



**Times Remembered**  
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## BGAD Stories

Bob and I are both retired from Blue Grass Army Depot and with a brief few years of disability. I returned in 1983 and finished my thirty years in 2008.

The construction of the Blue Grass Army Depot displaced many families and people's graves had to be moved to other sites. There were two cemeteries that had to be re-located with the black cemetery being located near Speedwell off Highway 499. The white cemetery was re-located across from the depot's front gate off Highway 421 in a field behind this lady's house that cared for the graves until her death.

In the early 70s I worked at the Machine Shop Office, Building 214, as a Clerk-Typist, GS-2. I processed all administrative records for approximately thirty employees who were all males. During that time I worked with many of the guys that had been there nearly twenty-five or thirty years already. So they had heard many stories about the depot being a scary

place. Some claimed different igloos may be haunted, and graves where bodies were to be believed still in the grave. Several employees encountered weird happenings.

All kinds of tales circulated about accidents on depot. As far as I know there were only three people who actually died or got killed on the depot. One was a contractor who was bush hogging and fell from the tractor and was killed. Another employee was inside of a semi-trailer preparing ammunition for shipment while blocking and bracing ammunition using a nail gun. The operator accidentally hit a metal strip on the floor of trailer and threw the nail into a box of high explosives and tragically exploded and killed the man. Another employee from Facility Engineers was electrocuted working on a power line in the early 80s.

But the most talked about story was concerning a haunted Igloo in "E" Area. It is located near "F" Area. It was told that some man had killed his wife in that area before the depot was built.

Since Bob was an Ammunition Surveillance Inspector, and was required to check ammunition in this igloo I asked him why this particular igloo was so scary. He said, "The minute you unlock the igloo door, a very cold and odd feeling comes over you and it seems someone is watching you". "Also the igloo will not stay open; it slams shut". No one liked to go there alone.

This past week, I decided to do some research as to what happened years ago in that area. We knew a daughter of a truck driver

who worked there in the 40s-50s, who had heard her father speak the name of the man who supposedly killed his wife in that area.

We searched court records on line and the name and the year the murder probably happened and the name Parkie Denny came up.

Denny and his wife returned to the vicinity of Moberly, in Madison County, in the summer of 1936, after having lived in Ohio. They stayed here and there, but seemed to have their headquarters with Ivan Denny, his brother-in-law and first cousin.

One night in September, about half past one o'clock, he returned there without his wife, saying that he was going to meet her and another man and wife in town. There had been some talk about Ivan's daughter going back to Ohio with Denny and his wife, so she left with him that morning. The two alone went to Ohio. He told the girl that his wife had gone to Illinois for a visit with her half-sister. About five weeks later the girl returned home and several days afterward Denny followed her. In the meantime he had written several letters referring to what he and his wife were doing and signing some of the letters with the names of both.

Meanwhile the decapitated and decomposed body of a woman was discovered in a cane patch a short distance from a lane. It was practically nude and appeared to have been dragged to the place. Two days later the head of the body was found some distance away on the other side of the lane. The body

was not then identified.

On October 24, Parkey Denny began asking family about the body and asked if it had been identified. Finally, he stated that it was Ethel, his wife. Information shortly reached the officers. They went to Ivan Denny's home and the Sheriff asked Mr. Denny about his wife and he made several contradictory statements. He told him that his wife was in the Richmond Cemetery. He stated the reason he killed her was that she was too old for him and they didn't get along and he thought he could get by with it.

This was the first admission of guilt. The accused was taken to jail and confessed to the murder. He confessed that he killed his wife with a hammer, dragged her body to the place it was found and cut off her head and placed it to the point where it was found.

Three doctors testified that Mr. Denny had the mentality of a child eight or twelve years old. But Dr. Robinson expressed the opinion that he was of sound mind and it was decided he knew right from wrong. He eventually had four trials; with the last trial he was sentenced to death by the electric chair for the murder of his wife, Ethel Yates Denny. She is buried in the Richmond Cemetery.

For complete details see Denny vs. Commonwealth, Court of Appeals June 24, 1938.

This murder did happen on the land what is now the depot's "E" area. I imagine the igloo in "E" area was pretty scary; after all, this was a true story and it really happened.

## Kiwanis Club Makes Impact on Community

The Kiwanis Club of Irvine-Ravena continues to make an impact on our community as it has since 1922. Recent donations given by Kiwanis have been to the Public Library's Summer Reading program, Estill County Food Bank, Estill County Ministerial Association, Hospice Care Plus, 6 mowings of the Old Irvine Cemetery beside Citizens Guaranty Bank, and to Brooklyn Kelley, recipient of the 2020 Kiwanis Scholarship.

Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis Club, no matter where in the 80 nations where Kiwanis Clubs are located. Members focus on changing the world by serving children, one child and one community at a time.

Becky Werner is the current club president. We invite you to join Kiwanis!

## Donate Blood to be entered in drawing

KBC's Summer Sweet 16 Will Award \$16,000 to Donors. Donate blood to be entered to win one of two \$500 gift cards each week. Kentucky Blood Center wants to infuse donors' summer with a little cash, so the nonprofit is giving away two \$500 gift cards each week for a total of \$16,000 awarded through Sept. 18.

Donors can help boost the blood supply and get entered to win at the Estill County Community Blood Drive this coming Saturday, August 15 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church at 270 Main Street, Irvine.

Blood donors must be at least 17-years-old (16 with parental consent), weigh at least 110 pounds, be in general good health, show a photo I.D. and meet additional requirements. Sixteen-year-old donors must have a signed parental permission slip, found at kybloodcenter.org.

## The Estill County Tribune

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