

Remembering Sue Bennett College

By David W. Owens, SBC Class of 1980
Recently I had an opportunity to travel to London, Kentucky and drove onto the old Sue Bennett College campus, now the Bennett Center, and a flood of memories overwhelmed me. I attended this historic institution during the school terms of 1978-79 & 1979-80.

I find it ironic now how much the school meant to me because I originally did not wish to begin my college education there. Following high school at Rockcastle County I wanted to attend Eastern Kentucky University where I had received a partial scholarship to play football and baseball for the Colonels.

My parents had other plans for me and in hindsight I am thankful they did. I think if I had not attended Sue Bennett first I would not have graduated college. Attending Sue Bennett College was very much like attending high school. All the teachers knew you by name and the students had a wonderful fellowship.

Sue Bennett College origins began as a private college in 1897 as the Sue Bennett Memorial School.

It was operated by the United Methodist Church and provided grade, high school, and teacher training for the mountain youth of Southeastern Kentucky.

The school's name sake was Susan Ann Bennett (1843-1891), a nineteenth century social activist, from Richmond, Kentucky. She was one of eight children of Samuel Bennett and Elizabeth Chenault Bennett. The Bennetts and Chenault families had close political ties to the famed abolitionist Cassius M. Clay's family of Madison County and were known for social reform.

This large and close-knit family greatly valued education and service to the church and community. Miss Sue devoted her life to these causes as seen by her service as Superintendent of Sunday School at the Methodist Church in Richmond and Secretary of the Kentucky Conference of Women's Missionary Society.

She became very interested in the education of the mountain children of Southeastern Kentucky in 1889 after meeting with and observing first-hand the success of Reverend J.J.

Dickey's school in Jackson, Kentucky. Upon giving her address to the Kentucky Conference she stated, "Let us illuminate some dark corner in the mountains with a school."

Miss Sue died in 1891 and did not live to see her dream manifest. Her younger sister Isabel (Belle) Bennett took up Miss Sue's cause and financed a trip through nine mountain counties; Rockcastle, Laurel, Jackson, Clay, Knox, Bell, Leslie, Whitley, and Harlan Counties in search of a suitable campus location.

Miss Belle's original recommendation for a campus site was in Manchester, the Methodist Conference agreed, on the condition that local residents raise \$5,000, to match the Conference's \$5,000 investment. However Clay County businesses were not successful in raising the funds so an alternate campus site was needed.

In 1893, Reverend Dickey advised Belle Bennett to locate the school at London in Laurel County, then one of the most cultivated and progressive communities in Southeastern Kentucky. Later Belle met with London officials and was impressed by the proposed campus site as well as the modern homes, churches, and the value placed on education.

After reporting back to the Kentucky Conference, the Methodist Women agreed to invest \$20,000 in endowment if London would match the amount. In two short years London raised the necessary money and 20.5 acres were purchased from the Calloway family on a hill overlooking London for the sum of \$2,000.

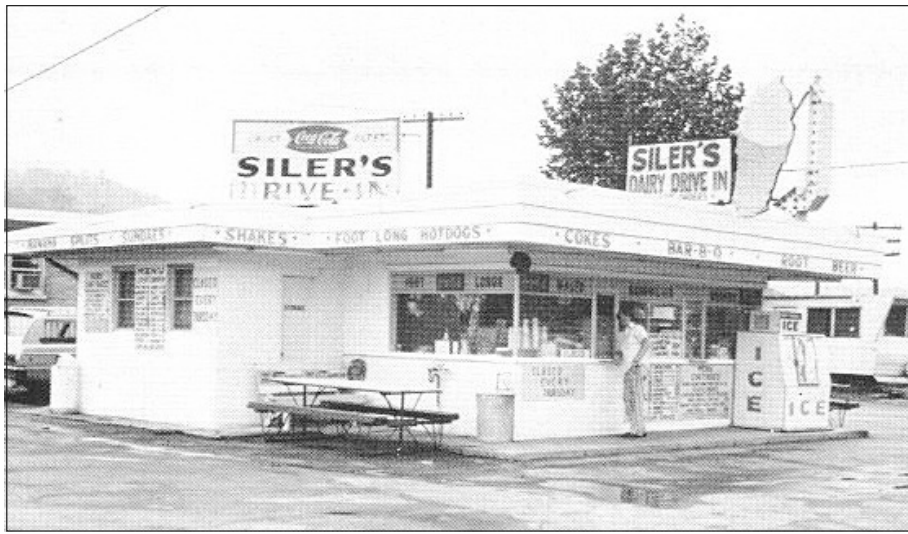
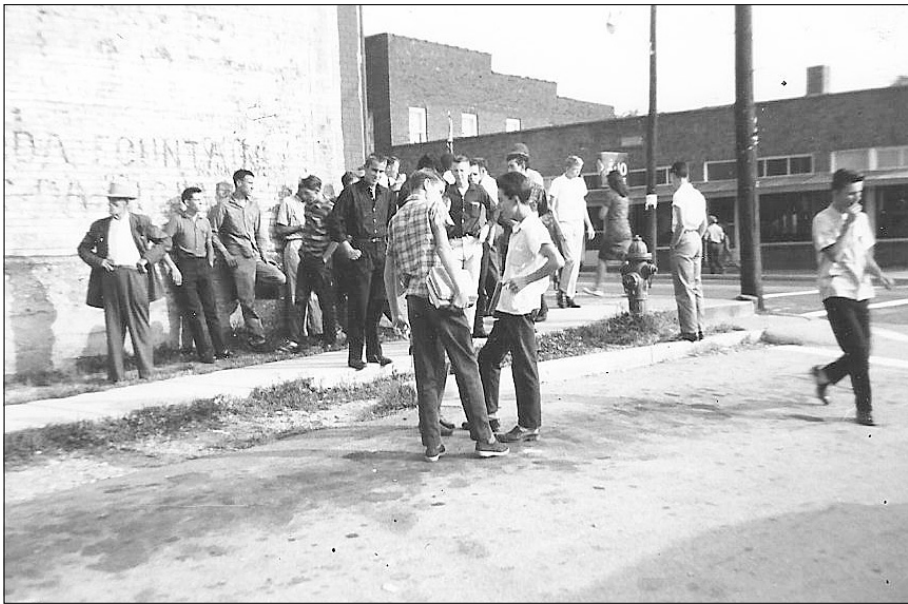
On the morning of June 23, 1896, through the collaborative efforts of Belle Bennett, the Methodist Women, and the township of London, Sue Bennett Memorial School was dedicated. Miss Belle placed a box of Miss Sue's mementos in the cornerstone of the administration building. Susan Ann Bennett's dream of a school was now a reality.

(Cont. to B8)



Blast from the Past!!!

This week's photographs are in response to the many positive inquiries we had regarding Livingston's photo from last week. The above photograph shows downtown Livingston, the school on the right and Eight Gables in the center background. The middle photo shows students standing on the corner during lunch hour. The bottom photo is of Siler's Dairy Drive In that stood on the old Eight Gables lot. If you have a photo for Blast From The Past contact David Owens at 606-256-9870 or scoopowens24@yahoo.com.



Technology

INNOVATIONS THAT
POWER YOUR LIFE



Jackson Energy was founded with the mission of bringing a new technology to southeastern Kentucky - electricity.

Today, we continue that mission. Our investment in digital meters and the latest computer technology led to your co-op being the first electric utility in Kentucky to offer prepay metering. Our dispatchers use the latest technology to monitor your electric system and even repair some power outages with the click of a keystroke.

We think it's been a wise investment.

TECHNOLOGY -
INNOVATIONS THAT
POWER YOUR LIFE

Jackson Energy

Working for You

www.jacksonenergy.com • 1.800.262.7480



17th Annual
Spoonbread Festival
A Berea Chamber of Commerce Event

September 20 - 22, 2013 Berea, KY
A weekend of family fun!

Activities & Events

- Delicious Spoonbread
- Arts & Crafts Booths
- Inflatable Rides / Kiddie Land
- 5K Run / 1 Mile Walk
- Carnival Rides & Parade
- Puppet Shows
- Dog Show
- Car Show
- Hot Air Balloon Glow
- Hot Air Balloon Rides
- Motorcycle Rally & Ride
- Antique Tractor Show
- Spoonbread Eating Contest
- Dancers & Cloggers
- Beauty Pageant

FREE Music Concerts

- Jon Russell
- Kristi Miller
- Encore of Lexington
- New Generation Bluegrass Band
- Southern Strings Bluegrass Band
- Freedom Riders
- Michael Douglas
- From Dust
- The Daltons
- The Velvet Blue
- Dogwood Ridge Bluegrass Band
- Larry Sanders & Borderline
- Will Reynolds as Elvis
- Narrow Road
- Blake Maupin

For more information, call: (859) 986-9760




www.spoonbreadfestival.com

ABSOLUTE ESTATE Auction

of the
Late Mr. Willard Collinsworth's Brick House and 11 Acres in Tracts



Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
Hwy 1505 Brindle Ridge Section of Rockcastle County, KY

From Berea: Follow US 25 South to Hwy 1505, at Conway. Turn right onto Hwy 1505 and proceed approximately 2 1/2 miles to the property. **From Mt. Vernon:** Take US 25 North to Green Hill. Turn west onto KY Hwy 3275. Go approximately 3 miles to Hwy 1505. Turn onto Hwy 1505 and proceed 1/10 of a mile. Property is located near the intersection of Hwy 1505 and Hwy 3275 and Copper Creek Road.

In order to settle the estate of the late Mr. Willard Collinsworth, his children have contracted our company to sell this property for the absolute high dollar.

Tract 1: This tract consists of 0.9040 of an acre and the pictured home. This lovely, brick home features 3 or 4 bedrooms, large living room with brick fireplace, spacious kitchen with built-in oak cabinets, dining room, covered back patio off of the living room and kitchen, 1 1/2 baths... all on the 1st floor. The partially finished basement has 2 outside entrances, a fireplace, bath, bedroom, large family/recreation room, plus additional rooms. Other amenities include: a 2-car attached garage, blacktop driveway, heat pump, central air, hardwood flooring and carpet.

Tract 2: This tract consists of 4.2460 acres and fronts on Copper Creek Road. This is an ideal building site with city water, blacktop road and a septic tank.

Tract 3: This tract consists of 5.9269 acres and also fronts on Copper Creek Road. It too has a septic tank hook-up with city water and blacktop road. Great building site.

In addition to the real estate, a Betsy Lynn Piano made by Grand will also be selling to the highest bidder. Log onto www.fordbrothersinc.com to see pictures.

TERMS: 20% down the day of the sale, balance within 30 days. The piano must be paid for, in full, at the conclusion of the sale by check or cash.

NOTE: The purchaser of a single-family residence built before 1978 has a maximum of 10 days to inspect the property for the presence of lead-based paint. The period for inspection begins September 18th through September 27th. The successful bidder must sign a waiver of the 10-day post sale inspection period.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This property is conveniently located to Berea, Mt. Vernon and Brodhead and is in the Roundstone school district. Remember, this is an absolute auction ... Last bid will BUY!

Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed matter. Contact auctioneers for more info or log on to www.fordbrothersinc.com.





AUCTIONEER: DANNY FORD
www.fordbrothersinc.com
Mt. Vernon, KY
606-256-4545 • 800-435-5454



Somerset, KY
606-679-2212



London, KY
606-878-7111