Points East

By: Ike Adams

I'm sitting at the keyboard tickling the alphabet, tapping my toes and wondering who in the world came up with this confounding configuration in the first place and why. I mean you have your numbers right there on the top row in perfect order, 1, 2, 3 and all the way up to nine which makes perfect sense so far and then you drop down to the alphabet which occupies the next rows of keys and it logically follows that the top row should begin A, B, C, D, E, F, G, etc and wind up with Z somewhere down the line.

Bear with me because I entertain a bunch of readers who never saw a standard typewriter keyboard up closer than 6 feet, certainly never touched one and never will because they don't want to, but they still send remarkably articulate and oftentimes prosaic letters in the mail that normally make perfect sense--- in handwriting that is not only legible, but also akin to the calligraphy employed by the framers of the U. S. Constitution.

So don't be telling my favorite and most devoted readers that there is some sense to be made of starting the alphabet on a keyboard; Q, W, E, R, T, Y, U, I, O, P. There's no sense in pointing out that the next row is even more confusing---A, S, D, F, G, H, J, K, L and that it gets even worse on the bottom row; need I say Z, X, C, B, N, M???

Bottom line is that the guy who invented the typewriter could count but he'd never learned his ABCs in any order but he must have been in love with the letter Q and wanted the world to know that he was a bit queer himself but didn't quite know how to spell it. So he just put the thing together and stuck letters and symbols on the keys at random, got a patent and presto; introduced Typing 1 into every high school and secretary-training center in the world.

The confusing thing to me is that we still teach kindergarten kids to memorize the alphabet in the same old order (A, B, C, D, E, F, G etc.) and try to teach them to use computer keyboards at the same time. Ain't it about time that we adjusted the jingle to the way we really use it. Sing along with me, hmmmmmn, here we go, " Q,W,E,R,T (pause) Y, U, I,O,P (pause) A, S, D, F, G, H, K, (pause) L and a Z;X,C,B, N, Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm.

Hooray, Hooray!! We did it kids!!! Not quite as smooth as the original version but we can make it work and it would be nearly perfect if we could only dump that stupid N out of the last stanza, but at least we are getting closer to having our minds set to the keyboard and avoiding all the confusion and contradictions the teachers put us through. In fact, I just heard that there's a job opening in the cafeteria.

Let the kindergarten teacher and the typing teacher draw straws to see who gets it.

In the meantime, it's Thanksgiving and I have three turkeys. And I mean fully dressed, top quality, frozen turkeys ready for the oven as soon as you thaw them out and take out those bags of giblets stuffed in their torsos. Which brings up an interesting question for all you undertakers out there---When we kick the bucket and you dress us out, where do you put our giblets? I don't really care, but I've always wanted to know, just out of curiosity.

Anyway Loretta literally dragged me off the couch late this evening, insisting that if we were to feed the family turkey and all that other stuff on Thanksgiving Day, then we had to do some serious shopping to do and off we headed to the Winn Dixie store in Richmond. A flyer inside the store suggested that if you bought over $75 in other groceries, then you got a Winn Dixie Turkey in the 10 to 16 pound range for free and Happy Thanksgiving!

However, the turkey I decided appropriate, if not absolutely necessary, for our table weighed more than 30 pounds and the wrapper on it's carcass suggested that it just might be a cut above the rest if, in fact, it was not the best and biggest bird in the store. So we hoisted it into the shopping cart and went on about our business gathering up pie shells and such until it occurred to me that if we spent 75 bucks we got a free turkey, however inadequate it might be for Thanksgiving because a free 12 to 16 pound turkey is not a deal you sneeze at.

Thirty minutes later it became obvious that, even using our special customer discount cards, we were approaching the $200 mark and this did not include beer, of which Loretta does not approve nor partake but which they sell at huge discounts if you purchase a 30-can case and how can you pass up a deal like that even though I had to?

Bottom line, After a bit of negotiating at the check out line and nearly $200 changing hands, we wound up with two free 16 pound turkeys in addition to the big fom we will begin roasting well before dawn on Thanksgiving Day.

I'm thinking that I will roast up one of the little birds and take it over to Wayne's Music Hall on Nina Ridge here in Garrard County on Saturday Night, November 28 and just set it out on the table along with the soup beans and corn bread until it's all gone and I figure can rescue my skillet.

Wayne's Music Hall is a simple celebration of old time Gospel and Bluegrass picking and grinning twice a month here in Garrard County: NO ADMISSION CHARGE. NO DRINKING ALCOHOL. It's just the best place to bring your acoustic musical instrument and listen to fine music if you can't bark with the big dogs. Somebody passes a hat around to take up a collection to pay the power and maintenance bill and the rest just takes care of itself. I intend to be there this coming (November 28th) Saturday night with my guitar even though I may never get up a nerve to take it out of the case.

Get to Wayne's by taking 1131 off 1295. It'll be a left if you are coming from Garrard County off 52 onto 1295 then left again onto 1131. A right if you are coming from Madison County off 52 onto 1295 then right onto 1131. Then about three miles out the ridge and on your left. Call me if the directions are confusing (859-925-2105) or email me ikeadams@aol.com

T.J.'s Journal

by: Tonya J. Cook

"May I have your attention, please? All customers are to bring their purchases to the checkout immediately. The store will be closing in approximately fifteen minutes. President John F. Kennedy has been killed by assassination in Dallas, Texas."

This was the harsh reality that blared from the speaker system of the Ben Franklin's Five and Ten Cent Store where I shopped with my Mom and Grandma that fall day forty years ago this past week. I wasn't even in school yet, but I could sense that something very bad had happened. Little did I know that it was not only the end of "Camelot" but it was the end of the innocence in America. That was the day that marked the radical change that seems commonplace today. America isn't shocked by anything, anymore. Our conscience has been seared to the point that even as horrific and tragic as the World Trade Center attack was, it wasn't as shocking as the death of John F. Kennedy. You would have had to experience life "ante-assassination" to know the difference. I've witnessed both events and can compare the two.

November twenty second, nineteen sixty-three was a day that I'll never forget. It was cool and rainy, and thick dark clouds hung over Kentucky as soon it would hang over all America. Mom, Grandma, and I had a day of shopping ahead, and were being chauffeured by my uncle. We stopped at Mrs. Frye's Beauty Shop in London at about ten o'clock and had a makeover, and then went on to Corbin to shop. We had already gone to one or more stores before ending up at the Five and Dime where we heard the tragic news. This was the pre-Wal-Mart era.

We hurriedly checked out and took our merchandise to the car where my uncle was waiting. We told him what we had heard, and he turned on the car's radio. The broadcast stayed on until we got back home at London, where we found my Grandpa already watching the news on TV. This was the same Grandpa whose ancestors invented the Democratic Party, so this made it even worse on our family.

The assassination was the only topic of conversation wherever you went for several weeks. I was almost five years old and was doing a lot of thinking but nobody was interested in a child's opinion at a time like this. I was remembering all of those political rally speeches and State-of-the Union addresses, and others that JFK had given which are now a piece of history. I thought he was just about the most dull and uninteresting person alive. I couldn't understand anything he was discussing. (I still have problems understanding what the Presidents are discussing.) Second to JFK in being dull was Walter Cronkite who I had to listen to every night at six-thirty with the evening news. "And that's the way it is..."

During the three days just before the funeral this nation came to a virtual standstill in respect for the President. The whole nation was in shock and grief. The day of the funeral finally came. Our whole family gathered at my grandparent's house to watch a black-and-white TV in the living room projecting the images that are indelibly marked on America's mind: the flag-draped casket pulled by two black horses, little John-John giving his father a final salute, and Jackie Kennedy leading two small children. Everyone was commenting about how brave she was and how she never shed a tear in public. That wasn't the case for many others in America. I remember tears running down the cheeks of grown men, even Walter Cronkite wrestled with a lump in his throat on several occasions.

Where was I during all of this? I was viewing these images from the dining room, which adjoined the living room while sitting under a huge cherry table peeping from under a long lace tablecloth. I was given a coloring book and Crayons to amuse myself during this chapter of American history. So, while America mourned, I chewed on purple and yellow Crayons under my Grandma's table. When the funeral concluded, my mother had a fun time cleaning Crayons out of her daughter's teeth. I had a colorful smile.

Someone noted a few days ago, that I often write about things that I remember. I'll admit it. I'm guilty. I like to reminisce. I'm sure there are a lot of others who are about my age and older who do, too. We can remember what happened twenty-five years ago better than remembering what we had for supper last night. For those who are younger, now is the time to make fond memories for tomorrow. So here's to happy memories and a memorable Thanksgiving for us all. "May God bless us, every one."

note
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Editor's Note: Letters are typed and printed as received. The *Signal* reserves the right to reject any and all letters.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

First of all, I would like to say a big Thank You for printing letters for the Rock of Ages Mission. I am really excited about the Shae-A-Thon, it will begin Dec. 1 and run until everyone on our list has a gift and meal for Christmas. I would like everyone to remember that we will accept hams on turkeys, any food items to go with a Christmas meal, a gift for men, women and children. Any gift given may be used as long as it is in good condition. All donated items may be picked up for your convenience.

We have a lot of names on our list of people in need and thanks to all the generous folks out there, we will be able to give to all with your help.

God bless you all! My prayer is that your all have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving. I thank God for His love and for all of you who care for others.

Sincerely,
Kathy Bretz
c/o Rock of Ages Mission
P.O. Box 490, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456
758-4203 or 758-8546

Dear Editor,

This letter is to thank everyone who helped the Rock of Ages Mission this past year. We opened the mission last November and because of people who cared enough to share with others, we were able to give food, furniture and clothing to well over 1,000 people in need.

Below is a list of people and businesses we would like to thank. If we left anyone out, we apologize and thank you for giving. The most important one is God the Father - Jesus the Son - and the Holy Spirit, without them there would be no mission.

We also thank The Mt. Vernon Signal, Sky Bound Ministries, Shelbyville, Ky., God's helping Hands, Somerset, WRVK Radio, Taylor's Furniture for hauling toys for Christmas last year, Young's Pharmacy, Shop Rite, IGA-Brodhead, Jack's Hardware, Rose's One Stop, Kwik Start, Hiatt's, Laurel Cookies, Heavenly Helpers, Christian Appalachian Project, WWAG-Jackson Co., Jackson Co. Sun, Jackson Co. Times, Jackson Co. Kiwanis Club, Mt. Vernon Elementary School, Carter's Market, Food World, W. Brodhead Church of God, Faith Harvest Fellowship, First Christian Church - Mt. Vernon, Flat Rock Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon Printing, Community House, King of Kings Radio - Somerset, The Seeher Paper (Christie Miller for donating a van to the Rock of Ages), Town and country, Ercel Cromer, Natasha Mason, Mrs. Bustle, David Ott, Edith Lunsford, James and Kate Baldwin, Ed Booth, Irene Benge, Jr. and Pat Gray, Amy Gray, Rep. Danny Ford, George and Betty Lou York, Mayor of Crab Orchard, Billy Adams, Joy Burke, who donated a mobile home to the Rock of Ages.

God Bless all of you for your kindnesses.

Sincerely,
James and Kathy Bretz
c/o Rock of Ages Mission
P.O. Box 490, Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456
758-4203

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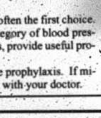
Preventing Migraines

Presented by Dr. Kimberly Cornelius



Migraines can be prevented in two ways. The first is to avoid the foods, stresses and changes in life that can trigger the headaches. The other is to use a medicine prophylactically to decrease the frequency and severity of the attacks.

Foods that should be avoided include cheeses, red wines, cured meats, pickled food, alcohol and caffeine. Food additives such as nitrates and monosodium glutamate (MSG) should also be avoided.

Stresses in life, irregular dietary habits and lack of sleep or even excessive sleep can trigger migraines. A person should strive to maintain a regular routine; meals and sleep patterns should be kept consistent.

Medicines can be very useful in treating migraines. They can be used prophylactically to prevent migraines, or started at the very first sign of a headache to abort the headache. When abortive medicines are used, it is very important to start them immediately at the onset of a migraine.

Prophylactic medicines have been very popular and there are many to choose from. They are usually started if the frequency of the headaches and their effect on your daily life warrant their use.

Propranolol is a blood pressure medicine that is often the first choice. It is safe and can be taken once a day. Another category of blood pressure medicines, called the calcium channel blockers, provide useful prophylactic medicines.

There are also several other choices for migraine prophylaxis. If migraines affect your life, it may be time to discuss it with your doctor.

With Our Gratitude

At this special time of year, we'd like to extend our warm wishes to you and yours for a joyous Thanksgiving celebration.

We really appreciate your loyal support.

Farm Bureau Insurance
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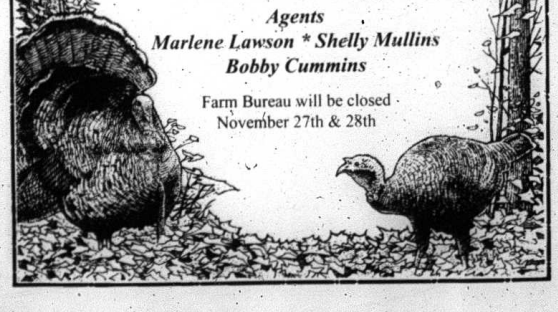
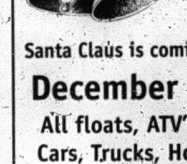
Agents
*Marlene Lawson * Shelly Mullins*
Bobby Cummins

Farm Bureau will be closed
November 27th & 28th





Brodhead Christmas Parade

Santa Claus is coming to Brodhead on
December 6 • 3 p.m.
All floats, ATV's, Motorcycles, Cars, Trucks, Horses & Wagons are welcome

For more information, contact Larry Taylor at Taylor's Produce, 758-8221 or Victoria Dunn, 606-355-2971 after 5 p.m.