

Miss Jessie

By DANNY WHITLOCK

7th grades.

A rambling stroll down memory lane would not be complete without a visit to my favorite teachers.

Having spent my first 10 years in Detroit I didn't settle in at Fulgham Elementary until half way through my 5th grade year. Miss Mattie Story was my teacher at that time, and she did an excellent job of easing my transition from a big city school to a rural one.

The teachers I missed having were Miss Erline Perry in the 1st grade, Miss Evie Jackson in the 2nd, Miss Mable Farmer in the 3rd, and Miss Laverne Stewart in the 4th. I knew the ladies from the grocery store and from church and they all seemed to be good teachers. I did hear my Dad talking about Miss Evie who he said pulled his hair and tugged on his ears in an effort to get him to behave. I'm sure he deserved every tug she administered.

Miss Swannie Vaden taught me in the 6th and

Our class was split during our 7th grade year with half going to Miss Jessie Gore. I advanced to Miss Jessie's class for my 8th grade year and it's here where I will expound on my favorite Fulgham teacher.

Miss Jessie Gore taught all of the expected curriculum for the 8th grade in 1956. However, she put a little more effort and enthusiasm into the subject of history. She lit up when discussing events and people from the past. She could make history come alive for those of us who were ready to absorb her knowledge.

It was after our regular lessons that Miss Jessie had the biggest impact on me. At the end of the day, she would pick up a novel and read to her class until the bell rang at the close of the school day. I couldn't say how many novels she read to us that year, but two made an impression and have stayed with me for almost 70 years. *A Girl of the Limberlost* by Gene

Stratton-Porter was published in 1909, and *The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come* by John Fox, Jr. was published in 1903. These were both focused on young individuals who were facing tenuous circumstances and handling them well.

I give Miss Jessie the credit for introducing me to reading for the pure enjoyment of it. Fulgham didn't have a big library. In fact, the library was located in a second floor balcony above the lobby. I don't remember a librarian being present, but I guess someone must have had that responsibility because it was always neat and well maintained.

I remember perusing the shelves looking for novels that looked interesting. I recall reading several books by Jack London. I also became familiar with the series of mysteries centering on The Hardy Boys. I wish to send a belated and posthumous thank you to Miss Jessie Gore. Because of your influence, I enjoy reading each and every day.



This Google maps photo shows the current Columbus, Ky. water company office. Plans for the \$2.88 million grant the city has been allocated include a new water company office, high pressure pumps, and more.

Columbus City Council moves forward with \$2.88 million Community Development Block Grant for water system upgrades

By GAYE BENCINI

Columbus City Council met in regular session Monday, March 9 at Columbus City Hall. Meeting was called to order at 6:53 p.m. Present were Mayor Kay Ferguson; Clerk Melissa Griffith; Council Members Jeff Jones, Kim Ferguson, Christina Thomas, and Chandra Schleper; Attorney Mary Potter; and Gaye Bencini.

The Columbus City Council is beginning the proper paperwork and other requirements to make use of the city's \$2.8 million Community Development Block Grant for upgrades to their city water system.

The money has been allocated for the project which will include a new water treatment plant, new water office building, rehabbed wells, new service lines from the city's side to the meter, valve replacement, and new high water pressure pumps.

The council voted Monday night to approve the 1st reading of the budget amendment to reflect the money the city will receive from the grant.

A special called meeting will be held March 19 at 6:30 p.m. for the 2nd reading.

The next phase will be advertising for bids.

The Purchase Area Development District staff

has been assisting with the grant paperwork.

At Monday night's meeting, the council approved the January meeting minutes. That meeting was held on Jan. 12 with Mayor Ferguson, City Clerk Melissa Griffith, council Members Kim Ferguson, Jeff Jones Chandra Schleper, and Christina Thomas in attendance. That meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The minutes from the December meeting were approved and the December financial report was approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

There was no February meeting. Monday night, the council approved the financial report from February. January's Financial Report includes expenses to KU- \$794.74; Postage- \$61.00; and Windstream \$341.14.

Operating expenses were Carraways- \$45.00; Itron- \$365.00; Microbac- \$148.25; and Reveal Underground Services- \$500.00.

Payroll Expenses- H.C. Payroll Tax- \$60.00; Pete Fernandez- \$1,163.25; Melissa Griffith- \$1,113.75 for total expenses- \$4,592.13.

Water Fund Account- \$1,754.71; Deposits- \$3,735.24; Interest Earned- \$0.58; Balance- \$898.40.

Road fund Account- Beginning Balance-

\$27,028.46; Deposits- \$184.78; Interest Earned- \$3.78; Balance- \$27,217.02.

General Fund Account- Beginning Balance- \$10,390.07; Deposits- \$435.30; Total Expenses- \$1,198.20; Balance- \$9,627.17.

Community Pride Fund- Balance- \$2,453.00.

February Financial Report- Expenses- KU- \$1,011.81; Postage- \$61.00; Windstream- \$348.48.

Operating Expenses were Carraways- \$45.00; G&C Supply- \$49.05; Hawkins- \$270.38; Itron- \$364.19; Microbac- \$148.25; Reveal Underground- \$500.00.

Payroll Expenses- Pete Fernandez- \$940.50; Melissa Griffith- \$891.00 for total expenses of \$4,629.66.

Water Fund Account- Beginning Balance- \$898.40; Deposits- \$6,938.08; Interest Earned- \$0.23; Total Expenses- \$4,629.66; Balance 2/28- \$3,207.05.

Road Fund Account- Beginning Balance- \$27,217.02; Deposits- \$169.52; Interest Earned- \$3.65; Balance 2/28- \$27,390.10.

General Fund Account- Beginning Balance- \$9627.17; Deposits- \$7,596.49; Total Expenses- \$2,500.00 (reserve to water fund); Balance 2/28- \$14,723.66.

Community Pride Fund- Balance 2/28- \$2,453.00.

All About Community continued from front page

a.m. on June 6 in preparation for the Bluegrass on the Bluff FREE concert. At 10:00 a.m. jam sessions begin in the picnic area and continue throughout the day. This is what ALL pickers look forward to...an opportunity to join other pickers and have a rip roaring good time as they bring their own special talent to the blend.

The festival opens at 11 a.m. with the 52nd Regimental String Band, national anthem, welcome and kickoff. The rest of the day is filled with such notable bluegrass bands as Watershed Ramblers, Sugar Mules, Wheelhouse Rousters, Dalton Harper Band and Southern Legacy.

Also, going on throughout the day will be music demonstrations, Bluegrass workshop, and a Civil War music history session. The Columbus Park Snack Shop will be open with its popular items of burgers, Quickie dogs and ice cream custard. Food vendors on site will be Hillbilly Barbeque and The Belmont. Gather up your lawn

chairs, quilts to throw on the ground and all of your Bluegrass loving friends and family and head to the park for a fun packed day. For those of you who may have out of town guests coming in who need a place to stay, The Hillandale Farmhouse located just east of Clinton offers a spacious rental in a beautiful rural setting. You can book a spot at the airbnb.com/h/thehillandalefarmhouse or call 270-551-2266. Other spots for your stay during the festival will be announced in future articles.

America250 planning will continue at the Hickman County Library on March 24 at 6:30 p.m. Going on right now and through the month of April is the America250 Quilt Show at the Hickman County Memorial Library. Plans are being made for a parade which will culminate with an Independence Day Celebration on the grounds of the Assembly of God church. June 27 is the day planned for these two events.

Another event being

planned by the Hickman County Chamber of Commerce is America250 Farm to Fork Dinner on August 22. As plans are developed, the details will be shared in The Hickman County Times.

For a small community, we have an action packed year planned to celebrate the birth of America. Although it's America's birthday. After all is said and done. It's still All About Community.

Late breaking news: The Hickman County Chamber of Commerce has received the menu for the Annual Meeting. A cozy farmhouse brunch prepared with fresh ingredients and homemade touches. Farmers Omelet Casserole consisting of eggs baked with cheddar cheese, savory sausage, sweet peppers, onion and fresh spinach, Cheesy Hash Brown Casserole, Summer Chicken Salad Croissants, Fresh fruit cups, dessert cups with you choice of Banana pudding, Strawberry Shortcake and Chocolate Éclair Trifle. Come enjoy a morning of good food and warm hospitality.

HCEDA, HCIDA property acquisition

Continued from front page

Attending were HCIDA Board Members Teresa Dowdy (chair), Mattea Mitchell, Kenny Wilson, Ethan Cunningham, Tommy Roberts, Mike Grimmitt, Rick Canty and Kory Naranjo. Canty and Naranjo also serve on the HCEDA board, along with Daniel Kimbell and Yvette Thomas, who were present, and HCEDA consultant Greg Pruitt, who works for the board in an unpaid capacity.

The meeting was called to order by the chairs of both groups, with Rick Canty calling the meeting to order for the HCEDA, and Teresa Dowdy calling the meeting to order for the HCIDA. The

HCIDA then voted to go into closed session to discuss real estate acquisition.

After coming back into open session, the HCEDA voted to purchase the property from Mary Potter and stepdaughter Stephanie Potter for \$6,000 and the four Harpole heirs \$2,500 each, contingent upon them not enforcing their vendor's lien, and that the HCEDA convey the building immediately to the HCIDA.

HCEDA consultant Greg Pruitt said the HCIDA board has the property insured and will seek resources to take the building down. Both groups have been working to

purchase properties and clear the lots for possible new construction.

The HCIDA has discussed the possibility of purchasing properties on court square, having those torn down, and new, safer buildings constructed that could be rented or purchased by current property owners.

They said at their last meeting they did not want any building owner to be pressured into making a decision if the HCIDA decides to go in that direction.

The HCIDA will hold public meetings for input, if they decide the court square project will take place.



Many memories were made in the North Washington Street buildings. Plans are to clear the property, and a new chapter will begin.