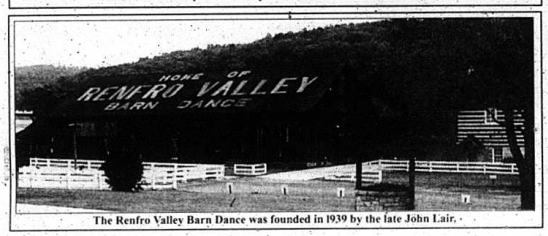
The Statler Brothers will perform in Renfro Valley, Thursday through Sunday.

Authenic Kentucky Cabins are part of the Bittersweet Cabin display.




The Renfro Valley Barn Dance was founded in 1939 by the late John Lair.

## "Renfro"

(Cont. from front)

September line-up is spectacular.

It all begins on September 1st when John Conlee will perform.

On September 8th Sammy Kershaw will take center stage and Randy Travis is scheduled to appear in the valley on September 14th.

Patty Loveless will return to the Valley the next night on September 15th and Carol Robertson will perform on September 21st.

The Legends Fest on September 22 will feature Ralph Emery, Little Jimmy Dickens, Jack Green and Jeannie Seely.

The Appalachian Harvest Festival is scheduled for October 5-7 and the Country Talent Roundup will be held October the 6 and 7th.

The Fiddler's Festival begins on October 26 and Christmas in the Valley will run November 16th through December 15th.

For tickets and more information concerning Rockcastle County's most famous attraction - call (800) 765-7464 or local call (606) 256-2638.

## *A brief history of the Renfro Valley Barn Dance*

Dreams can be elusive things. But sometimes perseverance, determination and hard work can make even the most elusive appearing dream come true...

Renfro Valley founder John Lair had such a dream.

After serving in World War I, Lair returned to the Renfro Valley area of Rockcastle County where he had grown up. The next year he found himself running the family farm following the death of his father.

In the evenings, following a hard day of tilling the fields, Lair would sit on a rock on a hilltop and dream the kind of ambitious, seemingly impossible, maybe even foolish dream of a young man looking down the road at his future.

Lair's dream was to own the beautiful valley stretched out before him and to preserve there the values of uncompromising honesty and sturdy independence and the spirit of neighborliness exhibited by the pioneers who had settled, not only Renfro Valley, but the rest of America.

Lair described his dream in 1957: "My dream was not one of conquest and advancement such as had led the early settlers in Renfro Valley to work hard to build up a settlement and dream of progress and growth. My dream was, in a way, to move backward across the years almost to the very beginning."

It was Chicago that would ironically open the door to his dream. And music would provide the vehicle that would eventually lead John Lair back to Renfro Valley.

Although not musically talented himself, Lair had always respected the ability of others to play music and had been fascinated by the old folk ballads that he had heard as a boy.

So when he began listening to the hillbilly music that was just catching hold on Chicago radio station WLS, Lair knew he had something to offer.

Closely studying the audiences from week to week noticed that a great many folks who attended came out of town, apparently combining the show with a trip to the city, and a general outing for the party.

This set him to thinking that it might work the other way around; that city folks might enjoy a trip to the country to see a show. Right then is when the idea of coming back to Renfro Valley and building a barn to broadcast from and hold shows in began to take on the semblance of a possibility. Which is exactly what John Lair did.

Today, Renfro Valley continues Mr. Lair's dream by offering folks down home, clean family entertainment in a country setting for all to enjoy.

Lair founded the Renfro Valley Barn Dance in 1939.

## Livingston Homecoming

(Cont. from front)

please call and arrangements will be made for you.

Festivities will kick off with a Gospel Singing beginning Friday night, August 31 at 7 p.m. and, on Saturday, the day will begin with a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10:30 in the brick building next to the school. Prices are $3.50 for adults and $2 for children.

The Lake Cumberland Cloggers will perform at 9 a.m. and the parade line-up begins at 10 a.m at White Star just north of Livingston. The parade will begin at 11 a.m.

At 12:30, there will be a recognition program for the principals, teachers and staff of Livingston school.

From 2:30 to 6 p.m., there will be music and socializing and the Bittersweet Cloggers will perform beginning at 3 p.m. During this period, the Homecoming Queen will be crowned. Any girl, ages 13-19, wishing to enter the pageant, please contact Aletha Bryant at 606-256-8601 or 453-2275 after 5:30.

The Pretty Baby Contest will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday and entries can be made by calling Tevis Bryant at 453-4627. Deadline for entry is Friday, August 31 at 4:30 p.m. Entry fee is $5 per child and ages are infant to 3 years old.

Also on Saturday night, from 8 p.m. until midnight, there will be bluegrass music featuring A Touch of Grass with Ruby Powell and Zelda Parsons and band from Williamsburg.

Sunday's activities begin with a devotional service at 12 noon. Bro. Gray Parker will be the speaker. At 2 p.m., the Awards Ceremony will be held and, at 3 p.m., there will be an auction conducted by Billy Wayne (Red) Bryant.

At 8 p.m. Sunday, the Wild River Band will perform, followed by fireworks at 10 p.m. Afterwards, the band will resume playing.

For information on any of the events, please call Dell Ponder at 453-4341 or Billy Bryant at 453-2275 after 5:30 p.m. or 256-8601.

## State Grant

(Cont. from front)

provements and utility relocation.

Communities are divided into designated tiers - bronze, silver or gold - according to the program's criteria met upon application. The City of Mt. Vernon is a bronze community. The program encourages communities to reach the highest level possible by awarding funds to those in the silver and gold levels. Opportunities for bronze and silver communities to advance are offered periodically.

"We have used the same holistic approach in the Renaissance Kentucky program as we have throughout all of our initiatives that strive to improve the quality of life in Kentucky," said Patton. "All Kentucky communities should have downtown centers thriving with activity to pass on local traditions and treasures to future generations."

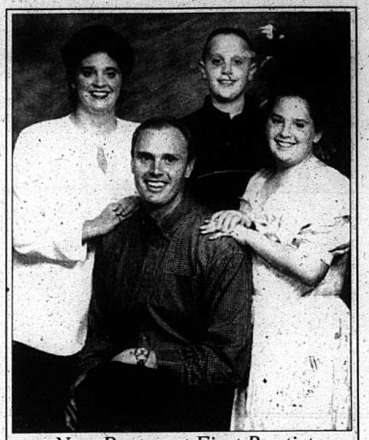
Representing the City of Mt. Vernon at the funding announcement ceremony were Mayor Karen King, Bige Towery, Rockcastle Development Board Renaissance Board member and Phyllis Deatherage, Renaissance Board member/contact for City of Mt. Vernon.

The Renaissance Board and the City of Mt. Vernon's ultimate goal is to become a gold level. Mayor Karen King has appointed a City of Mt. Vernon Renaissance Kentucky Board and the city council has approved.

Board members are Bige Towery, Phylhs Deatherage, John Parsons, Willie Hines, Shirley Cummins, Eddie Hammond and Jenny Bray. Local volunteers thus far are Ann Henderson, Martha Cox and Tammy Cox.

The board held their first meeting recently at the Development Board on Richmond St. Roger Stapleton from the Kentucky Heritage Council, who is the coordinator of Kentucky Main Street Program was the guest speaker for the Orientation and gave general information about the Renaissance program to the board members and volunteer members.

These funds are projected to beautify Main Street in the City of Mt. Vernon, thus improving the overall appearance of the community.



## *New Pastor at First Baptist*

**The congregation at First Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon has a new Pastor. Bro. Eddie Nation, 36, has spent the last 12 years at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Mt. Eden Kentucky. He and his wife, Anita, 33, have two children, Joshua, 12 and Meghan, 10. Nation has a Master's Degree in Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Nation began his ministry at First Baptist in July. First Baptist has an average attendance on Sunday of 225 and is located on West Main Street.**

## *News Deadline is Noon Tuesday*

The City of Mt. Vernon was recently awarded $5,000 as part of the Renaissance Kentucky project. On hand to receive the check from Governor Paul Patton recently were Mayor Karen King, fourth from left, Bige Towery, Executive Director of the Rockcastle Development Board and Renaissance Board Member and Phyllis Deatherage, Renaissance Board Member.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### *Too Late To Classify*

**For Sale:** 1983 Jayco Travel 31 ft. trailer. New a/c, new tires, good condition. $3,200. Call 758-8427. x2

**For Sale:** 4 Billy Goats, 1/2 grown Pigs for sale. 256-8578. x2

**For Sale:** 1996 Sea Doo SPI, 580cc, 55 hrs., includes trailer, 2 wet suits, excellent condition, $3,000. Call 256-8103. x2

**Four Family Garage Sale:** Friday, August 24th, 9 to ? off Hwy. 150, home of Joe and Patty Barron. Home Interior, name brand boys and girls clothes size 5 to 16, some Union Bay, Nike, Old Navy, etc. Playstation games, 30 gal. fish aquarium with stand, Jenny Lind baby bed and baby clothes, much more. Rain or shine. x1


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**1989 Freightliner,** 9-over trans., 425 Cat, 63' Flat Top
**1993 Ford Extended Work Van,** Air, Auto White
**1993 Ford Shortbed 4x4,** Air, Auto, All Power, Blue
**1994 Chev. 4x4,** Auto, Air, All Power, Red
**1996 Ford,** Shortbed, 6 cyl., Auto, Air, Sharp Truck, White
**1997 Chev. 4x4,** 69,000 miles, green; sharp, $8,900.
**1997 Ford 4x4,** F150, Shortbed, Black, Auto, Air
**1998 Ford 2WD,** Auto, Air, Red.

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