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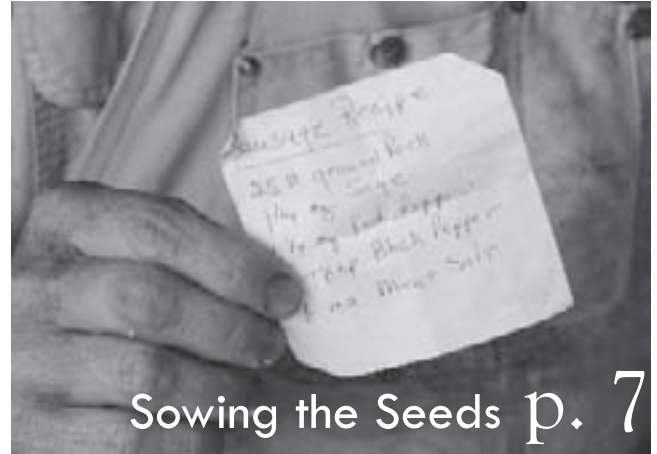
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Keeping a Grateful Heart

Every year on Christmas Eve, just before midnight, I think about easing out the backdoor to the little barn where my goats and pig lie in their beds of straw. Like catching Santa leaving presents under the tree, I've always yearned to see if the legend were true, that the animals kneel to worship the Christ child as the clock strikes twelve. For some reason, I never go. It's one of those moments best left to the imagination.

Perhaps it's the simplicity that makes this one of my favorite Christmas stories. There are no decorations, no presents, no sermons - just a few miraculous moments of sincere gratitude in the cold, still, starry night. This holiday season, perhaps we should follow the animals' lead and create a few miraculous moments of our own. The key appears to be a grateful heart.



In this issue of Paris!, we find plenty of grateful hearts. There are the medical professionals who travel to the other side of the world to gratefully serve their fellow man. There are the families and friends who gratefully gather on a nearby farm to rekindle a cold weather, country tradition and learn a lot from each other in the process. And there is the grateful teacher, who has made it her life's work to educate the young during the week and bring music into the lives of not one, but two Henry County congregations on Sunday mornings.

This year, my holiday wish is simple - I wish to keep a grateful heart. It seems the simplest way to keep Christmas alive not only throughout the holidays, but throughout the New Year.

On the Cover



Allan Gengler shot this dramatic photo during last year's holiday season. Formerly with the Tampa Tribune, he and his wife, Judy, now enjoy the distinctively slower pace of Puryear, TN. Email him at agengler@wk.net. (The Lighting of the Eiffel Tower takes place on December 10th at Memorial Park.)

Susan Jones

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Sowing the Seeds

AN OLD-FASHIONED NEIGHBORHOOD HOG KILLIN'

By Brenda
Valentine

*“What they
imagined as a
Saturday morning
backyard chore
turned into an
all-day reunion
where young and
old shared work,
laughter, stories
and food.”*





Mrs Lottie May Orr is a genuine example of a true country woman working in the kitchen with a camo cap on her head and baby, Caden Delaney on her hip.

The plan to learn and experience traditional methods was carried out from scraping the hair to rendering the lard and salt curing the hams and middlings. Finding the appropriate tools and recipes brought on a flurry of scrounging in sheds and even a few antique shops. What many may consider a dirty disgusting job transformed into a social event with a purpose. By noon, the first dishpan of fresh sausage was a platter of fragrant brown patties amid the abundance of the south's finest cuisine. Hard work requires hearty food, so the helpers and passers-by of the Jones Mill Community Hog Killin' took their turn at Mrs. Lottie's table.

By late afternoon greasy hands were washed, kids were gathered, fresh meat was divided and tired bodies headed towards home. Many said it was the most satisfying exhaustion they'd ever experienced. Without a doubt, a whole new crop of childhood memories were planted that cold day in the heads of several of Jones Mill's next generation. The sights, sounds, smells and tastes will stick in many of the minds of those who no longer rely on the farm for groceries.

The hot cracklings were an almost sinful treat as was the fresh tenderloin and sugar-cured jowls; however, those are only short-term rewards compared to the sense of community coming together for a common purpose. Jamie and Scott's dream of having an old-fashioned hog killing proved successful, and time will tell if this becomes an annual Jones Mill community event. Thankfully, Henry County remains one of those places where people still enjoy a taste of the simple life.



Brenda Valentine is not only the First Lady of Hunting, she is a native Henry Countian who loves her roots. Visit her at www.brendavalentine.com.

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Everyone had a job and Caleb's was meat transportation.

Page 7 photos:

1. The following day, Wallace Lassiter and Barney Valentine showed Scott and Jamie how to salt cure the hams, shoulders, jowls, and middlings.

2. Scarlet Orr is explaining where meat comes from daughter, Sarah Cate and Addison Delaney.

3. Striving for that perfect scald are Ricky Orr, Allen McDougal, Scott Delaney, and Jamie Orr.

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A Life's Journey...

Nellie Bass

By Shannon McFarlin

"I'm sorry. When Nellie plays, a tear will fall."

Nellie Bass was apologizing for crying while playing a hymn on the piano. Of course, she didn't have to apologize: the hymn was beautiful and the emotion was heartfelt.

Bass' destiny was shaped when she was a child. Her late mother—whom she describes as her best friend and for whom she was named—was the inspiration behind her teaching and music careers. She has been a member of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church since she was born. "Everything I am goes back to my childhood," she said.

The house in which she was born was located where her present house is now. "I was born right on this spot," she said, stomping her foot on the carpet of her dining room floor. "And I'll stay here."

Three girls and three boys were born to Sam and Nellie Warren, but

Bass is the only one still living in Paris. "They've all moved all over, and my son, Jacque Bass, moved to Indianapolis. I may not have my

"...I wouldn't take a thing for this journey. I wouldn't trade any of my life for anything."

family right here anymore, but I have my church family and that's important."

Education was important to the Warrens, and after their daughter received her diploma from Henry County Training School and gradu-

ated from Central High, she went on to Tennessee State University. "But I only went there for two years because I decided I had to get married," she laughed.

The year 1961 was a big year for her—she married George Bass, Jr., and began her 31-year teaching career. Her two years at Tennessee State were enough to secure her first teaching assignment; she finished her bachelor's degree at Murray State University and Bethel College.

"My ambition from the time I was little was to be a teacher," she said. "I just felt I could reach out to children." Besides her mother, two of her influences were her teachers at the Training School, Roland Atkinson and Mary Will Gardner.

Her first teaching job was at the Training School, which spurred her to do her best. "I was excited, but nervous," she said. "The teachers there had taught me and I knew I



Nellie Bass plays a hymn on her organ at home.

had to do my best.”

Bass taught at the former Fairview Kindergarten in Paris, Atkins-Porter, and Inman Elementary School. After retiring in 2003, she was a substitute teacher at Cottage Grove, Henry and Grove Junior High.

Bass said she and her mother “were like sisters” and it was her mother who gave her her backbone. “She told me, ‘Don’t be a follower, be a leader,’ and that’s what I tell children today.”

Hearing her mother play music at the family’s upright piano is what encouraged her to try it herself. “My mother was in the choir at Quinn Chapel and she’d be playing at our piano at home. I asked her, ‘Momma, who taught you?’ and she said, ‘I’m doing it by ear.’ So, I thought if my Momma can do it that well, I can do likewise.”

Bass started playing piano at 10 years old and took lessons for a

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short while from Laura May Hubbard at her Church St. home. "But she told my momma she was wasting her money on lessons because I was a natural."

What's most remarkable about Bass' piano-playing is that she can't read music. "I hear a song and I can play it. It just stays in my mind," she said. She has been in charge of the choirs at Quinn Chapel for years and also directs the choir at the New Hope CME Church in Mansfield. When the

choir members want her to learn a new song, she said, "they just bring me a recording of it and I listen to it and learn it that way."

Bass has a stack of awards she has won over the years, for teaching, for church work and for encouraging youth. How does she do it all? "I don't know, I just do it," she said. "You can't let negative thoughts in your mind or they'll destroy you. I just stay busy. There's never a dull moment for me."

"I just love music," Bass said. "I

live it, I breathe it. And I love the church. The church is the center of my life, and I wouldn't take a thing for this journey. I wouldn't trade any of my life for anything."



Shannon McFarlin lives and writes in Paris, TN. Email her at shannonmcfarlin@hotmail.com.

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Tied to the Tracks



By Shannon McFarlin

For generations, children have awakened on Christmas morning to find toy trains under the tree. But growing up, Karla Anderson Gurton had little time for toy trains – she had the real thing.

Gurton received the best on-the-job training possible for her position as manager of the KWT Railroad in Paris. She learned alongside her father, Earl Anderson, who started the short track line in 1987 after the CSXT shut down the line.

Before becoming manager in 2005, Gurton worked as office manager at KWT (Kentucky-Western Tennessee). She can do it all – from driving the train and switching the cars to coordinating the daily routes.

An admirer and railroad buff, the late James Poe of Springville said, “She can do any job a man can do.”

Gurton comes by it naturally. Both her father’s and mother’s

families are “railroad people.” Both of her grandfathers worked for the railroad as did her brother, uncles and great-uncles.

Paris’ lady engineer acquired a lot of railroad knowledge even before she was old enough to work. Her father was at the L&N’s headquarters in Louisville when the

children were young. “They would go to work with me on Saturdays,” said Anderson. “My boss would take them into his office and talk to them like they were real railroad people.”

After retiring from CSXT, Anderson became a consultant. He was hired to do a study on the



Karla Gurton, manager of the KWT Railroad in Paris, with her father Earl Anderson.

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Paris section which CSX intended to close and advised that a shortline track would still be needed.

Anderson was named the General Manager and Vice President of KWT and operations began on March 1, 1987.

"Dad taught me a lot and I learned from the guys on the job, too," said Gurton. "We've been fortunate to have most of the same guys working together for all these years."

Although passenger rails have declined, companies still need railroads to transport goods. The KWT runs every day, through beautiful hills, the occasional snow, deep woods and thick kudzu. "That's the best part of my job," said Gurton.

Railroad days are busy and can last up to twelve hours. "In the mornings I check on the guys and we line up our work for the day and go over safety issues. A lot of the

job is coordinating, making sure I know where everybody is, where they need to be and at what time."

Gurton has two children: Caroline, 6, and Wesley, 3. The children occasionally accompany her at work, just as she did with her Dad. Helping preserve the legacy of the American railroad is something she takes seriously. "It's amazing how people love the railroad. We get visitors all the time, from Wisconsin, Michigan, all over. They love to take pictures with our engines."

What is it about the railroad that attracts people? "It's just a great life," Anderson said. "Whenever I hear a train whistle, wherever I am, I stop and wait for it to blow again. I love that sound and I love to stop and just watch the train go by."

It's a feeling that his daughter shares. "I can't imagine doing anything else," Gurton said. "It's in my blood—there's no other way to explain it."



Shannon McFarlin lives and writes in Paris, TN. Email her at

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As KWT manager Karla Gurton wears many hats. Occasionally, she is an engineer.

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- KWT interchanges with CSXT at Bruceton each day. From there cars are connected to CSX trains for transport around the country.



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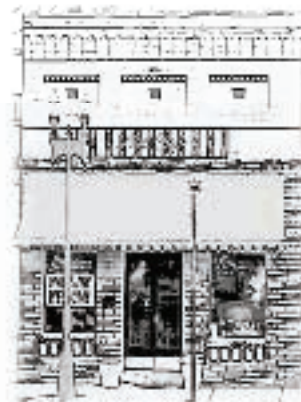
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...the fifth vital sign

By Pat Terrell

OUCH! We've all been in pain. Whether trauma-induced or pathological, everyone has experienced physical pain. But how do we cope? The physiologic processes that occur when the body is exposed to painful stimuli have prompted extensive research and experimentation.

The outward effects of pain can be observed and sometimes measured, but when it comes right down to it, only the individual in pain can measure its intensity and report what they feel. An estimated 50+ million people in the United States are living with continuous or recurring pain. Only 40 percent of those who rated their pain as moderate to severe ever get relief. Gender, age, cultural background and personality traits affect how we deal with and attempt to live with pain.

In recent years, healthcare providers have come to regard pain as the "fifth vital sign." Joining temperature, blood pressure, respirations and pulse, pain is a vital clue in the determination of "what 'ails ya." When visiting doctors or other healthcare providers for pain, patients often are asked to rate the pain on a scale of one to ten. Children are asked to rate pain by pointing at faces on a card that range from a crying face to a smiling face.

Pitfalls of Pain-Free

How do we get out of pain? Many pain sufferers prefer to investigate non-invasive cures first, but this can be a difficult road, as surgery is often the answer. The choices are many.

Americans are bombarded by advertising for pain relievers, both over the counter (OTC) and prescription. No matter which pain

reliever is chosen, it must be taken properly to be effective. Many individuals take too little or allow too much time to pass before taking more medication. Some may bypass pain medications altogether, fearing tampering, potential side effects or addiction.

Many OTC pain medications carry warning labels to consumers about interactions with other drugs or substances. For example, if you take acetaminophen (Tylenol[®]) don't drink a lot of alcohol due to the possibility of liver damage. The same precaution holds true for non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen (Motrin[®], Advil[®], or other generics), naproxen (Aleve[®]) and ketoprofen (Orudis[®]). These drugs, along with that old standby, aspirin, can also cause stomach upset and bleeding, so it's a good idea to "put a little food on your stomach" before dosing.

Strong and Stronger

Stronger forms of NSAIDs are available by prescription. Some include Motrin[®], Daypro[®], Relafen[®], Indocin[®], Lodine[®], Mobic[®], Naprosyn[®], Celebrex[®], Feldene[®], Bextra[®], and Vioxx[®]. The last two have recently been taken off the market because they may be linked to increased incidence of blood clots which could lead to a heart attack in at-risk people. These drugs may eventually be reintroduced, as some physicians feel they can be used to reduce pain in people who are not in a specific risk group.

Stronger still are narcotics such as codeine, oxycodone (Percocet[®]), fentanyl (Duragesic[®]), meperidine (Demerol[®]), and morphine sulfate. These medications are prescribed alone or in combinations with acetaminophen and can cause side



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effects such as nausea, excessive sedation, confusion or constipation. This group should never be used where mental concentration or quick reflexes are required, such as in many workplaces. If you are in enough pain to take one of these, you don't need to be at work.

Unfounded Fears

The fear of addiction to narcotics is one that causes a lot of pain to go unrelieved. It doesn't have to be this way. Addiction occurs primarily in individuals who seek the drug for its pleasurable side effects. Usually these people are "hard-wired" genetically for substance addiction. The correct usage of narcotics does not usually lead to an addiction in people, but should be a concern in those with a history of substance abuse.

People who are chronic users often develop a tolerance to the medication when the pain centers in the brain get accustomed to the substance as part of their chemical makeup. When this occurs, higher doses are needed to control the pain; stopping the administration regimen or changing the dose can cause symptoms of withdrawal.

Outside the Box

There are also non-medicinal ways to deal with pain. These include biofeedback, magnetic field therapy, nerve stimulators, hypnosis, imagery and relaxation. These are generally most useful in those individuals suffering from a chronic pain condition. Acupuncture may be helpful through stimulating another part of your nervous system. Traditional surgeries such

as rhizotomy and cordotomy are not used as much today for those in intractable back pain and have given way to new innovative techniques such as nucleoplasty and vertebroplasty.

So whether it's your "aching back," a traumatic injury or a chronic condition that leads you to seek pain relief, there are many avenues. Don't be afraid to try the road less traveled. It could lead to your "personal pain-free place."



Pat Terrell is a registered nurse who lives and works in Henry County.

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Natalie Nelson, upper left



Dr. Campbell sees patients in Vietnam.



Bill and Martha Campbell in tan and white scrubs.

Mission-Minded Henry Countians

By Shannon McFarlin

People who do mission work have one thing in common: a calling. Some are called for humanitarian reasons, some for personal reasons and some are called by a power higher than all of us to do good works. This two-part article explores callings that have taken Henry Countians around the globe.

Two professionals - two callings

This article looks at two local medical professionals who were called to two different parts of the globe for very different reasons. For Dr. Bill Campbell, Vietnam veteran and retired Paris physician, the calling was personal. He finally got the chance to do what he always said he would do—return to Vietnam and the area where he was stationed as a “doctor-soldier.” For Natalie Nelson, a physical therapist at Henry County Medical Center, the calling was from a higher power. “Quite simply,” she said, “I do mission work because the Lord commanded it.”

Vietnam – The Yearn to Return

Martha Campbell can remember her husband Bill saying in 1970, “Someday I want to go back.” To most, the trauma of Vietnam would make a return trip unthinkable, but there are many others like Campbell, who want to return. In fact, there is an organization designed to help them do just that.

At a “Welcome Home Vietnam

“Each night, I go to bed with aching knees and tangled hair from tiny fingers, but I realize there is nowhere in this world I would rather be.”

Veterans” get-together in Branson, MO, three years ago, the Campbells were walking the grounds when they spotted a display set up by “Vets with a Mission.”

“On their display, I saw a photo of the hospital where I had worked. I said to Martha, ‘We gotta go.’ And we signed up right then,” Campbell said.

Martha Campbell, a retired nurse, was a natural fit for the medical mission and accompanied her husband. She was amazed with their reception. “There seemed to be no animosity related to the war 30-plus years ago. We came in peace and were welcomed with the same.”

While in Vietnam, the Campbells worked 10-hour days in primitive, stifling conditions. At the clinic in a village near Da Nang, they saw 700 patients over a 10-day period. “The signs of the war were hard to find today,” Martha said. “But the heat was the same. The needs of the people were the same.”

Vietnam is a third-world country with third-world medical woes. “I saw diseases I hadn’t seen in years,” Bill said. “Our whole purpose was to show there are people

who care and to give a little relief.”

There was little relief from the heat during the couples’ trip, which was in July. There was no air conditioning and no ventilation. Photo after photo shows sweat pouring off Bill while treating patients at the clinic, a testament to Vietnam’s sweltering summer and this couple’s devotion to their cause.

“We were treating the poorest of the poor,” Martha said. “On our last day, there were a lot of tears and hugs. They were just grateful to have people there to help.”

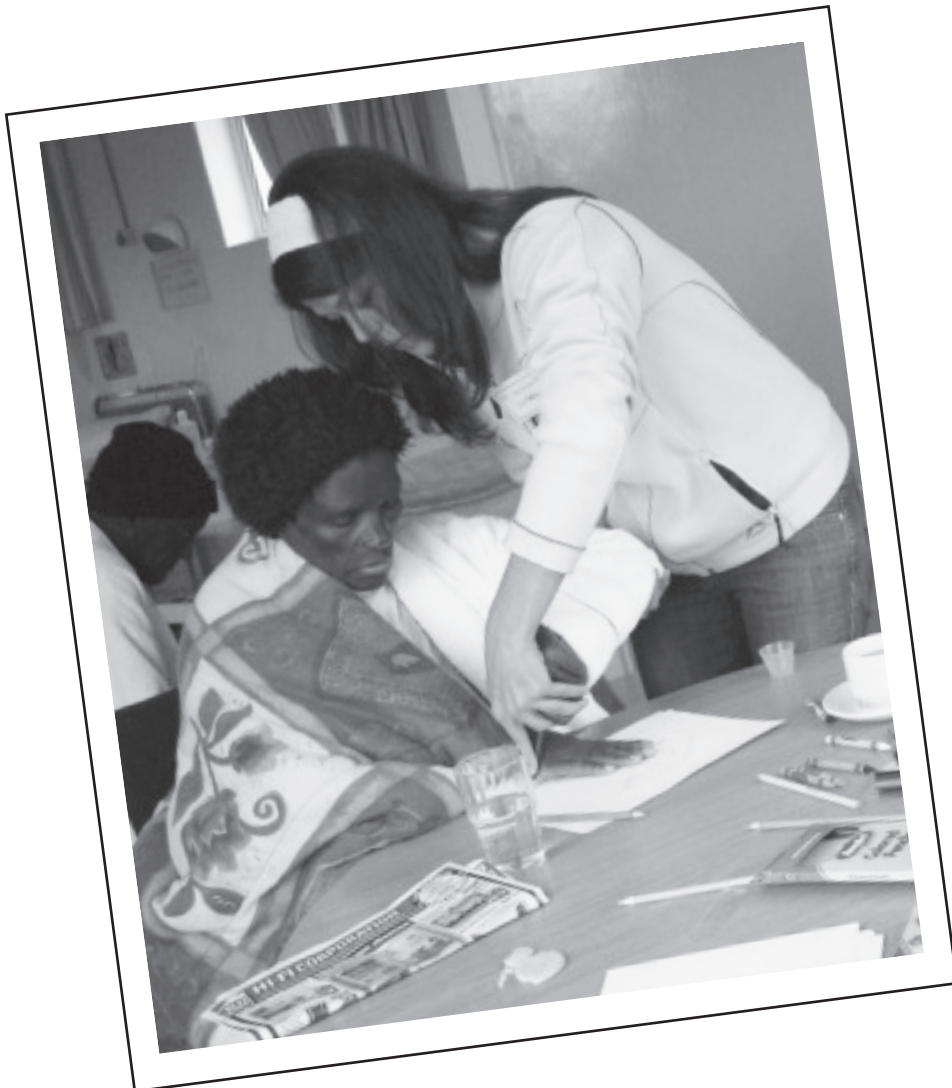
Africa – Serving His People

When Natalie Nelson took her first mission trip during college - to the inner city of Greenville, SC - “something came alive inside of me,” she said. “I realized that God made me to serve Him and one of the ways to serve Him is to serve His people.”

Throughout her college years, Nelson took other mission trips to Costa Rica and Africa. And that’s where she found her heart. “I knew that at some point in my life, I would return to Africa.”

That’s where she is now, working at a community center in Sun





Natalie Nelson performs occupational therapy on one of her patients in South Africa.

Valley, South Africa, helping patients get well enough to return to their homes.

On her days off, Nelson walks to a nearby village and helps at the wound clinic. She also makes home visits and works with after-school programs. "We serve peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for snacks. This is good protein for the kids and quite honestly, sometimes the only bread that the kids will get all week. Bread is a luxury—it's like cake to them."

Nelson returns home December 17, but based on her enthusiasm, it can't be long before she sets out again. "I love my time here," she said. "Each night, I go to bed with aching knees and tangled hair from tiny fingers, but I realize there is nowhere in this world I would rather be. For now, this is home and I am more than fulfilled."



Shannon McFarlin lives and writes in Paris, TN. Email her at shannonmcfarlin@hotmail.com.



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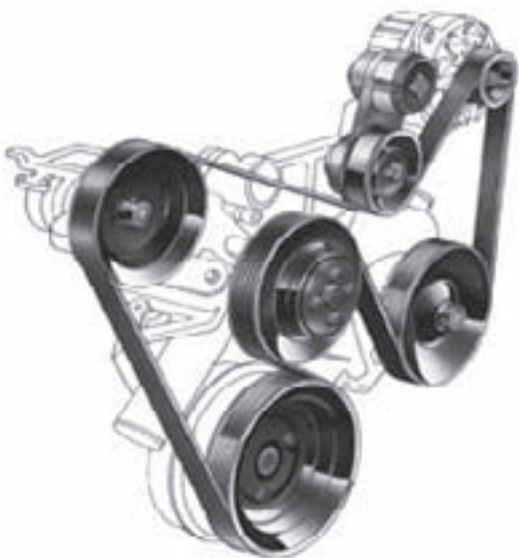
Listen for signs of impending belt failure. A squealing noise when the car accelerates, while pulling away from a stop, or during hard cornering usually suggests the belt is slipping. Two other causes of belt noise could be drive misalignment or a worn tensioner.

With flying reindeer pulling his trusty sleigh, Santa doesn't have to worry about belts, except the one around his big ol' belly. But the motoring public, including Henry County's Driving Divas, need to be aware of and understand a thing or two about the serpentine belt drive.

The Importance

Engineers in the belt world agree that driving divas should have the serpentine drive belt system checked periodically. If it fails, the engine will overheat – even in the winter – and worse, the car won't run. That means getting to holiday parties late and frustrated and prob-

Whatever the cause of the noise – or if the belt is four years old – ask your service technician to replace the belt before the cold weather season. In fact, it's a good idea to have your vehicle inspected before winter sets in. After all, Santa brings more presents to divas who take good care of their cars.



The Job

The serpentine drive is just what the name implies – a continuous loop belt that snakes its way around several engine accessories including the air conditioner compressor, water and power steering pumps, fan, and even the booster for the braking system.

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Calendar of Events

Now through end of December – The Santa's Workshop exhibit at the Henry County Heritage Center features special toy collections from Henry County homes. www.PHCHC.com or 731-642-1030.

November 2 – Oui, oui, it's the "French Bazaar" at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, downtown Paris, 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Purchase Christmas crafts, decorative items, casseroles, soups, cookies, coffees, spiced tea and more! Call 642-2962.

November 2 – "Dickens Christmas" takes the stage at the Krider on Volunteer Drive. Presented by a group from Bethel College, the evening begins at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Quota Club, tickets are \$10.00. Call 731-642-5035 or 731-642-2825.

November 4 – The Paris High School Strings host a Christmas-Winter gala afternoon. Auction and dinner begin at 1 p.m. in PES cafeteria; concert begins at 2:30 p.m. at the Krider. Proceeds benefit Italian tour. Call 731-642-3675.

November 8 – Parents Day at all schools in the Henry County School System. Call your school for more information.

November 9 – Yum, yum Trinity United Methodist Church Potato Bar, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. Advance tickets at The Toggery, Paris Florist and Bass Realty. Call Trinity for information, 731-642-3427.

November 9, 10 & 11 – The shops of Paris are in the holiday spirit. Join them for Christmas Open House. Candlelight hours are Friday and Saturday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.; Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

November 9 and 10 – Visit with potter Danny Dalton when he displays his unique and collectible creations at Jack Jones Flowers during Christmas Open House, 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. For information, call 731-642-5252.

November 11 – Honor our Veterans! We owe them our thanks.

November 12 – Youth for the Arts Veteran's Day Concert at the Krider, 6:30 p.m. Call 731-642-3955 or 642-3675, ext. 631.

November 13 – Lakewood First Graders present a Rhythm Band Concert in the school cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. Call 731-644-1600.

November 13 – Duck and Goose Calling Demonstrations and tips from championship caller John Paul Moody at 7 p.m. at the Tennessee Wildlife Refuge Office. Call 731-642-2091.

November 14 & 15 – Purchase an array of home-made arts and crafts or delicious dishes at Homemakers' Holiday sponsored by the Family & Community Education

Clubs, Enoch Building on the Fairgrounds. Hours are 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday and 8:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Thursday. Call the Extension Office at 731-642-2941.

November 15 – Following performances in area schools, Alaskan Storyteller and Fiddler Ken Waldman entertains the public at W. G. Rhea Library, 7:00 p.m. For information call the Arts Council, event sponsor at 731-642-3955.

November 16 – Athena Delphians' Annual Bake Sale, Court House Lawn, Downtown Paris. Contact Rhonda Compton at 731-644-9903. Those gals can cook!

November 16 – Enjoy the Lioness Club Luncheon from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Ketchum Hall, Grace Episcopal Church in Downtown Paris. Tickets are available from Polly Gallamore, 731-642-1145, Gina McLean, 642-2434, Joan Shankle, 642-9297, Joy Kriesky, 642-1299 or any Lioness member. Proceeds are used for sight conservation.

November 20 – Professional Development Day for Henry County School System – no school for students.

November 21-23 – Thanksgiving Holiday for Henry County School System and Paris Special School District. Call 731-642-9733 (HCSS) or 731-642-9322 (PSSD).

November 22 – Thanksgiving Day. Come ye thankful people, come.

November 23 – Don't miss North Pole Family Fun Day (always the Friday after Thanksgiving) 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Downtown Paris. Activities include visits with Santa, Rudolph and the elves, shopping, children's crafts, face painting, live music, reading of *The Polar Express* at the Old Depot, food and more. Call 731-693-2696.

November 23 – Fourth Friday Art Show and Sale from 5 to 8 p.m. at Lee Academy for the Arts. For more information call 731-644-7334 or 731-644-2253.

November 26 through December 16 – Trees on the Square is the area's newest Christmas tradition. Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, the event is located in the former Office Concepts building (125 E. Washington Street). Hours are weekdays and Saturdays, noon – 7:00 p.m.; Sunday from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. For information call 731-642-3431.

November 30, December 1 and 2 – New Harmony Baptist Church's Annual Living Nativity Scene from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Sunday. Church is located at 7050 Highway 60A, South. Call 731-593-5276.

November 30 – Rhea School's Supper with Santa starts at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 731-642-0961.

December 1- Todd Hill directs Messiah at 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church, downtown Paris. Call the Arts Council, event sponsor at 731-642-3955.

December 1 & 2 – Christmas Crafts at the Park from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Paris Landing State Park. Enjoy arts and crafts, concessions and a meal at the Inn Restaurant. Contact Paris Landing State Park at 731-641-4465.

December 6 – The annual “Church Challenge” continues when Lifeline Bloodmobile visits First United Methodist Church, downtown Paris from noon till 6:00 p.m. Give in honor of your church.

December 6 – The Second Grade at Rhea School will present its Christmas program at the Krider at 6:00 p.m. For information, call 731-642-0961.

December 6 – Candlelight Advent Walk begins at the First United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. Hear the Christmas message in the beautifully decorated churches of downtown Paris. Proceed by candlelight through the historic town square. Sponsored by Downtown Paris Association and participating churches. Call 731-642-4764 or 731-693-2696.

December 7 – Puryear Christmas Tree Lighting and Free Chili Supper at Puryear City Hall (always the first Friday in December). Sponsored by City of Puryear and the Puryear Lions Club. Call Lisa Hart at 731-247-5288.

December 8 & 9 – Trinity United Methodist Church presents its annual living Nativity Scene on the church grounds (409 N. Wilson Street) from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. For information call 731-642-3427.

December 9 – Enjoy “An Evening of Carols” at First Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Youth Choirs, Children’s Choir, Handbells, and Orchestra will participate. Call 731-642-5074.

December 9 – The Henry County Heritage Center Christmas Party features a visit from Santa and light refreshments. For more information, visit www.phchc.com or call 731-642-1030.

December 10 – Nobody does Christmas like youngsters! Paris Elementary School’s Fifth Graders’ Christmas program is at the Krider at 6:00 p.m. For information, call 731-642-3675, ext. 631.

December 10 – (Always the second Monday in December) The Lighting of the Eiffel Tower takes place at Memorial Park, Volunteer Drive. Contact Chamber of Commerce at 731-642-3431.

December 11 – It’s a night of strings at the Krider. Paris Elementary Strings host their winter concert at 6:00 p.m. (call 731-642-3675) **followed by the Inman Strings** at 7:15 p.m. (call 731-642-8131).

December 11 – Tennessee Wildlife Refuge presents This is Your Refuge, a slideshow of the year’s events at 7 p.m. at the Refuge office. Call 731-642-2091 for details.

December 12 – Talk about cute! Pre-Kindergarten Christmas program at 1:00 p.m. at Central School Gym. For information, call 731-642-0961.

December 15 - Over the River and Through the Woods 8 Mile Walk/Run at Paris Landing State Park. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 731-642-3431. Be there at 8 a.m.

December 16 – First United Methodist Church celebrates the season with a **Christmas Cantata** at 10:50 a.m., downtown Paris. Call 731-642-4764.

December 16 – The children of First Baptist host a “Happy Birthday, Jesus, Party” from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at the church. FBC Family Christmas will be held at 6 p.m.

December 17 – January 1 – Ho! Ho! Ho! Christmas break for all schools in Paris and Henry County. For more information, call 731-642-9733 and 731-642-9322.

December 21 – Santa’s Last Blast, Downtown Paris, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Visit with Santa, delicious s’mores, Christmas stories, live music, make n’ take crafts and more! Sponsored by Downtown Paris Association, HCHS Clubs, Friends of the Refuge, Paris Fire Department and others. Call 731-693-2696.

December 24 – Receive Holy Communion and sing traditional hymns in the glow of candlelight at First United Methodist Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 p.m (101 E. Blythe Street) Paris. Call 731-642-4764.

December 24 – A Service of Lessons and Carols at First Christian Church (101 S. Poplar Street) , 8 p.m. Call 731-642-3181.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, Holy Cross Catholic Church (1210 E. Wood Street) Call 731-642-4681.

December 25 – Christmas Day! Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ was born!

December 31 – Friends of Paris Landing State Park host the New Year’s Eve Party at the Park featuring the 70’s and 80’s music of the Soul Shockers. Tickets are \$75 each, \$125 couple, \$500 table of 8. The evening includes a delicious buffet dinner, entertainment, dancing, midnight countdown, champagne toast, party favors and drawings for gifts. Tickets available at the Chamber of Commerce, 731-642-3431.

January 1, 2008 – Happy New Year!

January 2 – Administrative Day for Henry County School System and Paris Special School District – **no school for students**. For information, call 731-642-9733 (HC) or 731-642-9322 (PSSD).

January 7 – Last day to register to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary Election.

Faces and Places



Right: Angie Smith displays her artwork in the KPAC lobby during the Mike Snider concert. The event, which featured a number of ag-related booths, was a salute to farmers.

Left: Toni Marshall Dycus and Donna Marshall enjoy taking part in the Greater Kentucky Lake GO TELL CRUSADE at Patriot Stadium. (Submitted by Tennessee Valley Community Church.)



Left: The HCHS Madrigals don new berets as a salute to Youth for the Arts, an umbrella group of the Arts Council. To purchase the 100% wool berets at \$10 each, call 731-642-3955 or log on www.phcarts.com. (Submitted by Candi Agee)



Right: Eric Fassler of Paris recently won the amateur division of the Paris Parks Inaugural Disc Golf open with 10 under par for 3 rounds. The new Disc Golf Course is located in Memorial Park on Volunteer Drive. Call 731-644-2517 for information. (Submitted by the Paris Parks Department)



Right: The local chapters of the Red Hat Ladies Society were invited guests to Cavitt House, home of the Paris-Henry County Heritage Center, for a high tea. While there, Mona Leonard (left) and her daughter, Mary Richards enjoyed the exhibit.



Below: Members of the DPA, Vicky Muzzall, (Vicky Muzzall's Tax Service), Minnie Lou Perkins (Perkins Drugs) and J.C. Ramos (Computer Help) mark numbers on the back of GO BIG RED buttons. The DPA purchased the buttons in support of the HCHS football homecoming and used them to promote the Pep Rally on the Court Square and the ball game.



Above: (Standing from left) Sabra Fuller, Cortez Thompson, Freddie Williams and Rubener Teague, (sitting) Wayne Travis and Gwen Teague of Quinn Chapel AME Church take a well-deserved break during their recent Brown Bag Lunch sale.

Left: Marie Wilson of MBC tends the bake sale at the Dave and Brenda Parke benefit. Individuals and groups worked together selling lunches, working a silent auction and a bake sale to raise more than \$6500.00 to help Dave & Brenda Parke. Dave hit a deer and is still in Vanderbilt rehab.





Above: HCHS Quarterback Marsalis Teague tells it like it is at the HCHS Homecoming Pep Rally on the Court Square.



Above: Dana Bell was one of the featured artists at the Fourth Friday Art Show and Sale at Lee Academy for the Arts. The free event, sponsored by the Tennessee River Fine Arts League is from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. (Submitted by Jean Owens)



Above: Kristen Lafreniere spreads Patriot pride in Downtown Paris during Homecoming Week at HCHS. (Submitted by HCHS)



Right: Clayton Greer rocked the house during Kridor Idol, a talent show sponsored by Youth for the Arts.



Left: Sally Sandefer presents Dr. Guy McCombs a silver tray from the congregation of First Christian Church in celebration of McCombs' doctorate during an afternoon reception in his honor.



Above: Known as the real life Mayberry, Mount Airy, NC is most famous as the hometown of Andy Griffith. Ann Espinosa, Mary Hershey, Judy Stevens, Sandy Flood and Melanie Mitchell recently visited the town and sent in this shot of their vacation crew posed behind Andy's desk.



Above: John Ethridge and Carrie Charles enjoy the music during Noon On the Square, sponsored by Commercial Bank and Trust.



Left: H.C.H.S. senior soccer players Allison Duke, Hope Treider and Erica Brockwell ready themselves for the Patriot Classic Soccer Tournament.

Right: Michael Freeland signs his book, *Blood River to Berlin* for Vicky Hunt, manager of Jack Jones Flowers and Jack's Corner Books on the square. Freeland, a native Henry Countian was in Paris signing copies of his book.





A Scandalous Performance?

By Rev. Arthur Lodge

It was unheard of in 1742, a scandal that would be “remembered to the After-Ages,” according to one newspaper. The outcry was over the first performance of *Messiah* by George Frideric Handel in Dublin, Ireland’s New Musick Hall.

Handel directed the first two performances from the harpsichord and received enthusiastic reviews. However, when he tried to repeat his success in London the newspapers printed blistering attacks about sacred things offered as “public diversions.”

Some may wonder if the Paris-Henry County Arts Council is walking down the same path 265 years later by asking a jazz musician who has backed Frank Sinatra, Jr., Bob Hope and The Moody Blues to conduct *Messiah*. But there’s no need for concern, according to Professor Todd Hill, the newly-named conductor.

Hill sees commonalities between the baroque era of music in which *Messiah* was written and jazz—particularly early Dixieland jazz. “They are both polyphonic, meaning that they both have multiple melodies occurring at the same time,” Hill explained. “The beauty and challenge of each is to allow the purity of the melodic lines to shine through the textures.”

The maestro’s first musical experiences were at home and the church where his parents, Jane B. Hill and the late Guy E. “Bud” Hill were music leaders. As Hill became an experienced pianist, he played for weddings, funerals, church services and revivals. His first piano teacher, Roberta Covington, grounded him in the fundamentals of technique, which were reinforced later by teachers Melody Jenkins and Charlotte Webb. But

by then, Hill was enamored with his gift of playing by ear.

Band director Joe Farmer started the young musician on the trombone while at Atkins-Porter Elementary School. While playing in the Grove Jr. High School Jazz Band, Hill became a certified fan of the genre. He was a member of the Madrigals under then-director Kenneth Humphreys, as well as a band member at HCHS. Hill also directed the choir at Trinity United Methodist Church while in high school.

His has been a diverse career. As a jazz pianist he played his way from Beale Street to Berlin and back. Throughout his 21 years as a high school and college instructor, Hill never stopped performing. He continues to tour with his jazz, big band and symphonic work while also serving as the director of the

First Presbyterian Church choir in Murray, Ky.

When asked how a jazz musician approaches *Messiah*, Hill returned the question with a question, "How does one approach the art of music in general?" Frustrated with labels and generalizations, he is "foremost a musician. When I'm working at classical pieces during the day, I'm likely to be listening to jazz at night and vice versa."

The native Parisian believes that *Messiah* was an inspired composition. Handel completed the masterpiece, which runs more than two hours, in less than three weeks. By comparison, a three-minute arrangement for a big band can take Hill up to two days to finish.

Henry Countians will have a fresh experience of *Messiah* at First Baptist Church, Saturday, December 1 at 7:00 p.m. Hill plans a baroque-style presentation with strings, double reeds, harpsichord, trumpet and tympani while allowing "the colors of each individual voice line to come through with a degree of clarity."

Messiah will add to the experience of the Christmas season as the familiar words of scripture are sung to the great artistry of Handel. And this time, it won't be the least bit scandalous.

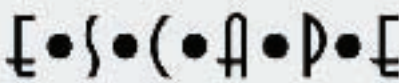
Find out more about Todd Hill, order his new big band CD, or just say hello at www.ToddHillOrchestra.com.



Arthur Lodge is a retired Presbyterian minister, model car collector, trivia game player and humorist.



Professor Todd Hill, conductor of the Messiah, promises a "fresh" experience to the show's attendees.



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The Greening of Christmas

By John Watkins

Greenery brought indoors during the holidays is as much a part of the Christmas tradition as Santa Claus. But what prompted people to cut down firs, lop off boughs of holly or climb to the tops of trees in search of mistletoe?

Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree!

There has been much controversy over the history of the Christmas tree. Some scholars contend that it is a 16th century German tradition, while others claim that it extends back to pagan times.

The first recorded reference dates back to the 16th century. In Strasbourg, Germany (now part

of France), families decorated fir trees with colored paper, fruits and sweets. Legend has it that Martin Luther began this tradition. One crisp Christmas Eve, while walking through snow-covered woods, he was struck by the beauty of a group of small evergreens. Their branches, dusted with snow, shimmered in the moonlight. Back at home, he set up a little fir tree indoors so he

could share this story with his children. He decorated it with candles, and lit them in honor of Christ's birth.

The Christmas Tree was brought to England by Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, from his native Germany. The famous Illustrated News etching in 1848, featuring the Royal Family gathered around a Christmas tree popularized the tree throughout Victorian England.

Holly, Jolly Christmas

Holly is another Christmas decoration with strong pagan roots. In Celtic mythology, winter and summer were represented by twin kings, the "Holly King" (winter) and the "Oak King" (summer). During autumn and early winter, the Holly King reigned supreme. The holly trees were the only greenery left in the bare forest. His twin, the Oak King, having lost his leaves, was "naked" and therefore defeated.

Holly was also used by the ancient Romans. Holly trees were the sacred plant of Saturn, the God of the harvest and fertility. Therefore during the holiday held in Saturnalia's honor, holly wreaths were given as gifts. As Christianity replaced pagan religions, holly came to represent Jesus' crown of thorns and the red berries drops of blood. Legend also has it that holly sprang from the footsteps of Christ as he walked the earth.

Meet Me Under the Mistletoe

Mistletoe was used by Druid priests in their winter celebrations 200 years before the birth of Christ. They revered the plant since it had no roots yet remained green during the cold months of winter.

The custom of kissing under the mistletoe was started in the middle ages where a bough of holly, evergreens and mistletoe was hung inside the front door and blessed by a priest. As guests visited the house, they were kissed under the "Holly Bough" as a sign of goodwill.

Now for a little romantic nomenclature. The common name, "mistletoe" is derived from the ancient belief that mistletoe was propagated from bird droppings. It was observed in ancient times that mistletoe would often appear on a branch or twig where birds had left droppings. "Mistel" is the Anglo-Saxon word for "dung," and "tan" is the word for "twig". So the next time you try to steal a kiss from that special someone, remember, mistletoe literally means "dung-on-a-twig". How romantic.

The Poinsettia

The tradition of giving poinsettias comes from Central America. This particular legend comes from Mexico and involves a young girl named Maria and her brother Pablo. Each year they eagerly awaited the Christmas festival which included parades, parties and a Nativity scene in the village square. While Maria and Pablo loved the festival, they were also sad, for it was customary for the villagers to give a gift to the church for the baby Jesus. However their family was poor.

One Christmas Eve, the siblings set out for Midnight Mass. Along the way, they picked some weeds growing beside the road as their gift for baby Jesus. Although they wanted to give more, it was all they had. As they placed the weeds around the manger, the leaves turned into bright red petals, in the shape of a star. The poinsettia was born and came to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem.

Happy Holidays!



John Watkins is a landscape designer and Certified Grounds Manager who resides in Henry County. Email him at john_rhn@bellsouth.net.

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Candy Canes, Bows and Harleys

By Julie Perry

Christmas began with a family, and each year is a time of reunion, rebirth and renewal. Christmas brings with it a desire to act lovingly, give unstintingly, and receive gracefully.

Melissa Peppers of Paris has her own special way of giving to other and celebrating the holiday, "I love to share my Christmas trees with people."

In order for things to be in place in plenty of time, Melissa begins preparations early for the holiday season. "I start on the first day of November each year so it is all done by Thanksgiving. It takes me about three weeks to get it all done. Then, everyone in the house has their own tree."

"The Snowman Tree located in the recreation room is for my parents," said



Melissa and daughter, Kara, enjoy the snowman tree in the living room.



Melissa. "My mom likes snowmen so the gifts that my parents give to

our family go under that tree. When they come on Christmas we go to that tree and open gifts from only the Snowman Tree.

"The Berries and Birds Tree is located in my dining room. It is the tree that I did for my mother-in-law Betty; she loves birds. The gifts that we give to my mom and dad and my mother-in-law go under that tree. So again, when it is time to give them their gifts we go to that tree."

The kitchen is graced by a casually decorated Candy Cane Tree. "This is the tree that I put gifts that go to the kids' school teachers and



friends, and the gifts that go to my co-workers each year."

The huge tree in the living room is only for the kids. "That tree has 1500 multi-colored lights on it. It is 12 feet tall from top to bottom, and takes all day to decorate. Every ornament on it was made by the kids or was bought for them as they were growing up. Every year I say I am not putting this tree up and the kids have a fit. The only gifts under that tree are the ones Doug and I give them, along with what Santa brings. This is the tree where we still leave cookies and milk for Santa."

The gifts for Melissa's husband, Doug, are placed under a Harley Davidson-themed tree. The Paris Tree is topped with a queen's crown and is Melissa's own personal tree. She places the gifts for her best friends here. "I love all the Paris stuff, so I just thought I needed to decorate a tree with it. It has red lights on it along with fancy purses, shoes, Eiffel Towers, wine bottles, martini glasses and what else but a red feather boa running through the tree."

Just as Christmas has become a wonderful amalgam of customs and traditions, so it is with the Peppers family. Doug has a tradition of hiding his wife's gifts in some of the decorated trees. "He thinks this is so funny, after all the trouble I go to putting up these trees for my family, that I never have a gift in sight 'til Christmas morning and then they all appear."

Hot chocolate and coffee are always shared while the children are opening their gifts, and the entire family gathers for a holiday meal. "Everyone in our family comes to our house each year – all my family from Kentucky and all our family in Paris."

So, just as Christmas began with a family, it continues with families of all kinds. Create a unique Christmas tradition in your family, and the memories will last a lifetime.



Julie Perry is truly a "Christmas baby" – she was born on December 27th, and celebrates her wedding anniversary with husband Cliff on December 19th.

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When Millard Nichols begins swishing his colorful paints on the windows of local merchants, producing Christmas scenes worthy of a Hallmark card, the holiday season has officially begun.

Nichols and his wife, Gay, moved to Paris in the fall of 1995. "That was the first Christmas I painted windows here," he said. "People really seemed to appreciate it and that drove me to keep at it. It sure makes the town look festive."

Growing up Nichols was fond of drawing. "All eight of us were artistic and so were our parents. When I was young, we were on a trip and I saw a sign painter working. I thought to myself, 'That's what I want to do,' but creating his signature holiday windows didn't come until later.

Nichols was in marine construction in Florida where he moonlighted as a sign painter. "But that didn't really involve pictures," he explained. Eventually, his talents merged, and the result can be seen on merchants' windows throughout Henry County including the large Tennessee Valley Community Church window on Mineral Wells and many of the storefronts in Downtown Paris.

"What I do with brushes and colors really makes someone's business jump out. That gets me excited."

"We're fortunate to have someone like Millard in Paris," said Rick Conger of the Downtown Paris Association. "We use him to paint advertisements for our many downtown events; we get a lot of positive feedback. Passersby love to watch him work, and his finished



Painting the Town RED





product draws folks' attention."

The self-taught artist likens his windows to cakes. "I work with a theme, but you really never know how it will turn out until it's done. I try to do each window differently. I'm always looking for new themes." Nichols said his wife, Gay, has been "my inspiration for 25 years. She has great ideas and is always finding helpful artwork."

The man who some residents refer to as "Paris' Christmas elf" moved to Henry County from Ft. Lauderdale. "I used to visit my folks here. I loved the country roads and the overhanging trees along the roadside. Four of my siblings moved here and eventually so did we."

"I'd eventually like to teach sign painting," said Nichols. "With computer generated letters and graphics, it's becoming a lost art."

Nichols is a grandfather who enjoys showing his artwork to his grandchildren. "They really get a kick out of my windows. They think it's cool." Who knows, perhaps one of them has inherited Nichols' artistic genes and, like their grandpa, will grow up to paint the town red.

Millard Nichols paints a jolly St. Nicholas on this store window in downtown Paris.



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Dianna and Homer receive hugs from loved ones.



Paige and Kellie opening gifts

Hawaiian Holiday

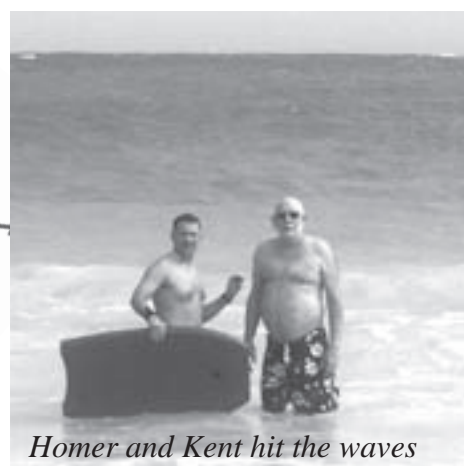
From Whitlock to Waikiki

Homer and Dianna Maddox usually spend Christmas at home in Whitlock, but when their son, First Sergeant Kent Maddox was transferred to Hawaii in June of 2006, the Maddoxes decided on a Hawaiian holiday.

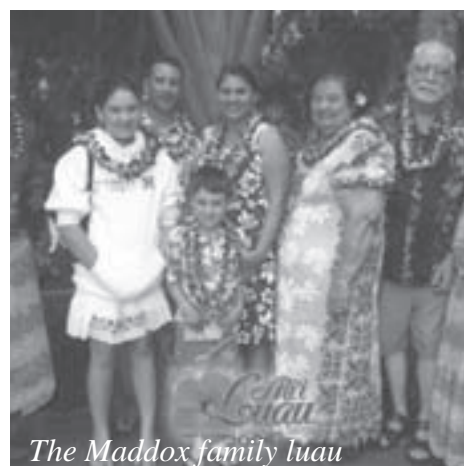
The couple visited their son and his family for two weeks, taking in every attraction from Pearl Harbor to the Hawaii Bowl. Thanks to their holiday timing, Kent, his wife Kellie (former Kellie Emerson of Henry County), grandson Brock

and granddaughter Paige were able to accompany the couple on most every outing.

As he had expected, the Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor was “bone chilling.” The memorial is built atop the USS Arizona, which sank during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. “I was amazed to see that there are still, after all these years, drops of oil rising from the vessel. The locals refer to the drops as ‘sailors’ tears’. Back at the visitors’ center an old clock retrieved



Homer and Kent hit the waves



The Maddox family luau

from the Arizona gave Maddox pause. "There is nothing left but the face and hands," he explained, "and they are stopped at the exact time the bombs were dropped."

The family also spent plenty of time on the beach where Maddox even tried out his son's boogie board. "Most of the beaches where we swam were private military beaches, which weren't very crowded. However, public or private, they were all gorgeous."

Maddox warns visitors against "not getting out and about and missing things," he said. "You can drive for miles on the island and visit little towns, surf shops, pineapple plantations, take part in a luau, ride a submarine, visit the North Shore where the big waves are or just cruise the coast line."

One of their favorite stops was the Polynesian Cultural Center. Dedicated to "the real Polynesia," the center features natives who

demonstrate the art of dancing with fire, making jewelry from plants and more. Visitors can try spear throwing or participate in war dances.

The Waimea Valley Audubon Center was another top pick for Maddox, an enthusiastic lover of flowers. "I guess they had every type of flower and exotic bird that the Lord made. If I'd had 100 million gigs of storage in my camera, it wouldn't have been enough."

Even without the extra gigabytes, Maddox took plenty of photos. Flipping through them he showed off several shots of vivid rainbows. "Almost every morning when we got up there was a rainbow reaching across two mountaintops."

In fact, rainbows are such a part of the country's culture that the University of Hawaii football team was called the Rainbow Warriors. However, in recent years the coach demanded 'rainbow' be dropped

from their name.

Maddox got the opportunity to see the Warriors play. Leaving no event unattended during his parents stay, Kent treated them to the Hawaii Bowl on Christmas Eve. "It was great fun," said Maddox.

But did it feel like Christmas? "No," he admitted. Even though Santa made an appearance at the half-time show, Maddox said it was tough to get in the holiday spirit on the island. "Sure, they wrap Christmas lights up the trunks of the palm trees and they sing carols, and we attended church, just like we do at home and opened presents and all, it was just too warm and sunny to feel much like Christmas."

But that won't keep the Maddoxes from making another trip, possibly another Christmas visit. "Kent is getting a promotion," beamed Maddox, "and when that comes through, we'll be back in Hawaii, no matter what the season."




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Holiday Open House: November 9, 10 & 11

The shops of Paris are in the holiday spirit. Join them for Christmas Open House. Candlelight hours are Friday & Saturday, 6 to 8 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

North Pole Family Fun Day: November 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This day is packed with visits with Santa, Rudolph and the elves, face-painting, children's crafts, live music and the reading of the Polar Express at the Old Depot, plus a great opportunity to shop for that perfect gift!

Trees on the Square: November 26 - December 16

Visit Paris's newest Christmas tradition in the former Office Concepts building on Washington St. Monday through Saturday from noon to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. to see exquisitely decorated trees from organizations and businesses.

Candlelight Advent Walk: December 6, 6:30 p.m.

Hear the message of Christmas as you process by candlelight from the First United Methodist Church past the beautifully decorated churches of downtown Paris to the historic town square.

Santa's Last Blast: December 21, 6 to 8 p.m.

Visits with Santa, s'mores, Christmas stories, make n' take crafts, and more—this event is not to be missed!

We all love a makeover – a house, a neighborhood, a wardrobe, even a hairdo. There is just something hopeful in those before and after shots. They remind us that there is always a way to make things better.

The decision to makeover the old Office Concepts building in downtown Paris into a holiday attraction grew out of a bit of idea-stealing, some serious teamwork and finding just the right person to oversee the project. Galia Thompson, administrative assistant for the Henry County Alliance (a cooperative of the Paris-Henry County Economic Development Corporation and the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce) came back from a work trip enthused about a Christmas tree showcase that was organized in another town. It seemed like a good fit for downtown Paris.

The Project

A tree showcase encourages business and organizations to decorate a tree for display in a central location. The trees can promote, serve as advertising or feature items for sale. The organizing group, in this case, the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, charges an entry fee. Increased traffic is good for holiday sales and the attraction encourages churches, schools and other groups, both local and from out of town, to visit our historic, vibrant downtown.

The Partners

The idea was shared with the folks at the Downtown Paris Association and the hunt was on for the right building. Troy Buttrey, First Bank city president, offered the Washington Street location, located next to the Board of Public Utili-

John Wambles, Laura Dougherty and Galia Thompson check out the picture window.



Around Our Town

Trees on the Square, a new holiday attraction

By Jennifer Wheatley

Laura Dougherty, Niki Kenworthy and Galia Thompson discuss the placement of trees.





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ties. The main floor was spacious, there was a great view to the balcony and the front windows were big enough to hold trees. Galia immediately saw the possibilities.

The Challenges

These possibilities were matched by some challenges. The building was big and empty, but had been sitting for quite a while. Cleaning would be necessary. The dates for the Christmas Tree Showcase meant cold weather. The heat source was an oil furnace. BPU's Bryan Irby, president-elect of the Chamber and unofficial vice president of maintenance, stopped by to check on early progress. He advised that we figure out the heating situation before we moved in trees or began to print posters.

Staffing came next. Who would welcome our visitors? The DPA supported the project but certainly could not leave their businesses during the holidays. How about traffic flow and logistics? Did the bathrooms work? How much should it cost to display a tree? What happens to the trees after the holidays? The more questions arose, the more the need for a leader surfaced.

The Leadership

The answer was Laura Dougherty, advertising sales manager for the Paris Post-Intelligencer. Laura had made herself available to the Chamber for several projects. She was the instigator of the themed booths at the Small Business Expo, one of its greatest successes, and she is the creator of our booth for the Nashville Fishing and Turkey Expo. She had demonstrated both the organizational and creative skills that would be necessary to pull off this project. Caught during a busy Noon on the Square, Laura said, "Yes."

Laura and Galia pulled together folks who were willing to contribute to the project. They began with a tour of the building, an opportunity to share the vision and brainstorm. The DPA decided that with their members' various affiliations and help from the Chamber's Volunteer Center, they could pull off the staffing. Tentative dates were set: Monday, November 26 through Sunday, December 16.

And so, another Christmas tradition begins. Whether you'd like to sponsor a tree, volunteer as a host or simply come view these lovely expressions of Christmas, mark your calendar for yet another, festive downtown holiday event.



Jennifer Wheatley is director of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. She encourages everyone who is interested in Trees on the Square to contact Galia Thompson at 731-642-3431.

Delicious

Holiday Gatherings

By Cindy Snyder



Happy Holidays! What a great time of year! My granddaughter Calan and I looked over our extensive recipe collection, talked with friends about their favorites and came up with these recipes to help those of you responsible for family gatherings this season. If there's no time to prepare these during the holidays, do what we do: celebrate with each other in January and throughout the year.

We have three easy parties: the brunch, the cocktail party and a family dinner complete with a chocolate-caramel cheesecake. Calan found this recipe and made our first one. It was so tasty that we added it to our dessert list.

If you have family favorites, add them to the menu. Lots of new entertainment ideas have been discovered thanks to substitutions.

I hope that you make time for loved ones and yourself during these hectic weeks. From everyone at Cindy's Catering Company, we wish you a happy holiday season and a peaceful 2008.

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The Brunch

Creamy Garlic Chicken
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Assorted Pastries or Muffins

The Cocktail Party

Bacon Crostini Dip
Salmon Ball

BBQ Quesadillas
Fresh Vegetables

The Family Dinner

Your favorite meat dish - Ours is granddaddy-grilled ribeye steak
Seven layer (or more) salad
Cheesy potatoes
Rolls (optional)
Chocolate Caramel Cheesecake

Recipes

Cheddar Cheese Sour Cream Biscuits

2 sticks of softened butter
2 cups of self rising flour
1 cup of sour cream
½ cup of shredded cheddar cheese
Mix thoroughly. It's easier with your

hands, but messy. Be sure to wash your hands thoroughly and then dust a little flour on them, before mixing. Drop into greased mini-muffin tins and bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes. Watch them. You don't want them too brown.

Variation: After dropping into a muffin tin, add a small, cooked piece of country ham. Just push it down into the dough. The biscuit will cook around the meat. Or bake and slice the biscuit and add the meat later.

Salmon Ball with Crackers

1 can of salmon, flaked and drained
1 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
2 tsp. grated onion
1 tsp. prepared horseradish
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. liquid smoke
Chopped parsley or chopped pecans

Combine first seven ingredients. Line a bowl with film wrap. Place combined ingredients into the bowl. Cover and refrigerate. Before serving, remove from bowl, shape into a ball and roll in chopped parsley or chopped pecans. Serve with crackers.

BBQ Quesadillas

Butter, canola or olive oil
1 lb. BBQ
1 cup BBQ sauce or salsa
1 cup shredded cheese-Monterey Jack or cheddar
8 flour tortillas

In heated skillet or griddle, melt 1 tsp. of butter or oil, add flour tortilla, flip tortilla. Add a handful of cheese, about 2 Tbsp. BBQ sauce or salsa, BBQ and a little more cheese to one half of the tortilla. Fold over. Brown that side. Flip again and brown the other side. Slice into triangles. Serve with extra sauce and salsa

Seven Layer (or more) Salad

One package baby spinach
One package of chopped romaine
1 red pepper, chopped
1 small sweet onion, chopped
1 cup of celery, sliced
1 cup of cooked, crumbled bacon
1 cup of cheddar cheese, shredded
1 cup of good quality mayonnaise

1 cup of sour cream
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 16 oz. pkg. of frozen sweet peas, rinsed and drained
4 hard-boiled eggs.

A pedestal glass dish makes a great presentation for this salad. Mix the mayo, sour cream and lemon juice, and set aside. Toss greens together and line your dish with half of the mix.

Add one half of each of the next 5 ingredients. Spread half of the mayo-sour cream mixture. Add half of the sweet peas. Repeat layers and top with the hard-boiled eggs. You can slice or shred them. Make certain red peppers are showing as one of the layers for that traditional green and red.

Bacon Crostini Dip

1 cup mayonnaise
1 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded
1 cup of bacon pieces. If you use bacon in the jar, be sure it's real bacon.
2 chopped green onions
1 loaf prepared garlic bread. Cut into ¼ inch slices.

Mix first four ingredients and serve with bread slices.

Cheesy Potatoes

1- 1 lb., 10 oz. bag of frozen hash brown potatoes (chunks, not shredded)
2 cans cream of mushroom soup
1 cup of sour cream
1 cup of shredded cheddar cheese
2 Tbsp. dehydrated onion salt and pepper
1 stick of melted butter.

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Mix all the ingredients together, place in 9 x 13 baking dish and pour the butter over the top. Bake at 350 for one hour.

Creamy Garlic Chicken Over Rice

4 cups of cooked, diced chicken
1 tsp. water-packed garlic
2 cans condensed cream-of-mushroom soup
1 cup of mayonnaise
¼ cup of sour cream
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
One box of minute rice, prepared according to box instructions. The brown rice is very good.

Mix chicken, mushroom soup, garlic, mayo, sour cream and cheese. Pour into a greased baking dish. Sprinkle

with extra Parmesan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve over rice, mashed potatoes or toasted English muffins

Chocolate Caramel Cheesecake

One box of brownie mix, 8-inch square pan size, made according to package directions. Spread in an 11 x 7 baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes.
1 package caramels (14 oz. bag)
¼ cup evaporated milk
1-1/4 cups chopped pecans
2 pkgs (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
½ cup sugar
2 eggs

2 oz. semisweet chocolate, melted and cooled

2 oz. (squares) unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled

In microwave-safe bowl, melt caramels and evaporated milk. Pour over the brownie crust. Sprinkle with pecans.
Beat together, cream cheese and sugar. Add eggs, one at a time, just until blended. Stir in chocolate. Pour over pecans and bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes. Run a knife around the edges to loosen and cool for one hour longer. Refrigerate overnight.





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