

OWEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY BONNIE STRASSELL
Childhood memories leave a lasting imprint upon our souls and sharing them with others creates a picturesque journey into the past.

These memories come to life in diaries and letters and are captured and shared at family gatherings.

In a 1975 News-Herald article, former Owen Countian, Herbert Gibson, journeyed back to his youth and presented a colorfully vivid account of early Owen County.

Herbert was born at Pleasant Home in 1893 and described his small community and its people who shared life together.

"Church Schooler and George Sursey ran a blacksmith and wheelwright shop at Pleasant Home. My first cousin, Hettie Kemper, married Sandford Lowdenback and lived at the bottom below our house and ran a picture gallery.

"Uncle Everett Walker came by our house one day when I was about six years old with a wagon loaded with barrels and leading two horses. We went to Gratz loaded with barrels with water from the Kentucky river, and when we got to what was known as the Gratz Hill, we doubled to four horses up the hill, then changed back to two."

Herbert recalled that during the winter several of the older children in school strapped on ice skates and skated to Glencoe on a frozen Eagle Creek.

When his grandfather Kemper broke his leg, Herbert stayed with him, and while living there, he attended Kemper school. "I found out my grandfather, B.F. (Bigfoot) Ben Kemper built the Kemper

School House and paid the teacher the first year."

Childhood is a time when discoveries are daily occurrences, and everything seems possible. Whether you grew up in Squiresville, Pleasant Home, Monterey, Long Ridge, Lusby's Mill or in the city of Owenton, childhood memories of outdoor explorations created an essential chapter of our history.

Years ago, children would spend most of their waking hours outdoors, embracing nature and making memories of a lifetime; and yet over the past few decades outdoor play has taken a backseat to social media and cell phones. In the process our kids have lost a undeniably magical time of childhood.

Talking to tall lanky Owen Countian Gary Duvall gave insight into the fun times of Owen County kids playing outside in the 1950's and '60's.

Gary shook his head in amazement at the preoccupation of today's kids with technology when the world outside beckons them to explore the magic of the unknown.

According to Gary, kids in his day didn't worry about getting dirty while roaming the woods or playing in the creek; and with over forty creeks in the county, young'uns had no lack of places to go "creeking" to catch minnows, make dams or skinny-dip on a hot summer day. Nor were they overly concerned about germs when drinking from the same cup or water dipper with friends; and when outdoor adventure created hunger pangs, Gary declared there was nothing better than a tart green apple



Larry Hamilton and Gilbert England, fishing after winning first golf scramble 1965, Fairway Golf Course.

plucked from the branch of an apple tree and sprinkled with a little salt scraped from a salt block in a nearby pasture.

Going fishing was a favorite pastime of most Owen County kids; and Gary recalls playing with buddies in Buck Elk Creek for hours, with most parents voicing little concern for the safety of their sons and daughters playing in the woods from morning until dusk.

Kids who lived in town depended on the streetlights to signal their departure from outside play, for most mothers would instruct their children to "come home when the streetlights come on."

Growing up on East Adair Street, better known as "Dog Hill," Historical Society Treasurer Larry Dale Perry recounts memories of the 1950's when he and his friends, "The Dog Hill Gang," spent the bulk of their days outdoors.

"We spent most of our time in the woods on Bob Ford's property. It had a small stream and a little way down it forked and made a small island. We had homemade bows and arrows and would shoot an arrow from the hillside, and it would land on the island. Robin Hood would have been proud."

Swinging on vines

across hollers or creeks was a favorite pastime for Owen County kids, and according to Larry Dale, "Swinging on vines across the creek sometimes resulted in a hard landing in the water when the vine broke."

Yet even those memories of water-soaked clothing and sore bottoms served as platforms for stories to share.

In years gone by, kids played games that required little resources. Kick the can was a favorite pastime, and was popular into the 1960's. It was a hide-and-seek game that only required an old tin can and a group of enthusiastic kids who were entertained for hours.

As technology has advanced, perhaps in some ways we lost an incredibly important piece of our childhood days; for there is little doubt that children of today might benefit from a game of marbles, skipping rope, making a fort in the woods or digging an old tin can out of the trash to be used as a centerpiece for a little remembered game played years ago by a group of neighborhood kids.

As author Brook Hampton so succinctly summed it up: "Children still need a childhood with dirt, mud, puddles, trees, sticks and tadpoles."

Don't miss our annual Kentucky River Day on Saturday, July 19, from 10-2 at the Historical Society Museum. Enjoy music, games for young and old alike, prizes and a special presentation on Owen County floods of the past.

A wide variety of Owen County favorite food will be offered at Teresa Perkins' food truck.

Preacher surprised by height, width of Noah's wife

An old-time mountain preacher stood up one Sunday morning to deliver his sermon, but unbeknownst to him, some mischievous boys had glued some of the pages of his Bible together.

The preacher opened his Bible and began to read: "In those days, when Noah was 140 years of age, he took unto himself a wife." The preacher then flipped to what he thought was the next page and continued reading: "She was 30 cubits broad and 30 cubits high, made out of gopher wood and dobbed with pitch inside and out."

He then looked wide-eyed at the congregation and said, "Brothers and sisters, that's the first time I have ever read that in the Word of God, but if it's in there, I believe it."

The late great Kentucky preacher Seymour Wattenbarger told that in a sermon about old-time religion. Seymour was talking about a time when everyone revered the Bible and believed it without reservation. Sadly, in these modern days, some people have begun to question the reliability of God's word.

I'm glad that's not true for folks in our part of the world. I feel so blessed to be around people who reverence the Lord and believe the Word of God from cover to cover.

That's important because: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (1 Timothy 3:16).

You may have been around people who want to dismiss portions of God's Word or who want to add to God's Word. That's dangerous business, considering Revela-

tions 22:18-19, which reads: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy

of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life and out of the holy city and from the things which are written in this book."

The Bible is the best-selling and most widely read book of all time. No others even come close. It is an amazing book, filled with amazing true stories that cover every genre you could find on the shelves of your nearest bookstore, whether action and adventure, biography, love and romance, comedy, self-help. It's all right there.

I still remember the first time I read the book of Esther. I was absolutely amazed, thinking that the most imaginative Hollywood writers could never come close to the plot twists in this true-life story of a woman who saved her people from slaughter.

I was so excited when I first read about three little underdog boys named Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who survived being thrown into a blazing furnace.

I love the romance story of a down-on-her-luck young lady named Ruth who was swept off her feet by a handsome, wealthy man named Boaz. I love that they lived happily ever after, as happened in so many of the fairy tales that their story inspired.

The Bible is an amazing book, even when some mischievous boys glue a few pages together.

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ROGER ALFORD

FBC NEWS

BY BRO. BRAD BANKS

Our pastor brought the message from Genesis 28:10-22 entitled, "Living in Awareness of God's Presence," The message focused on the tragedy of overlooking His presence, the steadfast confidence gained in His presence, the inescapable nature and manifested reality of His presence, and the marvelous promise and

invitation concerning His presence.

Our Homecoming service will be this Sunday. Sunday School at 10:00am, Worship at 11:00am, and Dinner at noon. We will also have a "Reds Night Out" on Sunday afternoon, July 29. Contact the church office for details.

Our children leave for Summer Camp tomorrow and Camp Chaos is continu-

ing Wednesday nights at 6:30pm.

Our students meet each Wednesday at 6:30pm. Our Children's Church Ministry is offered during the 11:00am worship service.

The FLC is open Monday – Friday from 8:00am –

1:00pm, Saturday from 9:00am – 1:00pm, and Monday/Tuesday/Thursday from 4:00-8:00pm.

Our weekly service times are Sunday at 9:00am, 11:00am, and 6:30pm. The Sunday School gatherings start at 10:00am. Our

Wednesday service begins at 6:30pm.

Our church would like to remind you that you can connect with us through our website at owentonfbc.com, Face Book at FBC Owenton, download our church

app, join us on twitter or Instagram. You can also call the church office or email us at office@owentonfbc.com.

God bless you, your family, and our community. See you Sunday!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Public Service Commission of Kentucky issued an order on March 13, 2025, scheduling a hearing to be held on August 4, 2025, at 9 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission located at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort, Kentucky, for Case No. 2025-00045. This is an examination of the Electronic Application of Kentucky Utilities Company and Louisville Gas and Electric Company for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Site Compatibility Certificates.

This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.

Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov.



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22 Ac. Owen Co., Greenup Road, open ridge top to build on, woods and hills to play on, city water, \$141,900, \$8,000 down.

6 Ac. Near Long Ridge, Hwy. 36, pasture, scattered trees, double wides welcome, view, city water, \$52,900, \$2,500 down, \$520 per mo.

8-1/2 Ac. Owen Co., gently rolling pasture, large pond, restricted homesite, on paved dead end road, \$86,900, \$3,000 down.

5 Ac. New Liberty, rolling pasture, single wides welcome, approved for septic, city water available, \$51,900, \$2,500 down.

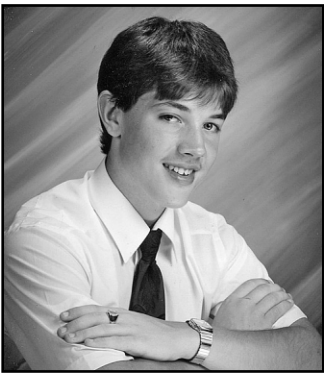
2-1/2 Ac. Glencoe area, just off Hwy. 127, mostly open, some woods, 5 miles off I-71, city water, \$2,500 down, \$275 per mo.

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THE FINAL TRIBUTE

“Chris” Christopher Lane Kemper
June 30, 1975-July 21, 1993



One might wonder why I memorialize my son each year, maybe it's because of the way he left here.

The senseless act, a fictitious car and a boldface lie. Then leaving the scene for the victim, all alone, to die.

He gave 18 years to us all, yet in the end he took the fall.

A shame one could inflict so much on a family of hurt, suffering and pain, Yet go through life without remorse or shame and make the comment one must forgive.


For those with children, grab each moment, as special as they are and cherish them forever. For in the blink of an eye, there might be no more moments - NEVER.

So now I ask not for sympathy but give the same to all fathers, who've lost a son and carry the pain.

With age and health this chapter is soon to close, but I feel now the complete story was told and only the one's involved will ever know.

So back to the question of why I do so simply four little words I couldn't let go.

With a Father's undying love,
Goodbye Son, Daddy



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