

A Christmas Thank You...

Richard
Andersin
Editor
Mount Vernon
Signal

I am very thankful this year for a lot of things. I am thankful for the health and happiness of family and friends and as always I, and everyone else here is thankful for the continued support of our fine customers who have advertised with us another year.

Many of our customers are more than just customers, they have come to be very good friends throughout the years and that helps make this crazy business a little easier to deal with.

I know a lot of people advertise in our special publications, when down deep they really don't want to - but they do it anyway. Thank You.

And I personally would like to thank all of the people that make my life a whole lot easier.

The people that I work with on almost a daily basis have to be some of the most cooperative people in the world.

As most of you know, I am very bad about doing things at the last minute and I am very impatient - some call it attention deficit disorder - but I like to think it is just because of how busy I usually stay.

It never ceases to amaze me just how accommodating most people are.

I have worked in situations in other communities where that is the case and it makes it very difficult to do your job - but that hasn't ever been the case here.

A special thanks to all of the people at the Rockcastle Courthouse who are the officers that I deal with on a daily basis and to all of those in the school system and to those in city government.

Also without the help of Doug Brock and Jim and Martha Cox - life would be more difficult.

To Rockcastle County Attorney

Jeff Burdette, Commonwealth Attorney Eddy Montgomery and members of the Kentucky State Police and of course the Rockcastle County Sheriff's office, I say thanks.

The coroner's office, the fire departments, the funeral homes and the weather station man, I also say thanks. To all of you people that run those wrecker services - thanks for the help.

To my friends at Renfro Valley and in state government, I appreciate the help.

My colleagues at other newspapers and media - thanks for all the help this year.

I'm sure that I have left someone or some agency out - that is of great help and to those I say thanks again.

Anyone that has been around here that last couple of weeks, know how I have kind of been bumming about Christmas, because of the volume of work that has had to take place - but now that the worst part is over - I didn't really mean those ugly things I said about Christmas.

It is a great time of year to celebrate with family and friends and to reflect on what is really important - I think we all know what that is - we just sometimes forget it.

Instead of worrying about who is getting what - just think of all of the people in this world and even in this county that don't have much.

Think about the little children and there are a lot of them that are neglected, abused and mentally and physically tortured.

Think about those children who have lost parents to death or jail or drugs or alcohol.

One of the best gifts you can give to someone is a kind word and a smile. I know I don't do that enough - but I am going to try.

Because we choose to - we all have to live and work together in this county - it is certainly easier to get along than not.

Enjoy the holidays.

P.S. - I am also thankful the Presidential race is over.

ions from seed is pretty easy but you do need to start thinking about planting them pretty soon. Sow them in a flat with a mixture of half potting soil and half sand and set them on a window sill. Water them with liquid fertilizer and let them grow until the stems get about as thick as a kitchen match and then quit watering them until the ground gets dry enough to work in your garden. It doesn't matter if they look dead because they will take back off when you put them in the garden.

Celery is another vegetable that is easy to grow in the garden. You need to soak celery seed for two weeks in the refrigerator between two very moist pieces of paper towels before

you plant it in seed starter trays. It will take another two weeks to sprout but about the time you give up on it, it will pop right out. It needs to grow in the trays for 30 to 45 days before transplanting into the garden and then all you have to do is keep it hilled up well. If you like celery, there's nothing at the market half as good as home grown.

I feel better already. There's nothing like gardening to take your mind off your aches and pains.

If I wasn't sick and the ground wasn't frozen hard as a rock and it wasn't snowing, I'd run outside and sow some greens right now. I'd even be hardfooted. The doctor I went to see today has promised it won't make me any sicker.

closest town to where one lived. Money was scarce in those days but what money one did have went much further than the large paycheck of today's workers. Also, those were the days before "poverty" and "the poor of under-privileged" were considered to be a class of people that needed special attention. By today's standards of living we were all poor so no one paid attention to it. We simply did the best we could with what we had and hoped for a better future.

When I was a youngster, Christmas meant a holiday with all the children participated in the activities and would sit up late the night before Christmas, around the fireplace and wonder out loud what would be in our stockings the next morning. The fireplace took the place of a Christmas tree and the mantel used to hang the stockings on the place for gifts too big to fit in them. Oh yes, we the little ones, did believe Santa Claus was a real person and would come down the chimney before morning

and fill those stockings we had hung on the mantle. I remember the night my little brother, who always liked to stick a pin in the balloons of belief, said very matter of factly, "That ain't no such thing as Santa Claus." That woke us up quick and tears from the little ones brought a quick response from Dad, "Herbert, you will be sorry you said that in the morning when you find nothing but ashes in your stocking. Santa doesn't like little boys to talk that way. Dad had been peeling apples and shelling chestnuts for the little ones and a bowl of popcorn handy for all who preferred it. Dad used the ashes beneath the grate as a disposal for the hulls and peelings, and continued to do so as Mom's pretty voice joined in with a burst of song "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas" and other Christmas carols. Bedtime came all too soon and before dawn the squirming and whispering in one bed aroused those in the next one and

(Cont. to A3)

Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves

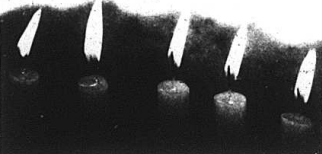


Christmas

Just what does Christmas mean to you? A trip to the shopping mall to join the herds of people fumbling through racks of clothes looking for the correct size or color? A stop at the jewelry counter to drool over the diamond or sapphire ring you hope will be in a special box with a card saying, "To the one I love"? Or could you be at the car dealers looking over the new sports car you are sure will be in the driveway Christmas morning with the keys and your name on the "Merry Christmas card" attached to the steering wheel saying, "Drive carefully. Love, Mom & Dad"? Or you, like many others, may be attracted to the computer department or book stores where your "yearning for learning" takes precedence over the frivolities or trivial things of life. Then there are those who go to the Malls so they can sit on a bench and watch the crowds

go by, or to see the beautiful Christmas tree adorning the island in the center of the mall, or listening to the Christmas Carols being sung by invisible singers. That is my image of the modern day Holiday season. I missed the happiness of children lingering over the candy counter filled with a variety of candy sold by the pound or ounce which could be mixed to suit the taste of the person buying it. These candy counters were familiar in the old five and dime stores. So was the big colored popcorn bins in a machine close by. These were the delight of children. Now allow me to take you back a few years when Christmas was a time of excitement around the home. That was before Malls were known about in the part of the country I lived in and shopping was done from a Sears and Roebuck, Penney's or Montgomery Ward catalog or five and dime stores in the

Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.



Teresa S. Jackson, Agent

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Points East

By:
Ike Adams

I've had several doctors over the years insist to me that you can't catch a cold or sore throat because you got caught out in the rain and got your head and feet wet. It's purely coincidental they claim and the fact that I happen to be sick has nothing to do with being out in the weather.

Poppycock!

Saturday afternoon during the big rain I got wet as a catfish getting to the car on a shopping excursion to Danville. I came home and fought rising water in my basement for a couple of hours because it was running in faster than the sump pump could put it out and I got my feet wet. We got more than three inches of rain in 65 minutes here on Lowell Branch and that has to be some kind of record. Not only that but we had a thunderstorm as bad as any I've ever seen and certainly the worst I've ever seen in December and I had to run out in the middle of it to make sure the dogs were safe which got me soaked again.

Sunday night I was up going through medicine cabinets looking for any kind of cold medicine and by morning my throat was raw and I was running a fever. The Doctor says that I would have most likely gotten sick if I stayed inside and watched television. And they let this cracker prac-

tice medicine!!

This is not the first time that exposure to the elements has led directly to my getting a severe cold and a sore throat. It probably will not be the last. In the meantime, I'm looking for a doctor with some common sense.

So I've laid in bed all day and done my level best to make everyone in the house miserable too. It's either way too hot or way too cold to suit me. The television is too loud and I want to know who has taken up residence in the bathroom. And no, I do not want ribs for supper because I can't even swallow water without it hurting. Chicken soup is greasy and why do they think I need to have ready access to the toilet. If they'd turn Petty Com's Christmas crap down, maybe the dogs would stop howling and a man would get a little peace and quiet.

The seed catalogues are coming in at the rate of three or four a day now and I'm up to about two dozen. I've stared at them through bleary eyes and complained to myself about the prices. Nine dollars for 72 Walla Walla Onion sets and they want you to think you're getting a bargain. I'm going to grow some from seed and see if I can sell them for half that.

Actually, if you want to grow on-

Season's Greetings And Many Thanks To All Our Valued Customers

As you and your family enjoy this festive time, please accept our sincere wishes for a holiday filled with dreams come true.



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