



Points East

By:
Ike Adams

"Go rest high on that mountain.
Son your work on earth is done.
Go to Heaven's shouting
Praise for the Father and the Son."

Vince Gill sang the song that has that chorus and I believe he wrote it. If he didn't I'd love nothing better than credit the person who did and maybe apologize for taking advantage because that's the tune I've been humming for the last several days when I think about Wayne Stewart.

Ever since I found out that Wayne had departed life on earth late last Wednesday night all I have to do is close my eyes and remember and he is as alive as ever, smiling out loud at me and waving that skinny right arm and becooking, and throwing it across my shoulders and telling me that the world is a great place to be in and isn't we ever so lucky to be in it today.

I don't know that he ever used those exact words that I've been humming for the last several days or more when I first moved from Fletcher County down into the flatlands from what he called, "real Appalachia."

"Real Appalachia" was the mountains east and deep south of Manchester and Hyden where a number of Rockcastle families had originated.

the highlands, the coal fields and Wayne Stewart had known a bunch of kids from those hills whose families had migrated from the coalfields to the farmland with barely the shirts on their backs. He also knew and had deep respect for a few Rockcastle farmers whose roots ran straight to the Virginia line.

I met Wayne in the Spring of '87. I was working for a non-profit organization called Job Start that would eventually become Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation and my job was to put together a base of community support that had some real accountability to the people of Southeastern Kentucky and, at the same time, avoid the perpetually corrupt political power trading that had some sort of control over every federal dollar coming into the region at that time.

I don't remember who it was, but someone told me that I needed to go see Wayne Stewart because he was someone a person that both the politicians and the folks who despised politicians held in high regard.

Wayne owned and was running Rockcastle Farm Supply at that time. He sold feed and seed and fertilizer to most of the farmers in the county and he had an old cold wood floor

store on a back street in Mount Vernon that served as a business office and a showroom for washers and dryers and refrigerators and freezers and clock radios and the like. His prices were right and he sold on credit at zero interest. If a refrigerator was priced \$700 and Wayne trusted you, you could take it home for \$25 down and pay me when you can.

About everybody in the county loved him for that and the politicians had to respect him because everybody loved him.

I'm sure it wasn't a plan. Wayne Stewart was born good hearted and kind and honest and forgiving and all the good adjectives I can think of. A lot of folks like that wind up teaching Sunday School and letting it go at that but Wayne had a higher calling.

He was never elected, except for a term on the city council of Mt. Vernon, to public office as far as I know but he was constantly being pushed into taking responsibility. The best, and maybe the only thing that I have ever done that made a difference for Southeastern Kentucky is talk Wayne Stewart into serving on the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation Board of Directors.

rectors and later sit in his office until 5 in the morning convincing him that he was the only logical candidate to chair that board.

Wayne was my mentor, my rock; my confidante, my big brother, my father in many ways for more than ten years. He held the same esteem for all the presidents of KHIC and many of the staff right up until his death.

Last Saturday morning, the day of his funeral, Fred Bente, one of those past presidents called me from Northern Pennsylvania fearing that I didn't know that Wayne was gone because I had referred to him in the present tense in an email the night before. I had said something to the effect that I hoped to live and be as vibrant as Wayne Stewart.

And I do. Wayne Stewart's spirit is very much alive to me. I don't think that I will ever think of him in the past tense. Our neck of the woods has far too few heroes and Wayne Stewart is the best that I have ever known.

Go rest high on that mountain but I swear to you Wayne, your work on earth is not yet done. A bunch of us are left to carry on as best we can.

set the night it made its last appearance before disappearing for six months, then dipped my feet in the Bering Sea. The trip to Maine was just as exciting. There I scrambled over the rocks below the pilot house and again wet my feet in the surf where the water from the Atlantic Ocean cooled them. So, an Atlas and dictionary were always close by to feed my interest and share the joys of reading and exploring with our grandchildren for they also loved maps.

Games, any kind, are wonderful to capture the interest of children. Along with an evening of fun, they

can be taught self control, math, by keeping score; vocabulary, reading instructions and discipline. The give and take of winning and losing can lead to better relations between siblings and in family harmony. Games that encourage planning and thinking have always been an important

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Mama's Little Helpers

I get ideas of what to write about in some of the oddest places: one was at the restaurant the other night when a young waitress slipped past our table with a wet cloth in hand and quickly wiped the adjoining table free of crumbs. "I'm picked up the litter and deposited it in the appropriate container. It was then I decided these cute waitresses were, not very long ago, simply Mama's Little Helpers. Watching this one tidy up the mess another person had left behind, brought visions of a tiny girl, I'll call Susy, asking, "Mama, can I help wash the dishes?" or with a little broom clutched close, "Can I sweep the floor?" then standing on one side of the bed, holding onto the sheet saying, "Here, Mommy, I'll do this side while you do that one."

Then pulling the tangled sheet up to the pillows and, with a satisfied smile, tuck it under them saying, "Now we are all through doing the work; will you help me make some cookies?" "Then I'll go play."

Another child I'll call Mary, may have other tendencies and rebel if asked to help. I can imagine Mary saying, if asked to do the dishes, "Now, Mom, you know dishwasher makes my hands red and I am on my way to school anyway. Why don't you make Charlie do the dishes. My brother never has to do anything around the house." Or, "Oh, that old bed, it doesn't have to be made up. I'll be getting back into it anyway."

Later, if those scraps on the floor bother you, just kick them under the table and sweep later when you have time." And, "Don't you dare touch anything in my room. It is a mess and I don't want things put where I can't find them."

"Hope you have some cookies made when I get home. The teacher said tomorrow is the day we are supposed to bring some to school. And don't you dare put the dishes back for me to do after school for I am going out with some of the kids. Susy doesn't mind doing them, so put them back for her. And, don't dare let the baby get into my makeup again for you know what she did the last time when she smeared lipstick and nail polish on the floor."

Susy scolded her sister for not doing her share then asked Charlie to help her clear the table while Mommy dressed the baby and got ready for work. Mary grabbed her books and answered the call of her friend to, "Hurry up we are waiting for you." All the while, the baby was listening to what was going on, storing it away for future use. She was the age where character is formed and was getting a good lesson today.

The little helpers did grow up, this young waitress may have been "Susy" in the back of the counter, cooking hamburgers and chili, could well be young Charlie, both were getting a start in the business world by working. The young lady outside with a group of laughing youngsters could well be the sister, Mary, refusing to do her part of the chores. Her actions, and lack of concern for the family's needs, could well be the beginning of problems and rebellion that is endangering our young people today.

Evenings at home can also be important in the life of a family with children of different ages. It can be, one of learning, having fun or a combination of both. Parents have a lot to do with which one it is. Learning can be studying (homework), reading a good book, studying the maps in an atlas, or playing games. We practiced all of them. All of us loved reading, two large bookcases were full of them. I didn't like geography but I loved maps and the descriptions of far away places, especially Alaska, where the sun never set during the summer and never rose in the winter. And where a pilot house in Maine overlooked the rocky coast. I could close my eyes and envision the white snows of Alaska, and Eskimos dressed in colorful parkas. When I read about the coastline of Maine, I could almost feel the cool water from the waves dashing over the huge rocks as the white caps from the waves kept them drenched with foam below the pilot house above. Later on, in my early widowhood, I had the chance to go to both places where, to my joy, in Alaska, I watched the sun

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TOPS

(Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
TOPS meet Thursday at 9 p.m. at Strathfield Christian Church basement on Main St. in Berea. For more info, call 256-4532-TOPS or locally 755-4447.

Wants Club

The Rockcastle Kwanzaa meets Thursday at noon at the Kato Inn Restaurant. All visitors are welcome.

Conway TOPS

TOPS (Take off pounds sensibly). For more info, call 256-3433; 256-9446 or 1-800-932-TOPS. TOPS meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the RVPD.

JobStart

Want to learn great prices while learning new skills and increasing your chances of getting a great job? JobStart is the place for you. For more info, call Jennifer at 256-9612 or fax us at 256-4732. E-mail: jwheller@ksh.net

R.A.A.P. Meeting

Rockcastle Adoption Agency for Pets Inc. meets the first Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. Help build a animal shelter in Rockcastle County. Call Terry at 758-9202 or 256-4376 for directions.

Narcotics Anonymous

Need to drop and/or alcohol controlling your life? Come join us at Narcotics Anonymous every Thursday at 7 p.m. Behind Our Lady of the Virgin Church, located on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon. For more info, call 256-5043.

Class of 1981

Class of 1981 planning meeting will be held on March 22nd at 6 p.m. Call 256-4532 for more info.

Free Market Table

Starting April 5th and 6th every Saturday and Friday, rain or shine, RAMP will have tables for \$5.00 a week to sell your goods. Call 256-4532 for more info.

Book Sale

April 2nd, 3rd in National Library Week at the Rockcastle County Public Library. Mary will be having a huge book sale with popular new books, books meeting Monday, April 2nd, at 10 a.m. All proceeds go to the library.

Artwork Needed

The Rockcastle County Public Library needs pieces of all kinds of artwork for its Art Work Exhibition during National Library Week. April 2nd - April 6th. All types of artwork are accepted including hand-drawn, quilt, paintings, drawings, writings, anything that reflects the theme "Celebrating our Community." All ages encouraged to submit artwork. Call 256-2788 for more info, specifics, and date to submit artwork.

5. Roundstone Ellen, March 19-22

Mt. Vernon, Ellen, March 26-29

Call 256-4693 for details.

Pesticide Training

Restricted Use Pesticide Training will be given at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22nd at the Rockcastle Extension Office. Call 256-2401 for details.

Clothing

LEAF has lots of used clothing of all types. If in need, please stop by LEAF in Livingston.

Food Drive

Cub Scouts will hold a food drive, Saturday, March 17th at all local grocery stores. NVES will be collecting on Friday. All proceeds will go to the local food pantry.

Leap Plowing Gardens

LEAF is now plowing gardens. Call or come by the LEAF office at 606-435-4904.

Pesticide Cards

Training for restricted-use pesticide cards will be given at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 22nd at the Rockcastle Co. Extension Office. Call 256-2401 for details.

VA Rep

VA Rep, Bill Livsey, will be at the VFW Post every third Sunday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m.

St. Patrick's Day Dance

Woodmen of the World Youth Groups #901 St. Patrick's Day Dance - Saturday, March 17th at Lodge Hall on Hatti Rd., Berea, from 6 to 9 p.m. Bring a friend! Call Connie Lewis at 624-4438 for more info.

Bookstore Schedule

March 19th - Pine Hollow, Red Hill, Livingston, Lenoir.

March 20th - Burr, Pine Hill, Orlando, Maple Grove, Clinch.

March 21st - Spino, Level, Green, Williams.

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