



Points East

By:
Ike Adams

I spent last weekend in Johnson City attending a work conference and soaking up the scenery and hospitality of east Tennessee.

About half the 230 mile trip involves Kentucky Roads, 1-75 to Corbin then 25E down through Barbourville, Pineville and through the tunnel at Middlesboro. The last half is through Virginia and Tennessee on SR and 181.

The deeper I got into Virginia the madder I got at Kentuckians.

The roads are in about the same shape in all three states and the houses alongside them are very comparable in size and shape. Lots of folks with nice little gardens started and one gets the impression that the economy is about the same in all three states.

But there is a huge and glaring difference between Kentucky and our neighbor states.

Kentucky is filthy as evidenced by the tons and tons of garbage littering both sides of roads. Virginia and Tennessee are nearly spotless and it's not because the Jaycees or Lions or Ruritan or Women's Clubs spend their weekends picking up after slobs.

Virginians and Tennesseans have enough pride in themselves that they don't live and act like pigs to begin with. They simply don't like living in filth so they don't throw their garbage out their car windows to begin

with.

They actually realize that those garbage containers sitting at the gas stations have a purpose. That's where they deposit their fast food wrappers, dirty diapers and empty cans and bottles when they stop to fill up. Unfortunately most Kentuckians have not caught on.

There is also no truth to the rumor that they take long drives into Kentucky to spread their refuse along side our roads even though you couldn't blame them if they did because littering sure seems to be a popular part of our local culture.

I know that I've harped on this subject so often that many of you readers are sick of it but I will tell you that every time I go to Tennessee or Virginia, you're apt to get the same reaction again.

I'm literally embarrassed to have out of state guests drive along the road between my house and Berea and it should not be my responsibility to pick up after the poor ignorant slobs who continue to make such a mess of it.

I'm personally all for this filthy show that everybody is protesting so strongly. I'd clean up our act and our environment. I'll tell you, there wouldn't be anything to make fun of to begin with. Until we do, we deserve to be laughed at.

Dear Editor,

In the 11 years my family has lived in Rockcastle County, we have come to know many wonderful people. This was reinforced during the recent illness of our baby, Eva.

On April 6, Eva became seriously ill and we took her to the Rockcastle Hospital Emergency Room. From the time we arrived, until Eva was transported to Louisville, she received the best of care. The staff of our hospital was impressive in their excellent treatment of Eva. Dr. Michael Hamilton came to the hospital to care for Eva and went well beyond basic care in even accompanying her to Louisville.

During Eva's illness, our friends, family and church family showed their love and kindness to us. Our pastor and his wife, Don and Donna Statton, were excellent support at the hospital and in these weeks following. Members of Bible Baptist kept our baby in their prayers and kept informed of her condition. A family friend kindly volunteered to care for our two other children so that my husband and I could both be with Eva.

I continue to hear about individuals and churches who prayed for Eva's recovery. My heart has so been touched by the kindness, caring and concern shown by others in our community. We are so thankful for each of you who allowed God to use you to bring about a good result for baby Eva. Eva has fully recovered and is back to her happy, sweet personality. We are truly blessed to have three healthy children.

I am thankful to live in such a caring community. Rockcastle County has many assets, but its best asset is its people.

Sincerely,
Hazel Jackson

Dear Editor,

What a blessed relief to turn on the TV and not be greeted by a howling mob of anti-war demonstrators or angry Hollywood stars, most of whom haven't a clue as to what they're protesting. When questioned individually, their answers are patetically naive. Even some Washington politicians appear to be in a dream world. For example, Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader, who topped them all with her recent statement that we could have brought down that statue of Saddam Hussein at far less cost to our economy and in human

lives.

Smart woman, that Pelosi! President Bush should have driven his pickup into Baghdad, roped that thing and pulled it down as Hussein and his goon squad looked on in helpless amazement. Why didn't the planners think of that?

But Ms. Pelosi would have us know that she "supports the troops." So do a majority of the demonstrators who fiercely declare their love of country and "support" for the troops. They just don't like what those troops are doing over there.

What kind of double-talk is this? It reminds me of sports fans "supporting" the home team while applauding the opposition. This is the message that comes through loud and clear. For certainly any real support on behalf of our men and women on the battlefield is not evident to most of us and it's doubtful that the troops feel uplifted by it.

On Thursday evening, April 24, Diane Sawyer treated us to an in-depth interview with the Dixie Chicks who supposed purpose was to explain a goody comment made by the lead singer and to declare their "patriotism and support for the troops." And, as a former fan, I felt more incensed than before. I had hoped they might say something reasonable, like perhaps the offending statement was meant as a joke, albeit a sick one or that the whole thing was taken out of context. At the very least, I hoped to hear that only one of the three had felt moved to ridicule the President before a receptive foreign audience and that she was truly sorry.

Not so. Instead, it soon became quite clear that the feeling was mutual and hadn't really changed at all that much since first expressed. In fact, they informed us that "we all stick together." And, there went the last shred of my admiration and support for the Dixie Chicks!

But get this! Their manager, we're told, is trying to negotiate with Gen. Tommy Franks to have the Chicks entertain the troops in Iraq. I have a feeling the idea is to try and heal some deep wounds back home. If so, it is a shamefully selfish motive.

Like other big stars who gained fame and fortune with the help of varied political factions and have abused that trust, the Dixie Chicks must now accept that a vast portion of adoration and financial support is gone forever. And it's unfortunate for them as well as for the fans. But "foot-in-mouth" disease, often misdiagnosed as freedom of speech can prove fatal.

Sincerely,
F. Christine McKinney
6030 Tylersville Road
West Chester, Ohio

Dear Editor,

I attended the city hall meeting Monday night and have a few comments I would like to make.

As a young boy, 4 or 5 years old, I remember coming to town with my father and grandfather and watching a lot of men just sitting on the streets, doing nothing, but whittling on a

piece of cedar.

After hearing some of the remarks in this meeting, most of the old-time whittlers would have been told to leave the street if they weren't doing anything.

I believe the laid-back atmosphere is what has made Mount Vernon a place people used to come to. Sometimes people gathering in a spot on the street may hinder some businesses and those people should realize this and find a place that doesn't affect other people to socialize with their friends. The young people of our city do not have any place to go to meet their friends other than parking lots and city streets. But, as in all cases, some ruin it for others by dumping trash, soda and beer cans in these meeting places which result in people not wanting the kids in these parking lots.

As a teenager in our city in the 70s, I could go to the ballpark and see 100+ friends every night and play softball, basketball and volleyball till midnight and later. We also had a drive-in but what do the kids have now to have a little fun at. Nothing but hard work in school and sports at the schools, which I know is hard work, too.

I don't want to see our future kids into drugs and alcohol so maybe we need to help find other ways of letting off some steam such as bowling alleys, theaters, places to play games against each other in a friendly way. I know some of these things, if supervised the right way, would help keep them out of the private parking lots.

There has to be more ways of dealing with this issue than throwing them off the streets into the houses of drug dealers and bootleggers. If my Grandpa were alive, I sure would not have wanted to be the one to try to throw him off the street. I believe people want a place to visit where people will stand on the street and talk to them like friends. At least,

all the tourists have talked to in front of our florist on Main Street have felt that way and there have been many.

To the kids who park in these areas in question, please try to clean up your trash and don't litter as this is one of the main complaints of the other businesses. Some day you will be the business people of the town so take pride in your town now.

With sincere thanks,
Douglas Bullock

Dear Editor,

(An open letter to David's Tire Center) Last Wednesday night, it was our misfortune to have our car break down on Hwy. 150 in Mt. Vernon at about 8 p.m. I was at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Carosello where we were treated with so much thoughtfulness, kindness and love. They insisted that we contact your company for towing service since they had so much faith in your good treatment of us and fairness toward us.

Mr. Thompson, your son was the wrecker service driver who came to pick us up at the Carosello's home on Hwy. 150 that night. He was so thoughtful and considerate - even helping George to get our luggage out at the motel and seeing to it that we were safely in.

George had a heart attack last May and had open heart and by-pass surgery. His health at this point isn't good and we were so very thankful for your son's wonderful help.

God certainly used your son, and your company, faithfully to get us on our way. After checking out the repair work he had done on the car, we discovered it was driving perfectly and were able to drive it all the way back to Georgia with no problems.

We just want to thank you and your company for the way you took care of us and for the repairs you did.

(Cont. to A5)

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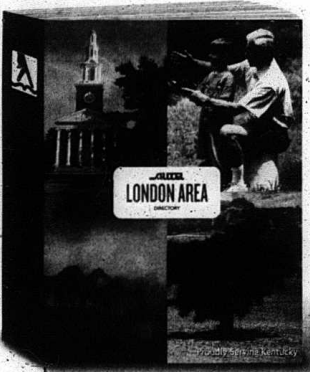
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