

All articles contributed by David Patton, Palmer Town Historian

January 2011

Holly Bush- No, this is not a painting on a Christmas card. Michelle Campbell Travis took [this photo](#) (Dec. 26, 2010) of a holly tree in her yard on Big Mine Road that was decorated by the white Christmas of 2010 in Palmer. Michelle lives in the old Orange Lemon Northcutt place.

PALMER NEWS

We're b-a-a-c-k! And how good it is to be back with you all refreshed and ready to go after taking a December break.

Happy New Year! May this year of 2011 be the best one of your life. May 2011 also be the year our nation makes big steps in pulling out of our economic woes and gets on the road to recovery.

"Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures." Bearing that in mind, I ate hog jaw, black-eyed peas, turnip greens, cornbread, fried potatoes, and onions on New Years Eve, shortly after midnight on New Years Day. The old southern good luck charm must have worked because an unexpected visitor came bearing gifts New Years Day morning and that night another visitor came with chili, cake and fruit.

We're coming to you on January 6th and got a letter from Bobby Owen today saying it had been the worst winter in years in the Atlanta area. Same here, Bobby. The snow and cold started Dec. 12 with 4-6-10" of snow reported and bitter cold temps. – from 10 to 2 degrees. News reports said it was the coldest winter in Nashville since 1942.

"I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." Our dream came true with a heavy snow falling on Christmas Day. The glittering snow had the pines and shrubs bowing and looking like a Norman Rockwell painting. All we needed to make it complete would have been Bing Crosby standing out in it singing "White Christmas".

Beverly Sissom Riley of Elkhart, IN, made her usual Christmas morning phone call, and that cheered us up. She had seen on TV where we were having a white Christmas.

For some reason 2010 was the best one in my 63 years. A very sincere “thank you” to everyone who sent or brought gifts by and also to those who came by before, on, and after Christmas with dinners and fruit. I feel humbled to have such wonderful and caring friends.

Happy birthday this month of January to Howard Shirley Cunningham, 86, and his sister Helen Arbuckle, 83, Wanda Hampton Meeks, 82, and Janelle Layne Taylor, 64.

Wanda’s family surprised her with a strawberry birthday cake and her brother Melvin was able to be there before returning to his winter home (Take us all with you, Melvin.) in Florida. Wanda said one of the great grandkids wanted to put the candles on the cake, but she told them “there would be so many it would cover the whole cake”.

A November reception was held for Dr. Vin-Paul Hua as he retired after almost 30 years as our town doctor at the Palmer Clinic. He received an array of gifts and well wishes from many who had been his patients all that time.

Dr. Hua and his family were Chinese Americans who came to Palmer as total strangers, but were accepted as part of the community and treated with respect and courtesy. He, in turn, delayed his retirement for years until he could find a doctor to replace him and treat the patients he had come to regard as friends. That’s America at its best.

Dr Hua, 80, will reportedly live in Chattanooga and use our new physician, Dr. John McKeown, as his family doctor. He plans to travel and spend time with children and grandchildren in California and elsewhere and hopes to make a long anticipated journey to see the wonders of Australia.

2010 was a “year of change” in Palmer. In addition to Dr. Hua leaving after serving longer than anyone else, Sadie Smartt left after 14 years as Palmer School principal, the longest ever, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Guyear left after operating Palmer Market for some 20 years, the longest ever.

Alfred Earl and Wilma King and Lebron Layne of Coalmont, along with Tim and Crystal King of Palmer, traveled to Ft. Sill, OK, to see Tim's son Alfred Jacob "Hoover" King graduate from Army basic training on December 15. Hoover told me he likes the Army, and is now in AIT at Ft. Eustis, VA.

"Bobby Owen was born on my 13th birthday," said Sara Shipley. "I didn't get much attention on my birthday because Bobby was the first and only boy born to our neighbors, the Owen family", she said.

The night of December 23 was a beautiful one in Palmer with a full moon hanging over the mountain as we took a walk to look at Christmas lights. Although the house is gone, a cheerful Christmas light was burning on a shrub on the lot where Bobby Owen grew up while across the highway the big two-story home where Sara Swann Shipley grew up had lights on in almost every room and what looked like a Christmas tree blinking cheerfully. We called Sara that night up in Johnson City, TN. She's 94 now and said she'd been thinking about the wonderful Christmases she had growing up in Palmer.

Faces in the crowd: We saw Deanna "Dinky" Akins recently for the first time in years.

Iris Tate, daughter of the late Arthur "Doc" Tate, called from Phoenix and said she'd been out there since 1977 and that her sister Helen Kirk lived there now also. Iris is a 1962 Grundy County High School graduate and looks forward to their 50th year reunion in 2012.

Aleene Nunley Hargis has been living in Tucson and was back East visiting family and got to see one of her old Palmer neighbors, Becky Ivey Teague of Chattanooga, recently. Aleene said she really enjoyed our Grundy County Herald and website story about another Palmer neighbor from her childhood, Bobby Owen.

Johnnie Jane Heard Brown of McMinnville, TN, says she spent Thanksgiving in Rochester, MN, where her son works at the Mayo Clinic.

We've learned that Tricia Frank of Houston, TX, reads our "Palmer News". She's the niece of Wanda Meeks and daughter of Wanda's late sister, Clayta Hampton Frank. After high school, Clayta became a registered nurse and later moved to Houston because her husband Gene Frank was transferred there due to his job.

We're glad to have you as a website visitor, Tricia, and hope to meet you when you visit Grundy County this year.

Helen Arbuckle got a nice surprise when she put up a mail box at her Tracy City home. Her mail carrier was Kathy Hill Griffith who grew up in Palmer and knew Helen when Helen lived here and was married to Reyburn Ackerman. Kathy lives in Whitwell, TN, and is the daughter of Big Don and Joann Sanders Hill.

We saw Larry Henry, and he's lost 24 pounds and feels better. It was also good to see Farrell Hicks, former Gruetli-Laager police chief and Mike Yates, former Coalmont, TN, mayor. We chatted with Jimmy Morrison, Wesley Hampton, and Tina Harrison Meeks, wife of Mousey Meeks, and got a nice note from Mike Gifford and a Christmas card from his sister Donna Basham.

We had a nice visit with Inez Winton, widow of Sheriff Lewie Winton. She moved from her Tracy City home to the nursing home over in Tatesville run by Danny Lee and Janie Harrison Roberts and says she likes living there very much. We also saw Kerrybrooke Sanders who was visiting his mother June Sanders there.

Sonya Kay Cleek of Texas visited her cousin Jerry Cannon and other relatives. Jerry faces surgery at the VA Hospital in late January, so please remember him in your prayers.

My brother Joel Patton saw Rodney White Henry. He's still feeling the effects of a near-fatal auto wreck a year or so ago.

New Years Eve was a pretty day and as we were out picking up cans Joe Willard and Jean Fults stopped to say, "Hello". They were snowed in Christmas Day and had dinner and celebrated together. Joe says his brother Bruce "Cobb" Fults lives in Ottumwa, Iowa, on an 80 acre piece of property where he has horses and restores old cars.

Ida Pearl Brown and her great niece Kaite Berry also stopped. Ida Pearl almost died when a defective stent was installed and the procedure had to be repeated. She's a fine person, and we're glad she's on the way to recovery.

We also talked with Mary Ruth Rogers, Robert Earl Slatton, and Jack Benny Morrison that day and waved at Ted Nunley as he drove by. John W. "Archie" Jones also visited with us New Years Day.

James Henry McBee is making a good recovery after triple by-pass surgery and Janice McNabb McAnally is also doing well after heart surgery.

Clayton Hargis was in the hospital for a few days, but is now back home.

Billy Ray Nunley of Monument, CO., says his wife Shirley suffered strokes in 2010, but with therapy is now doing much better.

Gary Bouldin is staying with his brother Mike in Brentwood, TN, after having health problems this past year.

Happy anniversary wishes for January to Floyd & Brenda Shrum Jones, 51, Wayne & Loretta Morrison Jones, 51, Tommy & Molly Keener Layman were married 41 years ago this month by Rev. M.C. "Bud" Hampton at the preacher's home; Eddie & Rita Smart Crabtree, 26, and Carly Wayne & Andrea Miller Payne, 18.

A very happy belated 43rd anniversary to Danny Lee and Janie Harrison Roberts who were married December 9, 1967. Danny was recently diagnosed with an aggressive form of bladder cancer at the VA Hospital, but when surgery was done, no sign of cancer could be found from what we've heard and the problem turned out to be prostate related. I know Danny and his family and friends are thanking God daily for this news.

As this new year of 2011 begins those of us here "where the good people live" have so much to be thankful for, and I know all of you around the country do as well.

Mr. Raymond Hargis and I were talking on the phone tonight about how much more comfortable people live today than we did years ago with good clothes, good heat, plenty of food and just about all the creature comforts people like our parents and grandparents could ever have imagined. Even in bad times our glasses in America are always "half full" aren't they?

We sometimes hear someone say, "We used to have a lot of good people in Palmer, and that's why we have our little "Where the good people live" each month.

Does Palmer have as many good people as we did years ago? No, and neither does any place else because we're all suffering the effects of loss of morals in our society from top to bottom. It seems the bad news in every community always gets the

headlines and the vast majority of “good” people go unrecognized. The good still outweighs the bad by a long shot, and that’s why we enjoy writing this column.

MEMORIES OF JARVIS LEVAN

L-R Bradford Layne & Jarvis Levan at Mr. Layne's store in Gruetli-Laager, TN .
They were childhood friends growing up on Burnt Orchard Hill in Palmer.
Sgt. Jarvis L. Levan at the NCO Academy in 1954.

We recently ran across a 1994 letter from former Palmer resident Jarvis L. Levan of Akron, OH.

Jarvis grew up on Burnt Orchard Hill in Palmer as a son of Ben and Bessie Nolan Levan and had several brothers and sisters.

In the letter he recalls childhood days and his time in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He worked for Ford Motor Co. for 27 years and was a member of the U.A.W. (United Auto Workers).

After being away for so many years after his childhood, Jarvis moved from Akron back to his old hometown of Palmer and spent the last ten years or so of his life back in Grundy County. Not long before his death at age 80 in May 2009, he married Nancy Vaughn Pickett of Altamont and is buried in the Altamont Cemetery.

“This may have been around the 4th of July, but I’ve had so much fun thinking about it. While growing up on the Burnt Orchard Hill, we played ball in the road. It was a red dirt road in summer and mud, ice, and snow in the winter.

We made our own balls (probably balls, made of tightly sewn rags that my mother made for us growing up) and if it went in a certain neighbor’s yard or garden he’d burn it. Bradford “Brad” Layne always struck out. One day he got a 2” board, cut out some hand grips and said “I’ll get a hit this time. “No one knew it, but there was a nail in the board. When it was his time to bat, he swung hard and the ball went through the nail and stuck to the board. He went round and round saying “Where did it go?” That was when we saw it was on the nail. We really had fun over it, and where ever I went they had a laugh over it. “Forty years later I got a 2” board, cleaned it up and painted it brown. When I came back to visit in Tennessee, I gave the board to Brad. We sure had a good laugh over it. He remembered it.

“I don’t remember too much about Christmas growing up. We all looked forward to it and would get an orange, banana, apple, and some candy and a small toy we liked. I remember the fruitcakes when they came out. Mama got one, and on Christmas Day

we had been eating oranges, apples, and candy. When dinner was over we tried the fruitcake and thought it was the worst thing we had ever tried. We ate some for supper, and it sure was delicious. I thought it was the best thing I’d ever eaten. We never ate too much junk before dinner after that.”

“It’s hard to remember things in Korea. We were off only one-half day each week. I know we had to carry weapons when I first got there. I carried a carbine all the time at work and when I was off base. I remember going to the water supply place with a 300 gallon trailer and was loaded for bear with my carbine and 90 rounds of ammo. The North Koreans were around sometimes. I made it back to the base with the water O K.

We were watching a movie in the mess hall one night and the generator quit. They had five or six mechanics working on it. Later a 5- year- old Korean boy took off the gas cap and said, ‘Gasoline have no.’ That sure made the mechanics laugh, and we got to see the movie.”

“I remember the first Thanksgiving we spent in Korea. We had a good dinner, and I got to the drinks and expected coffee. They had tomato juice, and I drank some. It was pretty hot. I got to the table and finished it and got more. “It was tomato juice mixed with hot pepper vinegar. It was a little hot, but sure was good. We also had turkey and mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie. I know when I got home I mixed some and gave to one of our friends, and the last time I saw her, she said she still fixes it. If you want to try it, taste it alone and add the pepper vinegar until it’s like you want it. I still use it when I think of it.”

Footnotes: Jarvis was a good-natured person, and was liked by everyone. We always enjoyed his visits and letters.

ETHEL MAE GIFFORD CANTRELL

Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell at her home in Palmer, TN 2005. Summer 1996 Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell at her Palmer, TN, home with her spit can for snuff.

Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell, known by most everyone a"s "Mae". Mae was "Unforgettable" as the Nat King Cole song goes and Palmer won't be the same without her.

A daughter of the late R.W. "Russ" and Daisy Perry Gifford, the family moved from Tracy City to Palmer in 1924 when she was only 10 -years-old, and she called this place home for the rest of her life, although she lived in the Viola, TN, area for a brief period.

May was like most Grundy Countians who grew up in the Great Depression. She remained a "yellow dog" Democrat until the end and would get very upset if she found out any of her family had voted for a Republican. "Sometimes we didn't even have salt in the house."

She said of those days:

"Dipping snuff" was common among women of her generation. She started as a child and finally quit 8-10 years before her death.

She recalled being copperhead bit as a child in Tracy City and snuff being put on the bite until the doctor arrived. In our other photo Mae is shown with her "spit can" in 1996. She was a wonderful help on my Palmer history work and will be greatly missed by me.

PALMER & RELATED DEATHS IN 2010

It's the new year of 2011, and our sad duty to record the names of those who left us in 2010.

Those passing on in the Palmer town limits were Steve J. "Squeak" Turner, Wilma J. Campbell, Velma Jean Oliver Grooms, Casey A. (son-in-law of Billy Carl & Becky Guffey) Kilgore, Velma White Cannon, Estes E. Campbell, Jr. & his mother Frances Sue Van Hoosier Campbell, Clara Tate Rogers, and Dorthy Privett Morrison, wife of Martin Charles Morrison.

Ethel Mae Gifford Cantrell, 96, and oldest person in the town limits, had been living with relatives in Gruetli-Laager for a short time until her death.

Up on Palmer Mountain, Jim Layne died. He was the Janitor at Palmer Elementary for years, and some will remember his brother Peanut and George.

Over in Dock White Hollow we lost Jack Doss, longtime ginseng hunter and expert on mountain plants.

Deaths in Tatesville – Barker's Cove include Alvin Lee "Kit Fox" James, Don Birdwell, Daniel Coffelt, Vicki Creighton Hoosier, Esther Mae Perry Fults, daughter of the late "Horsefly" Perry, and Mary Louise Scott White, widow of James White.

Across Grundy County, former Palmer residents passing away were James E. "Ed" Layne, son of Clell Layne, Doris McBee Burnett, Christy Tate Honeycutt, Carl Edward Sanders, Gary "Joel" Rogers, Dennis Lee Cleek, and Jessica Gipson.

Elsewhere in Tennessee, 2010 deaths were Lois Ann Braden, my classmate in the Palmer Elementary School graduating class of 1961, Porky Flynn's daughter Julia Elizabeth "Sally" Flynn Haynes, Hazel Jewel Gholston Griffith, Bonnie Lynn Cagle Ridley, Joe E. Turner's aunt Matilda Turner White at 99, Rev. Malcolm James, Herman "Luke" Nolan, son of the late Fred "Gobbler" Nolan, Myrtle Dishroon Davis and her son Marvin Davis,

Military veterans Parker Watts, Jr., Charles "Howard" Stockwell, and James "Harold" Lockhart, Mary Ruth Rogers' cousin Edween Cannon Brannon on the Patrick side, and the famous Rev. Charles "Cotton" Ross, and his sister Velma Ross Coppinger, all left us in 2010.

Those dying far from home were Ruth Morrison Tate of Ohio, widow of Haskel, Hack" Tate, Lucinda Brown Swindell of Michigan, daughter of Bill & Jenny Creighton Brown. "Lucindy" told me in a letter that she left Palmer for Michigan in about 1936-37, I believe she said. She was 91 at her death.

We also have an obituary of Howard Eugene Halsey of Pueblo, CO. It says he was born July 1947 in Palmer to Onnie and Wanda Halsey. We have no idea who this is, but think it may have been a family who was here briefly working in the Palmer area coal mines. Maybe Wanda Meeks, Edna Brewer, or Bobby Owen or his sisters might know.

To our knowledge, the people below never lived in Palmer, but were known by many here.

Death claimed famous World War II veteran Tom William Patton and also Judy Patton Rickner, both of Pelham. Judy wrote the Pelham News and other articles for the Grundy County Herald for years. As far as I know these Pattons aren't related to me.

Former sheriff Robert Meeks of Coalmont passed on after a long sickness, and Don Burrows of Tracy City lost his life in a car accident. He was a well - known auto body repairman and former school board member. Avis Smartt, 92, daughter of Beecher Smartt also died in 2010.

Evelyn Taylor, 95, who taught at Grundy County High School for years died as did well-known coach and teacher Billy Ray Bouldin. Bill grew up in Gruetli-Laager as a son of Charles and Tryda Mae Sanders Bouldin.

Charles "Peanut" Faircloth was a well-known country music singer and disc jockey on WAPO Radio in Chattanooga when it had studios in the Patten Hotel during the 1950' & 60's. He died at the age of 81 and played a role in the career of Brenda Lee and other singers. Mr. Raymond Hargis probably remembers Peanut Faircloth.

May all of you who lost family and friends in 2010 find peace and comfort in this new year.

TEMPO STORY HAS PALMER CONNECTION

The Tempo Magazine is a monthly publication and comes with the Grundy County Herald.

Back in December the magazine featured a story about the amazing life of Dr. Bill Starnes of Tullahoma and how he was honored by town officials during the Christmas season.

The story mentioned that he got his high school education at Baxter Seminary in Baxter, TN, and on a hunch we sent the article to former Palmer, TN, resident Bobby Owen of Peachtree City, GA, who also went to Baxter Seminary.

Sure enough, we got a connection. "Thank you so much for the article on Bill Starnes," Bobby wrote. "We were very good friends at Baxter Seminary. I have seen him a few times after I got out of the Navy, but it has been a while. He certainly has led an interesting and exciting life."

FEBRUARY

SISSOMS & MORE SISSOMS

Debbie Sissom Llinehart of Elkhart, IN, is shown with her grandson Drew and the latest addition to the family, Kaitlyn "Katie" Suzanne Scheel. Katie was born Feb. 8, 2011, and weighed in at a whopping 10 lbs, 7 1/2 oz. The Buford and Gladys Overturf Sissom family moved from Grundy County to Indiana some 60 years ago, and Debbie's sister Beverly Riley says her late parents have over 115 descendants

PALMER NEWS

Happy Valentine's Day! We're writing this on the great day itself, and what a beautiful, mild, sunshiny, breezy day it is here in Palmer town. It's supposed to be pretty all week, and we sure needed a break from the worst winter in years.

We were walking yesterday afternoon and saw people gathered up at Laager Methodist (formerly Cotton's) Church for a Valentine's fellowship gathering. What a nice thing to do!

Gail Bryant Coffelt of Gruetli-Laager met her friends Sharon Turner, Becky Rose, and Billie Faye Terrill from the Tracy City-Monteagle area for lunch on Valentine's Day. They worked together at local banks and meet like this several times a year. Gail calls them the "Golden Girls".

Each class at Palmer School had a Valentine's Day party, and that's always an enjoyable part of the school year. To top it off, we even had a Valentine's Day wedding. Rachael Nickole (not kin to the Palmer Lands) Land and Jacob Blake Prater said, "I do", at the First Baptist Church of Gruetli-Laager with family and friends in attendance.

Maybe, just maybe, with the help of Punxsutawney Phil and General Beauregard Lee, winter will get on out of here. Both of these famous groundhogs didn't see their shadows, which is supposed to mean an early spring.

Groundhogs were eaten around here during the "Great Depression" and other times as well, I'm sure. The late Peal Layne Morrison, widow of Lee "Fat" Morrison, told me she baked them after putting on salt, pepper, and butter.

15 years ago: The great winter storm of February 1996. It started off here in Palmer with freezing rain on Feb 1 and before it eased up on Feb 6, we had 13 below in Coalmont, and a TV weather watcher reported 23 below in Altamont on that date. It was 3 degrees in Chattanooga, a record that still stands for Feb. 5.

During that terrible week, Marion County High School in Jasper was turned into a shelter, and at one point 45,000 homes and businesses in Chattanooga lost power. Sixty below zero was recorded in Minnesota, and one town in that icebox state had four consecutive days of 50 below zero.

TVA set an all-time record for power consumption on Feb. 5 with 26,000 mega-watts (Wonder if it still stands?) beating the old record of 15,000 mega-watts set in the summer of 1995.

Back here, a fight over a loaf of bread was reported in a Tracy City store and also in a Palmer store, and a woman in Coalmont had the water freeze up while taking a shower. This story proves that the winter of 2010-2011, although rough, could have been much worse, and that we always have something to be thankful for.

Let's move on to happier news before we all freeze to death and say, "Happy Birthday", this month to Ann Conry Creighton, 88; our good friend and Grundy County historian, William Ray Turner, 85; Raymond Hargis, 83; Johnny Gipson, 68; Karen Smith of GCTV, our local TV station, 47; and Dusty Geary Atkins, 35. We remember little Dusty from the Grundy County Post Special Edition in November of 1988 entitled "Grundy County Honors Its Veterans". She was in a photo with Governor Ned Ray McWherter. What a pretty girl! She's the daughter of Earl Geary, Jr. and Donna Gifford Basham.

"That's exactly how I remember Bobby Owen looking when he went to Grundy County High School." That's what Mr. Raymond Hargis said after seeing a photo of Bobby and his senior class officers from the class of 1948 at Baxter Seminary in Baxter, TN. Bobby grew up in Palmer, started at Grundy County High School, then finished his high school education at Baxter. The photo appeared recently in the Grundy County Herald.

Eddie Crabtree has reportedly bought Tootsie Cannon Smith's house located behind Palmer Market. He lives in the old Dave Henninger place next to Palmer School. A.W. Long's big family lived there in the early days of Palmer, and many will remember Ted, Sherwood, Jim, Jack, and the many others. R.B. & Hilda Ivey also lived there as did Hattie Hampton Swann and Marie Worley Nunley for brief times. Woodrow and Mae Tate also lived there for a number of years. Tootsie's been in a rest (known by modernists as a nursing home) home and the last we heard was with a daughter in McMinnville, TN.

Happy Anniversary this month for some couples who have "stood the test of time". Joe and Joyce Grooms Scruggs, 59; Don and Brenda Hargis LeCroy, 51; Lowell Thomas and Janie Parson Cantrell, 45; Keith and Renee Hart McBee, 32.

Vanessa Stinnett was among those attending Lillie Mae Lewis' 4th birthday party this month. Her father, Seann, is the 8th grade teacher at Palmer School, and she's the great granddaughter of Gabby and Willie Mae Tate on her mother's side.

"He makes a good talk." That's what Mary Ruth Rogers said about Grundy County School Superintendent Joel "Jody" Hargis after watching a school board meeting on GCTV. We need every bit of good news we can get about the 2010-2011 school term. With almost constant controversy (not involving Mr. Hargis) and bad weather turning the schedule upside down, it has been one of the most turbulent school years in memory.

Helen Arbuckle's niece Ann Tate McDaniel made Helen a coconut cake for her birthday last month, and Helen says it was delicious with a cup of coffee. Mary Ruth Rogers is a good cook and offered me a piece of pineapple upside down cake the other day, but I don't care for cake like I used to. Ice cream is my favorite sweet treat.

If you saw our 2010 obituary report on the website last month, you know we were wondering about the Palmer connection of Howard Eugene Halsey of Pueblo, CO. Turns out he was the grandson of Frank Rankin who is among the Palmer Big Mine crew pictured in the Grundy County Historical Society's Pictures of Our Past. Thanks to Mrs. Raymond (Doris) Hargis for confirming it. If you haven't bought a copy of that book, it is available at Grundy County Historical Society; P.O. Box 1422; Tracy City, TN 37387 for \$69 mailed to you or for \$59.50 picked up locally at the Heritage Center at 465 Railroad Ave. in Tracy City, TN.

"An acre of cabbage" – To us a backyard garden patch of a couple dozen plants would be a big cabbage patch.

Charles Totherow of Gruetli-Laager said that when he was young, his dad planted an acre of cabbage, took them to Chattanooga, and made good money selling them for 10 cents a pound. Charles got permission from his dad and planted his own acre the next year, but they sold for just 4-5 cents a pound, and he just barely broke even after hiring people to help him hoe them. Farming is so uncertain, isn't it?

Faces in the Crowd: It was nice to meet Gerald "Jerry" Hargis of Tracy City. He's a military retiree and says he reads our website articles as does new website visitor Lowell Thomas Cantrell of Athens, TN. A big welcome to both of them-

"Body work is not what it used to be. Now they want to 'total' them instead of fix them." Harold James is one of the most well-known auto body repair men in Grundy County. As the saying goes, "Time changes everything".

We ran into Larry Lamz of Coalmont recently. He's married to Joan Crabtree of Palmer and sure is a nice fellow.

Raymond Releford of Monteagle is our insurance agent, and we hadn't seen him for some six years until the other day. He's a friendly fellow and a big talker. I'm sure Mr. Raymond Hargis knows him.

"Hello, Michelle." That's what a voice in the check-out line at Dollar General said. It was Trey Foster speaking to Michelle Travis. He's the transportation director for the Grundy County School System, and Michelle drove a school bus for several years.

Also at Dollar General we ran into Carolyn Watts and Mike Crisp. They live on the property of her late father Willie Watts. Mike's a son of the late Ray and Anna Tate Crisp.

Signs of Spring: We noticed our buttercups were coming up on Feb. 8 and the next day saw a crocus flower in bloom. We'll probably hear frogs singing soon in this mild weather. Dwight Tate said his buttercups were also up. I believe the Clude Sissom family lived where he has a newer house, and they probably planted them. Buttercups don't ever seem to die, and I'm sure that most we see around Palmer are 50-60 years old.

On sick call: Seems like you hear a lot about "blood clots" these days, and Polly Harrison Phipps, Lucille Crabtree Roberts, and Jacky Layne, son of the late Boot Jack Layne, have all had them lately. Nancy Roberts Rigsby suffered a mini stroke, but is back going again while Joyce Hargis, Becky Guffey, Jim Rollings (battling throat cancer for years), Mike Shrum, Vinnie Ruth Crabtree Bouldin, and Johnny Gipson have all had hospital stays. Johnny's had back trouble for years and had another round of surgery. Bruce Coffelt fell twice and broke fingers on each hand and has them all bandaged up. How does the poor thing function?

Wanda Hampton Meeks fell in her home Feb. 7 and broke her leg. "I've fallen many times and never got hurt," Wanda said. She will be in the Dunlap Rest Home for a little while then on to Siskin for rehab.

Jerry Harrison had a skin cancer taken off, but is back home and wishing for spring like all of us.

"The doctor said I had a new heart now. Congestive heart failure caused Mama's death, but I don't have that." That's what James Henry McBee said after coming home from heart bypass surgery at the VA Hospital in Nashville. He had high praise for the good care he got there. His cousin, Jerry Cannon, also was pleased with his care after recent surgery at the VA in Nashville. Both of these good men seem to be making speedy recoveries.

We ran into Jerry's sister, "Sis" Cannon Layne yesterday. Her husband E.W. Layne suffered a terrible stroke several years ago and isn't able to get out much anymore.

Valentine's Day is one of happiness and romance, but sickness and tragedy is no respecter of holidays or anything else.

Bobby Stinnett had heart bypass surgery this morning at Memorial Hospital, and Archie Jones was seriously injured in a car crash today. The good news is that both are expected to recover and we hope they're back home again very soon.

Needless to say, remember all the sick and injured in your prayers, and I'm sure they'd appreciate a card from old friends.

I always leave my Christmas cards on the wall until February 1st to help me get through the winter. I've taken them down and feel like we've turned the corner on winter here "where the good people live".

All you former residents like Martha Carrol Cox Hensley and Diana Henry Smith need to send us some news about you and yours.

In the meantime, we'll keep our ears open and mosey back around come March.

25 YEARS OF SERVICE- Savage Gulf Market #2/ Palmer Market

When Steve and Jewel Garner opened Savage Gulf Market in 1986, it was a real boost for the town of Palmer.

After years of decline, the town was slowly making a rebound, and this speeded up the process since it was built on the site of the historic Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company "Company Store" which reminded residents of Palmer's heyday.

In the 1980's the Garner's first built Savage Gulf Market #1 at the junction in Colamont and after the Palmer store added Savage Gulf Market #3 on Cagle Mountain above Dunlap in Sequatchie County.

These modern convenience stores not only brought 24 hour service ranging from gasoline, junk food, and fresh fruits and vegetables, but just as importantly provided much needed jobs to school students, senior citizens, and others.

When the Garner's relinquished ownership in 1990, the Colamont store became L & L Market, Palmer became Palmer Market, but Cagle retained "Savage Gulf Market". The Garners used great wisdom in choosing prime locations and all three stores are still in business all these many years later.

STATE SENATOR JIM LEWIS

The store was a popular campaign stop and the senator dropped by in 1990. Today, eh is chairman of the Marion County Democratic Party.

THIS IS HUGH

The nattily dressed Hugh Totherow came in to use the phone. He was a friendly fellow, and we always enjoyed talking with him.

HOMER & MAE FRY

The late Homer and Mae Fry came to the store frequently from their Griffith Creek home.

ON THE NIGHT SHIFT

The third shift is a bummer and got the best of this young whipper snapper, Jason Uselton, who was visitnig his mother. Would a sour pickle fromt he big jar wake him up?

NUMBER ONE VOLS FAN

John Doug Shrum enjoys a laugh with cashier Hazel Stotts.

FUTURE EMPLOYEE

Store employee Cynthia Caldwell Green holds Tiffany Nunley in 1990. Tiffany later worked at the store.

RC COLA & MOON PIE

James Dycus, Jr was a regular late-night visitor and prepares to enjoy this famous southern snack. His dad was a well-know policeman in Grundy

County at the time in 1988.

GARY BOULDIN

Gary Bouldin has sent thousands of greeting cards over the years. March 10 is his birthday when he turns 56. Let's wish him a happy birthday. Send cards to Gary Bouldin; 9038 Meadowland Dr; Brentwood, TN 37027. Gary is from Gruetli-Laager, TN.

MARCH

FORMER RESIDENTS ENJOY PALMER VISIT

Recently, on a sunny March day, the descendants of Floyd Owen, Webb Cunningham, Herschel Finch, Sr., and Tom McNabb, met at the Grundy County Miners' Museum and Heritage Center in Palmer. Those present to remember the old days in Palmer were Bobby Owen and sisters Ruth Black and Rosalyn Little and husband Terry. Joining them were Helen Cunningham Ackerman Arbuckle, Herschel Finch, Jr., & Ethleen Sitz McNabb and her daughter Janice McAnally.

While enjoying lunch at an area restaurant, the group met Rev. Billy Joe Keener who has moved back after being away for many years. His father, the late Rev. Johnny Keener, was the first pastor of the Palmer Church of God.

The McNabb's also got to see Jerry Cannon while here, and on Sunday morning, the Owen family attended services at Palmer United Methodist Church where their father, Floyd Owen, was a Sunday School teacher.

"Floyd was a good guy", recalled 87-year-old Nancy Roberts Rigsby who moved back to Grundy County in recent years after a teaching career in Florida. Mr. Owen was also a foreman at the Palmer Big Mine, and 87-year-old Calvin Finch of Riverside, CA, remember that, "Floyd Owen gave me my first job when I turned 18-years-old, and not long before I left for the Army in World War II."

Pictured from left are Bobby Owen, Palmer Town Historian, David Patton, and Herschel Finch, Jr. Bobby and Junior were childhood friends and Navy Korean War veterans. Junior made it a career and served during the Vietnam Era before retiring with over 20 years. They will both turn 82-years-old this fall.

Pictured from left are Palmer Town Historian David Patton, Herschel Finch, Jr. of Coalmont, TN; Ruth Owen Black of Villa Rica, GA, Ethleen Sitz McNabb (Her daughter Janice McAnally was our photographer.) of Dunlap, TN, Bobby Own of Peachtree City, GA, Museum Director Shorty Sanders of Palmer, TN, Helen Cunningham Ackerman Arbuckle of Tracy City, TN, and Terry Little and wife Rosalyn Owen Little of Smithville, TN.

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Palmer United Methodist Church is pastored by Rev. John Kennedy of Pelham.

MR. ASHBY TURNS 90

Mr. Y.B. Ashby, one of Grundy County's most esteemed citizens, will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 3, 2011.

"Since coming to Grundy County over 40 years ago, Mr. Ashby has been a force for good in our community", said Palmer town historian David Patton.

Besides being the best friend the veterans of Grundy County ever had, he has also been a minister, businessman, award winning newspaper publisher, school board member, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, founder of GCTV, and the list could go on and on.

"Even at his advanced age, Mr. Ashby still takes part in military funerals, tapes school board meetings for GCTV, and is always ready to help anyone in any way," said Patton. "He's an amazing man who has meant so much to Grundy County."

Everyone is urged to show his or her respect and appreciation by sending Mr. Ashby a card marking this milestone birthday. Address your card to Y.B. Ashby, 830 Wichser Road, Gruetli-Laager, TN 37339.

PALMER NEWS

Welcome to spring. Hallelujah, winter is finally over. We're sitting out on the back porch in full sunshine. The March wind blows through yellow forsythia and red quince bushes with the green grass looking like it had just been painted. It has been, and all the other colors of spring, too, by God, Creator of the earth.

It's Sunday, March 20th, and what a beautiful day in Palmer to usher in spring. We hope you're having the same kind of day in your part of the U.S. A.

In our photo this month, we feature the Palmer United Methodist Church with the yellow forsythia blooming about this time in 2002 or 2003. We planted them and a

red quince bush all from cuttings, and they're giant ones today and in glorious color this spring.

Lots of people born in March, and let's send birthday greetings this month to former Grundy County Commission Chairman L.H. Burnett down in Pelham Valley who turns 92 and still drives and remains active. Mr. Y.B. Ashby follows closely at 90.

Our friend Calvin Finch out in California is 87. Mrs. Y.B. (Lea) Ashby 83, Richard (brother of June Bug) Meeks 76, the honorary mayor of Chiggertown, Steve Garner should hit 66, Bonnie Henry Turner Meeks, 64, our good friend Randal Nolan, 63, Gary Bouldin, 56, Charles (son of Doodle) Payne, 51. Happy Birthday also to Chris Benton, 41, in Pelham, son-in-law of Janelle Taylor, John Owen, and to U.S. Army soldier Alfred J. "Hoover" King, 20.

Poison oak in winter? Or as some call it "poison ivy", which was the title of a big hit song by the Coasters that talks about calamine lotion for the itching.

It's a serious problem if you're severely allergic to it. Mary Cannon Stinnett said that back in the winter some of her relatives were teaching school in Indiana and had a severe reaction. No one could understand why, but a little boy hugged his teacher every day, and the doctor concluded that the firewood the boy's family burned had residues of poison oak on it. Mary's husband Bobby said one of his relatives almost died years ago after having a reaction to smoke from burning brush that contained poison oak. Makes you wonder how anyone lives a long life considering accidents, wars, and all kinds of sickness, doesn't it.

Let'em sleep: The first thunder in February was on the 24th so that was supposed to wake up the snakes from their winter hibernation. On a more cheerful note, our first buttercups bloomed on the 23rd and the frogs started their chorus the 15th.

"The floors were so shiny you could see yourself in them." That's what school board member Willene Campbell said about how clean Palmer School was when she and other school board members visited along with the fire marshals and architects. It will be decided whether the school is renovated or a new one built, hopefully this year. Brent Sweeney is the custodian, and his wife Nicole is a teacher here. They came from Michigan just a few years ago.

On sick call: Mike Gifford just had his 4th colon operation in recent years and is back on his feet. Edward McHone's health problems continue with open heart surgery this month. His father Bill, is 79 now and suffering from Parkinson's Disease. Wanda Meeks is still at the Dunlap Rest Home, but hopefully will be home by Easter, and we've learned that Malery James has been there for some time. We hope you and your church remember them in your prayers.

March wedding anniversary greetings go out to William Ray & Marie Yarworth Turner, 64 years; Danny & Betty Meeks Sanders who were married Mar 12, 1971, by her uncle Rev. Charles Stanley "Tom" Patton. Danny's a son of Allie Jean "Shorty" Sanders and the late Sham Sanders, and Betty's the daughter of the late "Little Norman" and Jewel Meeks.

The family called him Stanley" and many others called him "Tom" Patton, and he was my uncle. As a young man, he was struck by a baseball at the old Palmer Ball Diamond while watching a game and was seriously injured. After coming home from World War II service in Europe, he married Betty Sue Meeks and became a Nazarene Church pastor while Betty Sue taught school.

They lived in the Knoxville, TN, area for years until his death, and at last report Betty Sue still lived there. Stanley was a likeable person. Mr. Raymond Hargis knew him and says, "Everybody liked Tom Patton." Howard Lewis went to school with him and said, "Stanley was a good old boy."

My grandparents, Wade Hampton, "Hamp" and Clara Sitz Patton, had 10 children. My father William Robert "Bill" or "Willie" was the oldest followed by Nora Frizzell, Jim Patton, Jenny Sanders, Jessie King, Earl Patton, Carl Patton, Hampton Wade "J.R" and twins Doris & Stanley. Doris Patton lived in Cleveland, OH, for many years, but came back to Tennessee and lives in Chattanooga today where she's the only survivor of this large family. I seldom mention my family and didn't mean to give a family history, but thought this would be a good opportunity to get the information on record.

Back to our March weddings. Happy 10th anniversary to William Adam and Carolyn Michelle Burnett Ruehling. She's a granddaughter of the late Buddy Nolan and a teacher at Palmer School.

Mary Stinnett and Willie Mae Tate are planning to get a copy of the big Heritage of Gundy County, TN, book. There aren't many of these encyclopedia size books left, so don't delay if you want one. They are expensive since this is the second printing, but you'll enjoy the book. I wouldn't take anything for mine.

Faces in the crowd: Keith McBee, Jerry Cannon and his sister Lucretia "Sis" Layne, along with Sue Bouldin Parrott of Tracy City were among those attending a memorial service for Bobby Clement (probably Clement came from "Dr. Clements) Curtis. Bobby grew up in Ducktown with Jerry, and his father "Will Jack" Curtis was killed in the mines.

Dr. Vin-Paul and Ruth Hua of Chattanooga were here earlier this month to get some repair work done at Harold James' Body Shop.

Elsie Dykes, widow of Robert Dykes, won a prize on GCTV recently for being the most faithful "Morning Show" viewer.

Sheila Akins Finch and Deloris Nunley, former wife of Carl Ed Nunley, attended services at Tracy City United Methodist Church.

We ran into Mike McDaniel, son of Oscar Howell McDaniel, at the Grundy County Spelling Bee. His granddaughter Sarah Scott represented North Elementary School.

As we headed up Palmer Mountain picking up cans, we stopped and talked with Allen and Jimmy Henry in their yard. They asked if I had heard from their first cousin Diana Henry Smith lately. No, I've not, so Diana, let me know how you're doing. Diana is a super nice person and has been a big help to me on this Palmer history work.

Bobby Meeks, Lebron Layne, and Gerald Smith have been attending weekend auctions in the Whitwell-Dunlap area. Lisa Prater, daughter of the late Cecil McCreary, has been one of the merchants.

A few weeks back, my brother, Joel, and I ran into Paul King of Tracy City and his daughter Karin Brawley at the Kroger in Winchester. Karin is deputy administrator of the Grundy County Election Commission and does a great job. I'll bet Mr. Raymond Hargis knows her father.

We went to see Kim Hill Taylor, FNP, with a minor illness and she gave us a tour of the new Grundy County Primary Care Center at the junction in Coalmont. She's the daughter of the late Johnnie Morgan Hill and the third generation of her family in the medical field. Her mother, Betty Finch Bush, was an R.N. Betty's aunt, Louise Finch Arms, was an R.N. Kim has a daughter, Beth, who is an R.N., so that makes four generations that I know of.

Donna Gifford Basham says she enjoyed talking with Larry Pocus, son of the late Joe Pocus, about old times in Palmer when he stopped at her office in the Grundy County Court House.

We ran into Joel Hammers last week and old man time has turned his once shiny black hair white. He's a 1963 Palmer School graduate. We also ran into Shane Cleek, son of Arnold Cleek.

"A penny for your thoughts?" Well, kinda. The Gruetli-Laager Senior Citizens' Center crowned a Valentine's Day king and queen and each penny donation counted as one vote for your favorite couple among Howard and Oma Lewis, Leon Crisp and

Hazel Hornbuckle, and James Brown and Ann Creighton. James and Ann won and are the 2011 king and queen of the center. Congratulations!

Let me explain how we get the Palmer news to you. I write it then turn it in to Janelle Taylor in Pelham who types it into the computer and sends it to our webmaster, Sharon Goodman, in California. We're all unpaid volunteers, so sometimes one of us will be out of town, and we'll be late on getting it to you, but we do our best.

I hope you're enjoying spring as much as all of us here "where the good people live". Get outside, take a walk, enjoy the beautiful colors, and give thanks for all of our blessings in America.

APRIL

WINCE REMEMBERS TRACY CITY- STILL LOVES HOMETOWN, PART I

It's always a pleasure to talk with a member of the "Greatest Generation". Those who grew up in the Great Depression and World War II aren't called that for nothing. They were tested for years by the fire of the worst economic conditions the nation has ever faced followed by the worst war in world history.

Mr. Roy Wince Mayes of Winter Haven, FL, remembers that time like it was yesterday and says, "I have been many places in the United States and Europe, but the place I love best is old Tracy City and Pelham Valley where my ancestors came from. I will be 83-years old in August and will soon be laid to rest in Tracy City, my home, by my parents."

We never forget our school days, and Wince says that on a clear day the clock in the big tower at Shook Elementary could be heard as far away as Payne's Cove when it struck the hour. The landmark school burned in 1976.

Many former students across the country remember Miss Lacy Yarber from Grundy County High School, but before that she was at Shook. "I didn't start to school until I was 7 years old because my mother was afraid the older boys would beat me up. Miss Lacy was my teacher that year in the "High First" Grade, and I got a paddling almost every day. When I got to high school, she was my history teacher and told me that I needed to stop getting paddlings, that I was better than that."

Miss Lacy followed up with sound advice that's still good today. She said, "Wince, there are three things you need to know something about and that way you can talk to anyone. You don't have to know everything, but you need to know something about the Bible, history, and literature. I found that to be true. She was my all-time favorite teacher and had a great influence on my life."

The late Dillard Roberts of Palmer was a World War II veteran who returned from overseas to become a teacher and football coach at Grundy County High School. He continued his career in Michigan and still has two sisters, Joyce Hargis and Nancy Rigsby, living in Grundy County. "In my opinion Dillard Roberts was the best football coach ever at GCHS. He knew how to play football. 'Keep the opponent off balance, hit him hard', was his way to play. I liked Dillard Roberts. In my opinion Jim Gallagher was the best QB ever at GCHS, best center James Frank Gunn, best running back, Lillard Gibbs, and best end Fred Parks." In later years Mr. Parks was a teacher and principal at GCHS. Wince was an all Tennessee Valley Conference guard in 1946 & 1947.

"Working like a mule" was how physical, hard, backbreaking work used to be described. Wince remembers as a young boy the family having a big corn patch. After the corn got big enough to plow, he and his brother Wayne served as mules by pulling a plow as their mother guided it between the rows. Now, "hard work" is thought of as sitting on a machine and pushing a button or using power tools. The term "couch potato" was unheard of then and young people were eager to get any kind of job, no matter how hard or dirty it was, even if they just made 20 cents an hour. "I did anything people wanted done and got so much work I finally took on a partner, Don Haynes, who was my neighbor."

Chickens were an important source of meat and eggs and almost every family grew their own. "A woman hired us to paint her chicken house with oil to kill chicken mites. They were worse than chiggers and would eat you up. The chickens were white, and we threw oil on some of them, which made them look like "dommer neckers". When we went back to get the rest of our pay, she said two of the chickens had died and asked why we did it. Don said we thought if the oil would kill the mites on the chicken house that kill them on the chickens. That was a good answer, but she told us to never come back there again. That's the only time we were ever fired."

This proved that boys will be boys, even hard working ones. The childhood friends still stay in touch and Wince says, "Don Haynes is the best person I ever worked with and one of the best public speakers anywhere. I want him to give the eulogy at my funeral."

The Werner Lumber Company was the backbone of the Tracy City economy for many years and Wince knew the family well. "I worked for all the Werners. They were good to me, & I loved them all, but my favorite was Mrs. Bea Werner. She never fussed at me, and when I was mowing on hot days, she would give me cokes to drink. I also mopped and shined the floors, trimmed the hedges, or whatever needed done. When I graduated from Shook she gave me \$25. I graduated from GCHS in 1948 as the best all-around student, and she gave me \$100. That hundred

was like a thousand today. Her son, Bud Werner, still lives in Tracy City and is one of my very best friends.”

What would we do without our ‘fridge’? We still have people living in Grundy County today who remember when they didn’t have electricity or if they did, couldn’t afford a refrigerator and had an ‘ice box’ instead. “Mr. C.W. Hale had the Tracy City Ice Plant, and it ran day and night and never stopped beating, “book, boom boom.” It was across the railroad track from where we lived and I’d get up at 4 AM to load Mr. Dan Sitz’s truck. He’d pay me 25 cents to load 27 blocks of 300 lb. ice.” Mr. Sitz’s daughter, Betty Cyr, lives today in Monteagle and Mr. Hale’s Grandson, A.F. “Preacher” Hale, lives in the old Hale family homeplace in Tracy City.

We all know about the Palmer “Company Store”, but Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company was headquartered in Tracy City and had a company store there too. Wince cleaned the Company offices every morning and swept the upstairs of the store every day for many years. He remembers Leonard Brown and Emmitt Woodley as the main clerks and says, “Mrs. Veola Kelley and I were very good friends.”

“Before the days of television the Dixie Theater was the place to go for the latest movies, and it also provided jobs.” I sold popcorn at the theatre and made a dollar a night and also swept it twice a week. We used to have a full house seven days a week.”

A longtime subscriber, Wince says, “I’ve always read the Grundy County Herald”, and remembers that Mr. W.P. Murray was the publisher back then. “Mr. Murray printed the paper as the news was and didn’t care if you liked it or not. His slogan on the front page was “Pull for Grundy County-or pull out.” Today’s publisher, Mrs. Joy Caldwell, is one of several prominent women to head the paper during modern times in what was once a male dominated field.

Mr. J.L. “Lewis” Rollings of Altamont, known by most a “Judge Rollings”, was a well-known citizen and Grundy County Superintendent of Schools when Palmer School opened in 1927. He was later elected County (now called County Mayor) Judge and was famous for his sharp mind and unusual ways.

It was said that he never owned a car and hitchhiked or walked around the county performing his duties. He was considered a genius in mathematics and Wanda Hampton Meeks, 82, of Palmer remembers him visiting Tatesville School when she was a student there. Three of his children: Frank Rollings, Rachel Geary, and Florence Scruggs were well-known teachers and Mrs. Geary was my 7th grade teacher at Palmer Elementary for the 1959-1960 term. Today, two of his granddaughters, Jenny Thomas and Susan Ramsey, live in Monteagle.

Wince remembers him well and says, “Mr. Rollings had been my dad’s teacher and was a friend of our family. He would sometimes spend the night with us on his travels across the county. He said when a person gets to be 75 years old, they should write a book and he did. It was a wonderful book, and I’ll always regret losing my copy several years ago. “Dad always said that he was the smartest person in Grundy County.” Wince’s sister, Mary Ruth Rogers, also remembers Judge Rollings. “After he stayed all night with us, the next morning he’d say he always enjoyed staying with us because we had the best smelling beds he’d ever slept on. Mama would air our mattresses out in the sunshine.”

Wince and Mary Ruth’s dad, Roy C. Mayes, was a farmer and teacher who was later elected to the offices of Grundy County Tax Assessor and Circuit Court Clerk.

Join us soon for Part II of this story in an upcoming edition of the Grundy County Herald.

EASTER SUNDAY, 1940's

This photo of children at Palmer United Methodist Church was taken on Easter Sunday in 1947 or 1948. The boy with the paper bag on the left is Eugene Byars and his sister Betty Jo is directly behind him. Their father, Rev. W.H. Byars, pastored the church.

Note the little girl with the Easter bonnet on the far right. The little boy behind her looks to be Stewart Hampton. If you can identify anyone else, contact Palmer Town Historian David Patton at 50 Dogwood St., Palmer, TN 37365.

COMPANY STORE

Photo of the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company's Dry Goods Store.

PALMER NEWS

It’s a rainy and cloudy April 15 in Palmer with storm warnings out. The month is half gone, and we’re probably in “dogwood” winter as they’re in full bloom and we have had some frost this week.

What a beautiful month to have a birthday. Howard Lewis and Mrs. Tom (Margaret Cleek) Creighton both turn 88 followed by Mary Ruth Rogers 78, and her son Jimmy 55. Ricky Layne also turns 55 and Rev. Bret Meeks edges closer to 50 at 48. Lifelong friends Angela “Porky” Partin and Tonya Guffey Kilgore also edge closer to the half century mark at 47.

Saturday School: It was a long and snowy winter with many days of school missed, so Grundy County Schools held classes on April 2. Back in the spring of 1960, I was a 7th grader in Rachel Rollings Geary's class at Palmer Elementary, and we went 2-3 Saturdays after a rough winter.

On Sick Call: Wanda Meeks broke her leg February 8 & didn't get back home until April 13 with most of that time spent at the Dunlap Nursing Home. Welcome home, Wanda. Mae Taylor Cox, widow of Lanny Cox, had surgery in the Winchester Hospital and was pleased with her surgeon, Dr. Patrick Greer and the hospital care. Dr. Greer's a son of retired Circuit Court Judge Tom Greer.

Cobby Doss Slatton has been in the hospital, and I am sure Mrs. Raymond Hargis will remember Margie Kilgore Doss who is said to be critically ill. James Pocus is recovering from open - heart surgery and former Grundy County Mayor Riley Anderson, Jr. reportedly had a stroke, but is thought to have suffered no long - term damage. Bobby Stinnett takes therapy three times a week as part of his recovery from open - heart surgery and says that he feels better than he has in a long time.

"The Blessed", a well-known gospel singing group from Monteagle consisting of Ralph & Doris Patrick and her brother Buddy Meeks sang at the April 10 services at Palmer Methodist in place of the usual sermon.

"They took her to Chattanooga." I've got a keen ear for language because I'm interested in what people have to say. "Chattanooga" instead of "Chattanooga" used to be said a lot, but we hadn't heard it in a long time, and soon it will be no more. "Time changes everything."

"Staying hitched" Herschel, Jr. & Jeanetta Tate Finch are married 57 years this month Delbert and Millie Perry Layne, a very nice couple, 35. Mr. Raymond Hargis may remember Millie's father, the late Richard Perry of Tarlton Valley.

Rev. Joe & Cindy Turner Sanders said, "I do", 25 years ago and Eddie & Melissa Layne Birdwell married in April 2001.

Faces in the crowd: Margie Sanders Ramey passed and waved the other day. She's a retired teacher and has been "substituting" at Palmer Elementary.

We enjoyed talking with Kenneth Brewer recently. He's retired and serves as commissioner on the Board at Big Creek Utility District, which supplies our water.

Jerry Cannon's grandson, P.J. Cannon, spent the night with him recently. P.J.'s daddy is Teddy Cannon.

Mary Ruth Rogers said she saw B.J. Tate at the McDonald's in Monteagle. He's a grandson of the late Bill and Frances Sitz Tate.

Ruby Nell James and her sisters Thelma Geary and Clara Humphrey attended services at Tracy City United Methodist Church recently. Their parents were the late Mr. & Mrs. Joe B. Shrum.

We visited Dot Layne Lockhart out in Griffith Creek on a cloudy day last month. She was tending her granddaughter born on my birthday of October 12 last year. Her grandson Jake Lockhart was there and says that he's an 8th grader. Jake's now a tall, strong, and handsome boy who has really grown up fast.

Linda Morrison was the Palmer town librarian for many years, and it was good to talk with her at the Dollar General Store. She's a daughter of the late Morris Rogers. We hadn't seen Becky Henry Layne in a while and wondered about her. We pass her house every week and she says, "I've been spending most of my time upstairs sewing." I'm sure that's about to come to an end because Becky always raises a nice garden.

Jeanette Tate Smith was a cook at Palmer School for years and is the widow of Leon Smith. She's recovering from back surgery, and some of you will remember her father, the later Herbert Tate.

Do any of you remember Amos Higgins, who lived on Burnt Orchard Hill, I believe? We were sitting in Bonnie Payne's kitchen this week and enjoying a soft drink as she put her dishes away. She had a little short dough roller and said the late Mr. Higgins made and gave it to her years ago. He still has a son, Kelly Higgins, living here who married Patsy Creighton.

Don't you love the "new time" when it doesn't get dark so early? We're looking out the window, and it looks stormy here "where the good people live," but that's typical April weather.

The thing to rejoice about is that winter is over and the earth is alive once again with beautiful colors and the excitement of spring and better days ahead.

Make an appointment (thanks to Janelle Taylor and Sharon Goodman, you don't even have to pay an office call) to be back with us next month. Meanwhile, get outside in the fresh air and sunshine and enjoy yourself.

DOGWOOD IN BLOOM

Spring is not summer, and a skift of snow can pop up in April as this photo proves. This pink dogwood in David Patton's yard was in full bloom when snow fell on April 10, 2003. We've never seen a flake of snow in May, but remember people saying years ago that they had. Have any of you?

GCHS CLASS OF 1941- CALM BEFORE THE STORM

While the storm clouds gather,
Far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.
(Lyrics by Irving Berlin from the song "God Bless America", performed by Kate Smith.) It became a symbol of American unity during World War II.

Where were you on Monday night, May 19, 1941? For 47 young people from across the county, it was a defining moment in their lives. After years of hardship in the Great Depression, they were in Tracy City to receive their diplomas at Grundy County High School in a time when very few in rural Tennessee went that far in school.

The world was on fire with war, but for the time being they were safe in "fortress America" with oceans on both sides and friendly neighbors to the north and south. But, unknown to them, even as they celebrated that joyful night, the warlords of Imperial Japan were plotting their destruction and would plunge the United States into World War II with their Sunday morning sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941.

Every generation has its music, and theirs was the big band symbolized by Glenn Miller's "Moonlight Serenade", and Benny Goodman's, "Let's Dance". In 1941 the Artie Shaw Orchestra had the number one hit with "Frensie", and another popular one with "Star Dust". Frank Sinatra (many years later had the hit song, "New York, New York") was a bobby sox idol of the girls as a featured singer with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and who could forget the Andrews Sisters with "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" that year? We call it country music now, but if you liked hillbilly music, Ernest Tubb's, "I'm Walking the Floor Over You" was 27th in the top 100 songs of 1941.

Baseball was the number one sport in 1941, and almost every community in Grundy County had a team with Sunday afternoon games between hot rivals like Palmer and Tracy City. Major League teams were followed closely on the radio and in newspapers, and this was the year that Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees set a record that still stands, an incredible 56-game hitting streak.

How many trillion and rising is the national debt in 2011? In 1941, it was \$57.5 "billion". Already at war with England and France, Adolf Hitler opened a second front in June with Germany's invasion of Russia. Also that year, the movie

“Sergeant York” came out with Gary Cooper winning an Oscar for his portrayal of Tennessee’s World War I hero, Alvin C. York.

To the best of our knowledge, only eight members of the class of 1941 are still living. Four of them, Ann Conry Creighton, Margaret Cleek Creighton, Becky Ivey Teague, and Ruth Own Black lived in Palmer when they graduated. Ann returned to her hometown in 1985. Margaret lives in Tracy City, Becky in Chattanooga, and Ruth in Villa Rica, GA. Catherine Kilgore Flury of Tracy City still lives there. Jamie Winton of Coalmont lives near Altamont. Vera Meeks Rhodes of Pelham lives in Brandon, FL, and Robena Bonner Good, also of Pelham, lives in Huntsville, AL. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that one of the teachers, Anna Mary Parker of Monteagle, is living today in Hermitage, TN.

The late Doreen Brewer was the daughter of a Monteagle doctor. During the war, she met a student a student from Puerto Rico, Bishop Reus, who was attending classes at DuBose, married and moved to the island, where he was the first native-born Puerto Rican Bishop, and lived out her days there.

The amazing Jamie Winton in a survivor in more ways than one. Out of 19 boys in the class, he’s the only survivor we’ve found. Out of the 19, there were 18 in World War II. Haskell Arbuckle, brother of the late World War II veteran Murray Arbuckle, was killed in a job-related accident shortly after high school according to our information.

Jamie joined the U.S. Navy in August 1942 as a machinist’s mate. He spent almost all his time overseas in the Pacific and recalls this brush with death. “Somehow, the Japanese got one of our P-38 Fighter planes. We were watching a movie on the ship when the plane attacked. The fellow next to me was hit with shrapnel, but I wasn’t harmed”. Jamie received his discharge on January 1, 1946. He lived in Florida before returning to Grundy County in 2004 and will turn 90 years old in October.

We have made every attempt to determine the status of each person in the class of 1941. Ann Creighton, Catherine Flury, Julia Pirtle, and Minister Ray Winton provided valuable information . Getting a clue here and a clue there, an elite team of researchers from the Grundy County Historical Society, Janelle Taylor, Bettye Sherwood, Jackie Partin, and Ralph Thompson went the extra mile and made this story possible. We deeply appreciate your assistance.

“I hope we can get together again, even if it’s just for a meal,” said Ann Creighton, 88. So do the members of the Grundy County Historical Society as we salute the class of 1941 from America’s Greatest Generation.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

According to media reports prescription medicine is now the number one drug abuse problem in America. [Here is a poem](#) that reflects one perspective of this problem.

PALMER NEWS

My goodness, what a raw, cold, cloudy, drizzly day it is here in Palmer. We're coming to you right smack dab in the middle of May, the 15th. We've got tomatoes out and sure hope a killing frost doesn't get them next week.

Last month we asked if anyone had ever seen snow during May in Grundy County. Mr. Raymond Hargis wrote and said, "In the late 1950's or early '60's at a meeting on May 7 at Coalmont School of the Grundy County Agricultural and Industrial Commission (Everett B. Roberts, Sr. presiding), we witnessed a short, heavy snowfall that showed up on window ledges, rocks, and trees. It melted during the night, but it was pretty for a while. That is the only May snow that I recall."

Of course the big news, and the "oh – so - horrible" bad news, since we were with you last month has been the April 27th outbreak of tornados that swept the South. We were spared and a church sign message I passed said, "Thank God for his mercy on Grundy County."

Sympathy is extended to the family of former Palmer resident Diana Henry Smith of Cleveland, TN. Diana lost her daughter, Kandace Setterfield, when the storms went through Cleveland and Bradley County. If you would like to send Diana a card, her address is 430 Blue Springs, Ln, S.E.; Cleveland, TN 37311. Sympathy is also extended to the family of Doris Brown Hargis in their loss. Mrs. Hargis and her husband would have celebrated their 60th anniversary in July. If you would like to send a card to Mr. Raymond Hargis, the address is 228 Sherwood Dr., Manchester, TN 37355. They are former Palmer residents.

If you mentioned "Tootsie", about everyone in these parts knew who you meant. [Tootsie Cannon Smith](#) was a friendly person and a big talker like most of the Cannons we've known. She was also a talented singer and piano player. Sympathy is extended to her family in their loss, and if you would like to send a card to her son Tim Shrum, his address is 123 Martin Ln., Palmer, TN 37365

Lecil Nolan of Palmer retired from the Tracy City Post Office last month after many years of service. A U.S. Army veteran, who served in Vietnam, he's a son of the late Claude and Ruby Haynes Nolan.

Happy May birthday wishes to Gladys (Tom's sister) Creighton Arnett, 98; Rev. James Roberts, 92; Dorothy Morrison (Herb's widow) Garner, 90; Mary Lou Roberts (sister of Rev. James) Creighton, 80; Charles Edgar Sanders, 79; Mary Cannon

Stinnett, 76; Donna Gifford Basham, 65; Joan Crabtree Lamz, 65; Carl Layman & David "Bologna" Crabtree, 55; Joe "Proxy" Curtis, 51; Anita Ramsey Meeks, school board member, 50; and Kathryn Smith, 8. Her brother, Sgt. Justin Smith, is serving with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan. They are the grandchildren of Jeanette Tate Smith and the late Leon Smith.

What's for supper? On this cold and gloomy Sunday afternoon we're having fried bologna, fried potatoes, black-eyed peas, turnip greens, corn, and cornbread muffins. A "stick to you ribs" type supper.

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Huey Brown of Cleveland, Ohio, was here due to the death of his sister Doris Hargis. Here due to the death of Tootsie Cannon Smith were Eleanor Ross Magouirk and Fay Layne Hanson of Chattanooga.

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We ran into "Chiggertown Jimmy" King the other day. Hadn't seen him in a long time, and he said he's in his 70's now. He's a brother of the late Franklin King.

"Above and Beyond": On the night of April 27th, with tornados raging, about 7 PM someone knocked on our door. It was almost dark and with a little lull in the storms, Charles Edgar Sanders and his wife Betty brought me a dozen eggs from their hens, some frozen corn and beans from last year's garden, and a package of deer meat, which I used to make some delicious stew. Thank you. I appreciated it.

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Lockhart out in Griffith Creek lost “juice” for a couple of days, but had nothing destroyed. A week before the tornados, a lightning strike burned the home of George Manley over in Tatesville.

On sick call: Helen Arbuckle had double-knee replacement surgery April 11 and returned home April 27th. At last report, she was making a successful recovery. Clatya Hargis Cleek and Harold James have been sick while Willene (Mrs. Preston) Knowlan is still in a Nashville hospital, and Robert Earl Slatton is recovering from a wreck. Larry Henry brought us an Easter dinner and card and said his daughter Lori was visiting from Tampa, FL.

Palmer United Methodist had over 30 including Arthur and Mary Lou Creighton of Chattanooga. Of all the churches in Palmer over the years, the Palmer Church of God is the only one still having a large attendance. The Baptist and Nazarene have just a handful while the Church of Christ is closed.

Palmer Church of God had over 100 for Easter services, and the trio of Mark Campbell, his mother Lynn Nunley Campbell, and pastor Bill Smith’s wife, Joann, sang “If You Know Him”. At the night service, Bonnie (Mrs. Gene) Finch Layne sang, “He Is Risen”. On Mother’s Day, Myrtle Hicks, 100, received flowers as the oldest mother and Crystal Layne, Joann Smith, and Kay Hicks got them in a drawing.

Happy anniversary wishes for May go out to Billy Carl and Becky Coffelt Guffey, 50 years, and their neighbors Jerry and Judy Anderson Harrison, also 50 years. “We went to Bud Hampton, but he couldn’t marry us, so we went to James (father of Diana Smith) Henry, and he married us at his home,” said Jerry. Another couple in it until “death do us part” is Allen and Linda Carol Rogers Morrison who celebrated 40 years of marriage. She’s a daughter of the late Morris and Clara Rogers.

We often think of what the late Mara Lee Roberts Caldwell said about a time flying by. “The older you get, the faster time flies,” Mara Lee said, and we’ve found that to be, oh, so, true. Here it’s already May, with summer about to take off.

From the headquarters of “where the good people live” that’s all for now, but check back in next month. If you’re able, get out and plant some flowers, tomatoes, or whatever and enjoy the good old summer time.

MAY

PART II- WINCE REMEMBERS TRACY CITY, STILL LOVES HOMETOWN

What a fun trip down memory lane it has been for me to write this story.

Mrs. Bettie Sherwood of the Grundy County Historical Society says Leonard Brown who was once manager of the Tracy City Company Store was her grandfather, and I'm sure many others saw familiar names as well.

You can always learn something new, and we've been told there were two Fred Parkses from that era. The one Wince Mayes mentioned as his GCHS football teammate is living in Monteagle after being away from the area for many years. The other Mr. Fred Parks was later a fine teacher and principal at GCHS, and we're sad to report that he passed away several years ago.

For over 100 years there has been a Dutch-Maid Bakery and Flury's Store, and no remembrance of Tracy City and Grundy County would be complete without including them.

Wince says, "The Baggenstoss family were good people, especially Albert. He was good to everyone, especially the poor people. I used to go to the bakery to get molded bread and cakes to feed our hogs. Mrs. Baggenstoss would give you just 10 pounds for a dime. Albert, her son, would give you a big bag full for a dime and would always throw in two or three loaves of good bread. God saw Albert helping many people. I think he is in heaven today, running a bakery for God."

(Albert Baggenstoss of Tracy City, TN, at Palmer Market in Palmer, TN. The store manager is Paul Guyer of Tracy City and the employee is Hazel Stotts of Coalmont, in the background.)

What's the old saying about the more things change, the more they stay the same?" During wartime anyone can fall under suspicion as we see with the Arabs and Muslims today. Back in World War II it was those with German and Japanese sounding names, and Wince remembers one such incident. "I was working at Flury's when a co-worker whispered, "We shouldn't be working for these Nazis." Fritz Flury's mother heard him and said, "Little boy, we aren't Nazis, I have a son serving in Europe and one in India." We all tend to "assume" things, and this is a good example about using caution in doing so.

Back then, the weekly shopping trip was a big event, and Flury's tried to have something for everyone with a sign that said, "We have everything from horse collars to diamond rings." Saturday was a booming day, and they had three delivery trucks going. You could get carbide, dynamite (Boy, how the world has changed.) or anything else. Dad always traded with the Flury's and said they would treat you right, and they would. The best education I ever got in my life was working at Flury's and for Mrs. Bea Werner and the other Werners.

Wince's sister, Mary Ruth Rogers, remembers that "Mama used to sell tomato plants to Flury's, and they were friends of our family. During the Christmas season

she would cook a big dinner, and they would eat with us. Today Fritz Flury's son, P.C. Flury, continues the business and still carries the old-fashion "hoop" cheese that many remember.

Now everything is "throw-away", but shoes used to be made to last, and when they became worn, you'd take them to a shoe repair shop for new soles, heels, or whatever. "Mr. Elmer Brawley and Mr. Dutch Oliver ran the Tracy City Shoe Shop, and it was the best shoe shop in the U.S.A. They were sole savers. Both are in heaven today." The late John Tate of Palmer had a shoe shop at this home off Big Mine Road where Buck Cookston later lived.

Bob Gross, one of Grundy County's most famous barbers, passed away recently. Bob never met a stranger and had customers who came from far and near, as much to hear his entertaining stories, as to get a haircut. "Dad cut our hair until we were in high school", Wince remembers. "Then I went to Mr. Henry Gross' Shop. He was a friendly fellow like his son Bob."

To go along with polished shoes, a neat haircut and clean shave, the stylish man of the 1940's needed a nicely pressed suit. "Mr. Hayes Kopp ran the dry cleaning place and had a sign on his store window that said, "Look at your clothes. Other people do." Most of us remember Mr. & Mrs. John Kilby who ran Modern Dry Cleaners for 35 years until retiring in 1985.

Tracy City had a number of restaurants, and the late Gene Brooks of Palmer told me that the white chili at Harris Woodley's Café was the best he had ever eaten. Wince says, "He was famous for his chili. For 10 cents you got a bowl of chili and a bowl of little round crackers. I delivered ice there, and he always gave me an extra bowl of chili."

A Coke made right in Tracy City at the Coca-Cola Bottling plant would be popular at any of the restaurants. The little thick glass bottles with "Tracy City, TN" stamped on the bottom are collectors' items today, and Wince remembers that, "They had two delivery trucks running five days a week. These were the smallest and the strongest tasting Cokes ever made - the best, and only 5 cents."

Have you ever made a pot of soup with a soup bone? We had a number-one butcher in Tracy City. Mr. Roy Wright really knew how to cut up a beef. He used to help poor people by giving us soup bones. "These big beef bones had fat and gristle on them, and after boiling a while, you added vegetables and soon had a pot of delicious beef flavored soup." Roy Wright was a World War I veteran, and after coming home was the butcher for a time at the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company Store in Palmer before moving back to his hometown of Tracy City.

A “dry goods” store was where you went for shoes and clothing. Wince remembers Mr. L.E. Hasler’s and that Mr. Joe Henley had one along with groceries in the middle of town. Back then you had to buy your own textbooks for school, and Mr. Will Jossi sold them at his grocery store. Mr. John Wright had a small grocery store on Rooster Street and Wince remembers him well. “He set type for Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company and was a very smart man. If you went in the store for a can of pork ‘n beans and he didn’t have any, he’d say, ‘I don’t have any, but I have bologna, you know, know.’ He always had good bologna.”

The United States was fighting on both sides of the globe in World War II, and the government had to ration gasoline and other items in order to equip the troops. “Mr. Lawrence Shrum was a good store man. During the war people in Tracy City could not get lard or sugar, but Lawrence Shrum had a connection in Chattanooga. We bought lard and sugar from him when there was none to be found. He was a very good merchant.”

Cheek’s Drug Store was a Tracy City landmark, and the old building is now part of the new headquarters of the Grundy County Historical Society. Wince says, “Mr. E.W. Cheek was well-known. People called him Dr. Cheek. He doctored people and gave them medicine. People loved him, and they trusted him. He was a good man. “Mr. Cheek’s grandson, Jimmy Cheek, still lives in Tracy City.”

“Drinking” and all that come with it, has always been a part of Grundy County life, and Smokey Row in Tracy City was a lively place. “Mr. Ogmio Prince ran a beer place there called the “Green Hornet”. They said when the sun went down you could not see up the street for the gun smoke. I went to school with Mr. Price’s boys.” The late Erman and Herman were World War II veterans.

After a Saturday night on Smokey Row, you might need a lawyer, and Wince says Tracy City had some good ones. “When I was a young boy growing up, we had some famous lawyers in Grundy County. “Mr. Jeff Fults was an excellent lawyer. You could not beat him. He was my Sunday school teacher at the Tracy City Baptist Church. You better know your lesson. He would cross examine you. Mr. Will Abernathy and Mr. Johnny Marable were also good lawyers. “Jefferson Davis “Jeff” Fults also represented Grundy County for a term as a Tennessee state senator.

The era in which Wince grew up was probably the heyday of coal mining and trains in Grundy County. “I lived by the switch railroad yard in Tracy City. There is nothing like a train coming down the track. There were four or five steam engine trains running out of Tracy City to Palmer and to Cowan where it joined the main line. When the Palmer Mines were running, they shipped two train loads a day to Cowan. That was approximately 40-50 railroad cars a day. When the Palmer mines had labor trouble, the mines slowed down. The train whistle was gone, the

trains were gone, and they took up the track. No more trains, no more Palmer Mines. What happened to Grundy County?

Here we are in the year 2011, a new century, with changes and conditions in the world that those of Wince's generation could not have imagined.

"Time changes everything", as men and nations are swept along by the rapid currents of history, sometimes able to determine their destiny, but more likely than not, having it determined for them by the unseen hand of fate.

We must adapt to change, but also use great wisdom in the process. Wince's dad, the late Roy C. Mayes, often quoted this old saying, and it is just as meaningful now as it was in the days gone by. "Never be the first by whom the new is tried, but never be the last to lay the old aside."

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Janelle Layne Taylor, president of the Grundy County Historical Society, in bringing you this story.

WORLD WAR II PHOTO

Brothers, Charles Eritt Geary (left) and James Carl Geary (right) of Palmer, TN with Walter Rhea (standing) of Northcutt's Cove. Photo made in England, Mar 3, 1943 during WWII.

PALMER CHURCH SIGNS

West Side Baptist Church

Palmer Church

Palmer First Baptist Church

DOGWOOD IN BLOOM

Spring is not summer, and a skift of snow can pop up in April as this photo proves. This pink dogwood in David Patton's yard was in full bloom when snow fell on April 10, 2003. We've never seen a flake of snow in May, but remember people saying years ago that they had. Have any of you?

GCHS CLASS OF 1941- CALM BEFORE THE STORM

While the storm clouds gather,
Far across the sea,
Let us swear allegiance to a land that's free,
Let us all be grateful for a land so fair,
As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer.

(Lyrics by Irving Berlin from the song “God Bless America”, performed by Kate Smith.) It became a symbol of American unity during World War II.

Where were you on Monday night, May 19, 1941? For 47 young people from across the county, it was a defining moment in their lives. After years of hardship in the Great Depression, they were in Tracy City to receive their diplomas at Grundy County High School in a time when very few in rural Tennessee went that far in school.

The world was on fire with war, but for the time being they were safe in “fortress America” with oceans on both sides and friendly neighbors to the north and south. But, unknown to them, even as they celebrated that joyful night, the warlords of Imperial Japan were plotting their destruction and would plunge the United States into World War II with their Sunday morning sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, December 7, 1941.

Every generation has its music, and theirs was the big band symbolized by Glenn Miller’s “Moonlight Serenade”, and Benny Goodman’s, “Let’s Dance”. In 1941 the Artie Shaw Orchestra had the number one hit with “Frensie”, and another popular one with “Star Dust”. Frank Sinatra (many years later had the hit song, “New York, New York”) was a bobby sox idol of the girls as a featured singer with the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, and who could forget the Andrews Sisters with “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” that year? We call it country music now, but if you liked hillbilly music, Ernest Tubb’s, “I’m Walking the Floor Over You” was 27th in the top 100 songs of 1941.

Baseball was the number one sport in 1941, and almost every community in Grundy County had a team with Sunday afternoon games between hot rivals like Palmer and Tracy City. Major League teams were followed closely on the radio and in newspapers, and this was the year that Joe DiMaggio of the New York Yankees set a record that still stands, an incredible 56-game hitting streak.

How many trillion and rising is the national debt in 2011? In 1941, it was \$57.5 “billion”. Already at war with England and France, Adolf Hitler opened a second front in June with Germany’s invasion of Russia. Also that year, the movie “Sergeant York” came out with Gary Cooper winning an Oscar for his portrayal of Tennessee’s World War I hero, Alvin C. York.

To the best of our knowledge, only eight members of the class of 1941 are still living. Four of them, Ann Conry Creighton, Margaret Cleek Creighton, Becky Ivey Teague, and Ruth Own Black lived in Palmer when they graduated. Ann returned to her hometown in 1985. Margaret lives in Tracy City, Becky in Chattanooga, and Ruth in Villa Rica, GA. Catherine Kilgore Flury of Tracy City still lives there.

Jamie Winton of Coalmont lives near Altamont. Vera Meeks Rhodes of Pelham lives in Brandon, FL, and Robena Bonner Good, also of Pelham, lives in Huntsville, AL. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that one of the teachers, Anna Mary Parker of Monteagle, is living today in Hermitage, TN.

The late Doreen Brewer was the daughter of a Monteagle doctor. During the war, she met a student a student from Puerto Rico, Bishop Reus, who was attending classes at DuBose, married and moved to the island, where he was the first native-born Puerto Rican Bishop, and lived out her days there.

The amazing Jamie Winton in a survivor in more ways than one. Out of 19 boys in the class, he's the only survivor we've found. Out of the 19, there were 18 in World War II. Haskell Arbuckle, brother of the late World War II veteran Murray Arbuckle, was killed in a job-related accident shortly after high school according to our information.

Jamie joined the U.S. Navy in August 1942 as a machinist's mate. He spent almost all his time overseas in the Pacific and recalls this brush with death. "Somehow, the Japanese got one of our P-38 Fighter planes. We were watching a movie on the ship when the plane attacked. The fellow next to me was hit with shrapnel, but I wasn't harmed". Jamie received his discharge on January 1, 1946. He lived in Florida before returning to Grundy County in 2004 and will turn 90 years old in October.

We have made every attempt to determine the status of each person in the class of 1941. Ann Creighton, Catherine Flury, Julia Pirtle, and Minister Ray Winton provided valuable information. Getting a clue here and a clue there, an elite team of researchers from the Grundy County Historical Society, Janelle Taylor, Bettye Sherwood, Jackie Partin, and Ralph Thompson went the extra mile and made this story possible. We deeply appreciate your assistance.

"I hope we can get together again, even if it's just for a meal," said Ann Creighton, 88. So do the members of the Grundy County Historical Society as we salute the class of 1941 from America's Greatest Generation.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

According to media reports prescription medicine is now the number one drug abuse problem in America. [Here is a poem](#) that reflects one perspective of this problem.

PALMER NEWS

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JUNE

PALMER HISTORIAN HONORED

In a surprise presentation Palmer Twn Historian, David Patton, received the first annual "Friend of Palmer School Award" during eighth grade promotion exercises on May 25th.

A 1961 graduate, this October he will be night watching at the school on Halloween for the 17th consecutive year. He also maintains a vast collection of photos, information, and memorabilia on Grundy County's oldest school

"I was deeply touched to be the first to receive this honor and want to thank principal William Childers, eighth grade teacher Seann Lewis, Pam Meeks, and everyone at Palmer School," said Patton.

Pictured with Mr. Patton is Ryan Travis who will be a 6th grader this fall.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor Grundy County Herald
6/14/2011 5:32:03 PM

Since its beginnings in 1988, the Grundy County Historical Society has become one of our true success stories and has brought people together from all walks of life and every part of Grundy County.

For the past nine years, Janelle Layne Taylor has served as president. This has been a period of great progress with the publication of two books and a cemetery book in the works to hopefully come out later this year.

But without question the greatest leap forward during Janelle's tenure was finding a permanent, spacious and technology friendly headquarters for the Society itself. The renovation of the old First National Bank building will be completed shortly and then Grundy County will have one of the finest facilities of its kind in Tennessee.

Janelle is an humble person and would be the first to shine the spotlight on everyone else. Since September 2006 we have worked together on the GCHS website and I have seen her battle through personal and family sickness to stay totally focused on the task of preserving our Grundy County history. Her characteristics of courage, honesty, and dependability are those of a great leader and she has been just that.

Let's join together in thanking Janelle for her many years of dedicated service and welcome and support Mr. Gerald Sitz as he leads the Grundy County Historical Society into the exciting future.

David Patton, Palmer Historian

PALMER NEWS

"Everything is burning up here." That's what Bobby Owen told us from Peachtree City, GA, on June 7. We're coming to you at about 5:25 PM on June 15, and we've

had rain, a little hail, thunder and lightning all afternoon, and the street lights have been on for hours it's so dark.

Welcome back, everyone. Tornadoes, floods, snow, drought and terrible heat so early, what a weather year it has been and not even quite half over. Is it global warming or "the last days" spoken of in Bible prophecy? What do you think?

Moving on to happier news, Happy Birthday this month to Crandel McNabb, 97; Gussie Magouirk Flynn, 93; Anita Finch Crabtree, 75; James Edward Campbell, 65; Danny McCullough, Sr., 64; Mike Gifford, 60; Clayta Hargis Cleek, 49; Alexandra Cantu and her twin sister Jacquelyn turn 20. They are granddaughters of Jack Sissom and smart girls in college.

Palmer United Methodist had a fish fry Memorial Day weekend, and John Doug Shrum was there for some good eating. The church had a three-night revival June 12-14 with John Ross Jones, Brett Meeks and Troy Smith doing the preaching. Troy, son of David Hulon & Kathy Smith, is from Pelham. John Ross is a son of Archie Jones, and Brett is the grandson of the late M.C. "Bud" Hampton. Locals attending were Darlene Brooks and Wayne Gipson's widow, Linda. Coming from Tracy City were Mike Price's widow, Jan, and Anthony Disheroon.

This was the first revival I remember at Palmer's oldest church in 25 years or so. Joe Nunley of Coalmont, who later became Grundy County School Superintendent, held it; then brought Jim Mutt Nunley, his father, with him.

Palmer Elementary School graduation was May 25. Ty Sanders, grandson of Greg Ross, was valedictorian and Brooklin Rollins, granddaughter of former Gruetli-Laager Mayor Donna Meeks Rollins was salutatorian. Daniel Stiefel was Best All-Around Boy and Shawna Worley, granddaughter of Carl Worley and Bobby Geary, was Best All - Around Girl.

The graduates enjoyed a three-day trip to Stone Mountain, GA, and got to see a Braves Game and visit the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.

Happy 60th anniversary to Herby and Bonnie Cook Caldwell, who were married on June 13, 1951, during the Korean War. Bonnie's mother Flora White Cook was in the first graduating class at Palmer School in 1928. Tim and Melinda Crabtree Layne have been hitched 19 years this month, and in "just" 41 years they'll celebrate number 60.

Lisa Crabtree Layne, great-granddaughter of the late Russ and Daisy Perry Gifford, is living at the old Gifford place now. The Giffords came to Palmer from Tracy City in 1924. The old house burned years ago, and their daughter Ethel Mae Cantrell lived on the property until her death last year at age 96.

40 years ago: On June 29, 1971, I received my Army discharge on that Monday morning and headed back to Palmer from Fort Hood, TX, via Dallas on a big 747. The years have gone by, but I'm sure anyone who served in the armed forces can tell you it's a date you'll always remember.

We saw our first lightning bugs blinking high up in the trees on May 24. They're always a welcome sight because you know summer and warm weather has arrived.

The annual Creighton reunion was on May 21 with Danny Creighton of Atlanta, Melvin Hampton of Jasper, TN, and Opal, Linda, and Glenn James of Nashville coming this year. Danny's a respiratory therapist at Grady Memorial Hospital, I believe.

Randall "Pig" Harrison of Coalmont was here for the 50th wedding anniversary celebration for his brother Jerry & wife Judy.

He's sick, but ... Jerry Cannon gets his medical care through the VA and takes 20 pills a day. He's obviously a sick man, but still up and going, so it was a shock when he went to the post office on June 4 and got 12 letters in one day from the VA. I'm sure it tired him out just opening all of them.

Martha Carroll Cox Hensley of Weeki Wachee, (Don't you just love that name?) Florida, is visiting friends Dolly Dyer Shadrick and Anna Lou Hill Hatfield in Jasper, TN. They all grew up together in Palmer and have remained lifelong friends.

"Is Buddy Nolan's place still here? I heard his son David was living back in Palmer." That's what a stranger in a pick-up truck asked me recently. I had to tell him Buddy was dead; his wife was in a nursing home; the old house had burned and the property had been sold.

The stranger told me his name was Jimmy Nolan and that his dad was the late Clint Nolan, Buddy's brother. Jimmy lives in Soddy-Daisy. A lot of the old timers back in the 1930's and 40's used to call Clint "Dempsey" after the boxing champion Jack Dempsey.

The late Louie "Chief" Geary said that when the CCC Camp was on Palmer Mountain in the early 1930's they had a ring set up and had boxing matches on Sunday afternoon. Boys from all across the country were in CCC Camp back then, and some, I'm sure, had boxing experience before joining the CCC. "Clint wanted to box, so one Sunday some of us from Palmer went up to see the matches. He got in the ring, and some fellow hit him and knocked him plumb out of the ring," Bobby Owen and Mr. Raymond Hargis probably remember Clint "Dempsey" Nolan.

Shorty Sanders said Patsy Tate Burnett, daughter of the late Harley Tate, stopped to visit her recently and that Patsy lived in Gruetli-Laager.

We saw a photo of Juanita Merrell, daughter of the late Albert Merrell, in the Chattanooga Times Free Press last month. Juanita was a legendary volleyball coach at Kirkman High School over there and won state championships in 1976, '77, '78, and '79. Once she won 81 consecutive matches. She retired with a record of 139-4. She helped present the 2011 Neely-Merrell Award to the best high school volleyball player in the Chattanooga area.

On sick call: Freddie Meeks is recovering from a motorcycle accident and our good friend Grundy County Historian William Ray Turner is doing well after cataract surgery. Penny Morrison, who runs a package store and fast-food place on Hwy. 108, cut her finger on the job, and Helen Ackerman continues to make a remarkable recovery after her April 12 double - knee replacement surgery. She even drove back to church on May 29.

Kenneth Blaylock over in Barker's Cove suffered burns and was air lifted to the hospital, and Clayton Hargis is reportedly on oxygen full time now, but continues to go and do. Remember all of them in your prayers.

Can you believe the 4th of July is less than three weeks away? It's on Monday this year, and the trend in recent years is for towns to have their parades and celebrations a few days before, which give families a chance to have their own celebrations on the Great Day itself. Pelham is the first town we can remember doing this, and it's an excellent idea.

We'll "skedaddle" for now as we wish everyone a "Happy 4th. Put out a flag and enjoy some ice cream and watermelon as we mark this most American of holidays.

JULY

BEAN BREAKING TIME

For as long as anyone can remember, July has been the big month for canning green beans in Grundy County. In this 2009 photo, Jerry Harrison of Palmer is shown with his granddaughter Brittany Green and her son Beau as they prepare the summer harvest for canning.

"Years ago family gardens were grown for survival , and many would have gone hungry without them," said Palmer town historian David Patton. Kentucky Wonder used to be the favorite variety of green bean, but in recent years "Hamby

Beans" have been number one in Grundy County, and during the summer of 2009, the Harrison family canned some 500 quarts.

EDNA LAYNE BREWER

This photo of Edna Layne Brewer was probably taken in the 1940's at the old homeplace in Chiggertown. Edna was the only daughter of Rev. Aylor & Maude Morrison Layne & had 3 borthers, Harold "Cotton", Raymond, and A.J.

A.J. and Edna are the only family members living. She's the widow of Echerd Brewer and mother of Keith Brewer. Today, Edna lives near her only child, Keith, in Manchester, TN. She's a former secretary at Swiss Memorial Elementary, and Keith is a former Palmer Elementary principal, Grundy School Superintendent, Manchester City Schools Superintendent, and Deputy Commissioner of Education for the State of Tennessee.

Years ago I mowed Mrs. Maude Layne's yard in Chiggertown. She became a dear friend and would always cook dinner when I mowed. She was an excellent cook, and I still remember her delicious little fried pies.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Sara Swann Shipley (center) of Johnson City, TN, is shown in front of her childhood home with friends Dick and Carolyn Johnson during their July 2009 visit to Palmer. Sara's a 1931 graduate of Palmer Elementary and 1935 graduate of Grundy County High School. She and the Johnson's really enjoyed their visit, and it was a special day for me also. The old Swann home has been occupied for many years by Donna Shadrick LeCroy. She still lives there after the death of her husband Larry LeCroy.

HARGIS COUSINS AT 1947 GRUNDY COUNTY FAIR

Clayton Ray "Little Ray" Hargis (left) and his first cousin Raymond Hargis of Gruetli-Laager pose for a photo at the Grundy County Fair.

Little Ray's widow, Aleen Nunley Hargis of Tucson, AZ, sent the photo to Palmer town historian David Patton. The longtime Herald subscriber says she really enjoyed Patton's articles on Bobby Owen and Wince Mayes. "Bobby and I grew up together playing on those slate dumps between our houses there in Palmer, and Wince was my class mate at Grundy County High School."

Raymond Hargis lives today in Manchester, TN. He's also a longtime Herald subscriber and says, "Actually Little Ray and I were more kin on our mother's side than the Hargis side. They were sisters with the maiden name of Troxler."

The heyday of the Grundy County Fair was probably from the 1940's into the 1960's. "The fair" was an annual gathering place to meet old friends and relatives you seldom got to see, and many former residents living 'up north' tried to schedule their vacations during that week.

PALMER NEWS

We're sitting out on the front porch at dusk to begin our monthly Palmer news. Here we are in the second full week of July, and although it has been a hotter than normal summer, we're enjoying it as always. Sure beats snow and ice doesn't it?

The 4th here was hot and sunny most of the day before an afternoon shower cooled things off. We were out walking on the highway and saw many vehicles like 4-wheelers, "mules", and trucks heading down to the Gruetli-Laager parade all bedecked with flags. We saw Shorty Sanders on her porch, and she told us about getting a birthday card from Gary Bouldin. After getting home, we were resting on our porch when Horace Ray Slatton drove up and brought us a nice supper. Before dark we checked the garden and found our first cucumber big enough to eat, so we celebrated the great American holiday in a variety of ways. By the way, the "mule" mentioned was a golf-cart type ATV.

"Forrest "Hamp" Nunley is as good a friend as I've ever had." That's what Howard Lewis, 88, said about his Pelham friend. Howard said his connection to the family was knowing some of Hamp's uncles, who worked at the palmer Big Mine and lived here for a time. "They had a 1935 Ford, but were afraid of the brakes and would get me to do the driving when they went to Pelham. I was about 18 years old. That would have been in 1941. Hamp and Howard are both well-known musicians. Hamp recently came out of retirement and played his fiddle again for Pelham's Got Talent. He was the hit of the evening!

We are so sad to report that Dola Ivey Rector, 93, is in an Athens, GA, nursing home. Dola's lived down that way for years, but grew up in Palmer and has been a wonderful help on our history work.

Our young friends Jeremy and Mitzi Morrison Moye have moved back to the Chicago area for job reasons. They'd been living in the Jim Long house. Mitzi is a granddaughter of eth late Lonnie "Tood" Morrison.

Wanda Hampton Meeks went to the June 26 homecoming a Campground Freewill Baptist Church in Pelham, where her son Rev. Brett Meeks pastors. That was her first time at church since breaking a leg in a fall at her home on Feb. 8. Wanda's 82 and making a good recovery under the circumstances.

Happy July birthday to Oma (Mrs. Howard) Lewis, 87; Bonnie Gipson Payne, 77; Larry Crabtree, 63; John Doug Shrum, 61; Town Librarian Susan Faye Sissom, 42; and Lebron Layne, 22.

Tragic memories: Ann Conry Creighton, 88, was talking about the old times when sadness crept into her voice as she recalled walking to the TCC "Company Store" as a child in 1929 and seeing men carrying a stretcher with Mr. Walter Tate, who was killed in an accident at the Palmer Big Mine. "There were no ambulances or anything like we have today", she said.

Lightning struck and damaged the home of the late Maurice and Clara Tate Rogers on June 15. It's occupied now by their daughter Jane Sherman. Mrs. Rogers was the daughter of Walter Tate who was just mentioned.

Oscar Howell McDaniel's great granddaughter was copperhead bit June 16 in Gruetli-Laager. Gabby Tate says his late grandmother Sarah Cunningham was bitten years ago at her home and that every year after that the place of the bite would 'fester up" near the date on which she had been bitten. The Cunninghams lived just behind the old "Palmer Ball Diamond" and Mr. Raymond Hargis passed their house many times back in his baseball days.

As of July 7, Johnnie Michael Hill says he killed 3 rattlesnakes and 2 copperheads at his home this summer located on Big Mine Road near where James and Danny McCullough were raised. Our mail carrier Linda Cook said a rattlesnake was under a car in the driveway at her Tracy City home recently. Makes you shiver!

Here comes the bride: J.R. Jackson of Georgia and Rhonda Harrison Green of Palmer were married June 17 on the lawn of her parents, Jerry and Judy Anderson Harrison in Palmer. The place was beautifully decorated and the ceremony was officiated by Judge Trey Anderson, Rhonda's cousin. "In sickness and in health, in good times and bad", let's give this young couple some good examples of fidelity.

Happy anniversary wishes for July to Joe Willard and Jean Worley Fults, who have been together for 65 years. Former President Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter also 65, Ted & Maxine Smith Caldwell, 50; Joe and Mary Turner Anderson, 41; Earl and Brenda Rogers Grimes, 41; Bufard & Jackie McCullough Jones, 20; Clint and Eileen James Shrum, 16; and Eric and Jamie Shadrick Weaver also 16. Clint Shrum works for the Tennessee Governor's Task Force for Highway Safety and is a nationally known expert in seat-belt safety and other traffic safety issues. He is the son-in-law of Harold James.

Palmer Church of God drew names to honor dear old dad, and the winners were Eddie Crabtree, Mark Campbell, and Daniel Hicks, Jr. Palmer First Baptist also drew names and Palmer United Methodist asked the fathers to stand and be

recognized on Father's Day. What happened to the old custom of honoring the oldest, youngest, father with the most children present? As with everything, "time changes everything".

We have a new preacher in town. Tyler McCullough, son of Danny and Betty McCullough, has been guest preaching in several churches, and we wish him the best in his ministry.

We're writing the Palmer news, but what does the word "N.E.W.S." stand for? According to Anita Finch Crabtree, it's north, east, west, south. She saw it on the TV show "Jeopardy" one time, and it is a good description of news.

Home remedies: Felisha Shadrick had a young boy "eaten up" with chiggers this summer and said after several home remedies failed that she sprayed him with Right Guard deodorant, and it worked. She's a daughter of Jewel and Dinky Akins Shadrick.

Mary Yarworth Turner, wife of Grundy County Historian William Ray Turner, says she's heard that putting a few tums around tomato plants will ward off tomato blight. Marie's tried black pepper or freshly grown mint in her cabinets to keep the little pesky black summer ants away and says it works.

Faces in the crowd: "He's good to everybody." We ran into Tommy Birdwell and that's what he said about our mutual friend Bobby Stinnett. Bobby is an outstanding person.

"What's your name?" Mr. Raymond Hargis of Manchester had just sat down with his breakfast tray at McDonald's when a stranger asked him that question. The "stranger" turned out to be Joyce Grooms Scruggs of Nashville. Joyce and her husband Joe grew up in Palmer and Mr. Hargis used to play baseball with him at the old palmer Ball Diamond. Joyce was with a group going to see the Holocaust Museum in Whitwell.

Ricky Layne said he saw Johnny Bone at McCullough Auto Parts, and Joe Turner says Walter Coffelt of Indiana and Bobby Shrum of Kentucky came through. Walter's the son of the late Vee Arthur and Tip Nolan Coffelt, and Bobby's a son of the late Mose Shrum.

We were at the Ingle's store in Jasper recently and saw Al Raffo shopping. He's a former Marion County High School baseball coach and is originally from California. He was a pitcher for the Chattanooga Lookouts in the late 1950's and early 1960's, I guess it was, and made the Jasper area his home. He's still slim and trim with the only difference being glasses and gray hair.

Memories of Curg: Curg Creighton's Store was a Palmer landmark and helped many people in the Great Depression by giving them credit in hard times.

MacArthur White McPherson recently recalled what a kind man Curg was. "You could tell Curg you were hungry, and he'd fix you a big sandwich and give you a drink (Coke). Then he'd say, when you get through eating, there's some drink bottles in the back that need to be sorted out and put in the right cases." That was very kind and thoughtful of Curg because it made the person feel like they did something for the food instead of accepting charity. It's always heartwarming to remember people like Curg. His niece, Wanda Meeks, says she believes the "Curg" came from "LaCurtis" his real name.

"Frog helped me mow it off." That's what Joe Turner called Rev. Ronnie Partin recently. We'd forgotten that in his school days and for a long time after, many called him, "Frog" Partin. We also had the late Bruce "Frog" Tate and Charles "Frog" Lewis, who lives today in Florence, Alabama. He's Howard Lewis' first cousin.

Ann Creighton and Harold James both face the possibility of having pacemakers implanted to regulate their hearts. "The doctor said when you have it done, you'll feel better than you have in years. Marvin Nolan has one and says he feels better than he has in years." The marvels of modern medicine never fail to amaze me.

We've got carried away this month and better get out of here before we work Mrs. Janelle Taylor to death typing this. We've got a beautiful moon in Palmer tonight, and Friday starts "full moon" week, which I look forward to each month.

From everybody and their dog here "where the good people live", grab yourself a watermelon and "roshun ear" and indulge in the joys of summer.

AUGUST

McNABBS CELEBRATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Former Palmer residents Crandel & Ethleen Sitz McNabb will celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary on August 29. They are the parents of Lanny McNabb and Janice McAnally.

Pastor B.S. Crawford married the couple on Saturday, August 29, 1936, in the parsonage of Palmer Methodist Church. Ethleen's sister Heelen and family friend Dola Ivey served as witnesses. Heelen is deceased, and Dola is in an Athens, GA, nursing home. The McNabbs are 1935 graduates of Grundy County High School,

and while a student, Mr. McNabb drove the county school bus from Palmer to Tracy City where the school was located in those days.

Mr. McNabb, 98, was a well-known auto body repairman in Grundy and Marion Counties. He was the auto mechanics teacher at Grundy County High School for the 1967-68 term and later held the same position in Marion County High School. His last employment was as a purchasing agent and warehouse manager for the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company. A longtime Boy Scout leader, he served as a scoutmaster for 20 years and was involved in the organization until age 82.

Mrs. McNabb, who turns 95 on September 23, began her 30-year teaching career at Palmer Elementary and retired after 23 years at Jasper Elementary. Many will remember her brother Lewis Sitz, who opened an ice cream parlor in Gruetli-Laager after returning home from World War II. He lives today in Denver, CO.

“The McNabbs are wonderful people, and their lives have been an inspiring success story,” says Palmer Town Historian David Patton. “They beat the odds and came out of the Great Depression as shining examples of America’s Greatest Generation.”

If you would like to send the McNabbs a card to mark this milestone anniversary, their address is Crandel and Ethleen McNabb, 2778 Kelly Cross Road, Dunlap, TN 37327.

PALMER NEWS

The summer is moving right along with school back in session and all the activities that come with it. Tonight is the beginning of “full moon” week on the calendar, and as we walked home from Jerry Cannon’s, it was beautiful and so bright you could easily see without a flashlight.

Don’t forget our annual Labor Day celebration which falls on September 5 this year. The parade starts at 11 AM, and Palmer United Methodist usually serves fish dinners on the church lawn. If you’re coming from out of town, you might want to bring a lawn chair with you and sit in the shade, eat, and visit. No telling who you might get to see.

Kenny’s gone bananas: We run into Kenny Payne occasionally and always enjoy talking with him. “They say if a person ate a banana a day from the day he was born until the day he died, he’d never have to go to a doctor,” Kenny said. He’s a first cousin to Janelle Taylor, who types this column, but we don’t know if Janelle would claim him or not! What do you think, Janelle? (I’ll claim him! JT)

People are living long lives these days, and August birthday wishes go to Tom Creighton, 95; Oma James McNabb, 94; Horace Ray Slatton, 68; Dot Layne

Lockhart, 63; Mike Shadrick, 61; James Pocus, 60; Jeff "Rabbit" Morrison, 54; Jimmy Morrison, son of Alfred Morrison, Jr., 54; and school teacher John Rogers, 47.

"I'd love to have a yellow watermelon." That's what Ida Pearl Brown said earlier this summer. "I've not eaten one in years, but when I was a kid growing up in the 1950's, Mr. Billy Seagroves grew them over in Dock White Hollow."

The old Joe Geary home place burned back in May. Joe and Emma Nunley Geary were from Tracy City and brought their family to Palmer in May 1923. A great grandson, Jacky Layne, was the last to live there.

"They called Al Gore a stiff neck." That's what Bobby Stinnett said Gore was called when he first started warning about global warming years ago. What do you think about global warming? Some blame the bitter winters and red-hot summers on it, and some don't.

Billy Ray Nunley called from Monument, CO, to tell us his wife Shirley passed away on July 21 after several years of poor health. They had been married a little over 57 years, and we extend our sympathy to the family.

Memories of Poss: Billy Ray and Melvin "Poss" Pocus grew up in Palmer and remained lifelong friends until his death in 2006. "I went to Detroit in 1949, and in 1950 sent Poss \$19 for a bus ticket from Monteagle to Detroit. My wife Shirley and his wife Connie went to school together in Michigan and were best friends for life.

Palmer School update: This time last year we were all scared to death that Palmer Elementary was about to close due to fire safety regulations. But this summer a sprinkler system was installed and apparently all is well. The grand old school turns 84 on November 14.

This has been a good year for gardens, and Jacob Anderson said his family had canned over 130 quarts of green beans. I've got "maters" and cucumbers coming out my ears and hope to have some until frost. When the weather cools down in September, we'll have a better appetite and these fresh vegetables will really taste good. I try to eat a tomato and cucumber salad every day.

The squirrel exterminator: Years ago home gardens and fruit trees kept many people from starving to death, and that's no exaggeration. Back then people killed every rabbit and squirrel they could find and ate them, but now hardly anyone hunts small game, so they will eat a garden or fruit trees up. Charles Edgar Sanders has a garden and apple tree and says he shot over 20 squirrels in one day who were after his apples.

Shacking up: That's what an unmarried man and woman living together without marriage used to be described as. Of course, in 2011 that could be two men or two women shacking up. An 82-year-old woman told me that she remembered as a young person Sheriff Phillip McGovern coming by and talking to her grandpa. The grandpa had a man and woman working for him that weren't married, and the sheriff told the grandpa to talk to them because he was getting complaints about it. "Time changes everything" though, and now you see in obituaries such outfits listed as "companion" or "partner".

Happy August anniversary wishes to the "king & queen" of marriage, "better known as Crandel and Ethleen Sitz McNabb, who celebrate the diamond, 75th", Harold and Betty Grimes Kilgore, 60; Jackie Gerald and Norma Jean (How's that for a southern name?) King Henry, 28; Dale and Sudonna Nolan, 25; Rev. Danny and Karen Conry Coffelt, 14; and Jason and Robin Lockhart Bryant, 12.

Is this an early fall? We started writing on a beautiful full-moon night, then picked back up on this Sunday afternoon, August 14th. Sunshine and a cool wind that feels like an air conditioner is giving us a heat break. The weatherman predicted it, and I hope you're getting it where you live.

What's for supper? We gave Michelle Campbell Travis a garden cabbage, and she brought us a bowl of white beans with ham cooked in them, a bowl of cabbage, and some of the finest cornbread I've eaten in a long time. She said it was made with homemade buttermilk.

Part II: We gave Mrs. Mike (Mary Ruth) Shadrick a garden cabbage, and she sent back pinto beans, cooked cabbage, new potatoes and a big stuffed bell pepper. Yum-yum.

Part III: Have you ever eaten "cucumber rings"? We stopped by Bobby Stinnett's, and he opened a jar that Mrs. Tommy (Viva) Birdwell had made. You take big cucumbers that have gotten too big, get the seeds out of the middle, then slice into rings and pickle with cinnamon, cloves, and other spices. They were a beautiful red color and so crunchy and tasted like candy. Ah, the joys of summer eating!

Memories of Dutch: People like Bobby Owen will remember when Ernest "Dutch" Henley and wife Mary Elizabeth Hunziker Henley who had a popular store right past Curg Creighton's store. After they moved to Manchester, his sister Jessie and her husband Francis Wooten ran it until he was killed in a car accident in 1959-61 or so.

"I went in the store one day, and Mrs. Henley noticed my shoes were worn out," Mac Arthur White McPherson said. "She gave me a new pair and let me work around the store to pay for them. They bought lumber and would re-sell it, and I

stacked it so it would air dry. She gave me a bowl of stew and a drink (cokes or soft drink, people used to call all of them “drinks”) and the stew meat was so tender. I wonder if she cooked it in a pressure cooker. They were good people.

Rev. Tyler McCullough baptized Jared Meeks, grandson of Richard Meeks, recently at Laager Methodist (Cotton’s) Church.

Faces in the Crowd: Sylvia Henry Hancock, daughter of the late Red Henry, has moved back to the country after living in Trenton, GA, for a number of years.

Bonnie Payne’s sister Mary Elizabeth Gipson O’Neal from the Nashville area visited her recently. They and their brother Johnny are the only surviving members of the Joe Gipson Family.

Helen Arbuckle came by after church last Sunday, and we loaded her down with garden vegetables. She had successful knee-replacement surgery in April and says she’ll be at the Labor Day celebration this year.

Jerry Pocus came by to see Jerry Cannon and Raymond Long Trussell a few weeks back. I believe he lives in South Carolina now.

That’s a wrap from here “where the good people live.” September is one of my very favorite months, so make plans to visit with us then. Good bye for now.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

In this 2009 photo, Chandler Doss throws feed through the fence to the turkeys at the home of his grandparents Darrell and Becky Henry Layne on Ducktown Circle. We sometimes give Chandler something to get a Coke when we run into him, and he always says, "Thank you."

We need more well-mannered boys and girls like Chandler, don't we?

SEPTEMBER

FORMER RESIDENT SENDS REGARDS

Many across Grundy County will remember former Palmer resident Mary Owen Reynolds. A daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Owen, she now lives in Cookeville, TN; she sent the following to Palmer town historian David Patton last week.

Dear David: "My brother Bob has asked me to try to attend the Labor Day celebration in Palmer this year with my other siblings. What fun that would be, but my husband is very sick, and I cannot leave at this time. Maybe next year!"

My love and good wishes go out to my "hometown" and especially to my students at Collins Elementary (It was located on Hwy 399 behind where Layne Funeral Home is today.) where I spent five years teaching with Mrs. J.C. (Johnnie) Harris, Hilda Meeks and Mrs. Oma Dell Brewer. I loved them all. What wonderful women; so sweet to a 19 year old girl who was scared to death"

Mary was a popular teacher and is remembered fondly by such students as Lean Dishroon and her brother, Donny Dykes, and Bruce Coffelt, grandson of Oma Dell Brewer.

Friends and former students who wish to contact Mary may reach her at: Mary Owen Reynolds, 1305 Crescent Dr.; Cookeville, TN 38501. Mary is pictured with veterinarian Dr. Budy Reynolds, daughter Ann, son-in-law, Tom; and granddaughter Alexandra.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Mark your calendar for November 12. Former Palmer resident Sara Swann Shipley will celebrate her 95th birthday at "The Towers" in Johnson City, TN, from 2-4 PM. "Sara is a wonderful person and let's all send her a birthday card or visit in person if possible," David Patton said.

Please send your car to :
Mrs. Sara Shipley
2016 Sherwood Dr.
Magnolia #114
Johnson City, TN 37601

In our photo, Sara is shown in the middle accompanied by her friends Dick & Carolyn Johnson at her childhood church, Palmer United Methodist, on their 2009 visit to Palmer.

PALMER CHURCH SIGN

A church sign in Palmer.

PALMER NEWS

The big news, and rightfully so, in Palmer and Grundy County this month is the Marvin Phillips (see related article) story. Marvin's body was found after being MIA in Vietnam for 45 years. He will be buried at Palmer City Cemetery (Old Company Graveyard) Sept. 26, exactly 45 years to the day he disappeared in Vietnam.

What about that Labor Day rain? August was the driest in Chattanooga history and probably Palmer too, but the drought was broken on Labor Day with so much rain that the annual Palmer Labor Day celebration was cancelled for the first time in memory. We've heard it will be held the first weekend in October.

"All's well that ends well." We were disappointed that the Labor Day celebration had to be cancelled because Bobby Owen and his sisters looked forward to attending. They came on through, left me some peaches and peach jam, drove around town a few minutes, then went on to his sister Rosalyn's house in Smithville, TN. This unusual set of circumstances resulted in Bobby and his sisters being together for the first time in years. Talk about "every cloud having a silver lining."

Speaking of Bobby Owen, Money Magazine named Peachtree City, GA, as one of the top 100 small towns in America. Tennessee had none, and the only other one in the south was Madison, Alabama. I wonder if the mayor of Peachtree City knows that having Bobby as a citizen could have been the deciding factor?

"9-11 Memory" I remember September 11, 2001, as being a beautiful and sunny morning. Out picking up cans on Palmer Mountain, I arrived home before noon, flipped on the TV, and it was on every channel. Soon the awful truth of that unforgettable day was known. Just four days later, September 15, Carol Smith wife of Palmer School janitor Tim Smith died as a result of a fire in the janitor's home behind the school. What a sad week in Palmer.

Happy anniversary wishes this month to Rev. John Jr. and Sue Pocus Creighton, 45; Rev. Robert and Ruby Hart Johnson, 44; Don and Ruby Roberts, 44; and Don and Ruby Roberts Hill, 17 over in Beersheba Springs.

Jimmy Long, John Doug Shrum and his brother Tim, and Chris Grooms went to the Grundy County, Sequatchie County, football game in Dunlap. Grundy lost, but we have a good team and hope to make the playoffs.

Some of you may remember that September is my favorite month with "a little bit of summer and a little bit of fall". Ann Conry Creighton, 88, says, "When I was growing up, we'd wear a sweater to school in the morning and come home sweating that afternoon."

We got a letter today (Sept. 17) from Gary Bouldin, and he says his health is good now. Gary lives in Brentwood, TN, with his brother Mike and sister-in-law Laura. They were here recently for the funeral of Pauline Shrum Clifton who was a caregiver for Gary & Mike's mother Connie Wiley Bouldin.

Memories of Poss: Mr. Raymond Hargis was a teacher at Grundy County High School in the late 1940's and remembers the late Melvin "Poss" Pocus of Palmer. I believe Mr. Hargis told me they were on a bus going to a basketball game when Poss began singing, "I'm Moving On", which was a big Hank Snow hit. Hank Snow couldn't have done it any better himself", Mr. Hargis said. Poss' mother was a Geary, and that's where he probably got his singing talent.

It was good to talk with Leean Dykes Dishroon today. She was helping the Swiss School cheerleaders have a fund raiser at the Palmer Community Center. Lean's a former school board member and to our knowledge was the first woman to represent Palmer on the board.

"Yes, I remember Doe Davis." That's what Calvin Finch of Riverside, CA, said in a telephone call this morning. Calvin says, "On November 9, 1942, my wife Charlotte and I were married in Rossville, GA. Doe was home on Army leave and went in his uniform with us. Not long after, I went into the Army, and we're both World War II veterans." Elmer "Doe" Davis lives in the Nashville area and is the uncle of Marvin Phillips, mentioned earlier.

On sick call: Larry Henry brought us a nice lunch on a dreary Labor Day, and we want to thank both Larry and Bobby Owen for brightening up our day. Larry's gout has been flaring up, and he says it's one of the most painful things you can ever have. He's such a nice fellow, and we hope he's feeling better.

Joyce Hargis suffered broken ribs in a fall, but is recovering well and we're sad to report that Della Sissom Tate is seriously sick and that Clara Layne Henry, widow of Red Henry, is in a nursing home.

Let's send our Happy Birthday wishes in September to Ethleen Sitz McNabb, 95, Mrs. Calvin (Charlotte Long) Finch, 87, Johnnie Jane Heard Brown, 84, Jerry Cannon, 75; Rev. Robert Johnson, 63, Tim Dent, 60, and Gary "Rooster" Brewer, 56. And here's a birthday of birthdays, former Palmer school teacher Bertha Schulze Ashley of Manchester turned 103 on Aug 22. From what we understand Mrs. Ashley could probably still be in her home, but has no close relatives. She's in an assisted living facility and recently temporarily lost her hair. Her sense of humor is still sharp though and she joked, "Yes, but when it comes back it will be gray."

An overflow crowd was at the August 28 homecoming at Palmer First Baptist to hear the well-known southern gospel group Heirline.

Melvin Smith, wife Stephanie, and daughter came by to see his mother Jeanette Smith before going to the UT-Cincinnati football game on September 10. Melvin lives in Beech Grove near Manchester and the family really looked good all dressed in orange with their truck decorated as well.

Jamie Roberts, son of Danny Lee and Janie Harrison Roberts, has bought the Dr. Vin-Paul Hua house on Big Mine Road. The house was originally built for and occupied for many years by the late Mr. & Mrs. Everett B. Roberts, Sr.

Wedding bells: Weddings at Palmer United Methodist are rare these days, but we had one Aug. 28 as Mike Myers and Carlene Nunley tied the knot. Mike's a son of the late Glenn and Lela "Dump" Crabtree Myers, and Carlene's a daughter of Carl Ed Nunley and the late Charlotte Long Cannon. Carlene's friend, Deborah Crabtree, of Florida was in attendance as well as her stepfather Jerry Cannon. Deborah's not related to Dump Crabtree Myers. Dump was named "Lela" for Dr. Oscar Howell Clements' wife Lela Clements. Many well thought of people had children named for them back then. The late Raymond Howell Anderson got "Raymond" from Mr. Raymond Swann and "Howell" from Dr. Clements.

We enjoyed meeting Glenn, Harold, and Judy Roberts recently at the home of their aunt. They're the children of the late Rev. James Roberts.

It's 5:45 P.M on a sunny and cool September 17 afternoon in Palmer. We just came in to resume after a snack on the porch. I thought hummingbirds were gone, but one flew up in my face before going on to flowers in the yard. The little helicopters will soon be gone at this late date.

We ran into Ruth Crabtree Bouldin recently. Ruth's a fine person. She's the widow of J.W. Bouldin. They had no children, and she's the last of the Will and Grace Smartt Crabtree family. She says she enjoyed playing the piano for the wedding of her nephew Mike Myers.

September 2011 marks 5 years on the Grundy County Historical Society website, and we must sadly announce that this will be our last month.

We started in 2006 with the belief that our years of writing for newspapers could benefit the Society, and I hope it has. "Variety is the spice of life: and I always strive to mix it up and not just write about my family or friends.

Janelle Layne Taylor, former president of the GCHS, tops the list of those to be thanked because if not for her faithful help these five years would not have been

possible. Sharon Goodman's 24-hour a day duty as the GCHS webmaster is also deeply appreciated.

We appreciate the help of town librarian Susan Faye Sissom in the early years. Anita Crabtree, Becky Guffey, Jerry Cannon, and Wanda Hampton Meeks were also always nice and cooperative in giving us news, and a sincere "thanks" goes to them. Wanda is an encyclopedia of Palmer history and always eager to share information so call her at 931 779-3821 if you have a question.

Raymond Hargis, Martha Carroll Cox Hensley, and Diana Henry Smith have always expressed appreciation for our work, and that has helped us reach our goal of 5 years on the GCHS website. Bobby Owen has become a valued friend through our work and always so supportive. We can't thank all of you enough.

That's a wrap from here "where the good people live". Best wishes to everyone and we'll borrow from the legendary newsman Edward R. Murrow and say, "goodbye and good luck".

Note from Janelle: If you have appreciated David's monthly column on the Historical Society's website and want to tell him so. Contact him at the following address: David Patton, 50 Dogwood St.; Palmer, TN 37365

FALL COLORS ARE COMING!

One of the most colorful trees in Palmer each fall is this big maple on Hwy. 108 next to the now closed Palmer Church of Christ.

In this 2007 photo, town historian David Patton and Noah Brooks stand underneath, and Patton says, "Noah's great grandfather, the late Gene Brooks, told me that this tree was planted in 1937 by Mr. Everett B. Roberts, Sr. in memory of his father-in-law Dr. W.P. Stone. That same day another tree was planted at Palmer United Methodist Church in memory of Dr. C.W. Hembree, but it later died." Mr. Roberts was the superintendent for Tennessee Consolidated Coal Co. at th Palmer Big Mine.

OCTOBER

David, I was so surprised to learn that you are done with your contributions to the GCHS website. I thought I'd let you know some statistics on your pages. In the "Most Popular" pages, your pages have 10 of the top 15 pages; and over this past year, 289 people have looked up "David Patton" on "Palmer News: Will miss your monthly contributions. Take care and thank you for your contributions.

Sharon Goodman
GCHS webmaster

David, I don't see why you have to quit the Palmer News just because it has been 5 years. Why not 5 more years?

But I'm sure you have your reasons even though I and many others hate to see it end. It was so enjoyable to read of friends you haven't seen or heard from in years. Thanks for the memories!

Raymond Hargis

Mr. Hargis is a former Grundy "County Court Clerk and Grundy County School Superintendent. He was Principal of Palmer Elementary School from 1955-1958 and during that time lived in the house where David Patton lives today.

Dear David:

We at the Historical Society want to say "Thank you" for all the work you have done over the years in collecting & contributing information to The Pathfinder, the Grundy County Herald, and the Historical Society website.

Your assistance has helped us accomplish many of our goals of learning more about the city of Palmer and our lovely county. We appreciate your tireless efforts to collect, record, and save the history of the area.

Thank you again. May God bless and keep you.

Sincerely
Donna Landon Lovelace
The Board and Member of the Grundy County Historical Society

NOVEMBER

PALMER SCHOOL TURNS 84

Mrs. Roberts – Tireless Advocate for Education

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers (P.T.A.) was organized in 1897 by Alice McClellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst to “make the child the watchword of the hour”.

Calling themselves the “Congress of Mothers” the delegates met in the White House with Mrs. Grover Cleveland. Future president Theodore Roosevelt served on an advisory board for many years.

The Tennessee Congress was established 100 years ago this year, in 1911, and along with the National Congress of PTA has worked to support legislation such as the Pure Food Act, the School Lunch Program, free textbooks for students that we take for granted today, programs to benefit handicapped children, and other improvements in education to many to mention.

Mrs. Everett B. (Perry Leah) Roberts, Sr. served as the first president of the Palmer School PTA in 1927, along with Mrs. Raymond Swann as secretary and Mrs. Henry Hampton as treasurer. In the early days, before the school lunch program, PTA members made soup at home and carried it to the school in large stewers so the children would have a hot lunch.

(l-r: Frances Conry & Mrs. Everett B. (Perry Leah) Roberts, Sr. at Gatlinburg, TN, in 1963 for a state meeting of the P.T.A. They represented Palmer Elementary School in Palmer, TN.)

During the some 40 years that the Roberts family lived in Palmer, Mrs. Roberts worked faithfully through the PTA to help children. In May 1944, during the grim days of World War II, the Robertses traveled to New York City, where she attended the national PTA convention. In the early 1950's she served as state president of the Tennessee PTA.

Fifty years ago, in 1961, the PTA was the largest volunteer organization in America and each unit conducted a Founders' Day program to honor the national founders as well as local presidents and leaders. The Palmer School PTA won the “Grand Award” that year for having the best Founders' Day program in the state of Tennessee. This was especially gratifying since it was the 50th “Golden Jubilee” year of the Tennessee PTA's founding in 1911.

A familiar face to the students at Palmer School, Mrs. Roberts often played the piano for graduation exercises and spoke at auditorium assemblies. When I was a student, the entire school gathered weekly in the auditorium for special programs.

Baseball was really the ‘national pastime’ then, and she once brought a baseball that Babe Ruth had hit in a World Series to show the students on one such occasion.

These days we have food stamps, food banks, clothing banks, and all types of things to provide the necessities for those in need, but not so long ago that wasn’t the case. Many people were “dirt-poor” in the first-half of the 20th century with some not even having adequate food or clothing. Mrs. Roberts and other ladies of privilege such as Mrs. Swann and Mrs. Hampton paid children to do chores around their homes such as working in the flower gardens, washing dishes, sweeping, or whatever little job could be found.

Willie Mae Brown Layne, widow of Andrew Layne, was one of those children, and although quite elderly now, still remembers Mrs. Roberts’ kindness. “I was washing dishes for her,” Willie Mae told me. “She had bought an electric coffee pot and not knowing any better, I put it in the water and washed it like a regular one. That ruined it, but she said, “Willie Mae, don’t worry about it. You didn’t know. The next time I go to Chattanooga, I’ll get another one.” Rev. M.C. “Bud” Hampton and Roy Layne are both deceased, but the story was told that as little boys, they were doing housework for Mrs. Swann when Bud found a quarter. That was a fortune to a kid then, but nevertheless, he gave it to her. She was loved by kids and grown-ups alike for her kindness, and she said to him, “No, Honey, you keep it. You proved you were honest by bringing it to me.”

These Palmer PTA founders went to their heavenly reward many years ago, but the legacy of their good deeds lives on. They would be so proud to know that the red-brick school on the hill is still going strong and welcoming students in the 21st century. PTA -an invaluable organization in the history of American education.