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Alive Magazine is just what it says it is. A southern lifestyle magazine for the young and the young at heart. Our area is rich in colorful characters, exciting community events, distant and not-so-distant history all wrapped up with some southern hospitality. We are proud of where we are from and want to celebrate those things that make us who we are. Hopefully you are holding in your hands one of many Alive Magazines and we hope you enjoy the dirt road with us.

IN THIS ISSUE

1 Recycling: Henry County Residents Have Options

5 “Cereal Slayers” knock hunger dead in its tracks

9 Down Home Cooking Recipes

11 Rainey’s Grocery Store celebrates generations of hard work & love

15 Our Scrapbook

18 Fort Donelson: History, Fun, & Adventure Awaits

21 Stewart County’s Camelot: A place for ‘happily ever aftering’ – today!

29 Neighbors Looking After Neighbors

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Recycling:

HENRY COUNTY RESIDENTS HAVE SOME OPTIONS

written by: **Tim Alsobrooks**

Whether newly moved into Paris and Henry County, or a lifelong resident, if you are searching for some recycling options there are some things you may know and some you might not for the area. While the City of Paris and Henry County doesn't offer residential recycling pickup normally, the County does offer cardboard and paper recycling pickup for businesses and industrial customers. Even occasional residential pickup can be arranged, according to the County's governmental website at www.henrycountyttn.org/solidwaste.

The Henry County Recycling Center is located at 450 Recycling Drive in Paris. The hours are 7am to 3:30pm Monday thru Friday.

Phone number is 642-5170. Items that can be accepted at the Recycling Center include aluminum, steel or tin cans, vegetable cans, (all rinsed and cleaned), dog and cat food cans (rinsed and cleaned), empty aerosol cans, scrap metal, "dead" appliances such as refrigerators, microwaves, stoves, and such.

Other items accepted at the Center include: paper materials such as printer paper, books, telephone books, newspaper, catalogs, junk mail, and magazines.

Auto, lawn, and nickel-cadmium batteries are accepted along with e-scrap, or electronic materials such as flat screen TVs, computer equipment,

microwaves, stereo equipment, and other equipment.

When it comes to electronic equipment, items not accepted are tube type TVs, and computer monitors. They can be taken to the landfill however to be disposed of.

The Recycling Center accepts used motor oil and used anti-freeze (household only, wood pallets, and paint. Cardboard items like paper feed bags, brown packing paper, cereal boxes, corrugated cardboard are all accepted as well.

PLASTICS: 13 AND 23 IN HENRY COUNTY ONLY

Plastic is its own animal when it comes to recycling and there

are several different types of plastic material out there that products come in and we use on a regular basis. The Henry County Recycling Center takes only 1s and 2s plastics or items such as Number 1 PET, Number 2 HDPE, drinking bottles, liquid detergent bottles, milk jugs, and cooking oil bottles. To determine what type of plastic you have, look for a recycling triangle on the bottom or back of your bottle with a raised number 1 thru 7. Again remember Henry County

accepts 1 and 2 plastics. Items not accepted at the Recycling Center include: Styrofoam, plastic bags, black plastic bags, freezer boxes, glass, soiled cardboard boxes, and fluorescent bulbs. Lowe's in Paris does accept fluorescent bulbs.

DROP OFF AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

There are several places throughout Henry County citizens can bring their recycling

items in addition to the Recycling Center, at 450 Recycling Drive in Paris. Look for Green Recycling boxes in parking lots. Remember to clean all your items before bringing them and take no household trash to these locations, only recyclable materials.

Drop off areas are: 1495 Poplar Grove Road in Springville, Paris Post Intelligencer Office at East Wood St. in Paris, 1425 Whitlock Road (leave items on carport), Lakeway IGA parking lot (cardboard only), Como at the intersection of

"TO DETERMINE WHAT TYPE OF PLASTIC YOU HAVE, LOOK FOR A RECYCLING TRIANGLE ON THE BOTTOM OR BACK OF YOUR BOTTLE WITH A RAISED NUMBER 1 THRU 7. HENRY COUNTY [RECYCLING CENTER] ACCEPTS 1 AND 2 PLASTICS."




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54 and Hwy. 140 at 10515 Hwy. 54 W., Paris Square Shopping Center, 1023 Mineral Wells Avenue (Cardboard only), Mansfield Fire Department at 2154 Mansfield Road, and Buchanan Post Office at 15 Claytontown Road.

COTTAGE GROVE RESIDENTS HAVE RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING

One town in the County, Cottage Grove, the smallest incorporated town in the whole state of Tennessee does offer residential recycling pickup to its residents. "It's a program that we decided to offer years ago and it continues to work well," according to Cottage Grove Mayor David Jackson.

Machelle Operia, who serves as a Council Woman for the Legislative Council, oversees the curbside pickup program by handling the selling of clear recycle bags. The roll of clear plastic recycle bags is \$10 for about a 30 to 60 day supply. "The bags last longer for some families than they do others, depending on the amount of people at the home and amount of recyclables they have each week."

Residents must separate their items into aluminum, cardboard, paper, and plastic. Operia also said, "they don't want any garbage mixed in, we had to close some sites due to that before, and all items need to be cleaned, rinse out your cans, etc. don't toss it in the bags dirty."

Curbside recycling in Cottage Grove is held on Tuesday mornings. The recycling center contracted with the town on this. They send a truck to pick up the plastic, tin, etc, and one truck picks up the cardboard. "It continues to be a great program, several homes on my street alone use the service," Operia said.

From June 5, 2018 to July 31st of 2019 the Recycling Center took in 10.21 tons of recyclable materials from the town of Cottage Grove. Since the inception of the program in 2014 until now they've taken over 51.5 tons of recyclable materials.

For questions or to purchase recycle bags if you are a Cottage Grove resident, call Operia at 782-3252.



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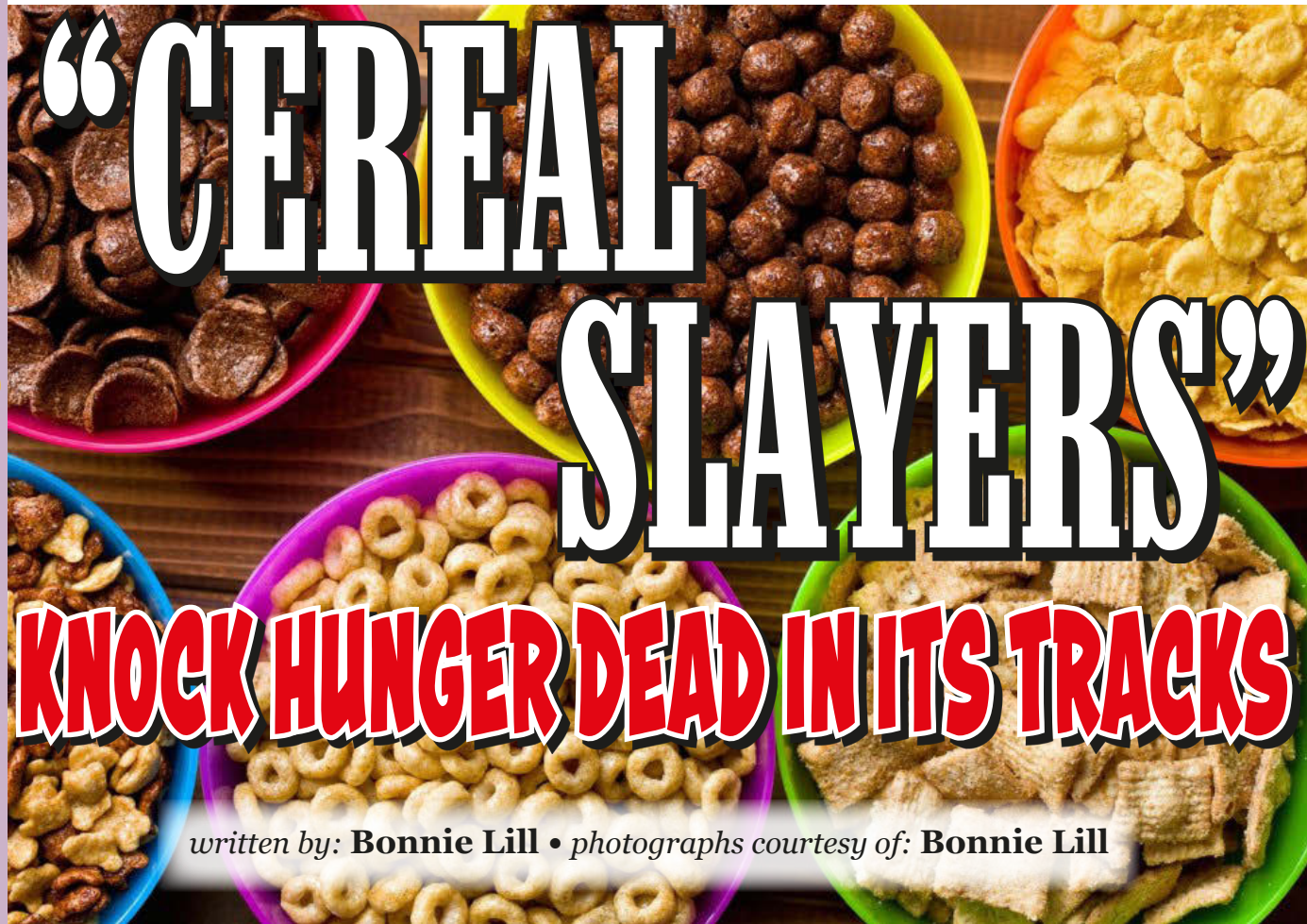
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“CEREAL SLAYERS”

KNOCK HUNGER DEAD IN ITS TRACKS

written by: **Bonnie Lill** • photographs courtesy of: **Bonnie Lill**

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There is a mystery in Stewart County, and it has spawned a serious “anti-crime” spree.

The mystery is this: What do you get folks (who have everything) for their birthdays once they reach their 90s and 100s?

The answer, deceptively simple, is uniquely Southern: breakfast cereal.

What it boils down to is something every true Southerner (by birth or by choice) knows in his or her heart: Children need to be nourished physically before they can be nourished emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, morally. Most nonagenarians and centenarians don’t need more stuff. So why not bring food items for children, amounting to at least one per one year of life, to mark those senior citizens’ birthdays, and give it to a group with the infrastructure to properly distribute it?

And that tasty answer has launched a veritable movement in Stewart County, a movement dubbed the “Cereal Slayers.”

Once spelled out, the plot has thickened as handily as grits in boiling water.

THE PERP AND HER ACCOMPLICES

Any good mystery has a perpetrator, or “perp,” who is responsible for the “crime” (or, in this case, the “anti-crime”), and Cereal Slayers is no different. Furthermore, there are always accomplices.



Cereal Slayer Forrest Myers, right, is joined by Backpack maven Mary Lou Easter, with the 115 boxes of cereal collected for the Backpack Program in honor of Forrest’s 93rd birthday in April.



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Brenda Myers of Indiana is the perp in the initial incident. When her father, Forrest Myers of Dover, had a 93rd birthday looming on the horizon, Brenda was stumped.

Knowing her dad's dedication to the Backpack Program that was begun 10 years previously at his church, Fort Donelson Memorial United Methodist Church, she went to one of the organizers of the program, Mary Lou Easter.

Backpack serves over 20 families in need, providing food and other items such as school supplies and Christmas gifts.

"We always need breakfast cereal," said Mary Lou. "We can buy it cheap enough from Second Harvest, but they don't always have it."

Cereal is one item that is nutritious, can be used for breakfast or snacks, and doesn't have to be cooked or refrigerated. These attributes make it a sought-after commodity for the families (including over 50 children) the Dixie Gorham United Methodist Women group serves at FDMUMC every other week.

That settled it. For Forrest's birthday, she would attempt to collect at least 93 boxes of cereal, and that meant she had to have accomplices: the rest of the Myers family plus the entire congregation and other friends.

By April 7, they had collected 115 boxes of cereal.

Forrest, who by this time could be labeled an accessory after the fact, was thrilled.

At a reception in his honor, he was all smiles – and so were the accessories to the anti-crime.

The shelves were filled – for a while.

COPYCAT ANTI-CRIMES

The success of this caper inspired other perps to come out of the woodwork.

Lora Ann Bailey and Jimmy Scurlock joined forces with seasoned anti-criminal Mary Lou to orchestrate another breakfast blitz in honor of their mother, Mary Ann Scurlock, who turned 92, also on April

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7. The deadline was in early May. Again, the accomplices were more than happy to flood the Backpack shelves with cereal bars and Pop Tarts, eventually amassing 125 boxes.

Mary Ann truly enjoyed her birthday, according to her family.

The August 8 birthday of Willouise Williams, 105, had accomplices bringing in cereal with wild abandon. Anti-crime had apparently gotten into their blood, and there was no turning back.

Cereal Slaying was becoming an inspiration.

At last count, there were in excess of 105 boxes for Willouise.

In the meantime, the group was preparing to celebrate the 91st birthday of Gene Johns in similar fashion. Sadly, he passed away less than three weeks before his birthday.

Backpack folks had already received some donations from those feeling the crunch of a tasty breakfast, and the general consensus was that the best way to celebrate Gene's amazing life was to posthumously award him the Cereal Slayer designation. His wife Donna was named as perp. The ever-widening circle of accomplices just kept growing.

At press time, the final count was not yet in, but Gene and Willouise had over 135 boxes between them, with more set to come in.

THE RECKONING

Perps and accomplices must have their day of reckoning, and in the case of the Cereal Slayers, that comes shortly after the birthday in question. To date, they have all been convicted of contributing to the health and well-being of minors. Due to the ages of the honorees, the sentences have been commuted to a life of reflecting on the impact they made in knocking hunger dead in its tracks, as well as to think of ways they can help their anti-crime spree to proliferate.

Mary Lou said that folks in her church are free to celebrate their birthdays in any way they like, but with the interest shown by many of the accomplices in this recent string of anti-crimes, she believes the copycat anti-crimes will continue to "kill it."

Anyone wishing to honor their elders 90 and above with a breakfast blitz for the Backpack Program need only to contact the church office at 931-232-5696 and Mary Lou can get the ball rolling!



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Down Home Cooking Recipes



Baked Teriyaki Chicken

1 tablespoon cold water • 1/2 cup white sugar • 1/2 cup soy sauce
1/4 cup cider vinegar • 1 clove garlic, minced • 1/2 teaspoon
ground ginger • 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper • 12 skinless
chicken thighs

In a small saucepan over low heat, combine the cornstarch, cold water, sugar, soy sauce, vinegar, garlic, ginger and ground black pepper. Let simmer, stirring frequently, until sauce thickens and bubbles. Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Place chicken pieces in a lightly greased 9x13 inch baking dish. Brush with the sauce. Turn pieces over, and brush again. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Turn pieces over, and bake for another 30 minutes, until no longer pink and juices run clear. Brush with sauce every 10 minutes during cooking.

Cucumber Lemonade

1 cup water • 1/2 cup white sugar • 1 cucumber, sliced
6 lemons, juiced

Make a simple syrup by stirring the water and sugar together in a saucepan over medium heat; heat until just about to boil and the sugar has dissolved. Place in refrigerator 30 minutes, or until cool. Place the cucumber slices in a blender or food processor; blend until mashed into a pulp. Pour the cucumber pulp into a fine mesh strainer place over a bowl to catch the liquid; allow to sit until you have about 2/3 cup of liquid from the cucumber, about 15 minutes. Stir the simple syrup, cucumber liquid, and lemon juice together in a pitcher. Serve cold.

Grilled Potato Salad

2 pounds red potatoes • 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil • **Dressing:** 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar • 1 teaspoon kosher salt • 1 teaspoon ground black pepper • 1 clove garlic, chopped • 1/2 teaspoon white sugar • 6 slices cooked bacon, chopped • 4 green onions, chopped
2 tablespoons minced fresh parsley

Preheat grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Place potatoes in a bowl; add 2 tablespoons olive oil and toss to coat. Cook on preheated grill until tender, about 30 minutes. Cool potatoes, 10 to 15 minutes; cut into quarters. Whisk 1/2 cup olive oil, vinegar, salt, black pepper, garlic, and sugar together in a bowl until dressing is smooth. Toss potatoes, bacon, green onions, and parsley with dressing in a bowl until evenly coated.



Blueberry Shortbread Bars

1/2 cup cold unsalted butter, cut into small cubes • 1 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour • 1/2 cup white sugar • 1/2 teaspoon salt • 1/4 teaspoon baking powder • 1/4 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder • 1 egg yolk • 1/2 teaspoon ice water, or more if needed • 3/4 cup fresh blueberries

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Place butter cubes in the freezer for 15 minutes. Whisk together flour, sugar, salt, and baking powder in a large bowl. Sprinkle in Chinese five-spice powder. Cut in frozen butter using a pastry cutter until the butter pieces are about the size of peas. Mix in egg yolk and continue cutting in until thoroughly combined. Drizzle in ice water and stir to combine. The dough should just come together when pinched between your fingers. Pour about 3/4 of the crumb mixture into an ungreased 9x9-inch baking dish. Press the mixture down firmly using the back of a spoon. Spread blueberries in one layer and sprinkle with remaining crumbly dough. Bake in the preheated oven until the top is golden and sides are crisp and browned, 30 to 35 minutes. Cool completely before serving.



Margarita Grilled Shrimp

1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined • 3 tablespoons olive oil • 3 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro • 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice • 2 cloves garlic, minced • 2 teaspoons tequila • 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper • 1/4 teaspoon salt • 4 bamboo skewers, soaked in water for 20 minutes

Stir shrimp, olive oil, cilantro, lime juice, garlic, tequila, cayenne pepper, and salt together in a bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and refrigerate shrimp in marinade for 30 minutes. Preheat an outdoor grill for high heat and lightly oil grate. Remove shrimp from bowl and thread onto skewers; discard marinade. Cook on the preheated grill until shrimp turn pink, 2 to 3 minutes per side.



Oatmeal Cinnamon Cream Pies

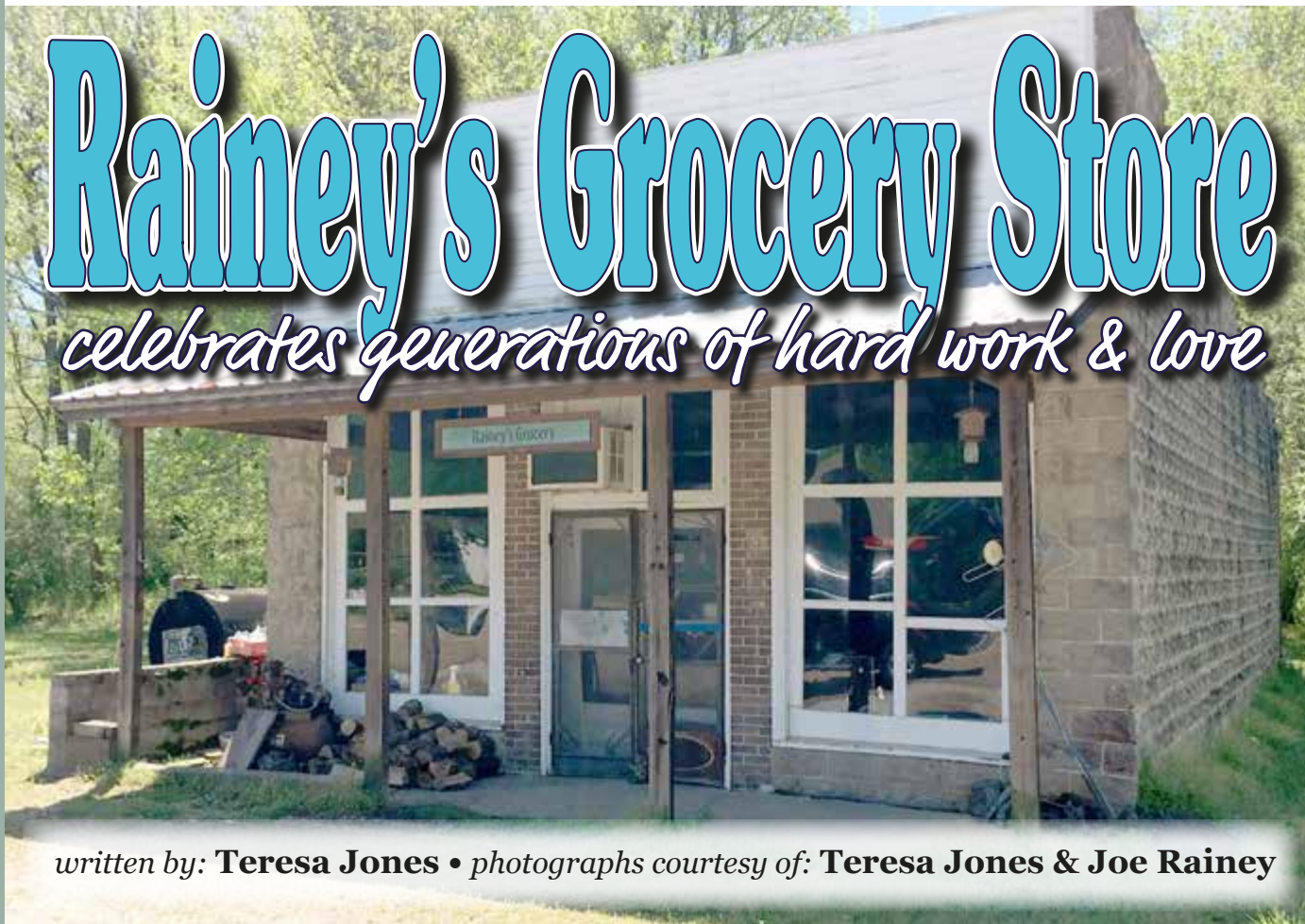
1/2 teaspoon salt • 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon • 1 cup butter • 3/4 cup dark brown sugar • 1/2 cup white sugar • 2 eggs • 1 tablespoon molasses • 1 teaspoon vanilla extract • 1 1/2 cups quick-cooking oats • **Filling:** 2 teaspoons hot water • 1/4 teaspoon salt • 1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow cream • 1/2 cup shortening • 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar • 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract • 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Combine flour, baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon in a bowl. Combine butter, brown sugar, white sugar, eggs, molasses, and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract in a separate bowl; beat with an electric mixer until creamy and smooth. Stir in flour mixture until dough comes together. Stir in oats. Drop cookie dough onto the lined baking sheets, a few inches apart, using a 2-teaspoon cookie scoop. Bake in the preheated oven until edges are starting to brown, 7 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Stir hot water and 1/4 teaspoon salt together in a small bowl until salt is dissolved. Let cool, about 5 minutes. Combine marshmallow cream, shortening, confectioners' sugar, 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract, and 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon in a large bowl; beat with an electric mixer on high speed until fluffy. Mix in cooled salt water. Spread some of the filling on the back of 1 cooled cookie. Add another cookie to form a sandwich. Repeat with remaining filling and cookies.



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written by: **Teresa Jones** • photographs courtesy of: **Teresa Jones & Joe Rainey**



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In December 19, 1945, Frank and Bernice Rainey, along with their 6 week old son Joe, made the move from Michigan to Jones Mill, TN. The Rainey's were married in 1939 and had moved to Michigan from their beloved childhood home of Jones Mill, TN for employment opportunities. They were excited to to re-open a general store the couple had purchased 2 years before from Grover Wade. The general store had been built around 1911 out of hand fired bricks, made on site. Built across from the grain mill, the general store served the community of farmers and workers of Jones Mill as well as surrounding areas of Puryear and Cottage Grove. The general store known as Rainey's Grocery still stands in it's original spot and has remained a staple of the area ever since.

Mrs. Rainey's grandfather, William T. Holley founded the mill in 1911. It served the farmers in Jones mill and surrounding areas until fire destroyed it in 1963. The fire was ignited by backfire from a truck that had stalled there. As the men tried to prime the motor with gasoline, some had spilled on the ground. When the truck backfired, the gasoline on the ground sparked the fire that ultimately destroyed the mill. Icy roads made it especially hard for fire departments from Puryear and Hazel, KY to reach the mill. At the time the mill was owned by Jackie Webb and was one of the county's oldest landmarks. The mill had been in service 52 years at the time of the fire.

The building that houses Rainey's store was first owned by Henry Jones, Mrs. Rainey's uncle. The store carried a full line of groceries, gas, farm equipment and hardware items. One could also purchase hats, materials, veils and flowers. The store passed through several hands before the Rainey's purchased it in 1943. When they arrived in Jones Mill two years later to open the store, it was completely empty except for the dust that had settled on the shelves and floors. Mrs. Rainey wrote in her memoirs, "We came from Michigan in September of 1945 and cleaned up the building and bought stock. We could only buy \$500 of merchandise from one

wholesaler, \$500 from M. Livingston in Paris and \$500 from Murray Wholesale in Murray, KY". Of the items purchased, only 50 gallons of gas, 12 bags of coffee and 60 pounds of sugar were allowed because of rationing.

The Rainey's worked from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. every day. During the week Mr. Rainey would run the store while Mrs. Rainey would care for Joe and take care of household chores. On the weekends, Mr. Rainey operated a "Rolling Store" out of the back of his International truck while Mrs. Rainey would tend the store. On Friday he would travel north to south and Saturday travel east to west before returning home. The Rolling Store would stop at farms along the route that might otherwise never be able to shop at a real grocery store. He divided the bed of his truck into sections and loaded eggs, candy, tobacco and other items to sell or trade to farm families. Children would be especially excited for their mothers to purchase Kool-Ade. This was a real treat on the hot summer days. Many customers on the route would exchange chickens, eggs or cream for items they needed from the Rolling Store.

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The advertisement features a collage of various items including a silver GMC SUV, a black sofa, a grey refrigerator, a green and white riding lawn mower, a red and black ATV, and a black motorcycle. A large blue question mark is positioned next to the text "We can help!".

Sadly, Mr. Rainey passed away in 1947. For the next 66 years, Mrs. Rainey continued to make the trek every day from her home across the street to run the store. She was well loved and respected in her community. So much so, once she received an unsigned letter and a \$20 bill. It loosely read, "I stole from you when I was young and I am very sorry. You are such a nice lady and I should have never done that to you. This should more than cover any candy or peanuts I took". Her son kept the letter and exact \$20 bill. He said it reminds him of the influence his mother had on people. Although times changed and big box stores took over, Rainey's Grocery Store remained the same. To walk through the doors is like walking in the past. The same pot belly charcoal burning stove, shelving and nostalgia remain. Mr. Joe Rainey said some days people just stop by and visit, have a soda and moon pie, play checkers, enjoy a "Bernice Burger" which is thick sliced bologna on white bread with mustard and salad dressing and chat with their neighbors about local news and politics. Throughout the years many politicians have visited the store.

Mrs. Rainey passed away on May 10, 2019 at the age of 102. Her legacy lives on through her son Joe, his wife Rita, granddaughters Gina and Greta and 9 great grandchildren. Mrs. Rainey is definitely a role model for women of today facing the same struggles. As a widowed, single mother, she pushed through the Depression Era, wars and economic changes while remaining dedicated to her family and community. The nearby bridge over the North Fork of the Obion River is also named for her. The store remains open most days with her son Joe at the helm. The building hasn't changed much since it's opening day in 1945. It is a lovely, lazy drive through the outskirts of Paris to see this amazing piece of Americana and local history.



Pictured are Judy Carroll, Joe Rainey and Mrs. Bernice Rainey on September 5, 2013 at Mrs. Rainey's birthday at the Paris Healthcare Rehabilitation Center.



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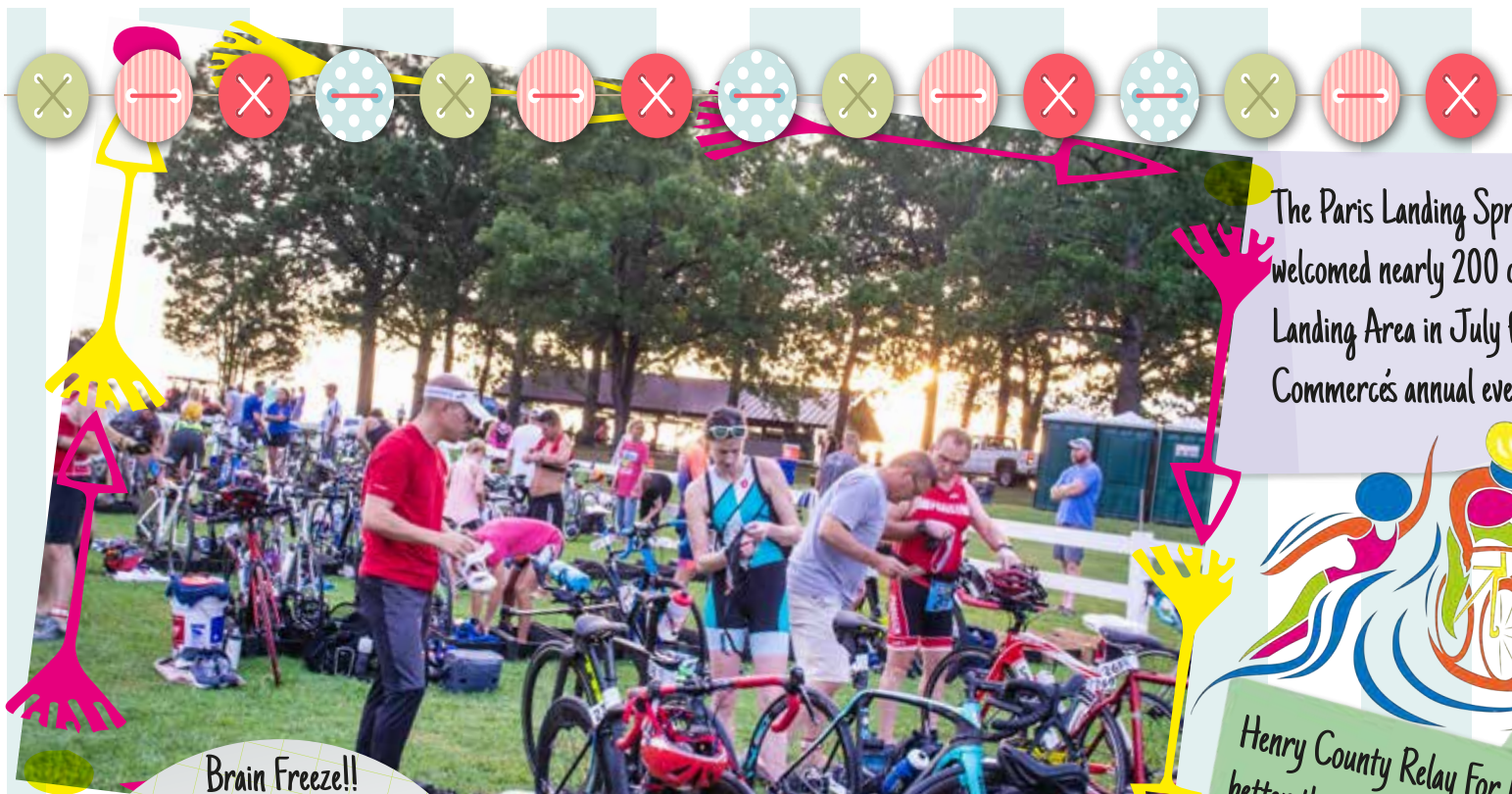
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Want to see your memories in the next edition of Alive? Send your scrapbook photo, a description, and your contact information to alivemagazineparis@gmail.com for a chance to have your photo featured on the next "Our Scrapbook" page.

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Fort Donelson:

History, Fun, & Adventure Awaits

written by: **Tim Alsobrooks**

If you are a history buff like myself, you find yourself seeking something fun to do, or want to knock Civil War Battlefields off your road trip bucket list, then we've got something to tackle all that and more just across the Tennessee River from Paris in Stewart County.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield is located at 120 Lock Road in Dover, on the banks of the winding Cumberland River. The Battlefield preserves two battles of the Civil War Fort Heiman in neighboring Cal-

loway County, Kentucky and Fort Donelson. In February of 1862, the Union Army, led by U.S. Grant captured both Fort Henry and Fort Donelson from the Confederate Army, giving the Union the control of the Tennessee and Cumberland River. A huge turning point in the "War between the States," the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson might not get the attention in history it deserves. It was the first major Union Victory and paved the way for Grant to capture Clarksville and Nash-

ville shortly thereafter to turn the tides of the war.

Fort Donelson National Battlefield comprises 2000 acres and includes the Fort Donelson National Cemetery where over 15 acres are included and 670 Union soldiers are interred along with veterans of Wars that have happened since the Civil War.

When it comes to visiting Fort Donelson, you can take the National Park Service self-guided tour which takes you

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around the Fort, the town of Dover, to the Surrender house, the National Cemetery, and more. At each stop, you can dial a number on your cell phone and hear accounts of the history that happened in that spot back during the battle. Just remember standard rates apply on your phones. Its very informative and entertaining, and lots of fun for the History Buff in us all.

There are places along the park where you can take a stroll or bring a picnic lunch and overlook the battlefields, usually visualizing Union boats



coming down the Cumberland River towards Confederate soldiers firing cannons on them in the battle. Anyone wanting to get some exercise, practice photography, or again get their history on, will find plenty of options at Fort Donelson. Bald Eagles are also known to nest in the area as well.

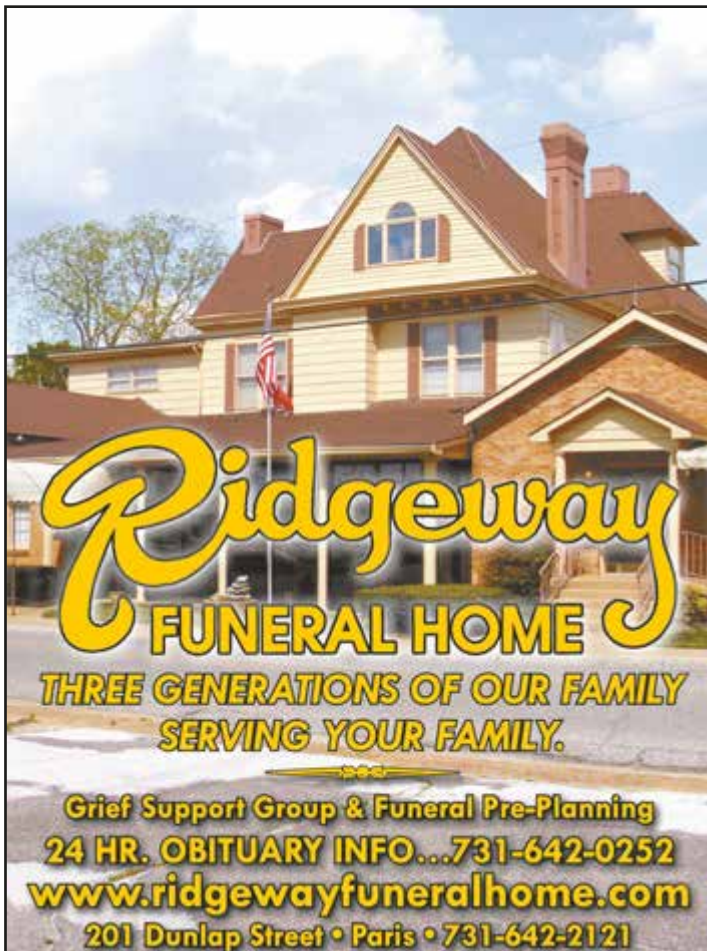
The National Battlefield also has events planned throughout the year from tours at the cemetery, to encampments and reenactments, to history events and more. If you like the Fort Donelson National Battlefield Facebook page, you can follow up and check their events schedule for all the activities. The Park recently held some encampment demonstrations and cemetery tours this summer and more will be coming in the fall and next spring.

In addition to the Facebook page, you can log onto the National Park Service's page, just google Fort Donelson. From there navigate to the Things to Do page for interactive calendars and more information on the park and events coming. The visitor's center, located just off Hwy. 79 in Dover is a great place to start if you want to tour the park as well.

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- 3 Christmas Open House 1 to 5
- 26-12/18 Festival of Festival of Trees at The Old Paris 5 & 10 Event Center 110 W. Washington, Mon. - Fri. 11am - 4pm, Sat. 10am-2pm, Sun. 1-4pm
- 29 North Pole Family Fun Day 10 to 2
- 30 Elf on a Shelf at Lura Lee's of Paris 12-2pm

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DECEMBER

- 1-18 Festival of Festival of Trees at The Old Paris 5 & 10 Event Center 110 W. Washington, Mon. - Fri. 11am - 4pm, Sat. 10am-2pm, Sun. 1-4pm
- 4 Candlelight Advent Walk 6:30 pm
- 14 Downtown Christmas Festival 3-5pm
- 14 Holly Jolly "Electric" Christmas Parade 5pm
- 21-22 Last weekend Santa is in his house

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Any Broadway musical aficionado is familiar not only with that refrain from the beloved show "Camelot," but for the image that it conjures in the heart and mind. Who wouldn't want to live happily ever after, anyway?

Rita Hargis and Bo Crockarell are attempting to make it happen, right in Stewart County, with Camelot Creative Connections, an entity that promises to be a one-stop shop for community theatre, fun and educational opportunities for folks of all ages, and an event venue suitable for but not limited to weddings.

Whew!

But don't confuse Stewart County's Camelot with Broadway. They may have both started with a vision that became reality in brick and mortar and heart, but, in the Broadway story, Camelot crumbled and fell. Stewart County's is a Southern version that gives it a more lasting quality: soul.

WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE

Bo Crockarell and Rita Hargis are an unlikely pair, but they found common ground in artistic expression and love of community theatre while teaching RTI at Stewart County Middle School several years ago.

In 2017, they formed Camelot Creative Connections, at first working in conjunction with the school system but later branching out on their own.

Fast forward to today, and you can find Bo, an Austin Peay State University student and part-time Stewart County elementary school art teacher, and Rita, a retired educator, knee-deep in making their dreams come true.

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This may be at one of the monthly events that are designed to put the fun in fundraising (for a sound system and lights) as well as to engage the community and get them acquainted with Camelot, or it may be at their recently-purchased event center.

EVENTS WITH A CAPITAL E

“We just wanted to keep our name out there,” said Rita when talking about their first event on June 14, adding that it would also help raise some money for the sound and lights.

The lip-sync show had an altogether different vibe about it reminiscent of the turn-of-the-(20th)-century “literaries” held



Stewart County Sheriff Frankie Gray and Melissa Fields, front from left, with Stewart county law enforcement personnel in the back, get the crowd stirred up with YMCA, lip-syncing as the Village People at the June 14 Camelot fundraiser.

in frontier towns. The literaries were about the only thing going on at that time, so everyone in the area, kids included, was either a participant or an attendee.

The difference between the literaries of yesteryear and the June lip-sync show, however, was that today there are plenty of other things going on in the area, and yet folks chose to attend the show at the Visitor Center in Dover, even if they were not related to the performers. The affordable price made it possible

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for whole families to attend. It was a standing-room-only crowd, a crowd that clearly was not disappointed.

Sheriff Frankie Gray revved the audience up as he and other law enforcement personnel performed YMCA, and Bo and Rita closed the show as Ike and Tina Turner. In between were performances by Sonny and Cher, the nuns from Sister Act, Reba McIntyre and plenty more. Jackie Gleason served as emcee. It was star-studded, to say the least.

On Fourth of July weekend, at least 100 people attended the Salute to America show at Dover City Park, the rain holding off until right at the end. Again, folks responded enthusiastically.

Bo and Rita took August off so families could get kids children settled back in school, and they are planning a Southern Gospel show in late September.

October will feature a Super 60s Lip Sync in which several leaders in the community have already expressed interest. Stay tuned for the fun.

EVENT CENTER WITH A CAPITAL EC

Rita said that the dream began with community theatre and has grown to include an event center. In April of 2019, they purchased the Rice House at 316 Church Street, Dover, across from Taco John's.

"We ain't playin'," she laughed, only half-kidding.

The pair is actually serious as a heart attack. The property includes the Rice House, the old Cherry Motel and a little chapel. While in the past the home was referred to as being historic, it is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the connections with Gen. Nathan Brandon and Elvis (yes, the King supposedly stayed in the motel while working construction) are mainly anecdotal.



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"It's the first thing we checked," said Rita. "You can't change historical places."

And they have plenty of changes in store for the property.

"This will not be based on history, but on fantasies," she said. Bo added, "We want this to be a venue for people to actually use."

Their vision for the future includes a theatre/event center to be located at the back portion of the former motel. With all the walls removed, it will seat plenty, and wedding ceremonies could be held there.

Wedding receptions and other events could be held in the main house, where there will be two large reception halls. A bride's suite and another bedroom, ostensibly for bridesmaids, would be located upstairs in the main house; groom's quarters would be in the former motel near the event center. Eventually, they would like to have a florist in the current chapel area, open a tearoom in

what is now the main house's sunroom, and level the back area out for an outdoor venue.

"We would sell personalized bricks for that portion," Rita said.

Other rooms in the former motel would be used for other activities. Their goal? To be open for business by October of 2020.

ROCKIN' AROUND THE CLOCK

Although the center may be a year away, Bo and Rita have plenty of fun and educational things in the works for people of all ages. A partnership with Imagination Library and the Stewart County Arts and Heritage Council is in the planning stages, and it would include 20-minute plays that are being written based on the books they send free each month to children up to age five.


They would like to get involved in some way with the paddlewheel boats that stop in Dover, bringing tourists who are looking for something unique as they go to and from Nashville.

And of course, they would never forsake what got them started in the first place – theatre.

"We want this to be a place for the community," said Bo. Until the "place" is ready, activities and events will take place at other local venues.

Camelot started with a dream, and the brick and mortar is in the works. What will keep it alive is soul – the soul of the community and of Camelot Creative Connections.

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Dr. Carruth is no stranger to West TN, growing up in Milan and receiving his undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, Martin. He received his medical degree from East Tennessee State University and completed his post graduate work, including his internship, residency, and fellowship at the University of Arkansas. Dr. Carruth practiced in Jackson for over 20 years before deciding to accept the opportunity to move his practice to Paris. He is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is board eligible for certification in Pulmonary Medicine. He is also a member of the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Carruth and his wife, Leslie, have one son, Kyle. He enjoys golf, boating, trail riding and spectator sports. He is a TN Vols fan and loves to travel with his family.

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NEIGHBORS *Looking After* NEIGHBORS

written by: **Teresa Jones**

photographs courtesy of: **Leon Ridgeway**

In a day when high tech ambulances and Air-Evac helicopters are ever present in our daily lives, it is hard to believe in many of our lifetimes, these services were rare. The large ambulances equipped with all the latest life saving equipment and well trained EMT's on board were once actually a car that looked much like a large station wagon equipped with flashing lights. The ambulances carried only the basic bandages and a respirator to aid in keeping the person comfortable until they could reach a hospital or clinic for treatment. Ridgeway Funeral Home once served Henry County with this service. Although one wouldn't think a funeral home would be the one to call for anything other than a death, Ridgeway-Milligan Funeral Home in Dover began getting calls asking for patient transports. The reason was because the funeral home was the only place that

had vehicles large enough to transport sick or injured people. Therefore in 1936, the Ridgeway-Milligan Funeral/Ambulance service was formed. In the beginning, the ambulance services offered were

just a side business to the funeral home. In 1946, John T. Ridgeway opened his Funeral Home/Ambulance Services in Paris at 201 Dunlap Street. Mr. Milligan continued to operate the Dover business and Mr. Ridgeway ran the Paris operation. They were in partnership until 1959.

Mr. Leon Ridgeway, having grown up around the family business, began riding along on the ambulances at age fourteen. He was driving by age 16 and at the age of 17 while attending Union University in Jackson, TN and working at a funeral home in there, he had delivered his first baby. While in Mortuary School in Dallas, Texas, he attended Red Cross First Aid courses. He later became a certified Red Cross First Aid instructor. The goal of first aid is to "Stop the bleeding and get to breathing". These lifesaving measures would prove to be valuable to him in the years to come.

The ambulance services provided were mainly transport only. The men wore suits, no uniforms and were on call 24 hours a day. The cars were

equipped with just the basic bandages, band-aids and a respirator that worked much like mouth to mouth resuscitation. The goal was to get the patient to the nearest hospital, Nobles Rhea Clinic or Chesmore Clinic for treatment. There was no "emergency room" in Paris in those years. When the ambulance would arrive at the door, the driver would push a button and a nurse would answer from central supply. She would then summon the doctor and other nurses if necessary to aid the patient. At times the ambulances were called from the hospital or clinics to transport patients to hospitals in larger cities or to take new mothers and babies to their homes.

Campbell Clinic in Memphis, TN and the hospital in Jackson, TN were the main out of town runs. If the patients were critical or severely hurt, Dr. Minor, or RN Mrs. Carol Ridgeway, Leon's wife, would ride along to tend the patient. Once they were called to take a newborn baby in an incubator to Jackson. Mrs. Key, another RN rode with them. She said, "You drive, I'll take care of the baby". The longest trip Mr. Ridgeway remembered taking was from Paris to Monterrey, Mexico. They were taking an elderly sick woman home to her family. It took 3 days to make the trip in the 1956 Cadillac. This vehicle was a hearse/ambulance combo and had air conditioning. Mr. Ridgeway drove to Dallas, TX where they all spent the night

in a hotel then on to Mexico the next day. He recalled the family was so nice to them and fed them the best spaghetti he has ever eaten.

Unfortunately, not every trip had a happy ending. The ambulance service witnessed many tragedies throughout the years. Mr. Ridgeway recalled one accident at the sawmill where despite every lifesaving measure they could muster, the man died just 3 blocks from Baptist Hospital in Memphis. On a call to Como near Tumbling Creek, they arrived to find a man who had accidentally shot himself in the stomach. His intestines were outside his body and it was believed there was no way he could be saved. Mr. Ridgeway covered the man tightly in a wet sheet to keep the wound wet. Due to his quick thinking and life saving treatment at the scene, the doctors were able to sew him back and save his life. One of the largest accidents was a wreck near Point Pleasant where 2 ambulances were dispatched and 6 people were brought in. There were times the ambulances would pass each other going and coming and days they would go as much as 36 hours without sleep. Other times, a funeral and the need of ambulance services overlapped. The last year Ridgeway Funeral Home provided ambulance assistance, 675 calls were made.

Ridgeway Funeral Home ceased the ambulance services part of the business on January 1, 1969. Medicare had come into being and the unreliability of payments and certifications made it impossible to offer the services to the community through the funeral home. They sold 2

Oldsmobile ambulances to the county for \$9000. The ambulance services were then provided through the fire department. The fire department employed 5 men for the service. They worked 3 men on, 2 men off and if they had need for extra help, the other firemen would cover. Gene Pfifer is the only living person left of those original 5 men. He now lives in Richmond, VA. Ridgeway Funeral Home still offers it's fine funeral and burial services along with grief services to the community in the same location, 201 Dunlap Street. Their phone number is 731-642-2121 or the website is www.ridgewayfuneralhome.com.

On a personal side note; as many times as I have visited Ridgeway Funeral Home and spoken to Mr. Leon, I had never had the chance to actually have a long conversation with him. When I got the opportunity to sit down with him I found out what a kind and funny man he is. It was such a pleasure to talk to him and hear his stories. I really appreciate the time he took out of his day to meet with me and make this story possible.





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