

# Women's History Month Pioneer Women

**Kindling**  
BY  
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Sun-Courier  
COLUMNIST



March is women's History Month, so I am going to tell you the story of a pioneer woman.

A college senior in 1952 breathed a sigh of relief when the mailman brought the plain envelope with exciting news: "Accepted in Medical School!"

Dreams do come true, but mostly after hard work by the dreamer. All the time in the chemistry lab and study sessions until midnight paid off. Now the work began in earnest with years of medical school lying ahead.

So, in the fall of 1952 the class assembled, got an inspirational speech from the Dean of the School, and assigned to a Faculty Advisor.

That afternoon in the Adviser's office, he put his arm around her shoulders and said in his deep southern voice, "Honey, are you sure you don't want to be a nurse?"

The answer in her head was sarcasm, "No, I think I'll try doctoring first", but what came out was, "Is the Anatomy Lab where I get to cut bodies up?"

It defused the situation, but was the start of her long and hostile invasion into the jungle land of male privilege. She was one of four women of a class of 100. "Sexism" had not been invented yet, but it certainly was alive and well. The four pioneer women we're expected to outperform the men. They did, but then the other

students complained that "the girls" got special treatment because they were girls.

The image of the male jungle fits except it was not the survival of the fittest, but the survival of the most determined, male or female. Our pioneer, we'll call her Mary, did not let malechauvinism stand in the way.

However, the cost of determined survival took its toll. Mary worked in a camp in the summer, did externships between semesters, and babysat for the kids of married medical students on weekends.

She was a pioneer - going where few have gone. She graduated from Medical School without any debts. Mary had almost no semblance of social life. There

was not time and she decided that she would never marry and be a missionary physician at Albert Schweitzer's famous hospital in Lambourne in Africa.

It did not work out that way. In her third year at summer camp, I came along. As the saying goes, "Things happen".

They did, but not the determination. Now she was determined to be the best physician, the best wife, and the best mother that she could be, and she was: She was Board Certified in Family Practice, mother of eight, and we were together 61 years - a real picture of a true pioneer.

## Love Is My Mini Legal Pad



By Gary Miller

The last couple of months have only had a few nice days and hardly any nice ones in a row. This week has been different. March has started off warm and sunny even though a long period of rain is in the forecast. My intentions of perusing the woods to determine last year's deer activity never came about. That will change almost forcibly. Why? Because turkey season opens in a month and for the first few weeks the leaves will not be in full bloom. I will be able to gain deer information while I'm turkey hunting. And there's also a third layer.

This will also be a good time to look for antler sheds. Not only are these neat finds, but they also give me great hunting information for next deer season. This all means I need to be a multi-tasker when turkey season opens. I often tell people that I'm not a very good multi-tasker. I'm more of a mono-tasker. And while that isn't totally true, I do function better when there are only two or three things I'm doing at the same time. I compare this to a friend and former colleague of mine. He is a true multi-tasker and great administrator. He shines by getting so many things done simultaneously.

We worked well together. I knew

what I wanted to accomplish, and he knew how to accomplish it, down to the sickening details. I always noticed the words that the Apostle Paul said. "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead." And there you go. He says he does one thing and then lists two things. And that's how I feel. I do one thing - everything on my to-do list. See?

The truth is that the Christian life is exactly this way. It's one thing done in many different ways. Jesus was once asked what the most important commandment was.

Out of all the commandments, laws, and expectations that people debated endlessly, He boiled it all down to one thing: love. Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And love your neighbor as yourself. Everything else flows out of that.

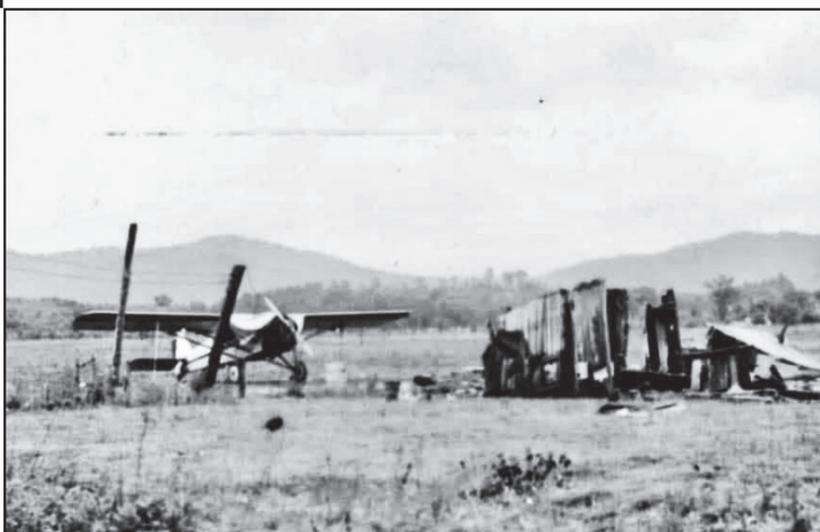
I know it sounds simple and too emotional or (for a man) too feminine. But I didn't make up the rules. Love is my mini legal pad. And on that pad are a lot of to-dos.

If you're a mono-tasking Christian like me, don't let yourself get overwhelmed by all the religious minutiae. Just find ways to love people. Because in doing that, you are loving God.

## The Adventures of Miss. Beth



Miss. Beth from the Pineville/Middlesboro - Bell County Library was at Page Elementary this past week, as a part of Dr. Suess Read Across Bell County Week. Photo Submitted by Beth Pannell



## Magic City Memories

1936 photograph showing the Middlesboro, Bell County Airport. Located near Dorchester Avenue and 30th Street in Middlesboro, Bell County Kentucky. Photo Courtesy of Marvin Meyers Facebook

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