

Estill Co. Courthouse News

Property Transfers

Greg and Rebecca Werner to Commonwealth of Ky., for the use and benefit of the Transportation Cabinet, \$3,150, two parcels on KY 89 (North Main).

Martha Lynch to Harm and Susan Lynch, love and affection, 13.8 acres, more or less, on waters of Crooked Creek.

Marriage

Jessica Nicole Goosey, 19, Wal-mart, of Richmond and

Ryan Donald Gantz, 21, Walmart of Richmond, married December 18, 2015.

Small Claim Filed

Mitzi Martin Holbrook vs. Kim and Walker Harris, seeking judgment for \$2,113.54.

Circuit civil suits filed

Selene Finance LP vs. Virginia Sue Willis, William Gentry Willis, and Springleaf Financial Services, Inc., com-

plaint for foreclosure in lieu of \$115,598.48.

Richard Eugene Creech vs. Sarah Creech, joint petition for dissolution of marriage.

Sharon Spencer vs. Damon Spencer, joint petition for dissolution of marriage.

Joseph Dean Channing Dobson vs. Andrea Jo Griffin Dobson, petition for dissolution of marriage.

Bradley Brandenburg vs. Timika Rose, petition for cus-

tody.

"Magic by Miller" Book

Continued from FRONT

Popular Mechanics and Popular Science monthly magazines carried articles by Joseph Dunninger, a mentalist and magician known as "The Amazing Dunninger," and also displayed ads from magic distributors. Clarence ended up ordering a dozen or so tricks from Max Holden's in Boston which he described as "the best" magic company. He bought his first Zombie doll while on a business trip to Chicago with his father.

A small library in his grandmother's house had a book on magic which Clarence used to put on a magic show for which he charged the neighbors a 5 cents admission fee. He learned to hand sew (as well as crocheting) and sewing by machine from his grandmother which led him to make his first "Egg Bag Trick" in the 1940's.

Salt Vanishing, Steel Ball Through Glass and Non-Rising Card were some of the magic tricks he made. Someone took his original "Non-Rising Card" which was made from a small cigar box.

He shared his interest in magic with another Irvine native, Amos "Butch" Critchfield, a butcher at the local A&P who later owned Critchfield Meats.

The first magician whom Clarence met personally was Preston who was from Eastern Kentucky and performed on a rotating basis as Preston the Magician and Preston the Hypnotist. Those of us who saw his shows can still remember the rows of fellow students who were convinced by the soothing voice of Preston that they were on an airplane, swaying back and forth with the motion of the plane.

Clarence says Preston was impressed by his Flip Over Box and the Non-Rising Card tricks. The elder magician made it possible for Clarence to become a member of the I.B.M. and S.A.M. magic societies while he was still a teenager.

Clarence first saw his future wife on the opposite side at an Estill-Irvine basketball game. He attended Irvine and she attended Estill, but he was able to meet her later and they married in 1950. He served stateside in the United States Marine Corps and did not do any magic for 30 years. His father operated a vending business and, from a young age, Clarence repaired any broken parts of jukeboxes and vending machines. They had a machine shop in the back of their store on Broadway and Clarence eventually rediscovered magic. He built his inventions and displayed them in a front window of the store until 1986 when fire destroyed the building and most of his magic inventions with it. Many of us still remember the "Drinking Bird" and other tricks displayed there.

Clarence made his magic tricks and sold them at shows without keeping any of them. He signed and numbered each trick he sold. He also documented and copyrighted how he

made his magic trick but the cost to patent them was too expensive. So, some of his inventions were manufactured and sold by others. Clarence even helped some of them make the trick correctly. One man who had recreated Miller's "Sponge Ball Box" couldn't get it to work. "I put a spring in the bottom," Clarence told him.

Two of the more fascinating tricks Miller made are the "Finger Chopper" and the "Arm Chopper." Miller would put a carrot into the "Finger Chopper" and seemingly pull down the blade without cutting through the carrot. He urged onlookers to stick their finger in the hole where the carrot had been. The "Arm Chopper" worked in a similar manner, only it was much larger. A manufacturer declined mass producing the "Arm Chopper" because without a safety, he thought it was too dangerous.

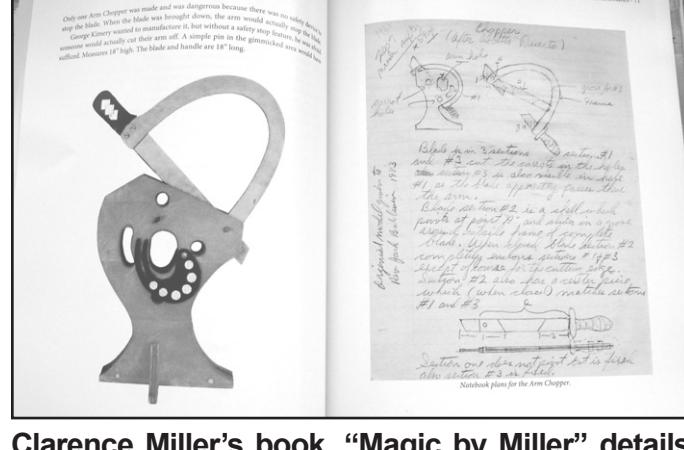
Miller has made around a hundred magic tricks from made-up ideas. The idea for "Dollar Daze," where a coin

changes from a plain coin to a colorized one, came when Miller was handling vending machine money and noticed a Susan B. Anthony coin that had been colorized.

Ironically, of all the magic tricks Clarence made, he has kept only one, which has three dots that change color. But most of his tricks are featured in his new book called "Magic by Miller." The 276 hard backed, gloss pages book has 437 photographs with over 300 in full-color, including many vintage local photos. It is and published and sold by Donald Croucher with a forward by Lance Burton and can be ordered online at www.PayPal.Me/MagicbyMiller/107. The cost is \$95 plus \$12.00 priority postage but is well worth it.

Miller has also donated a copy to the Estill County Public Library.

He also is a painter and proudly shows off a painting of the apostle St. Andrew that hangs in his dining room.



Clarence Miller's book, "Magic by Miller" details how he made some of his magic inventions such as the "Arm Chopper" shown above.

Letter to the Editor

Estill County Does It Again

ESTILL COUNTY, you have done it again. You have stepped up to the plate for those who needed help having a good holiday season. You held food drives, send contributions from individuals and organizations, as well as vol-

unteered. Thanks to you over 300 families received extra food during this season of giving. Thank You for your open hearts and hands!!

Susan N. Dick, President
Estill County Food Bank

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Ham Steak \$3.50/lb.

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(Similar to cube steak, only ham)

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Jowl Bacon \$3.50/lb.

Pork Tenderloin \$4.50/lb.

Pork Chops \$4.00/lb.

Spare Ribs \$3.50/lb.

Country Style Ribs \$3.50/lb.

Baby Back Pork Ribs \$3.50/lb.

Pork Burgers \$4.00/lb.

(Ground, pattied pork with no seasoning)

Bratwursts \$4.00/lb.

Bundle Packages

1/4 Processed Hog \$115.00

1/2 Processed Hog \$210.00

Whole Processed Hog \$440.00

Irvine Stop & Shop Winter Bargains

Wednesday, Jan. 20th thru Tuesday, Jan. 26th

24-Packs 12-Oz. Cans Pepsi Products 2/\$13

2-Liter Bottles Big Red 69¢ Ea.

Campbell's 10 3/4 Oz. Tomato Soup 10/\$10

12-Oz. Pack Fischer's Wieners 4/\$5

12-Oz. Pack Oscar Meyer Bologna 4/\$5

Whole (Sliced Free) Pork Loin \$1.99 Lb.

Whole Boston Butt Roast \$1.49 Lb.

10-Pound Bag Chicken Leg Quarters \$3.90 Bag

Gallon Prairie Farms Milk \$2.99 Ea.

38-Ounce Heinz Ketchup \$1.99 Ea.

Libby's 15-Ounce (Corn - Beans - Peas) Can Vegetables 69¢ Ea.

Red Gold 46-Ounce Tomato Juice 2/\$3

10-Lb. Bag Idaho Potatoes \$2.99 Bag

2-Lb. Bag Halos \$2.99 Bag

Head Lettuce \$1.59 Head

Not responsible for typographical errors

STOP & Shop

905 Richmond Road, Irvine • 723-7512

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