

A Tribute to Charles Holbrook

Submitted by Family

There are regular people who have regular and honorable lives. There are people however, that are different and live their lives in the spotlight, no matter where they are, or at what stage of life they are in. They leave an impression on you. They leave you with stories to tell, life stories, funny stories. The stories of your meeting. These people do not fear controversy, they thrive on it, and use it for social change, or simply for change of pace.

I knew a man who used a monkey named Boom-Boom to run an election campaign. That monkey said things a person wouldn't say. Things about change, things about fun and things about other elected officials. In hindsight, the Boom-Boom character was a stroke of brilliance. The kids knew and loved him. They named a hamburger after Boom-Boom. Free statewide press picked up some of the antics and words, which were all a product of the mind of Charles D. Holbrook.

But you must look deeper to see the real Charles Holbrook who was more than an eccentric; he did most of those things to provoke conversations. He thrived on hearing the question of "why" he would do this, or do that. He pretended to be mad at you, simply to see you fluster, because he knew you desired his friendship and that that you would ultimately make efforts to restore it. If you didn't, you could be sure he would come to you when you least expected it, with a fake Rolex watch, a real diamond ring, a pair of tennis shoes, a pocket knife or an offer of a deal of a lifetime.

Some of us received letters. Letters you could read over and over and get something new out of it each reading. Letters that you read and couldn't understand at first, then maybe later, he would give you clues about it. We have found letters written to him from state and national officials who had become his pen pals.

He was not afraid. He was a Veteran of Korea and had known adversity there, and seen death of friends.

He weathered the loss of his parents - whom he loved so much. He was a giver, and worked with social services. He was a teacher, and taught in the school system here. They would send him to the schools to help where kids were trouble and he would surp the problem. Some say they saw him in the woods with the boys digging ginseng. Probably.

He was a public servant. As Magistrate he fought for the needs of his district's people and his friends. Friends he had cultivated throughout the years. In school, in the community - and around the state. Written entries in the high school annual all consistently referred to Charles as a friend.

His friends knew him as Charles, as Boom-Boom, as Sleepy. And they visited with him often at the Dari Delite. He was a poet, a muse, a comedian and quite possibly a thorn to some; and oh how he loved to be your thorn. He seemed to be at his best when he had an issue to concentrate on, or when a fight was to be fought. He could gain media attention by doing what others would consider outrageous. He would chuckle at our reactions.

I remember beramada shorts and cowboy boots, a half-shaved head, different colored socks, funny hats and glasses without lenses. Roller-skates; red stockings, a shaved head, little cigars, ten watches on his wrists; funny shirts, scarves, gloves, rings, chickens in cages; greyhound racing dogs, turtles for the Rainbow people to eat, jumping turtles, rabbits, picnic baskets and pocket knives. And a story to go with each.

He loved his brothers and sister. He would poke fun at Charlotte, but he had said she was his mother made over. He would fall in and out with them all, but Howell would always make sure he was all right. Howell tells of how when he would eat at the house, he would leave a handful of change in a box to cover the groceries. John Jr. would always marvel at Charles' antics and Charles always would remind him that it was not to

be understood - but to be enjoyed. That's why we called it "pulling a sleepy."

He would give you the shirt off his back, literally, he has done it. He would give you money if he had it, or you chose the right pocket. For Christmas you might get a present. It may be "used," but it was a gift. A pair of gloves, tennis shoes, whatever - it was from Charles.

As a friend - you were not called because of your financial situation - rich or poor, you were in with Charles. Been in jail, "so what, I've been there," Charles would say. No way can you believe he was nearing 70 years old - this guy was younger than that. Had to be: his mind was sharp "but I didn't know he had a college degree" they would say. I just thought he was sharp - some say brilliant, but he surely wouldn't want you to think he was intelligent.

I can't say what all those things he did meant - he wanted most of it to be a mystery. I can't say if he was eccentric, or "put out," most of the time. How intelligent was he, the life record speaks to that - he accomplished goals, created change and conversation and taught us to laugh at ourselves. We are better for knowing Charles Holbrook - he made us think. He made us feel concern, and he caused us to try and have that twinkle in our eye.

So remember when you look into the eyes of his family, look closely - because you will see Charles there - and he's smiling.

"Stewart"

(Cont. from front)

He taught agriculture at Mt. Vernon High School for several years in the 1950s and was named Teacher of the Year during one of those years.

As a young man, he was state 4-H president. He also was former chairman of the advisory board of Harry Sparks Vocational School in Mt. Vernon.

He received several awards for his community service.

In later years, Mr. Stewart concentrated on farming.

He was a member of Mt. Vernon First Christian Church.



Happy Birthday Terry Renner

Surviving are his wife, Ruby Harmon Stewart; one son, Dr. Bill Stewart of Berea; three daughters, Lori Gonzalez of Lexington and Serena Stratton and Ann Abney, both of Wilde; one brother, 13 grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Contributions are suggested to the Rockcastle County High School Wayne Stewart Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1410, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456.

"Indictments"

(Cont. from front)

Pharmacy. Saylor and Eric Philbeck, 30, of old Brodhead Road, are accused of holding up the College Pharmacy in Somerset on January 11.

Both Saylor and Marlow are being held in the Rockcastle County Detention Center.

"Lake"

(Cont. from front)

very impressed. She told us that, while this would not be a quick project proposal, she did have the "horsepower" to make the project work. Before formal queries can be made to the appropriate funding sources, quite a bit of research would have to be done. Even if the project can be done, it will not be a quick turnout, but it will be a great benefit to the county," Carlifus said.

"Holly Wiedemann and Linda Gateskill have a tremendously good track record. I place complete confidence in their abilities - especially after John Holbrook and I visited her Midway School project. If anything can be done, Holly's team can do it. Regardless, I am now having a renewed excitement about the Livingston proposal," Carlifus said.



THE BETTY LEWIS CHILDREN'S SERVICE AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

THE BETTY LEWIS CHILDREN'S SERVICE AWARD IS AN ANNUAL AWARD PRESENTED TO A PERSON WHO IS DEDICATED TO THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF ROCKCASTLE COUNTY.

NOMINEE:

ADDRESS:

PHONE #:

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE REASONS WHY YOU BELIEVE THIS INDIVIDUAL SHOULD RECEIVE THIS AWARD:

YOU MAY ATTACH MORE SHEETS IF NEEDED. PLEASE BE VERY DESCRIPTIVE IN YOUR REASONS WHY. ADD AS MUCH INFORMATION AS YOU CAN TO HELP THE JUDGES DECIDE.

SUBMIT NO LATER THAN MARCH 22, 2001

PLEASE RETURN TO: COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES BETTY LEWIS CHILDREN'S SERVICE AWARD ATTENTION: RACHEL JOHNSON PO BOX 1407 MT. VERNON KY 40456

YOUR NAME & PHONE NUMBER

For Sale

1993 Pontiac Sunbird SE 2-dr., metallic blue, average miles, new tires, air, great gas mileage. Very clean! Priced to sell at \$2500. Call 758-0124

Opening Summer 2001



The Board of Directors and employees of Berea National Bank would like to announce the opening of a new branch bank in Rockcastle County. The new branch will be located next to the Post Office on Richmond Street in Mt. Vernon.

Berea National Bank is a community oriented full service bank, which is locally owned and operated.

Berea National looks forward to serving the needs of Rockcastle residents at the new branch bank.

Shown above, from left are: Keith Riley, President/Chief Executive Officer, John D. Walker, Director, David Woodall, Branch Manager, Mrs. Nancy Williams, Director, James W. Lambert, Director, Trish Parsons, Vice-President of Customer Services and Ken Riley, Executive President.



Getting a Tax Refund? Invest in a Great Vehicle!

Prices Good Thru March 21

87 Pontiac Grand Am - 4 door, auto, 4 cyl, air	SOLD	\$1,395
84 Chevy C-20 Conversion Van		\$1,595
85 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera LS - 4 door, must see	\$1,295	\$1,695
93 Ford Escort Wagon LX - auto, 4 cyl, air, rebuilt title	\$1,395	\$1,695
90 Dodge Dynasty - V-6, auto, 4 door	SOLD	\$2,295
86 Ford Bronco - 2 door, V-8, auto, 4x4, rebuilt title	SOLD	\$2,495
93 Chevy Cavalier - 2 door, auto, 4 cyl, air, spoiler	\$2,495	\$2,795
93 Dodge Spirit - V-6, auto, air, low miles		\$3,495
93 Plymouth Voyager SE - V-6, gold pkg, sunscreen glass	\$3,695	\$3,995
96 Mercury Mystique GS - 4 door, auto, 4 cyl, air	SOLD	\$4,995
95 Chevy Beretta - 2 door, V-6, auto, air	\$4,995	\$3,995
96 Buick Century Special - 4 door, auto, V-6	\$3,495	\$4,995
97 Plymouth Neon - highline, 4 door, 4 cyl, auto, air	SOLD	\$5,995
95 Dodge Caravan - 49,000 miles, sunscreen glass	\$6,495	\$5,495
93 Chevy Caprice Classic - 4 door, auto, V-8, air	\$5,995	\$4,995
95 GMC Sonoma - 4x4, SLS trim, V-6, 5 speed	SOLD	\$6,495
94 Chevy 1500 - 1/2 ton, short bed, V-6, auto, air, cd, tint	SOLD	\$6,495
96 Dodge Intrepid ES - 4 door, V-8, autostick, cd/cass	\$6,995	\$5,995
99 Dodge Laramie 1500 SLT - short bed, V-8, auto, sharp	SOLD	\$7,495
97 Chrysler LHS - auto, V-8, air, leather, cd/cass	\$6,495	\$7,495

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