

POSTSCRIPT:

Luke Denny resides in a government subsidized house in the little middle Tennessee town of Smithville, near Center Hill Lake. He is alone, in poor health, and with little money, except for the diamonds he wears constantly on his fingers. Long gone are those shiny new fast cars. Today he drives a worn out 1977 Oldsmobile.

However, his joy now is reminiscing about the old white lightning days with friends. Once he starts talking he will not stop. If asked he will kick up his heels, a little, and buck dance while singing an old Depression era political tune.

If you are not willing to listen for hours on end, do not ask him the magic question, "Aren't you Luke Denny, the runner who never got caught while hauling moonshine?" With that question a sparkle will come to his eyes - - he has one brown and one blue eye. Then, within seconds, it's as if he can simply crank up one of his car's engines of yesterday and let you ride along when moonshine was not only a way of life, but as Luke says, "King of the Tennessee Hills."

For those moonshine memories are what keeps Luke Alexander Denny alive.

AUTHOR: Dr. Stoney Merriman, was born January 1, 1943 near Pikeville, Tennessee. He moved to Detroit with his family at age 10 and enlisted into the Marine Corps after receiving his high school diploma. Nearly twenty-three years later on March 31, 1983, Master Gunnery Sergeant (E-9) Stony Merriman retired from his position as Public Affairs Chief, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington D. C. The Top Sergeant saw action during two tours in Vietnam and was wounded twice while serving as a military combat correspondent. Among his decorations are the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star with Combat "V", two Purple Hearts and the Meritorious Service Medals. He has degrees from Nassau College, Garden City, New York, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, Chapman College, Orange, California, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, Tennessee, and California Coast University, Santa Ana, California. Stony was the Sports and Wildlife Editor for the Smithville Review (1983-1985) and Publisher and Editor of the Carthage Courier (1986). He has served as Chief Public Affairs Officer, with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, since January 11, 1987. Dr. Merriman celebrated 28 years of marriage to Judy Love Merriman on August 2, 1991, and they have one son Don, a senior at Tennessee Tech University, majoring in criminal justice.

Source: (Back cover of the book: *Midnight Moonshine Rendezvous* by Stony Merriman): Author Dr. Stony Merriman, was born January 1, 1943 near Pikeville, Tennessee. He moved to Detroit with his family at age 10 and enlisted into the Marine Corps after receiving his high school diploma. Nearly twenty-three years later on March 31, 1983, Master Gunnery Sergeant (E-9) Stony Merriman retired from his position as Public Affairs Chief, headquarters Marine Corps, Washington D.C.

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Mitchell "Stony" Stone Merriman Obituary
The Tennessean Newspaper: TN
Monday, 22 May 1995

Army Corps of Engineers' Stony Merriman dies, 52.



Mitchell (Stony) Stone Merriman was said to have had such an innovative and creative style in public relations that the how-to book he wrote for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was distributed to Corps offices worldwide.

Mr. Merriman, 52 of Smithville, TN died Saturday at home of an inoperable brain tumor.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m. tomorrow at DeKalb Memorial Gardens in Smithville. Love-Cantrell Funeral Home is in charge. Visitation will be 6-8 p.m. today at the Funeral Home.

Mr. Merriman, originally from White County, TN managed the Corps of Engineers Nashville District's public information, media relations and community relations program in a seven-state area. He began work with the Corps in 1987.

He had five degrees, including a doctorate in education and degrees from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and Tennessee Tech University, where he also taught.

Before his work with the Nashville District, Mr. Merriman was publisher and editor of the Carthage Courier in Carthage, TN. Before that, he was a sports and wildlife editor at The Smithville Review.

Mr. Merriman retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1983 after 23 years of service and two combat tours of Vietnam, where he served in a variety of journalistic jobs.

Among his military awards are the Legion of Merit Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Bronze Star with Combat "V" Medal, two Purple Hearts and several other awards.

Mr. Merriman also wrote four books, including Retracing the Old Mojave Indian Trail and Midnight Moonshine Rendezvous and How to Build the Corps Image...Free!

He is survived by his wife, Judy Merriman; a son, Don Merriman, Nashville, TN; parents, Mitchell and Mary Kate Merriman, Sparta, TN; sisters, Mary Prestridge, Troy, MI, Connie Griffin, West Plains, MO and Kathy Bryan, Knoxville, TN; and brothers, Mike and Mark Merriman, both Knoxville, TN.

Tammer Jerry Denny Sr. sent me this obt. of Stone "Stony" Merriman he received in 2004 from Judy Merriman.

<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pao/digest/0302/story09.htm>

Biologist Joe Cathey reflects on his nearly 35 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as he prepares to hang up his hardhat and stow his steel-toe boots for the last time.

My career was further enhanced by interacting with some excellent media people - Vernon Summerlin (Tennessee Angler), Carol Ritchie (Nashville Banner), Charles Searcy (Tennessean), Jimmy Holt (Tennessean and WDCN), Glen Smith (WDCN), Clint Confehr (Review Appeal), Anna Paine (Tennessean), Nick Sullivan (Tennessean), Sam Venable (Knoxville News Sentinel), and Terry Dorsey (WSMV).

Nashville District PAOs Drs. Darryl Armstrong & **Stony Merriman**, Donna Willett, and Ed Evans always made sure I was fully prepared to answer questions posed by the press. These experts also consistently orchestrated outstanding groundbreaking, dedications, and public meetings.

Certainly the Big South Fork Blue Heron Mine and the Bay Springs Lock & Dam groundbreakings were most memorable. **Merriman's** support of the Section 202 Upper Cumberland River Flood Control Projects for Congressman Hal Rogers made Planning Branch's efforts much easier as we solved flooding problems in this economically depressed area.

From an emotional standpoint, **Stony Merriman's** untimely death was my worst experience (in terms of tears and grief). Special thanks to Ed Evans for calling on me to help give Stony's wife some relief by driving Stony from Smithville to Murfreesboro so he could receive radiation treatment. I got to spend valuable time with him, but it sure



Congressman Tom Bevill, Joe Cathey, Tom Swor and Stony Merriman
on Board the MVM in 1990. (Photo by Ed Evans)

was hard watching such an energetic and intelligent person fall so rapidly (May 20, 1995). Cancer is a terrible disease.

Author: **Merriman, Stony.**
Title: **Midnight moonshine rendezvous : secrets of Luke Alexander Denny's moonshine running adventures (1930s-1960s) / by Stony Merriman**
Library: The State Historical Society
of Wisconsin
Subject: Denny, Luke Alexander, 1917-
Distilling, Illicit--Tennessee--Upper Cumberland Region.
Upper Cumberland Region (Tenn.)--History.
Publisher: Smithville, Tenn. : M. Stone Publishing, c1990.
Format: viii, 284 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Call Number: Historical Society Library HJ5021 M47 1990
Notes: Isbn: 0963307916
Address: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.
Directions: Located on the lower campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Merriman, Judy L
Married 2 August 1963



<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert

(Luke Alexander Denny was my father, Tim Denny's 1st cousin. The last time I saw Luke Denny was at the funeral of my grandmother Audra Camilla Anderson Denny and he was dressed to the tee and telling stories to my brothers, Richard Lewis and Ronald Timothy Denny).