



The Way I See it

By
Doug Ponder

Many people in the county met last Thursday night at Northside Baptist Church to seek God for a Spiritual Awakening as they prayed about the drug abuse problem in Rockcastle County.

Last Thursday night's prayer meeting was one of the first of seven meetings that will take place throughout our county within the next few weeks. The next prayer meeting is this Thursday at First Christian Church in Mt. Vernon at 7 p.m.

Each of the prayer meetings will consist of powerful messages by spiritual leaders in our community. The meetings will also include touching testimonies by recovered drug addicts and family members who have lost loved ones to drugs.

When I first heard about the PRAY4theROCK prayer meetings I was overcome with joy as this was something I had been personally praying about for a long time.

After watching the "no" campaign successfully prevent the sale of alcohol in our county last May, it was always my hope to see their same full-fledged community activism carried over to the fight against drugs. I can now wholeheartedly say that my hopes are being fulfilled and my prayers are being answered with the seven PRAY4theROCK prayer meetings.

Everyone in our county knows that we have a drug problem and those that are still in denial are only fooling themselves. But what many people tend to forget is a lot of drug users are good people who just made one huge mistake in their life.

As human beings we are all unique and have differ-

ent personalities. But there is one thing we all have in common, we all make mistakes.

After attending the prayer meeting last Thursday, I started thinking about all of the good-hearted people I know who have struggled or are currently struggling with a drug addiction.

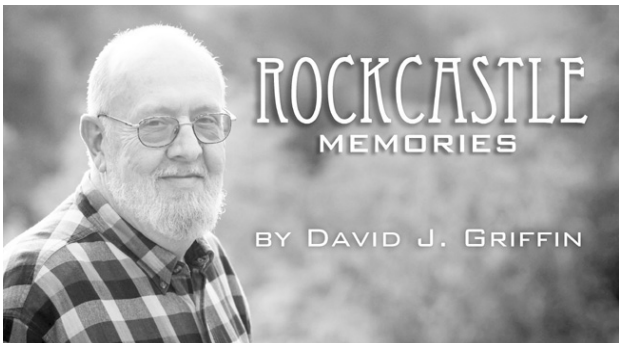
These people included some of my family, friends, former classmates and fellow church members. A lot of them also played on an athletic team for the Rockets or were heavily involved in other school clubs or activities.

But one thing they all had in common was they made that one gigantic mistake in their life by trying drugs for the first time. After experiencing their first high, many of them became instantly addicted and a lot of them would spend years trying to recreate their first high again to no avail.

All of the people I was thinking about after the prayer meeting were good people who loved those they cared about and would do anything to help them in anyway. However, their good-hearted natures and personalities would often disappear as their drug addiction would transform their lives.

Through this transformation, a lot of the drug users I was thinking about started doing things they had never done before such as stealing prescription pills, money, and other valuable objects from people in the community so they finance their habit. They would often forget about their family, friends, jobs and other things that used to be important in their lives as they were constantly focused on

(Cont. to A4)



ROCKCASTLE MEMORIES

BY DAVID J. GRIFFIN

Harmony Groups

I have always said that I was glad to be alive when rock and roll music first began in America. I am proud that I was able to see its influence on teenagers of the day. However, I must say that my musical tastes were first developed while listening to the radio in my mother's (Bee) kitchen when I was very young. She always listened to the daily news and often to vocal harmony groups that were playing on the AM dial.

Popular harmony groups filled the airways from the early 40's and achieved mainstream popularity in the 50's and 60's. Some of the groups that I remember as a very young child include: the McGuire Sisters, the Ink Spots, the Ames Brothers, the Mills Brothers, and the Ray Conniff Singers. My mother and my older brother, Al, could sing along with every one of the groups of the day. I remember Al playing Ink Spots' records on the family record player, which was a 78-rpm design. He was also a Mario Lanza fan. Lanza's biggest hit was Because You're Mine.

When I first became a teenager in 1957, my harmony group preferences were primarily groups like The Coasters, The Turbans, the Lettermen, the Drifters, and the Everly Brothers. They appeared on Top 40 radio stations all over America, and my friends and I loved to sing along with every tune.

Out of this group, my favorite became The Lettermen. By the time that I began my freshman year at UK, they became extremely popular with college students, and I was no exception. They had their beginning in 1959 producing albums that became increasingly successful. In 1963 they released my all-time favorite album of theirs, called College Standards. The group's harmonies had never been better displayed, and their respect for – and re-creation of – the sounds of '40s and '50s vocal groups made the album one for listeners of all ages. I remember playing that LP on my dorm stereo over and over until it became so scratched it was no longer playable. Some of the songs on the album included: Dream, Moments To Remember, All I Do Is Dream of You, The Halls of Ivy, I'll See You In My Dreams, and The Party's Over.

Over the years, I was fortunate enough to see The Lettermen in concert several

times. My first concert of theirs was in 1963 at Georgetown College. I recall several friends of mine at UK piled into my '63 Chevy and rode with me to this performance. It was the first concert that I attended where the audience actually stood up, moved into the isles, and danced to the wonderful melodic sounds of their most popular recordings. I still remember one girl that I had never met before pulling me into the isle and dancing with me. The guys never let me forget that evening. Some of them started calling me the "letterman" because of that incident. I have to admit it was rather exciting for a guy in my position.

I saw the Lettermen again in the 70's at Morehead State University. Once again, I was impressed with their smooth, melodic sounds. The audience remained on its feet for most of the concert. That was the first concert that I recall having the group's albums on sale in the lobby – and you know I had to make a few purchases. I replaced my worn out copy of College Standards that evening.

During the early '50s, countless harmony vocal groups began to flourish, releasing hits from the likes of the McGuire Sisters, the Ames Brothers, the Four Lads, and the Hi-Lo's. The rise of rock & roll obviously slowed the movement to some extent, but nostalgia seekers certainly had a more than sufficient numbers of shows and recordings to choose from during the 1960s and '70s. These groups found themselves performing in front of extremely appreciative audiences.

Actually, the harmony of a variety of voices melded together is a type of sound that continues throughout the generations; the only difference is that it takes on slightly different styles. My generation has heard it from bluegrass and folk to rock and soul. There is something

(Cont. to A4)

Points East

By Ike Adams



My favorite late-winter/early spring ritual, when I was growing up there in the head of Blair Branch, was burning Mom's big rock lettuce bed.

At the edge of our yard, just a few steps from the kitchen door, lay a huge sandstone boulder that weighed several hundred tons. It looked, more or less, like a wedge with one flat side down but that bottom side was buried so deeply that it was impossible to tell what it actually looked like.

Above ground it had a surface slanted at about 45 degrees that extended upward for about twenty feet and it was about fifteen feet wide. The sides and back were straight up and down and the peak or ridge was about twelve feet high.

It was simply called "the big rock" and it was a favorite place to play for my brothers and me and any kids who might be hanging out at our place. With a bit of imagination it could be a fort, a mighty sailing ship, an ancient castle, a B-52 bomber or even a mountain.

Anytime we siblings and our friends defended, sailed, flew or climbed it, we would loosen tiny grains of sand that washed off and settled at its base after every rain. Mom kept cow and chicken manure piled around the base of the big rock while still leaving plenty room for us sailors, soldiers, explorers or men of the air to have easy access to its slanted surface.

As the manure composted it also mixed with the eroding sand and formed the best potting soil I've ever seen. Mom used the mixture in several flower beds, various containers in which she started a wide variety of vegetable seedlings, and to form growing hills in her "big rock garden".

Right after supper on the first warm day, about this time every year, we'd rake all the good stuff up in a pile and out of the way so that Mom could sow her "lettuce bed". At least that's what she called it but in reality it was more of a salad bed. When seeded it would contain at least four varieties of lettuce, three different radishes, carrots and the seed for stuff that would later be transplanted to the main garden, such as cabbage, tomatoes and peppers.

The bed was six or eight feet wide and maybe fifteen feet long. The backside was formed by the base of the big rock while the front side and each end consisted of thick locust posts or wide pieces of lumber she could prop on their edges.

But before any digging, planting or siding took place, the bed had to be burned off to kill weed seed, insect eggs and larva and to make the ground more fertile.

We would head for the pasture fields and break off arm loads of dry broom

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