

Quilt Pieces

- by Shirley Noe Swiesz



Good Morning!

We loved holidays and the Fourth of July was no exception! We celebrated! If daddy had a car or usually a truck, we would go to the park in Cumberland. It was right beside my old school, but first we would go to the parade!

Usually the governor would be there. The governors were deeply invested in the coal mines, and the miners. The largest mine at Lynch was a union mine and they had all sorts of things such as a Catholic hospital, a movie theater and even a bowling alley. The commissary was a huge beautiful building and they had their own schools.

The houses were segregated and those for blacks were not as nice as the other houses and the schools were segregated also. But the amazing thing about the schools was that the black school teachers had to have their PHD.

I talked to a professor who was black and grew up there and he said their teachers were amaz-

ing and he believed they were preparing them for a future that perhaps few anticipated.

The mining camp had a diverse community of people. I have heard people say that come supper time the camp was the best smelling place around, with so many types of food being cooked and delicious breads being baked!

But back to my story! Daddy somehow always managed to get a half gallon of ice cream and an entire case of pop and always a watermelon. Mama fried a chicken and we had green beans out of the garden with potatoes cooked in them, fresh tomatoes, cole slaw and home made pies or cake. There were always people stopping by to eat and if daddy had a car he would take us to the drive-in movie where an entire load of people only cost a dollar and after the movie they did wonderful fireworks.

My daddy was buried on the Fourth of July. When I got home there was a watermelon behind the house where it would stay cooler until the fourth. It was years before I could eat watermelon for daddy and I would sit down and eat so much of it together!

Mama didn't like watermelon. Often we would drive up to the mountains where it was cool and sit on the side of the road, surrounded by trees and eat watermelon.

The governor doesn't come back anymore and the park is gone. There aren't so many people around anymore and far less children, but the memory of those days still whispers through the years and we smile in love for those days gone by!

When I wrote of my life the other day I left out the fact that my life changed one beautiful June morning, 23 years ago. I didn't mention it for some days it is too difficult to speak about. My husband was on life support for 21 days after being in a car accident two minutes away from home. If I close my eyes and think about it, it all comes back in bright heart-wrenching clarity!

He was in a coma and i never had a conversation with him afterwards that was not one sided. When he was first taken to the hospital a chaplain was with him in the emergency room. Later he came into the waiting room and was shocked to find me because he said he asked my husband if he had a wife and he said no. It was heartbreaking to me that he didnt remember me. I carried that with me for years until i 'died' and my husband came to me.

Ten years ago in June I died twice on the operating table and although it was in the blink of an eye, I was with him again and when I begged to stay, he said no. I don't worry so much about the little things anymore. It's not so important that my gray hair is thin and there are days when exhaustion albeit overwhelms me for no reason.

We go through so much pain in life, some more than others, but we cant avoid it. What's important

is how we face it. Sometimes I face my pain like a hardheaded mule, other times i try to ignore it but probably most often i worry myself sick and somewhere in the middle of it all i remember to go to the garden with my Lord and cling to his hand or at least touch the hem of His garment!

If you do nothing else today, take the time to at least Touch the hem of His garment!

Blessings to you and remember to smile at someone today.

- Blessings



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NOTICE TO HARLAN COUNTY TAXPAYERS

Harlan County Clerk Ashley Sullivan, pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2024 Delinquent Tax Bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the *Tri-City News* on Wednesday, July 9, 2025. The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the County Clerk's Office located at 210 E. Central Street, Harlan, KY 40831. This list may also be inspected on the Software Management website. The Uniform Resource Located (URL) of the website is:

<https://kydtax.smllc.us/DtaxPDFs/HarlanDTax.pdf>.

The tax sale will be held on August 7, 2025 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

All interested participants must register with the County Clerk's office by the close of business on July 28, 2025. Please contact the County Clerk's office if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee, or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office anytime prior to the tax sale.

PLEASE NOTE: All payments must be RECEIVED in the County Clerk's office PRIOR to the tax sale date listed in this advertisement. Payments received after the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.

Some delinquencies - although they have been advertised - will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 134.504(10)(b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk's office at 606-573-3636.

Delinquent Tax Listing begins on Page A10