T.J.'s Journal

by: Tonya J. Cook

For the past few days, I was wishing I lived at Frankfort. Our house is in total disarray with floral arrangements and floral supplies cluttering almost every corner due to the preparation of flowers for the upcoming marriage of Stanley's daughter, Kayla. However, our house usually needs a pretty good overhaul from time to time, anyway. I wished that I lived in Frankfort because I've been hearing for the past several weeks that there are a couple of guys going to "clean up Frankfort", and I want to put our place first on the list. I really envy all of those ladies who live in Frankfort. I'll bet they have "honey-do lists" a mile long. I'm glad they have a four-year term. It will probably take about that long to get around to everybody's house.

Seriously, I'm counting the days until the mud-slinging campaign ads are over and I can watch TV, listen to the radio, and read the paper once again in peace. It seems that the candidates, Fletcher and Chandler, are basing their whole campaign on who can make the other look worse to allow the unsuspecting public to vote for the lesser of the two evils.

"Clean up Frankfort!" is all I've heard for days. I wasn't aware that there was that much in Frankfort to be cleaned. Yes, I know politicians have a reputation for being corrupt, but I just wonder specifically what needs to be cleaned up. True, Paul Patton had an affair, but he will be leaving office anyway, and that will clean up that. I was just wondering, since both Chandler and Fletcher have been in Frankfort for the past few years now, and knew all of these things to be cleaned up, why are they waiting until now to let the cat out of the bag and start cleaning? That's like waiting to clean your house when your guests are already knocking at the door.

It seems to me that Dr. Fletcher is the king of the mudslinging. In order to do what he is promising, he will have to turn his back on all of his fellow physicians and pharmacist friends to lower medical bills. How gullible does he think we are? Then he is telling about all of the seniors who have been kicked out of the nursing homes. I've never heard of it before the campaign began. It seems that all of the TV news crews around the state as well as the newspapers missed this great exodus of the elderly. Then the ad that is really outrageous is the ad promoting Fletcher who says that he was an Air Force fighter pilot and doctor, as opposed to Chandler who is supposed to be the career politician. Now let me ask you: If you need a tooth extracted, who are you going to get to do it? Will you get (a) a carpenter, (b) a mechanic, or (c) a dentist? I hope you see my point. Personally, I would think the career politician would do the better job. Sometimes I think Fletcher is his own worst enemy, but don't worry, things will come out in the end. I'm predicting a Fletcher victory by a small margin. Who knows, it may turn out okay after all. We had a reasonably good president who was an actor a few years ago. I can say all of this because at the time this will be read, the election will be over. I wouldn't want to taint anyone's opinions. I'll leave that to the politicians.

Around election time, I'm often reminded of two unique but true stories. The first story is about my grandparents, Roscoe and Evelyn Norton just after they were married. It was in 1920 in Clairfield, Tennessee and the amendment had just passed allowing women the right to vote. Election Day came and my grandparents went to the small one-room school in rural Tennessee to vote. This was quite an event as it was the first time in the history of the United States that women had voted. There was a big turnout. Everybody wanted to see who was going to allow their wife to vote and who wasn't. This was where the single ladies had the advantage, unless their fathers didn't allow them to vote.

Upon arriving at the school, Roscoe and Evelyn were soon met by my grandmother's father, Henry Frank Price and her brothers who had also come to vote. Liberation had not come for my great-grandmother, Ella Vesnie, as she was not in the company of her husband and sons. They all talked and socialized for awhile, and probably ate lunch. The local Baptist church ladies as a fund-raiser served lunch at the school. My grandmother was on the chicken salad committee. She and two or three other ladies caught, killed, plucked, and boiled about fifty chickens in a huge black cauldron in order to make enough chicken salad. Election Day was an all-day event and served as a social gathering as well as a civic duty during this era. Eventually, the subject was bound to come up, which way was Evelyn going to vote? You see, her father and all of his side of the family had been Republicans for generations, and her husband's family had been Democrats for generations. Her father supposed she should vote Republican like all of her family, but Roscoe informed him that she was now his wife and was going to be a Democrat. It's good to know that during this era, every wife had an opinion... her husband's.

The next story is about an elderly farmer who shuffled into a General Store in Taylor County, Kentucky back in the 1950s. He was a typical-looking old farmer. He had snowy white hair, tattered overalls, work-boots, a pipe dangling from the corner of his mouth, wore wire-rimmed glasses, and was bent over due to age and years of hard work. The local paper was taking a poll about one of the local boys that was running for state office. They asked the old gent if he was going to vote for this boy, and he replied, "Nope. I've knowed him since he was about knee-high, and all of his family. He went to church and Sunday school every week, has been a good boy to his kinfolks, and always helped friend and stranger alike. I've never knowed him to lie or steal." The reporter asked why the old gent wouldn't vote for a man like that. The old man said, "Wouldn't want to see him go to Frankfort, and come back home crooked." I guess the farmer wanted to keep him home so he wouldn't have to be "cleaned up".

ramblings....

by perlina m. anderkin

For the first time in 32 years, Kentuckians awakened Thursday morning to a Republican Governor-Elect.

I'm glad but, regardless of what Rick said in his column last week, I was really ambivalent about the race because I felt that Ben Chandler had actually done an admirable job as Attorney General and would have done a good job as Governor.

I am Republican, but I am not Republican enough to ever walk into a voting booth and pull the straight Republican ticket. It may just be that I enjoy pushing buttons too much to only push one and this election was no exception.

I do think Fletcher is a good person with the best interests of Kentucky at heart and will work hard to help our state in the many, many areas it needs help and his connection with these in power nationally shouldn't hurt anything.

Congrätulations to the Main Street Renaissance Committee and the Kiwanis Club on their very successful "Halloween on Main" last Friday night.

The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time. The sense of camraderie was prevalent and it was a highly successful social occasion and lucrative "candy spot" for the children.

A lot of the event's success can be attributed to the great weather but also to the hard work of Lynn Gilbert and Martha Cox who spent hours organizing the event. Every town needs hard workers who spend hours giving their time to better the community in which they live and Martha, once referred to as the "shadow government" by County Judge Buzz Carloftis, has gotten another helping hand in Mrs. Gilbert.

I appreciate their efforts and others who helped, such as Troy Hansel (and I have now officially gotten myself in trouble because I don't know everyone who helped, I'm sorry) and hope the event will be repeated next year with added entertainment for the children.

Although I have said in this column numerous times over the years that Halloween is not a favorite holiday of mine, I certainly enjoyed watching the children and counting up the good will the town will reap from the event.

There are those who constantly sit and think about what they can do to improve our community. Okay, I'm not one of them but I deeply appreciate those who do.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

Moving from a large city (Cincinnati) to a small town has been a great pleasure. It was with added delight our family joined the "Characters" on Main Street, Halloween night.

With only one or two exceptions, costumes on adults passing out candy were pleasant, preventing unnecessary fright for my younger children.

There were plenty of smiles, candy and friendly waves to keep everyone happy. Having an early evening activity enabled us to get home before dark.

More than anything else, I appreciated the music being broadcast. It was just plain FUN and set the tone for the entire evening.

I hope next year you'll be willing to expand it further with games and a costume contest (and hopefully by then the Butcher's Wife will have chased away the Three Blind Mice so my children will have a chance to win a prize!)

Thanks for such a great treat, Mt. Vernon.

Deb Coffey
Rt. 3, Mt. Vernon

Dear Editor,

On Sunday, November 2nd, we had a birthday party for four and six-year-olds at Pizza Hut at Burr.

As everyone was enjoying their pizza, my girlfriend looked over to talk to her mom. A mouse was crawling up the wall behind her. We let it go so it wouldn't take the fun out of the party. Then, all of a sudden, we heard a loud screeching sound and it was the mouse caught; still alive, on a sticky trap in an opening between booths.

When the kids discovered the mouse, even after we tried not to let them know, you can imagine the commotion it caused.

When we paid our bill, we told the cashier and she was not concerned and acted like it was an everyday thing.

So, the next time you go to Pizza Hut for supper or have a birthday party there, will you be dining with mice?

Customers "Not" Always Right,
Jeff Richards
Marsha Banks

Dear Editor,

On Friday night, Mt. Vernon's Main Street was blocked off, businesses set up tables on the street and over one thousand children trick or treated.

This was one of the most successful and certainly the most fun things ever done in downtown Mt. Vernon. The children had a ball but, the business people had much more fun. The atmosphere was so cheerful it seem there was electricity in the air.

If we are serious about revitalizing Main Street, then we must encourage more of these kinds of events. This gives people an appreciation of our city, it encourages the merchants and we all feel good about ourselves.

The Renaissance Committee is to be commended for having a great idea. Along with that idea went a lot of hard work.

We were told that the Mayor opposed doing this next year because it interfered with one business. The Mayor should remember how vital and alive Main Street was on Friday night. All businesses on Main Street lose some business during parades, festivals, etc., but they know that whatever loss is incurred, it is the best investment they can make for future business.

As for me, I am looking forward to trick or treating next year.

Sincerely,
Dr. John Parsons

Dear Editor,

What a wonderful time it is to be a Kentuckian! Thanks to all those who cared enough about our Commonwealth to get out and vote. We now have a new governor and a new era in Kentucky. An era that will be filled with new Kentucky jobs, cheaper health care costs and an era where Kentuckians will be proud of their Governor!

On behalf of the Young Republicans of Rockcastle, I want to thank everyone; no matter who you voted for, for taking time to vote. The simple act of going and pushing those buttons at the polls means so much. It means you are concerned about your community and are willing to do something about it.

I also want to add how exciting it is that our state overwhelmingly decided to send Ernie Fletcher to the Governor's office. He is an extraordinary leader and I truly believe he is going to make Kentucky proud. He is a man of character and compassion and we are extremely lucky to have him as our next Governor. The words to our state song, "The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky Home" will truly have new meaning.

Again, thank you to everyone that got out and voted on Tuesday. Better days are ahead of us under the leadership of Ernie Fletcher! God bless.

Sincerely,
Travis T. Burton
Rockcastle County
Young Republican Chairman

Dear Editor,

I operate the Rock of Ages Mission in Brodhead. It is Saturday, November 1 and I just read an article in today's Lexington Herald. It says: "Report: Hunger grows in the U.S." It states that last year alone, 3.8 million families were hungry to the point where someone in the household skipped meals because they couldn't afford them. It further says that one or more children, in an estimated 265,000 families, on occasion missed meals last year because the families either couldn't afford to eat or didn't have enough food at home.

This is why we need financial support from the public. We feed families all year long, 365 days a year, not only for the holidays. We still need a lot of help to purchase canned hams for Christmas baskets and other

(Cont. to A-7)

Points East

By: Ike Adams

"Christmas Time! Christmasss T y y y y y y. m m m m m m e ! Christmasssssssssstiyyummme! (God knows I wish I could pen the music along with the lyrics so your piano-lesson-taking kid could plunk it out there on the ivories) but you know the song and you know that its like an approphodesic that makes women all over the country go to spending money like it grows on trees instead of having any interest in snuggling up with those of us of the male persuasion.

Just this morning, my wife, Loretta, left home wayyy before dawn to catch a tour bus, along with my normally, sensible daughter, Jennifer, who teaches ABCs, and 1,2,3's and life values to innocent first graders here in Garrard County, and they took off with a huge bunch of other women to visit shopping centers in Tennessee with the single goal of shopping until they dropped. Turns out most of the tour group consisted of teachers, including principals, who are on Fall Break and apparently long-johns for the hubbies are cheap in Tennessee.

I dunno and I don't worry much about it. I don't have a thing in the world against the girls ganging up and taking some time off, but an 18 hour road trip on a bus is much more punishing than anything I'd sign up for even if I was a young man and played on the UK Football team. Anyway, when Loretta and Jennifer read this is the paper, I can pretty much write off anything they may have purchased and wrapped for me. I'd rather buy my own socks anyway even though Jennifer does have great taste in shirts---

Christmas shopping. Get them early bargains and those socks and drawers in exactly the right color as if we men know the difference. Run to the Fishing Tackle, Golf Stores, or Dawhares and buy us a bunch of stuff that don't catch fish and has no place in our tackle box, balls we couldn't shoot ten yards with a cannon, or get us a sweater, way to small, or some silk boxer shorts (you gotta be kidding).

It's not even Thanksgiving here in Paint Lick. The jack-o-lantern is still out in the front yard and the mums are still blooming. There's no sign of a turkey on the premises and the only hint we have of Thanksgiving is the sage and parsley and rosemary that may, eventually, become seasoning stuffing, thriving in my herb bed.

But I digress.

Ladies, if you missed the bus trips to Tennessee, and they seem to be the thing this year, , I have wonderful news. I have, along with various accessories, several of which were well-meant Christmas presents in the past, a bass-boat, which, with a bit of waxing could look just like new. I paid $7,000 (basement price from a guy who had clear title but had to leave the cash right then) for it about 4 years ago and I've actually had it on the water nearly a dozen times since I bought it. In the meantime, I've spend over $700 for a new carpet, more than $500 for a new propeller, more than $200 for new batteries, and I even received a vinyl cover for Christmas a few years back that cost over $400. This summer the trailer started rusting and my best friend, Ralph King over there on Bobtown Stretch in Madison County, just dumped the boat in his big pond and we spent three days each, sanding down the trailer and repainting it. (The paint --10 cans @ 18 bucks) only cost $180 plus tax and it sure looks nice and Ralph swears that our time and effort would cost $1,500 at any body shop in the country) And did I mention new depthfinder?? 92 model, 115 HP Merc so fast it that will scare you on a 19 foot Stratos and you can park it under the tree if you put the tree out in the garage and make about 25 feet of room.

I could go on all night, but this boat could make your husband happy and even keep him out of the house for days at a time.

Bottom line is that I have over $10,000 invested in this baby and, while it has been a great yard ornament, I'd be willing to part with it for half that. Actually, if I don't get rid of if before Christmas, Loretta is gonna be hurting for underwear come the new year.

LOST DOG

A black Lab/Rottweiler mix is missing from the home of Barbara Collins on Hwy. 150.

The dog, who answers to the name Blackie, has been gone about two weeks and the family would appreciate any information as to his whereabouts.

If you have seen the dog wor know where he is, please call 758-0036.

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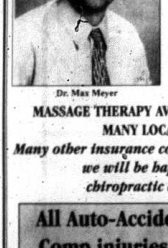

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"It is Written"

In Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, and in Rev 4-5 are three great texts. What they have in common, is that they are throne scenes of God. In Isaiah's day the threat was the Assyrians. In Ezekiel's day it was the Babylonian threat, and in John's day it was the Roman threat. But the lesson to learn from all 3 texts is that God is on the throne. He is in control and He is bigger than any dominating power the world may have. No matter what the devil may hurl at the people of God, we have nothing to fear, for God is on the throne. *"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."* Heb 13:6. Jesus said it this way, *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* Matt 10:28. Governments and men can beat, mock, persecute, imprison, torture, yea even take the life of a Christian, but that is all they can do. They **cannot kill the soul!** The blessings of a relationship with the one on the throne, assures us that his promises will come to pass. It is so important to see by the eyes if faith, that God is in control. Thanks be to God for these great chapters, so we can know and understand. Yet how much more glorious will it be to see for ourselves God on the throne in person. But we must serve and follow Jesus Christ the Son of God. Are you serving Christ? If we can help you in a study of the Bible, contact us

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