

Points East

By Ike Adams



Mom had an old Stromberg Carlson radio sitting on top of the Maytag refrigerator in our kitchen when I was a little boy. She had a piece of copper wire run through the kitchen window out to her steel clothes line to use for what she called an "aerial" to pick up faraway stations. We later found out that it was really called an antenna.

We could get several local daytime stations without hooking the aerial up and even a few of the big city AM stations at night when they turned their broadcast power up. WCKY from Cincinnati, WSM from Nashville, WNOX from Knoxville, WJJD from Chicago and maybe a dozen others whose call letters I don't remember and who mostly didn't play anything worth listening to.

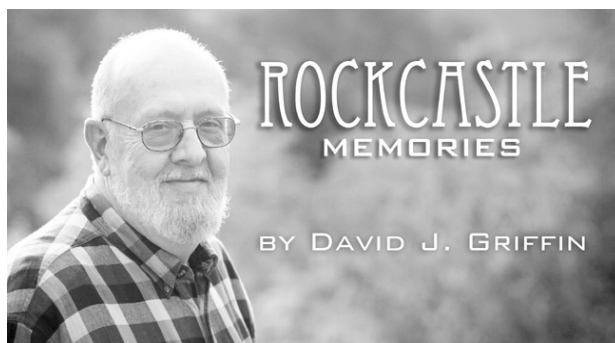
But with the aerial plugged in, we could sometimes pick up radio stations in Canada that played coun-

try music on clear nights. The Canadians liked to record and replay last week's Grand Ole Opry and it got us boys standing in kitchen chairs and reaching for the top of the appliance again because we thought that Grandpa Jones and Roy Acuff and Cousin Jody and Minnie Pearl, and Patsy Cline, And Mama Maybelle Carter had collectively hung the moon.

It was always hit or miss with those stations out of Toronto, Montreal, Windsor and Quebec because they might have the power turned up one night and the next night you couldn't get a thing. One station even had an announcer who only spoke French so you couldn't understand a word he was saying but all the records he played were USA top 40 country hits.

I've forgotten what the station was but it was out of

(Cont. to A4)



American Graffiti – The Soundtrack and Video of My Youth

I watched the movie American Graffiti again.

I don't have any idea how many times I have seen it, but I am always just as spellbound as I was the first time I saw the 1973 film. Set in 1962 Modesto, California, American Graffiti is a study of the cruising and rock-and-roll values popular among the baby boom generation. It is a nostalgic portrayal of teenage life in the early 60's, spun out in a series of vignettes, featuring the story of a group of teenagers and their adventures within one late summer evening. Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Picture, it has become one of the most profitable movies of all time.

The movie was directed by George Lucas and produced by Francis Ford Coppola. It starred Richard Dreyfuss, Ron Howard, Paul Le Mat, Charles Mar-

tin Smith, Candy Clark, Mackenzie Phillips, Cindy Williams, and (my favorite) Wolfman Jack. Interestingly, I have discovered that in 1995, the United States Library of Congress deemed the film "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" and selected it for preservation in the National Film Registry.

Lucas used his own early 1960s teenage experiences – cruising and listening to rock music – to document the entire experience. He also used the character of Wolfman Jack and his radio show to carry the music throughout the film relying on the popular hit songs of the day. It begins with the hit Rock Around the Clock and includes forty-one songs that were chart toppers around 1962 (my senior year).

The telephone calls (heard in the background as broadcast by Wolfman

(Cont. to A4)

Strange... But True?

by: Tonya J. Cook



The Pooka

Anyone who knows me very well can tell you I'm a classic movie fan. As Stanley always says, "If it's in color, you'll not like it." It's true, most of my favorite movies come from the "golden age of Hollywood", the 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950s. One of my favorite classic movies is a movie called, "Harvey", from 1950. It's a movie (in black and white) adapted from a Pulitzer prize-winning play that had a very successful run on Broadway. It stars James Stewart as Elwood P. Dowd, whose best friend is a huge 6'4" rabbit-a "pooka" named Harvey. Elwood and Harvey manage to surprise, embarrass, exasperate, and charm everyone they meet, even Elwood's sister that shares a house with the two. She admits in a moment of weakness, "Sometimes I think I see him (Harvey), too."

Harvey is a pooka. What is a pooka you may ask? It is an impish spirit, especially in Irish folklore; a mischievous spirit that takes on the form of an animal. They usually appear as horses, goats, rabbits, dogs, or goblins, but always dark in color. They are said to be the bringer of good or bad fortune, and may either help or hinder a situation. They have their roots in northwestern European cultures such as Welsh mythology, where they appear as fairies and live near stones. The old people of Ireland said that the pooka were plentiful long ago, and they were "wicked-minded, black-looking bad things..."

It is said that even having the form of an animal, the pooka has the power of human speech. They have been known to give wise advice, although they enjoy causing confusion and terrifying humans. The pookas have a reputation of never causing any serious harm.

The pooka is closely associated with Scottish or Irish harvest festivals that are held on October 31-November 1. When the last of the crops are brought in, a portion is always left as "the pooka's share" to feed them through the winter ahead. November 1 is the Pooka Day, the day all pookas are on their best behavior. Any food left out after November 1 is spoiled by the pookas making it not fit for human consumption. Wild berries, such as blackberries, that spoil on the bush are

said to have been ruined by the pookas, even in the summer. This is closely related to Halloween and All Saints Day.

On November 1, the pooka may appear and offer prophecies and warnings to those who inquire. They are nature's folk, and live in the hills and mountains, or bogs and marshes. Don't be sur-

(Cont. to A4)

On Call

By: Rick Branham



Last week I left off with this question, what two founding fathers of America were volunteer firefighters? The answer is Benjamin Franklin and George Washington.

Benjamin Franklin is credited with forming the Union Volunteer Fire Company in 1736 in Philadelphia. His fire company was often referred to as Benjamin Franklin's Bucket Brigade. Now doing some further research on Wikipedia, because you can find all kinds on information on Wikipedia, I discovered some interesting facts about the department. Each member agreed to have six (6) leather buckets and two (2) linen bags. These items had to be purchased at their expense and they were expected to have these items at every fire. The buckets were used to shuttle water to the fire, hence the name bucket brigade. The linen bags had to be sturdy in order to place and hold property that was in danger of the fire. The department was limited to 30 members and met eight (8) times per year. There meetings were important and you were fined for being late or missed a meeting. By the end of 1791 the fire department had in their possession 250 buckets, 13 ladders and 2 hooks.

George Washington volunteered for the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Company in Alexandria, Virginia. Not much is known about Washington's volunteer career but in 1774 he purchased a new fire engine for the town, which was their first fire engine.

There is so much of American history revolving around these two gentlemen, which is hard to believe that at one point in their lives

they were volunteer firefighters. The history of the fire service is fascinating and knowing that two of our founding fathers were a part of that history is amazing.

Some other historical parts of the fire service that is worth mentioning, is that the first horse drawn steam engine was invented in 1829 but was not accepted in structural firefighting until 1860. In 1907 the arrival of internal combustion fire engines led to the decline of the steam engines by 1925.

Earlier this week Mt. Vernon and Brodhead worked together to contain a structure fire in a trailer. Both departments did an outstanding job and were able to save much of the property. That was not always the case. During the early to mid-1800's New York City fire companies, responding to a structure fire would often break out in a brawl to determine who would fight the fire in order to get paid the insurance money. Often times they would send a runner out with a barrel to cover the closest fire hydrant so the opposing fire company would not have a water source. Even to this day there are disagreements between departments about the territories they cover. However, that is not the case in Rockcastle. Each department works together to provide the citizens with the best possible protection.

That is all for the history of the fire service. Next week I am going to start into actual firefighting. What the duties of a firefighter are and tools we use? Later I will get into the science of fire and fire behavior. The question I leave you with is, there are certain goals that firefighters strive to achieve when fighting a fire, can you name them?

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 Anderkin, Jr., Publisher Emeritus
Perlina M. Anderkin, Publisher/Editor
Paige Anderkin Benge, Advertising Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In County - \$20.00 Yr. Out-of-County - \$27.00 Yr.
Out-of-State \$35.00 Yr.
e-mail address - mvsignal@windstream.net



Small class sizes do matter. The skills you need to succeed.

Call, click, or come by... we'll show you how.

Richmond Campus
125 S Killarney Ln
Richmond, KY 40475
888.980.9152

National College
A Degree of Difference... Since 1886

National-College.edu ►



NEVER LEAVE HOME AGAIN TO GET A GREAT DEAL ON A NEW CAR OR TRUCK.

IF WHAT YOU WANT IS POSSIBLE
MANN CHRYSLER CAN GET IT DONE.
EVEN IF YOU SEE A COMPETITOR'S AD
IN LOUISVILLE OR CINCINNATI, JUST
BRING IT IN AND WE'LL HONOR IT.



1998 Saturn SC Coupe	\$1,980	2005 Chevy Trailblazer LS 4x4	\$7,980
2003 Chevy Impala	\$1,980	2002 Ram Quad SLT 2500	\$7,980
2005 Dodge Grand Caravan	\$3,980	2005 Chrysler Pacifica	\$8,480
2000 Pontiac Grand Am GT	\$3,980	2002 Ford F15	\$8,980
2009 Yamaha XV650	\$4,980	2008 Dodge Grand Caravan	\$9,980
2005 Dodge Grand Caravan	\$5,980	2007 Dodge Nitro	\$9,980
2006 Buick Rainier CXL	\$5,980	2005 Ford F 150	\$10,980
1999 Chevy Tahoe LS 4x4	\$5,980	2006 Charger RT	\$11,980
2007 Chrysler PT Cruiser	\$6,980	2003 BMW X5 4.6IS	\$16,980
2002 Ram 1500 4x2	\$6,980	2010 Colorado Crew LT 4x4	\$21,980
2005 Jeep Liberty	\$6,980	2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee	\$27,980
2004 Kia Sedona Van	\$6,980	2012 Ram 2500 Crew 4x2	\$31,980
2007 Hyundai Tiburon GS	\$6,980	2010 Ram 2500 Crew SLT 4x4	\$37,980

Over 100 More To Choose From!

Tax, tag & fees not included.

GET PRE-APPROVED NOW!

Go to **mannchrysler.com**



Richmond
On the Bypass
At Irvine Road
877-847-6266
859-625-1422

Mount
Vernon



Mount
Vernon

Now Offering Pastries From

Stella Jane's
BAKERY

Delivered
Fresh Daily

Donuts - Cake Donuts - Bismarks

95¢ each or \$9.60 dozen

Fritters - Cinnamon Rolls - Long Johns

\$1.59 each or \$13.00 dozen

Donut Holes - \$2.50 dozen

Perfect for Meetings & Special Occasions

Order That Special Cake for Delivery to Store



Earn up to 25¢ per gallon with your Marathon Credit Card

Located Next to Wendy's
606-256-0818

Any Size Fountain Drinks 99¢
Donut & 16 oz. Coffee
\$1.99

FleetOne • EBT • ATM
Lottery • Cash Cards • Ice
Propane • Money Orders
Prepaid Phone Cards
Creamy Freeze

(24 Flavors Soft Serve Ice Cream)
Bill Pay (KU, Windstream, etc.)