



ABOVE: Only the concrete piers were still standing from the L&N walk bridge in Ravenna following the tornado that hit the town on June 9, 1961.



The Dr. Caywood home on 7th Street in Ravenna where the Ravenna Christian Church owns. Every house on the block was damaged. (Photos and information courtesy of the late Claude Isaacs Jr.)

213 TALES

by the late
Michael Dale Profitt

My name is Michael Dale Profitt, and I was born and raised in Estill County. I was the ninth child born to Charlie Elmer Profitt and Elsie Patrick Profitt and was the first born in a hospital. Mom was born at Cob Hill, the ninth child of twelve children.

A big tornado hit Ravenna on June 9, 1961. Dad was working in Richmond. He would drive to Ravenna and park at the Retired Railroad Workers' parking lot. Dad went to go to work and had to come home because it was so bad in Ravenna. It was awful in town. The railroad walk bridge had been lifted and thrown off the piers and onto the ground. It was made of wood and went all the way across the railroad yard. It was about a half-mile long and went all the way to the Old Pike. The concrete piers are still standing. It tore up railroad cars and threw them off the tracks. Some of the steel coal cars had 2x4's run through the side of them. It had to have a lot of power.

Ravenna had a lot of businesses then. Sometimes we wouldn't ride the bus home and would walk to downtown Ravenna to get a haircut and some other things. We would go to Ravenna Drug Store and buy hand-dipped ice cream and model cars. My brother Glenn loved comic books and he would buy a lot of them.

There were two barber shops in

Ravenna then. One was run by Claude Isaacs Sr. He was an old World War II veteran and would cut your hair real short. He charged \$1.00 for a haircut. Up Main Street was another shop. Ray Rose run this shop and charged \$1.50 per haircut.

Pruitt's shoe shop was beside Claude's barber shop. If something was wrong with your shoes, you could get them fixed there. You could get half-soles put on them and wear them a long time. They came back to the arch of the shoe and they would sew and glue it on the old shoe. You could also get heels replaced. They would take the old heel off and put a new one on with nails and glue. The boys liked heel taps on their shoes. They were steel pieces that were nailed on your heel and sometimes on the sold of your shoe. They would make a lot of noise on hard floors. Mr. Pruitt only had one leg. He had lost the other one while working on the railroad. The shoe sewing machine, you had to turn by hand. He had an electric grinder to cut down the heels or half-heels to match the rest of the shoe. It had a brush on the other side to shine the shoes.

There was a paint shop and a small grocery store, Brakefield Grocery, beside the drug store. There was a restaurant on the other side of the drug store. Over the restaurant was a hotel where the railroad workers stayed. Ravenna had a lot of things then. A furniture store was beside the restaurant.

The next block over was the Ravenna Post Office and beside it was Bob's Super Market. It was run by Bob Welch and his family. Beside it was another furniture store and then the city hall and firehouse. Beside it was an old building

that was empty. I don't remember what used to be there. But they said the top story had blown off in the tornado.

Next to it was the VFW. Beside it was a garage that sold Shell gasoline. Dad used to buy his gasoline there and have his car worked on. I went down there with him once and got too close to the gas heater in the floor. A man grabbed me and I didn't know what was going on. My coat was on fire and he jerked it off me. The coat was destroyed but I wasn't hurt.

The next block had a Nazarene church facing Main Street. Beside it, Raymond Henderson had a grocery store. The National Guard Armory was next and down from it was the B&C Wholesale. The Curtis family run it and Mom and Dad got a lot of cigarettes and candy from them. They didn't have much can food like the other wholesale companies. They had a lot of small items.

The Estill County school bus garage was on the next block. It was a large tin building. Next to it was Ravenna Greenhouses. It took up half a block. I didn't know what to think about all the glass building. Next block had a larger service station which also had Shell gasoline and the Twin City Motel. Then there was a couple of houses and a large garage on the corner of Main and 3rd streets. It sold Sonoco gasoline. It was run by Charles Hall.

The concrete plant and the Ashland oil bulk plant were on the south side of Main Street. The only other businesses on that side of Main Street were the railroad depot and an Ashland garage.

The Shell Oil bulk station was across from the Ashland station at the beginning of River Drive. Main Street went

around a curve there and changed to Broadway. There were several other businesses, two or three service stations, a dry cleaning business, and a laundromat.

Third Street didn't have many businesses. Most of it was houses and Ravenna Church of God. The Wigwam was at the end of 4th and 3rd streets and a grocery store was right behind it. The Wigwam had curb service and was famous for the Country Boy hamburger. All of the young kids would go there to eat a lot. They would also drive around the Wigwam at night. That was where they would come and then go back to Irvine and drive around the courthouse and right back. A lot of times you couldn't get in the parking lot at the Wigwam for people parked there. It's still open and has been for 50 years at this writing.

Gilbert McIntosh run the grocery store behind the Wigwam. It was two stories and they lived on the second floor. Me and Joedy Henry would come there every day and work straightening up pop bottles.

Some of the buildings on Main Street were tore all the way down by the tornado. Some 2-story buildings were torn up so badly they made them one-story. Ravenna had a population of 1500 then. The town never recovered. When I was going to school there it had dropped to 900. Now, it's a lot less than that. The railroad yard is gone and a lot of other jobs have left. They had a small hotel, restaurants and several grocery stores. Now, there's two restaurants and one grocery store. A lot of the old businesses are gone. The City of Ravenna's grade school had even been run by the city.

OBITUARIES

Printed free as a public service. Contact the funeral home to have an obituary included. **Photos included at no charge.** Local obituary Lines -- Lewis (723-8558) & Toler (723-4242) Contact the Estill County Tribune at (606) 723-5012 to have any out-of-county obituaries placed in this newspaper.

Friday, March 22, 2019 Alsie Jean Merritt, 88

Alsie Jean Merritt, 88, wife of Hollis Thomas Merritt, passed away on Friday, March 22, 2019 at her home.

She was born in Estill County, Kentucky, on April 28, 1930, to the late Millard and Myrtle Modell Short Mansfield. She was a homemaker, a member of First Church of God Colby Road and previously worked as a seamstress at Curlee Clothing.



Alsie Merritt

In addition to her loving husband of 70 years, she is survived by two children, Rhonda Ann Merritt and Patricia Jean Bowling; five grandchildren, Angela Mansfield Cambron (Mark), Ashley Lynn Bowling, Brandon Thomas Bowling (Heather), Monte Dain Everman and Randall Brooke Everman; ten great grandchildren, Elizabeth Jaelyn Cambron, Olivia Ann Cambron, Jo-

soph Gabriel Cambron, Lily Marie Cambron, Mark Samuel Cambron, Asher Charles Cambron, Morgan Elizabeth Payne, Kaila Lynn Payne, Jasper Clay Everman and Jason Edward Blevins II.

Services were at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, March 23, 2019 at Scobee Funeral Home. Burial followed in the Winchester Cemetery. <ScobeeFuneralHome.com>

Thank You

Thank you for your concern, cards, visits, and prayers during the illness and passing of our beloved wife and mother, Joyce Cox. Thank you to those who sent flowers and provided food during this difficult time. A special thank you to Jerry Rose for his kind words at the service. We are blessed to call you friends and family.

Glendon "Blue" Cox, Karen Wilson Sheryl May, Janet Whitley

Friday, March 22, 2019 Jasper Snowden, 79



Jasper Clay Snowden, age 79, of Winchester Road in Irvine, Kentucky, passed away Friday, March 22, 2019 at Saint Joseph East Hospital in Lexington, following a long illness.

He was born April 5, 1939 in Estill County to the late Sam and Rosie Crowe Snowden. He retired from Leggett & Platt and was a veteran of the United States Army. He lived in Estill County all his life.

Mr. Snowden is survived by his wife, Jeweldine Wiseman Snowden, Estill County; one daughter, Sheila Travis (Billy), Estill County; one sister, Faye

Means, Powell County; and one grandchild, Dylan Travis.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Hubert and Elva Snowden.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, March 25, 2019, at 1:00 p.m., at the Irvine Nazarene Church by Bro. Merle Travis and Bro. Matt Marshall. Burial followed in the Jackson Chapel Cemetery. Friends called between 6-9 p.m., Sunday night, March 24th at the Warren F. Toler Funeral Home and after 12 Noon, Monday, at the church..

<TolerFuneralHome.com>

Sunday, March 24, 2019 Carolyn Riddell-Taylor, 27

Carolyn Denise Riddell-Taylor, age 27, of Sub Station Road in Irvine passed away Sunday, March 24, 2019.

She was born January 7, 1992 in Montgomery County and was the daughter of Samuel David Riddell and Donna Denise Horn Roberts. She was an employee of Toyota Manufacturing and attended the Pentecostal Fellowship Church. She had lived in Estill County most of her life.

She is survived by her husband: Michael Bradley Taylor; her father: Samuel David Riddell - Madison County; her mother and dad: Donna Denise (Michael Ray) Roberts- Estill County; her grandmother: Phyllis

Horn -Estill County; four step-children: Addison, Ava, Arden and Aiden Taylor; three sisters: Samantha Riddell - Estill County; Chandra Riddell - Carter County; Chelsea Riddell - Madison County; nephews: Billy Brown, Brennon Brown, Brayden Brown and Waylon Noland; and her fur baby: Sophie.

She was preceded in death by her sister and best friend, Ashley Jo Breinna Horn Brown.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday, March 27, 6 p.m. at the Warren F. Toler Funeral Home by Bro. Charles Elliott. Friends may call after 4 PM Wednesday at the Warren F. Toler Funeral Home.

<TolerFuneralHome.com>

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 Reva Dixon Toler, 81

Reva Dixon Toler, age 81, of Hollyhill Drive in Lexington, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at Saint Joseph Hospital in Lexington. She was a homemaker and was a member of the Wagersville Pentecostal Church of God. She had lived in Estill County most of her life.

She was born July 5, 1937 in Estill County and was the daughter of the late George P. and Thelma Hymer Dixon.

Mrs. Toler was preceded in death by her husband, John Toler.

She is survived by one daughter, Fay Isaacs, Lex-

ington; two sons: William Gayle Smith, Lexington; and Ronnie P. Smith, Winchester; ten grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 23, 1:00 p.m., at the Warren F. Toler Funeral Home Chapel by Bro. Jerry Rose and Bro. Phillip Smith. Burial followed in the West Irvine Cemetery. Friends called after 11:00 a.m., Saturday, at the funeral home.

Pallbearers were Dayton Hatcher, Daniel Hatcher, William Smith, Roger Marcum, Danny Calloway and Jack Woolwine.

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