



## Points East

By:  
Ike Adams

First off, let me say that this is a plea for help. Secondly let me say that I don't expect to get any money. I've made the plea before.

My problem is moles or shrews, or a cross between the two. Actually I may have a mole-shrew cross that recently mated with a groundhog so the critter that is making huge ridges across my lawn and garden and extracting huge piles of dirt may, in fact, be a mutant and those huge mounds may not be soil at all.

For all I know, they may be piles of rich ore and a tiny little smelter may be fired up overnight to extract some precious mineral. Maybe the Martians have landed and what I have underground are beings from outer space.

In any event, there are no mining permit signs up on my property nor have I seen any government jeeps around from the Department of Mines and Minerals, OSHA, MSHA, etc. I am content to believe that whatever is going on underground at my place has either not reached the attention of the government, or it is being ignored, and that makes it even scarier.

That's why I believe it to be moles. Even the US Government and the State of Kentucky, from whom you

need permits and bonds and reams of signed documents in triplicate to disturb the soil, are scared to mess around with moles. Start an illegal strip mine in Kentucky and swear that a bunch of moles are starting a new colony and the state will leave you alone until they actually see a bulldozer on the site.

A few years back I made this same plea and the most popular answer was from folks who advised planting "mole beans". They sent me seeds in the mail. A "mole bean" is a huge, ugly plant with huge, square-leafed purple leaves, that grows ten to fifteen feet tall. It's actually a castor bean plant and almost everything about it is deadly poison. The moles are supposed to eat the beans and roots and die of the poisoning.

I planted these things all over the place and the moles even uprooted some of them. What I found out was that cats and squirrels like to eat mole bean plants and over the course of the summer I found three dead cats and two dead squirrels in the front yard without a mark on them. I never had them autopsied but I figure the plants got them. I am led to believe that moles are smarter than cats and or squirrels and that they were probably underground, when I buried the

cats, lying on their backs, holding their sides with all four paws and laughing their little mole tails off.

Another writer suggested that I carbon-monoxide them. This process involved getting 8 feet of flexible, 2-inch aluminum gas hose, (which cost nearly a hundred bucks) attaching it to the exhaust pipe of my truck with heat-proof duct tape and running the other end down into the biggest looking mole hole and tamping in clay so the gas had to go down the hole. After doing that I started the truck up and let her run at fast idle from about 4:00 PM until nearly dark.

Exhaust fumes were seeping out of the ground all over the lawn and in my neighbor's yard 300 yards away and we were separated by a major highway (he had moles too). Along about dark he brought over his truck, because mine was running out of gas and we kept pumping in smoke until around midnight at which point he got the snake to the house, found a glove for my loose hand and managed to get him/her headed into the mole hole without bringing blood.

Once he got started it was unwatched and gone from my yard in a matter of short seconds. I can tell you with absolute certainty that I was never gladder in my life to turn something loose. I was also certain that the last thing in the world I wanted to be was a mole.

I plugged up the hole with a brick and all of a sudden old Blue started barking. About fifty feet away my snake was coming out of another hole and heading for the back pasture and Blue was barking it along. He had enough sense to not try and catch it. I'm pretty sure that snake never even scared a mole. It never even crossed my mind to chase him/her down and start over. I'm absolutely positive that the second catching would have involved bloodshed. Suffice to say that there comes a point when moles don't seem so bad after all even though we

Yuk. WIIOOOOEEEEEEEE. You sure are funny Mister Adams. (Covers the photo receiver and yells to a secretary, "Marsha June, do we have a tape recorder handy? This guy is scared of a snake bite!!!!")

Funny indeed. About a week later I was fishing in a pond on the back forty and I saw a huge black snake trying to get into a bird's nest up in the cacti. He (or she) was at least five feet long. I managed to get his/her head pinned down with my fishing rod and grabbed it right behind where I think a snake's ears ought to be. It promptly wriggled itself around my arm and commenced constricting which is not as bad as it sounds but it did create a tight fit. I was not choking it, but it still did not seem happy. I had stopped being aggressive only because it had decided it could not swallow me whole, that I was relatively harmless, and it had reached the point of being merely curious.

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"Catch one," I was advised. "They're everywhere."

"How do you catch one?"

"Find it and pick it by the back of the head."

"How big does this snake need to be?"

"Large enough to swallow a mole alive."

"There are very large moles. How long of a snake are we talking about, approximately?"

"Three! ... should do it."

"What if it's a snake bites me?"

"But what if it bites me anyway?"

"Wipe off the blood and apply some alcohol but DO NOT choke the snake."

"Should I give it some alcohol too?"

"Haanaa Haanaa Haanaa Yuk Yuk"

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did catch a smaller rat snake later on that seemed to cause some concern in mole heaven.

So how do YOU get rid of moles? We will try about anything that doesn't involve snakes or gunpowder. We have tried the latter. (KA-WIIOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO)

## Our Readers Write

Dear Editor:

I am seeking an obituary, death certificate or any information regarding Elijah Lee Scott who died in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky July 13, 1978 at the age of 81. His Social Security death benefits were sent to Mt. Vernon at the time of his death so there was at least one person that survived him. Elijah was born January 25, 1897. I need to find out who his parents were. My great-grandfather was an Elijah Lee Scott. He married in Portland, Maine, December 18, 1920 to Jane Cook. His marriage certificate states he was born in Kentucky. They had one child, Pauline Louise, before divorcing. I have a picture of Elijah taken in the late 1940's or early 1950's with his daughter and grandchildren. This is the last contact anyone can remember having with him. If there is anyone in Mt. Vernon that may

remember an Elijah Lee Scott, or someone who does genealogy what wouldn't mind checking the library for me I would greatly appreciate it. I need to prove that the man dying in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky is the same man who married in Maine. Please contact Michelle Thomas, 296 French St., Bangor, ME 04401, (207)942-7312 or e-mail at mthomasd3@auno.com

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**Mount Vernon Signal**  
Publication Number 366-000  
Periodical Postage Paid in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456  
606-256-2244  
Published every Thursday since November, 1887. Offices in the Mt. Vernon Signal Building on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, KY. 40456. Postmaster, send address changes to P.O. Box 185, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456.  
James Anderson, Jr., Publisher Emeritus - Richard F. Anderson - Editor  
Patricia M. Anderson - Managing Editor  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
In County - \$16.75 Yr. Out of County in State \$21.75 Yr.  
Out of State \$30.00 Yr.  
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**Auction**  
of Mrs. Pauline Eaton's  
**135 Acre Farm, In Tracts**  
**Sat., April 14, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.**  
**Burr-Orlando Section of Rockcastle County**

**Location of Tracts 1-5:** Turn off U.S. 25 at Burr (near Exit 59 of I-75) onto SR 1004. Follow 1004 1/10 mile to old U.S. 25. Turn right and proceed 1 mile to the properties. Signs are posted.

**Location of Tracts 6-13:** Follow 1004 past Jean's Restaurant approximately 1/2 mile to Halcomb East Road. Turn right on Halcomb East Road and go about 3/10 mile to the beginning of property. Signs are posted.

The entire auction will take place on the house tract - Tract 4. This property has been in Mrs. Eaton's family for many years, but now she has decided to sell it for the absolute high dollar. We'll offer the property in tracts, groups of tracts, and as a whole, selling in the manner which obtains the best results for the seller.

**Tract 1:** Contains 1.737 acres of level land and has city water available. It fronts on Old U.S. 25 of Burr.

**Tract 2:** Consists of 6.463 acres of level land and has city water available. It fronts on Old U.S. 25 of Burr.

**Tract 3:** Contains 7.161 acres, improved with a good barn, and offers some cleared but mostly wooded land. City water is available on this tract and it fronts on Old U.S. 25.

**Tract 4:** Consists of 4.468 acres, improved with a modern ranch style home. The house has 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen; bath, double carport, full basement and central heat and air. The exterior of the house is vinyl siding and has an almost new metal roof. City water and KU electric are available.

**Tract 5:** Contains 27.431 acres and fronts on Old U.S. 25 at Burr. City water is available on this mostly wooded tract.

**Tract 6:** Consists of 36.129 acres and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

**Tract 7:** Contains 46.472 acres and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

**Tract 8:** Consists of 2.345 mostly wooded acres and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

**Tract 9:** Contains 2.690 mostly wooded acres and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

**Tract 10:** Contains 1.876 acres, mostly wooded, and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

**Tract 11:** Contains 2.110 acres, mostly wooded, and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

**Tract 12:** Consists of 1.469 mostly wooded acres and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

**Tract 13:** Contains 2.240 acres and fronts on Halcomb East Road.

There is the possibility of some timber on several of the tracts.

There will be a tobacco base in the amount of 1087 lbs., selling separately from the farm.

Note: The purchaser of a single family residence, built before 1978, has a maximum of 10 days to inspect the property for the presence of lead-based paint. The period for inspection begins April 4th through April 13th, 2001. The successful bidder must sign a waiver of the 10 day post sale inspection period.

**Auctioneer's Note:** Most of these tracts offer several good possibilities for house sites. If you would enjoy country living with some "elbow room", then you should look at these properties and make plans to attend this absolute auction on Saturday, April 14th at 1:30 p.m.

Terms: 20% down day of sale, balance in 30 days.

Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

For additional information, contact the auctioneers.

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