



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
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My thoughts are scattered today, it's difficult to focus, basically... I'm just not myself! I'm consumed with the fact that our dog, Rankin, is hurt. He's tangled with something and it's almost got the best of him. He has several cuts and right now he's resting at the Vet's office. I know it sounds crazy, but I'm worried sick!

I suppose I'm feeling a little guilty too, because we slipped off to the lake Saturday for a chili supper and didn't take the boys. You know the story, if they see the red suitcase heading to the Tahoe, it's 'LAKE TIME'! We were only going to be gone overnight and we saw no need to haul them all that way for a short trip. Now I'm just so overcome with guilt, I can't look into those big, brown eyes without crying.

Hooch got some licks in too from what we can tell, his head was covered in blood and he's cut from his shoulders to the tip of his nose but nothing like the huge gash in Rankin's stomach. All of this gets me to thinking about stories my Papa used to tell

Rankin is hurt . . .

about the big, black panther that roamed the river bottoms of Sand Hill. He described his paw prints as, "big as a dinner plate!" Of course, if you knew my Papa, Turkeyfoot Muncie, he could sure tell a tall tale, but over the years several other 'ol timers have shared the same story of the panther. In the early '90s, even Corky witnessed a very large, black cat, running across a field of a farm that backs up to us. A friend of mine got some photos of a beautiful, honey colored, mountain lion several years back, sunning in her front yard on Sand Hill. No one from Fish and Wildlife would comment about these sightings, but you know as well as I do, these cats are here.

Of course there's the notion that it could be a bear they've stumbled upon, we have seen those in our backyard too! Corky got up close and personal with one years ago. It was kinda funny, our dog at that time was named Lady, she was raising cane out back so Corky grabbed his gun and boots, flipped on the flood lights and headed around the back side of our house. I was standing in the kitchen, looking out the window, and when the flood lights came on I could see Lady barking and running around and around a big, black bear that was eating supper scraps I'd tossed over the hill. Crazy me gets the idea to peck on the window and holler at Corky as he rounds the Japonica Bush, "IT'S A BEAR!", peck, peck, peck LOUDER on the window, "IT'S A BEAR!!" I'm

screaming at him and he can't hear me, as soon as he sees the bear though, he tucks tail and runs! He slings open the back door wild eyed, wearing only his boots, briefs and packing a gun he yells excitedly, "IT'S A BEAR!" to which I reply, "I KNOW! IT'S A BEAR!"

We still laugh about that one! There's no telling what our boys have gotten into, maybe it was an angry squirrel or a raccoon out for revenge, it could be any number of things, I just hope it's the first AND last time we go through this. With Halloween right around the corner, mysterious sightings and wounded dogs make for the perfect scary story, I just don't like the fact that this one revolves around our beloved dogs. Like I said, I know it sounds crazy, but I'm worried sick and besides...I'm too old for this stuff!!

Until next time...

am



Times Remembered

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Halloween History and Superstitions

Halloween history is one of mystery and intrigue, the story of Halloween's past has been passed down through generations. Traditions and adaptations of ancient ceremonies and superstitions have evolved into the holiday we know and love today.

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31. The word Halloween is a shortening of All Hallow's Evening also known as Halloween. Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, visiting haunting houses and carving jack-o-lanterns. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century. Other western countries embraced the holiday in the late twentieth century including Ireland, the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and the United Kingdom as well as of Australia and New Zealand.

Halloween originated in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain. The festival of Samhain is a celebration of the end of harvest season in Gaelic culture. It was a time to check on supplies and stock up for the winter months.

Part of the history of Halloween is Halloween costumes. The practice of dressing up in costumes and begging door to door goes back to the Middle Ages. Trick- or- treating resembles the late medieval practice of "souling," where poor people would go door to door on Hallowmas receiving food in return for prayers for the dead. Trick- or- treating in American developed independent of "souling."

Growing up in the 50s and 60s, we never thought of shootings, stabbings or drugs. It was safe in those days trick-or-treating. Several girls came home with me and we dressed up in costumes and walked to town and eventually went to my

Aunt's house on Grand Avenue where my older sister, Juanita picked us up.

Many Halloween superstitions have evolved over the years that I find funny and maybe scary but I do not believe in them; these are solely for fun. Halloween superstitions include folklore, myths, and omens.

Bats: If you see bats flying around your house on Halloween- it's a sign of ghosts and spirits nearby.

Black cats: Crossing paths with a black cats on Halloween; black cats bring bad luck.

Cemeteries: If you hold your breath while you drive by a cemetery evil spirits can't bother you.

Coffins: It is said that anyone who lies in a coffin, even for fun invites death.

Ghosts: If you see a ghost, walk around it nine times, and it will disappear.

Jack-O-Lanterns: A burning candle inside a jack-o-lantern keeps evil spirits at bay.

Spiders: If you see a spider on Halloween, it means that the spirit of a dead loved one is watching over you.

Witches: Put your clothes on inside out and walk backwards to meet a witch.

As I said: I do not believe in superstitions, but it's cool to have fun with them.

Have a fun and safe Halloween!

Cows don't really know all that much about cars



America's Heartland

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A husband and wife were admiring a beautiful living room suite in the furniture store when a salesman walked up, and asked if they were interested in buying it.

The husband acknowledged they really liked it, but he said he didn't think they could afford it.

"Don't worry," the salesman said. "You just make a small down payment now, and you don't make another payment for six months."

With that the wife wheeled around, her hands on her hips, and angrily demanded: "Who told you about us?"

One of the things I really love about rural America is that so many people still take very seriously the scriptures that tell us to pay our debts. Christian parents still teach those important lessons to their children and Bible-believing churches still preach and teach them to their congregations.

The fact is the Bible lets us know in no uncertain terms that it displeases God for us not to pay what we owe.

"The wicked borrows but does not pay back" (Psalm 37:21).

"Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. Owe no one anything." (Romans 13:7-8).

An old preacher friend of mine in eastern Kentucky was a stickler for this rule, often reminding his congregation that "if you owe a man a penny, you pay a man a penny." It was a motto that had been passed down to him by his father, who had gotten it from his father, who had likely gotten it from his father.

That preacher knew what he was talking about, unlike the cow that walked past a fellow whose car had broken down on the side of a country road.

The cow stopped momentarily, looked at the fellow, and said: "It's probably the battery."

That fellow was absolutely amazed. And when a farmer happened along, the fellow told him what the cow had said.

"Was it a large white cow with a black spot on her side and a brown spot over one eye?" the farmer asked.

"Yes, that was the cow," the fellow responded.

"Oh, I wouldn't listen to Bessie," the farmer said. "She doesn't know a thing about cars."

Don't you just love cow humor?

No doubt, cows don't know much about automobiles. But that old preacher friend of mine did know the Bible, and he knew obeying the scriptures not only pleases God but makes life run a whole lot smoother.

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.

AUCTION

(ABSOLUTE - RAIN OR SHINE)

Saturday, Oct. 29TH at 10:00^{AM}

REAL / PERSONAL

We have been authorized to sell at public auction the real & personal property of the late Mr. Russell Riddell, Sr., located at 895 Pea Ridge Road, Irvine, Ky.

DIRECTIONS: From Irvine, take Hwy. #52 (Richmond Road) 4 miles, turn left on Hwy. #594 (Pea Ridge Road) proceed 2 miles. Signs will be posted.

REAL ESTATE DESCRIPTION

BRICK HOUSE—Nice brick ranch with basement. The dwelling consists of 3 bedrooms, large living room, kitchen with oak cabinets, dining, combination den/sun-room and 2 baths on main level. The basement has a family room, 3 bedrooms, kitchen area, ½ bath and enclosed storage area. The dwelling has 2 wood burning fireplaces, central heat/air, washer/dryer hookups on both levels, 7' x 24' front porch, a 10' x 12' side deck and new concrete sidewalk.

VINYL SIDING HOUSE—The second dwelling has 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bath, washer/dryer hookups and ½ basement (outside entry). There is a 7' x 38' front porch & has natural gas heat.

DETACHED GARAGE—Property has a 16' x 24' detached garage with a concrete floor and is wired. There are several other outbuildings for storage.

MOBILE HOME (14' x 65')—Trailer has 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bath and a front porch.

All 3 properties have city water, natural gas & septic systems. There is approx. 513' of Pea Ridge Rd. frontage & is 2 acres (more or less). Property will be selling as a whole.

GUNS

Hand Guns—Muzzle loader pistol. 22 single action western frame revolver (H. Schmidt. Ostheim/Rhon-Germany). 25 auto Model 25 (Bryco Arms-Cal. USA). 9mm semi-auto (Bryco Arms-Jennings Nine). 32 Smith & Wesson Squeezer (parts gun). 22 magnum cyclinder.

Long Guns—45 cal. Muzzle loader (Junkar, Spain). 12 ga. Double barrel with hammers (Belguim-Laminated Steel - Acme-Arms Co.). "Stevens" 22 single shot bolt action rifle-(Model 15-22 short/long rifle).

TERMS: Real Estate-10% down day of sale with balance on or before 30 days with delivery of deed. 2016 property taxes will be prorated. Any or all inspections are the responsibility of the buyer to be made prior to day of sale. Pers. Prop. - Cash or check with proper ID day of sale with 6% sales tax. Property is being sold in "As Is" condition. Not responsible for accidents. Announcements day of sale takes precedence over printed material.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTES: Extremely nice brick house on good lot. Good setup - Let the rental property pay for your home! Check this one out! NICE-NICE BRICK HOUSE!



Brick House



Vinyl Siding House



Mobile Home

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