

"Stories of My Life"

By Shelby Roy Hopkins

"Into The Wild"

I suppose my earliest adventure into the wilderness occurred when I was about 5 years old. My 7-year-old older brother David and I ventured out into the field behind our rented house on Danville Street in Lancaster. It was in the fall of the year of 1961. The field hadn't been cared for at all during the growing season and had become overgrown with a lot of tall and bushy weeds. It might have at some time been inhabited by hogs, but it wasn't at the time our adventure began.

The field lay directly behind our house and back yard. A lady named Mrs. Turner owned the house where we lived. She lived in the upstairs part of the house while my family and I lived in the downstairs. I don't remember her first name. She was a very nice lady and appeared to me to be about 100 years old, but I'm sure my estimation of her age was off by decades. It's surprising how hard it is to guess someone's age when you're little.

There were paths worn throughout the wilderness Dave and I ventured into. Maybe hogs had been living there at some point. Dave and I walked along these thoroughfares in the tall weeds, anxiously anticipating what might lie just around the bend. Even though we were just yards from our house and a busy highway that lay just in front of it, the tall weeds just beyond our backyard fence made it feel in every way remote and isolated.

Since this was the very beginning of what would eventually lead to a lifetime of adventures, we began slowly. For several days, all we did was explore the adjoining "wilderness." We pretended to be army men looking for an enemy or explorers such as Daniel Boone looking out for Indians. We never found either, but it wasn't for a lack of imagination. We carried stick guns and kept them ready to use at a moment's notice.

As we grew more comfortable with our abilities, we felt we needed to do more if we were going to call ourselves adventurers. We soon devised a simple and foolproof plan. We would take some food along with us and pretend to camp out in the wilderness. We felt confident our mom would never let us actually spend the night outside, so we conjured another plan of action.

We searched the cabinets and found a box of Jell-O. We often ate Jell-O that mom fixed for us, but Dave and I had another plan for how to use it. Then, we grabbed a box of kitchen matches and headed out into the wilderness. Now, our adventure would be in every way realistic!

Climbing the fence and into the field, we followed the familiar paths we had grown accustomed to. Finding the ideal location far away from the prying eyes of our landlady and next-door neighbors, we stooped down and readied ourselves for lunch. We gathered some dried grasses and small twigs from our surroundings and then started a fire.

After the little fire began to grow, we found a couple of bigger sticks. Then, we placed the box of Jell-O on the sticks as if they were a frying pan. I suppose Dave did the "cooking" for us. I just sat there and watched, reveling in our latest adventure. This addition to our outdoors repertoire would finally cement our reputation as supreme outdoorsmen.

Dave carefully turned the box over time and again, trying not to catch the box or the cooking sticks on fire. As the singed box started to turn a light brown color, he declared our meal was ready.

He let the box cool for just a minute and then opened it up. Without any plates or utensils, we just poured out the now warm mix into our hands and then lapped it up with our tongues. It was very sweet and tasted good. We ate every bite and then tossed the empty box into the fire, destroying any evidence of our midday meal. We put the little fire out and headed back to civilization.

As the late afternoon unfolded, my family and I were alerted to the large billowing smoke coming from the wilderness behind our house. In just a bit, a firetruck or two made their way into the field and began spraying down the grassy fire. The fire was extinguished before any damage occurred.

Dave and I were looked at and considered the chief suspects of this fire, but no proof was ever shown to convict us. I don't believe we ever got in trouble for our misdeed, but we were later given several precautionary lectures about handling matches and fires. A few days later, mom exclaimed as she examined her kitchen cabinet, "I thought for sure I had a box of strawberry Jell-O in this cabinet." Dave and I just stood there, trying to remain as quiet as possible. Our secret was intact.

Although it had been dramatic and fraught with danger, we had survived our first attempt to conquer the wilderness. It wouldn't be our last.

Hooves of Hope to Host Free Family-Friendly Trot-N-Treat Event October 30

Families looking for a fun and festive way to celebrate Halloween are invited to Hooves of Hope for its upcoming Trot-N-Treat event on Friday, October 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. The free, family-friendly celebration will feature costumed horses, treats, games, crafts and photo opportunities for visitors of all ages and abilities.

The event will take place at Hooves of Hope, located at 735 Chenault Bridge Road in Lancaster, Kentucky, and will offer an open-house-style experience designed to bring families and community members together for an evening of Halloween festivities.

One of the main attractions will be the opportunity to meet the horses of Hooves of Hope dressed in their Halloween costumes. The horses will help spread seasonal cheer as they hand out treats and toys to children and other guests.

Attendees are encouraged to join in the festivities by wearing their favorite Halloween costumes. Whether dressed as superheroes, princesses, animals or other creative characters, visitors will have the opportunity to celebrate the holiday alongside the costumed horses.

In addition to meeting the horses, families can participate in games and crafts throughout the evening. A photo booth will also be available, giving guests the chance to capture memories of their visit.

Organizers emphasize that the celebration is open to individuals of all ages and abilities, reflecting the welcoming atmosphere of Hooves of Hope. The event provides an opportunity for families to enjoy seasonal activities while spending time around the horses in a relaxed and festive environment.

Although admission is free, organizers are suggesting a donation of $10 per vehicle or contributions of supplies to support the organization.

Requested donation items include printer paper, paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, equine fly spray and general office supplies. According to the event announcement, all donations are tax-deductible.

Visitors should also be aware that the walking terrain at the facility includes sand. Families and individuals attending the event are encouraged to keep this in mind when choosing footwear and preparing for their visit.

The open-house format will allow guests to enjoy the festivities during the two-hour event, providing an opportunity to interact with the horses, participate in activities and experience the Halloween spirit in a unique setting.

By combining traditional Halloween activities with opportunities to meet horses, Trot-N-Treat offers a different kind of seasonal celebration for families in Lancaster and surrounding communities.

The event also gives community members an opportunity to visit Hooves of Hope and contribute to the organization's ongoing needs through voluntary donations of money or supplies.

Trot-N-Treat is scheduled for Friday, October 30, from 5 to 7 p.m. at 735 Chenault Bridge Road, Lancaster, KY 40444. Admission is free, and everyone is welcome to attend.

With costumed horses, treats, toys, games, crafts and family photo opportunities planned, the evening promises a festive Halloween experience for children and adults alike.

Activity Center

From Front

essential services for older adults.

Over the years, longtime participants have passed away, with fewer new members taking their places. Directors believe changing lifestyles and interests among adults over 60, along with the stigma sometimes associated with the term "Senior Center," have contributed to declining attendance.

Today's older adults often lead active lifestyles and may not identify with the traditional image of a Senior Center. By adopting the name Activity Center, organizers hope to create a more inviting environment that appeals to a broader segment of the community.

The change involves more than a new name. Each center will work to introduce additional classes, trips, recreational opportunities and activities designed for adults of various ages and interests.

Importantly, existing services for individuals age 60 and older will remain unchanged. The goal is not to replace traditional programs but to build upon them, creating opportunities for greater participation and community involvement.

While some new activities may require a participation fee, organizers intend to keep costs affordable and provide opportunities for residents of varying financial backgrounds.

Directors believe attracting new participants will help overcome outdated perceptions of Senior Centers while strengthening their role as community gathering places. Bringing adults of different ages together may also encourage new friendships, shared experiences and stronger community connections.

Ultimately, the transition to Activity Centers represents an effort to adapt to changing community needs while maintaining a commitment to older residents.

The mission remains the same: providing opportunities for recreation, socialization and meaningful connections. The difference is opening the doors wider so more people can benefit.

Fundraiser

From Front

underwater hazards.

The technology uses sound waves to produce images of underwater environments, allowing rescue crews to search large areas more efficiently while reducing the need for divers to enter potentially dangerous conditions.

"Every minute matters when someone goes missing in the water," the department states in its fundraising campaign.

The equipment would help volunteer responders conduct faster, safer searches and strengthen rescue capabilities for neighboring communities through mutual aid agreements.

To support the project, the department is organizing a family-friendly festival featuring trunk-or-treat, a costume contest with prizes for multiple age groups, first responder displays, food vendors, local shopping, live music and a VIP lounge.

Organizers are currently accepting vendor registrations and donations for a silent auction. Requested items include gift baskets, gift cards, handmade products, local business merchandise, services, experiences and home décor. VIP sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Vendor spaces are limited, and businesses are encouraged to register early.

Beyond raising funds, the festival will give residents an opportunity to meet local emergency responders, recognize their service and learn more about the equipment needed during water emergencies.

The department's campaign, built around the message "Help Us Bring Loved Ones Home," emphasizes the importance of equipping volunteer rescue personnel with technology that can make a difference when time is critical.

"Your generosity helps equip our volunteer first responders with the tools needed to conduct safer, faster and more effective water search and rescue operations," the department states.

Businesses and individuals interested in vendor registration, auction donations or sponsorships can email campdickfire@outlook.com. Vendor inquiries may also be directed to Jessica Graham or Sharon Graham through Facebook Messenger.

Those wishing to contribute directly to the sonar project can contact Camp Dick Fire & Rescue at 859-548-3008 or mail donations to P.O. Box 16, Bryantsville, KY 40410.

The First Responder Festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, at Lockridge Park in Lancaster, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The department hopes the event will bring the community together around a mission that extends beyond fundraising: giving first responders the resources they need to save lives.

"Together, we can make a difference when every second counts."

Post Office

From Front

and safely delivering packages in low-light conditions. Clearly visible house numbers and adequate outdoor lighting can make a significant difference in helping carriers complete their routes safely and accurately.

One of the most important things residents can do is ensure their house numbers are clearly displayed and easily visible from the roadway. Missing, faded, damaged, or obstructed address numbers can make it difficult for carriers to identify the correct delivery location, particularly after dark.

Residents whose homes are located farther from the road are encouraged to make sure their addresses are clearly marked at the entrance to their driveways. House numbers should also be free from obstructions such as overgrown bushes, trees, and seasonal decorations.

In addition to visible address numbers, the Post Office is encouraging residents to leave their porch lights or other exterior lighting on during the evening hours.

As carriers work to deliver an increasing number of packages, some deliveries may take place after sunset. A well-lit porch, walkway, or driveway can help carriers safely navigate steps, uneven surfaces, and other potential hazards while locating the proper place to leave packages.

For residents who prefer not to leave outdoor lights on throughout the evening, motion-activated lighting can be a helpful alternative.

Residents are also encouraged to keep sidewalks, steps, porches, and driveways clear of obstacles that could create safety hazards. This becomes especially important as fall weather brings wet leaves, rain, and eventually the possibility of ice and snow.

The holiday season is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year for the United States Postal Service, with increased online shopping and holiday gift shipments adding to the daily volume of mail and packages. Postal carriers work diligently to ensure these items reach their intended destinations, often while navigating rural roads, long driveways, and unfamiliar delivery locations.

In a rural community such as Garrard County, where many homes are situated along country roads or set back considerable distances from the roadway, clearly marked addresses are especially important. What may seem like a small detail to a homeowner can make a substantial difference to a carrier attempting to locate an address after dark.

These simple precautions not only help prevent delivery delays and packages being delivered to the wrong address but also contribute to the overall safety of the postal employees who serve the community each day.

The Lancaster Post Office reminds residents that postal carriers are working hard to serve their customers, especially during the demanding holiday delivery season. Taking a few moments to check house numbers, turn on exterior lighting, and ensure safe access to porches and delivery areas can make their jobs safer and more efficient.

As the community prepares for the upcoming holiday season, residents are encouraged to remember that a clearly marked address and a light left on can go a long way toward helping packages arrive at the right home while keeping postal carriers safe.

The Lancaster Post Office appreciates the continued support and cooperation of the community and thanks residents for doing their part to help ensure a safe and successful holiday delivery season.

Harmon's Lick News

Revelation 21:4 - "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Hello from Harmon's Lick. This is Joyce's daughter, Angela and I am standing in her stead today. Hopefully she will be back with you all next week.

As many of you know, my dear Dad passed away on Sunday morning, October 11th. Our lives and the Harmon's Lick community will never be the same. One thing we can say for sure is that our lives were better and so blessed for knowing Kenneth Baker.

Our family wants to thank every person who called, visited, brought food, sent flowers, prayed for Dad, and paid their respects in so many ways. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You made our load a little lighter.

Our hearts go out to the family of Irene Nunn. We love you all and pray the Lord comforts each of you.

Through sunshine and rain we are still so blessed. The Lord's comfort and strength have been with us every step of the way.

Hopefully Mom will feel like writing next week. Until then, we wish you all a wonderful week.

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Due to a lien on the 2007 Jeep Wrangler, owned by Lorna Lyons, Highway Haulers, 264 Bryantsville Road, Lancaster, KY 40444, 859-265-1778 is seeing application for title of the 2007 Jeep Wrangler. Application to be filed on October 24, 2026.

Owner: Lorna Lyons
2007 Jeep Wrangler
vin number:
1J4FA24167L178374

POSTED

We positively will not permit fixed hunting of any character, fishing, dogs or trespassing on our farms. Any violations will be prosecuted.

First Property Listing $2.00 per week or $51 per year for posted list.

Addition Property Listings $1.00 per week or $10.00 per year

- Sam Bass Farm, 482 Leavell Ridge Road
- Michael & Dana Carrier, 2539 Kelly Ridge Road
- Danny & Judy Browning's property at end of Conn's Lane
- Carolyn Sparks property at 5252 Lexington Road
- Paul Black Farms, Hwy. 1355 (Sugar Creek Road)
- Paul And Suzanne Wells at 4129 White Lick Road, Paint Lick
- Tammy Fowler, 749 Nina Ridge Road
- Mike and Pam Fathergill, 111 Lynnwood Drive
- Chris and Joy Fathergill, 317 Richmond Street
- Mary Alice (Paul) Drew, 810 Carry Nation Road Property
- Kathy Tuggle & Paula Tudor - Jim Clark Road
- David M. and Rose Walker, 1163 Wolf Trail Road
- The Kenton Property, 795 and 719 C Valley Drive, Berea
- Grover Drew Farm, Carry Nation Road.
- Doug and Anna Graves, 319 Richmond Road, Loop 2
- The Brenda Farms, 4870 Harmons Lick Rd & Hamilton Valley Rd
- Vockery property on Polly's Bend Road
- Hugh and Amy Johnson, 6198 Lexington Road
- Dale Marie Hellard - Barbara French & William Randall Causey Farms at 2178 Hamilton Valley Road, 2636 Hamilton Valley Road And 1454 Hamilton Valley Road
- Frank and Altheia Rice, 390 Leavell Ridge Road, 372 Leavell Ridge Road and Rice Farm at Three Forks,
- Norma McFadden Property, 9700 Nicholasville Road
- Deborah Kelly property at 472 Hobert Estes Road