Our Readers Write

We greatly appreciate the support of our families, parents, community, businesses, churches and individuals for their contributions to "Project Graduation 2000. With your donations and help we can make the 13th Annual Celebration for our seniors a huge success. We sincerely thank you for your kindness, caring and love offerings.

Jour Kindness, caring and love offerings.

If you would like to make a donation please contact Myrna Childress at 256-2125 or Rockcastle County High School 256-4816.

High School 25-4816.
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The Project Gradu
Committee

Dear Editor,

I have never considered any thought that I ever had important enough to be printed, or that I should be so vain as to think that any collective group of people really wanted to hear it. This is a letter that has been written many times in my mind in the past few weeks, and now having had the temerity to put it to paper, hope that I will do a suitable job.

I was intrigued by some of the events in this column that have ocevents in this column that have oc-curred over the past few weeks, and because 1 have enjoyed a personal friendship with Barry Adams, as well as a long professional relationship, thought I was directly qualified for once to speak about something here. Please don't misunderstand me; this is not a defense of Barry Adams' conduct as a police officer. Boptice officer. Barry Adams' conduct as a police officer. Boptice officer. Barry dosen't need my help. I know him well enough to know that he can do that himself. However, just because a man can stand alone and defend himself dosen't mean he should be required to. I worked side by side with Barry for four years here, and think back of these experiences now with all kinds of emotions. Some memories invoke onlyse memories invoke laughter, some tears, and some others invoke onlyse the quiet contemplation of doing a the quiet contemplation of doing job many would never have done

the first place. But you see, barry, along with the rest of our police force, is out there, doing their job, even as you read my pitiful attempt at writing

is out there, doing their job, even as your ead my pittiful attempts at writing a letter. We have a responsibility to take care of and have respect for those who serve us in all capacities. While there is an accountability of public servants to the people whom they serve, so the public should feel a sense of mutual accountability to recognize and respect honest efforts that are put forth by these public servants. I have DIRECT PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE that these people are not serving us as police officers because it pays so well. It will never pay well, at least not in money. We as a community can compensate these officers in ways that are much more tangible to them than money. I challenge not only this community, but also the City Council, to GIVE THESE OFFICERS PRAISE WENT IT IS DESERVED If you are a member of our City Council and do not consider praise of those police officers who deserve it as monthly business, then I con you unfit to serve as a member of this governing body. Council, you hear

the police report read to you every month. How appreciative are you of the job that your officers perform? Do you have an official recognition and reward process for those officers who exceed the normal level of duty

If you do, maybe this community would like to know when these offi cers are recognized and why. I am sure that a water expansion project makes for interesting reading, but as for myself, I would like to know which police officers put forth more effort than what minimum wage requires. I challenge our Council to

is deserved?

I guess I should close, as my temerity to write this an only hold out so long! I am thankful for the jobs that this police department performs. I am thankful that the Lord kept me safe when I was working with these officers, and it is my lope and prayer that He will continue to do so with them. The longer that this community neglects these officers, the more ashamed we should feel. Let's get ashamed we should teel. Let's get behind our police department. They serve us faithfully, and we should let them know we appreciate it! Barry Adams' friend, Matthew J. Bryant

Dear Editor,
"The producer was at the mercy of In eproducer was at the mercy or the speculator, and many tobacco raisers were steadily facing ruin, and as a class were approaching economic serfdom. "The Black Patch War, John G. Miller, 1936.

G. Miller, 1936.

Are we to return to the early days of the 1900's when farm families were at the mercy of a tobacco com-

of the 1900's when tarm families were at the mercy of a tobacco company - receiving whatever pittance would be paid at or just about the starvation level? So it will be with contract buying as a means to "get the tobacco they need" and, without saying so, at the "price they want." I recently visited twelve farmers 'incount you want to the contract buying so, at the "price they want." I recently visited twelve farmers in South America who were growing an average of ten acres of contract to bacco each - only one of those farmers was wearing shoes. Do we want American tobacco farmers barefooted and bare backed when it comes to dealing with tobacco companies? We have no choice but to oppose contract buying of tobacco companies? We have no choice but to oppose contract buying of tobacco companies? We have no choice but to oppose contract buying of tobacco companies? We have no choice but to oppose contract buying of tobacco companies? We have no choice but to oppose contract. Contract Buying would end the

Here's why:
Contract Buying would end the
United States tobacco price support
program. This program has offered
production control and price stability

for 58 years. Without it there would be huge fluctuations of the supply and price of tobacco.

Contract Buying would take away the farmer's independence. He freedom to choose what varietys to grow, what chemicals to use, how and when to harvest the crop. The farmer would in fact become a slave of the tobacco companies.

tact occome a state of the tobacco companies.

Contract Buying would allow the tobacco companies to dictate all decision making. The companies would control all areas of produc-tion. It would be one contract, one man, no voice.

Contract Buying would greatly

man, no voice.

Contract Buying would greatly diminish U.S. tobacco's ability to compete worldwide thus decreasing exports and markets. Under contract buying, domestic markets woul the only place for U.S. toba Currently, domestic markets Currently, domestic markets are decreasing which in turn means less tobacco needed to meet demand.

Contract Buying mostly includes large producers. Tobacco companies will not be interested in small to-bacco growers. According to Dr. William Snell of the University of William Shell of the University of Kentucky, if the average farm would increase to just as little as ten acres under a contracting system, the net gesult would be an elimination of over 50 percent of the Kentucky tobacco farms. Therefore, most U.S. burley tobacco farmers will be out of busifiess.

business.

Contract Buying will take aware the tobacco farmer's bargaining power. The tobacco companies w

set the price and the farmers will have to take it or go under. Farmers will be at the mercy of the tobacco companies for a fair price or more likely, a break-even price.

If you doubt any of this, ask the contract growers of other agricultural commodities.

contract growers of other agricul-tural commodities.

This is why the Burley Co-op and others have asked our Senators and Representatives for help.

The Tobacco Farmers Protection Act, Senate Bill 385, will serve as a shield for growers. It does not such occurrence, the playing field between growers and tobacco-companies. This act will cause minimum standards to be met by the companies rather than the growing having a contract thrown down on his breakfast table and told-to-take it or betaves it.

This act will do for growers what they cannot do individually. The individual farmer can still negotiate to better himself but in the meanto better himself but in the mean-while be protected by a negotiating Commission made up primarily of farmers. This Commission will de-velop a minimum standard contract upon which all contests must be met. The Commission will also make sure that all contracts are in compliance with the Tobacco Price Support Pro-gram.

gram.
Growers - if contracting is to be, get protection. Call your State Senator and Representative and say "I med you to help me protect myself against unfair contracting practices. I don't mind working, but I don't sund to be a slave, os reduced to serfdom. Votor for Senate Bill 385, the To-bacco Farmers Protection Act."

Sincerely, Danny McKinney

Sweet n' Sour

(Cont. from A2)

area, the house was their playpen, with restrictions on what they were allowed to play with and get ime. But these clothespins would keep them busy for hours. And frustrations were often heard as a dog house of fence fell by the wayside when they hadn't been stacked securely. But they ston learned, that was what it was all about, learnine, how to develon skills and learned, that was what it was all about, learning, how to develop skills and think. I remember one of Rod's spe-cial toys his dad fixed for him. He had been caught several times with a harmer driving pails into anything he could find, so far he had not damaged anything but one never damaged anything, but one neve knew with a little boy of four or five

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one day Mat came in with a big block of wood dressed on all four sides and handed it to Rod with the hammer and bag of nails. Then explained to him what it was for and how to drive he nails in straight. Then one last warning. "Now this is the only place you are ever to drive a nail into till you get to be a big boy." It wish I knew what happened to that block. The last time I remember seeing it it was literally full of nails, there was no sign of the original yood. Children can be taught the right and wrong way to do things. But it must begin at birth.

Walking to and from school was a way of life and a way of kids getting the much needed exercise they are missing today. It was also the time kids from the same neighborhood got acquainted and become best frier And at that time in history schools were neighborhood concerns where ighbors looked out for the benefit of kids passing their house. I had one neighbor in the Buffalo area that kept a pan of biscuits and something to put on them just for the kids going home. And the kids were never disappointed

when they passed her home. Polly often tells of those times, how Ms. Mize, "Alice," would hear ghem coming and have the biscuis and Jelly ready for anxious hands and half empty stomaches to get rid of so she wouldn't have to throw them out. Polly always called Ms. Mize her second grandma. Nor do bus riders get the benefits of stopping by the weljistide and picking persimmous in the fall or raiding an apple tree full of ripe fruit that otherwise would be wasted. Or getting to school with welt feet from the sow or rait and being allowed to pull their shoets off and dry them by the big stove in the, middle of the room. Or run the mile or so home, as Acod used to, have a big bowl of Rod used to, have a big bowl of canned blackberries with fresh milk to accompany in to accompany it before he did his nightly chores, then grab a book and head for his room.

ad for his room. Todays advantages are great, and I am sure the method of training and teaching this generation of children will have its place in history. And our grandchildren will be able to tell the next generation of "Their Good Old Days."

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