

Points East

By Ike Adams



In my ongoing quest to read every book I can lay my hands on written by central Appalachian Authors, I recently came across a wonderful work of fiction just released by a fellow one would not normally suspect to be a story teller.

The novel is entitled *Clinch River Justice*, by Alfred Patrick and the setting is 1930's and 40's in and around a fictional small town called "Creedy" located on Clinch River in the rural, southwestern-most corner of Virginia near eastern Kentucky. It is a combined murder mystery, romance and action-adventure tale laced with numerous, humorous anecdotes and filled with characters that I'd almost swear I'm kin to.

I don't often run across books that I can't lay down but this one kept me up turning pages for the biggest portions of two consecutive nights. I found myself dreading the end of the book, not because I was fearful of the outcome, but because I felt so absolutely at home between its covers. It is a rare talent, indeed, for writers to accurately capture Appalachian, culture, dialect and language in writing as well as it's done in *Clinch River Justice*.

Too often writers wind up making a condescending mockery of the language and fools of themselves when they try. I firmly believe that one has to have actually lived the language to write it and the author of this book did just that.

Alfred Patrick grew up in the time and place of which he writes. A swinging bridge suspended high over the rushing narrows of Clinch River is central to the story as is a one-room, one-teacher school that he attended through fourth grade. Large groups of World War II bombers and fighter planes fly over the story's hardscrabble farms on their way to fight both German and Japanese enemies. In his formative years, Al worked those farms and saw those very planes. And, truth be known, he most likely experienced there, the joys and

heartbreaks of first love so warmly described in the book.

The geographic terrain and the agrarian/mining/timbering lifestyles so vividly described in *Clinch River Justice* could just as easily have been eastern Kentucky and Creedy, Virginia could just as easily have been any town in Pike, Letcher, Bell or Harlan Counties.

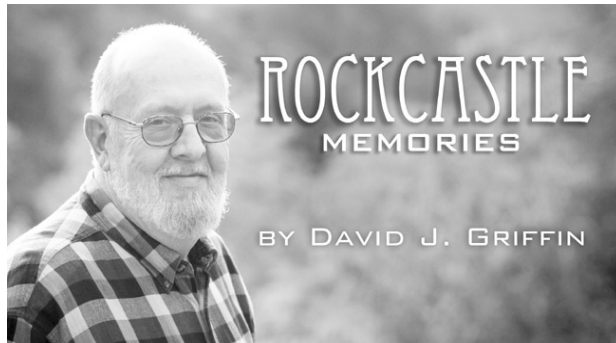
As I have previously said here, that Roberta Webb's *The Dark and Bloody Ground* should be required reading for Kentucky seventh graders, *Clinch River Justice* should likewise be part of Virginia's middle school curricula. Both are historically and culturally accurate and the stories are fascinating, delicious reading. They depict our mountain heritage the way our grand children need to know and learn it.

The reason that Al Patrick would not have been among my usual group of suspects for penning a work like this is largely due to the career he enjoyed for more than fifty years. With a PhD. In Business Administration from the University of Tennessee after completing undergraduate and Masters Degrees at Bluefield College and Virginia Tech, respectively, he began teaching in 1965 in the Business School at Eastern Kentucky University. He later chaired and then became Dean of EKV's Business School for several years before his recent retirement.

During his spare time, Al enjoys hiking and has completed both the John Muir Trail in California and The Appalachian Trail which runs through 14 states from Maine to Georgia. Al and his wife have lived in Richmond, KY since 1965 but they frequently "go home" to visit relatives on Big A Mountain in Virginia.

Clinch Valley Justice can be ordered for \$22.00, including shipping costs, from my favorite little Bookstore, Heritage Nook Books, 8009 Main Street, P.O. Box 373,

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Fun With Fireworks

When I was very young, I developed a love for fireworks that has remained a joy of mine for over sixty years. I suppose that my first exposure to pyrotechnics was from watching my brother Al and his friends set off firecrackers in our yard. In those days, fireworks were illegal in Kentucky; they either had to be acquired in Tennessee or purchased on the "black market." Teenagers were constantly on the lookout for any type of firecrackers that could be obtained. I have no doubt that part of the lure resulted from their illegal nature.

One of my earliest memories of fireworks came as the result of a gift to me from Clinton Helton. Clinton was a wonderful friend of our family even before I was born. He lived just across old US 25 from my grandfather's house. He was slightly older than my brother, and they became great friends.

Clinton was in the military and was stationed overseas for a considerable portion of his duty. Every time he came home on furlough, he always brought me a toy or gift. On one occasion, he was returning from Burma and presented me with a toy helicopter. It became one of my favorite toys.

He also gave me the first package of fireworks that I can remember. They were very unusual. When I opened the package, I found a sack of tiny black balls, about the size of pinto beans. Clinton explained, "David Joe, throw one of those against a rock in the yard and see what happens." He also described how careful I must be and how I could only use the gift with the permission of my mother, Bee.

I reached into the bag and carefully removed one of the black beans and held it tightly in my hand. I then walked to a spot in my grandfather's yard where there was a large rock next to the garden. Clinton instructed me to "hit the rock with that bean." To my surprise, it exploded with a great retort and formed small bundles of sparks. I was thrilled! It was the greatest gift Clinton had ever given me. I ran into the house to get Bee so that I could show her. She came into the yard, and quickly I grabbed another bean to toss. When it exploded, she let out a tiny squeal. I felt like I was a dynamite specialist. Clinton could tell from my reaction that his gift was a real hit. He definitely became one of my first heroes.

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On Call

By:
Rick Branham



We covered the different classifications of fire last week and your question was, how many stages does a typical fire go through? The answer is four stages and I am going to go through these stages this week.

The first stage of a fire is called the incipient stage and it starts with ignition. Once combustion begins, the development of the fire depends on the amount of fuel involved. During the incipient stage of fire, radiant heat warms the fuel around the fire and continues the process of pyrolysis. Hot gases and flame start to rise from the fire and mixes with cooler air within the room. As this plume reaches the ceiling it begins to spread across the ceiling and this is what we call mushrooming. In this stage the fire has not significantly changed the surrounding environment, the temperature is increasing and the concentration of products of combustion is low. In the incipient stage a fire can typically be safely extinguished with a fire extinguisher.

The second stage is called the growth stage. The fire is beginning to change the surrounding environment. The gases are spreading and rising creating the mushrooming effect until it reaches the walls and begins to bank down. These gases are starting to layer on themselves. We call this thermal

layering or thermal balance. The hot gases are in the top layer while the cooler are the lower layer. That's why when there is a fire you are taught to stay low and exit your house. All the heat and smoke is rising and tends to stay in that top layer. In those hot gases an amazing site to see is what we call ghosting. You can see pockets of flames move through the smoke almost looking like fingers of fire. Ghosting is an indication that a rollover may occur. Now, a lot of people may have heard of the term flashover but rollover and flashover are two different terms. In a rollover only the fire gases in the upper layer are involved whereas in a flashover not only are the gases involved but all of the contents in a room all at once. In a rollover you will see fire roll over your head through the smoke. A flashover everything in the room reaches its ignition temperature and breaks out in flame all at once. The probability of a firefighter surviving a flashover environment is slim at best. A training prop in the fire service called a flashover chamber allows us to experience a rollover and watch for signs of a flashover in a controlled environment. This training is invaluable to us in protecting our lives. The temperature at which a flashover occurs has

(Cont. to A4)

Cindy's Place

will be having a

Christmas Open House

Give-aways every hour!

Refreshments
will be served!



November 1st • 9 to 5 November 2nd • 9 to 3

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Halloween

ON MAIN

and TRICK OR TREAT nite

November 1st 6:30 - 8:30

(Postponed from Oct. 31st due to weather)

City of Mt. Vernon trick-or-treating
will also be Nov. 1st from 6:30 - 8:30

Music by RCHS Band

Clogging by Romp and Stomp

Local Businesses and organizations will be
handing out TREATS on Main Street.

Bring the kids for a Nite of Trick or Treating.

Main Street will close at 6:00 p.m. for booth set-up.

Brodhead Homecoming Committee Presents

HALLOWEEN IN THE PARK

"The Depot Park"

Friday, November 1st * 6 to 8 p.m.

For children 12 and under*

Inflatables * Treats

All residents and business owners are invited to come
and set up around the new park and give treats.

Members of the Brodhead Fire Department
will be selling soup, sandwiches and
drinks in the main shelter.

Menu:

Chili or Taco Soup and condiments

1/2 peanut butter sandwich

Lemonade or Kool-Aid

only \$4

(If weather is cool, hot chocolate will be available)

*Children should be accompanied by parents

