

Giant Coal Shovel and Paradise Remembered on Overtime

By **Misty Hutchinson**
Marketing Director, WNES/WKYA Radio & Leader-News

PARADISE — Memories of the massive Sinclair shovel and the lost town of Paradise took center stage during a recent edition of Overtime with Wendell and Misty, as former coal miner Tony Gibson shared firsthand stories from Muhlenberg County’s coal mining past.

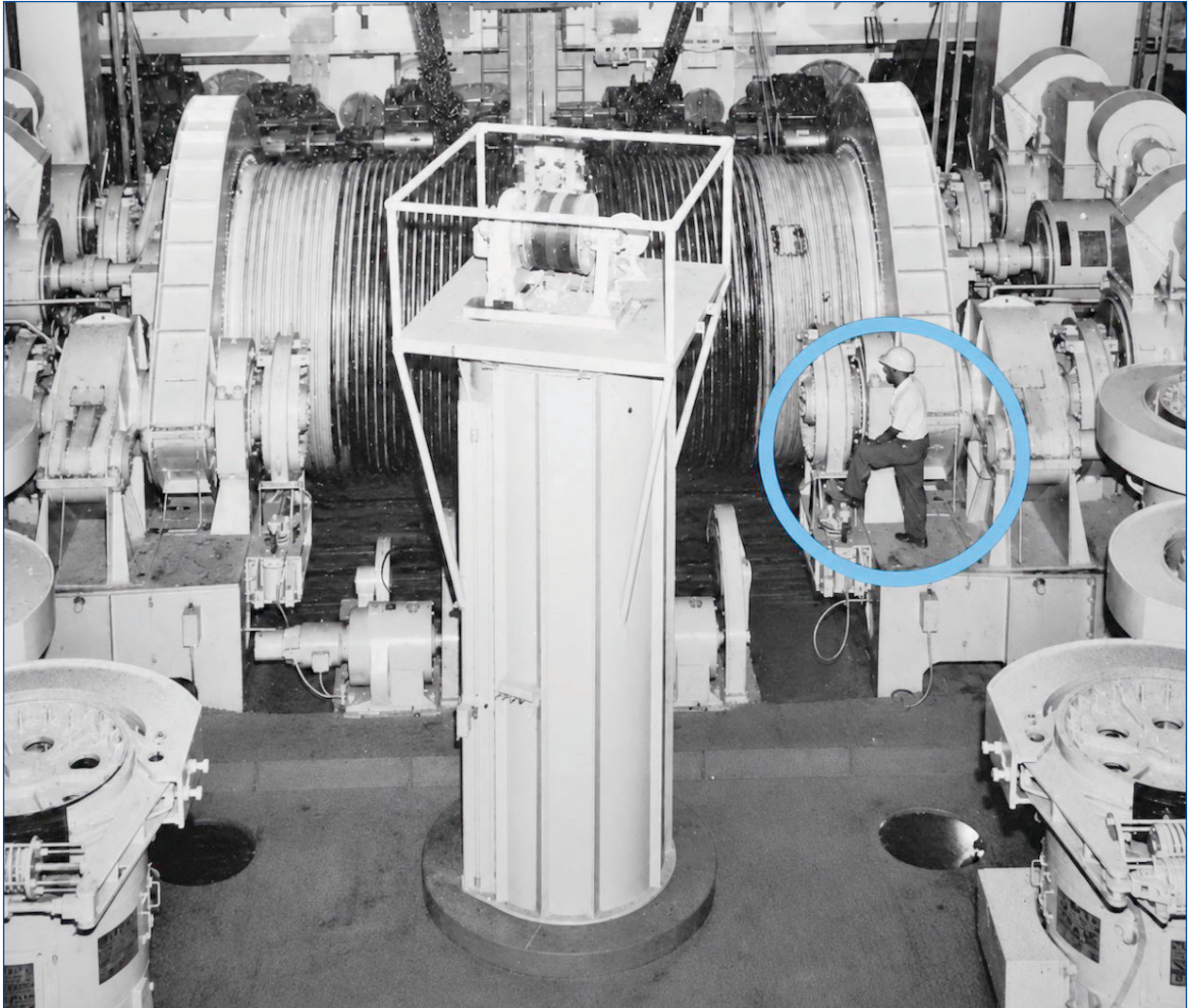
Gibson described the Sinclair shovel as one of the largest pieces of mining equipment ever to operate in the region. Standing nearly 20 stories tall and weighing approximately 9,000 tons, the giant machine played a major role in reshaping the landscape through surface mining.

“When its work was finished, they stripped off the valuable parts and buried the rest of the machine in a deep pit,” Gibson explained, noting that dismantling and burying the enormous shovel was more practical than attempting to move it.

The conversation also turned to the former community of Paradise, a town that disappeared as surface mining expanded during the 1960s. Although the town no longer exists, its story continues to resonate through John Prine’s 1971 classic song, Paradise, which introduced generations of listeners to the community and its history.

Drawing from his years in the coal industry, Gibson recalled the tremendous size of the equipment, the expertise required to operate and maintain it, and the pride shared by the men and women who worked in the mines. He reflected on the friendships, work ethic, and sense of community that defined life in Muhlenberg County’s coal fields.

While both the Sinclair shovel and the town of Paradise have long since disappeared, Gibson said their legacy lives on through the memories of those who experienced them firsthand and



▲ PHOTO | SUBMITTED
The circular structure shown in the photograph is the elevator that was located inside the massive Sinclair shovel. Circled in the photo is Marel Newman, who worked on the giant machine that became one of Muhlenberg County’s most recognizable symbols during the area’s coal mining era.

through the music and stories that continue to preserve an important chapter of Kentucky history.

(Misty Hutchinson is a Marketing Director for WNES 1050 AM/104.7 FM, WKYA 105.5 FM,

and the Leader-News. She also hosts Misty in the Morning weekdays from 8 to 9 a.m. on WNES and enjoys highlighting the people, history, and events that make Muhlenberg County special. She can be reached at mhutchinson@jpiinc.com or 270-754-3000.)

-PAXTON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

County Democratic Party Chair Crystal Chappell welcomed attendees and thanked supporters for their continued involvement in the party. Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rocky Adkins attended as the featured guest and addressed the audience about his campaign and vision for Kentucky.

The program also included recorded video messages from Gov. Andy Beshear and Charles Booker.

Central City Mayor Malcolm West presented a proclamation declaring Aug. 8, 2026, as Judge Bill Paxton Day in Central City, honoring Paxton’s decades of public service and contributions to the community.

Kentucky Democratic Party Chair Colmon Elridge delivered the evening’s keynote address. The program also featured a presentation titled “Our Candidates, Our Future,” recognizing Democratic candidates seeking office in the November election.

Judge Bill Paxton, who turns 94 this year, has been a respected figure in Muhlenberg County and Kentucky for more than 50 years. His distinguished career includes service as a Kentucky state representative, judge of the 45th Judicial Circuit and later as a judge on the Kentucky Court of Appeals. Throughout his career, Paxton earned a reputation for his commitment to public service and the legal profession.

The annual Judge Bill Paxton Democratic Dinner celebrates his legacy and recognizes his longstanding contributions to Muhlenberg County and the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



▲ PHOTO | STEVEN SMITH/JOBEnews
Judge Bill Paxton and his wife Dorothy.



▲ PHOTO | STEVEN SMITH/JOBEnews
Democratic gubernatorial candidate Rocky Adkins attended as the featured guest.

8/13/26 Super Crossword

Answers

M	A	L	L	O	C	U	P		G	O	A		E	S	L		A	M	M	O
A	L	O	E	V	E	R	A		U	R	L		D	E	A	D	L	I	E	R
T	E	A	S	I	N	G	C	O	M	B	O		A	N	Y	I	D	E	A	S
S	S	N		S	T	E	E	D	S		N	A	M	E	B	R	A	N	D	O
			M	A	R				O	U	T	E	R		G	A	T			
O	F	F	I	C	E	T	E	M	P	O		T	S	A	R		S	T	I	R
P	L	A	N		S	E	A		D	O	U	B	L	E	C	H	I	N	O	
A	A	R	O	N		A	R	M	E		T	R	A		O	A	T	H	S	
Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	P	I	N	T	O		R	H	A	P	S	O	D	Y
U	N	D		H	O	I		D	D	E		A	R	A	F	A	T			
E	T	S		S	E	N	I	O	R	P	R	O	M	O		A	B	B	A	
			I	R	I	S	E	S		R	A	N		R	U	M		R	A	P
H	O	T	P	A	N	T	S		R	A	D	I	C	A	L	C	H	I	C	O
O	K	A	P	I			S	A	O		S	E	E	D		M	E	D	A	L
B	O	X	I	N	G	R	I	N	G	O		L	I	E		M	A	L	L	O
O	K	I	E		R	O	E	G		P	R	I	S	O	N	C	E	L	L	O
			E	A	U		E	P	S	O	M			T	I	N				
T	O	M	S	D	I	N	E	R	O		D	U	B	S	I	N		I	A	M
A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A		C	O	M	P	A	C	T	D	I	S	C	O
C	A	R	A	M	E	L	S		K	O	A		M	A	L	E	A	L	T	O
O	N	E	D		D	Y	E		S	O	N		S	T	E	R	N	E	S	T

JOIN US FOR A
Magical
DAY TRIP!
Disney
ON ICE
DAY TRIP TO NASHVILLE, TN

Experience the magic on ice in an unforgettable show the whole family will love!

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 19**

LEAVING FROM
Hopkinsville & Greenville

DESTINATION
Nashville, Tennessee

TRIP PRICE
\$150
PER PERSON

Enjoy a day filled with magic, fun, and memories that will last a lifetime!

*** NONREFUNDABLE ***

For reservations and more information, contact
Cheryl Spain
270-874-0940

SPACE IS LIMITED
RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY!

Travel Time Travelers's
FIRST DAY TRIP
JOIN US!
FRANKLIN
Flea Market
&
OPRY MILLS MALL
Shopping!

OVER 400+ VENDORS!
Antiques, Home Decor & More!

DATE:
SEPTEMBER 12

COST:
\$99.00
Great deals, great finds and great company!

LEAVING FROM:
**GREENVILLE
HOPKINSVILLE**

Why You'll Love It!
✓ Over 400+ Vendors
✓ Unique Finds & Treasures
✓ Hidden Gems Around Every Corner
✓ Fun Day Trip with Great Friends!

Sit back, relax & let us do the driving!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT
Today!
Cheryl Spain
270-874-0940

GOOD FINDS. GREAT FRIENDS. MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME!

ADVERTISE WITH US!

Call 270-754-3000

LEADER-NEWS

Serving Muhlenberg County Since 1912
1730 W. Everly Brothers Blvd. - P.O. Box 471
Central City, KY 42330
270-754-3000
Hours: Monday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
VISIT US ONLINE
www.ky-leadernews.com

PUBLISHER - Jeff Jobe
jobe@jobeinc.com

STAFF
ADVERTISING - Sarah Cronin
CIRCULATION - Lisa Sullivan
GENERAL MANAGER - Audra Nelson

CORRECTIONS
We strive for accuracy.
To suggest a correction or clarification,
email_editor@ky-leadernews.com

CONTACT THE NEWSROOM
to submit or suggest a news story or photo. Email
editor@ky-leadernews.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
We welcome letters to the editor. All letters must be signed with a phone number for verification, not publication. Letters are subject to editing for space.
Letters containing profanity, knowingly inaccurate information or that are libelous in nature will not be published.
The opinion of the writer does not reflect that of the Leader-News.

DEADLINES
Advertising, Legal Notices, Obituaries and Classifieds should be sent by 12 PM Fridays.

Published every Tuesday by the
Jobe Publishing, Inc.

Periodical Postage Paid at
Greenville, KY 42345
USPS 229-260

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Leader-News,
P.O. Box 471, Central City, KY 42330

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES
In Muhlenberg County - \$27.50 (tax included)
Elsewhere in Kentucky - \$29.70 (tax included)
Outside Kentucky - \$32

We accept MasterCard, Visa and Discover MEMBER

KPA
KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION

ISWNE
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEWSWOMEN EDITORS