

WHITE: Thoughts on Penny Lane, suggestions made to Williamsburg BOE

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process, then a traffic light would have been installed at the intersection of Penny Lane and KY-92W a long time ago. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has made it pretty clear that it is NOT going to install a traffic light there. Traffic from the I-75 off-ramps could realistically back up onto the interstate with a traffic light.

Fourth, I don't think it is a good idea to route all the traffic from Penny Lane through what is essentially the parking lot of the Kentucky Splash waterpark and back out onto KY-92W that way. This might work nine months out of the year, but what about summer when the waterpark and campground are packed?

In essence, you would be routing hundreds of vehicles a day – more if Penny Lane becomes one-way – right next to a parking lot packed with screaming little kids running around all over the place.

All it takes is one little kid running out in front of a vehicle for tragedy to strike. This would be an accident waiting to happen and a preventable one at that.

Fifth, I hope everybody just takes a breath, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and others can perhaps come up with a compromise that will solve the problem. One of the more intriguing comments that I saw on Facebook suggested extending Balltown Road, which is off Penny Lane, past Liquor Barn and have it coming out on KY-92W.

Now let me touch on a few other things before I conclude this column.

• Former Williamsburg Independent Schools principal and teacher Joy Mack recently addressed the school board over what she correctly described as disappointing test results. For instance, only 30 percent of high schoolers scored proficient in reading and another 5 percent scored as distinguished. This means that 65 percent of students did not reach either level.

"If you weren't embarrassed or devastated, you're probably part of the problem," she told the school board about test score results.

She also encouraged better communication with parents. In addition, she pointed out inadequate teacher pay and the need to increase it over the next few years so the district can retain good teachers.

Based upon her remarks, one has to wonder if Mack might consider a run for school board? She would be a good school board member if she were to run and get elected. There are few people that understand this school district like Mack does and have the same passion for the kids that she does.

There was a time about 30 years ago when Williamsburg had some of the top scores in the state. I, personally, would love to see Williamsburg get back to that point.

• Finally, let me say a big thank you to all the road crews and electrical linemen out there who cleared off roads, removed fallen trees and restored power during the recent winter storm. Your efforts are appreciated.

ROBERTS: Memories of Bailey's Country Store

From page A-4

were arranged by size. Each cubby had a chair on the back wall, the right and left walls of the small cubby area were lined with shoes of all kinds in the same size. You could sit in a chair, select your shoes, try them on and leave the open cubby room for the next person.

When you went downstairs, you walk down steps that were wide enough for the flow of traffic to go up and down at the same time with the banister in the middle. Downstairs you could find just about anything you were looking for. They had a variety of items from hardware, furniture, porch swings, heaters, to shotgun shells. You could even get your hunting license there. Men rarely ventured upstairs, and women rarely did the shopping downstairs.

There was ample parking at the top level and the bottom. When you opened the door to enter the store you were "inside." There was no foyer or entryway, you were just inside, and you immediately commenced to shop.

The store had a comfortable down-home feel to it, with its wooden floors and friendly atmosphere. It was owned by the Bailey brothers, Bob, Bart, Joe, and Ed. You were always greeted with a smile from one of the Bailey's. You were welcomed when you arrived, thanked for coming and asked to come back again when you left. They were not class conscious, and each customer regarded them as a personal friend, even if their only encounter with any of them was in the store.

Another unique attribute of Bailey's Country Store was the live sound booth in the corner of the upstairs that produced a popular radio program on a Corbin radio station, WCTT. Ed and Bart would share tidbits of interest, including what was for rent, and where the fish were biting. They also gave weather updates, tips on gardening, information from the Farmers Almanac, and a little music as well. It was a real outing to go to Bailey's for you almost

always ran into someone you knew.

Once, my mom took my sister and me to Bailey's, and we were upstairs looking through a large table filled with miscellaneous items. It was almost my brother's birthday, and my mom found a jigsaw puzzle in a nice box that had a colorful picture of the United States on the front, and the outer edge of the puzzle displayed flags from each state. The pieces were made of thick cardboard that would hold up well, and she took her time as she inspected the box. She showed my sister and said that she would get this for Jerry's birthday. The other lady said, "You put it down, and now it's mine." One of the Bailey boys came immediately to stop the altercation. He said, "I believe we have another one here somewhere." My mother said, "Great! Give it to her. This one is my sons."

We left the store, but the victory was bittersweet. We rode home in silence, but all was forgotten when we turned into the driveway. Mom gave the puzzle to my brother and told him the story.

We loved this puzzle for years. We were the first kids in our classes that knew their states, their capitals, and their flags.

hand so she set it down in front of her so she could reach other items. The lady took this opportunity to reach around my mom and grab the puzzle. My mom grabbed it back. Then the two had a tug-of-war at Bailey's in front of the world. I turned to look when I heard the commotion. People were gathered around, and my sister stood there with a horrified look on her face.

It became a battle of the wills between these two women. This was completely out of the ordinary for my mother to get into an altercation. I heard my mother say, "This is for my son's birthday." The other lady said, "You put it down, and now it's mine." One of the Bailey boys came immediately to stop the altercation. He said, "I believe we have another one here somewhere." My mother said, "Great! Give it to her. This one is my sons."

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from page A-10

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