



Lady Rockets with District Pg. A8

Mount Vernon Signal

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Mount Vernon Signal, Vol. 118, Number 52 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - 50¢ a copy - Thursday, October 2, 1992

Correction!

In last week's *Signal* we printed that time changed last Sunday.

We were incorrect! Time changes on Sunday, October 26th at 2 a.m.

We apologize for any inconvenience this mistake may have caused anyone.

Local woman found dead

Wednesday morning Angella Broughton, 26, of Mt. Vernon was found unresponsive at her residence on Copper Creek Road, by a family member.

Rockcastle EMS responded to the scene and contacted the Kentucky State Police and Rockcastle Coroner after arriving.

Rockcastle County Coroner Billy Dowell pronounced Angella Broughton dead at the scene.

An autopsy is being performed to determine the exact cause of death, however no foul play is suspected.

Detective Gary Lane is conducting the investigation. Ms. Broughton's body will be at Davis-Powell Funeral Home in Berea, following the autopsy.

Whitakers to be honored at Livingston School Reunion

Willard and Olive Mink Whitaker will be inducted into the Livingston School Hall of Fame during ceremonies scheduled in conjunction with the annual school reunion.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker are being honored for their long time commitment to education. Their combined years of service to students and the community exceed 90 years.

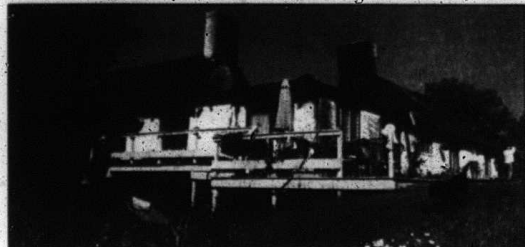
More than 200 individuals are expected to attend the Reunion, which has been held annually since 1976. Members of the graduating classes of 1943, 1953 and 1963 will also be recognized as a part of the program.

The annual Livingston School Reunion is planned for October 25, 2001, at the Rockcastle County Middle School in Mt. Vernon, Ky. The preregistration deadline is October 15. All former students, teachers, family and friends are invited to attend. Additional information about the reunion is available by contacting Barbara M. Castleberry (256-9181) or Barbara P. Faith (453-4061).

Three Veterans awarded diplomas

Three military Veterans were awarded high school diplomas at the August meeting of the Rockcastle County Board of Education as allowed by KRS 158.140.

Korean War Veteran Thurman "Jack" Raines received his high school diploma during a short ceremony at the meeting. Mr. Raines attended Livingston High School before his induction into the Army in 1952. Terry Burton, chairman of the board, presented the diploma to



The home of Jerry and Vicki Cox on Ottawa School Road was heavily damaged by fire Tuesday night. Firefighters said the fire apparently broke out in the attic of the home, possibly caused by an electrical short in an attic fan. The Broadhead Rural Fire Department, Broadhead City Fire Department and the Mt. Vernon Fire Department responded to the 11 p.m. fire, which they fought until approximately 4:30 a.m. The Coxes lost many personal belongings in the fire. Below is the home of Mike Sturgill, which was completely destroyed by fire on Thursday morning. The Sturgill home is located on U.S. 25 at Burr.



At Bittersweet Festival Barr to serve as Grand Marshall

Festivities will run from Friday afternoon to late Saturday

Saturday's Bittersweet Festival Parade will begin at noon and this year's grand marshal will be Mike

Barr, of Louisville. Barr, a former resident of Mt. Vernon and CEO of Health Essentials, was founder of the Respiratory Care Program at Rockcastle Hospital and also founded Venture. He is married to the former Lynette Hunt of Rockcastle County, daughter of the

late Hubert and Julia Hunt. Line-up for the parade will be at 11 a.m. at Mt. Vernon Elementary School.

Main Street in Mt. Vernon will be closed off at noon on Friday for festival vendor set up. Bernice McHargue, festival coordinator, says that 120 spaces have been taken by

(Cont. to A11)

Former Commonwealth Attorney Benny Ham dies

Former Rockcastle and Pulaski County Commonwealth's Attorney Benny Ham was buried Sunday in Somerset.

Ham, 58, served as Commonwealth Attorney from 1981- to 1994.

Before he was elected Commonwealth Attorney, Ham served as assistant Commonwealth Attorney under Harold Rogers.

Rogers, who is now the ranking Kentucky Congressman in the U.S. House, also practiced law with Ham in the early days as an attorney.

"We go back a long way... he was a great friend and I never saw Benny be rude to anyone," Rogers said in an interview with the *Somerset Commonwealth Journal*.

Local attorney Jerry Cox, who also worked with Ham in the Commonwealth Attorney's office at one point and who also faced him numerous times in court over the years as a defense attorney had nothing but good words for Ham.

"He was a good friend of mine and he had a big heart," Cox said.

"He prosecuted a lot of people, but he was always fair," Cox said. Current Rockcastle and Pulaski District Judge Mike Henry, who worked with Ham as an assistant conveyed a story about Ham to his daughter Susan, who said it stood out in her mind as testimony to her father's compassionate approach to practicing law.

Henry told his daughter, Susan that he and his father were on their way to Rockcastle County one day for court proceedings when they passed a man walking, whom her father had prosecuted and her fa-

(Cont. to A11)



Benny Ham

At Thursday meeting

Mt. Vernon firefighters complain about 911

By: Richard Anderkin

Members of the Mt. Vernon Volunteer Fire Department voiced their displeasure with the county's 911 dispatching service at last week's annual monthly meeting.

Mt. Vernon Fire Chief Garry Hansel told board members that firefighter Jeff DeBord suffered a heart attack on Monday night while at a meeting at Mt. Vernon's fire station and when 911 was called for an ambulance to be sent, they got no answer.

Hansel said other firefighters loaded DeBord into the back of a truck and took him to Rockcastle Hospital and he was later flown to the University of Kentucky Medical Center by helicopter.

"I am satisfied that if Jeff hadn't of been at the fire station he probably would have died," he added.

"This is something that shouldn't be swept under the carpet," he added. 911 board chairman Harry Harmon agreed with Hansel, but said he felt the county had some very good dispatchers and that the board would look into the matter.

It was determined that the reason the phone call from firefighters was not answered was because the only dispatcher on duty was in the restroom.

"We all know people have to use the restroom and we think as do others. That two dispatchers should be on duty at all times," Hansel said.

"This is not an isolated incident

either, we've had problems before," Hansel added.

Harmon told Hansel that budget constraints were part of the reason that only one dispatcher was on duty at times, but at other times there are two dispatchers.

"We will do everything we can to see something like this doesn't happen again," Harmon told the group.

Bryan Hansel, Garry Hansel's son, who is also a member of the fire department presented a letter to the board from DeBord's mother, Lorella, which basically told the board that she felt like she almost lost her son because of the actions of 911.

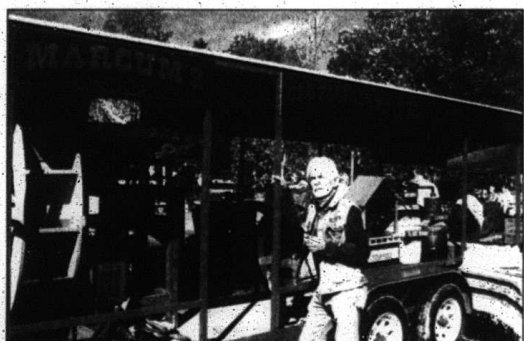
Harmon read the entire letter aloud to the board.

Sam Stallworth, who is a member of the board and Livingston fire chief, told DeBord, who had been released from hospital that he too was concerned about the situation, but he agreed with Harmon that the situation would be taken care of.

Hansel also told the board that most people who had to rely on dispatching from 911 thought it would be best if the number of board members were changed from 13 to seven, or less.

Hansel also pointed out that the current by-laws of the board required that board members rotate every two years, including the chairman.

"Most of the time, half the board members do not show up for the meetings," Hansel said.



The annual Appalachian Harvest Festival was held in Renfro Valley over the weekend. Shown above is vendor Ralph Marcum, who is a former entertainer on the Barn Dance and former Editor of the *Renfro Valley Bugle*. Shown at left is Doug Smith, co-owner of Rockcastle Farm Supply performing during the Country Talent Search which also took place during the festival. Smith placed second in the Adult Division of the Talent Search. Haley Simpson was the winner in that division. In the teen division, Sarah Nobles was the winner and in the child division, Haleigh Lanham was the winner. In the comedy division, Lucille Milby won.



Terry Burton, chairman of Rockcastle County Board of Education, presents high school diploma to Korean War Veteran Jack Raines.