure at some point in everyone's gardening career they have attempted some form of topiary. I mean who wouldn't want to try their hand at sculpting a perfect circle or square (or better yet, a giant elephant or camel) out of some poor unassuming evergreen shrub?

Well Pliny the Elder (yes, him again) attributes the invention of 'nemora tonsilia', or topiary, to Gaius Marius during the reign of Augustus. As a side note, the oldest surviving topiary garden is reputed to be Levens Hall in Cumbria laid out by Guillaume Beaumont in 1694. What took you guys so long? Try to keep up with group next time.

Lawns are a part of almost every

landscape in America, but it wasn't always that way. Most of your precursor lawns were little more than a goat pasture back in the day. However, the more refined clipped turf we think of for today's lawn dates back to first century Greece and was highly promoted by (wait for it) our own Pliny the Elder.

Actually Pliny's son, Pliny the Younger (I couldn't make this stuff up) is more responsible, seeing that he inherited dad's estate and had a genuine interest in showing it off.

While we're at it, ever wondered who came up with a machine to manure that patch of grass we call a yard? You can thank Edwin Budding back in 1830 for adapting a "new-fangled cylinder cross-cutting machine used to trim the nap off of woolen cloth." I'm sure both Elder and Younger would have killed to have one of those.

Another garden necessity, the wheelbarrow, had its humble beginnings as sort of a cart with two or more wheels and was usually pulled rather than pushed. But back around AD 230, a Chinese general named Zhuge Liang needed a better way of moving supplies through mucky soils and came up with the single, centered wheel design. He called the device a "wooden ox," and because the weight was more evenly distributed, the man pulling or pushing the cart had to do considerably less work. Thank you, General Liang!

Finally, let's move ahead a few centuries. As popular as gardens have always been, it wasn't until 1545 that the world's first botanical garden was built. The Botanical Garden of Padua University in Italy is regarded as the oldest in the world to still be in

its original setting. You have to jump ahead another couple of hundred years for the good ol' U.S. of A to catch up.

Now depending on who you want to believe, there are several gardens in America which claim to be the oldest. First, there is Bartram's Garden claiming to be "The oldest surviving botanic garden in the United States" and was founded in 1728.

Then you have the United States Botanic Garden which claims to be "The oldest continuously operating public garden in the United States," dating to around 1820. The Missouri Botanical Garden, located in St. Louis, Missouri was founded in 1859 and also claims to be "The nation's oldest botanical garden in continuous operation," and it's a National Historic Landmark. Similarly claiming to be "The nation's oldest public gardens," Magnolia Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina was first established in 1676, but the gardens really didn't develop until around 1836.

Oh, and did I mention Middleton Place (also in Charleston)? This National Historical Landmark is said to be "Home to America's oldest landscape gardens" and began in 1741.

Alright, alright, now settle down everyone. Surely there's some way we can settle this little disagreement. I vote for a steel cage match with winner taking all. You could throw a couple of shovels or rakes in the ring for added excitement. Heck, you could even give them some fancy wrestling names like, "Bartram the Elder" or "Wooden Ox Middleton" just for good measure!

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



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

Latest Films – Enjoy the latest movie releases on six screens at the **Parisian Theatre** on Jim Adams Drive. Info line is 731-642-7171.

Your good health is important – **Henry County Medical Center** offers FREE monthly seminars/screenings including Cardiac Rehab Nutrition, Shopping Smart, Joint Replacement, Chronic Disease Management, Childbirth, Medicare and more. Participants must pre-register at 731-644-3463 or www.hcmc-tn.org.

Need a good book to read? – Head over to the **W.G. Rhea Public Library**. You can find something to read, check out a DVD, or find something cool for the kiddos to do. **Get ready for the Summer Reading Program!** For more information, call 731-642-1702.

Let's go fishin'! – There's lots of fishing tournaments coming up at Paris Landing Marina! So grab a pole and head out to beautiful Kentucky Lake. For more information, call 731-641-4474.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

— MARCH —

March 17 – Happy St. Patrick's Day. Wear your green today.

March 18 & 19 – HCHS Theatre students present *Little Women* at 7 pm in the Little Theatre at the high school. Tickets at the door and online at www.our.show/hchslittlewomen.

March 19 – Athena Delphian Bazaar in the Enoch building at Henry County Fairgrounds. Pre-sale ticket holders start at 8 am. General public at 9 am until its all sold. For more information, call The Iron Place at 731-644-7500.

March 22 – Join the party at **Perrylodgic Brewing** where they'll be playing **Trivia** at 6:30 pm. Food, fun and prizes! For more information, call 731-642-3955.

March 22 – Eiffel Tower Pickleball Courts will have a ribbon cutting at 5 pm. There will be a "How to play pickleball" clinic as well with paddles, balls, and instructors on hand.

— APRIL —

April 7 – Lie down, give blood, eat a snack, save a life. **Lifeline Bloodmobile** is at First United Methodist Church from Noon to 6 pm.

April 7 – Community Health Screening at Henry County Farm Bureau from 8:30-10:30 am. HCMC staff members will provide free blood pressure checks, blood sugar check and more. For more information, call 731-644-8269.

April 9-20 – Paris Henry County Arts Council presents the **36th Annual Artist Showcase** at W.G. Rhea Library. Admission is free. For information, call 731-642-3955.

April 10 – Palm Sunday

April 11-15 - Holy Week Services are held each day at noon at a local church. Brief services are followed by a light lunch. For more information, call 731-642-8445 or 731-642-5074.

April 15 – Good Friday!

April 16 – The 6th Annual "Light Up The Night For Easton" 1 mile glow walk and sky lantern release presented by Easton's Angels. Events kick off at 5 pm at the Fairgrounds. Come dressed in your best glow attire and enjoy the food and fun. For more information, check out Easton's Angels on Facebook.

April 17 – Happy Easter! He is risen!

April 17 – Easter Sunrise Service is on the front steps of First United Methodist Church; breakfast, contemporary and traditional services follow throughout the morning. Call 731-642-4764.

April 23 – Carl Perkins Center Cast-N-Blast Fishing/Hunting Event at the Paris Landing State Park Marina. For more information, call 731-642-8455.

April 23-30 – World's Biggest Fish Fry events. See schedule on the inside back cover! Don't forget to hug those hard-working Jaycees!

April 23 – The World's Biggest Fish Fry 5K Hushpuppy Dash is at 8 am at Henry County Fairgrounds. Register at 7 am; entry fee \$20 or \$15 if preregistered. Call 731-644-1143. Complete **Calendar of Events** is on the inside back cover of magazine.

April 23 – The Henry County Fairgrounds is a happenin' place! Head on out for the **Demolition Derby** at 7pm.



PHOTOS BY SAM HUTSON

April 24-May 20 – Paris Henry County Arts Council is presenting **“Captured Moments” 30th Annual Photo Showcase** at W.G. Rhea Library. Admission is free. Call 731-642-3955 for more information.

April 27 – Thank you! It's Administrative Professional's Day

April 27 – Fish, fish and more fish! The all-you-can-eat **FISH TENT OPENS** at the Henry County Fairgrounds from 5-9 pm. Adults eat for \$12 and children 6-12 years old eat for \$8. After you eat, head over and check out the carnival!

April 29-30 – Rodeo, Bulls & Barrels are at the Henry County Fairgrounds each night at 7:30 pm.

April 29 – No School! PSSD and Henry County Schools are closed to celebrate the **World's Biggest Fish Fry**. Parade starts at 10 am.

April 30 – Small Fry Parade at 10 am in beautiful downtown Paris, followed immediately by the **Bill Williams Catfish Races** at 10:30 am on the courthouse lawn.

— MAY —

May 2-6 – Don't forget to thank a teacher during Teacher Appreciation Week.

May 5 – Help save a life today! Stop by First United Methodist Church and visit the **Lifeline Bloodmobile** from Noon to 6 pm.

May 5 – National Day of Prayer

May 5 – Cinco de Mayo!

May 8 – Remember your Mom! It's Mother's Day.

May 13 – Henry County High School graduation. Congratulations grads! For more information, call 731-642-5232.

May 20 – Summer break is here! It's the last day of school for the PSSD kids and everyone in the Henry County School System.

May 30 – Remember our veterans on Memorial Day! Be sure and attend the various scheduled events for our heroes around town. For more information, call 731-642-3431.

June 1 – PARIS! In the Summer is out! Visit MyParisMagazine.com for distribution locations.



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69TH ANNUAL

2022 SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Grand Opening	March 26	10am	Fish Fry Headquarters 440 Fairgrounds Rd.
Hushpuppy Dash (5k) <i>Ultimate Fitness Hulme Sporting Goods</i>	April 23	7am Registration 8am Start	HC Fairgrounds
Car Show <i>Patriots Sealcoating</i>	April 23	11am	Sweet Jordan's <i>Volunteer Dr.</i>
Demolition Derby <i>Martin Construction</i>	April 23	7pm	HC Fairgrounds
Street Dance <i>Westfalla Farms</i>	April 25	7pm - 9pm	Downtown Paris
Country Dance <i>Southside Cafe</i>	April 26	7pm - 10pm	HC Fairgrounds
Carnival	April 26 April 27 - 30 May 1	5pm - 11pm 11am-Midnight 1pm - 6pm	HC Fairgrounds
Fish Tent All You Can Eat <i>Holley Credit Union</i>	April 27 April 28 - 30	5pm - 9pm 11am - 9pm	HC Fairgrounds <i>Commercial Building</i>
Christian Concert	April 27	7pm	HC Fairgrounds
Arts & Crafts	April 28 April 29 April 30	5pm - 8:30pm 10am - 8:30pm 10am - 8:30pm	HC Fairgrounds <i>Enoch Bldg.</i>
Grand Parade <i>Humana Insurance Co.</i>	April 29	10am	E. Wood Street
Rodeo, Bulls & Barrels	April 29 - 30	7:30pm	
Small Fry Parade <i>Foundation Bank</i>	April 30	10am	
Bill Williams Catfish Races	April 30	11am	Downtown Paris
Junior Fishing Rodeo <i>Hulme Sporting Goods TWRA</i>	April 30	11am - 1pm	Williams Lake

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For information or to schedule an appointment, call

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