

Rockcastle Kiwanis Club honors Preston Nunnelley

By Martha Cox

There are giants who walk among us with such quiet, soft steps that while we may not always hear the sounds, we certainly feel the results of their warm and generous presence in our lives. One such man, Preston Nunnelley, has touched so many young men and women at the First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon with his service, his faithfulness, his kind and gentle disposition, his charming personality and graceful manner, and his innate love for his fellow man. The Kiwanis Club feels it a great honor to bestow the Spiritual Aims Award on this worthy citizen whose teaching and example has touched so many lives. The beautiful story of his faith clusters around his church, his home and his friends. One such friend, Albert Gene Griffin, minister of the Fairview Baptist Church gave a fitting tribute to his friend at the Kiwanis Meeting on Thursday at the Annual Prayer Luncheon.

Albert Gene spoke:

There aren't many heroes anymore. The scrutiny of the press... systems now that prevent teachers from dealing personally with the students... our society is cold and impersonal. Our old tired and proven value systems have become suspect. Where are the people we used to look up to?

I can only speak for myself now, but in my generation we had people who were special to us. It may have been Mom or Dad or a grandparent. It may have been a special school teacher... or a Sunday School teacher. It may have been a pastor or a doctor... or a farmer or a truck driver. God just seemed to make us sensitive to some special people. We looked to them because we respected them. We looked up to them because they were special.

Preston Nunnelley was one of those special people... to me, back when respect and values were important. He lived in my town. He defended my country in the war that changed all of us... World War II. He was a member of my church. He didn't just attend he was always there. His family was always there. He taught Sunday School. He became a deacon. Perfect? I didn't know if he

was perfect. He was a man I looked up to. I knew him and Jerri and Penny and Jim Barton and Jerri Lynn... as the children came along. Later I taught his children.

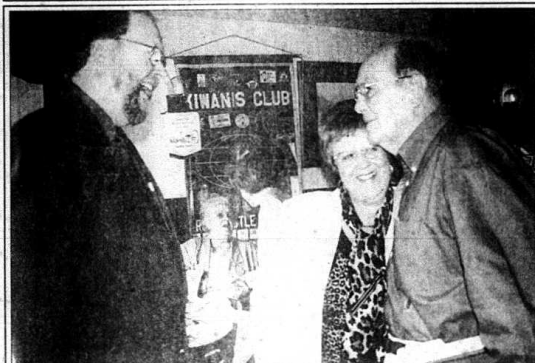
To Mr. Preston he said: I was just a tow-headed boy when you came back from the war. You came to teach the Intermediate Boys' Class at First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon. I couldn't wait to promote to your class... Down there in the basement.

Even before the partitions were finished. You were my hero! Every boy needs a hero. Now, after almost 50 years in the ministry... I give God the glory... because you were part of the influence... that led me to where I am today. I am one of those many boys from your class... but you were in the developing years of our lives. For all of them I've been given the privilege of saying it... Thank you, Pres... For giving to the Lord. I'm So Glad you

(Cont. to B8)



Sae Hamm, Chairman of the Spiritual Aims Committee presented Preston Nunnelley with this year's Spiritual Aims award for his work and his faithfulness to God and to his church.



Albert Griffin, Minister of the Fairview Baptist Church with his wife Eva Ann, gave a special tribute to his friend and hero, Preston Nunnelley, at the Kiwanis Prayer Luncheon.



The Kiwanis Club was entertained with songs by Amber Thacker at the Annual Prayer Luncheon. Amber is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes who shares her musical talent at many local functions.

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