

# ESTILL COUNTY'S CEDAR GROVE - A Kentucky Community and Its People

The following is the 13th in a series of articles about the community of Cedar Grove and the west-central part of Estill County that have been compiled by Jerry G. Rose and are from information included in his book, "ESTILL COUNTY'S CEDAR GROVE - A Kentucky Community and Its People"

by JERRY G. ROSE

## Cedar Grove Businesses - Part 1

Several Business Establishments operated in the older sections of Cedar Grove during the early years providing total or partial employment for a limited number of residents. Several residents could be considered as self-employed in Cedar Grove. At least fifteen businesses have been identified as operating for various periods during the 1900s along the old KY 52 while it was the main highway between Irvine and Richmond. These included several grocery/general stores and various other business enterprises as described in this chapter. This listing is likely not all encompassing, particularly for the earlier years. A limited number of businesses have operated along the new KY 52, most notably Gerry's Cash and Carry (now Rose's) Grocery/General Store at the Sand Hill Road junction.

Although several families actually "made of living" operating businesses along the old highway prior to the construction of the "new" KY 52 in 1970, today the only operating businesses in Cedar Grove are a limited to those along the new KY 52. Not a single business is located in the old sections of Cedar Grove today with the exception of the few businesses along the new highway.

### Business # 1 -- The Bedie Hall General Store



The B. G. (Bedie) Hall family inside the general store during the circa 1930s. Left to right -- Bedie, wife Mary (Noland), and five children -- Douglas, Chester, Roscoe, Edith, and Tracy.

Bedie Hall and wife, Mary, operated a store at this site from the 1930s through the 1950s. The store was later demolished.

Mr. Hall was known for using his truck to select and obtain fresh produce in Lexington for sale at his store. One of his special purchases was stalks of bananas. Residents from the area were particularly fond of the quality and freshness of Bedie's produce.

He also delivered coal to customers for home heating purchases. The Halls lived in a house adjacent to the store.

### Business # 2 -- The Mack Drive-In Theater

Ralph McClanahan, brother of Russell, bought the school property in 1951.

The McClanahans, mainly Ralph's mother and father, opened a Drive-In Theater on the site a couple of years later. The Drive-In was operated for about 13 years by the McClanahans. It was the only Drive-In Theater in Estill County.

It was operated by the Stanton Drive-In group for one year in 1968. It was then closed.

A church was later built on the site. The present name is New Beginning Fellowship - Inter-Denominational Community Worship.

### Business # 3 -- The Vernon Elliott Grist Mill

In the early 1940s, Vernon bought a grist mill from Robert (Bob) Wilcox. The mill had been located on the Wilcox property near the Methodist Church. Vernon operated it until the early 1980s. He typically ground corn on Saturdays. The Elliott's lived in a house adjacent to the mill.

### Business # 4 -- The Campbell/Cox General Store

This store was operated early on by Lottie (Granny) Campbell, perhaps as early as the 1920s.

Also, Ethel and Hugh Cox operated the store in the 1940s.

James and Carrie Warford bought the property during the late 1940s. They operated the store for a few years and lived in a house next to the store.

The store was demolished in the mid-1960s.

Alberta and Winnie (Frank and Clara Gould's daughters) operated a small store next to the larger Campbell store for a short period of time.

### Business # 5 -- The Jim/Flora Wolfinbarger General Store

In about 1950, James H. (Jim) and Flora (Woosley) Wolfinbarger built this store. They soon added an apartment on the side of the store building.

The store was operated by the Wolfinbargers until it closed in the early 1970s, soon after the new KY 52 highway bypassed the store (the new highway was actually behind and below the store).

The interiors of the store portion and apartment were reconfigured and combined.



The store, circa 1960, and some of Edgar Rose's chickens in the barn lot across the old road from the store.

### Business # 6 -- The Ben Hunt Dairy

Ben Hunt and family operated a dairy on this property until about 1939. The large barn contained a concrete floor and several stalls in the central part and two attached sheds on the sides for milking and feeding the cows. The upper part of the central portion contained a loft for storing hay.

A small building, adjacent to the barn, also had a concrete floor and was known as the milk house, where the milk was processed.

The cows grazed on a small acreage near the barn and were guided out to Sandhill to graze on much larger grass pastures.

In 1939, the property was sold to Clabe and Jeanna (Riddle) Tharpe.



The barn used by the Hunts. The dairy operated for several years during the early 1900s. The barn had concrete floors. This picture was made in the 1960s, over 40 years after it was operated as a dairy.

## Principals discuss recent tests scores with BOE

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Jessica Mullins, principal of Estill Springs, said that they were doing continuous monitoring of the students at her school and that if a student is struggling they are able to identify the problem quickly. Mullins said that Brooke Mays was wonderful in working with those students that needed intervention.

Charlotte Arvin, principal at West Irvine, said she felt like they were making great gains at her school. She said that parent volunteers were in the building all of the time and that West Irvine had the best attendance in the district. She said that the culture had changed at the school and they had enrolled 18 new students since the beginning of school.

Chris Winkler, principal at the high

school, informed the board that they had also implemented the Reading Plus program and had switched from a trimester to a semester of classes. He added that the attendance rate was also really good at the high school and that 72.4 percent of the senior class showed that they are college and career ready.

"We aren't where we need to be but we're certainly not where we were," added Winkler.

Superintendent Jeff Saylor stated that he would like to hire one extra person for maintenance. Saylor said that the grounds had been neglected for too long and that the maintenance staff had worked during fall break painting and on other issues throughout the district. He added that budget cuts over the past few years had been detrimental to the grounds and facilities because there wasn't enough money to cover it and he said that was always the first place that cuts were made. He said the inside of the schools were clean but it was the outside of the buildings that needed immediate attention.

All board members were in agreement that the most complaints that they hear are about the state of the facilities and the way the grounds look. Board member Jenny Niece said that the locker room and weight room at the high school are in horrible shape and that some of the kids don't want to use the weight room because of the condition it's in.

Board Chair Rhonda Hardy said she thought that was a shame considering that the biggest portion of the funds to build

the weight room were donated by a former athlete. Hardy also said that she had been informed that people from the community used the weight room and it seemed like a huge liability for the school district.

Mr. Saylor said he wasn't aware of anyone using the weight room other than students but would definitely check into it. He went on to say that with the hiring of the one extra maintenance person, it would put a dent in some of the maintenance issues that they had fallen behind on.

The board moved on to approve consent items such as an out of state trip for GEAR UP and ROTC, minutes from the last meeting, treasurer's report, and payment of bills before going into closed session pursuant to KRS 61.810.

## Circuit Clerk and PVA exams to be given

Examinations will be given for persons seeking to run for Property Valuation Administrator and Estill Circuit Clerk.

The PVA's examination will be given November 17 at Holiday Inn, 1325 S. Hurstbourne Parkway in Louisville, starting at 9 a.m. Identification is required.

You can pre-register by sending an e-mail to stacey.brown@ky.gov. In the subject line of your email, please put "PVA Test Pre-Registration and state, "I want to pre-register for the 2017 PVA exam to be given on November 17, 2017. Include your name, mailing address, telephone number and email address.

All pre-registration forms must be received by Nov. 10.

Qualifications for Property Valuation Administrator include being at least 24 years old, a resident of Kentucky for the last two years and in the county for the past year.

Prospective candidates for the office of circuit

court clerk must register for the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerk 2018 Election Qualifying Exam between Oct. 16 and Nov. 8, 2017.

The exam will take place Dec. 2, 2017, at Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington. This is the only date and location for the exam.

The elected office of circuit court clerk will be on

the ballot for all Kentucky counties in 2018. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 1.060, anyone who wants to run for the office must score at least 70 percent on the exam. County clerks will be notified of applicants who are eligible to seek the office of circuit court clerk.

More information, in-

cluding the registration form and study materials, is available at [www.courts.ky.gov/clerkexam](http://www.courts.ky.gov/clerkexam).

Questions regarding the exam should be directed to the Administrative Office of the Courts at [circuitclerksexam@kycourts.net](mailto:circuitclerksexam@kycourts.net) or 502-573-2350 ext. 50792.

## KSP makes charges of drug trafficking and possession

Two were charged by Kentucky State Police on Oct. 17 with drug related charges.

Trooper D. Lovett wrote in a citation that he was dispatched to Pea Ridge Road after an anonymous caller said that people at a residence were making and selling meth.

When he arrived, the trooper stated that a man was outside in a detached garage with the door open. He added the man was sitting in a chair and had several knives

on him. He asked the man to empty his pockets. The citation states that was when the man pulled a baggy out with a crystal like substance. The man allegedly told the trooper it was meth.

According to the citation, there was also a scale and two phones on the table. The man had \$92 in cash.

Trooper Lovett charged Cornelius Wilson, 56, of Stacy Lane, Irvine with trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and drug paraphernalia buy/

possess.

A woman, Tabatha Merida, 34, of Waco, Ky., was charged with possession of a controlled substance first degree and first offense (methamphetamine) and drug paraphernalia buy/possess.

The citation states that Trooper Lovett located a small baggy containing a crystal-like substance in a pink zip bag in Merida's purse. The substance is suspected meth.

He also reported find-

ing a glass pipe in the purse that appeared to be used for smoking meth.

Merida was arraigned in Estill District Court on Oct. 18. She pleaded not-guilty to her charges. Her preliminary hearing is scheduled for October 30 in Owsley County.

Merida's bail was set at \$1,000 cash. According to court records, she was arrested while she had a case pending.

Bail information and court dates for Wilson were not available.

## Ravenna/AG opinion

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By failing to affirmatively advise Appellant that no responsive record existed, the City violated the Open Records Act," opined the AG's office.

"As we have concluded that the City did not have the responsive records, but that there is a strong presumption that such records should exist, we believe that there may be a records management issue regarding the City's records," the opinion continues.

The AG's opinion was prepared by Gordon W. Slone, Assistant Attorney General.

Either party can appeal the AG's opinion to Estill Circuit Court.

To see the complete AG opinion, please go online and see 17-ORD-209.