

## Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

My letter is regarding David Parsons, of Parson's Gas. I would like the good people of Mt. Vernon to know what sort of person they are dealing with if they choose to do business with Mr. Parsons and Parson's Gas.

It seems that my mother, who has done business with Parson's Gas for years, stopped in to order some fuel on Friday, January 21st. She told the person at the desk that she was almost out, and, of course, the temperatures were barely above zero. The lady told her they would get someone out, probably on Monday. My mom was surprised when she got home from work on Monday, to find that they still had not been there. She waited, then called again Wednesday afternoon the 26th. She was told they were coming, but they were not. She called again Friday afternoon after work and was told, "someone will get back with you." She called again Saturday morning from work and told them she was out of fuel and really needed them to deliver the fuel they had been promising to deliver. After being placed on hold, she was told, "If we deliver the fuel, we need the \$150 when we deliver it." When my mother asked why, they had never required that in the past, and she was at work, and therefore, would not be home to give them the money, she was told, and I quote, "David Parsons saw your name in the paper where your house is being sold and he's afraid he won't get his \$150." This was like a knife through my mother's heart. It stripped her of any dignity. Who is this man who is in judgement of my mother? Who is to assume she doesn't have the money to pay for her fuel, to promise it to her for a week, and then humiliate her by saying, "I saw your name in the paper?" I tried to call Mr. Parsons to tell him how much he had hurt and humiliated my mother, but he didn't have the guts to discuss it with me. He hung up on me, then had his employee tell me he didn't want to talk to me! What a businessman! Were you covered in the back Mr. Parsons, counting your \$150? I find it ironic, my mother told me that you print verses from the bible on your invoices! Have you ever heard the verse, "Love thy neighbor?" Or in your bible, does it say, "Love thy neighbor as long as things are going well for them and they have \$150 up front?" Otherwise, I guess it's O.K. with you if thy neighbor freezes to death. May I suggest, Mr. Parsons, that you spend more time reading your bible and less time reading the forceful notices in the paper? My mother has been through enough in her life that she should not have to put up with being humiliated by one of her own neighbors. You could have requested the money up front without costing her her dignity. Just for your information, since you wouldn't hear me out on the phone, while you were holding up the delivery of fuel with no explanation, my mother was waiting to hear back from a biopsy. But let me tell you something about my mother that you don't know. She is a survivor. She has survived the loss of my father, raising a rebellious teen-

ager alone, cancer, now the loss of her home and she WILL survive this indignity, Mr. Parsons! I wonder, I understand that the spouse of one of Mr. Vernon's finest workers is in your office. Did you perhaps not deliver fuel for my mother for over a week because of something you were told? That wouldn't seem quite ethical, would it? Well, you made your decision, you collected your precious \$150 and, in doing so, broke my mother's heart. You owe her a huge apology. But, don't worry, Mr. Parsons, we will play for you.

And to the good people of Mt. Vernon, I suggest you think twice about with whom you do business. You never know when your name might be in the paper. And David Parsons will be watching!

And to any other "watchdogs" out there that might have questions or concerns about what you have read in the paper, call me. My number is, at the bottom of this letter. But leave my mother alone.

Sincerely,  
Sheila Burton Zenni  
Cincinnati, OH  
(513)245-1156  
P.S. (Mr. Parsons, if you would like to talk to me, you should feel free to call me, also. I won't hang up on you. I have more guts than that.)

Dear Editor,

It looks like burley tobacco farmers will face a greater than 40 percent cut in quota for the year 2000. This grim outlook is due to the companies' buying intentions decreasing and the increased amount of pool stocks. On February 1st, the official quota will be announced. Your Burley Co-op has been actively addressing this issue, taking into consideration all possible answers, and making the difficult decision that we believe is the best interest to our farmer members. We know a 40 percent cut will greatly damage the economy of many of our rural communities. No other business has had to cut its income by this much in two years. That is what we are facing. However, we have faith in the tobacco price support system and the quota formula and if we hang on, the formula will work itself out for the betterment of all of us involved.

We want to retain as many growing opportunities as possible. Our goal is to maximize the farmers ability to get the most dollars from his/her opportunity to grow. In examining the position we are in, the pool stocks have built up over time to a level that has become unhealthy as far as the operation of the program. However, the reason that we have these pool stocks is the decision of the companies using tobacco over than U.S. burley. Imports are up 28 percent while U.S. farmers experienced a 28 percent quota cut. This year's buying intentions are down nearly 17 percent cutting the quota by more than 40 percent.

We at the Co-op visited with the largest purchaser of our leaf (it should be noted that they were the only manufacturer who showed interest in our situation) on January 20, 2000 and asked for help in relieving pressure in such a major cut. They indicated that they would be willing to do a program very similar to what was done in November with blue-cured tobacco farmers. This would be the purchase of some 50 million pounds out of the

pool stocks and leaving us with 300+ million pounds still in the pool thus, not alleviating the problem. This offer would cost our no-net costs funds approximately \$87,000,000 and only reduce the quota cut to 35 percent.

In examining all our options, the board on January 20, 2000, decided to standfast with the position taken earlier and not discount pool stocks price. With the cost of over \$3.50 for no-net cost funds per pound of quota added back to our opportunities for

2000, we could not understand how this would be a beneficial position for the Co-op and for the farmers. In the past 20 years, every time we had a problem the answer has been to cut the price of U.S. tobacco that we hold in pool stocks. The Co-op made the right decisions for the time just as we are doing today. But now, the companies have become addicted, not to nicotine, but to cheap U.S. leaf prices brought about by their decisions to increase imports on a constant level.

Your Burley Co-op has taken a stand to say that U.S. leaf is superior, higher in value and we as producers are willing to take what cuts are dictated in order to preserve a profitability of what has become the very lifeline to our farming families.

Sincerely,  
Danny McKinney, CEO  
Rod Kuegel, President

Dear Editor:

When I received my copy of the Mt. Vernon Signal of January 13th, I was very proud to be from Rockcastle County even though I left 37 years ago. I am referring to the front page article regarding Mike Gates building a retreat for the blind and disabled. It was a very inspiring article. What I don't understand is why, it seems to me, anytime anyone tries to do anything out of the norm they have so many "stumbling blocks" to overcome. Are the "powers that be" hoping they will get discouraged and move onto another location? I would think that Rockcastle Countians would do everything in their power to have a retreat, as described in the article, located there. How refreshing — But squabble over a road — OUT-RAGEOUS.

Also Mike, I like your attitude and as quoted in the paper, "I am so busy doing the things I can that I never think about the things I can't do." I think we all could learn from this.

Good luck and I wish you the best  
Judith Fletcher Walker  
Fairfield, OH

## School-to-Work to sponsor parent forum at RCMS

On February 10 at 6:00 p.m. following the Parents-Teacher Conference, School-To-Work Local Labor Market Area #16 will sponsor a parent forum at Rockcastle County Middle School titled "Parent Involvement: The Key to Student Success." The forum, presented by Hasan Davis of Empowerment Solutions and Andy Beicher of the GEAR UP program, will offer parents some strategies they can use to help children understand and succeed in the world after school.

In describing the forum, Davis said, "We want to let parents know that

there are things they can do on a daily basis to prepare their children for success. For instance, in a recent poll, employers ranked communication skills as the most important personal characteristic they look for in a job candidate. Simply talking to and listening to your child can help develop these skills. And these skills are important whether a student plans to go to college, technical school, the military or straight into the world of work." Other topics which will be covered include the importance of a positive attitude, basic skills needed in the work world

and Kentucky's Career Clusters. School-To-Work invites all community members to these presentations and extends a special invitation to all parents of 5th grade students that will be attending these schools next year.

**Classified Deadline**  
**Noon**  
**Tuesday**

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## February 17 & 18 Renfro Valley Job Fair '00

Renfro Valley invites you to attend **JOB FAIR '00**. Management staff will be available for immediate interviews for all of the areas listed (entertainers excluded).

**Guest Services**

- Reservation Staff
- Ushers

**Retail**

- Store Managers
- Assistant Managers
- Clerks

**Operations**

- Maintenance
- Grounds
- Housekeeping

**Security**

- EMTs
- Parking Lot Attendants

We are seeking Full and Part-Time staff members. An evening or weekend-only position is a wonderful way to get the extra cash you need. Also, we offer a seasonal bonus plan!

Thursday - February 17, 2000  
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Friday - February 18, 2000  
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Renfro Valley Entertainment Center  
US Hwy 25 — Just off I-75 at Exit 62

(Personnel is located in Heritage Hall — The large log stone building, directly across from the Information Office on US Hwy 25.)



### Food Service

- Fast-Food Manager
- Cashiers
- Servers
- Cooks
- Dishwashers
- Hostess

For more information contact:  
Accounting Department

**Renfro Valley Entertainment Center**

US Hwy 25, Just off I-75 at Exit 62  
Renfro Valley, KY 40473  
www.renfrovalley.com  
**1-800-765-7464**  
or (606) 256-2638

## Annual Quilting Sale

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|                                   | Regular             | Sale                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Set of 6-18" Quilt Blocks         | 6.49                | 4.99                |
| Quilt Batting 81"x96"             | 6.99                | 5.49                |
| Quilt Batting 90"x108"            | 7.99                | 5.99                |
| Pre-Cut Quilt Shapes              | 14.95               | 11.95               |
| Pre-Cut Quilt Shapes              | 19.95               | 17.95               |
| 4 pound Bag Fabric                | 4.99                | 3.99                |
| Bleached & Natural 90" Muslin     | 4.99 <sup>yd.</sup> | 3.99 <sup>yd.</sup> |
| Pillow Cases to Embroider         | 6.99                | 4.99                |
| Coats Quilting Thread             | 1.95                | 1.29                |
| Embroidery Floss                  | 3/.89               | 5/1.00              |
| 12 oz. Bag Poly-Fil               | 1.89                | 1.69                |
| Promotional Thread 200 yd. spools | 5/1.00              |                     |
| Pre-cut Quilting Pieces           | 8.99                | 6.99                |
| Glue Sticks                       | .10"                | .6"                 |
| First Quality Quilting Fabric     | 2.99                | 2.34                |
| Safety Pins & Needles             |                     | .99 <sup>pk.</sup>  |

30% off Select Group of Baskets