

All articles contributed by
David Patton,
Palmer Town Historian

January 2008

Finches Celebrate 65th Anniversary

Calvin & Charlotte Long Finch of Riverside, California, celebrated their 65th anniversary on November 9, 2007. The Finches have many relatives and friends still living in Tennessee. Mr. Finch grew up in Palmer and is the only surviving member of the John and Carrie Partin Finch family. Mrs. Finch grew up in Franklin County as did her friend Edna Gipson Crabtree of Palmer.

Mr. Finch served with the U.S. Army in the Philippines during World War II and is retired from the machine shop at San Bernardino Valley College in California. Their children are Brenda Bell and Linda Kay Byrd of California and the later Harold Lee Finch.

Palmer's Veteran of the Year- Bobby Lynn Stinnett

The Stinnett Brothers- Ewen E. Stinnett Jr. Thomas E. "Tom" Stinnett
David R. "Dick" Stinnett Bobby Lynn Stinnett

Bobby Lynn Stinnett, a U.S. Navy veteran of the Cold War, is the 2007 recipient of the 22nd annual Palmer Veterans' Appreciation Award. The award, presented annually on Veterans' Day by town historian David Patton, is sponsored by Citizens Tri-County Bank.

The Ewen E. Sr. and Jimmie Lee Floyd Stinnett family has a rich military tradition with all four sons serving in the Navy.

In June 1956, after a short time at Wittenberg College in Ohio, Bobby Lynn was among a group of eight Grundy County volunteers joining the Navy that also included John Henry Anderson, Carl "Chunk" Flynn, Wayne Gipson, Carl Hornbuckle, Carl Ed Nunley, Charles D. "Steamboat" Layne, and Alton "Toodlum" Sissom.

They say that anywhere in the world you go, you're likely to run into someone from Grundy County, and it must be true.

"We left Chattanooga on a plane for basic training in Bainbridge, MD," Mr. Stinnett recalls. "None of us had ever flown before, and when it hit an air pocket

and dropped about 200 feet we thought we were dead. In the Washington, D.C. Airport, we ran into Mary "Sukey" Hunziker of Tracy City who was in my 1955 graduating class at GCHS.

After basic, Mr. Stinnett served as a machinists mate on the USS Denebola AF56, a refrigerated ship that supplied food to the sixth fleet in the Mediterranean. "I operated the water evaporation unit that turned sea water into drinking water. It was very noisy in the boiler room, and I attribute that to the severe hearing loss I have today. The boiler would spring small leaks, and it was tempting to stick your finger up close to locate them. We used a broom handle because the tremendous pressure of the steam would cut a finger right off."

Carl Wayne Sissom was at the Palmer School 80th birthday celebration recently, and Mr. Stinnett recalls visiting with him in Norfolk, VA, during their Navy days and being on shore leave with Wayne Gipson during a stop at the Rock of Gibraltar. One of his seven trips to the Mediterranean was during the Suez Canal Crisis when the ship operated under blackout conditions.

In World War II America faced a time of danger and sacrifice not seen since. Our very survival was at stake and Japan and Germany did their best to destroy us.

"We moved to Palmer in early 1942 from White County Tennessee, but my brother Ewen Jr. stayed behind to graduate from high school. On graduation day, buses were waiting outside. It was just six months after Pearl Harbor and the government had drafted all the boys and had given them one hour after graduation to say their good byes. We lived on Highway 108 in Palmer, and as he passed we waved to my brother. He ended up in the Pacific, and we lost contact with him for a six month period, not knowing whether he was dead or alive."

After the war Ewen Jr. became a ballet dancer and was performing in Europe during Mr. Stinnett's Navy days.

"In 1957 I took a train from Cherbourg to Paris to see my brother, but he was on stage at the World's Fair in Brussels, Belgium. I did get to see the sights of Paris such as the Eiffel Tower, Palace of Versailles, Arc de Triomphe, and the Follies Brasserie."

A superb athlete, Mr. Stinnett, Hugh Gerald Hill, and Alton Scissom formed one of the most explosive backfields in Grundy County High School's football

history. A member of the Beta Club, he was class president all four years at GCHS.

Mr. Stinnett is a Mason and a Shriner. He and his wife, the former Mary Louise Cannon, attend Palmer United Methodist Church.

“Bobby Lynn is the only one of the brothers living,” award founder David Patton said. “Through him, we are honored to recognize all of them for their service to our nation.”

Old Sayings & Figures of Speech in Grundy County, TN

Happy New Year to all. It’s good to be back with you after a two-month absence due to circumstances beyond our control so let’s get started.

1. “Lo and Behold”- One of the oldest sayings and we haven’t heard it in a long time. Have you? Lo means to “look or see” and Behold means to observe. If a person got a visitor they hadn’t seen in years they might say “lo and behold if it’s not John Smith”.

It could also describe the actions or attitude of another person such as “lo and behold if he didn’t get mad about it”.

2. “Pick me up a box of washing powders”- You still hear older people say this in Grundy County, but the young people call it “detergent”.

3. “She’s bashful”- Now we say “shy” but years ago bashful was the word.

4. “He cussed a blue streak”- This was someone who cursed a lot about something that made them mad. It wasn’t always because of another person but might have been a mistake the person doing the cursing made. Years ago those who cursed were looked down on by the rest of society, particularly women who did so.

5. “She’s not got a brain in her head”- This described a person with poor judgment who often did stupid things.

6. “R-ange”- When I was in the U.S. Army a fellow from Ohio used to get tickled because I called an “orange” an “r-ange” as most southerners did and many still do.

7. “I’ve got to many irons in the fire”- That meant you were trying to do to many different things and needed to slow down. Don’t we all have “to many irons in the fire”?

8. “Pick up a loaf of light bread”- Years ago store bought bread was just eaten occasionally with biscuits and cornbread being mostly consumed. Now store bought bread is the popular thing but the “light” is left off and the young say “pick up some bread” and lots of time don’t even say “loaf”.

9. “She’s a good old thing” or “he’s a good old thing”- People would say this about an adult who was kind to others. The person didn’t have to necessarily be real old.

10. “Hold your horses”- This meant stop what you’re saying or doing. Also meant wait, be cautious, don’t jump to conclusions about a situation until you know more about it.

Palmer Garden Club 1936

The Palmer Garden Club was organized by the ladies of Palmer in October 1933 and for some 30 years was involved in projects to beautify the town and make for a better quality of life. We’re sure these names will bring back a lot of memories for many of you.

Members:

Mrs. Roy H. Barker
Mrs. Martin H. Burnette
Mrs. Lou Hill Foster
Mrs. David H. Henninger
Mrs. J.C. Harris Sr.
Mrs. T.I. Harris
Mrs. Henry Van McBee
Mrs. Horace Moore Sr.
Mrs. J.G. “Gordon” Northcutt
Mrs. Floyd Owen
Mrs. Everett B. Roberts Sr.
Mrs. Frank Shockley
Mrs. Henry Sholer
Mrs. William Perry Stone(widow of Dr. Stone)
Mrs. Raymond d. Swann

Meets first Tuesday in each month

President: Mrs. McBee

Vice-President: Mrs. Swann

Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. Burnette

Committee Chairmen

Finance: Mrs. Harris

Civic: Mrs. Roberts

Program: Mrs. Northcutt

Conservation: Mrs. Swann

Birds: Mrs. Henninger

Lectures: Mrs. Hampton
Club historian: Mrs. Stone
Plant exchange: Mrs. Sholer
Hospitality: Mrs. Foster
Flower exhibit: Mrs. Harris
Membership and Publicity: Mrs. Roberts
Junior Garden Club: Mrs. Barker, Miss Mary Hill
Palmer Garden Club
Club tree- holly
Club flower- azalea
Club bird- canary

Tennessee

Sanctuary of natural beauty from the Great Smokies to the Mighty Mississippi:
State tree: Tulip Poplar
State flower: Iris
State bird: Mocking Bird
State President of Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs:
Mrs. Thomas J. Tyne
Tyne Lane
Nashville, Tn.

Club Collect(Read at each meeting)

Almighty God, the maker of Heaven and Earth, and all perfect things, help us to restore the beauty of peace and contentment that was felt in the "Garden of Eden" before man sinned.

May we in working in the soil be made to realize the love more fully thou didst have for us in making the law of growth.

Even after death help us to serve humanity in a way that will glorify "thee now and evermore". Amen.

(Read by Mrs. Northcutt)

January 7, 1936 Meeting

"January

"All nature feels the renovating forces of winter, only to the thoughtless, in ruin seen."

Roll Call: Favorite Vine

Topic: Culture for indoor vines- Mrs. Moore.

Exhibit: Growing vines in pots of water

Hostess: Mrs. Harris

Christmas 2007

Savannah and Josh Cleek, children of Dean and Venessa Guffey Cleek, gather around the tree with their little cousin Emily Perry.

Palmer News~ Special Edition

Christmas 2007 and the year in review

We hope you had your how jaw, black-eyed peas, and turnip greens on New Years Day. Of course, these are superstitions, but we'll take all the "good Luck" charms we can get in this ever- changing world. Welcome to 2008!

Christmas has always been an extra special time of year in small town American and 2007 was no exception.

The season kicked off in grand style on Dec. 8 with the 22nd annual Palmer Community Christmas Celebration. Palmer Improvement Committee leaders Denise Cannon Morrison and Lisa Shipley Magouirk had the town beautifully decorated and the celebration opened with a parade led by the Palmer Volunteer Fire Dept. Next, 93-year-old Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell lit the community Christmas tree and then the big crowd packed Palmer United Methodist Church for a Christmas service. First grader Vanessa Stinnett, adopted daughter of Bobby and Mary Stinnett, got a big round of applause after singing "Jesus Loves Me". Everyone then walked to the nearby city hall and enjoyed a delicious dinner along with door prizes. The last event of the celebration was the town of Palmer's Christmas decoration contest held on Dec. 22. Louise White Rollins took first place. Shelva Jean Cleek, 2nd, and Joyce Worley Morrison, 3rd.

In modern days we sometimes forget that Christmas is a religious holiday, but our local churches stayed true to the faith.

Pastor Charles Slatton and Gospel Trumpet Holiness Church had a Christmas dinner Dec. 9. The church is located next to city hall.

On Dec. 15, Bonnie Payne, Judy Partin, and others from the House of the Lord Church on Palmer Mountain prepared meals for the sick and shut-ins.

Pastor John Henry Coffelt and First Baptist Church had their Christmas program Dec. 16. Pastor Coffelt's son, Jon Coffelt, of New York City attended a

service during the holidays and visited his Aunt Mara Lee Caldwell and other relatives. The pastor's brother, Rev. Bill Coffelt of Georgia, preached at the Dec. 30 service.

Also on Dec. 16, Palmer United Methodist held their Christmas program with 51 present. Mary Stinnett sang "O Holy Night". "Mary can hit the high notes and it was beautiful," Joyce Hargis said. John Kennedy of Pelham is the pastor at Palmer UMC.

The Palmer Church of God play this year was "Angels Unaware." This is Palmer's largest church and they always have a big crowd at their services.

Laager Independent Methodist Church along with the Palmer Church of God, are the biggest churches in this part of Grundy County, and their play was Dec. 23. The members honored Pastor Cotton Ross on his 83rd Birthday Dec. 11.

First Baptist Church of Gruetli-Laager had their cantata Dec. 23. Cary Gomer, grandson of the late Nelmon Savage, is the pastor. For more on the church, go to FBCGL.org.

Palmer and Grundy County still carries on a tradition that many of you across the country will remember.

Local churches give each person at their Christmas programs a little brown sack with an orange, apple, candy bar, and sometimes nuts in it. Years ago the candy would be a peppermint cane. Thanks to Palmer Freewill Baptist and First Baptist of Palmer for giving us one this year. Thanks also to Carl Ed Nunley from Barker's Cove Methodist Church for stopping and giving us two of the little sacks while we were walking down the highway.

Palmer School had their Christmas program in the beautifully renovated auditorium Dec. 18 then dismissed for Christmas break. In keeping with the Christmas spirit, a fund raising dinner by volunteers was held the next day in the school lunchroom for cancer patient Marsha Anderson Privett.

We started off by talking about "good luck" charms. Our friend Bruce Coffelt, a Vietnam veteran, gave us a buckeye for good luck during a holiday visit. Bruce is a shut-in and his faithful wife Gail is the caregiver for him and her mother Frankie Bryant. While there, we got to see Gail's nephews, Ryan and Peyton Curtis who are the sons of Joe "Proxy" Curtis.

Grundy County Christmas cards we received came from the families of Helen Dykes, Joy Caldwell, Christy Meeks, Joe Willard Fults, Rosanna Coffelt Cleek,

Linda Cook, Nancy Roberts Rigsby, Ann Creighton and her sister Joyce Conry, Bruce Coffelt, Mary Ruth Rogers, Howard Lewis, Keith Brown, Nell Bone Finch, Leck Coffelt, Sue Bouldin-Parrott, William Ray Turner, Ken Trickler, Marvin Nolan, Wesley Hampton, Margie Sanders Ramey, Lucyle Hampton, Gussie Flynn, Jarvis Levan, Eddie Crabtree, Tootsie Cannon Smith, Linda Caldwell Mainord, Billy Carl Guffey, James Jacks, Larry Henry, Y.B. Ashby, Herby Caldwell, Amber Mayhew (winner of the Bill and Mendia Patton Patriotic Award essay contest at Grundy Co. High School), James McCullough, Donna Gifford Basham, W.H. "Buck" Sanders, Susan Faye Sissom, Janelle Layne Taylor, Wanda Hampton Meeks, Dean Cleek, Carl "Teeter" Morrison, Helen Ackerman Arbuckle, Debby Brown, and Mara Lee Caldwell.

From elsewhere in TN, Johnnie Jane heard Brown, Jean Heard (widow of Homer Douglas Heard), Dick & Carolyn Johnson, Sara Swann Shipley, Crandel McNabb, Janice McAnally (Crandel's daughter), Charles Ray Knowlan, Margie Kilgore Doss, Henrietta Nunley Tucker, Alfred Randal Nolan, Edna Layne Brewer, Keith Brewer (Ednas's son), Becky Ivey Teague, Kathleen "Kat" Slatton McHone, Lewis Shelton, Rosemary Doss James (widow of Benson James), Raymond Hargis, Diana Henry Smith and Mary Owen Reynolds.

From out of state we received greetings from Martha Carroll Cox Hensley of WeekiWachee, Fl, Curtis & Darlene Green of Harrah, OK, Dola Ivey Rector of Jefferson, GA, Billy Ray Nunley of Monument, CO., Charles "Frog" Lewis of Florence, AL, Aleen Nunley Hargis of Tucson, AZ, Bobby Owen of Peachtree City, GA, and Calvin Finch of Riverside, CA.

The year 2007 was a good one for the town of Palmer. Due to the leadership of Denise Morrison and Lisa Magouirk of the Palmer Improvement Committee, a nice walking trail was opened in the community park where the old railroad "we" was located. Record crowds attended the Labor Day and Christmas Celebrations, and the town looked cleaner than it had in years. We're very proud of these young ladies.

Another Highlight of 2007 was the Palmer School 80th birthday celebration that was an unforgettable day for so many of us.

That's all for now. Spread the word about the website and keep you fingers crossed and hop the groundhog doesn't see his shadow in February on Groundhog Day. Keep warm and cozy till then.

Gruetli-Laager Landmark Gone

Many of you have passed this big block building on the corner of 55th Avenue and Hwy. 108 for years and wondered what it was originally built for.

This was originally an "ice cream parlor" and was built by Lewis Sitz of Palmer after he returned from World War II.

Lewis was a U.S. Army soldier in England during the war where he met his future wife Freda Wratten. She is now deceased and Lewis is a retired teacher who lives today in Jacksonville, FL.

The long abandoned ice cream parlor was torn down August 2, 2007, to make a turning lane on 55th Ave. which leads to Swiss Memorial School. We'd estimate the building was some 60 years old.

Palmer church sign message

From the Palmer Free Will Baptist Church.

GCHS Girls' State Champs

This Hwy. 108 sign on Palmer Mountain at the Grundy-Marion Co. line honors the Grundy Co. High School state championship girls' basketball of 1998.

Kasey Woodlee, current GCHS Girls' Coach, suffered a stroke Jan. 5, 2008, and is in recovery. Kasey is the daughter of school board member Leon Woodlee and the granddaughter of Louise Woodlee and the late Hill Woodlee.

Kasey was a member of the 1998 championship team. Everyone is asked to remember her and the Woodlee family in your prayers.

Palmer School Memories by Mr. Jarvis L. Levan

as told to David Patton

"I went to Palmer School in the 1930's and '40's, and I remember the World War II years as a schoolboy. Bobby Owens was one of my classmates, and I remember one time when he painted a black mustache on himself and played Adolf Hitler by saying, 'I want a piece of Russia and a piece of England' and so forth. Hitler and Germany had invaded most of Europe, and we were aware of all the armed forces. And, of course, radio was like television is today with the news."

"An orange was a treat back in those days, but like kids everywhere we liked to cut up with each other. We'd roll the oranges around in our hands to get them soft then punch a hole in the end and squirt orange juice at each other. It would sting if it hit you in the eye. And one time that happened to Bobby, but the teacher asked him about it , he said he'd done it himself."

"I really enjoyed the Palmer School 80th birthday celebration on October 27, 2007. I'd been looking for Bobby Owen since 1946, and it was wonderful to see him and many other friends."

Mr. Levan served with the U.S. Army in Korea during the Korean War and after returning to civilian life retired from Ford Motor Co. in Akron, OH. He returned to Grundy County in recent years and last fall married Nancy Pickett. The couple lives in Altamont, and we wish them many years of good health and happiness.

Those We Lost in 2007

It's January and the time we must sadly report on those who left us in 2007.

Deaths within the town limits of Palmer includes Samuel Keith Dent, a well-known hairdresser in the area; Johnnie Morgan Hill, a Korea and Vietnam veteran of the U.S. Navy; Clifford A. Worley, son of the late Raymond and Mae Hobbs Worley; Theodore L. "Lindley" Long, Sr., son of Ted and Frances Patrick Long, first Palmer rural route mail carrier in about 1963 and first mayor of Gruetli-Laager, TN, in 1980; and Terry S. Cookston, son of the late W.S. "Buck" Cookston.

In Tatesville-Barker's Cove Communities of Palmer we lost Geneva Blaylock Pemberton, widow of Clarence Pemberton; William J. "Jack" Partin, a highly decorated U.S. Army veteran of World War II; Billy Ray "Toodlum" Caldwell, son-in-law of the late Doug Flynn; Marie Henry Worley Nunley, sister of the late Hubert Henry; and Madeline J. "Mickey" Hallberg, mother of Mrs. Robert (Pam) Morrison; Versie Farley King of Palmer, wife of Norman "Moe" King, was a patient at the Dunlap Nursing Home at the time of her death.

Former Palmer residents passing away in other parts of Grundy County were Jimmie O. Turner Hammers; Francis Leonard Roberts; Wayne L. Cannon; Cecil T. "Pete" McCreary; Betty Braden Nunley; Royce Ross Sitz; George E. Landon Jr.; Mattie Sue Perry Burroughs, daughter of the late William "Horsefly" Perry;

Rev. Louie R. "Rodney" Campbell; Betty Ruth Hickey Thomas; Louie H. "Luke" Coffelt; Paul W. Curtis; Lawrence Junior Bryant, husband of the former Earlene Cunningham; Charles E. Finch and Tommy Howell Dodson, a Monteagle businessman.

The Chattanooga area is home to many former Palmer residents and those passing away there were 100 -year-old Artie Owens, daughter of John and Jessie Owens; Mary Alexander, whose father was a pharmacist at the company store in Palmer; Paul E. "Bill" Sanders, former Grundy County Trustee; Joe M. Kilgore; Morris "Randy" Collins; Lena Grace Patrick Grooms, Thomas Ray Campbell, Bobby Gene Morrison; Eloise Turner Tucker, sister of Tony and Jerry Turner; Neil S. Long; Bobby G. Davis, son of Elmer "Doe" Davis; and Josie Dodd Golston, mother of Don and Ronnie Nunley.

Jackie M. Cox, Sr., brother of the late Ray Hoyt Cox died in Graysville, TN, and Hubert E. "Buck" Henley, who was married to the late Martha Cannon, died in Cleveland, TN.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Henley of Manchester was another former Palmer resident who lived to be 100 years old before her death in 2007. She and her husband Ernest "Dutch" Henley operated a store here in the 1930's and early '40's that was later owned and operated by Mr. Henley's sister Jessie and her husband Francis Wooten.

Other former residents we lost in 2007 were Anna Reece Pocus Meadows of Jasper; Morris S. "Steve" Allen of Liberty, TN, who was once married to Karen Partin; Eddie Maybell Scott Meeks of Dunlap, sister of Brian Scott and Frank Vestal of Marion County who lived at on time in the apartment next to Palmer City Hall with his family. Also in Marion County, Willous Barton "Dub" Turner, the son of Tom Turner died.

In McMinnville, U.S. Army retiree Richard Stanford Sanders passed away, and in Michigan we lost Delbert Brown who was a World War II veteran and widower of Wanda Lee Brown, daughter of Pat and Cleo Layne; Rev. Robert D. "Bob" Henson, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Palmer and a resident of Ringgold, GA, died and in Pikeville, TN, Willa Dean Brock Overturn, a former resident of Gruetli-Laager and widow of Oscar Overturf passed away. Norma Tate Robinson, whose grandfather was Rev. J. Hugh Layne, died in Louisville, Ky.

Two former teachers, who taught at Grundy County High School when it was located in Tracy City died. Miss Lacy E. Yarber of Tracy City was 98, and many of you from the '60's will remember her from the school library and study hall.

Mrs. Isabel Gunn of Monteagle was another GCHS teacher from the 1960's that we lost in 2007.

We extend our sincere sympathy to all of you who lost loved ones and friends in 2007. May you have peace of mind and happier days in the new year of 2008.

E.L. "Edd" and Marie Sweeton Nunley had a very successful general merchandise store in Palmer during the 1950's and '60's. They and their son Bill are deceased. Surviving family members are sons Carl Ed and Mike and daughter Teresa.

ATTENTION ALL VISITORS TO THIS PAGE

The Grundy County Historical Society will publish "Pictures of Our Past", a pictorial history of Grundy County in Dec. 2008. Photos for possible use in this book will be accepted until April 5, 2008. The book may be ordered for \$49.50 if picked up in Grundy County or \$56.50 postpaid during the prepublication sale. This sale will end April 5, 2008. After that date the book will increase by \$10 in price, so the book will be \$59.50 if picked up in Grundy County and \$66.50 postpaid.

In December 2005 the Society published "The Heritage of Grundy Co. TN 1844-2004" This encyclopedia-sized book (512 pages) is printed on acid free paper and is filled with photos of all kinds and Grundy County family histories from all across the country.

As the Palmer town historian, I highly recommend this book for anyone with connections to Grundy County. Former Palmer resident Dola Ivey Rector ordered one last year "and couldn't put it down" because of the memories it brought back.

A limited amount of these heritage books are available for \$65.00 if picked up locally at Tracy City Library or Citizens Tri-County Bank in Altamont or \$72.00 if mailed to you. Order either "Pictures of Our Past" or "Grundy County Heritage Book" from the following address. Grundy Co. Historical Society; 641 U.S. Hwy. 41; Pelham, TN 37366. Be sure to include your name and address along with your payment.

If you have questions about either of these publications, call 931 467-3603 or email jcoats@cafes.net

PALMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1973-74 Basketball Team

Boys:

Coach: Mike Maxon

Players: Jimmy Brooks, Marty Campbell(son of Raymond Campbell), Randy Cleek, Danny Cox, Joe “Proxy” Curtis, John Finch, Chuck Green, Joel Henry, Dean Land, Bob Moon, Danny “Muzzy” Morrison, and Melvin Smith

Manager: Troy Crabtree.

Girls:

Coach: Carl Ed Sanders

Players: Susan Anderson, Roxanne(Rocky) Cleek, Lisa Dent, Donna Green, Lisa James, Cindy McCullough, Sherry Morrison, Tannis Overturf, Donna Sanders, Kathy Sissom, Jerri Carla Shrum, Clara Slatton, and Angela Tate

Manager: Wilma Morrison

On March 01,1974 Jack and Treva Morrison(her son Dean Land was a team member) had a surprise supper for the teams at their home featuring a beautifully decorated cake and recreation.

Coaches Maxon and Sanders were presented new purple sports coats. Team colors were purple and white.

PALMER SCHOOL MEMORIES BY MRS. CINDY MCCULLOUGH LECROY

As told to David Patton

It's basketball season in Grundy County Schools and as usual the Palmer Elementary Girls have a good team and we're hoping they can bring home the championship in February's playoffs.

We wanted to share Mrs. Lecroy's memories at this time of year because of the Tannis Overturf story. Tannis was the greatest player in the 80 year history of the school but as the story illustrates even the future greats have doubts and uncertainties in the beginning like we all do.

“My favorite time at Palmer School was playing basketball my 8th grade year in 1973-74. I only played one year, but I always wished I had played more as it was so much fun and all of us girls became so close.”

“That year we went into the Tournament to decide the Championship and finished in second place behind Shook Elementary of Tracy City. We were tied in the final moments and in over time, when I shot the ball and scored, which won

us the game. I will never forget the feelings it gave me as my team was beyond happy at winning and just tickled to be second behind Tracy City as they were always the best.”

“Once, I was out sick and couldn’t play, so Coach Carl Ed Sanders was going to put in Tannis Overturf who was a couple of grades behind me, maybe even three grades, I don’t remember. She called me at home and begged me to play so she wouldn’t have to. I can still remember her begging, because she was so scared to play. She told me she would give twenty-five cents if I would come on in. I told her I was so sick she upped it to fifty cents and was dead serious.”

“Well, I didn’t get to play and she had to. The rest is history. She scored nearly all the points that night and definitely was a better player than me. Imagine how I felt, here was a fifth grader so much better than me. Tannis was one of my best friends and an all around great person, not to mention the best basketball player ever to come out of Grundy County. Carl Ed didn’t pull me off the A string, even though he should have, because Tannis was much better than all of us, especially me. She had her time in the next few years and went on to break records. She came on to high school behind me and was even better by the time she got there. Anyone who ever saw her play, knows that she made it look so easy and believe me, it’s not! She was the best. People like her made my time at Palmer School so memorable. Other girls on this team were Donna Green, Donna Sanders, Roxanne(Rocky) Cleek, Clara Slatton, Kathy Sissom, myself and we were basically starters of the team and were followed by some other really great girls who all shared a very memorable time in our lives. Carl Ed Sanders was our coach and he took us from last place to the top two. He was a great coach.”

“There are a lot of things I remember about Palmer School, mostly time with my friends. I think school was more about learning then than it is now. As a substitute teacher at the school, I was really surprised how different it was from when I was there. We had teachers who were very dedicated. I remember thinking as a little girl how nice all the lady teachers looked. I can still see Mrs. Clara Hill in a bright blue dress and as a second grader thinking how pretty her dress was. You really respected these ladies and knew they meant business. I was terrified of Mrs. Hill, as I was of Mrs. Frances Henry, but I knew they were there to do their job. I bet there wasn’t a soul who came out of Mrs. Henry’s class without knowing their multiplications frontwards and backwards by the time she got through. She was a fantastic math teacher. I also remember that everyone in my class, and I remember everyone, had beautiful hand writing thanks to Mrs. Margaret King, a teacher’s aide who practiced with us daily. I was surprised to learn that most classes do not do that anymore, but we did all the way through. I know she broke me from “looping” my t’s and to this day if I accidentally do it, I think of her and still go back and change it. She was a great lady.”

“Another fabulous lady was Miss Frances Conry. I was never lucky enough to have her as a teacher, but I still can hear her voice singing “Onward Christian Soldiers” all over that school house first thing in the morning. Back then, they had singing first thing in the morning and I loved it. All the classes did it. There is no way you could get kids to do that now. They always had us singing The Church in the Wildwood, Old Black Joe, Onward Christian Soldiers, America the Beautiful and others that were in these little yellow song books. I loved all those songs and still catch myself humming them especially the Church in the Wildwood. I remember Mrs. Clara Hill having a parrot in the room and once we came back to school after the week-end and he was dead. I was in the second grade and can remember crying over it.”

“For our 8th grade trip in 1974 we got to go to Disney World in Florida and it was a big deal for everyone in town. I remember telling all my new friends in high school about us going to Florida on our eighth grade trip(read about the most famous eighth grade trip in school history in a 2007 article “Disney World here we come!” on this website) and they were amazed. I know I was disappointed as a senior in high school because the group before us had been trouble. At least we got to go in the 8th grade because in high school we got a one night trip to Six Flags. Nowhere near as great as Disney World.”

“I still see most of my Elementary school friends and will never forget all the times at Palmer School. I have always loved Mary Ruth Rogers(longtime school secretary, now retired) and worked with her when I was a substitute teacher at Palmer in the 1990’s. She hasn’t changed one bit since her daughter Ramona and I were in school a long time ago. I’m also very fond of Velma Jean Grooms whom I had two years, fourth and sixth grade, and was definitely my favorite teacher.”

“At least three generations, and probably more, of my family are Palmer graduates including my father James McCullough and my daughter Gabrielle Lecroy.”

February 2008

PALMER GARDEN CLUB

February 4, 1936 Meeting

“February”

“Tall Piles Against Northern Sky, have wisdom I could profit by.”

Roll Call: Best Hardy Conifer

Topic: My favorite evergreen, by Mrs. J.G. “Gordon” Northcutt

Contest: On Evergreens- Mrs. Henry Hampton

Exhibit: Self made yearbook

Hostess: Mrs. David H. Henniger

POETRY TOUCHES THE HEART

Mr. Bobby Owen of Peachtree City, Ga was deeply touched by this poem and wanted to share it with us. Thank's to Mr. Owen, He is the son of the Late Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Owen and grew up in Palmer.

If I had my child to raise over again

If I had my child to raise all over again,
I'd build self-esteem first, and the house later.
I'd finger-paint more, and point the finger less.
I would do less correcting and more connecting.
I'd take my eyes off my watch, and watch with my eyes.
I would care to know less and know to care more.
I'd take more hikes and fly more kites.
I'd stop playing serious, and seriously play.
I would run through more fields and gaze at more stars.
I'd do more hugging and less tugging.
I'd see the oak tree in the acorn more often.
I would be firm less often, and affirm much more.
I'd model less about the love of power,
And more about the power of love.

By Diane Loomans

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy County, Tennessee Special Edition- The Roberts Family Sayings

In November we'll elect a new president amid talk of troubling economic news. Some say we're in a "recession" now and many fear this could become a "depression" like our ancestors suffered through the 1930's.

When the stock market crashed on October 29, 1929 it set off an unprecedented decade of hardship. Many of us have heard our parents talk about that terrible time when jobs, food and clothing were so scarce. In the cities the unemployed lined up at soup kitchens and former millionaires sold apples or pencils on the street to survive. A popular song of the day was entitled, "Brother, Can You Spare A Dime".

Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president in 1932 on the promise to take bold action and get the country back on it's feet. He was successful and later said: "When I became president the United States was close to revolution

because the people lacked food, clothing and shelter. I said to the people, if you elect me president I will give you these things. Since then there has been little problem in regard to social disorder in the United States”.

One of the most inspiring stories to come out of Grundy County during the depression was that of the Henry and Oda James Roberts family of Palmer.

The Roberts’ eight children were James, Dillard, Agnes, Nancy, Mara Lee, Kathleen “Kat”, Joyce and Mary Lou. All graduated from high school and all taught school with the exception of James who became a coal miner. Dillard, Nancy, Kat, Joyce and Mary Lou graduated from college.

The Roberts had just an elementary school education but were determined that their children would get more and have a better life. In the hard and dangerous profession of coal mining, Mr. Roberts was known as one of the most dedicated workers and was once awarded a medal as “the top coal leader in the south”.

Drema Hargis Reed, second generation teacher from the Henry Roberts family. Drema retired last month after a 30 year career in Grundy County. John Ross Jones, grandson of "Kat" Roberts Jones, began his teaching career recently and is the third generation of Roberts family of teachers.

1. “A wasteful waste makes a wishful want”- This was an old saying that Mr. Roberts told his children and it’s so true. If you are wasteful you’ll end up just “wishing” for something you want or need.

2. “Johnny pick it up, Johnny pick it up, Johnny pick it up in a half-gallon can.”- Mrs. Roberts would gather the children around the kitchen table and recite this old saying while moving her fingers to get their attention. “We learned all the nursery rhymes this way”, Joyce said recently. “Daddy just had an eighth-grade education but it was as good as our college education. He read 6-8 books a week and educated himself. He might have pronounced words differently than we did but he knew what they meant”.

3. “Kat, was a corker”- A corker was a person who was full of life, independent and did things their own way. The Roberts’ great-grandson, Jon Coffelt, remembers his grandmother Agnes describing her sister Kat as a corker. The following story shows why she called the fun-loving Kat a corker.

Back in the great depression era most families had a houseful of kids with 8-10 not being uncommon. Some of the six Roberts girls helped their father work in the large garden which the family depended on to feed themselves.

Kat was one of the girls helping Mr. Roberts and they were assigned to hoe a big corn patch. Most teenagers like to take a shortcut and Kat came up with a clever idea or so she thought.

“Let’s just hoe the ends of the rows and not fool with the middle,” she told her sisters. “Daddy won’t notice.”

All seemed to go well but like most wise men Mr. Roberts knew what was going on around him. After supper, all seemed well until Mr. Roberts said, "Get your hoes girls, we're going to the garden. You will not only hoe the middle of the rows, but you must hoe the ends of the rows again also." Kat is gone now but this is still a favorite story in the Roberts family.

4. "Here's a copper for church"- A copper was a penny and Mr. Roberts would give each child one to put in the Sunday school offering at the Palmer United Methodist Church. Nancy is 84 now and still worships at the church and Joyce is the church pianist.

5. "Don't make fun of anyone, if you do I'll take you to the barn and come back by myself."- Years ago decent people taught their kids to never make fun of anyone who had patches on their clothes or some physical or mental handicap. Before the days of modern medicine you'd see "cross-eyed" people or people that "couldn't talk plain" pretty often and we know that kids can unintentionally be cruel to each other.

"Daddy was trying to scare us by saying he'd beat us to death", said Mara Lee. "Of course he wouldn't have done that but he would have given us a good whipping."

6. "Take the floor, Mara Lee"- Jon Coffelt remembers his grandmother Agnes Coffelt recalling this from her childhood days.

Mara Lee has always been a person of deep convictions and while growing up would sometimes interrupt her siblings so that everyone would know her opinion. Finally, in frustration, the other person would say "Take the floor, Mara Lee."

This has always been one of Jon's favorite memories and he says that many years later that a person with ties to this area was having a business meeting in Alabama. Another person kept interrupting and the speaker said, "Take the floor, Mara Lee." It broke the tension and gave everyone a good laugh.

7. "Don't let your eyes be bigger than your belly"- What a wasteful nation we have become with so much food half-eaten and thrown away.

"Daddy didn't care how much we ate but he didn't want us to waste food", Mara Lee said. "He said don't pile up your plate and then not eat all of it. You could always get more but if you took it out and didn't eat it that was wasted that someone else could have eaten."

8. "If anything's worth doing, it's worth doing right."- We once heard someone say that the "best way to learn a lesson is to learn it the hard way", meaning you wouldn't forget it and Nancy's story really understands that.

"With our big family, all of us kids had chores that had to be done seven days a week such as carrying in coal and wood for the stoves. We had apple and peach trees and canned fruit and blackberries and gathered hickory nuts to use in candy and other ways. All of this took a lot of water and it had to be carried into the house in buckets. "One of my jobs was to carry in water before dark for the

next morning. One time I forgot and the next morning when mama got up to get daddy off to work there was no water to cook breakfast at 4:00.

“Mama started to get it but daddy said no and asked who had failed to get it the night before. She said Nancy and he got me out of bed and told me to go get the water.”

“We carried water from a spring way back in the woods behind our house and I was scared to go back there even in the daytime. When I went out that morning there was snow on the ground and the only light was the moon. I went ahead though and got the water. I’m sure daddy followed behind to make sure I was okay but he didn’t let me see him. He was teaching me a lesson and I never forgot to get water again.”

9. “8 times 8= 64”- Now they call it “math” but years ago it was “arithmetic” and the “multiplication tables” were an important part of it.

“Daddy would gather us around the kitchen table and have us recite our multiplication tables before we went to bed”, Mara Lee said. “He divided us up by ages and the younger kids would be studying the ones, and twos, and threes”. This was after working a full shift in the mines. Mr. Roberts and many other men often worked until dark in their gardens after coming home from the mines.

10. “A fool and his money are soon parted”- Tennessee has led the nation in bankruptcy per capita for several years now. Mr. Roberts was a frugal and sensible man who taught his children to avoid credit whenever possible and to be good stewards of their hard-earned money.

Credit cards and other easily obtained sources of credit are destroying many lives and the wisdom of this old saying has never been more relevant and true.

The Late Henry and Oda Roberts left a legacy of good parenting that many would be wise to emulate today

We hope you’ve enjoyed this trip down memory lane, but more importantly, we hope you young parents will apply some of the Roberts’ wisdom in your children’s lives. The Late Jacquelyn Kennedy Onassis said “If you fail with your children, nothing else really matters.” Success stories like the Roberts’ and Mrs. Onassis are all too rare in today’s America.

Y.B. Ashby Teamwork Award

In addition to the David Patton Spelling Award and the Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award, a new award makes its debut at the 2008 Grundy County Spelling Bee. "The Y.B. Ashby Teamwork Award will be presented to a contestant who displays cooperation and the ability to work with others toward a common goal," award founder David Patton said.

"Since coming to Grundy County in 1968, Mr. Ashby has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the community, and we want to honor his 40 years of good works as a minister, newspaper publisher, school board member, executive director of the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce, founder of GCTV and the Grundy County Veterans' Historical Society and the list could go on and on. It's doubtful that we'll ever again see a citizen engaged in such a wide range of community involvement," Patton concluded.

Mr. Ashby will be 87 years old on March 3. He's a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, and his current project is creating a Grundy County Veterans' Museum. A good building has been secured, but much work must be done by volunteers to make it suitable for this purpose. If you would like to help make this dream a reality, contact Mr. Ashby at 931 779-3462.

1937 Spelling Bee Winner- Anna Polk Conry Creighton

The earliest known winner of the Grundy County Spelling Bee was Anna Polk Conry of Palmer Elementary in 1937. The event was sponsored by the Nashville Banner Newspaper and held at Shook Elementary in Tracy City.

Howard Wright of Shook was runner-up and received a dollar and a year's subscription to the Banner. Miss Conry competed in the state spelling bee in Nashville and also was the valedictorian of her 1937 graduating class at Palmer. She's the widow of Earl Creighton and still lives in Palmer.

The modern version of the Grundy County Spelling Bee has been held continuously since 1985. Tracy City has had eight winners, North seven, Coalmont three, Palmer three, Pelham one, and Swiss Memorial one.

Caleb Brown of Swiss Memorial was the 2007 winner. Fellow Swiss student Jerrica Davis was the winner of the "Louise Geary Layne Courtesy Award", which is presented in conjunction with the spelling bee.

The 2008 Grundy County Spelling Bee will be held Feb. 29 at Coalmont Elementary beginning at 11:30. If you have information about winners prior to 1985, please contact David Patton at 50 Dogwood Street; Palmer, TN 37365.

Church Sign

Westside Baptist is located on Laager Circle in Gruetli-Laager next to where the home of the late James Grimes stood. The late Rev. Andrew Layne was once the pastor. This photo was taken several months ago, and to our knowledge, Rev. Nelson is no longer the pastor.

Street Sign- Parsonage Loop

Parsonage Loop goes to the top of the hill and makes a loop behind the Church of God parsonage on Hwy. 108 in Palmer. The Floyd Owen family had a house for years where this mobile home is today. The Rose Burr Sanders family lived for years in a house on top of the loop. Today, Jack Sissom has lived on Parsonage Loop longer than any current resident.

Oct. 27, 2008- 80th Anniversary Celebration of Palmer Elementary School

Do you remember when? Henrietta Nunley Tucker and Kelso Long catch up on old times. He's the son of the late Ted and Frances Patrick Long.

David Patton and Roger Dale Sissom, Class of 1961. Roger's mother was in the class of 1931. Her name was Lorene Tate Sissom.

Family Ties

Grundy County historian William Ray Turner (center) meets Dr. Keith Brewer and his wife Anita Lappin Brewer. Dr. Brewer's father, the late Echerd Brewer and Mr. Turner were once co-workers on a construction site.

Pretty Lady

Naoma Patrick Price captivated us with her sparkling blue eyes. She's the last surviving member of the Charles and Veola Hampton Patrick family.

Mother & Son

Allie Jean "Shorty" Sanders and her son Danny enjoyed the celebration. Shorty is a former P.T.A. member and has always been a great school supporter. Danny is a member of the Class of 1963.

Lifelong friends

(l-r) Martha Carroll Cox Hensley of Florida, Anna Lou Hill Hatfield and Dolly Dyer Shadrick of Jasper, TN, grew up in Palmer and have remained lifelong friends.

Busy Principal

Principal Sadie Carrick Smartt pauses in her office for a moment on the hectic day. She's only the third woman to serve as principal in these 80 years, but holds the school record for serving the longest in this position.

Cutting the cake

(l-r) Sis Cannon Layne, David Patton, and Principal Smartt cut the cake as A.C. Cannon looks on. He's a member of the class of 1960.

That's what friends are for

Becky Ivey Teague (left) and Ruth Owen Black display the love that was felt by everyone during that wonderful day at their old school.

Neighbors

John Doug Shrum (left) and Susan Fay Sissom and son Ross are neighbors on Martin Lane. John Doug lives in the old McCullough place where the Albert McCullough and Jim Ivey families once lived. Susan lives where Graham and Sara Cannon Nunley raised their family. Their daughters Judy, Clara Ruth and Aleen were at the celebration.

February 2008 Palmer News

It's February and the groundhog did see his shadow on a beautiful and sunny day February 2. That's supposed to mean six more weeks of winter but with all the tornadoes causing death and destruction across the land we feel very fortunate and thankful here in old Palmer Town.

The Grundy County Democratic Party had a chili supper and speakers January 12th at Coalmont School. Our Town Recorder Lisa Shipley Magouirk is secretary of the party and it's good to see the younger people involved. As expected, Hillary Clinton got over 80% of the Grundy County vote on Super Tuesday.

Happy 80th birthday to Mr. Raymond Hargis of Manchester, Tn. He's a former resident of Palmer and school principal here in the 1950's. After leaving Palmer Elementary he was elected Grundy County Court Clerk and later School Superintendent.

We enjoyed a visit down in Gruetli-Laager recently with our childhood friend Preston Knowlan. He's a son of the Late Fate and Plumer Davis Knowlan who had a store in Stoker Hall years ago.

What's for supper? Jarvis Levan gave us this old Navy recipe from World War 2. It was given to him over 50 years ago in Granite Falls, N.C.

Spaghetti Sauce

1. A small can of tomatoes, diced.
2. Pepper. Hot, sweet, mild, green or yellow, you be the judge.
3. Celery, one or two stalks, diced.
4. Tomatoes, 16 or 32 ounce can, diced.
5. Tomato puree or tomato paste, 16 or 32 oz can.
6. Garlic, 2 or 3 gloves, diced.
7. Large onion, diced.
8. Cooking oil and water as needed.
9. Hamburger or ground deer meat.

Cook meat in skillet and put all ingredients in large pot. Cook on high 30-40 minutes then simmer until smell drives you to the kitchen.

Former Palmer resident Jason Irvin was promoted to Sergeant in the Chattanooga Police Department recently. He's the son of Rev. Russell and Brenda Nance Irvin. Russell's a Former Pastor of Palmer Church of God.

The recent drought is easing up a bit. We had 4.5" in our rain gauge for January.

Reunited- and it feels so good. One of our greatest joys in the history business is reuniting long lost friends.

Charles "Frog" Lewis of Florence, Alabama called Ann Conry Creighton this month and it made her day.

"It was so good to hear from Charles" the 85 yr old Mrs. Creighton of Palmer said. "We were neighbors back in the 1930's and it had been at least 70 yrs since I'd talked to him". Charles and his sisters lived where Rabbit Morrison lives today and Ann and her sisters lived next door where many of you remember her sister Frances Conry lived in later years. Charles is a cousin of Howard Lewis.

Scott Smith, son of Martin and Rita Crabtree Smith, is Vice-President of the greater Chattanooga sports and events committee which brings many tourists to the city. Many of you will remember his grandparents, Rev. Hub and Pearl Smith and Jip and Margaret Crabtree.

We heard from our friend Calvin Finch of Riverside, California recently. He says as a young man growing up during the Great Depression of the 1930's he worked for Mrs. Henry Hampton doing chores at her house for 10 cents an hour. Of course he was glad to get the work in those desperate economic times which we hope to never see again. He left Palmer after serving in World War 2 and has been in California for some 45 years.

Weddings in 1947. Mara Lee Caldwell told us that in 1947 five Palmer couples wed within a couple of weeks.

Robert "Poss" and Mara Lee Roberts Caldwell, Chester and Polly Brown Caldwell, Delbert and Wanda Lee Layne Brown, Ralph and Peggy Brown Weaver, and Dan and Nell Brewer Coffelt.

Poss and Chester were brothers and Polly and Peggy sisters. Out of these 10 people, only Mara Lee and the Coffelt's are living. The Weaver's were the parents of Gail Crabtree.

Speaking of weddings: Happy 25th anniversary this month to Jody and Rolanda Layne Summers of Palmer. Happy 48th to Don and Brenda Hargis Lecroy of Gruetli-Laager and Happy 56th to Joe and Joyce Grooms Scruggs of Nashville.

Harbingers of spring: We saw our first crocus bloom Feb.5th, and heard the first frogs sing Feb.15th on Bottom Road near Alf Crabtree's so old man winter is definitely on his last legs.

Let's all be extra careful during this dangerous tornado season across the country. We'll exit for now but hope to be back with you during the exciting month when that "March Wind" howls. Drop us a line here at 50 Dogwood St, Palmer, Tn 37365 and let us hear from you and yours.

Citizens of Palmer

Clint Nolan and Oscar Levan were well known citizens during the early days of Palmer.

March 2008

PALMER GARDEN CLUB

March 3, 1936 Meeting

"Let me remember seed and sod, reveal the prophecies to God."

Roll call: New flowers I intend to grow.

Topic: 1936 New deal in flowers, by Mrs. Raymond D. Swann

Review: The southern gardener, by Mrs. Lou Hill Foster.

Exhibit: Best collection of seed catalogues.

Hostess: Mrs. Lou Hill Foster

THE GREAT BLIZZARD OF MARCH 1993

We love March because the earth's coming alive again with plants blooming, bird's singing, and frogs croaking in their special way.

It's an exciting time of year, but the "Great March Blizzard of 1993" was called a "once in a 100 year" event and caught everyone by surprise as howling winds brought up to 2 feet of snow and dumped it on Palmer and Grundy Co.

It was chaos for several days in southeast Tennessee with roads closed and power knocked out, especially in the North Georgia and Chattanooga area.

David Patton's coal house during blizzard of 1993

David patton with shovel of snow in the yard of Steve Privett in Palmer during blizzard of 1993.

Palmer United Methodist Church in Palmer, TN during the Great Blizzard of March 1993. Howling winds blew piles of snow against the church.

Palmer Fire Dept. (near) and Palmer Market in distance in Great Blizzard of March 1993 in Palmer, TN

HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH SIGN

Remember the song, "Keep on Pushin'"? This sign shows a whole new meaning.

GRUETLI-LAAGER LANDMARK

This was once a busy little store on Hwy. 108, but has been abandoned for many years. Many of you remember the late Mrs. Coy Cleek who ran the business. In the early days of Palmer, the Cleeks had a restaurant in the back of the old Palmer Garage. Mrs. Cleek is survived by two daughters who are known to many of you - Mickey and Jeweldean. Fayna is deceased. She taught school at Palmer Elementary as Fayna Cleek Nunley.

OLD SAYINGS & FIGURES OF SPEECH IN GRUNDY COUNTY, TN.

1. "Spring has sprung"- You can still hear this occasionally in Grundy County. If you had an extended warm spell in late winter or March people would say this.
2. "Put something on your head, that March wind will make you sick"- You'd always hear this in March. Years ago medical care was scarce and things like colds and earaches were treated mostly by Mothers. Most women wore head scarves to ward off the cold wind. Mrs. Mary Ruth Rogers still wears a "scarf" occasionally but says she feels strange doing so because no one else does anymore.
3. "Well, I'll swan" or "well, I'll swanee"- We hadn't heard this in so long that we'd forgotten it until Mrs. Mary Cannon Stinnett said it recently. It's an expression of amazement about something.
4. "He's overbearing"- This was an aggressive person who tried to be a bully or was trying to pick a fight or take offense when no insult or harm was intended.
5. "Let's go get a pint"- This was heard all over Grundy County years ago as men would get a pint of whiskey from a bootlegger much like potheads get their drug of choice today. The bootleggers were illegal sellers of whiskey and drinking caused much suffering as Fathers sometimes neglected their families to get whiskey and drunks sometimes killed someone in a drunken rage.
6. "He laid a corpse"- When the deceased was in the casket and people were visiting to offer condolences it was said "he laid a corpse".
7. "She's as big as the side of a mountain"- This described a woman who had gained weight in the days when fat people were an oddity. Now, both men and women are "big as the side of a mountain" according to health officials.
8. "Before you could say scat"- You used to hear this a lot but I've not heard it in a long time. I believe people would yell "scat" while trying to run a stray dog or cat off. "Before you could say scat" meant something that happened very quickly

such as “before you could say scat that kid opened the gate and got out in the road”.

9. “I’m in a manner dead”- People weren’t on the point of death when they said this but after a day of hard work they’d be very exhausted and describe how they felt this way.

10. “He’s a fair weather friend”- This was a person who was your friend in the good times but when you were sick or in trouble they didn’t come around. More than likely, this person was a “user” all along and was just your friend as long as you could do something for them.

FRIENDS

Robert Summers, Sr. (left) and Clint Levan are pictured as young men. Both are now deceased. There was also a Clint Levan born in the 1940's from Pelham, but the Clint pictured here is from Palmer. The Clint Levan from Pelham was the son of Woodrow and Lucille Levan.

WORLD WAR II VETERAN

Charles O. Levan, Jr. was the son of coal miner Oscar Levan. Charles served with U.S. Army in World War II. He later became an engineer at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL, and worked on the project that resulted in American astronauts landing on the moon in 1969.

THE WORLEY AND NUNLEY FAMILY

Henry and Lizzie Shrum Worley of Tracy City are shown with their daughter Henri Marie Worley. Mr. Worley was a U.S. Army soldier in France during World War I, thus the "Henri" in Henri Marie.

Henri Marie married Stanley Nunley of Palmer, and they lived there with their daughter Henrietta. All pictured are now deceased. The large portraits are of Henri Marie and Stanley.

Henrietta Nunley Tucker Nunley of Soddy Daisy is one of our website visitors.

FAMILY PIE

“One handful of forgiveness, one heaping cupful of love, a full pound of unselfishness, mix together smoothly with faith in God. Add two tablespoons of

wisdom, one teaspoon of good nature for flavor, then sprinkle generously with thoughtfulness.”

“This makes a wonderful family pie. One complete pie will serve any size family. The best home temperature is maintained by warm hearts rather than hot heads.”

MORE PALMER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY PHOTOS

Titanic slide for the kiddies.

Megan Fults & David Patton at Palmer School's 80th anniversary celebration.

W.H. "Buck" and Dot Conry Sanders of Tracy City, TN at Palmer School's 80th anniversary.

Raymond Hargis & Nelda Carrick Stiefel at the school celebration.

Mrs. Raymond (Doris) Hargis with Carl Wayne Sissom (middle) and his brother, Roger Dale Sissom, at Palmer School's 80th anniversary.

Sons of Miners- Bobby Owen (left) and Joe Willard Fults grew up in Palmer in the 1930's and '40's where their fathers wer miners. Bobby lives in Peachtree City, GA and Joe lives in Coalmont, TN.

Wagons, Ho! All kids love a wagon ride and Larry Crabtree was on hand that day. A tractor uplled the wagon, but Larry sometimes gives Palmer school kids a ride in a horse drawn wagon. He's a member of the class of 1962 and a son of the late Grodon and Ethleen Smith Crabtree.

The Owen Family- John Owen (left) his aunt Ruth Owen Black and his father Bobby Owen visited the nearby Palmer Veterans' Memorial Park during the celebration. Bobby recalled that the site was called the "Indian Graveyard" by school kids in the 1930's and '40's.

MARCH 2008 PALMER NEWS

Has spring “sprung” where you live? It sure has in Palmer with green grass, lots of sunshine, and people running “to and fro”.

What does the coming of spring mean to you ? To me it’s the season of hope and optimism after a long winter. As the earth awakens after its winter slumber, the

human spirit also seems to be reinvigorated with everyone in a better mood as we eagerly look forward to being more active and enjoying the outdoors.

Happy 60th birthday to our good friend Alfred Randal Nolan who celebrated March 1. A graduate of the Palmer Elementary Class of 1962, he served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam during the war and is a son of the Late Alfred "Buddy" Nolan.

We are the champions! Yes, and undefeated at that! The Palmer Elementary Lady Bulldogs went 14-0 during the "Big 8" basketball season then won the League Tournament with three wins there. Coach Ricky Meeks, son of Willie Dee Meeks, proved once again that he's one of the best at his job in Palmer School history. Congrats to Ricky and all the girls.

I'm sure many of you remember Helen Tate Kirk who is the daughter of the Late Arthur "Dock" Tate. We received a nice letter from her recently and she's living with her son in Phoenix.

What's for supper? We had always heard of "spaghetti" squash but hadn't eaten any until recently. Mrs. Becky Coffelt Guffey gave us some that was lightly seasoned with butter, salt and pepper and it was delicious. It has the same look and texture as spaghetti and Becky says it's good with regular spaghetti sauce too.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Berton Cagle Family for their loss. Berton grew up in Palmer but had lived in the Jasper area for many years where he was a constable and served in that position longer than anyone in Tennessee history. The Cagle's lived by the railroad tracks near where Eddie Crabtree (Old Henninger Place) lives today. Mrs. Ann Conry Creighton said while growing up in Palmer during the 1930's she visited Berton's sisters and they'd have "candy pullings".

Happy 16th anniversary to our good friends Bobby Lynn and Mary Cannon Stinnett who married on March 6, 1992. Bob and Mary grew up as neighbors in Palmer then went their separate ways. Years later, after the deaths of their spouses, they married and are back in Palmer serving as caretakers for her Mother Velma White Cannon.

February rainfall in Palmer was 5.1" and it's good to see normal rainfall again after the terrible drought of 2007.

"It's been a long, long time". Those words from an old song must have crossed their minds recently when they spoke for the first time in some 70 years or so.

Bertha Schultze taught at Palmer Elementary in the 1930's and early 1940's and Charles Lewis was one of her students. He lives today in Florence, Alabama and called the 99 year old, now Bertha Schulze Ashley, at her Manchester, Tn. home. "She sure didn't sound that old" Mr. Lewis said. Mrs. Ashley still had a clear mind and enjoys staying active and welcomes calls or visits from her former students. Easter was March 23rd this year and area churches went all out to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus.

Palmer United Methodist had 57 in attendance which is almost double their usual weekly number. Rev. James Jacks conducted the service replacing Pastor John Kennedy who was absent due to sickness.

A well rehearsed and performed Easter play tugged at the heart strings of all present. Doug Hargis portrayed Jesus and Mark Roberts and son Jon-Luc were the thieves on the cross. Mary Stinnett sang the touching "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" and the talented Nancy Roberts Rigsby wrote and performed a song entitled "Golgotha". Arthur and Mary Lou Roberts Creighton of Chattanooga were among the guests and everyone enjoyed refreshments after the service.

"He quoted scripture after scripture and I don't think he even opened the Bible. It was one of the best sermons I've ever heard".

This was how Billy Carl Guffey described Pastor John Henry Coffelt's Easter sermon at First Baptist Church of Palmer. Pastor Coffelt's wife Dorcas sang "They were walking my Lord up Calvary Hill" and their daughter Joanna performed "One morning past daybreak".

Anita Finch Crabtree reported a good crowd at Palmer Church of God and Pastor Brett Meeks held a "sunrise" service at campground Freewill Baptist in Pelham. He's a grand son of the Late Rev. Bud Hampton and those attending the church from the Palmer and Gruetli-Laager area include his Mother Wanda Hampton Meeks, Greg Ross, and Gabby and Willie Mae Flynn Tate.

After a nice Easter week-end Easter Sunday was windy, mostly cloudy and cold. For some reason the weather on Easter is many times this way but the real surprise was the next day when about 2" of snow fell overnight but it was gone later in the day. That's March for you. It's always exciting and the white snow was pretty on the buttercups and yellow forsythia.

We'll wrap up this month by congratulating our good friends Jim and Martha Carroll Cox Hensley on their 50th wedding anniversary. They celebrated on

January 4th and have lived in Weekiwachee, Fl. for several years after retiring there from Cleveland, Ohio. Martha Carroll grew up in Palmer and many of you will remember her Late brothers Ronnie and John Allen.

Be with us again next month and all you “out-of-towners” are welcome to send us news about you and yours. And don’t forget to pass our website address along to anyone who might be interested.

MARCUS HILL, JR. REMEMBERS THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND WWII

Recently, on a windy March day with the sun shining brightly and the buttercups blooming, we sat down with Mr. Marcus H. Hill, Jr. of Beersheba Springs and went back in time to a far different America than we know today.

Mr. Hill was born in the Chiggertown neighborhood of Palmer, TN, on May 15, 1928, to Marcus H. and Robby Etta Hobbs Hill, Sr. His father was a coal miner, but the family returned to Beersheba Springs in the depths of the Great Depression when he was just three years old.

Shortly before his death in April 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt described the condition the nation was in when he took office in March 1933. “When I became President, the United States was close to revolution because the people lacked food, clothing and shelter. I said to the people, ‘If you elect me President, I will give you these things.’ Since then, there has been little problem in regard to social disorder in the United States.”

Mr. Hill’s memories of those desperate times are all too clear today. “If neighbors and families hadn’t helped each other, a lot of people would have starved,” he said. “I’ve seen my mother make corn meal gravy because we didn’t have flour, and a lot of people were worse off than us. I went to a one-room school and got there early to build a fire and carry water in from the well. My pay was 5 cents a day.” He says his teacher Ruth Walker is in her 90’s now and lives in McMinnville. Every penny you could rake and scrape was important, and young boys helped their fathers in ways that would be unthinkable today. “When I was 12-13 years old, I helped my Daddy in the mines. He worked for Sunshine Coal Co. in the Pocket, and we would stay out there through the week in what they called miners’ shacks. I could load 24 coal cars a week. I saved up for two years to get \$15 to buy a bicycle.”

As bad as it was for young people who grew up in the Depression, though, an even greater challenge loomed just ahead – World War II.

Mr. Hill was inducted into the U.S. Navy on February 28, 1945, and took his basic training at Norfolk, VA, where the mountain boy saw the ocean for the first time and earned \$21 a month as an apprentice seaman. His Uncles Richard and Waymon Hill and Aunt Marjorie Hill Petersen also served in World War II.

“I was a 16 year old kid and had never been far from home, maybe to Dalton, GA, one time. It was the last months of the war, and we went straight aboard the aircraft carrier USS Randolph after basic.”

America was determined to win World War II, and Mr. Hill will never forget the speech the captain made to his 4,000-man crew. “Every one of you was born free. Our sole intention is to conquer the enemy like our forefathers before us conquered their enemies. Some of us won’t come back, but we intend to put them down.”

The giant ship left Norfolk with the crew training constantly for what lay ahead and went through the Panama Canal, just barely. “It took 14-16 hours to get through from Atlantic to Pacific, and the ship was so big you could step from the deck onto the canal docks.”

As the Randolph sailed toward the Japanese, Mr. Hill’s duty was that of a “plane captain”. He was responsible for one Hell Diver Bomber and had to make sure it was fully armed, fueled and ready to go at a moment’s notice. After the plane was airborne, he switched to anti-aircraft gun duty.

The younger generation may think that suicide as a weapon of war is something new from the Middle East, but it first came to world attention in the final year of World War II.

“A Japanese kamikaze pilot crashed into the Randolph and killed 25 sailors. They were buried at sea with the bodies placed in waterproof bags and slid gently overboard. The chaplain conducted the service with great dignity and the captain would try to do it in a quiet time between the fighting.”

Mr. Hill says the medical care and food were good in the Navy and that after growing up in the Depression the military life wasn’t so bad with plenty of food and clothing.

The Navy stressed sanitation, and Mr. Hill says visitors to the ships were always amazed at how clean they were. We've all heard the old saying, "He runs a tight ship," and some men found that out the hard way.

"In the Navy you had discipline. I've seen sailors get 30 days in the brig (jail) on bread and water for being 15 minutes late for duty. If they told you to be there at 6:00, they didn't mean after 6:00. Also, in those days, you had to get permission from the Navy to get married, and I had to ask three times."

After his enlistment ended, Mr. Hill returned to Beersheba Springs, but soon had to make a difficult decision. "Back then, you had 90 days to return and keep the rank you had. My daddy didn't want me to join back up, but there was no opportunity in Grundy County at that time, just saw milling and coal mines. I went back to the Randolph, and my shipmates teased me, saying, "We knew you'd be back, you hillbilly."

One of the highlights of Mr. Hill's Navy career was being on the maiden voyage of the great aircraft carrier USS Forrestal in the 1950's. From the heat of the Pacific during World War II, his career took him to the frozen wastes of the Aleutian Islands of Alaska during the Cold War with Russia. "One of our patrol bombers crashed into an ice crag up there. We could see it, but there was no way to get it out. As far as I know, the plane and crew are still up there."

After a career spent on carriers, Mr. Hill retired from the U.S. Navy after 25 years with the rank of AD-1 (aviation mechanic). His military decorations include the Asiatic-Pacific campaign medal, World War II Victory Medal, 7 Good Conduct Medals and numerous other citations over the years. Among the famous people he saw in his world travels were Presidents Harry S. Truman and John F. Kennedy, actress Jayne Mansfield whose daughter Mariska Hargitay is a famous TV actress today, and the legendary Bob Hope and Bing Crosby when they came aboard the USS Leyte to perform for the crew.

Mr. Hill lived in the tropical paradise of Key West, Florida, from 1969-1992 when he returned to his old hometown of Beersheba Springs. Like most members of "the greatest generation", he decried the decline of traditional American values in recent years.

"If I had talked to elderly people like some do today, my daddy would have killed me," he said. "We were brought up to respect people, God and country. This nation was founded on Judeo-Christian principles, but now the liberals want to even remove the mention of God from our Pledge of Allegiance, yet the Supreme Court can have the Ten Commandments mural in their courthouse. The liberal news media tries to undermine our troops in Iraq by constantly reporting the

casualties but never giving a balanced report about the good things they are doing and how they've made it possible for the Iraqi people to have free elections and a chance for a better life.”

Most of us, including Mr. Hill, are optimistic, though, that the nation is moving back to the values of our forefathers, and as President Franklin D. Roosevelt said upon taking office in March 1933, “This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and prosper.” With patriots like Marcus Hill taking a stand all across the land, we are confident that it will.

On Veterans' Day 2004, Mr. Y.B. Ashby presented the first annual “Patriot Awards” live on GCTV to a deserving veteran from each community in Grundy County on behalf of the Grundy County Veterans' Historical Society. Mr. Hill was the Beersheba Springs recipient in recognition of his quarter-century of service to our country.

Today, sixty years after World War II ended, Mr. Hill is enjoying life back in his native Grundy County. A spry man who likes to be outdoors and stay busy, he still plants a garden and is a member of the Grundy County Rotary Club and a faithful worker in their campaign to rid out roadways of litter. He worships at Grace Chapel United Methodist Church, and our grateful community wishes him many more years of good health and happiness as our neighbor and friend.

World War II Facts

- 16 million Americans served in the War.
- 405,973 members of the U.S. Armed Forces were killed in the War.
- 671,278 members were wounded.
- 73% of the U.S. Armed Forces served overseas, spending an average of 16.2 months abroad.
- Fewer than 4 million World War II veterans were alive at the time of the National WWII Memorial dedication on May 29, 2004.
- World War II veterans are dying at a rate of about 1,100 per day, more than 380,000 per year.
- More than 265,000 women joined the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII.

• 7 of the last 10 Presidents were World War II veterans.

April 2008

PALMER GARDEN CLUB

April 7, 1936 Meeting

“April”

“In what soft season, when descending showers, call forth the greens and wake the rising flowers.”

Roll Call: My most helpful magazine.

Topic: New things I've found from old magazines- Mrs.W.P.Stone(Mrs. Stone was the widow of Dr. W.P. Stone and the mother of Mrs. Everett B. Roberts Sr. Dr. Stone's great-great grandson is a Dr. in Johnson City, Tn.)

Review: The Southern Gardener by Mrs. Lou Hill Foster.

Exhibit: Spring flowers

Hostess: Mrs. Henry Van McBee

APRIL 2008

How do you do?

Point of View

By Nancy Roberts Rigsby

How do you do? How do you do today?

I ask you now old friend of mine,

How are you today?

As I was walking down the street

A friend of mine I chanced to spy,

He said, “and how are you today?”

And here's what I replied.

“I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm very fine,

I'll tell you as I'm here.

Today, I'm really very fine.

My wife has died, I lost my job,

My house burned down this spring,

My daughter married a gambler
And it's driving me insane,
My in-laws came to live with me
And drank up all my wine,
Except for this I'm telling you,
I'm really very fine.

My children have the measles,
And the dogs have got the fleas,
I planted beans in my corn patch
But raised a crop of peas,
My trees are full of lemons,
But the public wants young limes,
Except for this I'm telling you,
I'm really very fine.

As I spoke, I looked at him, and
Shook his hand to leave,
He said, "I'm glad to see that
You are doing well, and are at
Your peak. It's really very bad.
I only made a million bucks on
All that stock I had.

My son ranked only second
In the law school he attends,
My daughter only runner-up
When she ran for "Queen of Kent".
I ordered red for my new car,
But all they had was black,
So I'm driving a Lincoln Continental
Instead of a Cadillac.
So you see for me, it's bad, but
You have made it great!
Give everyone my best regards
And lay it all to fate.

No matter what life hands you,
Just don't get in a stew,
Life is what you make it,
It's all a point of view.
Some climb slowly upward,

While others wait for pull,
To some a cups half-empty,
To others it's half full.
Some are old at fifty, but I
Am in my prime,
So when my friends ask "how are you?"
I tell them "I am fine".

"I'm fine, I'm fine, I'm really
very fine, except for a little
of this and that, I'm really very fine."

Comments:

Mrs. Nancy Roberts Rigsby is a member of the famous Henry Roberts Family of teachers from Palmer and grew up during the great depression days of the 1930's.

Nancy and her first husband Woodrow Cleek went to college after he returned home from his service as a U.S. Army soldier overseas in World War 2. She taught one year at Tatesville School and one year at Flat Branch before the couple moved to Florida where they taught until retirement.

A talented artist, songwriter, singer, and poet, Nancy is a classy and very attractive 84 year old lady who has faced a lot of tragedy in her life but still has a smile on her face and a zest for life that many young people would envy.

After the death of Mr. Cleek, Nancy married Mr. John Lesser in Florida. They moved to Grundy County and built a new home in Gruetli-Laager only to see Mr. Lesser pass away a short time later. Nancy and Mr. Cleek had a daughter and son and they're also deceased.

Nancy is now married to Mr. Earl Rigsby who is originally from Van Buren County, Tn. and they make their home in Gruetli-Laager. We are honored and privileged to be their friend.

OLD SAYINGS AND FIGURES OF SPEECH IN GRUNDY COUNTY, TN

"You preach your funeral every day." Years ago when a bad person died the preacher would try to find something good to say about them and if he exaggerated, people would often say, "He preached him into heaven". Then they'd say, "You preach your funeral every day". This meant how you lived your daily life would show others what kind of person you were and not what the preacher at your funeral said.

“He took the bull by the horns.” Today we’d say, “He’s a ‘take charge’ person who dealt with a problem instead of trying to ‘pass the buck’”. Our nation needs leaders at all levels who will “take the bull by the horns.”

“That’s a bunch of ruffraff.” People would say that about families or groups of people who were drunks or thieves or troublemakers.

“He got knocked off his high horse.” This described a person who was successful, but got to thinking they were better than others. Such people often thought they could get away with anything, but often something bad happened and they lost everything and did get “knocked off their high horse: when they landed back in reality. As the Sinatra song goes, “Riding high in April, shot down in May.”

“She’s went down to nothing.” This was someone lost a lot of weight and was said mostly about a sick person rather than a dieter.

“He’s all ears.” People said this to warn others not to talk about sensitive subjects in front of kids.

“We’ve got gobs of it.” Gobs meant you had plenty of it and probably more than you needed as in “We’ve got gobs of tomatoes this summer.”

“Kharney or that Charney thing!” This was said a lot, but is seldom heard today in Grundy County. It described something very filthy and “charney thing” was a kid or adult who needed a bath.

“I bucked my way right in there.” This meant that you were probably unwelcome or uninvited, but you went to some sort of gathering anyway.

“Bound to have been.” People used bound a lot years ago instead of “must” to describe something they were certain of such as “He’s a good man and that’s bound to be a lie.” Or, “It’s bound to rain tomorrow.” Meaning it surely will rain.

May 2008

CHURCH SIGNS

This photo was taken on Memorial Day Weekend 2007.

Thomas M. Burnette is a deacon at the church and served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army. May of you will remember his twin brother, Dick, who has lived in Florida for many years. Their parents were the late Richard and Edith Morgan Burnette.

During the patriotic holidays of the year Tom gives a talk at the church about freedom and patriotism and how it was won through the sacrifices of our veterans. We salute Tom and urge all churches to recognize thir veterans on Memorial Day Weekend 2008.

GRADUATION TIME!

May is graduation time in Grundy County Schools, and Pastor Cotton Ross and congregation of Laager Independent Methodist Church offered this wise saying on their church sign in 2007.

YARD SALE!

What would this time of year be without everyone getting outside and having yard sales? We snapped this photo in June of 2007 of Edna Crabtree and great-granddaughter Courtney Tate (right) and Gracie Layne (middle) and their friend Maddie Payne as the got ready for customers. "Time changes everything." Years ago in Grundy County we never heard of a yard sale. Most families didn't have enough clothes or other household items for themselves. But today, clothes are so plentiful it's hard to give them away. And even patched and ragged pants have been "in style". What's the world coming to?

PALMER GARDEN CLUB

May 5. 1936

"May"

"Thou art sick: The invisible worm has found out thy bed, and doth thy life destroy."

Roll call: How I get rid of pests

Topic: Insect enemies of the flower garden by Mrs. Henry Sholer

Review: The Southern Gardner by Mrs. Roy H. Barker

Exhibit: Perennials

Hostess: Mrs. Horace Moore, Sr.

Co-Hostess: Mrs. Henry Hampton

OLD SAYINGS & FIGURES OF SPEECH IN GRUNDY COUNTY, TN

"My word is my bond." This was a solemn promise to someone that you would do what you said you would. It wa used most often in business dealings along with a handshake instead of the paper work and contracts of today.

"It's few and far between." This was said a lot to describe anything that was rare. For example, deer in Grundy County used to be "few and far between", but now we are overrun.

"He's a tight wad." This, of course, meant a stingy person. You still hear someone called "tight", but seldom "tight wad" any more.

"That thing" Most of the time when someone called a person a "thing" it meant they didn't like them, but not always. Sometimes they would use it jokingly as in "That thing teases me about that every time I see him."

"Sick as a dog" People often said this when they were nauseated.

"Bottom dollar" This was your last dollar as in "I'd bet my bottom dollar it happened."

"She's wishy-washy." This was an undependable person, best avoided, who changed their mind all the time on issues.

"He's good at figures, or he has a head for figures." No, this wasn't about pretty girls. It described someone good in arithmetic or "math" as we call it today.

"I shore will." This was said a lot and meant "sure". We hadn't heard it in a long time until just the other day.

"We went in the hole." This meant losing money on something you sold instead of making a profit.

STREET SIGN

Hillside Drive in Palmer begins at the bottom of the hill next to where Monk Land's Gulf Service Station was on Highway 108. Many of you will remember when the large family of Clell Layne lived on top of the hill. Today, Patrick and Denise Cannon Morrison have a home on the property where the Laynes lived.

GRUETLI-LAAGER LANDMARK ABANDONED

The Joe Layne Esso Service Station was a busy place on Hwy. 108 in Gruetli-Laager for many years. This was during the days when such places were "full service". The attendant checked the oil and wiped the windshield during your stop for gas. We believe the station was originally owned by Joe Henley. After Joe Layne retired, his nephew Gene Layne operated the station for several years.

PALMER NEWS SPECIAL EDITION

Palmer Elementary School Graduation

Grundy County's oldest school has just completed its 80th term (1927-28 -- 2007-08) and it was quite a year in the history of our beloved school. The class members of 2008 received their diplomas May 19 in the beautifully renovated auditorium. The students are Raven Ball, Karastin Braden, Autumn Cleek,, Savannah Cleek, Haley Coffelt, Dillon Frizzell, Logan Fults, Zach Fults, Jama Jacks, Joshua Layman, Austin Nolan, Kylee Nolan, Joe Privett, Ethan Sellars, Sierra Shipley, Courtney Stiefel, Haley Tate, Danielle "Dani" Tucker, Brandon Weaver, Cameron Williams, Danielle Worley.

Co-valedictorians were Autumn (grand daughter of Arnold) Cleek and sierra Shipley. Co-salutatorians were Jama (granddaughter of Rev James who graduated in 1962) Jacks and Kylee Nolan. Best all around students were Courtney Stiefel and Cameron Williams.

Palmer School has an American Cancer Relay for Life Team and students gathered at Foxey Sanders Memorial Field on May 14 to release some 500 balloons bearing the names of those afflicted with this dreaded disease.

Teresa Turner King, daughter of Joe and Mary Turner, graduated from college May 3 and will begin her teaching career this fall. We salute Teresa for her tenacity and determination in getting a degree by going back to college several years later.

Have you ordered your copy of the upcoming book " Pictures of Our Past" from the Grundy County Historical Society? Only a limited number will be available and we urge you to order your copy now from Grundy County Historical Society; 641 U.S. Hwy. 41; Pelham, TN 37366. The books are \$69.00 postpaid. Include your payment and address to which you want the book shipped.

We enjoyed a phone conversation recently with Taylor and Rita Turner Morrison of Whitwell, TN. Both come from Palmer coalmining families Taylor's father, Joe "Cripple Joe" Morrison and Rita's grandfather, Henry Clay Turner will be among the miners pictured in "Pictures of Our Past". She's a daughter of the late Robert and Ina Lee Turner and many of you know her brother Rev. J. Darrell Turner.

April rainfall was 6.1, but in 1998 we had a whopping 10". With the record high food prices many are planting "back yard" gardens that everyone had years ago.

The abundant rainfall should be great on potatoes this year and Leon "Gabby" Tate and Larry Crabtree have nice patches.

The homeplace of the Albert "Hatchet: Sweeton family on Burnt Orchard Circle was destroyed by fire on May 10. The house had been occupied in recent years by his daughter Mrs. Richard (Kat) Smith.

Anita Finch Crabtree spent Mother's Day with relatives in Florida. Her brother Larry and wife Marilyn of Jacksonville, FL. have been visiting here. Larry's grandson Jonathan Hood graduates from U.S. Air Force training in September. Jonathan is the son of Dwight and Gina Finch Hood and has a sister Paige.

Flowers were presented to the ladies at the Mother's Day service at Palmer United Methodist Church. Four year old Jordan McCullough, Grand daughter of Joyce Hargis, sang "B-I-B-L-E"

Flora arrangements were presented to Myrtle Hicks, Joann (wife of Pastor Bill) Smith, Sharon Manasco and Jeana (daughter of Gene and Bonnie Layne) Kilgore at Palmer Church of God.

First Baptist Church of Palmer recognized Mrs. Lester (Georgia) Dishroon as the oldest mother; Amy Baker Guffey as the youngest; Becky Coffelt Guffey, most children present; and Dorcas Shadrick (wife of Pastor John Henry) Coffelt as the mother who had been a Christian the longest.

What's for supper? How about some green onions and leftover biscuits? Green onions and cornbread or biscuits used to be eaten a lot in Grundy County this time of year and we still love it. The late Mrs. Louise Geary Layne told me that she remembered seeing the late Dr. Walter Huling get green onions from the garden and eat them with leftover biscuits.

Happy birthday to Charles Edgar Sanders who celebrated this month. He's a longtime member of the Grundy County School Board and a son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Sanders.

Happy 40th anniversary to Rev. Jacob and Juanita Borne Anderson. They were married at the old Grundy County Courthouse on May 14, 1968, by the late County Judge Roy Partin. He's a son of the late Jim and Tootie Nolan Anderson.

Parker Watts, Jr. is reportedly now a resident in a Winchester, TN nursing home.

Jane Rogers Sherman says her mother Clara Rogers has been in poor health recently. She's the widow of Maurice "Morris" Rogers.

Beth Taylor, granddaughter of Betty Finch Bush, graduated from nursing school as an R.N. this month. She's at least the 4th consecutive generation of the R.W. "Russ" Gifford family to become a nurse. Betty is a retired R.N and Beth's mother Kim is a family nurse practitioner.

Our town librarian Miss Susan Faye Sissom graduated from the year-long "Leadership Grundy" course this month. Congratulations, Susan! You are the first Palmer librarian to do so and the experience of working with a diverse group from all across the county should be very beneficial to you in the future.

As the old song says, "A pretty girl is like a melody" and to be named the prettiest girl in your school is quite an honor.

We ran across a 1955 Laager Elementary School yearbook recently and saw where Miss Minnie Lockhart was named the prettiest girl in Laager School. Today, she still lives in Laager and is Mrs. James McCullough. They have a daughter Cindy and a granddaughter Gabrielle. Minnie's twin sister, Winnie, is married to Jack Sissom of Palmer.

We read an article recently that said genealogy was the fastest growing hobby in the U.S. If you're not a member, please consider joining the Grundy County Historical Society as we go back to explore our past. History is never boring. It's about flesh and blood, life and death, war and peace, sadness and happiness. In other words, everything we experience during our time on this old spinning ball we call "the world". (Membership in the Grundy County Historical Society is \$20 per year. You will get 4 journals called The Pathfinder and can use the historical society library at Tracy City. Meetings are quarterly in Tracy City at the City Hall. Send your membership to GCHS; P.O. Box 1422; Tracy City, TN 37387.)

Do any of you remember the Buford and Gladys Overturf family who lived in Chiggertown many years ago? We received a nice letter recently from their daughter Beverly Riley of Elkhart, IN. Thanks, Beverly. We look forward to hearing from you again.

Get well wishes to our webmaster Sharon Goodman.

Let's all get out and enjoy "the good ole summertime" and be active and happy. Remember our nation and our leaders in your prayers.

June 2008

1958- A Pivotal Grundy County Election- as told by Raymond Hargis.

Palmer School Memories- as told by Mr. Leon “Gabby” Tate

“I went to Palmer School in the 1930’s and 40’s. Margaret Brown, (later known as Margaret Brown Coppinger) failed me in the third grade and twice in the fifth grade. We lived on the mountain behind the Palmer Ball diamond and didn’t go to school a lot because we had to cross Mill Creek on a foot log and when the creek was up, Mama didn’t want us to cross it. Sometimes I would coon it (crawl) across the log if the log was wet or frozen over My favorite teachers were Miss Lell Gilliam, Miss Martha Hampton, and Miss Hayesel Goforth, later known as Hayesel Goforth Hunziker.”

“Mr. Beecher Smartt was the janitor, and he was a good man. We’d go to the restroom and slip off down to the boiler room where he stayed a lot to keep the furnace going. After a little while, he’d say in a kind voice, “You better go back to class before the teacher misses you.”

Comments: Mr. Tate and his wife, the former Willie Mae Flynn, live in Gruetli-Laager after retiring from Cleveland Ohio, several years ago. He’s a son of the late Floyd and Tootie Cunningham Tate and served in the U.S. Army as an infantry soldier in the Korean War where he received the purple heart for combat wounds.

Palmer Garden Club-June 2, 1936 meeting

“June”

“June weaves its wreath of roses about a gray stone wall.”

Roll Call: My favorite Rose

Topic: Roses and perennials the year round. Mrs. J.C. Harris, Sr.

Review: The Southern Gardner by Mrs. Henry Van McBee

Exhibit: Roses

Hostess: Mrs. Floyd Owen

Old Sayings & Figures of Speech in Grundy County, TN

1. "There's nothing to him," or "There's nothing to her." This used to be said a lot to describe a trashy woman or a man who was mean to his family. We hadn't heard it in a long time until an 85-year-old said it recently.

2. "A fast nickel is better than a slow dime." We'd never heard this until recently. It means you've got to move merchandise in a business so don't overprice it.

3. "He's lit up." Means someone was drunk on whiskey. Moonshine whiskey was ass prevalent as drugs are today. Now, we'd probably say, "He's pilled up."

4. "He's a snake in the grass." This was a deceitful person who tried to put on a good front.

5. "Here while back" A period of time in the recent past such as "I went to see him here while back."

6. "I think I'll go to bed. I'm tard and wore out." You still hear this occasionally. Of course, "tard" was tired and "wore out" meant exhausted.

7. "Dinner on the ground" or "dinner on the grounds" This was the annual church homecoming and before the days of fellowship halls the dinner was served outside under shade trees and kids and others sat on the ground and ate.

8. "He needs to straighten up and fly right." This meant change your bad behavior and start doing the right thing.

9. "Mumbo-Jumbo" This was a confusing situation or a person that went on with a lot of foolish talk.

Palmer Landmark Closed / Blue Hole / Fall Creek Cemetery Monument / Church Sign Message

Ralph Thompson put these into a .pdf file.

Photos

[Charlie White's Homeplace](#)

[Charlie White](#)

Rachel Hennessee White

Palmer News June 2008

As we write this, July 4th is just around the corner, and the sound of fire works can already be heard at night as the young people get ready to celebrate this great summer holiday.

Correction: Last month we asked if any of you remember the Buford and Gladys Overturf family who lived in Chiggertown years ago. That should have been the "Buford and Gladys (Overturf) Sissom" family. He was a brother of Pascal "Pack" Sissom and the couple moved to Indiana about 1951 or so. Their daughter, Beverly Sissom-Riley, sent us a nice letter about the family, and we look forward to hearing from her again. She's a first cousin of Jack Sissom, Juanita Garner Edwards and her sister Violet Lockhart.

The apprentice: For five years Patrick Morrison has been in training as an apprentice electrician. Last month his class held graduation exercises at the Chattanooga Marriott Hotel where Patrick received his "journeyman" license and finished second in a class of some 30 members, missing being number one by just a half-point. His proud parents, Teeter and Becky Morrison, and wife Denise Cannon Morrison were in attendance. His late grandfather Pat Morrison was also a talented electrician, plumber and carpenter.

Rev. Robert Johnson, son of the late Hershel and Elvenia Johnson, has pastored Harrison Chapel Congregational Methodist in the Sewanee area for many years. Helen Ackerman Arbuckle attended the June 1 service where she heard Robert preach for the first time and says she enjoyed his sermon.

May rainfall in Palmer was 5.3", but 1998 was really a soaker with 11" of rainfall.

We enjoyed talking with Mrs. Angela McBee recently at the Family Dollar Store in Gruetli-Laager. She's looking forward to the upcoming Historical Society Book "Pictures of Our Past", and we appreciate her kind remarks on our local history work.

Howard Lewis has his usual pretty vegetable garden, but says a groundhog ate his first cabbage plants until he dispatched the critter. When Howard was growing up in the Great Depression of the 1930's, he didn't have to worry about things like that because ground hogs, rabbits, squirrels, raccoons, and such were hunted and eaten on a regular basis in order to survive. Howard's 85 now.

Clayton Hargis was seriously injured June 18 when a riding mower overturned and pinned him beneath the machine. He suffered a head injury and broken ribs, but at last report was expected to make a complete recovery.

Father's Day was blessed with good weather as churches and families honored dear old dad.

Jerry Cannon visited his sister Lucretia "Sis" Layne and husband E.W. and got to see their twin sons Lowell and Lloyd. Jerry's daughter Pam Morrison gave her dad a porch swing for his special day.

First Baptist Church honored Tom Burnett and Billy Carl Guffy along with the other dads. They received monetary gifts as well as a funny story about the life of each one.

Rev. James Roberts is 89 now and was recognized as the oldest father present at Laager Methodist Church pastored by Rev. Cotton Ross.

Palmer United Methodist, where Rev. John Kennedy of Pelham preaches, had a nice crowd present to hear Howard Lewis sing "That Silver-Haired Daddy of Mine". This well-known song was made famous by the late cowboy actor and singer Gene Autry. Gene also was famous for the Christmas classic "Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer". His other big hits were "South of the Border" and "Back in the Saddle Again".

It was nice talking with Michelle Campbell Travis and her mother Theresia Campbell while out walking the other day. Michelle lives in the old Orange Lemon Northcutt home and Therisia and her husband James live in the Big Mine Road home where the Ewing Hampton family lived for years. Michelle is the lunchroom monitor at Palmer School and does a lot of good community work. She headed up a very successful recycling drive at Palmer School last month and the students really responded by collecting huge amounts of paper and plastic, etc., keeping them out of the landfill.

Happy June birthdays! We enjoyed visiting with Mrs. Gussie Flynn on her porch, and she told us she turned 90 this month and that her sister Clercie White lived to be 98. Crandel McNabb turned 95 over in Dunlap. We see Ted Nunley often as we're out walking, and he hit 76. He's a jovial fellow and some use to nickname him "Friend". Many of you will remember his late sister Ann Cleek. "Most of my people died in their 60's, so I feel lucky to be here", he said.

Happy 35th anniversary June 8 to Ronald “Ronnie” and Robbie Fults of Manchester, TN. Mr. Fults is a former Palmer School principal and former Grundy County School Superintendent.

Mara Lee Caldwell and Mrs. Ralph (Doris McBee) Burnett received their 50 year membership pins from the OES (Order of the Eastern Star). Mara Lee is a retired postmaster and Doris retired as a teacher.

Hershel Payne, a U.S. Navy veteran and son of Buddie and Lucy (Green) Payne of Laager, was in Murfreesboro recently visiting the VA Medical Center. Hershel is now living in Franklin County.

We’ll sign off for now and hope you’ll join us again next month. We always welcome news from anyone with Grundy County connections, so let us know what’s going on in your part of the country.

Let’s all fly our flags on Independence Day and remember our troops around the world. Happy “4th” everyone!

July 2008

Church Sign

Palmer First Free Will Baptist Church sign explains it all!

Gruetli-Laager Business

Grundy County is full of small businesses with colorful names and this one caught our attention in Gruetli-Laager.

Tatesville and Daus Mountain Road Intersection

This is the junction of Tatesville and Daus Mountain Roads in Palmer. Tatesville Road begins at Hwy 108 and runs through the Tatesville Community which was home to the Tates, Overturfs and other families before Palmer was built by Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company. The road shown is Daus Mountain Road, and across it to the right is where the old Tatesville School that burned around 1960 or so was located.

Daus Mountain Road leads over some beautiful mountain scenery which takes you down to Dunlap and the scenic Sequatchie Valley. The community of Daus is there between Dunlap and Whitwell and it and the mountain were named for Daus Rogers who was the father of Alice Rogers Palmer, wife of Clarence William Palmer, for whom the town of Palmer was named.

Joe Privett- Then and now

In the summer of 1995 Joe Privett fertilizes the marigolds in David Patton's yard. Joe, the son of DeWayne & Marsha Privett, will be a freshman at Grundy County High School this fall.

Mr. Harvey Brown

The late Mr. Harvey Brown works in his flowers fronting barrels that held tomatoes in 1995. Mr. Brown was a fine neighbor who always kept a neat yard. He was a member of Palmer School's first graduating class of 1928.

Memories of Uncle Charlie and Aunt Rachel White

I was born in 1947 and while growing up in the 1950's some of our favorite neighbors were an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie White, who lived just a short walk away.

Back in those days people still visited a lot and sat on porches and talked. In our mind we can still see Mr.White sitting alone on one end of the porch contentedly puffing his pipe as other family members or visitors talked and went in and out of the house.

When the White's were born, there was no radio, movies, cars, planes or anything that we take for granted today. What poor people knew about the outside world came from an occasional school book, newspaper, or maybe a letter or visit from a relative in a far off place.

After World War II ended in 1945, America seemed to explode with new inventions and wonders that amazed everyone. By the mid-1950's, a new form of entertainment called television came into our homes and people in Grundy County and all across America were fascinated and had to have one.

People were drawn to television like a "moth to a flame"/ Even the poorest of people in Grundy County had to have a television and it was common to see people living in little more than tar paper shacks with a television antenna sprouting from the roof. Others in the community would wonder aloud why such people didn't improve their homes first then get a television, but the yearning for pleasure and to 'keep up with the Joneses' has always been a powerful force in human nature.

The Whites were very conservative people and not given to following trends, but by the late 1950's they got their first television. It was a magical thing to kids and middle age adults, but can you imagine just how really magical it must have seemed to people born in the rural South in the 1800's?

Like most elderly people in those days, the Whites went to bed with the chickens so most of their viewing was done during the Day. One of their favorite shows was "Queen for a Day", which I'm sure many of you remember. As the show ended the credits rolled the host Jack Bailey would smile and wave to the applauding studio audience while the camera captured the scene and made it appear that he was looking straight at you. We'll never forget Mr. White smiling and waving back because he thought Mr. Bailey could see him and he wanted to return the greeting.

Professional wrestling was all the rage then, and is one thing that made the new medium of television so popular with the masses. Mr. White's nephew, Kelsey "Rocky" Cookston, grew up in Dock White Hollow and was on of the TV wrestlers. Rocky's nephew, Cody Cookston, still lives in the Hollow and is a valuable member of the Grundy County Historical Society. Another local connection was Jimmy Dykes, uncle of Mrs. LEEAN Dykes Dishroon of Palmer, who was a wrestling referee on television.

Mrs. White would talk to us as though we were her child or grandchild and was always giving good advice with a kind voice in a non-scolding way. Before the days of modern surgery and medical care appendicitis caused many deaths when she was young and she urged us not to bite our fingernails because tiny bits could be accidentally swallowed and cause appendicitis.

Up until recent years, if a person was sent to the penitentiary or "pen" as it was called, shame and disgrace was brought on their family. Mrs. White was always telling kids to "mind" their parents so they wouldn't get in trouble and to illustrate her point she told me the following some 50 years ago. As our overcrowded prisons burst at the seams in 2008, this story is even more relevant for kids and their parents than it was 100 years ago.

In the 1800's and early 1900's if someone was convicted of murder and sentenced to death, gallows were built and the hanging was often carried out on the courthouse square with the county sheriff in charge. We believe Mrs. White was from Warren County and this may have happened there. We don't remember if she saw it happen or was told about by her parents or relatives.

A young man was about to be hanged and as is the case today was given the chance for a final statement or “last words” and told the sheriff that he wanted to tell his mother something.

Can you imagine the pitiful scene as the mother approached her shackled son and bent her head over to hear his last word? The son put his mouth near her ear as if to whisper his last words but suddenly reached out, bit her ear off, then told her: “If you had made me mind, I wouldn’t be here today.”

If you’re a parent or grandparent in our permissive society, we hope you’ll remember this story and do your part in the raising of our young people. The world has changed totally since I was a young boy 50 years ago and just think how many changes young people of today will have seen by 2058.

We’ve enjoyed writing this article and would like to urge Historical Society members and others to submit like articles that put a human face on history.

I’m sure just about all of you could write about the early days of that magical thing called television and how you enjoyed it, so get busy and let us hear from you.

July 2008 News

The following is a letter from Ralph Thompson who is a former Grundy County resident. We didn’t know Ralph but remember his face from Grundy County High School days.

The Grundy County Historical Society is so fortunate to have people with a variety of talents all working together to preserve our history. It was good to hear from Ralph and we thank him for his very valuable work on behalf of the GCHS.

David,

I enjoy your writing and want to update you on a few things.

First, I enjoyed your mention of the Joe Layne Esso Station. (A photo of the abandoned Gruetli-Laager landmark appeared on our page recently.) It always turns my head when I pass. In the late 1960’s while in college, I spent my summers working for the oil companies. My boss had a small company that did the special construction and maintenance work for Esso, Pure Oil, Gulf and some others. I remember setting the new pumps at Joe’s, painting the red logo stripe around the building and mounting the brand name sign above the garage doors. It was a spiffy looking place.

While I live in Chattanooga, I'm a native of Beersheba and an active member of the GCHS. My role in the society is evolving to one of technical support. As a strong believer in computers and the power they have to connect people and communicate ideas, I've recently opened a new website as a companion to the society's existing site.

The new site will be devoted to collecting and making information available that is in both a searchable and downloadable form. This both enhances and speeds the ability to do research. Very soon the Pathfinder magazine will be online. So if someone is looking for information about their grandfather, John Doe, they are only 10-15 seconds away from finding out every time that name was mentioned in any Pathfinder.

Once the Pathfinder is complete, work will start on various other documents including the Margaret Brown Coppinger collection. From there we would like to go to marriage, death, burial information, etc.

Now for my request of you – I am seeking a good listing of the descendants of Henry and Nancy Scruggs Overturf. (Pioneer settlers of the Tatesville community in Palmer) I've developed an extensive tree from their son John Hardy, but know little about any of the other 13 children. I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Comments

We're glad to report that we were able to give Ralph a clue that will help him get more complete information on the well-known Grundy County family.

Palmer Garden Club

July 7, 1936 Meeting

"If you'd have a mind at peace, a heart that cannot harden: Go find a door that opens wide upon a little garden." (This had "Garden Pilgrimage" following the quote so it's apparently from a poem.)

Exhibit: Yard beautification contest

Hostess: Mrs. J.G. "Gordon" Northcutt

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy Co., TN

1. It'll be a cold day in July – This was a statement of defiance meaning the person wouldn't do a certain thing or change their mind on an issue.

2. Good gracious – This was an expression of amazement or frustration such as “I went to my son’s class and the kids were tearing the place down and the teacher just sitting there. Good gracious, what’s wrong with her?”

3. Birds of a feather flock together. You seldom hear this anymore. This was said a lot to warn you and people to stay away from bad company because even though they might not be doing anything wrong themselves, people would assume they were by their association.

4. You can’t break an egg-sucking dog. – This meant if a person had a history of bad behavior it was probably “in them” and they’d always be that way. Back in the days when most people had chickens, they sometimes wouldn’t be penned and would lay eggs at different spots. Occasionally, a dog would eat the eggs and was called an “egg-sucking dog”. Injecting the eggs with hot pepper and other methods were used to stop the dog, but were rarely successful. In frustration, people often said, “The only way to break an egg-sucking dog was to kill him.”

5. That old sting gut- Back in the days when everyone was so poor and neighbor helped neighbor, there were always a few selfish or “stingy” people as they were called in Grundy County. Out of the many descriptions for such people I’ve only heard one person say “stingy gut”. Have you ever heard it?

6. Let’s get the ball rolling. This meant get started on a project as in “We’ve talked about this long enough. Let’s get the ball rolling.”

7. I’m bound and determined - You heard this said about someone who stubbornly refused to change their ways as in, “He just keeps drinking and driving fast. He’s bound & determined to get himself killed.” Another meaning was as in “I’m bound and determined to get this yard mowed today.” This showed you were serious about getting the job done.

8. I’ll be there dreckly – This can still be heard occasionally in Grundy County, but is about gone. I know all you over 40 have heard it thousands of times. It must have been from the word “directly” and meant not so much “at once”, but more like “a little later on today”.

9. I stubbed my toe or I got a briar in my foot or I got a thorn in my foot. Up through the 1950’s many kids in Grundy County went barefooted in the summer and eagerly looked forward on the spring for the ground to warm up enough to do so. Mothers held them back though until the ground was completely warm to prevent sniffles or colds. A stubbed toe was when you stumble because of a protruding rock or root in the ground and bruised a toe.

10. He's a bald-faced liar or that's a fare-face lie or that's a bald-face lie – This was said din anger about something told about someone that was obviously a lie. Years ago being known as a liar was an awful thing and people were always on alert about someone telling a lie on them. Today, we have so many liars from the White House to the church house that people just take it in stride now.

Palmer News July 2008 (Continued)

We hope all of you had an enjoyable July 4th with family and friends. Palmer looked like a ghost town because Gruetli-Laager has their big celebration of the year on that day, but come Labor Day, we will be the center of attention.

The Jack Sissom family got together for ice cream, cake and hot dogs. Now that's about as "All-American: as you can get.

Leslie Turner, a dispatcher for the Tennessee Highway Patrol visited his parents on the big day. His dad, Joe, always has a pretty garden, but had to shoot a groundhog that was eating it up.

The Jody and Rolanda Layne Summers family had a cookout, and Joyce Conry of Chattanooga spent the day with her sister Ann Creighton.

Troy Dent, son of the late J.D. Dent, was injured while on horseback n the Gruetli-Laager parade, but at last report was doing well.

Jerry and Judy Harrison were among those attending a church conference of Jehova Witnesses in Birmingham, AL, this month.

Ronnie and Lynn Finch and children flew to Spokane, Washington, to spend a week with Ronnie's daughter. Lynn says Spokane is a very pretty place, and she enjoyed the visit.

Fay Layne Hanson has moved to Chattanooga. She lived in the old "P.T." Nunley place, which is now occupied by Jack Benny and Joyce Worley Morrison.

What's for supper? Mrs. Howard (Oma) Lewis sent us a plate of Hamby green beans, meatloaf and a big ripe tomato to go with it. That's Palmer eating at its best and many thanks to Oma.

James Henry McBee says he saw George Burnett recently. He's living in the Knoxville area and looks forward to retiring and moving back to Grundy County.

"Now that was a real shock!" You used to hear this old saying a lot when someone heard bad news, but we "forgot to duck", and it was a shock. We were going in Michelle Travis' horse lot and came in contact with an electric fence. Michelle had a good laugh, and now we understand why the horses meekly stay in the lot.

Have you seen any snakes this summer? Cody Cookston killed a big rattlesnake near his Memories General Store in Dock White Hollow. For an interesting article on Grundy County snake encounters, check out "copperheads and rattlers" dated September 2006 on this page.

Pam Cannon Morrison had her garden eaten by a deer. We hear of this a lot now.

Mary Stinnett has been trying to start a Girl Scout group this summer. "When school starts, we hope to have more girls join," she said.

The Horace Ray Slatton home, on what old-timers will remember at "Everett Green Hill", burned July 14. Our sympathy goes to the family.

Thanks for writing: Grundy County trustee Gayle VanHooser sent us a card expressing appreciation for our local history work. It was also nice to hear from a new friend Melanie Lynch Brown of South Pittsburg. Her ancestor was the late Bascom "Bass" Overturf of Palmer.

"It's been a long, long time": We enjoyed talking with Miss Kristin Guffey who will be starting college soon and also had a nice chat with Kathy Watts, widow of Willie Watts.

Ronald "Booger" Hammers stopped for a minute while we were walking on "Bottom Road" near the old Bob and Effie Overturf place and Cindy McCullough Lecroy stopped and gave us some aluminum cans on Swiss School Road. We enjoyed seeing you both.

Many of you will remember years ago when poverty was rampant in Grundy County and drivers had a "locked gas cap" because of drunks and other miscreants. History does repeat itself, and Ralph Taylor Creighton of Gruetli-Laager recently had his gas stolen and vehicle damaged in the process. We're sure it's also happening in your part of the county as record-high gas and metal prices are seen.

Happy birthday to Larry "Farmer" Crabtree who hit the big "6-Oh!" on July 8. He's Palmer's most famous gardener. Clayton Hargis turned 76 July 15 and is making a good recovery after his recent lawn mower accident.

"O, to be 19, again!" Wouldn't it be great to hit that rewind button and do it all over again? Lebron Layne, son of Ricky and Freda Layne, had his last teenage birthday July 12 with family and friends at a nice restaurant. Among the guests were Faye Layne Hanson and her sisters Janice Gulas and Dot Lockhart, Chetty and Darlene Layne, Lana Roberts Summers and her sister Drema.

Happy 45th anniversary to Larry and Donna Shadrick Lecory who married July 20, 1963, in Georgia.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Mrs. Eddie Mae Caldwell McCullough in their loss. Mrs. McCullough was a friendly person and as MacArthur White McPhearson said, "I always liked her. She would talk to you anywhere she saw you."

Mrs. McCullough was the widow of James W. "Scooter" McCullough. He is one of the miners featured in the upcoming book Pictures of Our Past, and we're sure this historical society publication will bring back memories of yesteryear for so many of you.

That's it for now, so stay "cool as a cucumber" and join us next month for the latest news and information from "where the good people live."

August 2008

Road Signs

Givensville Road in Gruetli-Laager is named for a well-known Grundy County family. It's located on "Laager Circle" and among the residents living there today are Charles Ronnie and Rosalyn Cannon Knight.

Church Sign Message

The summer of 2007 was blazing hot along with the worst drought in years. Many prayers went up for relief and the summer of 2008 has been much better.

Palmer Garden Club

August 4, 1936 meeting

"August"

“Over the meadows aftermath,
By August rains made green.
Harvest spider webs are seen.”

Roll call:

Topic: Midsummer among the irises- Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr.

Review: The Southern Gardener – Mrs. Martin H. Burnett

Exhibit: Summer flowers

Hostess: Mrs. Henry Sholer

Old sayings and figures of speech in Grundy County, TN

“I’ll pug a watermelon for you.” What better eating in the August heat than a cold watermelon? Years ago someone selling them would offer to “plug” one for you to make sure it was a good one. This consisted of cutting a little square in the melon and taking it out to taste, then putting it back in the melon before taking it home.

“I’m just sitting here looking straight up” or “I’m just sitting here looking at the 4 walls.” These used to be said a lot when people were bored. We heard the first one recently for the first time in a long time. Mrs. Janelle Taylor says that she doesn’t remember it from years ago, but we sure do.

“I’d leave well enough alone.” I know all you oldsters remember this one. It meant although a situation might not be perfect to “leave well enough alone” because you might make it worse.

“Quittin’ time” – We hadn’t heard this in a long time until just the other day. We asked our propane man Keith Brown what the price of gas was and he said, “They just set it yesterday about five minutes before “quittin’ time, which of course, meant the end of the work day.

“She’s bedridden.” We heard a woman describe her sick friend this way recently. It used to be said a lot.

“Not many people think much of him.” We heard an old person say this recently about someone who had just passed away. It meant the person had a bad name in the community because of criminal activity or just by being a “Smart Aleck.”

“I can’t put my finger on it.” This meant you were highly suspicious about something, but couldn’t exactly figure it out.

“Wild as a buck” – We’ve not heard this in a while, but it used to be said a lot in Grundy County to describe young people, male and female, who were unruly and out of control.

Excerpts from a letter from Mr. Raymond Hargis May 9, 2008

...In the next letter I want to write at length about the County Clerk’s office because it is a remarkable job where nearly everything you do is a help to somebody. There have been only 3 county court clerks in the last 50 years. I was there 10 years; Rip Hampton for 10 years and Jimmy Rogers the last 30 years. I’d guess Jimmy’s tenure is probably the longest in Grundy Co. history, and he may be there several more years.

I had not thought about your observation that candidates no longer ask people to vote for them. I guess I assumed they do ask because that is a fundamental thing to do in campaigning. I do not believe there is any better way of winning an election than asking someone face to face to vote for you. In fact, not so long ago it was a common comment for voters to say they wouldn’t vote for someone who did not ask for their vote in person. As a candidate myself, I know that is difficult and time consuming, but it is the most effective thing to do in my opinion.....

Mary Ruth Rogers is right about her dad, Roy Mayes, not having an office. He would come to the Register of Deeds office to pick up real estate transfers to put in his assessor’s books with an assessed value for each property. He would assemble these valuations by civil district and turn them over to me as County Court Clerk. My office would prepare a county-wide tax book which I would give to Bill Sanders, Trustee. When the taxpayer came in, Bill would collect the tax and mark it paid in the tax book, and give the taxpayer an official receipt.

Roy would always visit a while in our office. He would greet people and talk with each one. He really enjoyed meeting people and was very popular and well-known. Doris and I always noticed how he would make a note of his election returns in his assessor’s books for each civil district. He kept up with his votes in each election.

I remember taking some papers to Bill Sanders’ office one morning and when I walked in the door, I realized the man talking to Bill was upset. So, I signaled to Bill that I would come back later. After awhile, I saw the man pass my door on his way out of the courthouse. So I went back to Bill’s office. I said to Bill that the man seemed upset. Bill laughed and said, “Yes, he was upset. Roy Mayes had doubled his taxes.” I said, “Well, you can’t blame for being upset

about that.” Bill laughed again and said, “Yes, Roy doubled his taxes from \$1.25 to \$2.50, and he said he was going to whip Roy Mayes as soon as he got back to Tracy. (The man owned a lot in Tracy that Roy had assessed at \$50 and had increased to \$100, which caused his taxes to double.)

We didn’t hear anything about Roy being whipped, so we assumed the man cooled off before he got to Tracy.

Although I was a year or so ahead of Wince Mayes in high school, I knew Wince well. (He was an outstanding football player.) I also knew his younger brothers, Wayne, who was nicknamed Mose, and Fritz as well, of course, as Mary Ruth. I always thought a lot of Roy Mayes and his entire family, including Byron D. and Glenn. Not only Wince and Mary Ruth, but all of them could tell stories all day long.

Palmer News for August

How are you coping with the August heat? We’re doing fine since we’ve never owned an air conditioner and that makes it so much easier to stand the heat.

We never dreamed about living to see the day when almost every home in the cool mountains of Grundy County would be air-conditioned. But, as one of our favorite sayings goes, “Time changes everything.”

Welcome to Palmer: Sean and Angie Lewis and daughter Lillie have moved to Palmer from the Cleveland, Ohio, area. Sean is the new eighth grade teacher at Palmer Elementary and many of you know Angie’s grandparents, Leon “Gabby” and Willie Mae Flynn Tate.

Dr. Vin-Paul Hua is attending the Olympic Games in Beijing. Dr. Hua grew up in China and has been our town doctor since 1981. He’s an avid table tennis player.

What’s for supper? We enjoyed visiting with Clayton and Joyce Hargis. Joyce had okra with tomatoes fried in with it, which was really good. Clayton is making a good recovery from a recent lawn mower accident, but said, “It nearly got me”. He’s now 76.

Steve Garner of Chiggertown was hospitalized in Chattanooga recently, but is reported to be doing much better now.

The home of the late John Henry and Irene Layne McBee on Hwy. 108 in Gruetli-Laager burned August 8.

Chetty Layne of Ringgold, GA, was here due to the death of his former brother-in-law Carl Caldwell.

We voted early in this month's election and enjoyed seeing Wilma King and Julia Pirtle who were poll workers at the county courthouse. Wilma is the daughter of the late K.M. Blaylock of Palmer and Mrs. Pirtle is a well-known Monteagle resident. Palmer native Donna Gifford Basham is the administrator of the Grundy County election commission and runs the office in a first class way.

Tex and June Britton Nolan of Cleveland, Ohio, have been visiting her mother Frances Britton and other Palmer relatives.

Our July rainfall was 3.9 inches, but most of that fell in the last week of the month, which saved a lot of gardens from burning up.

July is a busy month for Miss Susan Faye Sissom at the Palmer Library. On July 10, the Tennessee Aquarium visited and 48 came to see the exhibit including Rev. Doug and Della Sissom Tate and her brother Jack Sissom. The annual summer reading program concluded with a pizza party July 28.

Rev. Tate is a former Palmer resident who has lived in Chattanooga for many years. Recently he's been preaching in this area, and when we asked Ricky Layne if he was a good preacher, we got an emphatic, "yeah"!

Harbinger of fall: We enjoyed talking with Mrs. Hallie James Knight of Gruetli-Laager the other day. Hallie says she saw goldenrod blooming along the highway in Altamont, which means fall is near.

Rev. Danny Gipson is the new pastor of the First Freewill Baptist Church of Palmer. He's a son of the late Charles Gipson.

Bobby Stinnett and Jerry Magouirk visited Jimmy Weaver recently in Tullahoma. Jimmy's wife passed away this summer, and we extend our condolences.

First Baptist Church of Gruetli-Laager held their vacation Bible School graduation July 18. Leslie Turner and wife Monica and her mother Joy Shrum were among the adults in attendance. The theme of the VBS was "Drop Your Anchor at Outrigger Island".

Howard Lewis recently sang "If I Could Hear My Mother Pray Again" and "The Great Speckled Bird" at Palmer United Methodist.

That reminds us of a story. In the Great Depression of the 1930's the Grand Ole Opry on radio was a great comfort to people across the South.

Roy Acuff and his "Great Speckled Bird" were favorites of Mrs. Daisy Gifford of Palmer. In 1948 Mr. Acuff ran for governor as a Republican. As was true of almost all the local people who lived through that terrible time, Mrs. Gifford was a staunch Democrat. It was said that when she found out that Mr. Acuff was a Republican, she would never listen to him again.

We commend Mr. Lewis for keeping the old gospel songs alive through sharing them with the younger generation.

Happy birthday, August 24 , to Dot Layne Lockhart. We think this is the big "6-oh" for her since she's a 1962 graduate of Palmer Elementary.

Homecoming Time: Summer is the time for church homecomings in Grundy County and a day filled with good eats as well as spiritual (singing and preaching) food.

Pastor Brett Meeks had 110 at Campground Free Will Baptist Church in Pelham. He recently baptized a group of eight converts in Elk River down there including Stephanie Geary, daughter of Bobby and Ima Jean Geary.

Palmer Church of God had over 100 at their homecoming. Former Pastor Howard Thomason was the featured speaker. Some of you will remember Eugene "Bug" Shrum who married Rev. Thomason's daughter while he pastured here. Bug is a Church of God pastor himself now. He's a son of the late Billy Joe and Martha Campbell Shrum.

Long time, No see: It was good to see Miss Felisha Shadrick recently. She's a daughter of Jewel and Deanna "Dinky" Akins Shadrick.

We also enjoyed a quick chat with Cecil White who is a grandson of the late Dock White.

We walk up Palmer Mountain weekly and spotted Mrs. Kat Slatton Hallman in her yard under a shade tree. She's always a friendly person and some of you went to school with her children Edward Mchone and Patricia Mchone Rogers.

Charles Lewis of Florence, Alabama, sent us a July 17 letter and says it's dry down his way. He's 85 now and doesn't raise a garden anymore, opting to buy from a close-by farmers' market.

Happy 25th anniversary Aug. 6 to Jackie and Norma King Henry. They were married in 1983 by Rev. J. Darrell Turner. Jackie is Palmer's most famous volunteer fireman.

Happy Labor Day to everyone across the country as the last summer holiday fast approaches.

As always, we've enjoyed being with you, and we'll try to be back next month with the best and latest news from "where the good people live".

September 2008

Road Signs

During the summer of 2007 this sign on Louie Campbell Road in the "Bottom" Community of Palmer announced the birth of Kasadee Danielle Crabtree. Kasadee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Crabtree and Great Granddaughter of Edna Crabtree and the late Alf Crabtree.

Church sign message

Sign at Palmer First Baptist

Palmer Garden Club

September 1936 meeting

"September"

"Birds are flying to lands warm and clear. The flowers are dying. September is here."

Roll Call: A seasonal garden reminder

Topic: A discussion on judging led by Mrs. Raymond D. Swann.

Review: The Southern Gardener by Mrs. T.L. Harris

Exhibit: Fall flowers – best specimens)

Hostess: Mrs. W.P. Stone

Old sayings and figures of speech in Grundy County TN

1. Grab yourself a cheer or take a chur - This, of course, was "chair". Years ago people didn't pronounce the "A" in a lot of words. You seldom hear "cheer" anymore, but "chur" is still heard a lot.

2. I've got a flat tar or I'm tard – Tar was “tire” Mr. Y.B. Ashby used to get tickled at the late Pat Morrison saying, “I'm tard”. Both of these are still heard a lot.
3. Rest-runt – No, that's not a runt taking a break, but a place to eat. It's still said a lot locally today.
4. Goody or Goody, goody, gumdrop – This was an expression of delight not heard much anymore. Our mail carrier, Mr. Linda Cook, said “goody” when we gave her a tomato from our garden recently.
5. He's a hard-shell Baptist – We'd almost forgotten this until hearing it recently. It must mean a very fundamentalist group like Primitive Baptists.
6. Thanks a million – Back in the days when millionaires were rare this was really an important expression of appreciation. Recently, 81-year-old Mrs. Helen Ackerman Arbuckle, said, “Thanks a million” when we gave her green beans from our garden.
7. I've got to take up dinner.- Our friend, Mrs. Louise Geary Layne, used to say this a lot. It meant take food from pots on the stove, put it in bowls, which were placed on the table. People seldom eat meals at the table now.
8. I'll line him up – This meant to verbally reprimand someone.
9. At the snap of a finger – This meant something that happened instantly.
10. Back on track – Back like it was before – back to normal. An old saying back when railroads were king.

Palmer News

Ah, September. As the sounds of Neil Diamond's “September Morn” drift from the radio, we always enjoy this special month with its mix of summer and fall as the seasons change.

Labor Day is always the big event of the year for the town of Palmer and most seemed to think the celebration this year was the best ever. Lisa Magouik and Denise Morrison from the Palmer Improvement Committee were among the planners who had a wide rang of activities for all ages which makes any gathering a success.

As surely as the swallows return to San Juan Capistrano in the spring, Sue Bouldin-Parrott of Tracy City can be counted on to appear in Palmer on Labor Day. Other notables spotted were Grundy County Mayor Ladue Bouldin and his

assistant Bonnie Henry Meeks, County Register of Deeds Gayle VanHooser, and Lucille Crabtree Roberts. Martha Carroll Cox Hensley probably traveled the longest distance, coming from Weeki Wachee, Florida.

Palmer United Methodist Church had their Labor Day Fish Fry, and Mark Roberts used his “mule” to transport attendees to the nearby celebration site at Foxey Sanders Memorial Field. “We sure appreciated it.” 84-year-old Nancy Roberts Rigsby said. Mark’s “mule” is not a “hay burner”, but a small vehicle like a golf cart. If gas prices continue to rise, the real mules will be at Labor Day 2009.

The Chattanooga chapter of the VVA (Vietnam Veterans of America) came in a big shiny black bus with military decals and brought the Tennessee memorial wall featuring those from our state who gave their lives. Local names featured were George E. Henry of Palmer and James Wise and Marvin Phillips of Gruetli-Laager. Tom Burnette of Palmer is a VVA member.

The afternoon dedication of the former Palmer Church of Christ as the future home of the Grundy County Veterans’ Museum drew a big crowd with World War II veteran Dan Coffelt and his daughter Sherry among those present along with Vietnam and Desert Storm Veteran Teeter Morrison.

World War II veteran Y.B. Ashby, 87, received a plaque as the oldest veteran present. James “Jim” Waller of Monteagle, a West Point graduate, received awards as the veteran with the most years of military service and the highest rank of those present.

Mr. Ashby is leading the effort to build the museum and has a target date of Labor Day 2009 for opening the facility. He badly needs donations of money or labor to make the museum a reality, so please contact him at 931-779-3462 if you can help in any way.

Palmer’s newest “Granny” Tonya Guffey Kilgore, was absolutely “beaming” with a smile that would light up a stadium as she held her first grand child Carson Magouirk. He was born last month to Tonya’s son Brandon and wife Katrina. Granny Kilgore will have to share her joy with Billy Carl and Becky Coffelt Guffey since this was their first great-grand child.

Calling Harold Knight, calling Harold Knight! We haven’t heard from the former Palmer resident in a long time. Harold, let us know how things are going up Michigan way in this presidential election year.

“It’s been a long, long time.” Earlier this month we got a pleasant surprise by getting to have a back-porch visit with June Britton Nolan of Cleveland, Ohio, and Martha Sue Hammers Dodson of Whitwell, TN. We were out picking up cans and stopped at June’s mother’s house, and they were unexpectedly there. We all graduated from Palmer Elementary in 1961, and I hadn’t seen them since the 1960’s. You never forget your school days, and we enjoyed talking with them so much.

Our August rainfall in Palmer was 10” with all of it much needed and coming in the last week of the month.

What’s for supper? We opened a can of Vienna sausages (pronounced in Grundy County as “Vi-ain-e”) and made a sandwich with yellow mustard. Vienna sausage and potted meat were once eaten a lot here with crackers or made as sandwiches. I’ll bet Harold Knight remembers those days and many others will as well.

Happy 90th birthday to Mrs. Parthena McHone Fults who celebrated on August 25. She’s the widow of Wesley Fults and has lived on Ducktown Circle for many years.

Pastor Cotton Ross and Laager Independent Methodist Church had their homecoming August 10th. Around 150 attended to hear Rev. Chris Long of the Pocket Community bring the message.

Connie Cannon had a birthday dinner for her sister Judy Simpson and Brother-in-law Jerry Cannon. The “Mayor of Cannon Street” turned 72 on September 9 and says he enjoyed the cake and trimmings.

Danny and Marian Creighton of Atlanta visited his mother Ann Creighton last month. He’s a respiratory therapist at Kindred Hospital in Atlanta.

First Baptist Church of Palmer had homecoming services September 7. Pastor John Henry Coffelt made a short, but urgent appeal to the “unsaved” to repent because “we’re at the beginning of the last days.” Six generations of the William Eli “Jesse” and Rebecca Nunley James family were present this year.

Oma James McNabb, 91, daughter Mara Lee Roberts Caldwell, granddaughter; Becky Coffelt Guffey, Great granddaughter; Tonya Guffey Kilgore, 2 great granddaughter; Brandon Magouirk, 3 great grandson; Carson Magouirk, 4 great grandson. Oma’s granddaughter Ruth Ann Savage Fults was also present.

“The Singing Redeemed” were in concert August 10 at Palmer United Methodist Church. Larry Meeks, son-in-law of Joyce and Clayton Hargis, is one of the members. Howard Lewis sang “Falling Leaves” a Grandpa Jones song from years ago.

We forgot to tell you that Shane Worley and his “Wild Ride” Band closed out the Palmer Labor Day Celebration with a three-hour concert. They had a good sound system and gave a high-energy performance. Many of you remember his father Hansel “Hank” Worley from Palmer school days.

We started our page in September 2006 with an article on the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Palmer Clinic. We want to thank all of you for your kind words of encouragement these past two years and invite you to stay with us as we bring you a variety of news and articles from “where the good people live.”

October 2008

Palmer Garden Club

Oct. 1936 minutes

“October”

“And then autumn changed soberer hues, gold again.”

Roll Call: Choice bulb

Topic: What to do with the bulbs this month by Mrs. Horace Moore, Sr.

Election of officers

Exhibit: Potted plants

Hostess: Mrs. Roy H. Barker

Old Sayings and Figures of Speech in Grundy County, TN

1. “Haint” or “That house is hainted.” – It’s almost Halloween and a “haint” was a ghost. Now, we call them haunted houses, but “That place is hainted.” used to be said a lot here. It was a place where a ghost had been seen.

2. “I saw a spook.” or “Let’s go spooking.” Was said a lot in Grundy County and meant the same thing on Halloween as going tick or treating.

3. “I’m covered up with beggar lice” or “Those Spanish needles hurt. These appear on weeds in the fall around here and can be very annoying. Beggar lice are little triangular brown seeds that stick to your pants legs, but are not related to the infamous body lice. Spanish needles – On September 30th we got Spanish needles on our pants legs while brushing up against some weeds on the side of the road.

4. "I need a pasteboard box to put that in." Now we say cardboard box.
5. "He's never darkened the door of a church." This was a person who never attended church.
6. "He brought the message." This was a preacher preaching a sermon.
7. "We've got our ways." This was a gentle way of saying someone had strange or unusual ways.
8. "He's dead and gone, but..." The little three-letter word "but" is one of the most powerful in the English language. Look out when you hear it. This meant the person was dead and his misdeeds were in the past, but you regretfully had to tell others how sorry he was.

Stotts Road Sign

Stotts Road, located off Hwy. 108 and Laager Circle in Gruetli-Laager, is where the late L.D. Stotts lived. Many of you will remember L.D. as a funloving guy who liked to play music, but most of all loved to laugh and play practical jokes on his friends.

Church sign

A church sign in Palmer, TN.

Palmer Veterans' Appreciation Award Press Release

Dennis A Sweeton, a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War, is the 2008 recipient of the 23rd annual Palmer Veterans' Appreciation Award. The award, presented by town historian David Patton, is sponsored by Citizens Tri-County Bank.

Mr. Sweeton was inducted in Nashville, TN, on November 7, 1962, and took basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. After attending Aircraft Airframe Repair School in Fort Eustis, VA, he served with the 70th Transportation Detachment, 1st Aviation Company, in Vietnam from June-December 1963 where one of his most poignant military memories occurred 45 years ago this month. When the CQ came through around 6 AM, he told me that he heard President Kennedy had been shot. We had a big radio in the mess hall that picked up Australia and later heard that the President was dead."

It's always a special thrill to run into someone from home when you're in the military, and Mr. Sweeton recalls seeing Vernon Pirtle and Larry Winton at Fort

Benning, GA, after returning from Vietnam. He received his discharge there on November 6, 1964.

A 1959 graduate of Grundy County High School, Mr. Sweeton and his wife Dottie have two sons, Scotty and Tracey Lee; a daughter, Shelly Guyear, and five grandchildren. He is retired from Rockwell International and Wheland Foundry where he was a member of United Steelworkers Union Locals 8297 and 3967.

Malcolm P. Rankin, a highly decorated World War I soldier, was the first recipient of the Palmer Veterans' Appreciation Award and was followed in order by Obid Marion "Soap" McNabb, Rufus Kilgore, Jr., Glenn A. Nunley, Robert W. Levan, William "Wet Duck" Dishroon, Alfred "Buddy" Nolan, Earl F. Creighton, Charles E. "Gene" Brooks, Bedford R. Glisson, Herschel L. Finch, Jr., James Lowrie "Jim" King, J.C. "Tom" Scissom, Carl E. "Teeter" Morrison, John W. "Bill" Partin, Thomas M. Burnette, James Shrum, Jr., Billy Carl Guffey, William J. "Jack" Partin, Daniel "Dan" Coffelt, Larry G. Henry, and Bobby Lynn Stinnett.

October 2008 Palmer News

It's October in Palmer and our mountain is a wonderful world of color ablaze with leaf-covered trees and shrubs. We're sitting here tonight (Oct. 18) with some heat to knock off the chill from the clear and starry sky and giving thanks for living in such a beautiful and hospitable part of God's creation.

James and Theresia Campbell are home after a trip to Oklahoma due to the death of her sister. We extend our condolences to the family.

The House of the Lord and Pastor Ronnie Partin had a fish fry Sept. 28. Among the guests was Ted Nunley who is now attending Sunday services.

What's the world coming to? We all wonder every time we go to the store, but this is shocking. A local person paid \$28 for a bushel of Hamby green beans and \$12 for a bushel of tomatoes grown here in Palmer.

Jack Sissom's daughters, son-in-law, and grandchildren attended services with him at his regular place of worship, Palmer United Methodist, on Sept. 14.

We had just one-half inch of rain in our gauge for September, and that's as close to "bone dry" as you can get.

The farmer: We just have a "backyard" garden, but Kenneth Layne of Gruetli-Laager went big time this year and planted 3,000 tomato plants, and from all reports had all kinds of other vegetables this summer also. He's the son of the late Clell and Lizzie Sanders Layne of Palmer.

Jon Coffelt of New York City and his cousin Tonya Kilgore of Palmer visited the Great Stone Door State Park in Beersheba Springs recently. The Tennessee State Park System has been named this year as the best in the U.S., so visit one soon.

Hazel Hornbuckle made a good recovery from surgery and is back full speed at Palmer United Methodist and the senior citizen's center. She's 89 now and the widow of Charlie Hornbuckle.

Palmer Church of God has been renovated this summer, but that's finally over. They held services in the fellowship hall while the work was being done.

Happy Birthday to our friend Bruce Coffelt. He hit the big "6-Oh" on October 7. He is a son of Dan and Nell Coffelt.

Opal James of Nashville is back home after suffering a broken hip this summer. She lives with her daughter Linda, and Opal's son Glenn also lives in Nashville. She's 95 now and the widow of Jesse James of Tatesville. Jessie was a coal miner and later had a barber shop.

John Ross Jones, grandson of the late teacher Kat Roberts Jones, is a new teacher at Palmer Elementary. Teresa Turner King, a Palmer graduate, also began her career at the old school this year.

Thelma Bone Nolan and sons Randal, David, and Lyndel visited her sister Nell Finch at the Haven of Rest Nursing Home in Tracy City recently. Nell is a dear friend of ours and we wish her the best.

Keith McBee was "roasted" by a big crowd of friends and relatives on Sept. 24 in honor of his 50th or was it 60th birthday. Keith used to be "slim 'n trim", but tells us he hits the scales at about 250 now. He's a nice guy and one of Grundy County's most famous pranksters. He was the county trustee for years and now works for Ben Lomand Telephone.

Melvin Brewer is the business manager of Chattanooga Local 704 of the International Iron Workers Union. Quite a few Palmer men have been ironworkers in recent years.

Faces in the crowd: It's always good to see someone you haven't seen in a while and we enjoyed visiting with Willie Mae Layne and her daughter Teresa recently. Willie Mae attended the J. Hugh Layne family reunion last month. She's the widow of Andres Layne, J. Hugh's son. J. Hugh Layne passed away in 1939 and was a well-known Palmer preacher and miner.

It was also good to visit with Bobby Lloyd and Perkie Cannon Greene who were here from Starke, FL. Both were active in the Palmer community before moving. Perkie was the P.T.A. president and longtime volunteer at Palmer Elementary while Bobby Lloyd was an alderman on the town council and a little league baseball coach.

Jimmy Long played on a softball team we managed some 30 years ago, and it was good to see him. He's the son of the late Jim Long. Jimmy's mother, Joyce Sweeton Long, is in a Chattanooga assisted living facility now.

We stop and visit Leon "Gabby" and Willie Mae Tate occasionally and ran into Mr. & Mrs. Carl Ed Nunley there last month. We had a great time sitting on Gabby's porch and talking about old times in Palmer.

Ricky Keener is also one of our former softball players. He had a cancerous kidney removed several years ago then cancer was found on the other kidney earlier this year. Ricky traveled to Ohio for surgery at the famous Cleveland Clinic and is hoping this will stop him from having to go on dialysis. He's the son of Joann Campbell Keener and the late L.H. Keener.

We also enjoyed a visit on the porch of Franklin and Kat Hart King this summer. Frank said he went out to get the morning paper and saw a bobcat in the yard. Franklin lives in Gruetli-Laager, but grew up in Palmer's Chiggertown. He recalled how his mother used to make souse meat for Dr. Walter Huling during hog killing season years ago. Back then about everyone had their own hogs, which they killed in the winter.

We also had a good visit with Anna Britton Howe. She lives near Jasper and says she walks often with Anna Lee Nunley Thompson who lives down that way. Both are former Palmer residents.

Grandparents Day was September 12 at Palmer Elementary and among those attending were James and Reatha Henry Jacks and her sister Bonnie Meeks; Laura Bell Tate, Mike & Mary Ruth Shadrick, Mary Turner, Greg Ross and Stephanie Geary, Linda Campbell Scissom, Connie Cannon, And Rosalyn Cannon Knight.

The ladies of the First Baptist Church of Gruetli-Laager hosted a baby shower September 14 for Denise Cannon Morrison.

Those attending included Mary Cannon Stinnett who said, "I've attended a lot of them, but this was the most gifts I've ever seen anyone get."

Also there was Sis Cannon Layne, Pam Cannon Morrison, Denise's sister Mitzi Trussell and Dana Scissom, and Denise's mother-in-law, Becky Taylor Morrison,

and her sisters Mae Cox and Faye Gross. Mary Morrison Overturf and her sister Helen Hampton also attended. They're the aunts of Denise's husband, Patrick Morrison.

Let's close by wishing our friend Dola Ivey Rector a very happy 90th birthday. Dola lives

In Jefferson, GA, but grew up in Palmer and has never forgotten her old hometown which holds precious memories for her. She has been very helpful on our history research and we appreciate it very much.

That about does it for now. As we were out walking tonight a big, bright, full moon lit up the October night and we didn't even need a flashlight. We hope you're having the same good weather wherever you live, and check in with us next month as we bring you tidings from "where the good people live".

Ivey Street

This street was named for James F. "Jim" and Clara Ruth Poe Ivey, early settlers of Palmer who are thought to be the first to bring their family from Tracy City to settle the new town of Palmer. They were the parents of R.B. Ivey, Vaudie Barker, Becky Teague, and Dola Rector.

November 2008

Happy 81st Birthday to Palmer Elementary School

Nov. 14, 1927- Nov. 14, 2008

Across the top row: Charles Bailey Brooks, Harold Lockhart, Carl "Chunk" Flynn, Ronnie Nunley

2nd row: Linda Partin , Mary Louise Cannon, Mickey Cleek, Malcolm James

3rd Row: Bonnie Gipson, Joann Campbell

Dola Ivey Rector (left) and here sister Becky Teague visited with Suzanne London Nerren at the 2007 reunion last year to celebrate the school's 80th birthday. The Ivey sisters grew up with Suzanne's mother, the late Harriet Roberts London.

Reunion

Howard Lewis and Dorothy McBee Ross sing at the August 31, 1996 reunion. Does anyone recognize the "slim and trim" Keith McBee on the right?

Palmer Dairy Bar

This photo was taken in 2005, and the building has since been torn down. It was located on Rock Avenue next to Jackie Henry's Service Station. This was a popular restaurant for many years. Among the operators over the years were Mrs. Carl Ed (Delores) Nunley, Patricia Mchone Kilgore, and Cindy Hargis Fults. The Oscar Holt Restaurant was on this site or nearby in the 1930's and 40's.

Fall Colors in Palmer

This beautiful maple is ablaze with color as Jonathan Brooks (left) and David Patton pose underneath for photographer Michelle Campbell Travis. The tree is located next to the former Palmer Church of Christ and the late Charles E. "Gene" Brooks told Mr. Patton that he remembered the day it was planted in 1937. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. Superintendent of Palmer operations for Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co., planted the tree in memory of his father-in-law, Dr. W. P. Stone. The same day he planted another one at Palmer United Methodist in Memory of Palmer's first Mayor, DR. C.W. Hembree, but it later died.

The old Bailey "Preacher" Brooks homeplace stands to the Right of the tree. Jonathan is the great, great grandson of preacher Brooks.

November 1936 meeting of Palmer Garden Club

"November"

"The flowers do fade and wanton fields, toward winter reckoning yields." Fields, outward winter reckoning yields.

Roll Call: Favorite chrysanthemum. Topic: Chrysanthemums- Mrs. J.G. Northcutt
Review of the Southern Gardener

Exhibit: Chrysanthemums

Hostess" Mrs. Martin H. Eurnette.

Old sayings and figures of speech

"I'm loafing" or He's a loafer" - This meant that you were just taking your time and visiting family or friends. I'm sure the correct term would be "loafing", but people in Grundy County said "loafing".

A loafer was someone who wasn't a hard worker and maybe even lazy.

"It's too rich for my blood." This meant that something was too expensive for you to buy.

"He's slouchy" or "He's a slouch" - A slouchy person was one that wasn't a neat dresser and didn't take pride in his appearance.

"He's spiffy" or "It looked spiffy" - Someone spiffy was a neat dresser and Ralph Thompson said in a recent letter that "It looked spiffy." He was talking about how the old Joe Layne Esso Station in Gruetli-Laager looked years ago after Ralph gave it a makeover.

"He's not got a place to hang his hat." Years ago almost all men wore a hat and this meant the person didn't have a permanent home.

"She's liable to"- This was said a lot years ago, but not much any more. It meant "likely to" or probably would do something.

"He's long headed." or "He's hard headed." This meant a stubborn person.

"I don't know whether I'm coming or going." "I don't know if I'm washing or hanging out." - This was a "too busy" person, and in today's hectic world we all sometimes feel this way.

"He's headed down the wrong path." This wasn't a hiking path, but the path of life. It meant the person was making poor decisions and headed for trouble.

Preacher Appreciation Day

John Kennedy of Pelham, TN, is serving his first pastorate at Palmer United Methodist which is the oldest place of worship in the community. Mrs. Rigsby attended the church while growing up in Palmer and returned to Grundy County in recent years after a teaching career in Florida. She will be 85 on Thanksgiving Day, so "Happy Birthday", Nancy.

By Nancy Roberts Cleek Rigsby

The First United Methodist Congregation of Palmer
Was seeking guidance from above
Desiring a pastor to preach God's gospel
Whose life reflected fulfilling of God's word.

John Kennedy, God had already prepared you
To answer His call and meet our needs
To call sinners to repentance
And draw Christians much closer to thee.

God has used you, John Kennedy,

To show sinners the "Ole Rugged Cross" on a hill
Points the road to eternal salvation
For those who are seeking God's will.

John, by using words of Jesus from the Bible
And living lives that draw us closer to God,
The United Church and its members
Impart a message of God's loving care.

John Kennedy, we love and adore you.
We appreciate your wife's sharing so much.
May God bless you, your family and ministry
And the people whose lives you may touch.

Veterans' Day

By Nancy Roberts Cleek Rigsby

As we honor our veterans in America today,
We look at the flag we so proudly display.
Veterans may not know how important you are
Among America's symbols, you are the stars.
Our forefathers sought freedom for all.
They struggled with dissenters by passing good laws.
Pilgrims too became veterans in America's milieu.
When we honor our veterans, we honor them too.
They wanted a country where all could be free.
They made it their duty to secure liberty.
As loyal Americans, we can never deny
The valor and honor this day signifies.

When we sing "Old Glory" tears may fill your eyes,
For it pulls at your heartstrings as memory revives.
You know on the battlefield you paid a steep price.
Comrades fell at your feet and didn't survive.
You are the lucky ones with victory assured,
Returned to your homeland and things you hold dear.
Veterans, we thank you for hardships endured
To preserve our freedom and keep America secure.
We believe God blessed America and stood by
Her side, by helping us select leaders of wisdom,
Valor and pride, men who honored the
American Creed, through their valiant leadership
Have kept America free.

God bless America.

Mrs. Rigsby wrote this wonderful poem at our request and we thank her for sharing it with our website visitors. A daughter of the late Henry and Oda James Roberts of Palmer, she has an unusual appreciation for veterans and their sacrifices. Nancy's father was a World War I veteran and her brother Henry Dillard was a veteran of World War II. Her first two husbands were World War II veterans, and her current husband Earl Rigsby served with the U.S. Army in the European theatre of operations in World War II.

Palmer News
November 2008

It's the middle of November and Thanksgiving is "right on us". Soon the aroma of turkey and dressing, along with pies in the oven, will remind us of Thanksgiving past and the memories associated with this special day.

Speaking of Thanksgiving, a very happy 85th birthday to our friend Nancy Roberts Rigsby on November 27, which is Thanksgiving Day. Nancy's a retired teacher and a daughter of the late Henry and Oda James Roberts. Some of you will remember her late husband Woodrow Cleek who also was a teacher.

Faces in the crowd: We talked with young Joe Privett recently. He's a giant of a boy and wears a size 12 shoe. A freshman at GCHS, he already has a girlfriend so things are going well. Joe's a great-grandson of the late Hubert and Gladys Henry.

Frankie Layne was running his mail route when we handed him our website card. He's a son of Gene and Bonnie Finch Layne and attends Palmer Church of God.

We also enjoyed chatting with Jeanette Tate Smith, widow of Leon Smith. Do any of you remember Albert "Ab" Layman? We talked with his son Carl who works on a state highway crew.

Jacob Anderson's a son of the late Jim and Tootie Nolan Anderson, and we visited with him on his job at the Gruetli-Laager Piggly Wiggly, which about everyone simply calls "The Pig".

While at the pig, we also met a very nice young lady, Miss Valerie Taylor. You don't find many courteous store cashiers these days and when Valerie said "thank you" we almost had a heart attack. When we told Jacob what a courteous employee she was, he replied, "She's a good kid."

We see Jack Doss pass about every time we're out walking and got to speak with him. He's considered an expert on identifying trees and rare plants in the woods and has been in this work all his life.

We run into Carl "Cigar" Nolan occasionally. He's a well know resident of Barker's Cove and son of the late Claude and Ruby Haynes Nolan.

We visit Mara Lee Caldwell on Mondays and Jewel Layne Pickett was there recently. They grew up together in Palmer and have remained lifelong friends. Jewel's 81 now and the widow of Clint Pickett and a daughter of the late Pat and Cleo Sanders Layne.

Mark to the rescue: It was 9:30 on Sunday morning and no preacher at palmer United Methodist church. Pastor John Kennedy of Pelham got mixed-up on the time change and when Mark Roberts went searching he met him coming u the mountain. Mark's a younger man and a big help to the "oldsters" at the church. Palmer town alderman Carl "Teeter" Morrison received a plaque of appreciation from fellow council members at his final meeting October 20. He didn't seek re-election.

Bobby Stinnett and his stepson attended the Tennessee-Alabama football game October 25 in Knoxville. Bobby was an all-star player at Grundy County High School in the 1950's.

Dale "Undertaker" Layne, owner of Layne Funeral Homes in Palmer and Altamont, has buffalo on his spread in Coalmont and had one slaughtered recently. Deer and Buffalo meat are becoming alternatives to beef for many people.

Ann Creighton and her sister Joyce Conry loves the theatre and recently attended the play "Smoke on the Mountain: at the Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville which has been a professional theatre for some 40 years. "When we were children we'd play under the ironing board while Mother ironed," Ann said. "She would be singing, and we heard some of the same songs in the play that she sang all those years ago." Ann's 85 now.

Debbie Sissom of Sand Mountain, AL, and her sister Della of Fort Oglethorpe, GA, visited Gail Bryant Coffelt recently. Gail's the daughter of the late Harley and Frankie Morrison Bryant and the sisters are the daughters of the late Clyde and Lorene Tate Sissom.

We had a beautiful Halloween with sunny skies and warm weather this year. The kids at Palmer Elementary had a fun-filled day with a costume parade in the gym, wagon rides from Mark Roberts and Larry Crabtree, plus all kinds of candy and treats and even chili from the lunchroom. We stayed that night to watch the school

and really enjoyed the leftover chili made by lunchroom manager Kim Shadrick Rollins.

What's for supper? People use to talk about dessert and they'd say, "I like to top off with something sweet." We haven't had any for a long time, but we'd sure like to top off with some of the little fried apple pies people used to make.

"Gladys Henry used to make the best fried apple pies I ever ate." Mary Ruth Rogers said. She sold them as fund raisers and she would always come by Palmer School where I worked."

This has been the best year for apples that anyone can remember and Mary Ruth said her mother-in-law Mildred Geary Rogers used to make a delicious "fresh apple cake". That would be good for Thanksgiving or any time, don't you think?

"Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow, but not in October, please. Snow flurries started on the night of October 27 and we woke up October 28 with a dusting of snow on the ground. We had 20 degrees on the 29th while Coalmont had 23 degrees and Ricky Layne had 22 degrees on the 30th in Palmer.

Chet Cleek recalled memories on what cold winters we used to have in Palmer and Grundy County. "In 1959 I was working in a coal mine on Daus Mountain," he said. "The boy running the motor said we better get out of here if we're going to make it home. It's already 6" deep. By the time it was over, we had a 22" snow. In 1960 we had a 20" snow."

The "Big 8" Basketball Conference opened the season October 28 and the Palmer Elementary Bulldogs won both games under new boys' coach Brent Sweeney and new girls' coach John Ross Jones. Brent's the school custodian and his wife is a teacher. They came here from Michigan a couple of years ago.

"It was the sweetest singing." That's how Joyce Roberts Hargis described the new singing trio at Palmer United Methodist Church. They performed "Jesus Loves Me" and the "B I B L E". The trio consists of Joyce's granddaughter Jordan McCullough, Vanessa Stinnett, and Chloe King. These girls are first grade or so in age.

Mrs. Danny (Betty Carrick) McCullough, Sr. was among the guests at a birthday party for her granddaughter Jordan McCullough November 2.

Happy 25th anniversary to Jimmy and Lynn Payne Brooks of Tatesville Road in Palmer. They were married November 25, 1983, and Jimmy's the son of Jim and Darlene Brooks and the grandson of James "Flop" and Kathleen Nunley Brooks.

In today's world families are scattered to the four winds, but Mary Stinnett says her mother Mrs. Scott (Velma White) Cannon had lived in the same house on Tatesville Road in Palmer for 75 years. Mary and her husband Bobby live next door and are caregivers for Mrs. Cannon.

"Long time, no see" Donna Gayle Gifford Basham said she saw Connie Overturf recently for the first time in 45 years. Connie lives in East Ridge and Donna lives in Tracy City.

"When we were teenagers I used to stay all night with Connie when she came to visit her grandparents, Clarence and Bertha Birdwell Overturf," Donna said. Connie's dad was Chet Overturf and Donna is the daughter of the late Eugene Gifford.

Our October rainfall was 3.4", which was about normal, but we're hoping for a lot of rain this winter. TVA also needs it for power generation.

It was good to see Donna McCullough Nov. 12 and meet her brother Jerry Pocus. They were here visiting friends and relatives and live in Greenville, S.C. now.

As we close and Thanksgiving fast approaches, let's all pause and be "thankful" for food and a roof over our heads and plenty of clothes to wear. We used to be satisfied with the basics, but we've become a "want this" and "want that" society and now our nation is in a terrible condition.

All during the holiday season of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years, may you and your churches pray for our leaders that they may have the wisdom to lead us out of this.

We'll take a December break, but look forward to being back in January with all the holiday news from "where the good people live."

December 2008

A Snowy Scene

A snow capped Palmer United Methodist Church with Christmas wreathes adorning the doors in 1990.

Laager Independent Methodist Church sign

A timely message from Laager Independent Methodist Church in 2007.

First Baptist Church sign

First Baptist Church of Palmer reminds us of the true importance of Christmas

Palmer Church of God sign

Palmer Church of God announces their Christmas play for 2007.

Bruce Coffelt

Bruce Coffelt receives a present from his nephew, Peyton Curtis, on Christmas Eve 2007.

Privett Brothers visit David Patton

T.J. Privett (left) and his brother, Joe, visit their neighbor David Patton during the season in 1994

Palmer Garden Club

(This is the end of the Palmer Garden Club series.)

December 1936 Meeting

Annual Christmas Party – Hostess, Mrs. Raymond D. Swann

This concludes our year - long series on the Palmer Garden Club. It's been interesting to us to look back at this year of 1936 in the Great Depression and see that such organizations still functioned even in those hard times. Now, 72 years later, our nation is in the worst economic condition since the Great Depression and the question is, "Do we have the fortitude to "make do" as our ancestors did?" What do you think? Let's review some of the 1936 projects

Palmer Garden Club House and Yard Improvement Contest

Judging points

Cleanliness of premises, streets, and vacant lots from April 15 to Aug. 31 – 50 points

Repairing of fences, gates and outhouses – 25 points

Improvements of walks and driveways – 10 points

Appropriate planting of shrubs, flowers, and trees – 15 points

Prizes will be awarded to the following winners:

1st prize – Mrs. Bill (True) Ross

2nd prize- Mrs. Alfred (Delia) McBee

3rd prize – Mrs. Louie Dishroon

4th prize – Mrs. Jim (Clara Ruth) Ivey

Report of the 1936 Palmer Garden Club Meetings:

In homes of members each month, except December, which is set aside for a Christmas Party for Garden Club members and their husbands, have Christmas tree and exchange gifts. Lots of fun.

We also had a very interesting meeting in August. Had a yard contest of Garden Club Members. Visited each member's garden and judged as we do the flower exhibits. Also had an old time "spelling match" with Mrs. Dave Henninger giving out only the names of flowers. Very interesting. Drill on Correct pronunciation of flowers often;

Exhibit: Have flower exhibit of specimens and arrangements each month. The one winning most votes on exhibit, get trophy for the month. The one winning trophy most times during year, get it for keeps at the end of year. Also had as one exhibit, our handmade yearbooks. Very interesting. After exhibit, flowers are distributed to anyone sick.

Civic Works: The Civic Committee sponsored clean up week. Sponsored Yard and Garden Contest. Each entrant to the contest was given a shrub, donated to the club by Miss Bessie Drake of Winchester. The chairman also asks each member to name their home or flower garden. (note from David Patton: Mrs. Raymond D. Swann was a member and we've heard her home called "The Swan's Nest". This is probably how it originated. As of 2008, it's still standing and is occupied by Larry and Donna Shadrick Lecroy.) City Park improved. Planted iris along ugly banks of Highway. Sponsored plant and seed exchange. Junior Garden Club organized in March. Have about 20 members. Mrs. Roy H. Barker is counselor and Miss Mary Hill (one of our Palmer Elementary School Teachers) is sponsor. They meet once each month. Have interesting programs and have exhibits at each meeting with members having the winning exhibit receiving trophy. On special occasions are entertained with a party by some of the parents of junior gardeners.

Exhibits such as flowers, miniature gardens, bird houses, feeders, pools, etc. and also see lantern slides at meetings.

Members Palmer Garden Club

Mrs. Roy H. Barker
Mrs. Martin H. Burnette
Mrs. Lou Hill Foster
Mrs. Henry Hampton
Mrs. J. C. Harris, Sr.
Mrs. T.L. Harris
Mrs. Horace Moore, Sr.
Mrs. J.G. "Gordon" Northcutt
Mrs. Floyd Owen

Mrs. Everett Bryan Roberts, Sr.
Mrs. Frank Shockley
Mrs. Henry Sholer
Mrs. William Perry Stone
Mrs. Raymond D. Swann

At the time of her death Mrs. Horace (Evelyn Northcutt) More, Sr. was the last surviving member.

Business cards

Business cards from around Grundy County.

Kenneth Sissom article

Kenneth Sissom won \$25.00 and a nice letter from the editor of an Alaskan newspaper for [this article](#) written about the birth of his daughter.

Kenneth Sissom grew up in Palmer, TN, as a son of the late Howard and Virginia Tate Sissom. He retired from the U.S. Air Force and lived in Alaska until his death. He was married to the former Carolyn Conry of Palmer, sister of the late Miss Frances Conry, Joyce Conry and Ann Creighton. As of March 2008, Carolyn and their children still lived in Alaska. Kenneth is now deceased.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Your Website Team

Sharon Goodman
David Patton
Janelle Taylor
Ralph Thompson

Stay with us in 2009 as we revisit our past.

Webmaster's Note: My computer's word count indicates that David has written over 86,000 words in his column since 2006. Thank you David for contributing so very much to the Society and to the people of Grundy County.