



“ L E G A C Y ” N E W S L E T T E R

C H A I R M A N ’ S N O T E S (E D D I E C O K E R)

At our July meeting, the Harvey family donated the house beside the depot to the historical society. As all of you know, Mr. Harvey always gave of his time and money for many good causes in our community, and his family is following in his footsteps. I want to say a big " thank you" to the family for their generous gift.

Richard Davis spoke at our August meeting. Richard is a life -long resident of Oliver Springs, and has accomplished a great deal of things in his life, especially in the education field. He is also well versed in the history of Oliver Springs and its people. Richard is a great asset to our town and I'm looking forward to hearing him speak again. Come spring, be sure to drive by his house and see his beautiful tulips.

Thanks to Jerry White the gospel singing was a great success. He did a wonderful job, and I really appreciate all of you that work so hard getting everything ready, and also helping at the singing....thanks!

Everyone has really been busy this summer, working at the car shows, working on a walking tour brochure, this year's October Sky Festival, gospel singing, and the garage project. We only lack a few things to finish phase one of our building, and hope to be in it by October. It's going to be a beautiful building of which we can be proud. Thanks to all of you who have donated your time and energy to these projects.

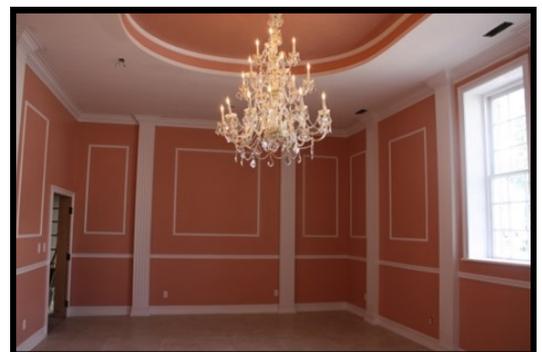
We had seven members attend the East TN Historical Fair in Knoxville. We had some of our items for sale and pictures and information about Oliver Springs. Everyone was impressed with the beautiful pictures of our interior of the building. Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

M U S E U M U P D A T E (E D D I E C O K E R)

Many people are stopping by just to look at the progress. The Conference Room is nearing completion. The crystal chandelier and the leaded glass window are installed. The leaded glass window installation was a major event with many people attending. Attached are some progress pictures. Thanks to those who volunteer their time.



Before



After

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Stained Glass window recently installed



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**S . J . (S T O N E Y) V A N H O O K , M . D
A N D S P O R T S (B Y J O E V A N H O O K)**

Many people have first hand knowledge about my father's ability as a doctor, but few are aware of his athletic career in high school and in college. Daddy was born in a log cabin on February 14, 1919, the second child and only son of S.J. Van Hook, Sr. and his wife Abbie Beard Van Hook. Daddy became the "man of the house" and at a very early age he learned how to fix and make things and was a pretty good handyman. He hunted, fished and worked on the family farm of about 150 acres.

Daddy loved sports and often talked with me of the athletic days of his youth and I was fortunate enough to have a treasure trove of newspaper accounts in the press clippings of the various football and basketball games in which he played. The Whitehaven High School newspaper, The Broadcaster, reported that as a senior he started as an offensive end on the football team that went 9-0 in the regular season, that was remarkably untied and un-scored upon and won the Shelby County Championship.

Unfortunately, in my treasure trove of press clippings, there were not any good records on his high school basketball team. Daddy's team did win the district but lost in the first round of the regional tournament. Daddy stood 6' and 180 lbs. which at that time made him one of the biggest boys on the team. He was valuable for his defense and rebounding.

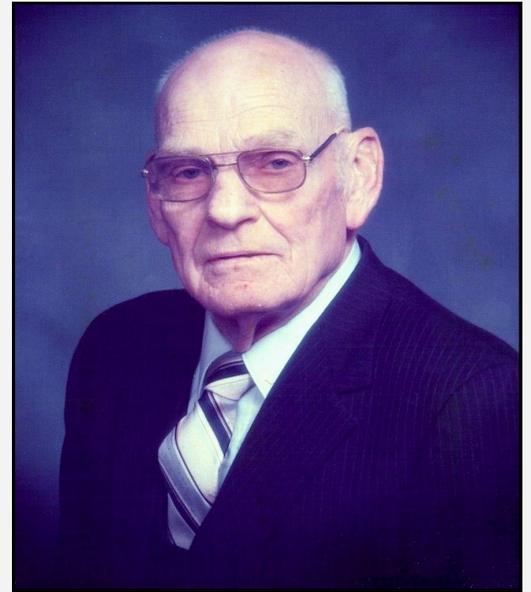
The December 13, 1936 Memphis Commercial Appeal reports that Daddy made the all West Tennessee Honorable Mention Football Team as an Offensive End. Snyder Roberts, in The Story of Oliver Springs Volume III, reports that Daddy was first team all West Tennessee and Honorable Mention All State Offensive End. Either way, it was a remarkable achievement for a young man who only played football as a junior and senior in high school.

Whitehaven High School also had a track team that The Memphis Commercial Appeal reported that Daddy won the Regional Track meet in the high jump, clearing 5' 8 1/2" which put him in the 1937 State Track Meet in East Tennessee where he won the State high jump, clearing the bar at 5' 10 1/2" with two or three inches to spare. He also showed good speed in the 100 yard dash at 11.2 seconds and was a member of the four man long distance relay team.

After high school graduation in May 1937, Daddy received offers in writing from the University of Kentucky, University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Southwestern at Memphis and West Tennessee State Teachers College (now the University of Memphis) to try out for football. He chose West Tennessee State Teachers College where he received a full football scholarship. As a freshman and sophomore he studied chemistry education, with career plans to teach chemistry and coach football in the Memphis area. As a member of the 1938 football team, the University posted a 10-0 record. The team scored 281 points and only allowed 41. Daddy also played as a freshman on the University's basketball team.

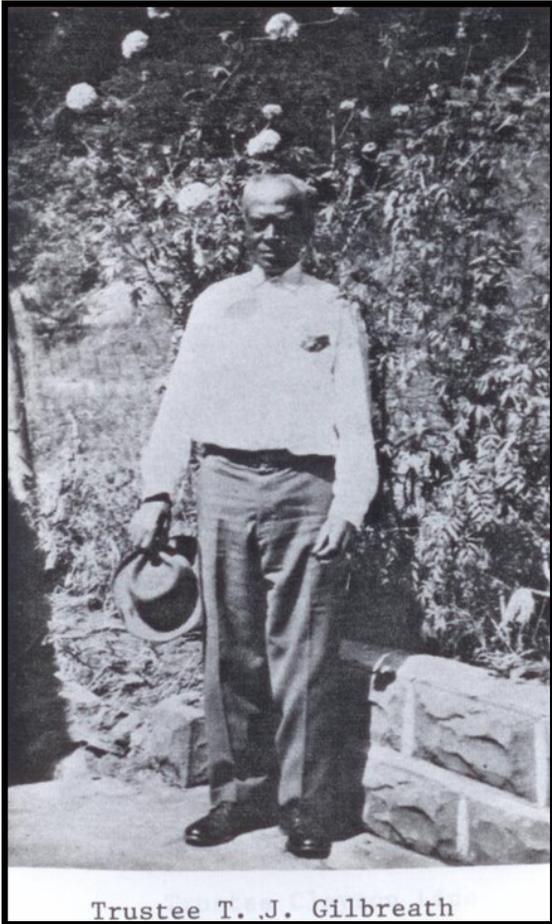
As a third quarter sophomore, during Spring practice, Daddy was playing defensive back and while going for an interception, broke his collarbone. As a result of this injury, and being in the Depression, he lost his football scholarship. He then rode the street car to the University of Tennessee at Memphis Medical Unit, took the entrance exam, and was admitted. Even though he could have won his scholarship back in the Fall and finished his chemistry education degree, his college football career, and teach and coach football. Daddy said, "when I broke my collarbone, I lost my fire to knock people down." He then decided that he didn't want to spend the rest of his life in the summer behind a mule plowing a field and teaching chemistry and coaching high school football. With his personality and his love of science and people, he made a wise choice to study medicine.

One of Daddy's assistant football coaches was C.C Humphrey, who later became President of Memphis State University and Chairman of the State Board of Regents. When I was at Tennessee Tech University as a Senior I had multiple occasions to meet with and visit with Dr. Humphrey. He remembered Daddy and at my graduation ceremony in June 1974, my father and Dr. Humphrey had a player-coach reunion after some thirty years.



Nov 1986 photo of
Stonewall Jackson Van Hook Jr. (Stoney)

MY FRIEND TOM (CAROLYN KELLY)



Trustee T. J. Gilbreath

When Thomas J. Gilbreath passed away in 1979 at the age of ninety nine he was one of the town's oldest and best known citizens. Tom's father was murdered when they lived in the community of Elverton and his mother at the time was expecting a baby which was Tom. She later remarried and moved to Ohio. I don't know how it happened but Tom Jr. stayed behind and moved to the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. J. Williams. Tom being a small boy helped Mrs. Williams in the house and he told me he stood on a box and washed dishes for her. When he was about twelve he began helping Mr. Williams in the livery stable, driving the horse and buggy to deliver merchandise.

When Mr. Williams died, Tom moved to the home of my parents, Luther and Lorena Abston. This was the heydays of the Model T's and Model A's so Tom worked at the garage with my dad. He had a room at the garage with his bed and a few personal items. He ate at our house unless he was visiting his friends on Strutt Street. Many times he would have our shoes polished and when mother got us ready he took our hands and walked us to Sunday school at the First Baptist Church. Sometimes on Sundays we would go to the depot and ride the train to Clinton, get off and walk to get ice cream and then ride the train back home again. Mother and Daddy always took us to Knoxville to watch the Christmas parade and Tom went also. He was our babysitter when Mother and Daddy went to Knoxville for a dinner and a movie. He would sometimes take us to feed and milk the cow on pasture at Ladd's hill above the Grammer school which was rented out to people in town. (I never did learn to milk a cow!)

Tom would take us many times to May Day at Little Leaf Baptist Church and today the church still holds a special place in my heart. When Daddy sold the garage to settle the estate, Tom went to work for TVA and then Oak Ridge Hospital until he retired. Tom learned from my father how to drive the wrecker when they went out and do things that needed to be done. I can still see him at the outside corner of the garage by the running water with an inner tube in the tub looking for a punctured hole.

I remember the Richards murder and the bad feelings in town. Daddy sent Tom to the house to do the outside chores and to stay there. It occurred to me much later that daddy didn't only send him to do the chores but to stay there where he would be safe. Tom moved into his own little house on Wilson Road and one night we received a call that his house was burning. There was nothing that could be saved so Tom moved back to our Abston home until another home could be built for him. In 1978 Tom became ill and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Lide took him into their home to care for him. I'll always remember them for the excellent care they gave him. The history of the Abston's Garage will continue on through history but it will also bring back memories of a black man named Tom Gilbreath – my friend!

Many people remember Uncle Tom for his strange ability to heal certain illnesses. Personal witnesses still living today can tell the story of how he could remove warts from people and cure the thrash found in the mouth of newborn babies. It wasn't an uncommon practice to seek help from Uncle Tom instead of a physician. The "old timer's" story (The Foxfire Book) tells that only the seventh son of the seventh son who has never seen his father is able to possess these healing powers. The real answer we may never know but we could just choose to accept his healing as a gift from God. Uncle Tom left us with good memories of his kindness and generosity. Additional history on his life can be found at the depot museum.

**S U M M E R R E A D I N G P R O G R A M
(J O Y C E H E P L E R - F O X)**



This is the science theme of the summer reading program at the Oliver Springs Public Library for the year 2014. The program, under the auspices of the Ocoee Regional Library, began many years ago with the late Sue St. John, librarian, and has continued with each subsequent librarian. This

year it has become the project of the Library Committee. This hard working committee is composed of Kathy Russell Byrge, chairman, Ronnie and Tammy Fairchild and Historical Society members, Mimi Brock, Carol Gilliam, Roger Middleton and Terry Craze who is also a city councilman. Working together as a solid unit they were responsible for creating an outstanding float in the Christmas parade which won 2nd place. They planned and held a kick-off party on the lawn at the library on Sunday, May 18th. While attendance was not what they had hoped, they were not discouraged about attendance for the sessions each Wednesday through July 9th. Ages 4 - 6 will meet 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and ages 7 - 10 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Sessions included studies on: weather, our senses, rocketry, music and a nature walk. This was a free activity for the children.



2 0 1 4 C . S . H A R V E Y M E M O R I A L G O S P E L S I N G I N G

The Oliver Springs Historical Society held its annual C. S. (Sonny) Harvey Memorial Gospel Singing on August 9th at 6:00 p.m. The Beech Park Baptist Church graciously extended the use of their building on Butler Mill Road next to the Windmill Inn. One of the many memories we have of Mr. & Mrs. Harvey was their love for gospel singing. Mr. Harvey was involved many years at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, singing and directing the choir with wonderful songs of praise to God. We are glad to be a part in helping to carry on his love for gospel singing. Returning again this year from Hendersonville, TN was the "Called-Out Quartet" and wonderful groups such as "The Crimson River Trio", "The Walker Brothers", "Liberty Baptist Youth Choir", "Robby Leach from Beech Park Baptist", "Garvin Walls from Mt. Pisgah Baptist", "Dudley Evans and Victorious", "Christy Irwin" and many others inspired our afternoon with good singing and fellowship. This year's event was coordinated by Jerry White and his wife Phyllis. Thank you for coming and supporting our community event.



CRIMSON RIVER



LIBERTY BAPTIST YOUTH CHOIR



CALLED OUT QUARTET

THE PUMPKIN PATCH

Our children are generously helping out in our community. Several young people met early one morning in the spring with garden tools and planted pumpkin seeds for our fall festival. Their pumpkins are thriving and will be ready for decorating for the fall festival in October. We appreciate all the hard work.



CARMICHAEL PARK (JULIA DANIEL - PRESIDENT)

On behalf of the Mayme Carmichael School Organization, Inc. (MCSO) we would like to thank the Oliver Springs Historical Society (OSHS) for their support for the “Best Barbecue Ribs on Strutt Street Cook-Off,” on July 26, 2014. The contestants who won were Harry Miller and Barry Narramore from Kingston, TN., their sponsor was Elect Sarah Stewart, R.C. Circuit Court Clerk.

Also thank you to OSHS and the town of Oliver Springs for their support for the MCSO 1st Annual Banquet, on August 16, 2014. The guest speaker was Inky Johnson, former University of Tennessee football player, and musical performer Janelle Arthur, 2013 American Idol Contestant. The banquet was well attended with over 350 guests. Plans are underway for 2015 schedules of events. For additional information, please visit the website at: www.mcsoinc.org.



MISS ALMA FLETCHER AND INKY JOHNSON.



BARBECUE EVENT



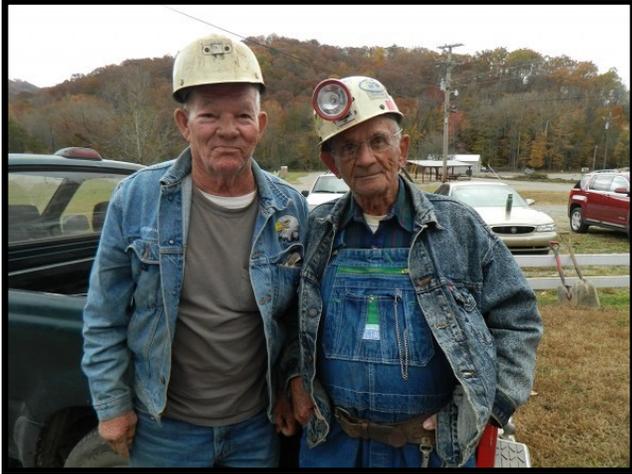
BUSTER AND VFL JERMAINE COPELAND



BARBECUE EVENT

VOLUNTEERS DEDICATE MEMORIAL TO WINDROCK COAL MINERS (BY JOHN HUOTARI)

May 18, 2014, WINDROCK MOUNTAIN—Today, it's home to giant wind turbines that tower high above the Tennessee Valley and off-road vehicles that race up and down its gravel roads and steep slopes. But 50 years ago or more, this mountain a few miles north of Oliver Springs was home to as many as 700 coal miners and their families. The mines have been closed for decades, but the memories have lived on, mostly in fond recollections and old black-and-white photos.



Pictured left are Carl Lively, right, who started working in a mine in Windrock Mountain north of Oliver Springs in 1939, when he was 16, and Manuel Tinker, who was born on top of the mountain and later worked in the mines.

Now volunteers are taking action to help preserve the history of the miners and their families. As part of that effort, they unveiled a Windrock Coal Miners Memorial wall on Saturday. It includes the names of more than 1,000 miners who once worked on the mountain.

The red brick-and-granite wall has been under construction for about six months, and several hundred people turned out for Saturday's dedication ceremony at Lower Windrock at the end of Windrock Road, about three miles from downtown Oliver Springs. Some wept softly as they gently caressed the names of their loved ones on the memorial wall. Others proudly posed for pictures. It was an important day for many.

“It’s one of the greatest things that’s ever happened to me, to see this,” said Carl Lively, 91, who started working in the mines on Windrock Mountain in 1939 at the age of 16. “We’re happy as we can be today.”

The red brick-and-granite Windrock Coal Miners Memorial wall is 31 feet long and includes the names of more than 1,000 miners.

The ceremony included music, a reception at the nearby Union Valley Missionary Baptist Church, short dedication speeches, recognition of the 15 former coal miners who were present, and a candle-lighting ceremony in honor of those who were killed in the mines or have died since. The volunteers, who include former coal miners and their families, broke ground on the wall in November. A Coal Miners Committee of four people—Kathy Russell Byrge, Trish Lively Cox, Fred Duncan, and Wayne Morgan—led the effort. “If there are windows (in Heaven), I hope my daddy can see it,” Byrge said. Her father Dexter Russell worked on Windrock Mountain for 27 years.

With the help of volunteer construction work, the wall, part of a longer six-year planning effort, was built for about \$7,000, Byrge said. The small site at the base of the 2,000-foot-high mountain was donated by the Union Valley Baptist Church, where Morgan is pastor. Families once lived on top of the mountain as well as at its base. Both camps had schools, stores, and churches. There was a two-room school on top of Windrock, with an estimated 40 to 50 students.

There was even once a grand piano on top of the mountain, said Rena Pride Benoit, who gave a short speech on the history of the mountain during Saturday's dedication ceremony. In November, Carl Lively said there were 105 homes on top of the mountain and 65 at the base. Benoit said the mine, which operated from 1904 to 1960, was the longest continuously running coal mine in Tennessee. She said there is still a lot of coal in the mountain.

“It’s impossible to tell the history of Oliver Springs without telling the history of those men,” Mayor Chris Helpler said Saturday. For workers, the hills were once alive with the thuds and scrapes of shovels and shuttle cars, and the clanks and whirs of coal-mining machinery. Families remember the playful cracks of baseballs bats and joyful cheers of youthful kickball games.

“All of these things were a part of this small mining community,” Benoit said. “All of us here want to keep Windrock alive for future generations.”



OCTOBER SKY FESTIVAL (LORRAINE BOLING)

The Historical Society Festival Committee is busy planning for the 7th Annual October Sky Festival. With the continued successes of including something new each year, we have decided to add still another event. A Book Signing will feature local writers offering their latest books and a chance to meet the authors. Writers will include local and regional stories, fiction and non-fiction, also children's books. This is a growing group at this point in time, if you would like to showcase your work contact: Lorraine Boling 435-0385 to reserve a space.

New also will be a self-guided walking/driving tour of historical sites, and is complete with brochure and map. Nathan Stonecipher will be doing the 'Narrated Tour' of the Movie and Town sites.

The Miss October Sky Pageant has been postponed due to a conflict with the Youth Clubs scheduled ball games.

Rocket Launches by the S.M.A.R.T. rocketry team will take place at 10:30 and 1:30. Live music and entertainment schedule: 9:30 The Walker Boys, 11:00 Three Rivers Ramblers and Denim and Diamonds Square Dancers, 12:00 Greg Johnson's "Tribute to Elvis" also entertainer Jannette Bradley, 1:00 Bunch of Bluegrass, 2:10 Dare 2 Dance Cloggers, 3:00 Dudley Evans and Victorious.

The Arts Council of Roane County with the Writers Group of Harriman will showcase a variety of talented artist and authors.

A Kid's Zone featuring the Museum of Science and Energy interactive rocket building, 4H projects, UT Extension's Master Gardeners, and face painting plus more is sure to be a big hit with the youngsters.

The festival is free to the public and is scheduled for Saturday October 18 at 9am until 4pm at Arrowhead Park on Kingston Ave, Oliver Springs. The Rocket Boys Rodtoberfest Car Show will be back for its 2nd year on Main Street.

Volunteers are needed to help with setting up the park, traffic, and with the historical society booth. Shifts will only be 2 hours, please call if you can help. Lorraine 435-0385 or Julia 789-0846 Follow our progress at: www.octoberskyfestivaltn.org

MEMBERSHIP (MARTHA WALLS)

Nancy & Lonnie Byrge

Karen Raby Fortenbery

Brenda Vaughn Carroll

Diane & Phil Carr

Jimmy & Pat Kelly

Jerry & Cindy Conrad

Dean Wood

We welcome our new members this year and look forward to sharing our history, stories and goals with them.

Attached is a membership form, please encourage your friends to join us! I would like to extend a great big "Thank You" to those who are current in their membership dues. Also thanks for all the hard work that everyone does all year long. It is wonderful to have such a dedicated membership working for our wonderful organization.

Membership Application _____ Email _____
Oliver Springs Historical Society _____ Phone _____

Select Membership Category _____ Individual (\$25) _____ Business (\$100) _____ Gift (\$25)

This gift membership is for:
Name(s) for membership card(s) _____

Address _____

Make check payable to: Oliver Springs Historical Society
Mail to: P.O. Box 409
Oliver Springs, Tennessee 37840

ON THE WEB
WWW.OSHHISTORICAL.COM



**“LEGACY”
NEWSLETTER**

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Phone: 865.435.0384
E-mail: p.crowe435@comcast.net

Dedicated to Historical Preservation

The Oliver Springs Historical Society is a nonprofit 501c3 organization and our members are devoted to the preservation of historical buildings and natural features of historical value and interest, as well as the preservation of pictures, newspaper articles, written and verbal facts and anecdotal accounts of the proud history of Oliver Springs, TN. We have a large collection of historical information and artifacts and regularly host events to educate and entertain the public about the history of the area.

The Oliver Springs Historical Society's charter was adopted on July 4, 1983 and currently has a membership of approximately 200 members throughout our region and other parts of the United States. The regular meetings are held the first Monday of each month with an average attendance of 35-40 members. We have an appointed board of twelve members which meet quarterly.

To keep our members and community informed, we publish a quarterly newsletter called the "Legacy". We invite you to help preserve the history of our town by becoming a member of the Oliver Springs Historical Society as your support is vital to our long term goals

VISITORS (CAROLYN KELLY)

Paul Hart, son of Joe & Maggie Hart came by the depot in June. I didn't see him but he did speak to one of our historical members. He called me later from Georgia where he has lived for years. He has his own business and has done well. Paul said he had some items he wanted to donate to the museum and was proud of what had been done.

MUSEUM ADDITIONS

We were recently donated a table and six chairs by Rhea Stockberger for our museum. The antique furniture was passed down to Geraldine Hannah Blanton by her grandmother who bought the items from the Oliver Springs Hotel before it burned in 1905. Please go by our museum and see the wonderful display arranged by Joyce Hepler-Fox, Mimi Brock, Jerry White and Pat Crowe.

