

Looking back: Danville's Harris won two Grammys

Staff Report

Forty years ago, Danville celebrated one of the biggest moments in its musical history when hometown native Larnelle Harris won two Grammy Awards, further cementing his place among the nation's most accomplished gospel artists.

At the 28th Annual Grammy Awards in 1986, Harris earned honors for Best Gospel Performance, Male, for "How Excellent Is Thy Name," and Best Gospel Performance by a Duo for "I've Just Seen Jesus," recorded with Sandi Patti. The victories gave Harris three Grammy Awards in just three years after winning his first Grammy in 1984.

Although he was unable to attend the ceremony because he was touring with the Gaither Trio, Harris made sure his family back in Danville knew the news. He called his parents, Oscar and Ida Harris, from Atlanta the



FILE PHOTO

Larnelle Harris.

following morning.

Harris credited God for the accomplishment, telling his mother, "I thank God for all He's done for me."

His parents watched the televised awards ceremony from home, where the excitement built as Harris' name was announced a second time. Ida Harris recalled receiving a congratulatory phone call from the Rev. Richard Hill before interrupting him with the news that her son had just won another

Grammy.

Despite the national recognition, Harris' mother said her son remained humble.

"He does not get excited," she told the newspaper. "He's more interested in doing what the Lord wants."

The honors were another milestone for a musician whose roots ran deep in Danville. A 1965 graduate of Danville High School, Harris began singing in the choirs at First Baptist Church before studying music education at Western Kentucky University. He later toured with the Spurrllows, launched a successful solo career and became one of Christian music's most recognizable voices, appearing at Billy Graham crusades and on nationally televised religious programs.

By the time of his second Grammy triumph, Harris had already earned multiple Dove Awards and several Grammy nomi-

nations while building a career that would eventually include five Grammy Awards, Gospel Music Hall of Fame induction and widespread recognition as one of gospel music's most influential performers.

Four decades later, Harris' two-Grammy night remains one of the proudest achievements by a Boyle County native. His success brought national attention to Danville and stands as a reminder that one of gospel music's most celebrated voices got his start singing in the choirs of his hometown church.

130 YEARS AGO

The Eddy Telephone Exchange changed the appearance of Danville with the installation of a new switchboard, allowing business to be conducted more quickly. The newspaper noted that long-distance calls could already be made to Louisville and argued Stanford should also be connected.

The Central Kentucky Medical Society also met at Gilcher House, electing officers for the coming year before concluding with a banquet attended by physicians from across the region.

105 YEARS AGO

Danville moviegoers welcomed a major upgrade when the Stout Theatre installed a new \$10,000 photoplayer capable of producing music and sound effects for silent films. A specialist from Chicago arrived to operate the state-of-the-art instrument.

Author Ralph D. Paine also visited Danville to gather material for a novel. Paine said Centre College's famous victory over Harvard had drawn his attention to the city.

Students took advantage of winter weather by sledding on local hills, while Marion County residents organized a volunteer group to assist law enforcement when

needed.

80 YEARS AGO

The Boyle County Farm Bureau prepared for its annual meeting, representing 288 farm families, while the East End School Parent Teacher organization elected new officers.

Danville also welcomed internationally known soprano Mary Catron home for a concert at Centre College. A member of the Metropolitan Opera, Catron performed before a packed audience.

City leaders discussed purchasing new street sweepers and considered establishing a municipal garbage collection system as Danville continued to modernize.

55 YEARS AGO

Lancaster's Dan Elkin Jr. received the Silver Beaver Award from the Blue Grass Council of the Boy Scouts of America, recognizing more than a decade of volunteer service to Scouting.

August exhibits debut at Art Center

Art Center of the Bluegrass

Art Center of the Bluegrass is presenting two new exhibits in August, with free admission and opening receptions planned. Plein Air Artists of Central Kentucky will be displaying artworks from a wide range of member-artists, created in the outdoors. Rhonda Gilliam, an Art Center Studio Artist, will have a solo exhibition featuring her working process.

"Observing Light: Painting Outside with the Plein Air Artists of Central Kentucky" will include artwork by 16 artists in the Art Center's Grand Hall Gallery. Plein Air Artists of Central Kentucky (PAACK) is a growing group of artists that come together with a common love of nature and art.

The group was formed in 2014 with eight people and continues to grow. The group meets twice each month at locations across Central Kentucky to paint, create, explore, support, and encourage one another as they strengthen their artistic skills.

This exhibit will be on display from Aug. 3 through Sept. 26, with a free opening reception on Fri., Aug. 7 from 4:30-6 p.m.



Dry Day on the Fork by collage artist John Andrew Dixon is part of the Plein Air Artists' exhibit at Art Center of the Bluegrass.

"Rhonda Gilliam: Relax" will be on display in the Main Street Gallery from Aug. 19 - Sept. 26. Not because art should be easy, but because creativity has a way of finding us when we stop trying to control it. That's the idea behind this exhibit.

Rhonda Gilliam brings her process front and center for this exhibit, sharing moments captured in painting, sketches, doodles, and conversations between herself and the page. She shares the exploration,

questions, and wandering moments when creativity is simply allowed to flow.

Join the artist at her opening reception from 4:30-6 p.m. on Fri., Aug. 21. Admission is free. The Art Center's galleries are open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PHOTO CAPTION: Dry Day on the Fork by collage artist John Andrew Dixon is part of the Plein Air Artists' exhibit at Art Center of the Bluegrass. (Photo/John Andrew Dixon)

Located at 401 and 409 West Main Street in Danville, Kentucky, Art Center of the Bluegrass connects all people to art, culture, and creativity. Bringing 30,000 people through the doors each year for the GLASS National Art Museum, art exhibits, classes, workshops, retail space, café, events, community gatherings, cultural conversations, and ceramics studio, the Art Center of the Bluegrass is reimagining what an art center can be.

Kentucky transportation plan open for public comments

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT — Kentucky's draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) plan, a four-year listing of scheduled transportation projects using federal transportation funds, is ready for public review and comments will be accepted in August.

The plan includes projects involving highways, bridges, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other transportation improvements to enhance safety and mobility in Kentucky.

Any individual, agency, or organization may submit comments until Aug. 30.

The draft STIP includes megaprojects like the I-69 Ohio River Crossing in Western Kentucky, the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor project in Northern Kentucky, and the Mountain Parkway Expansion project in Eastern Kentucky, along with countless local road and bridge projects.

Public transportation, aviation and programs designed to fund projects that reduce traffic congestion and air pollution are also included.

The STIP contains links to Kentucky's nine Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) that identify federal projects in their individual transportation improvement plans (TIP). MPOs represent the following urbanized areas: Bowling Green, Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky, Clarksville-Oak Grove, Evansville-Henderson, Huntington-Ashland-Ironton, Lexington, Louisville, Owensboro and Radcliff-Elizabethtown.

Submit comments in writing via USPS, email or by phone with attention to James Ballinger, State Highway Engineer, Department of Highways, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, 200 Mero Street 6th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40622; selena.curry@ky.gov; 502-564-3730.

Colonel Sanders collection auction tops \$300,000

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

SHELBYVILLE — The historic auction of Colonel Harland Sanders' personal collection generated just shy of \$300,000 in sales, with more than 100 artifacts sold across 74 lots to collectors, historians, entrepreneurs, and fans around the world.

Held July 28 at the Claudia Sanders Dinner House in Shelbyville, the auction attracted more than 500 bidders, both in person and online.

The collection, preserved by the Settle family since their 1974 purchase

The top-selling item was Col. Sanders' personal handwritten datebook and working planner, which sold for \$30,000.

of Blackwood Hall and the Claudia Sanders Dinner House directly from Colonel and Claudia Sanders, offered rare personal artifacts spanning Sanders' life, business career, and legacy.

The top-selling item was Col. Sanders' personal handwritten datebook and working planner, which sold for \$30,000.

Far more than a simple appointment book, the planner served as Sanders'

personal working notebook in 1964, documenting observations, expenses, travel details, meals, business notes, and other aspects of his daily activities.

A handwritten page in the planner, listing 11 ingredients and their associated measurements, later attracted significant public attention, becoming the subject of widespread media coverage and legal review.

Regardless of interpretation, the page contributed to the planner's notoriety and historical significance within the

broader story of Colonel Sanders and Kentucky Fried Chicken.

Other top-selling items of Sanders included:

•His Kentucky Colonel Commission Certificate (1955), \$23,000.

•His Mondia Stellaris automatic wristwatch, \$20,000.

•His Mirro-Matic pressure cooker, \$11,500.

•A U.S. Patent Office Publication "Process of Producing Fried Chicken Under Pressure," \$10,000.

•His bow tie and suspenders, \$8,000.

•His Masonic ring with inscription, 10k Gold, \$8,000.

"The response exceeded our expectations," said Bill Menish, lead auctioneer for the sale. "Collectors, historians, franchise operators, and Colonel Sanders enthusiasts recognized that this wasn't simply a memorabilia auction — it was an opportunity to acquire artifacts that remained together through an extraordinary chain of ownership."

While the memorabilia has been sold, sealed bids were accepted for the purchase of the historic Claudia Sanders Restaurant, Blackwood Hall, and associated business assets.