



## “Stories of My Life” by Shelby Roy Hopkins

### The Rural Carrier Substitute

While working at the Post Office, seemingly the difficult aspect of the job was finding reliable substitute rural route carriers. Carrying the mail on a full-time basis allowed the “regular” carrier untold opportunities to learn the various names of his/her customers along their route, in addition to their mailing habits, mailbox locations, biting dogs, and a myriad of other nuances related to the Postal Service standards the substitute would never be privy to.

When someone comes into the post office desiring a job opportunity, the substitute rural carrier position is always offered. Interested, and somewhat enthused about the prospect of getting a job with the United States government, the applicant begins to ask questions about the position. As more and more facts are divulged from the always hesitant postmaster, the feeling of elation begins a downward descent, and oftentimes careens into a deep and foreboding abyss, never to be resurrected again.

It usually goes something like this. “Hi, I’m Sally, and I’m here to ask about the vacant position as a rural carrier substitute!” The postmaster, grinning from ear to ear, then says, “That’s just great! I’m John, and I’ll be happy to tell you all about it.” “Let me tell you a few things as we get started.” After describing a few of the attributes of the job, the postmaster then asks the applicant if they have any questions. An incomplete list is shown below, with the appropriate response shown in parenthesis.

“Will I be provided a vehicle in which to carry the mail?” (No, you have to provide your own vehicle)

“Are there any benefits to the job?” (No, there aren’t)

“What about health insurance?” (No)

“Life insurance?” (No)

“Retirement?” (No)

“What days do I have to work?” (You have to work anytime the regular carrier doesn’t want to)

“What day of the week does the carrier take off?” (Any day they want to)

“Anytime?” (Yes)

“How long will I have to do this

before I can become a regular carrier?” (Probably about 10 years or so)

“How many miles will I have to drive a day?” (Usually about 90 to 100 miles)

“What if my car breaks down?” (You have to call a tow truck and have it towed, and then repaired at your own expense)

“What if it’s snowy and the roads are iced over?” (On those days, there is not a chance in the world the regular carrier is going out in that type of weather. You’ll be guaranteed to work every day until the roads are clear again)

“What if my child is sick and I can’t come in?” (You’ll just have to hire someone to come and stay with the little tyke because you can’t miss work when the regular carrier wants to be off)

“What if I am sick?” (You’ll have to call the regular carrier and beg them to come in on their day off. It helps if you promise them some extraordinary perks for their great sacrifice, things such as a donated heart, lung, or kidney should they need one at some point)

“What if someone in my family dies?” (You’ll have our deepest sympathy, and we’ll try our best to let you off just a bit early so you can attend the funeral of your loved one)

“What if my house burns down overnight?” (My advice to you would be to get your car out of the garage and far away from the fire. You’ll need it to carry the mail the next morning)

“What if I get bitten by a dog while I’m delivering a package?” (You’ll need to take care of any open wounds. You sure don’t want them to get infected. It’s a good idea to always carry some clean gauze with you) (Then, apologize to the dog’s owner, assuring them the only reason the dog bit you was because of your failure to acknowledge the ‘non-biting’ dog’s playfulness)

“What if I happen to have an accident that was caused by a negligent driver?” (You’ll be fired on the spot, no questions asked)

Stunned, the would-be applicant

entities.

During the previous meeting, some local landowners and leaseholders voiced support for the amendment, citing longstanding agreements and assurances given by former and current county officials that the project would be accommodated. Advocates emphasized the financial opportunities the project represents for the rural community, where large-scale economic development has historically fallen short of expectations.

Conversely, Judge Elleman and other opponents argue that the process to amend the ordinance has lacked appropriate public notice and legal vetting. Elleman has accused some court members of pre-coordinating the vote outside official channels, a claim that raises concerns about compliance with Kentucky’s open meetings laws. He has

# OBITUARIES

## OBITUARY NOTICES

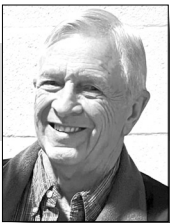
• **Milo Corri Miniard, newborn**, passed away Monday, June 16, 2025. Ramsey-Young Funeral Home, Lancaster, Kentucky.

• **Paul Allen Dunn, 62**, passed away Thursday, June 19, 2025. Ramsey-Young Funeral Home, Lancaster, Kentucky.

• **Alene East, 81**, passed away Saturday, June 21, 2025. Ramsey-Young Funeral Home, Lancaster, Kentucky.

• **Stephen Huffman, 81**, passed away Saturday, June 21, 2025. Spurlin Funeral Home, Lancaster, Kentucky.

## Eddie Howard King



Eddie Howard King, 86, husband of Rebecca “Becky” King, Nicholasville, passed away Monday, June 23, 2025, at Baptist Health Lexington.

He was born in Paint Lick, Kentucky, on March 6, 1939, to the late Eddie Hobert King and Mary Kirby King.

Eddie was retired from IBM and was an active member at Bethel Christian Church. He was an avid basketball fan and loved to work in his yard.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Becky; daughters, Jamie (Ricky) Pinkston and Sue Chapman (Tony Harvey); son, Joey (Angie) Davis; brother-in-law, Bobby Foster; grandchildren, Jana, Nikki (Travis), Todd, Courtney (Tommy), Bethany (Tony), Brittany, and Meagan; great grandchildren, Landon, Izzy, Brady, Kady, Addy, Cason, Christian, Evee, Hailey, and Britton; nephews, Wayne and Jerry Goins; and special family friend, Karen Height.

In addition to his parents, Eddie and Mary, he is preceded in death by a daughter, Lisa Davis; sister, Belle Goins; and his mother- and father-in-law, Ty and Peggy Foster.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, June 27, at Maple Grove Cemetery, with Bro. Bill Bales officiating.

Following the service, there will be a bereavement dinner held at Bethel Christian Church.

Betts & West is honored to serve Eddie and his family in their time of need. An online guestbook is available at [www.BettsAndWestFuneralHome.com](http://www.BettsAndWestFuneralHome.com)

stands transfixed at what he/she has just heard. As they try to process the words, there are just still so many questions. Then, the postmaster grins and shoves out his/her hand as they exclaim, “It’s great to have you with us. We’ll give you a call the very next time one of our carriers doesn’t feel like working.”

## Trail Pleasure Saddle Club Horse Show

The Trail Pleasure Saddle Club Horse Show that was originally scheduled for last weekend is now scheduled for this Saturday the 28th. Hopefully the weather allows us to go ahead and have the show. We hope to see everyone this Saturday at 5 p.m. Showgrounds are on Hwy 27 across from Logan Hubble Park.

## Billy Banks



Billy Banks, 78, of Harrodsburg, KY passed away on June 22, 2025 at his home.

Billy was born in Knott Co., KY to Delmas and Alma Banks on August 22, 1946.

He graduated from Carr Creek High School, attended Eastern Kentucky University and then joined the U.S. Army in 1968. After his term of service, Billy was employed by Square D in Lexington, Kentucky. After 40 years of employment at Square D, Billy retired in 2008.

For many years, Billy was a proud member of the 101 UK Booster Club, volunteering at sporting events at Rupp Arena for the University of Kentucky. Through the years, he was witness to some of UK’s most exciting basketball games, coaches and players.

Billy, along with his life partner, Linda, loved to fish, garden, and “fix” things. His aptitude for patiently repairing most anything was amazing. His big smile, calm demeanor and generosity in helping others will be missed by family, friends and those who knew him.

Previously deceased family members include parents, Delmas and Alma Banks; sisters, Monie Banks, Janet Banks, Wilma Banks and brother Denny Banks,

Survivors are his daughter, Julie Banks, (Jeremy Tully); life partner, Linda Dykes; brother, Jerry (JoAnne) Banks; and sister, Kathy (Chris) Draughn; along with many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be 12 noon on Friday, June 27, 2025 at Spurlin Funeral Home Chapel.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until service time on Friday.

Burial will military honors will follow at Camp Nelson National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m.

Pallbearers will be Shannon Hoskins, Gabe Hoskins, Dale McClure, Chuck Nolan, Scotty Nolan, Kenny Cary, and Jeremy Tully.

Spurlin Funeral Home of Lancaster is entrusted with the arrangements. [www.spurlinfuneralhomelancaster.com](http://www.spurlinfuneralhomelancaster.com)

## Ephraim McDowell Health Sponsoring Free Health Screening On July 18th

Ephraim McDowell Health invites the community to its upcoming Health & Wellness Fair, offering free health screenings, educational resources, and more. The event will take place at McDowell Wellness Center in Danville on July 18 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This community-focused event will feature multiple service lines from Ephraim McDowell Health, each offering valuable information, health-related giveaways, and practical resources designed to support healthier lifestyles.

Health screenings that will be offered include cholesterol, blood pressure, body composition, mental health, and take-home colorectal cancer screening kits (over age 45). After the screenings are complete, participants will have the opportunity to discuss their results with a licensed health professional. The screenings are open to the public for anyone 18 years of age and older.

“These screenings are a simple but effective way for individuals to better understand their health and take proactive steps toward wellness,” said Dee Minor, Director of McDowell Wellness Center and Community Service. “We’re excited to offer this opportunity to the community at no cost.”

For more information, please contact Ephraim McDowell Health’s Community Service Department at (859) 239-3562.

## Ordinance From Front

lows a contentious vote earlier this month, when the Fiscal Court approved an initial motion to repeal and replace the county’s existing solar development regulations. The vote, which passed 4–2, has generated questions from local officials and residents about transparency and due process. Judge Executive Chris Elleman, who cast one of the dissenting votes—a rare move for a judge executive—criticized the surprise introduction and swift approval of the new ordinance, which had not been listed on the meeting’s official agenda nor reviewed by the county attorney prior to the session.

At the heart of the controversy is a proposed \$300 million utility-scale solar project by Clearway Energy Group. The company, which has leased approximately 2,500 acres in Garrard County since 2019, argues that the current ordinance, enacted in December 2023, effectively blocks viable development by prohibiting construction on prime farmland. Clearway representatives claim this restriction reduces buildable land by over 90 percent, undermining the economic feasibility of the project.

In response, Clearway submitted a revised ordinance drafted by its own attorneys, seeking an exemption to allow the project to proceed while retaining other regulatory safeguards, such as decommissioning bonds, increased setbacks, and vegetative screening. Company officials also pledged to create a \$1 million Community Benefit Fund alongside an estimated \$354,000 in annual tax-related contributions. However, questions remain over how much of that revenue would directly benefit county government operations versus other taxing

## Enjoy a Safe Summer

Inter-County Energy would like to remind you to always put safety first when enjoying summer fun in the pool. Keep these safety tips in mind:

- Do not put any electrical appliances within five feet of a swimming pool.
- Any electrical outlets within twenty feet of a pool should be equipped with a GCFI, or Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.
- Use battery operated, rather than electrical appliances near swimming pools.
- As always, never swim during a thunderstorm.

Remember to contact Inter-County Energy for information on line clearances when installing a new swimming pool. Visit our web site at [www.intercountyenergy.net](http://www.intercountyenergy.net) for more electrical safety tips.

859-236-4561

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### Letter To Editor Policy

Letters should be no more than 500 words (exceptions at the discretion of the editor). Letter must be written on subjects of general interest to our readers and should deal with current issues. They must not personally attack individuals. Fair and polite criticism of public officials and public figures are allowed. Deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon Tuesday, the week of publication. All letters must be addressed to the editor and not directed to a third person. All letters must be signed with telephone number and home address for verification. No telephone number or address will be published. The Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any letter deemed libelous or otherwise unfit for publication.

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