



**Tam's Front Porch Ponderings**  
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The dogs are mad at us! I'm not sure how long it will take for them to get over it, but they are definitely mad at us! We got a mouthful when we arrived home last night, Hooch complaining that Rankin had ran away and just what did we think we were doing by leaving them home alone?

It's the fireworks, they hate them! It was an honest mistake, we had no intentions of going anywhere other than the Burger Barn, but since it was so close to dark, we made a spon-

aneous decision to drive towards Lake Reba and watch the fireworks. Usually the boys are with us on our trips to Burger Barn, but Dylan and Neli are home from Louisiana and we'd dropped by for dinner when the idea of fireworks hit us.

I couldn't help but feel a little guilty watching the beautiful colors explode in the night sky, knowing the guys were home by themselves. "They visit Mom when we're not there", I kept trying to tell myself as I focused on how perfectly delightful the slight breeze made me feel. I told the kids that "someone once said you should always do the things that make you smile. Fireworks make me smile so we should do this every night!" I loved being with the kids and Corky, not a care in the world, no place to be, just enjoying the moment.

That all went out the window when we pulled in the driveway! Hooch stood in our way, preventing us from pulling up to the garage. The look on his face was priceless, almost as if he was taunting us, "NOPE,

not coming in now. All that noise and booms and us here alone, huh uh, nope, no way!" He finally moved and treated us very cold as we approached the back door. No amount of coaxing would get him to accept our soft words of apology or pats on the head. His feelings were definitely hurt!

"Hooch, where's Rankin?"; Corky asked. Hooch began to bark, then wandered over to the side yard and laid down, totally ignoring us. Rankin was nowhere to be found. Corky searched and called, whistled and called again and again. I was beginning to get worried when out of the darkness, Rankin came bounding at Corky. He "scolded" Corky for leaving them home alone. He pranced and darted first one way, then another as he "talked" to Corky. Finally after the promise that we would never leave them again and a cookie, they both forgave us. To seal the deal, they slept soundly on their beds in the living room.

Do me a favor, the next time you see the boys, don't mention Lake Reba or fireworks, okay? It's still a touchy subject around our house!

Until next time.....



**top ten**

*Most Common French Surnames*

1. Martin
2. Bernard
3. Dubois
4. Thomas
5. Robert
6. Richard
7. Petit
8. Durand
9. Leroy
10. Moreau

Source: L'Internaute Magazine



**Times Remembered**  
**Betty A. Young**  
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**Camping & Baseball**

\* First of all, I'd like to thank Elizabeth for her nice letter concerning my articles. It was very thoughtful and nice. Thank you for your input. I'd like to thank all my readers who tell me they enjoy the articles. I just hope I can remind someone of something happy that they remember and experienced.

We went camping this past week-end, (first time in a year), to Renfro Valley with my sister and niece. The week-end was full of activities with it being the Fourth of July, and with all-star baseball games in full swing. Colton played in the local Georgetown tournament; 7U and his team won the championship.

I guess camping is a lot like every other activity; after a while you get tired of it. But, my sister convinced us to go to Renfro Valley to camp a few days. I had not visited the Renfro Valley for a while, but we did attend the program; "Christmas in the Valley," last December that was very good. Many of the shops weren't open; I thought that was rather odd seeing as they need to make money to operate; it seems to have gone downhill some.

The camp ground was fairly nice, this was my first time to camp there; but they do need the drive for incoming traffic black topped to keep the dust and mud away. Also, they have a drainage problem; after the heavy rains there was ankle deep water standing under our camper.

One of the most positive things I saw at Lake Linville was the clean-up and

the building of a new boat dock. The grounds mowed nicely. It is a vast improvement of a few years ago. Also the restaurant is under new management, it is very clean and they have barbeque, in fact I think it is "Back Porch Barbeque," now. You can practically order anything and it is delicious. I had the catfish dinner that was very good. They also serve breakfast and a wide assortment of homemade desserts.

On Saturday, the girls went to shops and attended some yard sales. Bob went kayaking and fishing at Lake Linville for the day. I mostly purchased vegetables at the London Flee Market to grill for dinner that evening. I bought peaches, tomatoes and fresh corn. We grilled the corn, cooked hamburgers and hot dogs and added several side dishes and desserts which made a scrumptious cook out. My niece, Sherry got the best dessert award this time; Blueberry Cheese Cake.

Colton, Steve and Tara joined us after Colton's baseball game on Friday night and enjoyed the meal. It is always nice to have your grandchildren with you and I just have one; therefore he is special. As I said earlier he played in the 7U in Georgetown this past week-end and his team won the tournament. Since his team began all-stars two weeks ago Colton has been at bat sixteen times and got on base fifteen times. What an accomplishment so far. He's batting really well; .937. We attended the championship game on Sunday afternoon.

On Saturday the camp staff began gearing up for the fireworks extravaganza, "Blast in the Valley." People began coming in the gate at 3:00. They came in old trucks, new Dodge Rams, ATV Buggies, cars, golf carts, baby strollers and some were walking. They seem to come out of the woodwork. Canopies and tents were set up in order to enjoy the evening of music, food and fireworks.

The band began playing around 4:00 p.m. and they sounded good; the food booths were set up with funnel cakes, snow-cones and lemonade for sale. The bouncy house type inflatables were enjoyed

by all the kids. Of course we were under our camper canopies just sitting back and enjoying watching people, we saw all colors of hair, purple, green and orange, and weird outfits too, we admired trucks, ate pizza and watermelon and just had a good old time.

Finally, at 10:00 the excitement began..... fireworks started. They were phenomenal, bright, colorful and loud. We were enjoying the beautiful colors. They had been shooting the fireworks for about twenty minutes when something went terribly wrong; they stopped.

Everyone close to us said, surely they last longer than that; it's usually an hour. Then the hush fell over the crowd; someone was hurt; four people were injured. Fire trucks and sirens began to ring out in the valley. What in the world happened? Staff began clearing the road to make way for the ambulances and rescue squad.

Then we heard that some of the fireworks that were supposed to go up in the air had fallen back instead of going up and hit some people standing nearby; possibly burning them on legs and arms. Thankfully, there were not hurt badly. They were treated and released according to the news report. But the evening was spoiled for approximately 10,000 people.

It took two hours for everyone to get out of the field where they were parked, Then here comes a severe storm warning from the sheriff for everyone to vacate their campers and go to "The Barn." We jumped out of bed, pulled on our clothes and hurried that way. We sat outside for an awhile but the storm never materialized; it was a flash flood warning. I guess the sheriff didn't know what he was talking about?? Then we go back to the camper and stay awake all night worrying about the weather; what's next?

I was glad to see the sun come up Sunday morning; we loaded up in ankle deep water and headed home. I was happy to see my house. I don't think I'm going back to that particular campground for a while. I'll stick to higher ground.

**UK Announces Dean's List For Spring 2016 Semester**

The University of Kentucky has announced its Dean's List for the 2016 Spring Semester, including these students from Estill County:

- Benton, Logan Scott, SR, Architecture
- Charles, Trevor Glen, SR, Kinesiology
- Dixon, Dalton Gage, FR, Biology
- Halbert, Dakota McQuaid Jr Public Health
- Hall, Ethan Thomas Jr Pre-Management
- Haney, Kevin Charles Jr Information Communication Technology
- Masters, Taylor S., SO,

Career and Technical Education

- Richardson, Natascha Kae, SR, Biology
- Rose, Jordyn T., SO, Biology
- Tipton, Christian L., SO, Psychology
- Winkler, Jay Christopher, SO, Pre-Economics

To make a Dean's List in one of the UK colleges, a student must earn a grade point average of 3.6 or higher and must have earned 12 credits or more in that semester, excluding credits earned in pass-fail classes. Some UK colleges require a 3.5 GPA to make the Dean's List.

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