

Looking Back

25 Years Ago - November 30, 1999

Gov. Paul Patton presented a \$989,000 for Pendleton County to Judge Executive Henry Bertram on Nov. 29. The Community Development Block Grant is for the construction of 28 miles of water lines for a part of the county relying on contaminated cisterns. "These households rely primarily on cisterns, most of which are contaminated," Patton said. An existing telemetry system also will be replaced. The projected cost of the construction is \$1.98 million.

Retiring firefighter Richard Halcomb was honored Nov. 27 at the annual Falmouth Fire Department Christmas Dinner.

Presenting Halcomb with his retirement plaque for 20 years of service was his son, Doug Halcomb.

"Dedication is what this department is all about," the younger Halcomb said. "Without the dedication of the department, I don't know how our family would have made it when my father was injured while fighting a structure fire in downtown Falmouth in the early '70s."

Halcomb had fallen and broken his back while fighting a fire at Charlie Tackett's Hardware on West Shelby Street. John Justice was also recognized as a retiring firefighter, with 12 years of service.

50 Years Ago - November 29, 1974

Many tobacco farmers were disappointed Monday with opening day burley prices, even though \$100 to \$112 per hundredweight bids were common and broke price records.

Some warehouses in Lexington and Glasgow stopped sales as prices failed to satisfy tobacco farmers, who say the 1974 crop has been the most expensive on record to raise.

With 27 of the 30 Kentucky market cities reporting, the unofficial tally showed an average price of \$108.90 per hundred pounds, \$22.51 above last year's opening day average.

Falmouth fire Chief James "Shorty" Taylor turned in a resignation letter to Mayor Max Goldberg Dec. 4, citing ill health.

The resignation will be effective Jan. 1.

Taylor is leaving the department as it receives the best and prettiest and biggest fire truck in the history of the department, costing more than \$35,000.

His many friends said they are sorry to see Taylor leave just as the department has reached the highest pinnacle in its history.

75 Years Ago - December 2, 1949

Veach Redd, prominent Cynthiana businessman for the past many years, was the principal speaker at the 25th birthday anniversary of the Falmouth Rotary Club on Tuesday night at the city school.

Mr. Redd was introduced to the 125 Rotarians from August, Williamstown, Covington, Newport and Cynthiana by Henry W. Bishop, the toastmaster.

After dinner, the group was called to order by Falmouth Rotary President Dr. Dexter Meyer. The invocation was given by the Rev. McClure of Cynthiana.

The Rotarians sang many of their familiar songs, led by the Rev. Carl Sears. The welcome address was given by C. Harold Ewing, and the response by Milburn Taylor, president of the Cynthiana Club, which fathered the local organization in 1924.

The benediction was pronounced by Walter Hobday.

Pendleton County Airport was a life-saver Thanksgiving Day for two Army flyers who were in distress flying a National Guard plane AT-5 from Knoxville, Tennessee. They had wandered astray due to bad flying conditions.

Lt. R.T. Crowe, pilot, accompanied by his mechanic, didn't recognize the city being Falmouth, and therefore didn't know where to locate the local airport.

Their gas tank became so low while flying over Falmouth that they attempted to land in the fairground. However, after pulling up out of this property with their motor still sputtering, one of the men spied the 1,800-foot landing strip and landed the plane.

Lt. Crowe and his companion expressed their appreciation and a word of thanks for a landing strip so good in a town of this size.. The Pendleton County landing strip is an all-weather strip and can be used every day of the year.

A large air marker on the fairgrounds amphitheater roof has been painted by local air enthusiasts.

100 Years Ago - November 28, 1924

Friday, Nov. 28, has been designated as campaign day for funds for the Kentucky Orphans' Home in Butler.

The quota for that section is \$500.

It is hoped that the people of that town will respond liberally to this worthy cause.

The Falmouth campaign closed last week with total subscriptions amounting to \$1,230.59, which was more than the quota set. The amount will be increased when several solicitors make their final reports.

H.C. Pettit of near Butler won several big prizes at the Northern Kentucky Apple Show last week in Covington.

Some of the finest specimens ever produced in Northern Kentucky were on exhibit, and it is quite a feather in Mr. Pettit's cap to capture the prizes.

From the "This and That" column by J.U. Riggle:

- If you do not know much, do not talk much and no one will know what a big fool you are.
- The women of the present day never have any old clothes to work over or give to a tramp.
- Many a man has a heart as large as an elephant's, but liberality is restricted in giving only advice.
- A great many men begin the world as poor boys and end it the same way.
- If a girl marries the right man, she will never have any trouble in supporting herself and poor relatives.
- An honest politician would do better in some other business where there is not so much temptation.

LIFE IN THE COLE BIN

By Burton W. Cole

Adjusted for inflation, your holiday budget is shot



Greetings, shoppers.

If you're wondering how big your budget is the current holiday season, the answer is, "Nope, not that much."

The fine folks at WalletHub, a personal finance website, ran the numbers, and you've already blown your Christmas budget on Thanksgiving turkey and cranberries.

(Personal finance tip No. 1 from your Uncle Burtie: NEVER spend any amount of money whatsoever on cranberries. Sweet potatoes are another matter.)

A news release states, "To help consumers avoid post-holiday regret, WalletHub used several key metrics, such as income, age and saving-to-expend ratios, to estimate the maximum spending amounts for consumers in over 550 U.S. cities."

The list of cities with the biggest

average holiday budgets ranged from Newton, Massachusetts at No. 1 with \$4,206, down to Lauderhill, Florida, at No. 558 with a \$217 holiday budget.

Kentucky shows up twice on that list of 558 U.S. cities with the richest holiday budgets — Lexington-Fayette at No. 222 with \$1,385, and Louisville at No. 258 with \$1,282.

That means the rest of us mope along at less than \$217 with which to lavish ourselves with decorations, gifts and feasting.

(Personal finance tip No. 2 from your Uncle Burtie: Resist the temptation to keep up with the Joneses — especially if it's the Joneses of Newton, Massachusetts. Besides, hanging all those strings of lights, and setting up that many inflatables takes up time better — and more economical — spent in your easy chair.)

Personally, my budget comes out to \$3.72. This is why all my friends will be receiving Lilo and Stitch Valentine's Day cards (24, including two for teacher) that I found at a thrift store in July for 53 cents. I'm signing them with red and green Bic pens (98 cents) for that festive touch.

This leaves me with \$2.21 for gifts for all my friends.

(Personal finance tip No. 3 from your Uncle Burtie: Begin increasing your rude and abrasive behavior

round about August, hit full stride for boorishness by mid-October, and by December, you won't have many friends left to strain your budget.)

I once found a box full of Altoids Smalls at a salvage store for 40 cents a tin. That meant for my \$2.21, I could buy five tins of fancy mints, with 21 cents left over for sales tax on all my holiday purchases

Not only did five tins of mints provide enough flavors so that I could dump them out, mix them up and treat everyone on my gift list to a handful of colorfully festive better breath, but if I pared down my list enough, everyone could have their own private tin of Altoids Smalls, including me.

(Personal finance tip No. 4 from your Uncle Burtie: Shop smarter, not longer. Putting any amount of thought into a gift generally costs more and detracts from the serenity you feel at job well done, "done" being the operative word.)

That about covers today's holiday shopping tips for people who live where we do. And remember, shop locally. With our budget, we can't afford a tank of gas to go out of town.

Send cheap holiday shopping greetings to Burt at burton.w.cole@gmail.com or on the Burton W. Cole page on Facebook.

What day is it? - National Square Dancing Day

By Nila Harris



When I was a student at Pendleton County High School, the Physical Education II classes studied a unit on square dancing. Since the classes were mostly made up of teenage boys, someone would often go around and recruit teenage girls to join in on the festivity.

Square dancing looked like fun (plus, it got me out of geometry class), so I joined the boogying group.

Every Nov. 29 is National Square-Dancing Day — a day set aside to celebrate this unique form of folk dancing.

The American form of square dancing as we know it today has its roots in European culture. During the 18 century, French dancers performed dances like the quadrille and cotillion, in squares.

Later, as European settlers came to the American colonies, they brought popular folk-dance traditions with them. Common square dance terms from the French also materialized, like allemande and do-si-do.

The dances were particularly popular after the

American Revolution when the colonists veered away from anything British. But others influenced the origin of square dancing too, particularly from African and Native American dance forms.

"In the nineteenth century, enslaved people were often used as the 'callers' who prompt dancers to adopt different figures like the do-si-do and allemande. Black callers and musicians contributed their own steps and songs to the tradition," according to smithsonian-mag.com

And in the 1600s, the only Native American fiddler in Maine provided music for dances.

As with many things in American history, various cultures and influences have merged to influence the art of square dancing.

Since its origin in colo-

nial America, square dancing has been enjoyed by generations but had a lapse in popularity from the late 1800s until after World War II. It seems there may be a lull in its popularity now.

When questioning friends and family about their personal square-dancing experience, I found people from their 90s to mid-20s who have experienced this form of dance in their education — some in elementary school as young as kindergarten, through high school. My friend Keni King said that she danced in all three PC schools.

Former PCHS physical education teacher Sharon Fletcher remembered teaching a square-dancing unit in PE 1 during the early 80s.

"Square dancing has many physical, social, and mental benefits," Fletcher said.

She claimed that most students enjoyed it, and we "would also have a few romances get their start (at the square dances in gym class)."

Another PE teacher, Tom Woofter, taught a PE II class that focused on

getting students to learn activities to help them stay active after graduating from high school. Square dancing was one of these six activities. Others included canoing, golfing, snow skiing, bowling, and bait casting fishing.

Woofter told how the dancing not only helped develop physical fitness, but also enhance the "social skill of a conversation with your partner, to hold hands."

He agreed with Fletcher that most students seemed to enjoy the unit and would even participate the next year.

Although 28 of the 50 United States lists square dance as their state dance, the activity has seemingly fallen by the wayside in our educational system. It is no longer taught at PCHS nor at most schools across the United States (although maybe current PCHS PE teacher Mason Monroe will revive it!).

And I must come clean. I was NOT recruited from my geometry class; it was study hall where square dancing recruits were permitted to leave to do-si-do. My former teachers have a better recall than I do.

Falmouth Rotary celebrates 100 years of service

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Falmouth Rotary. Each week leading up to the big celebration this fall, we will profile a past president of the service organization as presented in "A History of the Falmouth Rotary Club, 1924-2022," by Dr. Owen Collins and Janice Collins.

**Daniel Woodhead
1969, 1975, 2004**

Twice previously in its history, the Falmouth Rotary has named a member as "Mr. Rotary." R. Risk Arnold and Joe Kearns were so honored.

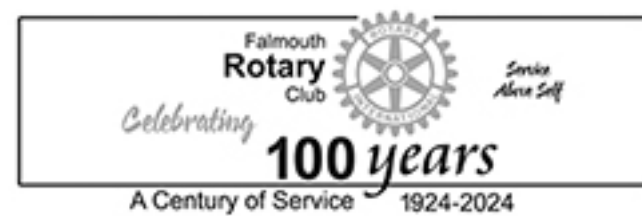
Length of service, distinguished service, perseverance: these are some qualities that are considered.

On Nov. 17, 2011, the club named Daniel Woodhead as its third "Mr. Rotary."

Fifty-plus years of service. Faithful. Perspicacious. Provider of perspective. Effective. Committed. All of these and more describe his work with Falmouth Rotary.

Following, in his own words, is a description of what Rotary means to him:

"My 50 years in Rotary have been very rewarding. I was fortunate to have



served in various capacities: three terms as club president, 10 terms as secretary/treasurer and one term as assistant district governor.

"In the last 50 years, the club has had many up and downs. The perseverance and commitment of our membership keeps us active and always seeking new ways to serve others.

"Our motto is 'Service Above Self.' Two highlights stick out in my mind.

In 1972, the Falmouth Rotary Club started a scholarship at Pendleton High School.

In the beginning it was for \$500. For the past several years, we have been awarding three \$1,000 scholarships.

"It has been great to see the number of scholarships grow over the years, and I am thankful that the Rotary was part of pioneering such a benefit to our graduates.

"Years ago, my wife, Judy, and I hosted a group of Rotarians from Aus-

tralia, one of whom was a young funeral director by the name of Geoff Sanderson.

"Years later, he and a group of independent funeral directors visited here, and we gave them a tour of our facility and other area funeral homes.

"We also arranged visits to the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Spring Grove Cemetery and area casket manufacturers.

"Their interest in restoration procedures, as a result of the visit, prompted them to arrange for some coursework in embalming. This led to several directors initiating the practice of embalming at their facilities in Australia.

"The Independent Funeral Directors Association of Australia made me an honorary member and nominated me for induction into the British Institute of Embalming. With my English heritage, I deeply appreciated belonging to the British Institute

of Embalming.

"My friendship with Geoff Sanderson has spanned decades now. We communicate primarily via the internet or by letter.

"We have celebrated weddings, children, grandchildren, and we always share information about funeral service and Rotary.

"Our local club is a treasure! We are an eclectic group, and we truly enjoy each other at our meetings and activities.

"We share our individual gifts and talents to the betterment of our community, our state, and our world.

"Our local club truly surprised me with a party celebrating my 50 years as a Rotarian. I was reminded of all of the wonderful people who have touched my life through Rotary.

"I know I am a better person because I belong to Rotary. It is a good way to serve our community and our fellow man. Join us! You'll be glad you did."

Rotary historian Dr. Owen Collins wrote, "Danny, when unanimously selected as Mr. Rotary and greeted with a standing ovation, thanked us and with his usual ironic wit, said, 'It pays to live a long time!'"