



Points East

By: Ike Adams

I've just spent five days either in Washington, D.C. or on the road driving to and from our nation's capital. Those of you who haven't been there in awhile will be pleased to know that the construction is coming along nicely. On the other hand, if you're looking for work there is still a lot of heavy equipment blocking the streets because of a shortage of folks to operate it. But be careful. Some of the stuff that looks like construction equipment is permanently affixed to the landscape.

Every once in a while you'll run into a pile of girders all twisted up and stacked by the street with a bronze plate attached to it announcing that it is a work of art. I assume the same guy who paid 600 bucks for a toilet seat at the Pentagon got suckered by the grider guy too.

One night I went out walking with a couple of friends from The Mall between the Capital and Washington Monument where there are some very fine statues of dead presidents and generals and what not. I never cease to be amazed at the level of detail the sculptors put into those things and I could spend days admiring them.

There's a lot of scrap metal thrown together by folks with welders and way too much time on their hands

that is enshrined in the name of art. Huge blobs of granite are placed hither and yon with holes drilled in them and there is even a pile of black stones left over by someone making a big tombstone entitled "Flowing Stones." You see people grasping their chins and staring at this stuff as though they are spellbound.

I'm tempted to go through my yard with a shovel and clean up the dog piles, but instead of throwing them in the compact heap, I'm going to slap them, at random, onto a piece of plywood, spray them down with several coats of polyurethane and haul them up to the museum of modern

art. I plan to call this work Blue's Passings because my old dog, Blue, is responsible for the mess and that's what modern art mostly looks like to me; one big mess after another.

So if you see it next time you're there you can tell the kids, "Hey I know that guy! Wonder if old Blue still chases cars?" But don't tell the awestruck crowd standing back staring with chins in hands what it is. You will ruin their day and maybe their entire lives.

How many of you have read, "The Emperors New Clothes?" Hold up your hands.

The Emperor went through town naked because he'd been convinced by some scam artist that he was actually wearing clothes. All his subjects ooohed and ahhh'd at his outfit because they thought everybody else could see it and they didn't want it known that they weren't cool too. I maintain that this silliness called modern art is nothing more than the same sort of scam. For that matter, I believe that the average third grader given a couple of hours and enough paint could turn out two or three pieces of art that would rival any thing Picasso ever did.

But what better place in the world than Washington, D.C. to put it on display?

Saturday afternoon when it was time for the Kentucky/Gorgia Tech game to come on the telly I hopped into the lounge just off the lobby of the Hyatt Hotel where I was staying because I knew they had seven televisions mounted over the bar. There were two bartenders and maybe half a dozen patrons in the place, but a single set was tuned to a sports station. They were watching replays of the Florida Supreme Court Decision on all seven stations and they politely informed me that there was a sports bar about four blocks up M Street.

Anyway, I got home late Sunday evening, pulled into the driveway and Loretta was standing in the door

with a big smile on her face. It's always nice to know that one's spouse is glad that one has come in out of the cold.

So she gives me the big kiss and says, "I have a little problem in the basement that I want you to take a look at." She says this in a tone of voice that indicates that the problem is something that needs immediate attention so I scurry down the stairs, pop open the door and a Dalmatian greets me, all smiles and slobbering. Immediately, I'm wishing that the furnace was broken after all.

A Dalmatian has shown up in Paint Lick and nobody knows where it came from. It has moved into my house and become very attached to my wife and vice versa and the bond increases daily. If you are missing a Dalmatian please call me as soon as possible. If you have a Dalmatian please look under the bed or out in your back yard or wherever you keep your Dalmatian and make sure it is still there. If it isn't please call 925-2105 at once. Coming next week to your favorite family newspaper: My excursion with Brian to the Children's Museum.

Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves



What is a survivor? Is it one who has escaped from a sinking ship, who has conquered the aftermath of cancer, the one being victorious in a street brawl or escaped from a burning building? Well, all of these are survivors of their immediate problem and have a right to tell others about it without boring them with all the details. And each one can be sure a higher power was looking over him or her through it all. Then life goes on with all the problems of ordinary people.

There are many other survivors who carry scars of their battles with events we wouldn't classify as disastrous so don't think of them as survivors. They are the common folk living under the pressure of a system where society sets the standards for living where the economical scale is so much higher than the wage scale, that many people are struggling to meet the necessities of life much less the simple luxury of a home or sec-

ond car. These are the people I describe as the survivors of an economical system that needs to be corrected. No man or woman should have to sacrifice their family life by holding down two jobs so they can eat wholesome food and wear clothes equal to their classmates in school. No woman should have to pay someone else to care for her child so she can work to feed the others. We do not need more people on welfare, we need better wages for those willing to "earn their bread by the sweat of their brow," and those willing to do so will be the survivors of a system designed by those who have no knowledge of what the limits of a weekly minimum wage check or \$5.5 checks place on the bread winner. And those setting the standard of living which determines the price of merchandise we all must pay for the necessities of life have no need to worry.

I class myself as a "survivor" since I moved to Rockcastle County some

sixty years ago with my husband, Mat Grimes and baby daughter, only five months old, and learned to be a mother, husband's help maie, gardener, road worker, how to use a cross cut saw, build a house, carry water from the spring, wash clothes on a wash board and cook on a wood burning stove, after I finally learned how to build a fire in it and keep it going long enough to cook a meal. All the time keeping a welcome mat ready at the door for all comers to use at their will which was frequently done by family and friends. I planted the garden, with help from Mat, harvested the results and canned it for future use. Had one more child a little boy who grinned up at me with a crooked smile and twinkled his eyes when he was three days old. More work hands had to be cooked for during this time for a barn was being built.

Five years in Ohio was spent working at a defense plant during World War II. Then back to Rockcastle County to take over where we left off. On the way back Mat had a wreck with a truck he was bringing our furniture home on. And we lost all of our furniture.

So once again we had to begin from scratch to furnish our home

after cleaning the dirty run down one we had left five years earlier clean and ready for the new tenants to live in. That added insult to injury to one who didn't want to come back to the hardships of a pioneering life anyway.

Two years later we were blessed with our last child, Polly Lynn. She was my first to be born in a hospital and I must say I loved the attention and care I received at the "Old Somerset City Hospital."

There are many hardships and trials I could talk about between then and now as well as many more happy events such as rearing three children to maturity without ever a cause for worry and all three finished college by working their way. Then all three marrying mates we not only approved of, but loved as our own.

Judy and husband, Ron presented us with our first grandchildren, Deno and Ann, Rodney and Helen with one grandson, Birch and Polly and Chuck gave us Chad. And I have lived long enough to see them all graduate from college and two of them married. What else is there for me to live or wish for?

So, I am a survivor and will remain so until a Higher Power says enough.

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Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

The recent recall of ground beef from American Foods Group, Inc., due to probable E. coli contamination

should serve as a wake-up call to those who still consume unhealthy, bacteria-laden meat products.

How many more children have to die, and adults be made violently ill, before society kicks the meat habit? According to the Centers for Disease Control, there are more than 20,000 E. coli infections from tainted meat in the United States. Government guidelines for the "safe handling" of beef read like instructions for disposing of toxic waste.

There is simply no such thing as "safe" meat. In addition to E. coli and other food-borne contaminants, animal products contribute to heart attacks, strokes, high cholesterol, obesity, high blood pressure and a slew of other diseases. So throw the beef in the garbage and contact People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals at 1-888-VEG-FOOD for safe, healthy and delicious vegetarian recipes.

Sincerely,

Heather Moore
Correspondent PETA

Dear Editor,

My name is Kimberly Doan and I'm writing to tell you what my opinion is about Christmas. About one month before Christmas everyone starts to over flow in the store to do their holiday shopping. People don't think about other families this time but only of their own. Haven't you ever sat in your nice warm house wondering about things? This one of the things that I have been wondering about. To see the faces of the children whom awake due to the cold and hunger, to see the faces of children who have no toys and turkey, but instead see only hunger and pain. To hear the sound of their own stomachs instead of the Christmas carols on the television or radio.

The children that are paying for the faults of the parents of life's troubles are the next generation. The children that don't eat three or even two times a day and the ones that wear the dirty clothes and feel the pain of being outcasts to the ones that are only the same as them, themselves. For the ones that have the strength to look forward, to wish and dream of the time when their wish for a happy, warm, loving, and non-troublesome Christmas will come.

So, instead of every one going out and spending hundreds of dollars for your children a new car that your children could work for to have or toys that will never be played with, look for the other children in your heart and help the ones that need it most. Make the children that feel the most pain think that there is a God and people with good hearts.

Sincerely yours,
Kimberly R. Doan
Mt. Vernon

Rockcastle Community Bulletin Board

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TOPS

(Take off Pounds Sensibly)
TOPS meets Thursday at 6 p.m. at Broadhead Christian Church basement on Main St. in Brookfield. For more info call 1-800-932-TOPS or locally 758-4047.

Kiwanis Club

The Rockcastle Kiwanis meets Tuesday at noon at the KFC in Restaurant. All visitors are welcome.

Bookmobile Schedule

Mon., Dec. 18th: Seaford Cane, Disputants, Anglin Falls, Clear Creek, White.
Tues., Dec. 19th: Buffalo, Brookhead Adult Day Care, Negro Creek.
Wed., Dec. 20th: Ottawa and Bee Lick.

VA Rep Here

VA representative will be at the Rockcastle County Courthouse the first and third Mondays of each month behind County Judge/Executive's office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Conway TOPS

TOPS (Take off pounds sensibly). For more info, call 256-5633, 256-9478 or 1-800-932-TOPS. TOPS meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at BRVED.

Benefit Sale

"Relay for Life" Benefit Sale each Saturday from Jan. 13th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. inside building at 439 Chestnut Street in Berea. Donation of items appreciated. Call Betty J. Foster at 1-800-930-2513. Proceeds go to American Cancer Society.

RTEC Notice

RTEC, Broker for Region 12, announces that no transportation services will be provided on December 24, 2000 due to Christmas holidays or on January 1, 2001 due to New Year's holiday. Offices will be closed on these two days with the exception of Urgent Care transportation.

Offices Closed

The County Clerk's office will be closed at noon on Friday, December 22nd and remain closed through Monday, December 25th for the Christmas holidays.

Chili Supper & Open House
Open House and chili supper will be held December 19th from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at RCMS sponsored by 21st CCCLC.

Christmas Party
Senior Citizens Christmas Party, sponsored by Women of the World, is scheduled for Dec. 14th at 6 p.m. at the Rockcastle Co. Senior Citizens Center located on Hwy. 255 in Mt. Vernon. You must call 606-256-4316 to RSVP no later than 12-6-00 if you wish to attend.

Bittersweet Cloggers
After Dec. 6th, the Bittersweet Cloggers will be holding classes in the basement of the Clontz & Cox building at 115 Richmond St. Classes will be on Tuesday nights beginning at 6:30. No class Dec. 26th.

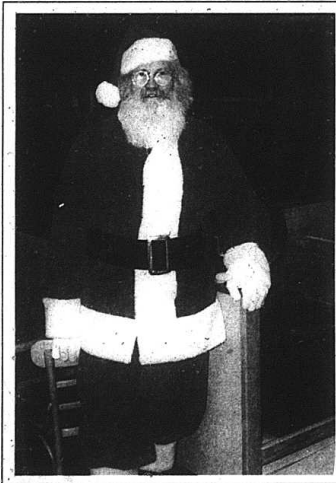
SBDM Committee Meetings
Buildings and Grounds, Needs Assessment, School Planning Review, Student Support and Technology and Media meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at RCMS.

Marine Corps League
Bluegrass Chapter 1012 of the Marine Corps League meets every fourth Thursday of the month at the 1st-Club at the Bluegrass Army Depot. For more info, call Jack Dittmer at 369-7310 or Nathan Seals at 256-0700.

JobStart
Want to earn great prizes while learning new skills and increasing your chance of getting a great job? JobStart is the place for you. For more info call Jennifer at 256-9612 or fax us at 256-8232. E-mail: jobstart@mtvernonky.com

Food Needed
Come Unity Cooperative Care in attendance of food for their food pantry. Because there has been an increase in the number of families needing food our food pantry is empty. We need help to meet the need. We will take any nonperishable foods. Here is a list of some specific items we need: stuffing, applesauce, green beans, corn, carrots, peaches, mixed fruit, chicken, beef, turkey, cereal, cereal, cereal. Please bring all foods to 755 South Dixie St. in London, KY 40301. For more info call 864-2351.

Visit Santa!!



4 to 6 p.m. daily through Christmas at

Wendy's Restaurant

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