

# ramblings...

by: perlina anderkin

Just like everyone else in the county, I was saddened to learn that Cox Hardware was about to be closing. I understand completely Martha's reasoning -- after all, she is getting up there.

But, it's always hard to sunder ties with what has been such a huge part of your life for so many years. I speak from personal experience.

I will especially miss the coal stove that everytime I entered the store, brought back memories of my childhood.

We heated our house with a Warm Morning coal stove for many years and I just about wiped myself out one night by being careless around it.

I was around 10 at the time and sitting next to the stove, warming up before going to bed. I had my nightgown pulled down over my legs and was sitting in a straight back chair, rocking it back and forth as children are prone to do. I lost control of it on a forward rock and couldn't get my feet out of my nightgown in time to stop my forward momentum and plowed into the stove, face first.

Looking back, I can't believe that more damage wasn't done. The highpoints on my face, my cheeks, my nose, my forehead and my chin were all burned pretty badly but whatever the doctor, who came out to minister to me that night, put on the burns, I healed without scars.

But even with that memory, my good memo-

ries of the old Warm Morning outweigh that one bad one. I would stand behind it and dress each morning for school -- it was the warmest place in the house. I can still see my father shaking down and carrying out the ashes -- the ones Mom didn't keep to make lye soap. There was also one corner of the wall behind the stove, made by the flue, where for some reason Mom would let me write on the wallpaper. Looking back, I guess she let me write there because we didn't have extra paper lying around and she knew I liked to express myself in that style even then.

It will be a major adjustment for Martha and one I don't envy her. She's a fixture around town and the major adjustment will probably be on the part of other occupants of Main Street, in missing her always cheerful demeanor.



## The Way I See it

By  
Doug Ponder

One of Mt. Vernon's oldest family-owned businesses closed its doors last Thursday after being open since 1907.

Owner Martha Cox decided to close Cox Hardware on Main Street in Mt. Vernon decided to close the store because, she said, our society has changed since the store's opening and she

believed the store had outlived their customer base.

I understand Martha's reasoning but I must admit that I was still saddened when I heard the news about the store's closing.

When I went with Martha to take some pictures inside the store, we reminisced about the "good ole days" and she shared some of her most cherished memories about the store. I was intrigued by her stories as I have always been a history buff, especially when it comes to Rockcastle County's history.

A lot of her stories were memories of a simpler time decades ago. A time when the main streets of Mt. Vernon, Livingston and Brodhead were filled with "mom and pop" stores that were similar to Cox Hardware.

Many of you might find it hard to believe but one of the most troublesome things that I've had to overcome in my life is the fact that I was not born and raised in the "good ole days" that Martha shared with me during our photo op. Very few people in my generation had the chance to experience the streets filled with "mom and pop" stores that we hear described by people around forty years or older.

I believe the reason these changes happened is because sometime during our society's history, a moral and social decay started to occur. Large business corporations like Wal-Mart started opening new stores in every state, spreading through the country like a plague forcing many "mom and pop" stores to close their doors.

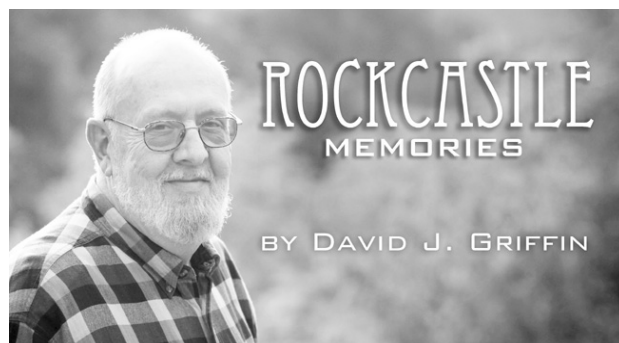
When I talk to people who have never heard of Rockcastle County before, the first description I give to them is "We are the only county in Kentucky on I-75 that doesn't have a Wal-Mart."

After they chuckle at my description, they always ask me why our county doesn't have a Wal-Mart since we have one of the country's major interstate systems running right down the middle of our county. They ask me if it's because our county is economically underdeveloped or maybe because our county's population can't support a Wal-Mart. While these reasons may hold some truth, I still don't believe it's the main reason.

I believe the main reason why Rockcastle County doesn't have a Wal-Mart is simply because the majority of its citizens and small businesses don't want something that will force a lot of our "mom and pop" stores to close their doors.

The majority of our small

(Cont. to A4)



## ROCKCASTLE MEMORIES

BY DAVID J. GRIFFIN

### "Dry Ice"

When I was a junior at Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS), my favorite class was chemistry, which was taught by Mr. "Tuck" Baker. I was always pretty good at math, and chemistry is really a math/science class, so chemistry seemed easy to me. I enjoyed it so much that I got my BS degree in chemistry and biology and spent the next 38 years teaching the subject.

One of the reasons that I loved chemistry in high school was the unique laboratory exercises that we performed in class. The most memorable lab that Mr. Baker exposed us to was the

study of frozen carbon dioxide, called "dry ice." One day as we entered the classroom, we could see a large container sitting on his demonstration table in the front of the room. Escaping from that bowl was a mysterious white vapor, and it immediately caught the attention of all of us.

When class commenced, Mr. Baker explained, "Dry Ice is frozen carbon dioxide, which is a normal part of our earth's atmosphere." We had previously learned in Mrs. Dorothy Landrum's biology class that carbon dioxide is the gas that we normally exhale during breathing as well as the gas that plants use in the process of photosynthesis, so we were familiar with its general use. It is

(Cont. to A4)

## Points East

By Ike Adams



There's a bunch of journalists and broadcast personality types who have been running around since Groundhog Day trying to find people who have already planted their peas.

I had two big city papers, two television stations and a woman from NPR ring me up in February to see if I'd planted mine. And, to be honest, even I called brother Keeter to check because I figured that if anybody was crazy enough to plant peas in February, it would be my little brother.

Keeter said he'd thought about it but water was still running out of the dryland crawdad holes in his pea patch and he didn't know when it might get dry enough to garden. But he assured me that L. C. Adams had planted a big patch in the head of Blair Branch.

Keeter said, "You know L.C. goes to bed way before dark so I figure if I get to craving an early mess, I'll just sneak up there and grade what he's got growing."

When Keeter and I and some other fellows on Blair Branch were growing up, we learned to "grade" certain watermelon patches by the light of the moon. We got shot at a few times too.

Anyway, if my Mom was still alive and well enough to crawl, you could bet your last nickel that she would have a row of snap peas planted on or before Valentine's Day. She simply thought it was good luck. She'd usually have a lettuce bed sowed, too, with some onion sets stuck around its border because anybody knows that a pot of peas

(Cont. to A4)

Absolute  
ESTATE  
Auction

of the late  
Mr. Billy Hiatt's

## Antiques, Collectibles & Personal Property

Saturday, March 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Red Barn, I-75, Exit 62 - Renfro Valley, KY

Location: This auction will take place at the Red Barn in Renfro Valley. An auction sign is posted. In order to settle the estate of the Late Mr. Billy Hiatt, his children, Willie and Leigh Anne, have authorized our firm to sell his antiques, collectibles and personal property for the absolute high dollar.

The following items are only a partial list of what will be selling...

**Vehicle:** 2001 Ranger 4WD (white)

**Furniture:** Hard rock Maple Breakfast set (with 4 chairs) ~ Hoosier Oak Cabinet ~ Bassett Sofa ~ Hard rock Maple Drop-leaf End Tables ~ old Oak School Desk ~ Foot Stool ~ Pair of Brass table lamps ~ Green Swivel Rocker ~ Cherry Dining room Table with 6 Chairs (Windsor style) ~ Pennsylvania China Cabinet ~ Tell City Cherry Corner Cupboard, glass front ~ Cherry Record Cabinet ~ Maple Book Shelves ~ Maple Corner Desk and Chair ~ West Minister Oak Clock ~ Fairfield Sofa ~ Cherry Coffee and End Tables ~ Fairfield Wingback Chairs with Queen Anne legs ~ Hall table ~ Cherry Corner Cupboard, glass front ~ large Bevel-edged wall Mirror ~ Maple night stand ~ Bookshelves ~ wall mirror ~ Dresser with mirror and nightstand ~ Vanity desk with chair ~ Stratton chest of drawers ~ Square Oak table ~ wicker chair ~ wicker table ~ Seth Thomas Mantle clock ~ Claw and Ball foot organ stool ~ Childs ladder back chairs ~ wooden High chairs ~ Star Thread Spool cabinet with spools ~ Boye needle cabinet ~ Duncan Phyfe style pedestal table ~ T. L. Blayne, Harlan, KY upholstered Sofa ~ upholstered Rocker-Recliner ~ Crosley table model Radio with turn table ~ Oak square Table with 4 chairs ~ old square Trunk.

**Prints & Quilts:** Several prints by Ray Harm including: Barn Swallow, Cardinal, KY Warble, Screech Owl, Eagle, Tonce ~ Damask Rose Prints ~ several flower prints ~ Handmade Quilts.

**Advertisements & Memorabilia:** Stag Saloon ~ Corbin, KY" crock jug ~ metal Coca-Cola case ~ Don Ensor Baseball memorabilia ~ framed Brach's Valentine Candy sign ~ Skipper and Scooter set ~ Display case ~ Toledo candy scales ~ Record albums including: Elvis, L. Webb, Burt Bacharach and much more ~ old 45 RPM records.

**Glassware, Lamps & Miscellaneous:** Roseville pitcher ~ Fostoria ~ Hobnail Fenton Vase ~ Milk glass Vases ~ Brass Lamps ~ Propane lamp ~ Hen on Nests ~ David Treadle Sewing Machine ~ wall crank telephone ~ Samsung DVD/VHS player ~ Cast iron Teapot ~ Cast Iron footed pot #7N ~ 3 gallon Crock ~ 1 gallon Crock ~ assortment of odds 'n ends glassware, cookware and utensils ~ Gean Lunsford, Berea, KY 1974 Minerva China ~ New Home Singer sewing machine table ~ wooden Churn with dasher ~ Yale pitcher ~ Ruby red Candle sticks ~ Pigeon Blood stemmed glasses ~ Sewing machine base table ~ Estate Washing machine H.D. Super capacity ~ Whirlpool large capacity Dryer ~ Tom's Peanut jars ~ Square County Store jar ~ Velvet tobacco jar ~ Crock milk pitcher ~ pressure cooker ~ bathroom scales ~ globe ~ dormitory refrigerator ~ 2 tricycles ~ stove storage jars ~ Wood bird carvings ~ File cabinet ~ large Rolling pin ~ butter dish ~ shaving strap ~ kerosene wall lamp ~ granite cooker ~ square store jars ~ Memorial wreath/sign ~ several lanterns ~ old Cash Registers from Hiatt's 5 & 10 ~ Hiatt's 5 & 10 original candy case ~ old school desks ~ wash board ~ Schwinn unicycle ~ old display cycle case ~ Pewter pieces ~ #4 Crock cookie jar ~ crock jugs ~ old Egg Baskets ~ small Cast Iron laundry stove ~ coffee mill ~ spinning wheel ~ 3 gallon Churn ~ Brass floor lamp ~ Top Hats ~ Crock bowls ~ assortments of books ~ Baskets ~ Kitchen utensils ~ Bellows ~ lye soap paddles ~ cookie jar ~ T.V. stand ~ meat platter ~ Sony T.V. ~ Candle snuffer ~ Cast iron Dutch Oven 12" ~ Cast Iron shoe box ~ #6 Cast Iron Coffee Pot ~ radio/record player console ~ dozens of picture frames of all sizes ~ manual type writers ~ antique coin-operated scales ~ 150 or so tomato sticks ~ antique wagon wheel with wood spokes ~ antique whetstone wheel ~ 2 dozen large bushel gourd.

**Terms:** Cash or check in full the day of the sale. MasterCard and Visa will also be accepted with a 3% processing fee (or \$3.00, whichever is greater).

**Note:** There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to the winning bid to determine the final sales price.

**Auctioneer's Note:** Mr. Hiatt was a well-known businessman and his store, Hiatt's 5 & 10, was a landmark in Mt. Vernon for many years. Mr. Hiatt carved a niche to compete with major outlets. His story was featured in many news articles and television specials. There will be several items from the store offered in this sale. This will be an all-day sale so please make plans to spend the day with us. This will be a fun auction with something for everyone!

Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

For additional information contact the selling agent or logon to www.fordbrothersinc.com.



Sam Ford - Auctioneer

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