



Points East

By:
Ike Adams

It was dark enough when we got back to the Huntsville/Oncida exit for me to see the lap top screen well enough to type. So with Rashad scrouged up in the middle and Pattyskins behind the wheel of my pick-up, we are taking the best thing to ever come out of Tennessee—1.75 North on our way back to Berea.

Why is it that a round strip to Knoxville from Central Kentucky feels like you're going up hill both ways except for that one little hill that involves going down the Kentucky side of Jellico Mountain?

Patty Tarquino is a college sophomore at Berea and has been renting Jennifer's old room while summer-interning at FAHE where we work together. She is from Maryville, Tennessee and I agreed to pick her up after she spent the last four days on a long overdue visit home. Rashad is Patty's main squeeze and at the moment I suspect he is wondering how well advised this road trip really was. Every time I hit the shift

key with my left hand, my elbow rakes Rashad's rib cage.

I'm sure he's thinking to himself right now, the squeezing could have waited another few hours after all. In the meantime I'm having my own second thoughts about the wisdom of teaching Patty to drive a standard shift.

Actually she taught herself after I got in with her and explained the principles and functions of a hydraulic clutch. Now that she has mastered driving, Charlie Brown Road has its first new coat of Blacktop since the War of 1812. Let's just say that Patty dug a few new holes and put us over the hump.

But already we are in Kentucky so I don't have to worry about the Tennessee law throwing the book at my Kentucky tags. We came down Jellico Mountain in free fall. Now I, like to worry about the Kentucky boys taking it easy on my driver who seems to think that she is an Andretti.

"What happens if you don't write your column for a week," Rashad

wants to know. The hint is not subtle but I ignore it anyway.

Actually, Patty has pretty much become my chauffeur over the last 7 weeks or so and it's nice to be able to have the luxury of checking out crops and cattle and flower gardens on 21 between Paint Lick and Berea every day. I've lived here 25 years and I've been driving that for nearly

20 but I'm noticing things in the neighborhood that never would have caught my attention.

Nothing astounding, mind you, but there are several old cats who lie on the same porches in the same places every day. Some evening soon I'm going to bark like an angry dog when we drive by and see if they really are alive.

Patty will be mortified but embarrassing her once or twice a week keeps her on her toes.

I'm also amazed at the number of squirrels on 21. I used to wonder why I saw so many dead, but that's no longer the case. I'm now amazed that there are more because when you have time and opportunity to pay attention you will notice squirrels in nearly every tree. However, do not try to make this observation and drive at the same time and don't be calling your driver's attention to anything except the double yellow line.

I've shown Patty where several wrecks have happened that I can describe in vivid detail. She watches the road like a hawk and has its every little twist and turn memorized. She knows that if she doesn't drive to suit

me I'm gonna break out into a graphic oration about the most recent wreck but in all honesty that hasn't happened in weeks now.

"The best thing about the summer is this big truck," she says.

"Wonder how well it rides in the

bed? Maybe I could get in the tool box," Rashad muses.

"Heck man, the column is done already," I tell him.

"Can I write it if we ever do this again," he wants to know?

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor:

I wrote the editor and they printed it last week. Someone got into a tizzy about what I wrote. I stand behind anything I wrote, and another thing, if Rockcastle County has to pay the bills on whoever moves into the building and CV still has to buy their food, then why couldn't they be stayed in Brodhead. Feel free to write too.

Mayzell Riss

Brodhead, KY

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter concerning Parkes Seal's closing of the Berea Plant.

I have worked at Parkes Seal since June 14, 1966 (35 years). On May 4, 2001, General Manager Kurt Keller announced the Plant would be closing as of September 30, 2001.

The reason he gave was, the economy is bad, the Plant is old, and they have bought some other companies that can handle the work that we have. He did not mention that even though they have cut us down to less

than one hundred employees, the Plant is still making money.

I would say that over the years the Berea Plant has produced a good portion of the money to expand and buy other companies.

But, now the employees have reached the average age of 55, and most have worked 30 years or more. Their benefits are costing more than the new companies they have bought.

It seems we have helped them to make money, but now they don't want to share their profit with us. The inducement pay they are going to give us is a joke! The average is about \$3,800, per employee before taxes.

We can buy COBRA for 18 months. That would put some of us at the age where no one will insure us. And if they would we couldn't afford it.

If I buy the COBRA, when it stops I will be without insurance for almost four years before I can get Medicare.

In 1988, the company tried to decertify the Union, but failed. The workers, they would get us. So the Berea employees feel the reason for closing is age and Union.

The Plant may be 50 years old, but it is in better shape now than it ever was.

In 1996, when the Tornado almost wiped us out, Bo Bullock and the employees went to work and cleaned up and kept on making O-Rings at a profit. Bo rebuilt the place like new.

That says a lot for the employees working together to make it work. We have a new Banbury, a new Silcon Work Cell and a new Ryker Room, and lots of room for other machines. We are prepared to make O-Rings and make a profit. So the old building couldn't be the reason.

One paper stated that we made the O-Ring in the shuttle that blew up. That has nothing to do with the closing. Parker wasn't held responsible for that.

The city of Berea and the businesses in Berea should try to help keep this plant here. It will be a great loss for them when it is closed.

I don't think Parker's Board of Directors realize the experience they will be losing, and how many "Help Jobs" we do for the other plants. This move will hurt the company more than they realize.

Ruth Holman
Crab Orchard, KY

To the Citizens of Rockcastle County, The National Forest Service has authorized local historian David Owens to write a book about the Civil War Battle that occurred October 21, 1861 at Wildcat Mountain just south of the Laurel-Rockcastle border on US 25. The proceeds from the sales

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Respectfully,
Buzz Carlolius
County Judge-Executive

will go to the Camp Wildcat Preservation Committee which is collaborating with the Forest Service to establish a Walking Tour Park at the Battle Site.

We are currently researching data for publication concerning events military and non-military regarding the battle and the Army occupation and interaction with local civilians. If you have pictures or information of ancestors or know former citizens that participated or interacted with the Battle in any way and would like to have it published in the book, contact David Owens at Rt 5 Box 198, Mt. Vernon, KY or phone (606) 256-9870 or research assistant Stacy Richards at the Rockcastle County Library.

We hope to have much input from the Rockcastle community and look forward to hearing your history and stories.

Kind Regards,
Preservation Committee

Dear Editor:

In response to a letter in last week's Signal, I agree with Sam Stallworth that we often forgot to recognize the importance of men and women who volunteer for emergency services that benefit our communities. We on the fiscal court recognize the value of these fire departments and records show that we have greatly increased the funding from the County given to the departments over the past several years. While we recognize the importance of the departments and admire the selfless volunteerism for our communities, we also realize the funding we provide is really not adequate to meet all the needs of the local departments. Because the state directs so much of our County's funding, we have severe limitations on how much we can support our local endeavors.

I was very surprised to read that the County had provided no assistance, however, in the Mullins Station Road chemical incident. After all, I personally directed Bonnie Roark, the CSEPP director at that time for Rockcastle County and my employee, to respond to the concern. The County and this office responded within three minutes after having received the call.

The County had a presence on site 24 hours a day. Bonnie Roark was the paid County employee on duty who had received state training for just such incidents. I was surprised, therefore, when Sam Stallworth wrote in his letter that the County had provided no assistance. Bonnie Roark was the representative for the County on site, and as such, was the person in charge. I agree that she is a capable person. I would not have hired her for this important job had I thought otherwise.

I am pleased with our County's response to this incident and am very proud of the volunteer firemen and others who gave their time without compensation. I was also pleased with the County employee's commitment during the emergency.

Respectfully,
Buzz Carlolius
County Judge-Executive



"I've been in business a long time and I've never seen better vehicles or lower prices."

Luke Gooch

2000 Pontiac Grand Prix GT, 2 Dr., Leather, Sunroof \$15,450/\$285 Mo.	2000 Chevy Impala Loaded, Spoiler \$13,995/\$269 Mo.	2000 Chevy Monte Carlo Loaded, 15K \$15,995/\$289 Mo.	2000 Nissan Altima GXE 4 Dr., Loaded, 12K \$13,750/\$266 Mo.	2000 Dodge Intrepid Loaded, 22K \$13,500/\$262 Mo.
2000 Buick Regal + Dr., Loaded \$12,995/\$262 Mo.	2000 Ford Contour Auto, Power Pkg. \$9,995/\$195 Mo.	2001 Buick LeSabre Every Option \$18,500/\$334 Mo.	2001 Pontiac Grand Prix GT 4 Dr., 12K \$15,500/\$285 Mo.	2001 Pontiac Grand AM 4 Dr., Loaded, 4K \$14,500/\$269 Mo.
2000 Ford Focus Wagon SE, 14K \$12,995/\$262 Mo.	1998 Chevy Cavalier 4 Dr., Auto, Air \$6,995/\$149 Mo.	1998 Mitsubishi Eclipse Black, Spoiler, Window Tint, 29K \$10,995/\$235 Mo.	1998 Saturn 4 Dr., Remote Entry Power Pkg, 29K \$7,750/\$169 Mo.	1998 Saturn Auto, 2 Dr., Sunroof Leather, Loaded, 31K \$10,500/\$225 Mo.
1998 Toyota Camry LE 4 Dr., Loaded, Gold Pkg., Spoiler, 34K \$12,500/\$265 Mo.	1996 Pontiac Grand Am 4 Dr., V6, Local \$5,995/\$159 Mo.	1981 Chev. Corvette 50K - Nice \$ave	1999 Ford Taurus Loaded \$8,995/\$189 Mo.	

Trucks - Vans - 4x4 s

1996 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo 4x4 \$11,995/\$312 Mo.	1998 Ford F-150 8' Bed \$7,200/\$155 Mo.	1989 Dodge Caravan V6 \$10,500/\$207 Mo.	2000 Ford Windstar Van LX, 4 Dr., Rear Air \$15,500/\$285 Mo.
2000 Dodge Grand Caravan SE, Rear Air, 4 Dr., Child Seats \$14,995/\$292 Mo.	1996 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4, Local \$10,995/\$286 Mo.	1998 Jeep Cherokee Classic, 4x4, Loaded \$12,995/\$272 Mo.	1999 Dodge Dakota SLT V6, Auto, 4x4 \$13,995/\$269 Mo.

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Andy Hatt • Owners

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Wild About Reading! Wild About Our Library Week!

RONALD MC DONALD

Thursday, July 26th • 1 p.m.

Closing Activities for the Summer Reading Program.
Prizes will be awarded to the top readers in the county in each age group category! Refreshments will be served! Come out and have a delightful time as we celebrate our Library. Remember: All completed reading logs with your name, age and photo must be turned in to a librarian no later than this Saturday, July 21st.

Contact: Kathy McKibben - Children's and Young Adult Librarian

July 23rd - 26th

Tuesday @ 1 p.m.

STORY HOUR AND CRAFTS - AGE 2 - 1ST GRADE

Tuesday @ 3 p.m.

INTERMEDIATE CRAFTS

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