

Looking Back

25 Years Ago - March 20, 2001

Because of the manpower shortage in the Falmouth Police Department, the city was not scheduled to be patrolled by any officer on March 18 and 19.

Greatly alarmed by this turn of events, City Council met at 2 p.m. Sunday to deal with the problem.

Falmouth has three available officers, which includes Acting Chief Jimmie Hamilton himself, to cover the city 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

The problem, as the legislative body saw it, was the reluctance of the officers to work overtime. It was decided by the lawmakers that if an officer refused to work overtime, then that officer should be dismissed by Mayor Gene Flaughter.

Flaughter informed council that he and Hamilton had recently interviewed six applicants. Three of these individuals were deemed acceptable.

Those days of helmets crunching, long passes and spiking over the net will be coming to Pendleton County schools.

During a special meeting March 13, members of the School Board approved a measure to being a boys football program at the middle and high school.

This decision comes after more than two years of discussions between the Pendleton County Youth Football Boosters and officials from the school district.

50 Years Ago - March 19, 1976

Since Falmouth residents voted the city "wet," several businesses have filed for liquor and beer licenses.

Mayor Max H. Goldberg appointed Charles E. Ashcraft as the city liquor administrator, he Ashcraft will soon take the license requests under consideration.

Those applying so far include Robert A. LaFollette, 625 Earle Ave.; Riverview Liquors, 113 Serton St.; Pic-N-Pac Carry Out, U.S. 27 and Barkley St.; Wander Inn Carry Out, U.S. 27 and Pendleton St.; Bi-Rite Supermarket, Heritage House, U.S. 27; and Wells Open-Air Food Market, 109 Second St.

Those advertising liquor sales included Corner Liquor, 300 Main St.; and Blue Corner, 609-613 W. Shelby St.

It's white paint was sand-blasted and the Pendleton County Jail took on a "new" look.

Dill Young, remodelers did the sandblasting. The brick and mortar in the building, presumed built in 1884, will now be pointed up.

The update include a new roof and gutter. Interior remodeling is scheduled.

Jailer Joe Greene has moved back into the jail and received his first prisoner early Sunday. Other prisoners from Cynthiana and Alexandria will be brought in this week.

Tim Coleman, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Coleman of Monument Street, Falmouth, was crowned Northern Kentucky District spelling champion March 13 at Drawbridge Motor Inn in Fort Mitchell. His title is the Grand Champion Bicentennial Speller.

Twelve Northern Kentucky school systems competed for the honor and a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond. He will now represent 22 local education associations in the statewide NKEA Bicentennial Spelling Bee to be held April 14 in Louisville.

75 Years Ago - March 23, 1951

The House of Representatives of the Kentucky Legislature has voted a resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to take such action as may be required to proceed with and complete the proposed Falmouth Dam on the Licking River.

The measure passed by a 43-12 vote. It took the utility and costs interests in the Legislature by complete surprise and further, the resolution humiliated the opponents of the Falmouth Dam by asking that the barrier be built for both flood control and power development.

Increase in price support rates on dairy products in a move to bolster milk production has been announced.

The new rate, effective April 1, are being raised on a national average from \$3.07 to \$3.69 per 100 pounds, and butterfat from 60 cents to 67.6 cents a pound.

This will be good news to the many farmers in this area who depend upon dairying for an income.

In the "Among the Sick" column reported that Danny Woodhead of Falmouth is confined to his bed with mumps, Charlie Rush of Caddo was taken to Speers Hospital March 12 in the C.B. Peoples and Son ambulance; Mrs. Julia Abercrombie was returned from St. Elizabeth Hospital Saturday in the Thomas, Fossett and Yelton ambulance; Mrs. T.C. Moberley of Falmouth is resting as well as could be expected at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Covington; and Bobby Donahue, 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. D.B. Donahue of near Knoxville, is confined to the Booth Hospital suffering with rheumatic fever.

100 Years Ago - March 19, 1926

Three men, one of them from Pendleton County, are in the Harrison County Jail at Cynthiana, charged with the robbery of merchandise stores at Boyd and Berry.

The robberies occurred several weeks ago, but arrests were not made until last week.

The prisoners are William Mitchell of Newport, John Kerr of Covington and Nick Buskirk of Morgan.

They will be tried in May in Harrison County. Bond was set at \$2,000 each. All three men remain in jail.

Prominent Covington attorney Orie Ware, a native of Pendleton County, announced that he is entering the race as a Democrat to represent the Sixth District of Kentucky in Congress.

Ware was born on a farm near Peach Grove.

Users of electric current in the City of Falmouth will receive a discount of 5 percent on their light bills after April 1 as a result of action taken by the City Council at an adjourned meeting in the office of John A. Woodhead, city clerk, last Wednesday.

An audit of the receipts and disbursements of the municipal light and water plants for the year 1925 shows that the light plant has paid more than an \$8,000 profit.

LIFE IN THE COLE BIN

By Burton W. Cole

The Joke Lady - 82 and still giggling



This inscription was typed just below the return address label on the yellow 6-by-9 envelope: "My mind still thinks I'm 25. My body thinks my mind is an idiot."

Even without the label, I knew immediately what I'd found in my mailbox — another thick packet of giggles from a friend I've never met in person, Marcie Danyi, "The Joke Lady."

- Youth and talent are no match for age and treachery.
- When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.
- Laughter is an instant vacation.

She'd also typed on the envelope, "82 years old and still giggling."

Health issues have troubled Marcie for years. While she was homebound, she knew that the U.S. Postal Service was not. Armed with a stack of envelopes, sheets of stamps and 50 years of collecting jokes, she began what she calls her "joke ministry."

- Cats probably think we are cleaning our ice cream cones.
- We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

- Laughter is the shock absorber of life's blows.

After a hospital stay, Marcie's in a nursing home now.

"When do you get to go home?" I asked during a phone call.

"I don't," she said.

Instead of curling into a fetal position and giving up at such a devastating reality, Marcie made it her mission to keep her fellow residents and staff in stitches. She has plenty of material.

Take tax time for example. Here are some taxing jokes from her files:

- I tried to pay my taxes with a smile, but they kept insisting on money.
- A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
- It's getting to the point where you need more brains to make out the income tax forms than to make the income.

Danyi added me to her growing mailing list about five years ago. The recipients of her joke packages of jokes include police and fire departments ("What award do you give a firefighter? Most extinguished."), officials, business people and pretty much anyone who pops into her head.

Marcie told me that she's amazed at how God used a "common, ordinary homebound person who never really went anywhere to brighten the days of so many people from coast to coast." It's her calling, she said.

"It is better to be faithful than famous," she typed at the bottom of one of her sheets of jokes. Even if the calling is just to make people laugh. She often adds Proverbs 17:22A to

her missives: "A cheerful heart is good medicine."

Or, as Charlie Chaplin said, "A day without laughter is a day wasted."

- "Doctor, I've swallowed a spoon."
- "Sit down and don't stir."
- "Doctor, I have trouble breathing."
- "Don't worry. I'll give you something to stop that."
- You know you're a bad cook when... Your microwave display reads, "TILT." ...Pest control companies keep pestering you for your recipes. ...You use the smoke alarm as a cooking timer.
- Autocorrect makes me say things that I didn't Nintendo.
- A clean house is the sign of a broken computer.
- Light travels faster than sound. That's why some people seem bright until they speak.
- I do dinner in three phases: Serve the food, clear the table, bury the dead. — Phyllis Diller
- Life's too short to fold fitted sheets. — Erma Bombeck

Marcie once told me that lifting spirits and caring about others is wonderful — and something that more people ought to take seriously.

After all, as The Joke Lady noted on one of her sheets of good, clean jokes, "Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face."

Share jokes with Burt at news@falmouthoutlook.com, or more importantly, with your neighbors, coworkers, the lonely and anyone God puts in your path who needs a lift.

What day is it? - Mom and Pop Business Owners Day

By Nila Harris

Sometimes I think we tend to take our smalltown businesses for granted.

While Wyatt's and Randy's have been staples for decades, the recent closure of the longtime store Houchen's shows that beloved mom-and-pop businesses aren't guaranteed to last.

We need to do what we can to support our local businesses and help them thrive in the Pendleton County we love and live in.

It is reported by the U.S. Small Business Administration that there are more than 27 million small businesses in the United States.

Small businesses are essential to our nation's economy and to our own county as well. The critical role they play in providing revenue, convenience, personal touch, donations to local sports/school groups and so much more are often overlooked.

Modern society tends to want everything with a large selection, fast, and cheap. My husband often said, "If you can't get two eggs, hash browns, biscuits and gravy for a buck fifty, people are going to gripe."



That sentiment may be a little overboard, but the philosophy behind it tends to ring true.

March 29 is National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day — a day to remind communities the importance of small businesses to the well-being of our neighborhoods.

This day was founded by Rick and Margie Segel in the early 1980s in honor of people like Rick's parents, whose small hat shop which had opened in 1939 successfully grew into a 10,000-square-foot, \$2 million clothing store.

Opening a small business can be difficult. Prospective business owners look for a need in the community and try to match it with their own interests/capabilities.

They must procure funding, clients, supplies

and a space to operate. Any one of these things can be challenging.

Once the business is established, it's constant work to keep it going.

My husband has been an electrical contractor for almost 30 years and it is a constant battle trying to procure work to keep his employees working, being vigilant with supply houses who want to sneak in overcharges, and getting paid for work that has been completed.

And then there's the taxes.

It can be extremely stressful, even when doing something you love and are good at.

Supporting small businesses is key to keeping doors open. But also keep in mind that some things are out of the business owner's control.

As a young adult, I remember seeing the owner of Butler Market picking up grocery items at Sam's in Florence. I discovered that some grocery supply houses are uninterested in coming to Butler routinely, so my friend had to "make do" in between supply visits.

I've often seen "shout outs" on Facebooks when

a local business supports a group, lends a helping hand, and/or provides supplies/food for a need. It makes me want to also support that place.

Buy local gift cards to give out to others, encouraging people to shop locally. Talk about your favorite experiences — word of mouth advertising is the best!

Make a positive post on social media about a local shopping trip. Be a repeat customer. Support businesses that support local events and schools.

Explore your community. Buy a Falmouth Outlook to discover the various local establishments. Searchpendleton.com is another resource which lists local establishments where you can shop, eat, stay, worship and have some form of recreation.

Thank a local businesswoman/woman for their part in helping our community.

By celebrating National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day, you not only support local businesses financially, but you also show your appreciation for the hard work and dedication they put into keeping their doors open for us.

Employees lose billions to mental health issues

RenaissanceRecovery

A nationwide survey highlights widespread confusion around U.S. workers' legal rights to take protected medical leave for mental health or substance use treatment — a gap that may be driving millions of Americans to suffer in silence at work.

Revealing a striking gap in awareness around RenaissanceRecovery.com, a nationwide association of addiction and mental health treatment centers, conducted a survey of 3,002 employees examining the financial impact mental health and substance use challenges had on Americans' ability to earn a living.

The study focused on how time off work, reduced hours or disrupted employment translated into lost income for people dealing with these conditions.

The survey found that

mental health or substance use issues in Kentucky resulted in a loss of \$8,692 in income per employee, amounting to a total economic impact of \$12,099,954,106 statewide.

Nationally, 41% of respondents said a mental health or substance use issue had affected their ability to work, and of those, it was estimated that they had lost 16% of their income as a result.

At a loss of \$10,968 per person on national average over the last five years, that accumulated to \$1,151,393,123,529 nationally due to mental health and substance use challenges.

When asked which situations they believed qualified for protected medical leave, respondents overwhelmingly selected physical health events such as physical illness or injury (31%) and surgery or re-

covery (30%).

By contrast, only 15% believed mental health treatment was qualified, and just 3% recognized substance use treatment as a valid reason for protected leave. Nearly 8% said they didn't think any of the listed reasons qualified at all.

These misconceptions are especially concerning given how common workplace mental health struggles have become. The study found that 41% of respondents said they had experienced a mental health challenge or substance use issue in the past five years that affected their ability to work.

Among respondents who continued working during a mental health or substance use struggle, the most common reasons were fear of job loss (22%), not knowing leave was an option (18%) and being unable to afford unpaid time off (15%).

Others worried about harming their future career (11%) or felt their condition wasn't "serious enough" to justify leave (14%).

When asked about their biggest concern around taking formal leave, losing income ranked highest by a wide margin (34%), followed by fear of being fired or laid off (18%). Concerns about being treated differently afterward, losing health insurance, or being seen as unreliable also featured prominently.

These anxieties help explain why honesty in the workplace remains elusive. More than 56% of respondents admitted they had lied or downplayed the real reason they needed time off, while 43% said a physical illness would feel like the "safest" excuse to give if they needed mental health leave tomorrow. An equal share said they would cite a family emergency.