December 1, 2013

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Legacy is published by and for the Oliver Springs Historical Society. We welcome submissions, both in text articles and pictures, current and upcoming events, "in memoriam", reminiscences, etc..

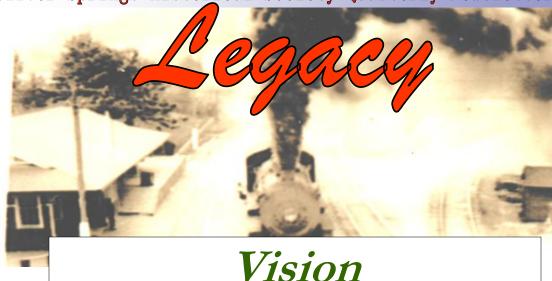
The editor and staff of Legacy reserve the right to edit submissions for length and content, as well as to determine general interest and suitability of content for print.

Please support your historical society, both in submission of items for publication and in making your old pictures and documents available for archiving, thus ensuring that future generations will reap the benefit of our tireless efforts at preservation.

For questions regarding "Legacy", or to submit material, email:

robbieu41@gmail.com

Oliver Springs Historical Society Quarterly Newsletter



Why did you decide to become a part of the

Oliver Springs Historical Society?

Ask this question to a member of our group and you are liable to get one of a multiplicity of possible answers. Some might say it was for the fellowship, for the pleasure of seeing old familiar faces at our monthly meetings. That is a great reason, and we certainly do have great fun whenever we get together. Ask another and you might hear that it is because of the good that the Society



Robbie Underwood

tries to accomplish in preserving the legacy of our community. Another might opine that it is simply a way to be connected to the community: to be a part of what's going on. That certainly is valid, as the Society is usually right in the middle of most worthy efforts on behalf of our town and community, happenings such as Christmas parades, various festivals, historical tours and reenactments. Another might list a desire to help preserve the precious old homes and structures, to be an influence to keep and restore rather than see our history fall victim to "progress". Another person may have a keen interest in genealogies and the "roots" aspect of what we do. Another might simply love the old pictures and accounts of Oliver Springs in days gone by.

I would submit to you that all these are very valid reasons for wanting to be a part of our Society. As with any group, however, in order to have real success there must be a sense of clarity of mission. Many of the ostensible reasons for belonging, however precious they may be, do not in themselves define our mission statement. Simply put, why does the Oliver Springs Historical Society exist?

Let's look at our mission statement:

The Oliver Springs Historical Society is a non-profit organization comprised of a diverse cross-section of people devoted to the betterment of our town and area through preservation of historical buildings, natural features and artifacts of historical value and interest. The Society's charter was adopted on July 4, 1983 and filed by the Secretary of State on July 22, 1983 as The Oliver Springs Historical Society.

Continued on pg. 2

Pony Cash

### Vision

I think that is a pretty good mission statement, and embodies most of what we as a historical society should be about. Simply put, that is the reason we exist. Many of the other things are "perks". In many cases they are blessings, they are enriching, they are fulfilling; but they are peripheral to or incidental to our mission. Our mission, simply put, is to seek to preserve the legacy of our town, the pictures, documents, histories both oral and

written, historically significant structures, genealogical records and family histories, as well as artifacts pertaining to or related to all of the above. That is our mission

I believe that the bulk of things we are about should be viewed in this light. I believe that in order to truly accomplish our mission in letter and spirit we must have a vision of what we are about. Fellowship is good, and we have some of the best and most blessed get-togethers to be found anywhere; however, lots of organizations engage in that sort of

thing. Churches have fellowships, senior clubs have fellowships, lonely hearts clubs have fellowships. Nor is the museum project by itself a worthy reason. To invest the huge resources in time and money for a primary reason

other than that of providing the Society with a home and base of operations would approach criminal dereliction of duty. We can envision the museum being utilized by the community for a wide range of functions: weddings, class reunions, civic events, and the like. That, however, is not the primary intended use. It must be, first and foremost, a museum and archives. That is what we proposed when we undertook such a daunting project, and the design and execution of the project must necessarily reflect its primary intended use.

In order to truly pass the torch that was lit so long ago by people like Snyder Roberts and sustained and carried forward by giants like Sonny Harvey requires that we remain true to our mission. I would love to think that my children's children's children would have as great a sense of just how special and blessed a legacy is ours: of the proud past that included such magnificent eras as the era of the Grand Oliver Springs Hotel, of the legend of the mineral springs,

of the legend of Marshal Henry J. "Pony" Cash, of Mar-

shal "Bad Bill" Potter and his chopping down of the infamous "Whipping Post", whereby he struck a literal and symbolic blow to mindless and ubiquitous bigotry.

We are on the very cusp of having a home, of finally having a true archives, one where all our documents, newspaper articles, genealogies, etc., can be computerized and searchable, with results available at a moment's notice. This is how a true archives works. This is what we will have. What a wonderful thing it will be for someone interested in a facet of life in oldtime

Oliver Springs to be able to research and pull from thousands of documents and pictures!



These are giddy and hopeful times we are on the verge of. We are on the very threshold of actually accomplishing what Mr. Harvey and Mr. Roberts before him labored so diligently to accomplish. We are fulfilling their dream! How intoxicating a thought to finally have the Roberts/Harvey Archives open and available for research. How exciting to have our museum in operation, with our team of curators busy planning and creating the next quarters' displays! How exciting to have a facility where we can host historical displays and special speakers! How exciting to have a 175 seat theater where we can have community theater drama featuring local actors, and musical galas with performing artists..... Our town, as it was back in the days of the elegant Oliver Springs Hotel. I humbly submit to you that this is our vision: this is our mission. May God bless and reward us as we seek to carry this noble mission to the next generation.

Robbie

### A Visit With A Friend

by

Carolyn Kelly

(Editor's Note: This article was submitted before Dr. Hooper's death, but is just now making its way into the printed version of the newsletter)

On a beautiful spring day this past May, 2013, Ed Coker, Wesley Lee and I made a trip to Knoxville on behalf of the historical society to visit Dr. Fred Hooper, a member and supporter for many years.



Dr. Hooper's parents ran the Oliver Springs Drug Store, so he grew up attending school, church and making friends which he still has today.

Dr. Hooper married Eula Mae Goddard and they became parents of one son. Eula Mae was an attractive sweet person who everyone loved. She had a beautiful voice and loved to sing. Dr. Hooper had a practice in Harriman for many years before leaving to go to work for TVA where he worked until he retired.

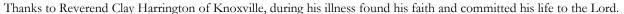
Today he talked of playing at the Kelly farm with Roger Stubbs and the Kelly boys while his mother and the mission ladies of the church held their meeting. They played in the mud and the creek. He remembered the events of the town and its people of times past. He is of course interested in the museum and its completion.

Dr. Hooper told us of some health problems he now has which has caused him to move to an independent living facility. He no longer drives and is unable to attend our meetings. It was such an enjoyable and pleasant visit with a such long time friend. We wished him God's blessings.

Carolyn Kelly

Fred J. Hooper, MD, 89, of Knoxville, departed this life on Friday, August 23, 2013 at Tennova Hospice Center in Knoxville. Dr. Hooper was born in Rockwood and attended Oliver Springs High School. Dr. Hooper graduated UT Medical School in 1947. He practiced Medicine in Harriman, TN and he was the Chief Physician, Eastern Area for TVA until retirement.

Dr. Hooper was active in the First Presbyterian Church in Harriman from the 50's to the 70's.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Eula Goddard Hooper and his parents, Annie K and Fred H. Hooper.

He is survived by his son, Scott C. Hooper and his daughter-in-law, Donna Hooper, of Nashville.

Funeral services were held 2:00PM Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at the Sharp Funeral Home Chapel with Reverend Ken Johnson officiating. The family received friends 1:00-2:00 PM before the service. The burial followed the service at the Oliver Springs Cemetery. In lieu of flowers please make tax deductible donations to: American Cancer Society@ 1-800-227-2345. Sharp Funeral Home, Oliver Spring is in charge of arrangements.

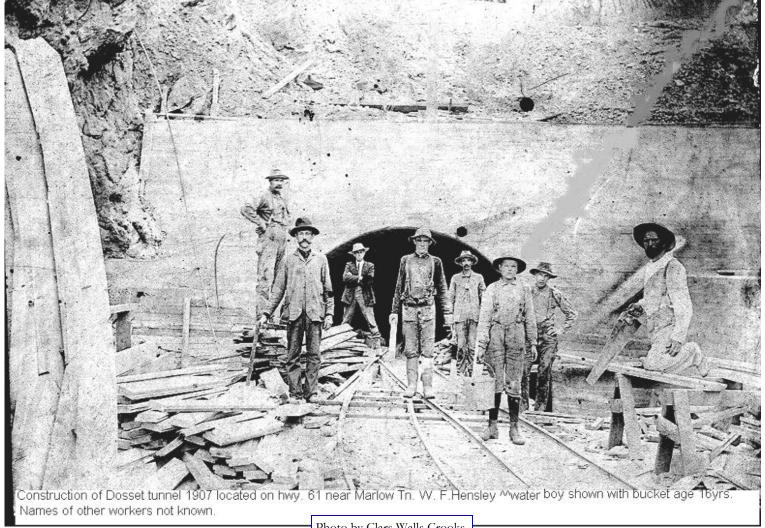


Photo by Clars Walls Crooks



Mary Linwood English, from 1892 Oliver Springs School picture

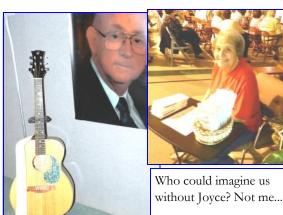


Sam Young Cross in center. Others are unknown at present. Sam Young Cross was son of Postmaster Luther and wife Delia Cross.



Sam Young Cross second from right. The setting for this photo is uncertain. The house seems as though it could be the E.B. Booth House that sat on the lot where the Terry Hacker house stood in more recent memory. Perhaps some of our more senior members may help illuminate the mystery...

# C.S. Harvey Memorial Singing





DeeDee and Pat, two of our most vital members..



Walker Family from New Fairview







The inimitable Dudley Evans who was master of ceremonies



Christy Irwin Belting it out on "Midnight Cry"



Jerry White has been a true soldier for the Historical Society in the time he has been a member... I wish we could find another ten "Jerrys"...



Preacher Garvan Walls is always a treat to listen to, and a big supporter of the Gospel Singing...



4EverHis once again proving why they are perennial favorites at the Gospel Singing







Crown College Singers



### 2013 October Sky Festival Sponsors Harvey's Furniture Simply Southern Florist After Sunset Boutique Citizens First Bank **Town of Oliver Springs** Kellytown Baptist Church Fred Duncan Signs **Blackbird Hollow Antiques Jackson Funeral Services Cabot Cheese** Madris Siding & Windows Mt Pisgah Church **ORNL** Credit Union **Phillips Fencing** Piddler Framing Shop **United Grocery Outlet** Sharp Funeral Home **Food City Oliver Springs** Visions Magazine



Late Breaking News: Janelle Performs at Grand Ole Opry last Friday evening and receives two standing ovations

# October Sky Festival!





Sarah Hepler kicks off the festivities with first the National Anthem, then a rousing rendition of Adele's "Rolling in the Deep"



Beauty Pageant Winners were introduced to the crowd



Noted antiques appraiser and writer Joe Rosson held court at the Museum



Most of these photos were graciously supplied by DeeDee Justice Holmes











Who could forget Wildman Chris Potocek on the drums? World-class ....



The Fairview Union was a worldclass musical dynamo Folks enjoyed their high energy set.

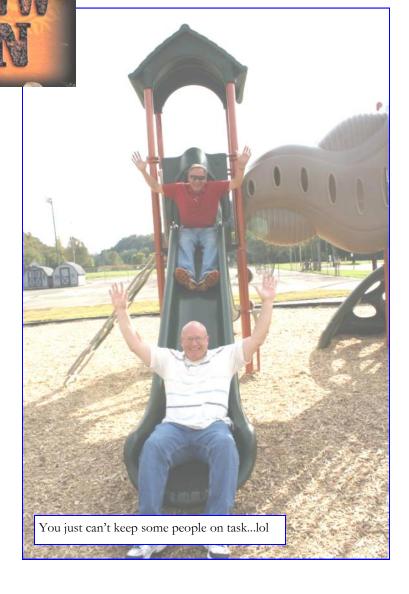


Kelli Wilson









## Garage Renovation Report

By Robbie Underwood

### Will we ever get in our new house?

That's what many of us are thinking. I have been as frustrated as anyone with our loping progress; however, in the past month or two we have seen an acceleration of the work. We have gotten our prison crew back, and are seeing good results from that group. In addition, we are getting good labor out of hired workers. The old rotted window frames have been replaced with new rot-resistant wood, the Mrs. Bromma's Meeting Room is nearly ready to occupy, work has begun on the elaborate cheery millwork that will high-



light the grand Corridor of the museum. Our electrician has come back and finished several lighting and power circuits, the sheetrock in the upstairs archive vault is finished and primed, and the final inspection for the plumbing has been done and approval is granted. Our bathrooms are being finished and the fixtures will soon be in place. Most of the doors in the front half of the project are hung and ready to trim and finish. The canopy has been dressed in and painted underneath and the two composite columns are in place and painted. All the front picture windows and transoms are built, with only a small amount of trim required to finish that installation. The front required that new window frames be built in several instances due to the old frames being too rotted to salvage, but the new onew were fabricated onsite and are in place. Electrical circuits have been installed to the stage area. Work has begun on the display cases that will adorn the corridor.

#### \*Whew\*

That was a lot to list; however, I think that the list will give you a better understanding of all the labor that has gone into moving us ever closer to occupying the front part of the Museum and Archives. When finished, we will have a structure that will be first and foremost suited for use as the new home of the Oliver Springs Historical Society. Our extensive archive holdings can then start the process of coming home and being catalogued and preserved. This is the time when we can start to actually see light at the end of the tunnel. Our building inspectors have expressed confidence in our vision as well as our attention to detail in ensuring the success of the renovation.









## **Random pictures of the renovation**



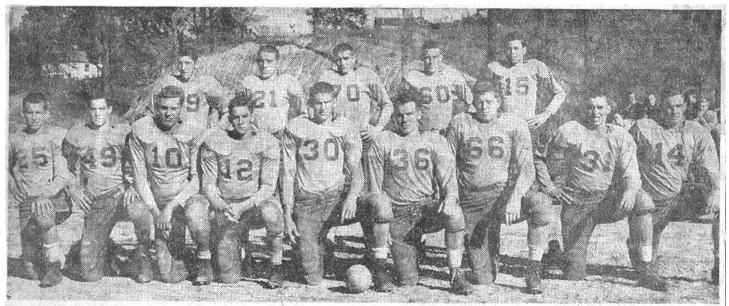




# Heritage at the Depot







PROBABLE STARTERS—Eleven of these fourteen pictured will start the game for Oliver Springs tonight at Rockwood. These 14 boys have carried the Bobcatsthrough the best season in the history of the Oliver Springs school. They won eight and lost one, the only

blemish on their record being a 6-0 defeat by Clinton. Pictured from left to right are: B. Patterson, Wilson, Lassiter, Thomas, Raby, Dawson, Taylor, Prater, and Edmuns. The backs are: G. Wright, Parker, Clowers, Cross and L. Wright. (Pohto by Bill Billings).

## Oliver Springs Man's Death At Pearl Harbor Announced

Special to The Journal

OLIVER SPRINGS, March 29—Pvt. Clarence A. Conant, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Conant, Route 2, was killed in the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, the War Department has notified his parents.

The War Department released the names of 87 soldiers who were killed in action or died of wounds for local publications. The list was in addition to casualties previously announced by the department.

Mrs. Conant said today that her son enlisted Nov. 3, 1939, and was in the mess branch of the Army.

He played basketball and football at Oliver Springs High School from which he was graduated and where he later coached football.

His mother said he liked to sing and attended the Cumberland Presbyterian Church often.

A brother, Sgt. W. C. Conant, is in the Army, and another brother, R. M. Conant, is in the Marines.

Also surviving are four sisters, Mrs. Charles Feathers, Kingsport; Mrs. Joe H. May, Harriman and



CLARENCE A. CONANT

Mrs. Virgil Nelson and Miss Sarah Conant, Oliver Springs.

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# LT. WALLS KILLED IN ACTION D-DAY

Glider Pilot Lost Life in Action Over France.

Special To The News-Sentinel

OLIVER SPRINGS, July 7—Lt. John Franklin Walls, AAF glider

pilot, was killed in action over France on June 6, the day of the invasion, according to a War Department telegram received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Walls.

His death came less than two weeks following his 29th birthday on which he re-



Lt. Walls

ceived his promotion to first lieutenant and wrote his mother, "this is the happiest day of my life."

Lt. Walls entered the service two and one-half years ago and

## Thomas Edward Diggs

Thomas Edward Diggs, age 81, a resident of Oliver Springs, passed away Wednesday, November 27, 2013, at his home.

Mr. Diggs was born January 7, 1932 in Oliver Springs. He was a lifelong resident of this area. Following his high school graduation, Mr. Diggs, entered into the U.S. Army and served his country in the Korean War. While serving, he received several medals, citations, badges and commendations, including the Korean Service Medal with Two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. After his military discharge, he entered into the U.S. Army Reserve and continued serving his country until he received a U. S. Military retirement.



Mr. Tommy Diggs pictured with Mr. Sonny Harvey

He received both civil and mechanical engineering degree's, from the University of Tennessee. He began employment at Martin-Marietta and retired in 1991, as a civil engineer, following 30 years of service.

Mr. Diggs was a member of the St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Oak Ridge. He was a licensed pilot and a charter member of the Oak Ridge Flyers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert H. Diggs and Mildred Disney Diggs Roseberry, by his wife of 56 years, Betty R. Diggs and by a special aunt, Mamie Lee Diggs.

Tommy is survived by a son, Thomas E. Diggs, II, MD and wife Carol, of LaJolla, CA by a daughter, Bettina D. Cox and husband Sam, of Oliver Springs and by grandchildren; Jason and Jenna Diggs and Hannah and Victoria Cox.

He is also survived by a sister, Mary Malone of KY, by brothers; Mr. and Mrs. Roland Haun of KY and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Roseberry of GA, and by several extended family members and special friends.

Graveside services, will full military honors, was held Saturday, December 7, 2013, at 2:00 pm, at Anderson Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorial contributions be made to either the Oliver Springs Historical Society or the St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Oak Ridge. Sharp Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.



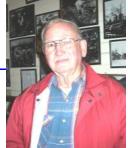
## Russell Griffith

Russell Griffith, age 92, a resident of Coalfield, passed away Saturday, November 16, 2013, at the Life Care Center in Morgan County.

Mr. Griffith was born August 29, 1921 in Coalfield. He continued to live in Coalfield until his third year of high school when the family moved to Knoxville. He graduated from the Knox Central high School in Fountain City in 1940.

Following his high school graduation he was employed at Fulton Manufacturing from 1941 to 1943 when he entered into the United States Navy.

He served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. While serving he received several medals, ribbons citations and awards including the WWII Victory Medal. After his military discharge he returned back to Knoxville and continued his education at the University of Tennessee. In 1949, he began his career with G.M.A.C. and he worked in the Southeast region in Nashville, Knoxville, Atlanta, Lexington and Louisville.



After his first retirement with General Motors he again moved back to Knoxville and started a second career in the real estate business as a real estate broker. He continued in the real estate business until his final retirement.

Mr. Griffith was a local historian and genealogist. He possessed a great knowledge of many of the Oliver Springs and Coalfield families including the Richards and Hannah families. He was a member of the Oliver Springs Historical Society and he managed the Oliver Springs Cemetery where many of the Oliver Springs founding families are buried.

In the mid-80's he made his final move back to his beloved Coalfield. He was well connected with the Coalfield community and he supported all Coalfield civic events including the Coalfield Schools and Coalfield Sporting events. He enjoyed telling a good story, spending time with his friends and the Volunteer's at the University of Tennessee. He was a member of the Coalfield Senior Citizens.

Although he never held a public office he was very involved with politics and he was an active member of the Morgan County Democrat party. He enjoyed a good political debate and often found himself defending his political position at the local Coalfield restaurants and gathering places.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Eugene Griffith, Sr. and Jennie Russell Griffith and by a brother, William Eugene Griffith, Jr.

Mr. Griffith is survived by a sister-in-law, Ester Griffith of Hardin Valley, by several nieces, nephews, extended family members and a host of special friends.

At his request graveside services were held Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at 11:00 am, at the Oliver Springs Cemetery. Sharp Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

# James G. Kelly

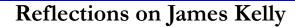
**James G. Kelly** went to be with the Lord at his home in Oliver Springs, TN, Monday, October 28, 2013. He was born to Dan C. and Anna B. Kelly, on September 14, 1923. He proudly served his country, as a Marine in WW II. He was wounded on the island of Iowa Jima following 19 days in battle. He was employed at Union Carbide for 10 years and he was a Roane Country bus driver, for 37 years. He operated his own business, Kelly's store in Oliver Springs, for 25 years. He was a fifty year member of Omega Masonic Lodge #536 F & AM, a Scottish Rite member, a deacon of First Baptist Church and a member of the Oliver Springs Historical Society.

Mr. Kelly is preceded in death by a sister, Elizabeth Gaylor and husband, Vaughn; by brothers: Dan Kelly Jr. and wife, Willene and Joe Kelly and wife, Barbara.

James is survived by the love of his life and wife of 64 years, Carolyn Abston; by a daughter, Diane Carr and husband, Phil; by a son, James D. and wife, Pat; by his grandsons of which he was so proud, Matt Carr and wife, Shannon, Andrew Carr and wife, Meghan; by a granddaughter, Julie Chambers and husband, David, and by a step- grandson Tony Bull and wife, Lynn.

He is also survived by sister-in-laws; Tommie A. Jackson and Barbara Jane Walker; by step great- granddaughters; Arielle and Ashelynne Bull; by his precious great-grandchildren: Libby, Tyler, and Sullivan Carr, and Bailey Chambers, and by a step great- grandson, David Chambers. He is also survived by several loving nieces, nephews, extended family members, special friends and by Shelley Hall and Burlin McKinney who the Kelly family considers as their children.

The family received friends Wednesday, October 30, 2013, between the hours of 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm at Sharp Funeral Home. The funeral followed at 7:00 pm in the funeral home chapel with Pastor Garvan Walls officiating. Burial and graveside services were held Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 11:00 am, at Anderson Memorial Gardens. Sharp Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



#### By Robbie Underwood

I got a call late on an October evening, the caller telling me that Mr. James Kelly had passed. Immediately thoughts and emotions came cascading through my heart and soul as a flood. What to say about such a giant of a man? Where on earth to start?

I remember him as he was when I first remember meeting him, working behind the meat counter at Kelly's Store. I would walk with Janice to the store where Janice's mom Oredith had sent us to buy some bologna or some such. My memory of him was that he was always smiling, always friendly. He would take the order and slice it as we watched, then wrap it in butcher paper and hand it to us. Anyone who remembers Kelly's Store remembers that they had just the best selection of penny candy to be found anywhere, and one could actually take a penny and come away with some candy (try **that** these days).

James Kelly may have been one of the most well-loved men ever in Oliver Springs. For many of us, he was our bus driver, having driven for not only us, but our children and in some cases our grandchildren. How

many times have I heard "James Kelly.. He was my bus driver.. I just love James Kelly!" or something similar. Everyone loved him. He was kind to all the children, constantly and consistently garrulous and goodnatured.

In all the years I have been in the Oliver Springs Historical Society I have known Mr. James on even a more personal level. I loved picking his brain on a wide variety of topics ranging from his experience as a young boy living on the Kelly Farm to his remembrances of the Richards Sisters Murders. He had a depth of insight into almost any topic, and I always came away richer for having talked to him.

I am not sure how many of you know that Mr. James was a valiant warrior and defender of our country. Wounded during the Battle for Iwo Jima in WWII, he carried shards of Japanese shrapnel in his body the rest of his life. How easy it might be to forget that fact... he didn't walk or talk like a hero, or like someone who thought a great debt was owed them for such a torturous sacrifice. He was just himself, devoted to his town and his wife Carolyn and family. I called him James as a child; however, as a man I never did, referring to instead as "Mr. James". Such was the profound respect with which I esteemed him. Such a gentle giant of a man he was! Now we sadly pass his legend and his life forward to our children, in the hope that such a great man should be discussed and honored as long as there is an Oliver Springs.....





HAVING GRAND OPENING: (1-r) Ted Walls and Joe Kelly, owners and managers of the new store, K & W Food Fair in Oliver Springs, are having their Grand Opening Friday and Saturday.. The store is a Cas Walker Associate and his entertainers will be at the store Friday and Saturday from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Danny Walls This is cool! I sure remember Dad's store. He let me "work" there some even though I was only about 10. I had to take my paychecks next door to Union Peoples Bank and buy savings bonds with it. I later used those bonds to help buy my wife Carol's engagement & wedding rings. She still wears those rings today, 35+ years later.



Robert S. Roberts home in Sugar Grove Valley. Robert S. Roberts is sitting.

(Thanks to Julya Johnson for this wonderful picture, as well as Wes Lee who maintains the Oliver Springs history site on Facebook.)

Fold on Line for Mailing

Oliver Springs Historical Society P.O. Box 409

Oliver Springs, TN 37840

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