213 TALES

by the late Michael Dale Profitt

David Akers would come on Sunday and take me to church at Winston. There was a whole car load of us that went with him to church. Kyle McIntosh, David White, Donald Puckett, Cleveland Adams and some of Alma Puckett's boys would go.

The church had a softball team and we would go play softball sometimes. Mr. Akers played for the men's team. We played in the youth league. He would take us camping and other things. We went over to stay at Boone's Creek Baptist Camp a few nights. He then got another job and moved away. He got David Dunn to start coming and getting us to go to church. He preached at Williams Memorial Baptist Church in Ravenna. He had a Volkswagon bus he drove. It had three seats and looked funny. We also had a youth group we would go to after school. The church was a block down from the Ravenna School.

We would race the little electric race cars that had a thing in the bottom to go in a slot in the race track. That's where it got its power. If you went too fast the car would spin out and fall off the track. Brother Dunn made a large track about 20 feet long out of plywood and it was about 10 feet wide. You could really run on this track. He left the church a few years later.

I didn't know how to ride a bicycle. I had a piggy bank and took out my money and got a new Western Flyer. It was a red 26" and was real pretty. My sister Sue helped me learn how to ride it. She would hold me up and run with me to try to keep me from wrecking.

My brother Glenn would borrow the bike from me and ride out to the store and other places. One night at Halloween he had borrowed the bike. Sue and I were trick-or-treating and I got Glenn to give me my bike out the road. It was dark and I couldn't see very good. I ran into a tree several of the boys had cut across the road. It bent the front fork back where the tire wouldn't roll now. The boys laughed about it. I cried because it hurt but they didn't care. One of them was a bully to people who were smaller than him. He always bullied the other boys.

My cousin had the first 10-speed I had ever seen. It was made in England. I thought it was really funny looking with hand brakes and a shifter on it.

We later moved back to the store on KY-52. The store was about empty and we had a lot of stuff to move back. We had all grown more. Sanford was now working at the Christmas tree factory in Lexington. He got drafted into the army in 1967 and stayed two years. He went to Okinawa, Japan for a year.

Glenn and Chester still helped work in hay in the summer. They worked mostly for Clay and his son, Darrell Tipton. They would haul hay a lot of places. Once on the Alexander property at Pitts they were putting in hay that layed overnight. T.J. Ballard was working on the wagon. Glenn tried to hand a bale up and T.J. kicked it back. It had a copperhead snake in the bale. They killed it and went back to work.

Every fall, a lot of people would come to the store from Lexington and Winchester, trying to get help housing and cutting tobacco. Raymond Barnes was always a good cutter and went every year. A lot of people would go work about a month each year. I was too small.

Fred Ginter lived on Millers Creek and would buy a lot of raspberries from us every year. Chester and Glenn would go and help him in hay a lot. He had a son the same age as Sue, named Ricky. They lived where the back water got up a lot. They had to walk or take a boat to get out. I wouldn't want to live there. I wouldn't like the flooding all the time.

We started back to school and I was in the sixth grade. Mrs. Anderson was my teacher. She was short. She was a good teacher and was the cheerleader coach. She loved teaching school. Her husband ran the River Drive Gulf and they had two sons.

I was upstairs at school now and could look all the way across the river and fields over on Buck Creek. I would wish I was over there playing in the fields with the cattle. Donald Puckett and David White lived across the road from us and could come out and do things now. Stella Puckett who I called "Mother Goose" finally let them come out and go to a few places. We would play a lot together. Glenn and David would team, and me and Donald would be partners. We would snowball fight and other things. We did a lot of things together. We would ride bicycles together. Donald had a dog named Butch. It was half collie and half German shepherd. I ran over him with a bicycle when he was a pup. He hated me and would bite me every time he got loose. David had a dog named Blue.

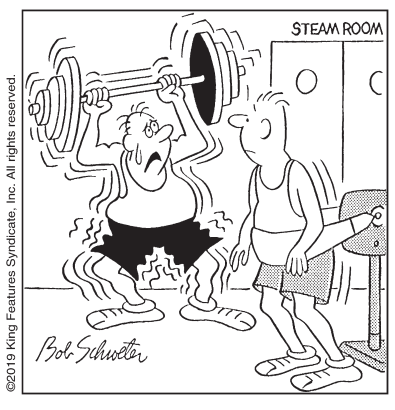
We built a rock house on Arnold Puckett's place. We would go down there sometimes. There was a lot of rock piles down there where they used to farm. We built onto a shack behind the house in a bank. We put a roof on it.

We went around there one night and the 'spitters' about eat us up. We would play cards a lot of times. We played tonk and poker. It was a lot of fun. We played a lot across the road in a dry pond. We played for a nickle. We would play all the time. David would spit a lot so Glenn called him 'Mad Dog Red' and the name stuck. He still goes by that name. We always called Donald, 'Duck.' He was a lot different than David.

We would team up and make snow forts and everything. Glenn was always bigger so he could get me. Then we would 'waller' in the snow and everything. Once we made a cannon out of a two-inch pipe. We would shoot walnuts by putting M-80 firecrackers in first; then dropping the walnut on top of it in the pipe. We got to feeling something and it was burning us. The pipe had gotten a hole in it and stuff was coming out and hitting us.

We would still go back out to cousin Carl McIntosh's for playing. Carl had bought a bunch of ponies and would let you ride them for 25 cents an hour. They would race and everything. The Abneys had a stud pony named Bill. They kept him on a chain in their yard. Runt would come out there and race with the other boys. Taffy was a gelding and could run really fast. He would always beat Bill. Carl had one pony named Dolly. She was blind and really gentle. I would ride her. He also had Star and Daisy. They were both mare ponies. Star was bigger than the rest. They said she was half horse.

Chester got a 1960 Chevrolet car and got his drivers license. We would go everywhere in the old car. We would go swimming in the summer at what we called Crystal Creek. It was really Billy's Fork of Millers Creek. Crystal Creek actually came down from Lee County. The water was really clean and a lot of people would come there. It was a lot of fun, swimming there.



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"I think I'm gonna have to quit this fitness club for my _ _ _ _ _ _ ."

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Favor
KNOTE _ _ _ _ _

Omen
DEALHR _ _ _ _ _ _

Pace
CHARM _ _ _ _ _

Forge
TRACEE _ _ _ _ _ _

TODAY'S WORD

_ _ _ _ _ _

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When: Tuesday, May 14, 2019

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Show up any time between the hours: 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

For more information, call 606-723-5181 or visit Estill County Health Department Facebook page.

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