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The Crittenden Press

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Time changing early this year

Daylight Saving Time will begin earlier this year than in previous years. Starting in March 2007, Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 a.m., on the second Sunday of the month (March 11) and will revert to standard time on the first Sunday in November. The changes are expected to save energy nationwide.

Sherer named to CCEDC board

Marion City Council has appointed Councilman Dwight Sherer to serve as its representative to the Crittenden County Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors. The post was previously held by Mike Byford, a former councilman.

Bookmobile down due to illness

The Crittenden County Public Library's bookmobile has been idled due to the illness of its driver. The service will be unavailable for a couple more weeks. Anyone who needs special assistance can call the library at 965-3354. The bookmobile is one of the more popular services in the county. In January, it visited more than 250 patrons and had more than 750 check-outs.

Underdown book signing is March 24

The Crittenden County Public Library will host a reception and book signing for local historian and author Brenda Underdown from 10 a.m., until noon on Saturday, March 24 at the library. Underdown, a weekly columnist for The Press, recently published a book about area history. It is titled *Forgotten Passages* and is now on sale.

Stamps going up

It looks like the U.S. Postal Service first-class stamp is going up two cents. An independent postal commission has recommended a two-cent hike, raising the stamp to 41 cents later this year. Postcard stamps would go up to 26 cents. The postal service had sought a three-cent increase. Additionally, the postal service is proposing a "forever" stamp that could be purchased for the current rate of 39 cents, but be used any time in the future.

LOCAL MEETINGS

MONDAY EVENING
Crittenden County Board of Education will hold a working session at 5:45 p.m., at the board office.



70% RAIN
T-Storms
68/37
THURSDAY

Mostly CLOUDY
56/32
FRIDAY

Rain gauge
Last 7 days1.43"
Last 30 days2.81"
Year-to-date9.24" (+2.21")
UK Ag Weather Service, Observations at Paducah as of Tuesday

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Taylor Davis and his grandmother Faye Martin look through the rubble of his bedroom. Taylor is pointing to where he was asleep in bed at the time of the crash. Above, the Toyota pickup juts out of the side of the home.

Truck crashes into home

Children asleep in bed escape serious injury

STAFF REPORT
Tragedy was miraculously avoided early Monday morning when the driver of a Toyota pickup fell asleep at the wheel and crashed through the home of Keith and Chris Davis on U.S. 641 South a mile from Marion.

The truck slammed into the side of the house, penetrated the structure and came to rest partially on top of the bed where the Davises' two children were sleeping.

Taylor Davis, 15 and his sister, Kayla Davis, 10, were frightened but not injured.

"It was just the Lord's work that saved them," said their grandmother Faye Martin. "Thank God they weren't hurt."

Taylor said he vaguely recalls hearing a loud rumble at 4:22 a.m., and thought it was an earthquake.

His sister, whose bedroom is next door, had gotten up in the night and climbed into the bed with him. The two were covered by debris such as bricks and lumber and a chest of drawers was pushed over onto them in the bed. The truck's bumper was literally on top of the bed near the children's feet.

The truck, driven by Pvt. Mark Harmon, 27, a Fort Campbell soldier, missed a natural gas line by inches before it plowed into the house.

"The first thing I remember after the crash was my dad screaming," said Taylor, who along with his sister stayed home from school Monday in

order to fully recover from the nightmare.

"It's a wonder they weren't both killed or seriously injured," said Sheriff Wayne Agent. "The good Lord above was looking out for those children."

The sheriff said there have been several wrecks on that particular stretch of road, but never one like this.

The vehicle was southbound when it left the roadway, went across Ricky Brown's lawn, jumped a creek and crossed Coleman Road before climbing a hill and running through the north side of the Davis home.

Sheriff Agent said the truck traveled more than 100 yards from where it first left the highway to where it crashed into the house. He said that the sleeping driver may have unknowingly been accelerating as the truck bounded off the highway.

"The vehicle was probably moving on pretty good, but we have no way of knowing exactly how fast it was going," Agent said.

Agent said the driver had been visiting family in Shawneetown, Ill., over the weekend and was en route back to Fort Campbell where he was to report at 6 a.m. Harmon was uninjured. No charges have been filed.

Coincidentally, the Davises home had recently been sold to the State of Kentucky because it's on a route where a new four-lane U.S. Highway 641 is going to be built. The state had allowed them to continue living there until it was ready to tear down the home in order to make way for the new road.

The big question now is what can be done about the damage.

"They may just have to board it up and live in the other part of the house," said Martin.

Surveying financial need

PACS conducts study of families with low income

BY JERRITT HOVEY
PRESS STAFF WRITER

Kathey Penn, Community Service Block Grant Coordinator for Crittenden County, held a meeting here Friday to assess the needs of low-income families and financially-challenged individuals.

Each year, Kentucky requires that Pennyrile Allied Community Services contact other agencies within the community to obtain input about the needs of those families.

Pennyrile Allied Community Services is a program that monetarily helps under-privileged and low-income families. Some services

include helping a family to get heat to stay warm or to help pay for an electric bill or water bill.

Surveys to gain input on community needs were distributed last month to agencies in Crittenden County. Other surveys were administered during last week's meeting. The surveys are aimed at determining and prioritizing local needs.

During the meeting, Penn asked what everyone thought was a reason for low-income families and what could be done to help resolve that problem.

One family member mentioned that if there were more jobs in Crittenden County, it would help. A lot of families don't have cars to commute back and forth to work out of town. Having a bigger factory would help increase job availability, one person said.

More job training at the Marion Ed-Tech Center was also suggested.

Dropping out of school was another reason families say they lack earning power. Not having a diploma or a GED, makes an individual virtually unemployable.

Penn agreed. She said that most job agencies require at least a diploma or GED before being considered for employment.

For some families, if it wasn't for Penn's help, they wouldn't have anyone to turn to. The financial help provided by PACS is important to them.

Penn has turned the surveys into her supervisor, Molly Thomas, who will take them to the state later in March. The state will use the information from the surveys to see if there is anything that can be done to improve the situation for Crittenden County families.

For more information about the survey or PACS services, call Kathey Penn at 965-4763.

Fire believed to be arson

STAFF REPORT

A fire on Piney Fork School Road late Saturday night is believed to have been started illegally.

The Crittenden County Sheriff's Department is investigating the blaze as an arson. Investigators are not sure exactly how it started at this point.

Sheriff Wayne Agent said the home was vacant and there was no electricity to the home.

The fire started right before 11:30 p.m., and was discovered by Deputy Don Perry who saw a red glow in the sky and went to investigate it. The Crittenden County Fire Department responded to the scene, but the house was a total loss.

The home was owned by Baron Guess.

Anyone with information can call the sheriff at 965-3400.

Local arrests lead to recovery of stolen ATV

STAFF REPORT

A tip and a routine traffic stop led police to a stolen four-wheeler and various charges against three previous felons.

Police say that Rick Prater, 45; Brian Prater, 21; and Andy Prater, 28, were in a pickup truck when police stopped them Sunday, Feb. 18 on Cherry Street. Each were eventually arrested for possession of a weapon by a convicted felon. Rick Prater and his nephew Andy Prater were also charged with carrying a concealed deadly weapon and Rick Prater is facing charges of driving without a license, having an open alcoholic beverage in a vehicle, no insurance and giving police a false name.

Police say that through their investigation, they discovered that Rick and his son Brian Prater had moved to Marion to live with Andy Prater at 104 Brook Street. The two had been in town for about 24 hours when police stopped them a week



Rick Prater, Brian Prater, and Andy Prater

ago last Sunday.

The driver, Rick Prater, told police he was someone else and that he'd left his driver's license in Florida. Officer Bobby West later determined that the driver of the truck was actually Rick Prater, who had multiple DUIs in Florida and had been convicted of felony DUI in that state. West also learned that Prater did not have



Assistant Police Chief Ray O'Neal writes down the serial number from an ATV which turns out was stolen from Florida.

See **ARREST**/page 8A

AREA NEWS BRIEFS

Davenport denied parole for 10 years

Cameron Davenport, who murdered Crittenden Press publisher Paul Mick in February 1990, has been denied parole for a second time. The Kentucky Parole Board on Tuesday announced that Davenport will not be eligible for parole again until Feb. 20, 2017. Davenport is serving a life sentence for the murder. He is held at Green River Corrections Complex at Central City. Davenport was first denied parole five years ago.

More PE would be in order for students

A bill requiring public elementary and middle schools to make physical activity part of the routine for children won approval from a Senate committee last week. Schools would have to include a half hour of moderate to vigorous physical activity each day, or 150 minutes a week, by the 2008-09 school year. Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr, R-Lexington, said physical activity can be incorporated into a school's curriculum and can lead to better student achievement. "Getting the heart pumping helps us learn better," she said as the Senate Education Committee approved the measure. Schools would have the flexibility to tailor their physical activity programs. Sen. Jack Westwood, R-Crescent Springs, expressed some misgivings but voted to advance the bill. "I'm nervous about the potential that this is going to take away some time from the classroom," he said. The proposal follows legislation passed two years ago that put restrictions on the types of food and drinks sold at Kentucky schools to promote healthy eating and curb childhood obesity. It also required elementary schools to have a wellness plan that includes daily physical activity but gave no time requirement.

94 have died on KY highways this year

Preliminary statistics indicate that 13 people died in 13 separate crashes on Kentucky's roadways from Monday, Feb. 19 through Sunday, Feb. 25. Twelve of the fatalities involved motor vehicles and nine of the victims were not wearing seat belts. The seat belt status of two of the victims was unknown. One of the crashes involved the suspected use of alcohol. One of the victims was operating an ATV and not wearing a helmet. Fatal accidents were reported in Livingston, McCracken and nine other counties. Through Feb. 25, preliminary statistics indicate that 94 people have lost their lives on Kentucky roadways. That is 11 fewer than reported for this time period in 2006. Of the 87 motor vehicle fatalities, 56 victims were not wearing seat belts.

Livingston woman shoots husband

Police say a physical altercation between a husband and wife in rural Livingston County Friday night ended with the husband being shot in the forehead. The shooting happened on J.H. O'Bryan Avenue near Grand Rivers. The husband, Gregory J. Mandrick, 53, remained in critical condition at Western Baptist Hospital early this week. The wife, Doreen A. Mandrick, 47, is charged with assault. Police reports say Doreen Mandrick called 911 and reported that she had been in a fight with her husband and needed medical assistance at the home, State Police Spokesman Barry Meadows said. When troopers arrived, Gregory Mandrick was unresponsive. No one else was in the home during the shooting, Meadows said. Mandrick was taken to the McCracken County Regional Jail in Paducah. No other details were released.

Farmers Bancorp to hold annual meeting

Farmers Bancorp, Inc., of Marion will hold its annual shareholders meeting at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 20 at Farmers Bank's main office. The corporation will elect directors and conduct regular business during the annual meeting. Directors nominated for reappointment to the board are William G. McConnell, Joe Yarbrough, Gareth Hardin, Jim Hatfield, Bill Frazer, Morris Hodge, Alan Stout, Richard Peek Jr. and Wade Berry.

Cherry gets board association award

State Representative Mike Cherry, who sponsored student disciplinary legislation, has received the 2007 KIDS First Advocacy Award from the Kentucky School Boards Association. Cherry (D-Princeton) was one of four Kentuckians to receive the KIDS First Advocacy Award last week at the group's annual conference. The KIDS First awards were created by KSBA's Board of Directors to honor local and state leaders who work on behalf of Kentucky's public schools and students. Cherry, a former member of the school council at Caldwell County High School, sponsored the anti-bullying bill and legislation that allows school districts to consider the disciplinary record of a child seeking to enroll who has been expelled from another district. Cherry also gathered support for the renovation of a Caldwell County Schools building that will give students greater educational opportunity through a continuing education partnership with Murray State University.

Murray State increases tuition prices

Tuition and mandatory fees at Murray State will rise from \$2,499 a semester for Kentucky undergraduates to \$2,709 beginning in the fall semester. Graduate tuition for in-state students will rise from \$2,839.50 a semester to \$3,078. Out-of-state undergraduates will pay \$7,359 a semester, a \$576 increase, and out-of-state graduate students will pay \$8,658 a semester. Murray State offers regional tuition discounts for students from neighboring states. The Murray State Board of Regents approved an 8.5-percent tuition hike, a 12.5-percent increase in on-campus housing costs and three-percent jump in campus meal prices during its regular meeting Friday. Crittenden County has about 100 students currently enrolled at Murray State.

Missing boy is found near Ohio River

Kentucky State Police received a 911 call early Tuesday morning from a residence on River Road east of Smithland. The caller reported that a 15 year-old-child was missing. A ground and air search was conducted covering the area behind the residence and along the flooded banks of the Ohio River. At approximately 11:45 a.m., Kentucky State Police dispatchers made contact with the juvenile on his cell phone. Using the cell phone GPS, dispatchers were able to locate the juvenile on Rocky Lane and led searchers to his location. The juvenile was transported by ambulance to Western Baptist Hospital where he was treated for minor injuries.

QUICK FACTS

General Population Data

	Crittenden	Kentucky	United States
Total population	9,384	4,041,769	281,421,906
Median household income	\$29,060	\$33,672	\$41,994
Living in poverty	19.1%	15.8%	12.4%
Eligible for Medicaid	16.1%	17.6%	na
Do not have medical insurance	14.9%	13.3%	14.2%
Registered voters who vote	66.6%	64.7%	70.9%
Unemployment rate	6.2%	6.1%	5.1%
Use the Internet at home	51.0%	60.1%	na

County laying miles of new water lines

STAFF REPORT

A new water expansion project could reach nearly 300 more homes in Crittenden and Livingston counties by next fall.

The Crittenden-Livingston Water District's \$4 million Phase 13 project is gearing up and contractors will begin laying about 85 miles of new water lines that could potentially serve 163 homes in Crittenden County and another 134 in Livingston.

By the time this phase is completed, the water district will have about 95 percent coverage of all homes in the two counties, according to Donnie Beavers, district superintendent.

Residents are already noticing stockpiles of material at temporary pipe yards in the two counties. Beavers said about 470,000 feet of water pipe is being kept at three locations, the old Mattoon School, a yard in

Smithland and one at Good Hope Church in Livingston County.

Construction of the new water lines will be done by Bobby Luttrell and Sons of Owensboro. The project is expected to be complete by late November. As many as three crews will be laying lines once the weather improves in April, Beavers said.

Tap-on fees are due now for anyone living on the roads affected by the new construction. If any of the specified areas fail to produce customers, the district may opt to remove that particular area or road from the construction plans.

"Anyone who lives on these roads should come in right away and get signed up and pay their tap-on fee," Beavers said.

Tap-on fees are \$500, which pays for the meter, fittings and installation of the

LIVINGSTON LINES

Road	Miles	Homes
Ross Cem. Rd.	0.7	5
Scott's Chapel Rd.	1.7	13
Baker Rd.	0.4	3
Osburn Lane	0.3	2
Hwy. 135 Carrsville	1.7	10
Tilene-Dycusburg Rd.	1.0	5
Birdsville Rd.	1.3	8
Weaver Rd.	1.1	2
Old Salem Rd.	0.4	2
Bid Southern Rd.	1.1	5
Wright Rd.	1.7	8
Cedar Grove Rd.	2.7	9
Bonanza Rd.	0.6	2
Vicksburg Rd.	3.0	9
Pisgah Rd.	1.2	4
Frank May Rd.	4.0	8
Hwy. 137	4.8	13
Kitchens Rd.	0.9	2
Lawrence Rd.	0.9	2
Maxfield Rd.	4.7	9
Lick Skillet Rd.	1.1	3
Hwy. 838	0.9	1
Jack Walker Rd.	1.0	2
Kennedy Rd.	0.3	1
Farris Springs Rd.	1.1	2
Hughes Rd.	0.3	2
Duley Rd.	1.2	2

CRITTENDEN LINES

Road	Miles	Homes
Lark Loop	0.2	3
Hunt Rd.	0.9	7
New Salem Rd.	0.7	5
Irma-White Rd.	1.2	2
Irma-White Rd.	1.7	2
View/Damron Rd.	2.2	14
Dick Jones Rd.	0.9	5
Deer Cr. Church Rd.	1.7	9
Yoder Rd.	0.6	3
Nunn Switch Rd.	0.5	-
Fishtrap Rd.	0.6	-
W.E. Newcom Rd.	0.9	4
Allen Lane	1.1	4
Mexico Rd.	0.3	-
Low Water Rd.	0.9	4
Red Rd.	1.1	4
Frances Rd.	1.6	6
Levias Ridge Rd.	0.8	3
Claylick Cr. Rd.	0.6	3
Fritts Rd.	1.2	4
Lewis Croft Rd.	2.3	8
Guggenheim Rd.	1.0	2
Fishtrap Rd.	0.6	2
Dam 50 Rd.	3.8	12
Earl Hurst Rd.	1.0	3
Claude Belt Rd.	3.1	8
Turkey Knob Rd.	2.5	7
Cecil Croft Rd.	2.2	6
Chapel Hill Rd.	1.8	5
Barnett Chapel Rd.	2.3	6
Olive Branch Rd.	0.3	1
Crayne Cem. Rd.	1.5	3
Blackford Ch. Rd.	4.1	8
Hwy. 902	0.7	-
Guy Hodge Rd.	0.3	2
Butter Rd.	0.6	3
Hwy. 135 Carrsville	4.1	5

meter. Customers are responsible for running the line from the meter to their home or other destination.

See the accompanying list of roads where lines will be installed.

ARREST

Continued from page 1A
a valid driver's license.

Assistant Police Chief Ray O'Neal joined West in further investigation and they found a six-shot .22-caliber revolver in the truck's console. The officers arrested Rick Prater and Andy Prater on the spot, because it was immediately determined that both were felons and both were in the truck where the weapon was found. It is illegal for any convicted felon to possess a gun.

Brian Prater was released, but officers soon learned that he too was a convicted felon from Florida and was also wanted in that state on burglary charges.

Police went to the home on Brook Street where Brian Prater was staying and arrested him. There, they found a another .38-caliber handgun.

Florida officials have told Marion Police that they will begin extradition proceedings against Brian Prater after he answers to the pending charges here.

O'Neal said officers found an ATV in the Prater's U-Haul that had just come from Florida. The four-wheeler had been stolen in a Florida burglary. The owner has been notified and plans to come to Marion to pick up the ATV.

O'Neal said that Florida detectives said there were many more items taken in the Florida burglary, but local police were not able to find any other merchandise believed taken in that case.

The three men, all related, were lodged in Crittenden County Jail. Each of their bonds was set at \$10,000 cash.

Senate seeking tougher DUI laws

A bill aimed at bolstering the fight against drivers impaired by alcohol or drugs has won Senate approval.

The measure would make it easier to convict people caught driving with illegal drugs in their system. It also would lower the blood-alcohol level needed for prosecutors to seek harsher penalties against drunken drivers.

The bill would create a presumption of guilt if motorists are found with illegal or too many prescription drugs in their system. Currently, prosecutors must prove the drivers were impaired.

Another part of the bill would lower the blood-alcohol level that could lead to enhanced drunken-driving penalties from 0.18 to 0.15.

Bobby Stinnett Used Cars

Customer Appreciation Luncheon

Saturday, March 3 - Starting at 11 a.m.

Free lunch for everyone who has ever purchased a vehicle from Bobby Stinnett's Used Cars

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GROWING PAINS?...This vinyl siding 2 story family home has 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, foyer w/open stair case, living room, formal dining room, enhanced with beautiful fireplace mantle, modern kitchen with major appliances, TV/entertainment room; partial basement, plus more. Located on large deep lot on West Belville St., Marion

CRITTENDEN COUNTY HOMES

JUST WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR ... A 3 bedroom brick that features: 2 baths, large living room, kitchen with room eat-in family dining area, laundry-mud room, plus patio doors leading to deck and deck. This home has replacement windows, an attached garage with multi storage cabinets, an attached carport and 2 storage buildings. Conveniently located near Crittenden County School.

CHECK THIS ONE OUT... Investors take a look at this nine-room fixer upper house that was formerly used as a duplex. Features 2 kitchens, 2 baths, laundry room, floored attic and partial basement. Situated on nice lot in Marion and located 2 blocks from Main St.

AN OLDER HOME WITH DIGNITY... describes this 12 room, 2 story brick home. Features: screened in front porch with beveled glass door entry to living rm/w fire place, formal dining room w/built in buffet & beveled mirror, butler's pantry & retro kitchen, master bedroom with dressing room or nursery, 2 bathrooms plus another bedroom. All this is on the first floor. The second floor has 5 rooms, bath and 2 large walk in closets.

GOLFER'S FANTASY... Enter down the private drive to this landscaped estate that joins Marion's County Club Golf Course. This magnificent two story home includes 4 to 6 bedrooms, open grand staircase, 2 master suites, 4 bathrooms, kitchen w/appliances, 2 laundries, study, great room with gas log fireplace, recreation room plus bonus kitchen, enclosed glass solarium & private deck overlooking the beautiful greens. In addition this lovely home has a large walk-out heated basement, an attached oversized double car garage plus many additional amenities. Fulfill your dreams by calling for an appointment today.

533 E. DEPOT ST. ... commercial building. Was being used as a doctor's office. Features large multi purpose room, offices, 2 baths, and a lot of parking space. Also has apartment with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Many possibilities. **PRICE REDUCED.**

TAKE A LOOK... 3 bedroom, 2 bath, situated on deep lot in Marion.

IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

JUST REDUCED... JUST REDUCED. 4 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide situated on lot in Burma. Price to sell at \$29,900. Call us today for more information.

419 E. MAIN ST. ... 3-4 bedroom home. Convenient to grocery, bank, post office. Features: hardwood floors, large living room with fireplace, eat in kitchen, basement, shed on nice lot in Salem.

129 W. MAIN ST. ... two bedroom, 1 bath brick, extra large living & dining room, eat-in kitchen with stove & refrigerator, utility room. Located W. Main St., Salem with landscaped front courtyard. \$35,000.

VINYL SIDED... frame build home. Features: 2 bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, extra den or dining area and vinyl replacement windows.

Plus a small storage building and black top drive. REDUCED TO \$38,000.

SALEM... this corner lot listing located East Main and College Streets has a three bedroom, 1 bath home with Livingston Co. stone exterior. Convenient location within walking distance to Bank, grocery, churches, beauty shop, etc. Would also make excellent commercial / office property. Call today for details.

COUNTRY LIVING... if you like the country life you will enjoy this home. Features 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, large kitchen with appliances, dining room, living room, full basement with lots of storage shelves. Laundry area in basement includes the washer & dryer. All this on 3.80 acres.

YOU MUST SEE THIS... 3 bedroom brick home situated on large lot.

3 ACRES... 3 bedroom, 2 bath with central heat & air.

LOTS / SMALL TRACTS / FARMLAND

LAKE AREA LOT... located south of Eddy Creek Marina on Hwy 93. Perfect for mobile home or build your dream home. Utilities already on property. Call for more information.

7 BEAUTIFUL LOTS located in Hickory Hills Subdivision. Call for more information.

1.29 +/- ACRE lot located in Smithland.

5 +/- ACRES... located in Salem. All city utilities available. Call today for more info.

12.44 ACRES... with approx. 6000 sq. ft. of lake known as Chipps Lake.

12.9 ACRES... located in Crittenden County on Hwy 120 and Just A Mere Rd. Great building site with county water available. Owner will divide.

55 +/- ACRES... located on Hwy 60 in Crittenden County. All open fields with some fencing a/c. Also features a 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick ranch style home with a 76 x 45 Morton building. Owner will sell ground away from home. Call today for more details.

61.15 ACRES... located in Crittenden County on Hwy 723 and Lewis Croft Rd. Features 2 bedrooms, 2 baths with gently rolling fields great for building sites. County water available. REDUCED TO \$103,000.

225 SECLUDED ACRES... located in Crittenden County with approx. 70 open acres. 56 acres in excellent deer & turkey hunting.

262 +/- ACRES... Features: 2 bedroom house, detached garage, 1 barn, 2 grain bins, 2 ponds, approx. 195 open, balance in woods, and a creek that runs thru property. Great location for hunters.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS... from this 30 x 50 garage. Features (3) 10' x 12' overhead doors, office space, propane heat, exterior lighting, concrete floors, city water. Call for more details.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE... formally used as dentist office. Many possibilities!

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River bottom plane crash and love in a bottle

As I was recently reading through the old Crittenden Presses on microfilm at the public library, I ran across an article written by Mr. Hollis Franklin. It told about a man who was familiar to me and I'm sure to a lot of Crittenden County folks. The name was Miles Lee Belt, a much-liked and well-thought-of gentleman from the Hurricane-Hebron area. The story follows:

Crittenden Press - July 9, 1943

In the late 1920s or early 30s, Miles Lee Belt farmed together with his dad and his brothers in the Ohio River bottoms between the Cave In Rock Landing and Tolu. While in the field they heard an airplane overhead, which had apparently developed motor trouble. They could tell it was in distress by the sputtering noise. Finally, the engine quit running.

A few minutes later the plane crash landed in the alfalfa field on the farm on which Miles Lee and his brothers were working. The field was too short at the speed at which the young pilot was coming down to enable him to bring his plane to a stop within the field. He went through a fence, tore down some posts, and then overturned completely in the field of plowed ground.

The plane was damaged and the pilot, who was then a captain in the U.S. Air Force and - who was on a non-stop flight from Los Angeles to New York - was knocked out and painfully, but not seriously, injured.

Miles Lee administered first aid as best he could, got the injured man to a telephone and later, with the help of his dad and the other boys in the family, managed to get the plane righted so that it could be, in time, repaired.

From time to time since then, Miles Lee has heard from the flyer who was graciously appreciative of the assistance which this good Crittenden County family had rendered him.

Some years later Miles Lee received from London an autographed photograph of the man, the young air force captain to whose rescue, boyish feet had run years ago. The name on the autographed photograph Ira C. Eaker, Major-General, U.S. Bomber Command, London, England.

Now the rest of the story. After I read the article I spoke with one of Miles Lee's daughters, Anna Rae Porter, and ask her if she had ever heard of this story.

She told me that they indeed had heard the story many times, and they even had pictures of the wrecked plane and the autographed picture and letter that the Maj. Gen. Eaker had sent their dad. But neither Anna Rae, nor her sister, Dot, or brother, Phillip, knew the rest of the career story about Maj. Gen. Eaker.

Anna Rae told me that their dad, Miles Lee, loved to tell the story of the crashed plane and the impressive young military pilot.

After the crash when the pilot came to and was able to get up and about, Miles Lee's father and some neighbors took him to the nearest phone to call for assistance. He paid Miles Lee and one other person to stay with the plane and make sure that no one damaged it or tried to take items from it.

Phillip, Miles Lee's son, shared with us the story about his dad and the parachute. As the young men guarded the plane during the night they built a fire for warmth and light to see by.

While guarding the crashed plane they couldn't resist looking through some of the contents that had been

Brenda UNDERDOWN
Area History & Genealogy



Forgotten Passages

turned upside down during the crash. There was a parachute that was with the plane's equipment and they wondered how it would feel to have the gear strapped on.

One would try it on, buckle up all the straps to see how it felt, and then the other one would try it on. While Miles Lee had on the parachute, there was this little string on the front of it, he just couldn't resist the temptation to pull it to see what would happen. What happened was it went "pop" and yards and yards of silk billowed around them and they were covered up in the folds of the parachute.

Phillip said his dad told him they worked the rest of the night trying to get the silk folded and stuffed back into its pouch and they sure hoped the Air Force pilot would not ever have the need to use it.

The next day a military crew of men arrived and they disassembled the plane enough to get it to the river and load it on a barge. Where they took it, the Belt family didn't know. But Miles Lee never forgot the excitement of the crashing plane, and Capt. Eaker didn't forget the kindness shown him by the Belt family.

After doing some research on Maj. General Eaker, it seems he was just starting his military career at the time of the crash. In 1929, he became one of the first to be awarded the U.S. Distinguished Flying Cross. Known as a pilot's pilot, Eaker was chosen as a primary crew member of the historic 1929 Army endurance flight of 150 hours aloft in the Fokker monoplane Question Mark. Soon afterwards, he flew the first refueling flight and became famous for its success.

In January 1942, Capt. Eaker, who then had the title of brigadier general, was assigned the task of organizing the Eighth Air Force Bomber Command, which was to be the backbone of U.S. airpower in the European Theater during World War II. Gen. Eaker was an advocate of air power, and his service in the military reflected that.

While enrolled, Gen. Eaker received the Distinguished Service Medal, with the added one Oak Leaf Cluster, a Silver Star, the Navy Distinguished Service medal, the Air medal, the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Capt. Eaker may have been on one of his endurance flights when something went wrong with his plane and he had to crash land in Belt's field. We will never know, but it's interesting to know that he was once in Crittenden County, even if it wasn't intentional. And a Crittenden County family helped him back to his mission.

Miles Lee's life, a few years later, would once again be deeply affected by his connection to the river bottoms. Maybe not in the same location, but still close to these river bottoms along the shore of the Ohio River, near the Cave In Rock landing.

This is a story you might think happens only in books or in movies, but it's a real story, and one that is highlighted in the history of the Belt family.

One Sunday morning while out walking along the shore of the Ohio River, Miles



Capt. Eaker in his pilot's uniform on the day of the crash.

Lee came across a small bottle lying on the bank almost covered in the sand. Inside he could see a small piece of paper with some writing on it. The paper was faded with brown areas on it, maybe from lying in the sand in the hot sun and over hundreds of miles of traveling on the river.

When Miles Lee got the 2x5 piece of paper out of the bottle it had a name, address and date on it. The name was Miss Dorothea Stilgenbauer, East Liverpool, Ohio, July 4, 1935.

The bottle had traveled all the way down the river system from the northeastern part of the state of Ohio and ended its journey here, on the Ohio River bank in Kentucky. It was found in May 1936.

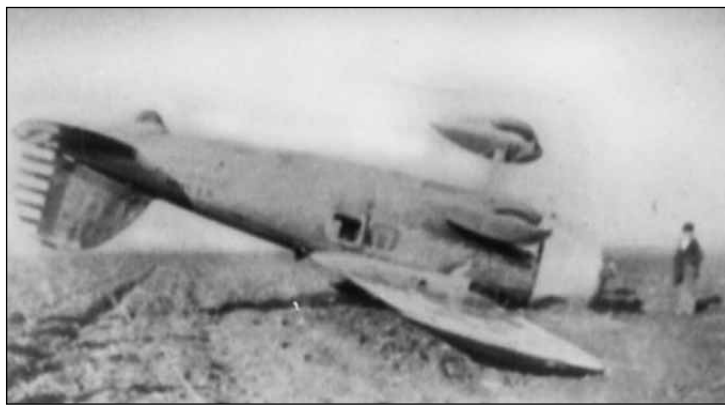
Miles Lee decided to write the lady that had put the note in the bottle. He told her about finding the bottle with her name and address, and he told her a little about himself, and asked if she would please answer him back.

Dorothea Stilgenbauer did answer Miles Lee back and they continued their correspondence regularly for some time. In the summer of 1937, Miles Lee made a trip to East Liverpool to meet his correspondence friend and her parents. The meeting must have gone well, for it wasn't long until Dorothea made a trip to Kentucky. Miles Lee's family had invited her to meet and visit with them.

The relationship of these two young people was formed from a note found in a bottle, and led to their letters to



This is an autographed photograph that Ira C. Eaker sent Miles Lee Belt in later years after Eaker had become a major-general.



Pictured above are photos of the crash. Immediately above is Miles Lee Belt standing just in front of the plane. At right is Miles Lee and Dorothea Stilgenbauer Belt's wedding picture in November 1938 in East Liverpool, Ohio.



their father met through a note found in a bottle.

They have framed the note that she wrote, and Miles Lee's first letter to her. They will be preserved always.

Thanks to Anna Rae, Dot and Phillip for sharing their very interesting and unique family history with us.

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