

Crockpot Recipe Just in Time for Back to School



CONFESSIONS OF A BAKING QUEEN
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Summer hasn’t impressed me this year and it seems to be quickly fading. Actually, this isn’t true, summer weather can cling on into early October here in Kentucky. One thing is for certain, the rain has definitely dampened my spirits this summer. Strangely, I had an odd yearning for waves and sea salt in the air. Maybe it was because it feels like we lost a lot of sunshine-just high temperatures and humidity existed. It’s been awhile since my feet hit the sand or I’ve felt the warm breeze that only exists on ocean shores as the sun rises and sets. There is nothing in the world like those

Creamy Chicken Tacos

Ingredients

- 3-4 large boneles, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 8 oz. cream cheese, cubed
- 1 jar of mild salsa (can of Rotel can be substituted)

Directions

In crockpot, spray inside with cooking spray. Add uncooked chicken breasts, followed by salsa, and then cream cheese. Cook on high for 3 hours or 5 hours on low. Stirring from time to time. When done, chicken should shred easily as it’s very tender. Serve on flour tortillas with tomatoes, lettuce, or avocado.

*Variation: Prepare all ingredients listed above plus add 2 cans of undrained northern beans, cook as directed, serve with tortilla chips and becomes Mexican chicken chili.

simple gifts. I love Kentucky and the splendor of the mountains, but days like today, I wonder what life would be like carefree as it makes you feel picking up shells on a beach. With back to school approaching and me

growing tired of hot-dogs, hamburgers, and steaks; I’ve been on the prowl for quick recipes that I can throw together in a pinch. In a time where airfryers and instapots rule, there is still the ever wonderful crock pot.

You can make anything from desserts to complete dinners in it. This recipe is to be prepared in the crock pot and is super easy

If you have a recipe you would like to share, email kdcole1120@gmail.com

Knox Central Band Prepares for Performance of a Lifetime

Miss Marie Croley, whom the Museum Corner spotlighted last week re-organized the Knox Central High School marching band in the mid-1950s when she began her tenure there as a music teacher.

In 1957, Barbourville native and Lexington insurance executive, Barnard McKeehan, the District Governor of the Lions Club of Kentucky pitched the idea to Miss Croley that her band should perform in the Lions Club International parade the following year. The parade would be during the Lions Club annual convention to be held in Chicago, Illinois. Miss Croley thought it was a wonderful way to highlight her young, talented band and the quest was on to get an invitation to the event.

During the month of August of 1957, Barney McKeehan delivered the much-anticipated “golden ticket” from Lions Club International President Edward G. Barry. Knox Central High School marching band would represent Kentucky in the Lions Club annual parade. President Barry’s theme for his presidency was “Step by

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Step” and that was exactly what the Knox Central Band spent the next eleven months preparing for.

My cousin, Jakalyn Jackson, and I were both band members. Jakalyn played the cornet while I played the clarinet. The band had over 70 members, most of us were first-time band students. Jakalyn recalls that her cornet was purchased for \$149. Her mother, Genell, made \$10/month payments until the instrument was finally hers. Fundraisers of every sort garnered the band their much-needed funds to pay for their trip. The Knox Central Band Boosters were formed, and officers were elected to oversee and coordinate all the fundraising activities.

In a Mountain Advocate article from January 16, 1958, entitled “Central Band Boosters Plan Permanent Club”, it was reported that at a special called meeting on Tuesday, January 14, at the Knox Central Band house, thirty parents and



Dora Sue Oxendine with KCHS Band Director Marie Croley

supporters of the Knox Central band made preparations to form a permanent club. The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Ruth Cole, the temporary chair. A committee was appointed to select a slate of officers that would oversee the fundraising as well as conduct other business.

The group set a regular meeting date of 7:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month. All parents, all teachers and others interested in the Knox Central

band were invited to attend. The Band Boosters elected their first set of leaders which included: Mrs. Ruth Cole, President, Anna Carol Williams, Vice President, John Warren White, Business Manager and Jim Sproul, student conductor.

The Barbourville Lions Club annually hosted a television program which offered local musical and comedic acts. In 1958, funds raised from the event would help offset the cost for the band’s trip to Chicago.

Mayor Paul Buchanan and Barbourville Lions President Oscar Parsons served as the Masters of Ceremony of the variety show and introduced the acts. Local bands, choirs, comedy teams and even a dance act performed. The Lions Club television program was an annual event which featured local talent. Tickets sold at \$0.50 for elementary school students and \$1.00 for high school students and adults. One thousand tickets were expected to be sold for the event which would clear an estimated \$600 for the Chicago trip.

Jakalyn Jackson recalls that the trip cost \$3344. That was to cover the cost of hotel rooms, chartering the Greyhound buses, sightseeing tours as well as meals for band members and chaperones. (Adjusted for inflation, that number in 2025 would equal \$37,143. The cost for such a trip, however, has outpaced inflation. Currently, a four-day trip to Chicago would be more in the range of \$1000/person traveling with a group.) If that group had been headed to Chicago in 2025, the cost would be nearly \$100,000

According to the Barbo-

urville Mountain Advocate, seventeen chaperones, including band parents and teachers planned to accompany the Knox Central Band and director, Miss Marie Croley, to Chicago for the International Association of Lions Clubs conventions. They included: KCHS principal Clinton Hammons, city police officer Gail Lawson, Aubrey Chestnut, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cole, Sherman Oxendine, Mrs. Jesse Johnson, Mrs. Ethel Hampton, Mrs. Ruth Cole, Mrs. America McKeehan, Mrs. Nell Fultz, Mrs. Mary France, Mrs. W. N. Goins, Mrs. Love Hammons, Mrs. Ulmont White and Mrs. John White.

Next week, the band members will board the buses and head to Chicago for the mile and a half march down Michigan Avenue cementing their place in Knox County history during the 1958 Lions Club International Parade.

The Museum Corner would like to thank Jakalyn Jackson for her information about the band and our extraordinary trip to Chicago.

People and Places.... Gone.... Not Forgotten

The Barbourville advocate newspaper arrived today. My husband and I renew our subscription each year to our hometown paper. It informs us of news and events happening. Most of our family is deceased. We have a few friends still living there. Our roots go back many generations. We cherish memories of the time spent growing up there. The people we grew up with, and special places will forever be ingrained in our memory.

A favorite gathering place in town for youth, when we were school age, was a restaurant called Jack’s. My husband, Russ attended Barbourville High School, the city school. I attended Knox Central High School, the county school. Jack’s was a convenient meeting place for us on our lunch break. Jack’s is familiar to many generations.

Jack’s restaurant was located on the Court Square in Barbourville. It was originally owned by Jack Parton and his wife in the late 30s, and

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early 40s. Little did the Partons know that their business and location would one-day be a landmark for the town.

Generations of students that attended the high schools and Union College will have memories of their time spent there. It was a meeting place for young lovers. A neutral ground for the opposing school students to meet. The city and county schools were big on sports, and they were very competitive. At Jack’s place, they could be friendly. Ed and Evelyn Goins bought the business later. It remained the same.

Through the passing of time the town landmarks have disappeared. When we visit Barbourville, we take the sentimental journey around the Courthouse Square. When we see where Jack’s was it gives us good discussion, memories and smiles.

In the late 50’s and

early 60’s my brother Jack Hammons, along with Junior Corey and two other friends played music together and created a band, the Shades. Junior started the band – “Jr. Corey and the Shades Band”. These talented boys played frequently at Jack’s and in other places in the area. They were well known and very popular! Recently through Facebook individuals have reached out to me regarding the Shades, Jack and Junior. Unfortunately I don’t know much about the other band members.

Jack played drums



and Junior played lead guitar. Both Jack and Junior continued with their musical talents through out life. Jack played in Michigan with a group, Jack Rainwater

& The Peppermints. Later brother, Jack played drums with the Casuals. Brenda Lee hired the Casuals to make an overseas tour they played with her. They traveled with Brenda to Japan and other countries in the late 60’s. It was a special time for Jack in his drumming career. Jack had other careers, Lexington City Police Officer, insurance claims adjuster business owner, but playing the drums was his true passion. He left a son and a grandson who have followed in his path. Tony Hammons, Montgomery Gentry drummer for many years, and third generation drummer Evan Hammons. Junior never left our hometown as Jack did. Junior also played in many other bands that he started and played in throughout his life. He went on to become a talented vocalist and played several instruments. Junior played and sang with many famous musicians including Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn, Jerry Lee Lewis, Tom T.

Hall and a host of other popular entertainers. He also wrote his own music one of which is “Tiny Pieces”.

Many people from Knox County moved to other cities for education, employment and to build homes for their families. I feel sure that if they have time to visit Barbourville they may take the sentimental journey around the Courthouse Square. They will look to find Jack’s the old familiar landmark. I hope they remember it the way it was with the old fountain, jukebox, and booths that served many generations. If they try hard maybe they will hear the sound of the coin dropping in the jukebox.

They will play a favorite old song from days gone by when we were younger and free of heart. I hope their memories are the sweetest fun times spent sipping cherry Coke and dancing in the Blue Room.

Millie’s Thought for the Day: Memories and music never die!



Jack Harlan Hammons
July 7, 1943 - August 19, 2005



Reid Brown Cory, Jr.
August 14, 1943 - August 8, 2024