

Odd and Unusual Items from 1939



Green County Public Library Genealogy
Laura Johnson

Green County’s newspaper in 1939 recorded a remarkable parade of oddities that brought color and curiosity to everyday life. Early that spring, residents of Gumsville were astonished when an ewe belonging to Mr. A. L. Thompson delivered four healthy lambs—two ewes and two bucks—at a time when even triplets were considered extraordinary. Not to be outdone, the county’s hens produced their own wonders. A Rhode Island Red owned by Mr. and Mrs. Othar Arnett of Liletown laid an egg containing a second, perfectly normal egg inside it, the outer shell measuring nearly five inches long. The hen repeated the feat days later, though she broke the second marvel in her enthusiasm. Around the same time, Frank Gilkerson of Bluff Boom exhibited a one quarter pound egg laid by a Minorca hen. The year also marked a change in

rural electricity access. Power lines were completed to Hudgins in the summer of 1939. When Postmaster Less Akridge finally flipped the switch that sent thousands of watts of new electricity through his home, store, and surrounding property, the sudden blaze of light was so alarming neighbors rushed in from miles around, believing Hudgins was on fire. A rare night blooming cereus owned by Carl Hartfield became the talk of Greensburg in July 1939. The unusual plant, which was already over a hundred years old, only bloomed a few times each summer with its blooms growing from the end of its leaves. That evening, it was a spectacle with 15 white flowers. Hartfield invited friends and neighbors to experience the plant’s beauty and pleasing aroma. Human curiosity was piqued again in July when Mossland Theatre hosted the Kentucky Giant Baby. At only fifteen months old, Kenneth Johnson stood 3 feet 4 inches tall, weighed 75 pounds, and wore a size 6 shoe. He was celebrated as the

world’s largest baby for his age. Johnson was first introduced to the public by Bob Ripley of Ripley’s Believe It or Not fame and had since been on exhibition across the country. Meanwhile, in Liletown, a small rooster belonging to Mrs. Mayme Thompson took on the full duties of motherhood, tending sixteen chicks with perfect devotion including clucking, calling, feeding, and leading them to roost each night. Even the crops joined the year’s theme of oddity. At Grab, Rob R. Moran grew a six foot potato vine that bloomed and produced seed pods while still yielding a normal hill of potatoes, and at Newt, Jack Pierce produced a cob sprouting ten small but perfect ears of corn. Taken together, these stories reveal 1939 as a year when Green County’s farms, homes, and henhouses brimmed with surprises. In a community where daily life may have felt mondan, these unusual events offered moments of delight and wonder, reminders that even in the most ordinary places, extraordinary things can happen.

100 Years Ago: Historical events from September 1926

The month of September has been home to many historical events over the years. Here’s a look at some that helped to shape the world in September 1926.

- One hundred people lose their lives in Spain on September 1 due to flooding from storms. The storms come after a 55-day drought.
- The funeral train of actor Rudolph Valentino arrives in Chicago on September 3 after departing New York a day earlier. Despite a heavy police presence, several grieving fans break through a police cordon and run onto the tracks.
- Five prisoners are shot and killed in Raymondville, Texas, by a group of Willacy County officers on September 7. The five prisoners were being held on suspicion of killing two Willacy County peace officers on September 5.
- Pope Pius XI publicly condemns the Action française movement on September 8. The far-right, monarchist and national political movement in France object-

ed to the legacy of the French Revolution.

- The formation of the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) is announced on September 13.
- Los Angeles County District Attorney Asa Keyes orders the arrest of five individuals on September 16. Among those to be arrested is evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson, who is accused of conspiracy to corrupt public morals.
- A Category 4 hurricane strikes Miami and much of southern Florida on September 18. The hurricane causes an estimated \$100 million in damage and ultimately kills more than 370 people.
- Gangster Al Capone escapes harm when The North Side Gang conducts a failed assassination attempt on him in Cicero, Illinois, on September 20. The failed attempt is made in broad daylight while Capone is eating at his headquarters.
- Two men die during a failed takeoff as French aviator René Fonck attempts to conduct the first non-stop transatlantic flight on

September 21. Fonck attempted to take off from Long Island’s Roosevelt Field but he and his co-pilot were forced to leap to safety when the landing gear of his plane collapsed under the weight of the four passengers while the plane traveled on the runway.

- American inventor Thomas Edison declares radio broadcasting to be a commercial failure on September 22.
- A crowd of more than 132,000 people watch challenger Gene Tunney defeat heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey on September 23 at the Sesquicentennial Stadium in Philadelphia. Dempsey was fighting his first bout in more than three years.
- Henry Ford introduces the eight-hour workday and five-day workweek at the Ford Motor Company on September 25.
- American burglars Ray Terrill and Elmer H. Inman escape from prison in Oklahoma on September 27. The men would ultimately form the Kimes-Terrill Gang alongside gangster Matthew Kimes.

Greensburg-Green County A proud past — A promising future

Way Back When

By CAROL DIAL
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

October 2, 1996 Campaigning at Cow Days - Among the politicians attending Cow Days were State Senator Richie Sanders, US Congressman Ron Lewis, Congressional candidate Joe Wright and Jake Dickinson.

New businesses - The Marr’s Citgo Gas Station on Highway 61 near Summersville is open for business. It is owned and operated by Lou and Timmy Marr. The Greensburg Save-A-Lot, on Columbia Highway, owned by Houchens Industries, held a ribbon cutting Saturday.

Homecoming Queen - The FFA representative, Anne Paxton, was crowned the 1996 GCHS Football Homecoming Queen.

Fire destroys home - An electric heater is believed to have caused the fire that destroyed an Ebenezer house owned by Jerry Fields.

October 2, 1986 Tax bills mailed - County tax bills in the amount of \$825,924.12 have been mailed.

Crash injures four - A collision between a truck and car near Summersville injured four people. Shelia G. Scott and her daughter, three-year-old Sherry, Robert W. Risen, Louisville, and Robert Vernon Risen were hospitalized for treatment.

Summersville, Ann V. Puckett - There was a Lewis Cousin Reunion held at Summersville Elementary School. Thirty people enjoyed fellowship and a potluck meal.

Dragons win Caverna meet - The boys’ Dragon Cross Country Team took first place in the Caverna Invitational Meet.

October 7, 1976 Locals see UFO - There have been several reports from local people who have seen Unidentified Flying Objects. They describe large objects with lights hovering overhead.

Courthouse tours popular with tourists in Greensburg. So far this year, over 2,400 people have signed the register.

Milby crowned

queen - Alma Milby was crowned the 1976 GHS Homecoming Queen.

Pickett, Mrs. Ray Coffey - Mr. and Mrs. Willard Janes were in Louisville to visit their son Roy, who has been confined in a hospital for ten weeks.

October 6, 1966 Anaconda buys factory site - The Anaconda Wire and Cable Company has purchased a ten acre site near Summersville to build a factory. Construction is expected to be complete by January 1967.

Obituaries - Willie Green Jeffries, 74, Oct. 5; infant Derrick Jason Shofner, 2 days, Oct. 4; Morris N. “Dep” Coffey, 66, Sept. 19; Minnie Pickett, 74, Oct. 2; Emit Price, 67, Oct. 5.

Featured at the Franklin - “Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines”; “Three on a Couch” stars Jerry Lewis and Janet Leigh; “Wild, Wild Winter”.

Summershade, Hazel Kessler - We are having cool days and some rain. Some farmers are stripping tobacco, while others are still cutting.

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INVITATION TO BID

Notice is given hereby that: **GREEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT**
Will accept bids for: **SNOW / ICE REMOVAL OF THE GREEN**
COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER FOR THE SEASON OF YEAR 2026-2027

The Green County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids for Snow and Ice Removal at the Green County Judicial Center. For a more detailed description, please contact the County Judge-Executive's office at 270-932-4024. Interested bidders should contact the Green County Judge-Executive's office at 203 West Court Street, Greensburg, KY for specifications and requirements for snow and ice removal. Proof of \$1,000,000.00 liability insurance policy must be provided by the winning bidder prior to signing a contract. Sealed bids should be clearly marked "Snow and Ice Removal" and must be turned into the Judge-Executive's office no later than 4:00 PM Central Time, Tuesday, October 13, 2026. **Bids received after this time will NOT be accepted. Bids will be opened during the October, 2026, Regular Called Fiscal Court Meeting, at 9:00 AM Central Time.** Interested parties are invited to attend. The Green County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in any bid received and in the bidding process.