



Several years ago, just after Thanksgiving, I was in a fit of needing to waste money. I was in a discount store and they had these so-called heavy-gauge, wire "sculptures" of reindeer and snowmen and Christmas trees, and Santa Claus and elves and sleighs on sale for like 25 bucks per separate item. What they really wanted you to do was to spend \$500 or so to get the entire ensemble and spend the week-end assembling it in your front yard so you'd look really cool when it was all lit up in the weeks before Christmas. Everybody who drove by your house out there on the main road would jam on the brakes and stop and take pictures and say stuff like, "Them Adamses sure know how to decorate. Man!!! Would you look at that!!"

And one of these days, I'm gonna do it but this is not it.

Anyway, somebody had brought back in a still-wire, sculptured reindeer that didn't function correctly. You're supposed to be able to make them look like they are pawing and grazing and so forth and if you set the Santa up just right you can make him look aggravated because the reindeer ain't taking the job as seriously as they ought to be.

And Heaven knows that the last thing on earth you need is a reindeer that you can't easily bend into shape.

when you are involved in a major Christmas yard sculpture.

And there he lay, scrunched-up, contorted, mashed and awkwardly crammed back into his cardboard shipping box, head twisted such that it was obvious that his neck was broken and his antlers all asunder—a more pitiful sight you have never seen.

"How much?" I asked the sales clerk there at the checkout counter as I paid for film and camera batteries and pointed toward his carcass there in the garden section of the store where you can always sneak out when the regular aisles are backed up.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

Your job... How would you like to lose your job for fighting off to place of employment and go back in just to find out you've been fired. Well, that's what's happened to one of our greatest city cops... Jim Thatcher.

Let me ask you all one question. A cop can fight, and even shoot you if you're resisting arrest but, if a cop is off duty, can he 't live a life. How

way beyond your patience.

"Oh that's not for sale," she said. "That's a return we have to send back to the factory and we're so busy I didn't have time to get it out of the way. It actually goes with a set."

"Don't suppose you'd like to sell it the way it is cause I'm handy and I like to fix stuff up?"

"Let me call the manager," she suggested, and after a brief conversation we agreed that the return value was around five bucks for an item that weighed nearly 20 pounds, that it was not returnable, that the transaction had to be cash, that I got no receipt and that they would report me to the FBI if I showed back up complaining about the quality.

Fair Enough. And all over this world tonight there are show-stopping, magnificently displayed wire sculpture scenes of Santa and the deer and elves, each illuminated in bright, white, sparkling lights and people are crashing vehicles into each other to take photos of them and go oooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo and ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

But if they look closely, sooner or

(Cont. to A-9)

unfair is that? Everyone knows that we are all human and yes, each and everyone of us has lost our temper at one time or another in our life. So let the man have his job back. We all know he's 100% cop. He does his job and, as far as I'm concerned, he did it very well. I know most of you think this guy isn't anything but a kiss up. No, it's not. It's just that I've never done anything wrong for them to disrespect me, so I don't disrespect them. Everyone knows that the only reason you don't like a cop is because they're doing their job. If you're not doing anything wrong, then you won't have a problem with the cops.

I end this letter saying the city police has already lost the most respected cop a while before Jim lost his job. So let's not lose the last one. And one last thing, Jim's been in this county a lot longer than the new Chief so I'm sure he knows his limits.

Jessica McWhorter

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



Let's Journal

Brrrr! We got our first real taste of winter this past week. I had forgotten about how cold I could get, about scraping off the car before going for a drive, and putting on enough clothes to break down a pack-mule just to walk down to the mailbox. The hot, sweltering days of summer are now only a distant memory. Just between you and me, I like the cold bleakness of winter better. I've found you can always get warm... somehow. Trying to stay cool is altogether a different story. On particularly hot days, I've been known to take as many as four or five showers just to stay cool, which is ridiculous by anybody's standards.

This is the time of year that the old-timers would be making extra trips to the woodshed to get wood to fire up the old woodburner or fireplace. This also acted as fuel for cooking the family's meals. They also made a few trips to the woodshed to take naughty children, so I've been told. By the time I came along, the woodshed had been outdated. Thankfully, spankings had not. I was talking with a friend of mine just the other day who is almost eighty years old, and she could remember being spanked from time to time for being naughty. I remembered this as well, and we both lived to tell about it, and even were thankful for the correction. No, spanking is not a form of child abuse in my book if done within limits.

Today, spanking children has gone "out of style." It has been out of style for about the last twenty years or so, for the most part. It has reaped its rewards. Now we have children who kill their parents, classmates, and even innocent bystanders in drive-by shootings. These kids also commit crimes that were usually associated with adults such as car theft, assault, rape, arson, drug-trafficking, and the list continues. All of this has brought about a new type of facility other than an old fashioned jail. It's a juvenile detention center.

I remember being corrected as a child at home with a leather belt, switch, or the palm of a hand. When you're corrected at home in this fashion as many of us were, you know

how to act when you get out in public. This cuts down on spanking at school and temper tantrums in restaurants and stores. I never had to be spanked in public. (I grew up when you could spank a child in public, and not have to worry about being arrested.) My mom had a stare for public functions, too. She could throw that certain look my direction, and I would stop right in my tracks. People would think I was almost holy. It wasn't just an average look. That thing could humble Saddam Hussein or pierce steel.

I never had a spanking in school, either. I was taught how to act before I got there. I understand they don't have spankings anymore in school. From time to time, I drive past signs in people's yards or see a bumper sticker which promote the Ten Commandments in school. Whatever happened to spanking in school? It's not a commandment, but whatever happened to the old cliché: "Spare the

rod, and spoil the child," or "He that spareth his rod hateth his son..." (Proverbs 13:24) I say we bring back a moderate amount of spanking in school as well as the home, to be done within limits. Let's teach the Ten Commandments at home. If we taught the Ten Commandments at home as well as practiced them, there wouldn't be such a need for them in school. People want to bring prayer back to school, also. Let's be honest. How often do we pray with our children at home? What do we expect of our educators, anyway? To teach our children reading, writing, "rhetoric," and religion, too? This is why we have a separation of church and state. Some things need to be taught as well as practiced at home.

One of the best teachers is that of example. What kind of example do we set for our children and those around us? I think we have some wonderful children who need little correction, and are a delight. Some people are doing a wonderful job in setting a good example. If we as a society could only set a good example for each other, maybe everybody at a whole could be inspired to improve.

Email News to
mvsignal@sun-spot.com

Medicines can help you stop smoking

Presented by: Dr. Michael Hamilton

It's always nice to have some help with a difficult task—such as quitting smoking. Now there are some medicines which can help you quit.

Nicotine patches and nicotine gum are treatments that can help you get through that difficult period. The patch is most helpful for people who are physically addicted to nicotine, that is, people who will have withdrawal symptoms when they quit. The nicotine is absorbed slowly through the skin and satisfies the craving for a cigarette.

Studies have shown an improvement in stopping smoking with the patches if they are used properly and a person attends smoking-cessation classes or follows up with his doctor. They have not been particularly successful when they are not used in conjunction with the classes.

The patch is normally used for a couple months on a schedule of declining dosages and then stopped. It must be used with caution in people with heart disease, ulcers, or who are pregnant. Recently an antidepressant called bupropion has been used to help limit the craving for nicotine when a person quits. It also decreases the withdrawal symptoms from nicotine. By reducing the withdrawal symptoms, it makes stopping easier.

Clonidine is an older medicine that has been used successfully in reducing the symptoms of withdrawal. This medicine can be used as either a pill or preferably as a long-acting patch. It appears to be more effective in women than men, is not addictive and has few side effects.

Consult with your doctor if you believe that these medicines may be helpful to you.

Mount Vernon Signal

Publication Number 366-000

Periodical Postage Paid in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456

606-256-2244

Published every Thursday since November, 1887. Offices in the Mt. Vernon Signal Building on Main Street in Mt. Vernon, Ky. 40456. Postmaster, send address changes to P.O. Box 185, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40456.

James Anderson, Jr., Publisher Emeritus; Richard F. Anderson, Editor

Perline M. Anderson, Managing Editor

Paige Benge, Advertising Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Country - \$16.75 Yr. Out-of-Country In State - \$21.75 Yr.

Out-of-State \$30.00 Yr.

e-mail address - mvsignal@sun-spot.com

Important -- Read All About It!!

Dear Santa,

Last week, we wrote you and your elves a letter.

There was a slight mistake made. We announced the parade being held at 1 p.m. and the correct time is 3 p.m. in downtown Brodhead with parade line-up beginning at 2 p.m. at Brodhead Elementary School. Judging will be done during the parade. Homes and business will be judged on December 5, 2003. Announcement of all homes, businesses, float winners will be announced at 4 p.m. at the fire station.

Santa, please remind everyone who is participating in the Mt. Vernon parade to please join our parade at 3 p.m. We would love to have their participation. Tell everyone we will be looking for fire trucks,

floats, cars, trucks, ATVs, motorcycles, horses, wagons, carriages, band playing, cheerleaders cheering, church choirs caroling, ball teams yelling. We will also be looking for everyone to be at the parade.

Santa will be bringing lots of candy for the kiddies and lots of love for the adults.

If you have any questions, please call "Santa's Hotline" and ask for Victoria at 606-355-2971 or Larry at 606-758-8221 or City Hall 606-758-8635.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good nite!

Happy Holidays!!

Holiday Specials at Hiatt's 5&10

Christmas Gift Wrap Reg. 2 ⁹⁹ 100 sq. ft. 1⁹⁹	Light Set 100 Light End to End Reg. 2 ⁹⁹ 100 sq. ft. 1⁹⁹	Votive Candles 15 hr. scented votives 4/\$1
Jumbo Christmas Coloring Books Reg. 1 ⁷⁹ 100 sq. ft. 1⁰⁰	Christmas Flat Gift Wrap Reg. 2 ⁹⁹ 100 sq. ft. 1⁹⁹	Scotch Tape 1/2" x 90" 2/\$1
Cookie Cutters in Christmas Shapes 3/\$1	Gift Bags Med. Size 2/\$1	Gift Tags 50 count 2/\$1
All Christmas Cards Based on Customer Cash Discounted	Gift Boxes Robe or Shirt Size Reg. 1 ⁰⁹ 1⁰⁹	Large Gift Bag Only 69¢
Luxury Bows 55 Count Reg. 3 ⁹⁹ 1⁹⁹	30" Flattop Guitar Steel Strings Reg. 31 ⁹⁹ 21⁹⁵	
Main St. Mt. Vernon		606-256-2691