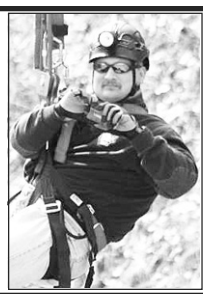


On Call

By:
Rick Branham



Well this week we are going to finish up talking about building construction. The question in the last article was pertaining to the metal stars you see sometimes on older buildings. I asked what you thought those metal stars represented. The answer is that those are reinforcement stars, which means that the structure may not be structurally sound. The stars are connected to a tension rod to stars located on the opposite end of the building. If I see this on the outside of the building I am going to think twice about entering this structure if it is on fire unless I could save a life. This week we are going to look at firefighter hazards related to building construction.

One of the first things we do when we arrive on an incident is scene size up. We quickly take a look at what is going on around us and report it to other arriving units. For example if we are called out to a structure fire, I may report "we have a single story home that is fully involved". This lets other arriving units know what we have on scene. In the size up we try to look at our surroundings pertaining to the scene and that includes the construction of the building. Some of the things to look for are, how old is the building, what type of construction, roof type, any renovations and is there anything heavy on the roof like a HVAC unit. All this is happening within only a couple of minutes. Answering these questions will determine if we make entry into the structure.

There are two primary types of dangerous conditions that may be posed by a particular building and these are conditions that contribute to the spread and intensity of the fire as well as conditions that make the building susceptible to collapse. Let's take a look at some of these conditions.

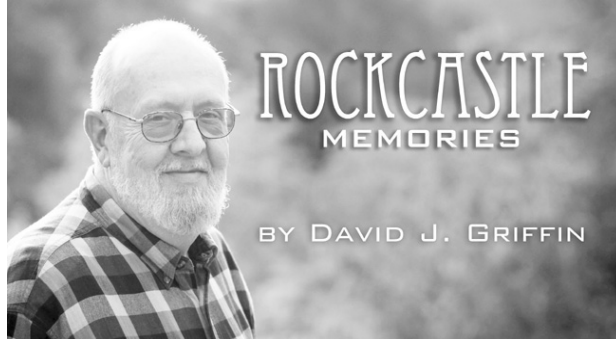
A condition that we look for is what type of fire load

is in the building. A fire load is the maximum heat that can be produced if all the combustible material is a given area burned. Some heavy fire loading buildings would be a paper mill or sawmill. A mattress warehouse would be another heavy fire load building. Other contributing conditions would be combustible furnishings and finishes, roof coverings, wooden floors and ceilings, and finally large open spaces.

In looking at building collapses one of the most infamous collapses is the one that occurred on September 11, 2001. The collapse of the World Trade Center buildings was a pancake collapse and an example of collapse caused by fire weakening the structure. We look for warning signs for a possible collapse of the structure and we take extra precautions when working within a potential collapse zone. The collapse zone is the area extending one and one-half times the height of the building. An example is if the building is 20 feet tall then the collapse zone is 30 feet. Some of the warning signs we look for are cracks or separation in walls, floors, ceilings and roof structures, presence of tie rods or stars, loose bricks, blocks or stones, deteriorated mortar, walls that appear to be leaning and structural members that appear to be distorted.

Finally in dealing with building construction I want to talk about lightweight and truss construction hazards. Lightweight construction is most commonly found in homes, apartments, small commercial buildings and warehouses. Used in this construction are lightweight steel or wooden trusses. Experience has shown that unprotected lightweight steel and wooden trusses can fail after 5 to 10 minutes of exposure to fire. These trusses can fail from exposure to just the heat of the fire alone without and flames. For

(Cont. to A4)



ROCKCASTLE MEMORIES

BY DAVID J. GRIFFIN

Pitching Pennies Led To Coin Collecting

As I have noted before, I was very young when my Dad (Hobe Griffin) owned a taxi stand on Main Street in Mt. Vernon. His small business was located next to the Ideal Café, which had been owned by my parents long before the taxi service began. Occasionally, Daddy would allow me to ride with him while he delivered Rockcastle County folks all over the area. I loved getting to know the layout of the county from the back seat of a taxi cab.

At one time, Daddy had three cabs and several men assisting him with driving the other two. I still recall three of the men who worked as drivers for my Dad. They were Bobby Carter, "Piggy" Southard, and Hobart Hansel. Sometimes business was slow, and the men would get bored just sitting around waiting for a call from a customer. While waiting, Daddy and the men killed time by pitching coins against a wall in the back of the taxi stand. If my memory serves me correctly, the coins progressed from pennies to quarters and sometimes even half-dollars.

Because of my young age, the men never allowed me to participate in the coin games, but I watched carefully. As a result, I learned the rules and how a pocketful of coins could be exchanged during one of the contests. If the men were tossing half-dollars, a great deal of money (at that time) could be won or lost in a single afternoon or evening. Sometimes Daddy would give me his winning coins to keep for my very own.

One afternoon, I decided to walk down the street from the taxi stand to Helton's Five-and-Dime, which was owned by my uncle and aunt, Dad's sister. That particular afternoon, my pockets were filled with coins from one of Daddy's coin-tossing contests. Uncle Oscar noticed me counting my ample supply of coins and suggested that I purchase a Whitman Coin Book so I could see if any of my coins were worth more than simple face value. I asked him to show me one of the books, and he asked, "Which do you want the red edition or the blue?" Since I was new to this hobby I asked what the difference was. He explained, "The Red Whitman books gives the retail price of individual coins, and the Blue Book lists the wholesale prices." Since I wanted to know how much money I could get for my coins, I opted for the Red Book.

For the next several years, my interest in the numismatists (coin collecting) hobby grew and grew. For example, my dear mother gave me an almost uncirculated Seated Liberty quarter minted in 1886 which she had found, and it was added to my collection. That relatively rare coin gave me the incentive to spend a great deal of time adding to my collection. [In preparing to write this column, I checked to find how much that quarter is now worth – more than \$500.]

Uncle Oscar also introduced me to the Whitman coin folders that would hold all of the coins of a certain type, like Lincoln cents from

1909 until 1940. Over the years, I filled several of the Whitman folders – including cents, nickels, dimes, quarters, and even half-dollars. My interest in individual rare coins grew until I had a substantial collection. Mr. Bill Cox was also a local coin collector, and he helped me organize my collection. He even sold me a couple of gold coins, which I have to this day. Whitman offers the most historically accurate references. (Inside the pages of the Whitman line, collectors can find pricing grids, mintages, populations, historical information, tips on collecting and much more. They will even send you a free Whitman Product Catalog if you call 800-546-2995.)

It was a long journey from watching my Dad pitch coins against a wall to the coin collection that I have today – which is now kept in my lockbox. Over the years, I have enjoyed my time spent as a rare coin collector. It is a hobby that can provide a considerable gain if a person makes the right selections and has some luck finding exceptional coins that are still in circulation. Whenever I receive change, I check to make sure that the coins are not old and/or collectible.

Coin collecting is a great hobby that anyone, young or old, can enjoy. Plus, it kind of helps to keep you on your toes when you are continually checking out the change that you receive almost daily. Remember, you never know what you might find! (You can reach me at themtnman@att.net or you can drop me a line at P.O. Box 927 – Stanton, KY 40380. I appreciate your comments and suggestions.)

Points East

By Ike Adams



When we first moved to Charlie Brown Road, here in the Lowell Branch suburb of Paint Lick in '97, I could walk out on the front porch this time of year and smell wood and coal smoke on the air because several of my neighbors heated their homes with either one or a mixture of both fuels.

Step out late in the day and the wonderful aromas of chicken and/or pork chops frying and corn bread or biscuits turning brown would be mingled with or carried along on the smoke because someone had let the kitchen get so hot she had to crack a window open. I say she because I don't believe there's a man living within 5 miles of Charlie Brown Road who can fry or bake stuff and make it smell that good.

Well actually, Charlie Gruen could probably pull it off, but he lives too far downwind for me to ever be able to smell his cooking.

I guess a few of my neighbors still heat with wood now and then but not enough to notice. And all the cooks must be keeping their windows closed these days as well. It's a change that's taken place in just the last few years. What used to be an absolute necessity is now considered a luxury for those with fireplaces or a bow to nostalgia for folks who still have a wood burner stove.

Loretta and I heated with wood and coal until we bought this place. Our last rental had a Fischer Mama Bear in the basement and most weekends this time of year saw me and Junior Helton in the woods armed with chain saws. We'd do a load of hickory and oak for me and one for him and we'd often make stacks of wood to haul later. It was impossible to saw too much

wood because sooner or later it was gonna get hauled.

Our house on 52 saw both Jennifer and Chris through most of their school years. We had vents in the floors of five rooms down stairs and a door into the basement let heat rise into the stairwell that kept three upstairs warm most of the time and we had electric baseboard heaters throughout the house that seldom kicked on. Old Mama did all the heat work but I did most of the heavy lifting and I am honest enough to tell you that I don't miss a second of it. Even though I'd do it all again if it would bring Junior back.

When I was growing up it was mostly all about coal. About ten buckets each night to keep two stoves and a big fireplace going. And there was no electric back up. Until I was in high school we had to cook and bake on a coal fired stove. A teacher once asked who had running water in their homes and brother Keeter stuck his hand up even though everybody in the school knew that we nor anybody else had indoor plumbing.

So the teacher, Miss Ison", asked, "Are you sure about that Keith?"

Ketter replied, "I'm plumb shore."

So the teacher asked him to tell us how it worked.

Keeter said, "You run out to the well and draw a bucket full and you run it back in the house."

She laughed so hard that she forgot to give him a pad-dling for lying, but Ketter didn't think it was all that funny.

So I guess you could also say we had running heat

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Ms. Brenda Hayes has decided to close her business "Brenda's Collectibles & Furniture" and she has authorized our firm to sell her entire inventory at absolute online auction.

Preview Date: The preview date for this auction is Monday, December 16th from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Auction End Times: All auction end times are approximate:

Catalog 1: "Glassware & China" 6:00 p.m.

Catalog 2: "Group Lots" 6:00 p.m.

Catalog 3: "Framed Prints" 6:15 p.m.

Catalog 4: "Lamps" 6:15 p.m.

Catalog 5: "Dolls, Boyd's Bears, Webkinz & Ganz Bears" 6:30 p.m.

Catalog 6: "Fashion Accessories" 6:30 p.m.

Catalog 7: "Vintage Items & Collectibles" 6:45 p.m.

Catalog 8: "Box Springs & Mattresses" 6:45 p.m.

Catalog 9: "Furniture" 7:00 p.m.

Catalog 10: "Christmas Items" 7:00 p.m.

Catalog 11: "Group Lots (upstairs) & Box Lots" 7:00 p.m.

Note: Refresh your screen constantly during the closing minutes of the bidding.

Buyer's Premium: There will be a 10% Buyer's Premium added to the winning bid. The sum of the winning bid plus the buyer's premium will be the sales price.

Item Pick Up Time: All items must be paid for in full before being picked up. There will only be ONE pickup date: Thursday, December 19th from 9:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. All items will be picked up on site at 95 E. Main Street, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456. At pickup, you have the option to pay with cash, check or credit card (with processing fee).

Terms: Payment will be due in full no later than Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. All purchases that have not been paid in full by Thursday, December 19th at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time will automatically be charged to the credit card used at registration with a 3% processing fee, unless other arrangements are made.

Auctioneer's Note: If you're looking for that last minute Christmas gift or a chance to add some nice items to your own collection then this is the auction for you. Don't miss out ... enjoy bidding from the comfort of your home. Bid last and buy!

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