

WAY BACK WHEN: LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY
Happenings in the Cookeville area as recorded in the pages of the
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

By Bob McMillian

2000s

(Compiled by Audrey J. Lambert)

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

2000

(January 6, 2000) The Putnam County Humane Society says it will have to close its animal shelter due to a funding crunch and the resignation of all its staff. The society is left to raise \$100,000 of its annual \$150,000 budget each year and board member Jan Tate says "All we do is non-stop fundraising and people are getting tired of seeing us coming." The staff resigned over a disagreement over where to cut back to keep the shelter going.

(January 14, 2000) Angelo Volpe retires after 13 years as Tennessee Tech president and the state Board of Regents names Dr. Bob Bell, dean of the College of Business who's been with TTU for 23 years, to become the University's next president.

(February 22, 2000) The Putnam County Animal Shelter is struggling with too many animals and too little staff to care for them. Staff members have had to reduce their open hours and increase adoption fees by \$5 to help pay for the costs of operation.

The Humane Society has jumped in to help with volunteers and donations, the Cookeville City Council agreed to pay the facility's utility bills and the Putnam County Commission gave \$10,000 toward operations.

(February 29, 2000) H-C Sports editor Frank Layne ends a lengthy unbroken stint as a daily newspaper sports editor when he retires after 30 years of sports writing for the HC. He says he's not "retiring," though, just launching a new career that will leave "little time for fishing."

The 1961 TTU graduate worked for six months as the city's first full time recreation director and then went on to work for the Red Cross in Florida. In March 1970, he became the H-C's sports editor.

(February 9, 2000) Cookeville Regional Medical Center wrapped up a \$24 million construction project in December and is now launching another \$7 million project. Just added were a new obstetrics unit, a new emergency room and outpatient wing and the Dr. Jere Lowe outpatient surgery unit. The coming project will renovate the hospital's 3rd floor and radiology/imaging unit.

(February 16, 2000) More than 1,000 Baxter residents are evacuated from their homes when a train with four cars of liquid propane derails just west of the town's business district. They go home the next day when the cleanup concludes without incident.

(March 1, 2000) TTU student Paula Tudor won a role on "That '70's Show" that aired Feb. 28, 2000. The show was taped in front of a live studio audience. Though Tudor had no speaking part, she was featured in two scenes of the television show and got to talk to the actors.

"At first, I was really intimidated because they were stars, but they were very nice and fun to hang out with," Tudor said.

This was her first TV appearance, but she has taken acting classes at TTU and hopes to teach drama to high school students.

*The Cookeville Planning Commission discussed adding three new areas to Cookeville which would add 1,987 acres to the city and about 450 people. The three areas discussed were the Old Sparta Road/Horace Lewis Road area, Old Bridge Road/Falling Water River area and Buck Mountain Road/Dry Valley Road area.

Some of the perks for being included in the city limits were listed as better police protection, lower utility bills, garbage pickup and street lighting.

(March 8, 2000) A buffalo has been spotted in the Buck Mountain area and police are working to contain the animal before it does any serious harm. This is not the first time it has escaped from a farm in the area, however the owner's effort to find the animal and keep it penned were "not sufficient."

The buffalo had wandered around the area, into a church parking lot, almost into a garage, and even charged Dept. Herb Snow. Because of the owner's inability to keep the animal contained and lack of effort to retrieve it, police officers have decided that they will have to shoot the animal to keep the public safe.

(March 12, 2000) Buddy Pearson was hired at the Herald-Citizen as the sports editor, replacing the retiring Frank Layne who held the position for 30-plus years. Before joining the Herald-Citizen staff, Pearson was the assistant sports information director at Tennessee Tech where he was responsible for writing press releases, creating media guides, helping to maintain the athletic website and coordinating statistics for TTU teams.

(March 14, 2000) A pair of gutsy criminals stole seven purses from the basement of a church in Monterey while a wedding was taking place with a sanctuary full of police officers, investigators and a judge. The wedding was for Cookeville Police Officer Darrin Stout and his bride-to-be, Ginger McDonald. The thieves took the purses, including the bride's, and started using the cash, checkbooks, credit cards and even cell phones inside. The guests and new bride and groom had to spend their reception filling out police reports and making calls to banks and credit card companies to put a hold on their accounts. (March 13, 2000)

*Gwyn DellVeneri and Bert Jarett started the first website for the Putnam County Animal Shelter to increase the range of prospective adopters. Within two months of the website's operation, they have listed more than 140 dogs and cats, 65 percent of which have been adopted from local people and also those from Knoxville, Nashville and even Kentucky and Georgia.

(March 20, 2000) Census worker Ted Pearl may have saved a life when he got lost in White County. He was originally assigned to Monterey, but found someone had already covered that area and offered to head out to White County instead. He ended up getting lost. When he finally got his bearings and arrived at the home of Rose and Ben Fish, he found the door unlocked and heard a woman calling from inside.

The 76-year-old Rose had fallen, broken her hip and hit her head on an end table while her husband was out running errands. Ted called 911 and stayed with the woman until the paramedics and her son arrived. The article in the Herald-Citizen said that if Ted had not gotten lost, he would have been gone from the Fish's neighborhood long before Rose's fall and she would not have received the immediate help she needed.

Rose's son, Russell, said, "You know people always complain about census takers. I tell you, this has changed my mind about census people."

(April 3, 2000) The buffalo that escaped its farm and had been wandering the Buck Mountain area has finally been captured -- unharmed -- thanks to farmer Tommy Montooth. The animal, which had been evading capture and terrifying residents of the area, had given birth while loose. Though animal control officers thought they would have to shoot the animal, Montooth was able to return it and its new baby to the owner unharmed. As this was not the first time the animal had escaped and because officers had used considerable time responding to calls to capture it, Montooth charged the owner \$500 upon the buffalo's return.

*Dr. Sam Glasgow and Cookeville Arts Council Treasurer Randy Guidry are seeking public opinion about

installing an outdoor stage in either Cane Creek Park or Dogwood Park. According to Glasgow, the stage would be, "a small venue; a place just large enough for the symphony and really good for smaller groups and activities." It is being called the Millennium Pavilion Project.

(April 3, 2000) Katherina McGhee, the art education director at Tennessee Tech, shared a special layered Easter egg-dyeing technique from her Rusyn ancestors in the Carpathian Mountains. After being cleaned with vinegar, any part of the egg the decorator wants to keep white is covered in beeswax. The egg is then dipped in a light color and allowed to dry. More beeswax is applied where the decorator wants to keep this new color and then the egg is dipped in a new, darker color. Repeat until design is complete.

The Rusyns frequently use teardrop designs and various symbols have different meanings such as "good harvest," "fertility" or "ward off evil."

(April 14, 2000) Bridgestone-Firestone donated 6,000 acres of Cumberland Plateau Wilderness, which opened up 16 miles of Caney Fork River to the public. The land is adjacent to the Virgin Falls area and has been put under a conservation easement to make it impossible to develop the land or cut the trees down for timber. This makes a total of 10,000 acres donated by Bridgestone-Firestone to Tennessee.

(April 24, 2000) Firefighter Mark Goolsby was awarded the American Heart Saver Award from the American Heart Association for coming to the rescue of 65-year-old Joy Wilhite who was suffering a heart attack. Goolsby and his team responded to a 911 call by her son. Wilhite became the first person in Middle Tennessee to be brought back to life by an AED machine. (April 28, 2000)

*Burglars cut a padlock off a storage unit containing books from the local store, Books are Fun. The thieves made off with two cases filled with the books "The Brethren" and "Shakespeare."

(May 2000) Contracts have been awarded for construction of Ensor Sink Natural Area, a 15-acre park at the intersection of Bunker Hill Road and Clover Hill Avenue, surrounding a sink hole. There are plans for two trails: a half mile trail and a quarter mile trail, and hopes that the area will be used for learning about sinkholes and caves.

(May 14, 2000) Angelo Volpe, Tennessee Tech president, retired this summer after 13 years of leading the school. He spoke to the 800 graduating students during the summer graduation, encouraging them to remember to give back to the community. After a standing ovation, he received a certificate of appreciation in a TTU diploma cover and later enjoyed a retirement dinner with fellow staff and friends. He was named the longest serving president in the history of the school.

(June 2, 2000) Dr. Michael Martin of Auburn, Alabama is named to be the county's first appointed director of the Putnam school system. Retiring Eulene Locke is the last of the county's elected school superintendents.

(June 8, 2000) Lisa Bilbrey, local court clerk, got a little screen time on the game show, "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" on the episode that aired June 6. She answered the "fast fingers" portion correctly, but someone did it just a bit faster to secure the coveted spot in the millionaire chair. While there for the taping of the show, she got to tour New York and met the show host Regis Philbin. (June 7, 2000)

*An angry 750-pound bull escaped from the stockyard into the Cookeville Walmart parking lot, ramming cars and charging people for about 10 minutes before the police chased him back into the stockyard. At one point the bull jumped onto a car and headbutted the windshield. The officers shot the bull multiple times, but it did not faze the animal. Luckily there were no injuries, but there were thousands of dollars of damage done to five or six vehicles.

(June 14, 2000) Three stately sugar maples that stood on the lawn of the Putnam Courthouse since before WWII are removed, victims to the controversial tree trimming technique called 'topping.' The trees were topped in the 1990s and are dying now and pose a public hazard. They are cut down.

(June 15, 2000) Three sugar maple trees will have to be cut down around the Cookeville courthouse -- one because of damage to the trunk, possibly from a lawn mower or tree trimmer, and the other two because they were being attacked by a fungus after being "topped" in the mid 1980s. There would be a chance of saving them, however, it would cost up to \$6,000 per tree for special injections and pruning. The "topping," which involves simply cutting off the tops of trees instead of careful pruning, was such a controversial move in the 80s when it was done, it caused the formation of the Tree Board to act as an advisory committee in future issues with trees on public property. (June 14, 2000)

*A 16-year-old girl was sent to Juvenile Court after being caught playing her music so loudly in her car that it was vibrating the windows of the patrol car beside her. Judge John Hudson gave her a creative sentence: in addition to being on probation and paying court costs, she would be forced to listen to a total of six hours of classical music while sitting in his office.

(July 2, 2000) The movie "The Patriot" about the American Revolution has just been released nationwide, and Cookeville resident John Barrett has had a big hand in its final production.

Barrett is an historical reenactor whose expertise was vital for the film's actors to be sure their weapons worked properly.

Barrett taught actor Mel Gibson and his fellow actors how to load and shoot for the big finale of the movie, as well as keeping the weapons clean and repaired after each day of shooting.

(July 9, 2000) A section of the Solid Waste Recycling Center caught fire, causing more than \$100,000 to the structure. The cause of the fire remained a mystery, though it could have possibly been a discarded lighter. Firefighters worked into the wee hours of the morning to stop the fire from spreading through the whole facility and were eventually able to contain it. The fire broke out just before employees were due to leave for the day, so if it had happened just 10 minutes later, the fire might have gone unnoticed until it was too late to save the structure. (July 6, 2000)

*A feature story highlights former Cookevillian Barry Crain, son of TTU art professor Sally Crain Jager, who worked with Marvel Comics, got involved with computer animation and went on to work on six 30-minute episodes of the cartoon, "Batman Beyond."

(July 14, 2000) Baxter is training its first narcotics-finding dog, Axel the German Shepherd, who works with his human partner James Davis. He was purchased for \$500 from a private dog training business. The pair is practicing with pseudo-drugs until everything is set for Axel to start his first day on the job. (July 10, 2000)

*Someone stole eight of 12 paintings by Algood artist Meredith Spencer Mullins hanging in the Tennessee Tech Bryan Fine Arts Center. The paintings, mostly oil on canvas or wood, were worth about \$6,000 in total. The crime happened sometime between 9 p.m. Monday and 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. The doors were locked at night, so police are puzzled as to how the thieves got inside to take the paintings. Since some of the pieces were quite large, police expect more than one person was involved in carrying them away. A \$1,000 reward is being offered to anyone with information. (July 14, 2000)

*Chris Allen, the 10-year-old son of Nancy Henley and Clyde Allen, is pictured on the front page of today's Herald-Citizen with a copy of the newest Harry Potter book, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." This is the fourth book in the world-famous series by J.K. Rowling. Allen says he has read the first three books several times and is now almost finished with this newest 700-plus page book. He won the book in an online contest.

(July 19, 2000) Johnie Raney, 36, of Cookeville donated 60 percent of his liver to his little brother, Chris Raney, who is suffering from primary sclerosing cholangitis, which damages the bile ducts of the liver. Chris enlisted in the Army after high school and served in Korea until he was given a medical discharge.

Johnie's liver was a perfect match for his brother and he agreed to go through the delicate operation to save his brother's life.

(August 3, 2000) A controversial dress code implemented last year by school administrators in response to a school mass murder by students in Columbine, Colorado will remain in effect this year, officials say. The code bans long coats, and clothing with drug or gang symbols, and sets acceptable lengths for skirts. Principals like the code and say they think it contributed to a more serious attitude among students last year.

(August 23, 2000) Former tax assessor Byron Looper is found guilty of the first degree murder of State Senator Tommy Burks and is given life without parole.

(August 24, 2000) After an eight-day trial, former Putnam County Tax Assessor Byron Looper was found guilty of the 1998 murder of state Senator Tommy Burks, who was his opponent in the state senate election that year. According to the evidence presented, Looper shot Burks on the senator's farm in hopes of eliminating the competition and ensuring his own election. The court, consisting of a jury of eight women and four men, sentenced Looper to life without parole.

(September 1, 2000) Putnam County Circuit Court Clerk Lewis Coomer was in a field on his tractor rolling hay at Judge Maddux's farm when he heard a neighbor's house alarm. When he went to investigate, he found a stranger's car coming down the drive. He blocked them with the tractor's hay spear and attempted to talk to the apparent thieves. The men got around Coomer, but he was able to get their license plate number and call the Sheriff's Department. The men were captured and are awaiting their court date.

They are also under investigation as suspects for several other burglaries.

(September 10, 2000) The Cookeville History Museum is coming together under the direction of Judy Duke after being presented to the City Council by Sam Barnes. It will be housed in the yellow building on Lowe Avenue, which formerly hosted the senior citizens' craft center. The museum will highlight pre-history with pre-Columbian artifacts and geological and archeological information, early settlement (pioneers to statehood), the Civil War and Reconstruction Period and the modern era. The grand opening is expected to happen in February 2001.

(September 14, 2000) Locals are trying to save a 19th century cemetery off of Old Gainesboro Grade near the Shipley barn. It is the gravesite of Abraham Buck, among others, who settled in Putnam County with his father, sister, three brothers and later his wife and 13 children. The tombstones are now worn down and the graves are no longer identifiable. Buck's descendants want to protect it from land development going on nearby.

(September 19, 2000) The County Commission is discussing selling the fairgrounds and relocating the fair to the old Cookeville airport next to the high school. There is talk that the current fairgrounds would be prime real estate for a business park that would be used year round, instead of the periodic use the grounds normally get. The commission discussed who would be in charge of improving the road to the property, how much available space there was, and the economic benefit of the sale. In the end, the Commission decided to table the decision until they could gather more information.

(October 1, 2000) Shane and Mangrum of Maple Shade Circle have their lawn featured on the front page of today's Herald-Citizen. Shane mowed the word "Titans" in giant letters to show their support for the pro-football team. (Sept. 28, 2000)

*Surgeons Scott Copeland and Brian Gerndt performed an operation to fix a potentially deadly type of aneurysm in the lower abdomen of 55-year-old Wayne Phifer using a new technique. It was the first time this technique has been used in the Upper Cumberland. With the traditional technique, the patient is left with a scar across the abdomen at least one foot long. With this new method, there is only a one and a half inch incision made in each leg near the groin area. According to doctors, this new method will be most

beneficial to those who may have had health complications that prevented them from undergoing the traditional surgery.

(October 8, 2000) The groundbreaking for the Cookeville campus of Nashville State Community College was held Oct. 5, 2000, with plans to open spring of 2002. The 71 sq. ft. building which will contain 13 classrooms, a community hall and multiple labs, will cost \$11.3 million from the state and \$1 million from the city to complete. Students of the school previously held their classes in the Chamber, but are excited to be getting new facilities of their own. The school offers a two-year degree in computer technology, police science technology, manufacturing engineering technology, one-year certificate in electrical maintenance, electronic office technology and AutoCAD drawing. (Oct. 6, 2000)

*Bob Bell was officially inaugurated as the 8th president of Tennessee Tech today. He began his career at TTU as a chairperson in the Department of Management and Marketing, before becoming the assistant dean and then the dean of College and Business Administration. (Oct.6, 2000)

*A fire gutted the Kappa Sigma fraternity house on North Walnut Ave. last night. One student received first and second degree burns, but 8-15 others at the house escaped the fire unharmed. Emergency officials on the scene speculated the cause might have been an overloaded extension cord placed underneath a rug.

(October 15, 2000) Greg Lance's trial in the murders of Victor and Alla Kolesnikow of Cookeville was held this week. He rented property from the couple, and when they tried to foreclose on his mortgage, the prosecution said he shot the Kolesnikows to death in their home and set fire to their residence to eliminate the evidence.

Those testifying against him said that Lance talked of having the couple killed once his financial troubles started. After four days of testimony, Lance was found guilty of two counts of murder, for which he was sentenced to life in prison with a possibility of parole.

He was also found guilty of burglary and arson, for which he would be sentenced at a later date.

(October 16, 2000) A fire broke out at the Sports 1 store and silk screening building on Neal Street across from the Cookeville Mall. Smoke was spotted at about 6:45 p.m. last night, and firemen responded to the 911 call to find the building ablaze. Once the fire was extinguished, a pair of firemen stood watch over the building that night, but just as they were getting ready to leave at 7 a.m. today, they turned to see smoke coming from the building again. The fire restarted and despite the best efforts of the firemen, the building was a total loss. No injuries were reported.

(October 18, 2000) Four Hispanic men were found shot to death in their rented home on Minnie Avenue. Their fifth roommate returned home late to find the grisly scene. Throughout the week police had trouble identifying the men -- their roommate only knew them by first name -- and the local Hispanic community has been hesitant to give any details, fearing local law enforcement officers. After a week of investigations police are nowhere closer to finding a motive or a killer. The men worked at Perdue Farms, which closed Saturday to give its 40 percent Hispanic workforce a day of mourning.

(October 25, 2000) This year Evelyn Stone is voting for the first time in her life -- at the age of 93. She'd never been particularly interested in voting.

She'd always heard it was "a man's job." But this year it's Bush vs. Gore, and Stone believes her vote is needed. "Al Gore's a Tennessee boy and he needs my help," she said.

Stone will be voting at Master's Health Care Center with an absentee ballot with help from her family.

But just because she's always left the voting to the men, doesn't necessarily mean that she thinks they're better at it.

She said, "My son, (who just turned 68) has been talking to me about politics. He don't need to tell me anything. I've got a brain that's a lot older than his.

(November 3, 2000) There were two unusual police reports in the Herald-Citizen involving cars this week. In the first incident, Officer Zac Birdwell was called to the scene of an accident, but found an empty Ford Escort parked on a curb with no driver in sight. The vehicle had no license tag and the keys were left inside. Authorities theorized it might have been stolen from a car lot and the thief ran after the accident for fear of detection by police.

In the second incident, a young man walked out of his home early in the morning to find his 1981 Dodge Aires spray painted pink with gold trim on the lights and door handles, and the hubcaps painted silver. On the back window was painted the phrase, "I'm too sexy for my car." The young man reported that he had no idea who could have vandalized his car.

(November 13, 2000) Cookeville reached an all-time construction record for the year, with still two months to go in 2000. There were a little more than \$45.3 million in permits issued for houses, businesses, industries, churches, schools and public buildings. It was \$8 million more than the highest on record, going back 21 years. Large projects that cost more than \$1 million this year included a Walgreens, the renovation and expansion of Kroger, a new warehouse for Institutional Wholesale, renovations at Cookeville Regional Medical Center, remodeling of Avery Trace, a new k-8 school in Algood and a new truck terminal and office for Averitt.

(November 22, 2000) Kindergartners and first graders from Northeast and Sycamore Elementary Schools wrote in with just how they believed a Thanksgiving turkey meal was made. Here are a few of the highlights:

Angelica DeMarino wrote, "A vampire is going to bring us our turkey. And then we are going to put it in the fire. And I am going to put salt and pizza sauce on it. We need to cook it for 155 hours at 400 degrees. And eat pudding and Jello."

Payden Green wrote, "Get the turkey in town. You get a Mama and Daddy turkey. The Mama turkey lays an egg. The egg hatches and the Daddy turkey takes care of the baby. Then you shoot the Daddy turkey to eat. Cut the head off. Burn the turkey up. Be sure the eyes are out. Cook the turkey a little bit. Take him off the stove and eat!"

Kenny Cornett wrote, "Mommy gets the turkey from the store. Take the wrapping off. Get the blood out. Put it in the oven, real hot, like the devil. Cook 30 minutes and eat."

(November 29, 2000) Local Christmas tree farms are busy preparing about 25,000 trees for the holiday season. They spend 11 months getting ready for three months of sales of White Pine, Virginia Pine, Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce, Blue Spruce, Cannan Fir and Frasier Fir.

It takes between six to eight years to grow a tree from a seedling to a selling height of eight feet.

(November 30, 2000) Inkless fingerprinting is replacing IDs in some corporations, banks, government offices and grocery stores. It is now being used for financial transactions at some local banks and check-cashing departments of businesses like Bi-Lo on Jackson Street.

Before using this technique, the company had reported more than \$1 million loss in phony checks.

Recently the local Bi-Lo store had a woman report a lost purse. Law enforcement officials were able to view video of a man taking off with her purse, then coming back in a few minutes later to cash a payroll check.

Because he was fingerprinted in order to cash the check, authorities were able to identify him and catch him almost immediately.

(December 10, 2000) TTU professor of curriculum and instruction, Margaret Phelps, just spent two weeks in the world's newest nation, East Timor. The island gained independence from Indonesia this past August. Phelps and TTU graduate David Flynn went to help reestablish the rural school system after the schools were destroyed in the recent fighting. Teachers there have classes of anywhere from 50-100 students, and because Indonesian officials burned books during East Timor's fight for independence, the teachers have been teaching purely from knowledge that they can remember themselves.

(December 28, 2000) The moon blotted out as much as 60 percent of the sun around midday on Christmas Day. The last eclipse on Christmas was in 1954 and visible only in parts of Africa. The next partial eclipse on Christmas will be in the year 2307. (Dec. 26, 2000)

*Lee Barclay, local naturalist and wildlife rehabilitator, took in Ichabod the crane after he found the bird injured. Unfortunately the wing could not be repaired and Ichabod now lives with the Barclays, who care for and release as many as 12 hawks and other birds each year. Because cranes are highly social animals, Barclay brought in a domesticated female crane to befriend him. They had a rocky start, but now seem to be friends. Barclay hopes that the two cranes will be able to start a family in the future. (Dec. 27, 2000)

*The 2000 census reports there are 281.4 million people in the United States, which is 33,399,123 more than the last census in 1990.

2001

(January 21, 2001) Plans under way to improve the rails between Nashville and Lebanon for a commuter train could also help Putnam County, says the Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority, which runs the line.

NERA authorities say that boosting rails enough to handle commuter trains will also boost time for goods shipped here by rail. The condition of the tracks currently holds freight trains to 35 mph, they said.

*Callie Melton, a former Putnam teach and H-C columnist, has been named Writer of the Year by the Cookeville Creative Writers Association for her book, "Pon My Honor; Folks Tales of the Upper Cumberland." The book captures the voice and memories of the region.

*Meanwhile in Washington, George Walker Bush was sworn in this week as the nation's 43rd president, promising to "build a single nation of justice and opportunity," and to lead a government of "civility, courage, compassion and character."

(January 26, 2001) Following the lead of the Cookeville Police Department, Putnam Sheriff Jerry Abston has created deputy substations at the country's western and eastern ends in Baxter and Monterey.

The Sheriff's Dept. has entered into a partnership with the Cookeville Housing Authority, which has complexes in those towns and which will provide office space for deputies, ensuring a stronger lawmen presence there while giving the deputies space to do paperwork and avoid trips back and forth to Cookeville.

The Cookeville Police Dept. recently opened substations in CHA faculties in Cookeville.

*Putnam School Director Michael Martin said this week that Jerry Boyd is the new principal at Upperman High School. Boyd has been acting principal since August.

Martin said the board has yet to decide permanent positions at Prescott Middle School and Cane Creek Elementary.

*Showing this week at Carmike Cinemas, "The Wedding Planner." With Jennifer Lopez.

(February 4, 2001) The Rescue Mission is all set to celebrate their 25th anniversary and director Larry Self is marking the occasion by riding a unicycle from the old location on Cedar Street to the current location on South Jefferson Avenue with help from friends and volunteers.

"This will symbolize how the Mission is dependent on others," Self said.

It will also act as a fundraiser to encourage people to donate funds related to the number 25, whether that be "25 cents, \$25, \$25,000 or \$25 million," Self laughed.

This is not the first unusual attention-getting fundraiser Self has orchestrated. Over the years he has temporarily lived in a tent, held a "block" party where donors purchased individual blocks for a new building, and stood on a platform near one of the crosses on the mission property for 24 hours.

(February 7, 2001) It looks like Tennessee voters will get to choose whether to have a state lottery following a vote by the state senate today. Lawmakers voted 22-11 to support a lottery referendum. The Tennessee House is expected to also back the referendum in a vote later this week.

*Showing at Carmike Cinema this week, Kirk Cameron in "Left Behind."

(February 15, 2001) Putnam Sheriff Jerry Abston says the reward for information on the shooting deaths of four Hispanic men in Monterey last October has now risen to \$16,000. Lawmen have few good leads in the case.

A roommate told police last October that he came home from work and found the house's other occupants, four Guatemalan men living illegally in the U. S. and working at Perdue Farms meat processing plant in Monterey, shot in the head.

They were Fransico Miguel Fansciso, Pascual Miguel Sebastian, Diego Nicholas Fransico and Julio Bartoleme Nicholas.

*Showing this week at Carmike Cinema: "Hannibal," with Anthony Hopkins and Julianne Moore.

(February 8, 2001) The Putnam County school board voted to make Capshaw Elementary's year-round school year permanent. Instead of having nine months on, three months off, they will now have 45 days on and 15 off. It started this new school year structure in 1998 as a test, and this move will make the change permanent. At this time it is the only school in Putnam County to be on the year-round schedule.

(February 21, 2001) Putnam County Executive Doug McBroom, with a year and a half left in his term of office, this week resigned during a meeting of the Putnam County Commission.

McBroom said he wanted to spend more time with his family.

County Attorney Jeff Jones said it will now be up to the commission to name an interim replacement until the next regular election in August of 2002.

*Saved from the wrecking ball, the Palace Theater in Crossville has flipped back on its colorful marquee and reopened its doors to theatergoers.

"It's a beauty," said Richard Bradley, president of Downtown Crossville Inc., the non-profit group which worked to save the theater, which has now been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The theater hasn't shown a motion picture since 1978, and had fallen into disrepair before the recent renovation effort.

Renovations are complete on the Crossville Palace Theatre, which has been reopened to serve as a community auditorium. The theatre, which was built in 1938, has been placed on the National Register of

Historic Places. Though it was once voted to be torn down and made into a parking lot, Downtown Crossville Inc. worked to save it through \$550,000 city money, \$264,000 state funds and \$40,000 raised through Downtown Crossville Inc. State prison inmates and students at Tennessee Technology Center in Crossville also provided \$110,000 of free labor.

Showing this week at Carmike Cinema: "Saving Silverman" and "The Wedding Planner."

(February 9, 2001) About 90 percent of the pine trees on the Lilydale Campground on Dale Hollow Lake are dead thanks to an infestation of Southern Pine Beetles. The Army Corps of Engineers hopes to replace the dead trees with local hardwoods that are immune to the bugs. Cleanup is estimated at \$100,000 in order to cut and destroy the dead trees. The pines were first brought in in 1954 to help stop erosion around the lake.

(February 12, 2001) A \$16,000 reward is being offered for anyone who can offer information that leads to the arrest and conviction in connection to the murders of four Guatemalan men that occurred in October of 2000. The men were illegal immigrants working at Perdue Farms. Someone came in at night and shot them in the home they were sharing. A fifth man, their roommate, came home from work at 2 a.m. to find the bodies. Police have had trouble getting any information to help solve the case because the deceased men used various names, plus the local Hispanic community has been fearful and distrustful of law enforcement.

(February 15, 2001) The top 10 percent of Cookeville High School graduating seniors was announced. Benjamin Marsee was valedictorian, Ann Hollmann was salutatorian and Alison Anderson was the third honor.

(February 23, 2001) Four-year-old Auston Presley was honored by the Upper Cumberland Stroke Support Group for his part in saving the life of his 24-year-old mother, Regina Buck, after she collapsed from a stroke. When Regina awoke on the floor and found herself unable to move or even dial 911 on her phone, she told her son to get help from the neighbors. Because of the boy's bravery, his mother was able to get the help she needed in a timely fashion. The Stroke Support Group awarded Auston with a toy ambulance engraved with a plaque honoring his bravery.

(March 4, 2001) School officials were forced to scale back on plans for a new high school in Baxter this week when the lowest bid on the project came in \$4 million over the \$19.6 million budgeted for the project.

They say the new, leaner school will be ready for use in July 2002. It will continue to be called Upperman High, a name long familiar to the town.

*Named by their peers this weeks as Putnam's Teachers of the Year were Rebecca Byrne, a fourth grade teacher at Jere Whitson Elementary, Alma Anderson, a social studies teacher at Cookeville high School, and Tracy Jones, a math teacher at Cookeville High.

They're pictured on page one this week being congratulated by Putnam Schools Director Michael Martin.

Completion of the new high school in Baxter has been rescheduled from December 2001 to July 2002 after officials discovered that the original plans for the school would cost nearly \$20 million -- far over their original budget of \$16.4 million. The plans have undergone redesign and officials have agreed on a \$19.6 million budget.

The new school will have room for 800 students grades 9-12, and a core capacity for 1,200. The current high school will be used as a 5th-8th grade middle school to help relieve the overcrowding at Baxter Elementary.

(March 7, 2001) In 2000, construction topped \$62 million, almost doubling the amount of the previous year and topping the previous record by more than \$15 million. So far, 2001 is on track to be another record-breaker. By the end of February 2000, \$7.7 million in permits have been issued. As of Feb. 28, 2001, more than \$20 million in permits have been issued.

Last year, \$19 million of the construction came from commercial and business projects including Lowe's, Walgreen's and Institutional Wholesale, among others.

(March 10, 2001) The official figures are in now: New construction in Cookeville last year topped \$62 million, a new record. That's \$15 million more than the previous year.

The report also noted that the average cost of a new home here is now \$112,000.

(March 7, 2001) City officials say the level of new construction in 2000 was off the charts, a total of \$62 million in new building.

(March 12, 2001) According to the U.S. Census Bureau's preliminary figures, Cookeville may rank in the top 20 fastest growing cities in Tennessee. Initial information says that Cookeville's population will be around 26,071, an 18.3 percent rise from 1990. Tennessee as a whole grew by about 812,098 residents between 1990 and 2000, for a total population of 5.68 million. (March 12, 2001)

*Monterey Police Officer Guadalupe (Roy) Stoto was featured as the only second generation Mexican-American police officer in the Monterey Police Department. For nearly a year he has been volunteering his time to help the Hispanic population and non-Spanish-speaking law enforcement officers communicate. He has also been helping to bridge the gap between cultural differences, as well as help the Hispanic community understand the laws.

(March 16, 2001) Results from last year's census show Putnam gained 8,873 newcomers in the last decade. The population now stands at 62,315.

In the decade, Putnam had 7,430 births and 5,361 deaths.

Cumberland County topped Putnam. It had 12,066 newcomers in the decade.

New, residents say they moved here because of the pace of life, distinct seasons and the surrounding natural beauty.

(March 17, 2001) Kim Blaylock, daughter of the late State Sen. Tommy Burks and current State Sen. Charlotte Burks, was picked by the county commission this week over four other candidates to fill out the unexpired term of Putnam County Executive Doug McBroom, who recently resigned.

Blaylock will serve until the next general election in August of 2002.

*The calendar may say March, but winter took another swipe at Putnam County today.

School buses had already rolled and many children were in schools when the winter storm hit, glazing roads with snow and ice and slowing traffic on I-40 to a crawl. Numerous wrecks were reported.

(March 20, 2001) Kim Blaylock, daughter of the late State Senator Tommy Burks and current State Senator Charlotte Burks, has been named interim county executive of Putnam County. In August 2002, a general election will be held to decide who will hold the post for a full term of four years. Blaylock says she will resign from her position of chairman of the school board in order to take the county executive position. She says she also plans to apply for the full term position when it becomes available.

(April 1, 2001) Should paddling be allowed in Putnam schools? Putnam School Director Michael Martin doesn't think so. He recommended it be banned this week in a meeting with the Putnam School Board.

Martin says the legal risk of lawsuits outweighs and benefits from paddling.

Paddling is currently legal in Tennessee, but the rules are strict. It can only be done with a principal's permission, has to be witnessed by a teacher and documented in a written report.

Martin proposes allowing "reasonable force" only if people or property is threatened in schools or a student is so disruptive they must be removed.

(April 4, 2001) Cookeville's ARC-Diversified plant has received recognition from the National Industry for the Severely Handicapped, which called the plant "excellent."

ARC trains and employs 144 workers, 80 percent of whom were considered unemployable due to handicaps.

Last year, 29 of the 153 employees trained by ARC went on to jobs in the private sector.

The manufacturer provides packaged food products for government programs.

(April 4, 2001) A photo on the front page of the Herald-Citizen shows a new fire truck purchased by the Putnam County Fire Department. The ladder-mounted cockpit can rise up to 100 feet in the air -- a feature which Herald-Citizen editor Charles Denning checks out firsthand with several firefighters. It will be able to reach Cookeville Regional Medical Center's sixth floor, which is the highest building in Cookeville. The new fire truck, which cost \$676,332.55, will far outpace the city's present long-ladder truck which was purchased in 1972. (April 2, 2001)

*Putnam County Schools director Michael Martin has recommended banning the use of paddling/spanking in school. He says he believes the legal liability involved in paddling children far outweighs any gain. The proposed new rule would ban the use of corporal punishment, but would allow "reasonable physical force" for self-defense, to protect others from physical injury, to protect property and to remove a student if he/she refuses to refrain from disruptive behavior. At this time, paddling is legal in Tennessee, but only as a last resort. It also has to be approved by the principal, witnessed by another teacher and written up in a report.

Board member Mike Rodgers expressed his disagreement with the idea of banning corporal punishment. He says he believes it is a necessary form of correction for some problem students. The board decided to table the issue for further discussion at the May meeting.

(April 12, 2001) School principals are traditionally rehired by the Putnam School Board, but that's changed now that the county is under a schools director system.

This week, Putnam Schools director Michael Martin recommended all present principals be rehired, but simply as employees of the system, not specifically as principals. He's reviewing each position, he said.

Current principals here include Richard Norton, Algood Elementary; Fay Borden, Avery Trace Elementary; Donna Shanks, Baxter Elementary; Eulene Locke, Cane Creek Elementary; Leslie Roberts, Capshaw Elementary; Wayne Shanks, Cookeville High; Wanas Martin, Dry Valley Alternative School; Jess Hawkins, Jere Whitson Elementary; Bob Weatherholt, Monterey High; Don Copenhagen, Northeast Elementary; Sandra Koczvara, Parkview Elementary; Kim Wright, Prescott Middle School; Jere Maynard, Sycamore Elementary; Eddie Nipper, Uffelman Elementary; and Jerry Boyd, Upperman High.

(April 20, 2001) Services were held this week for Estes "Rooster" Williams, a prominent Cookeville businessman who closely followed politics and who was a friend, confidant and advisor to political figures from the local to the national level.

Longtime friend Putnam Sheriff Jerry Abston said Williams loved to pursue politics but never asked for personal gain.

Williams died in a hospital this week in Palm Beach, Fla.

A Clay County native and WWII veteran, Williams opened the Williams Enterprises beer distributorship here in 1961. He was a active lifelong Democrat.

*The H-C reports that Baxter could grow in size by 40 percent if plans go through to annex 450 acres north of the current city limits. The land would contain 38 new, mostly residential, property parcels and 90 acres for the new Baxter high school in the northeastern corner of the property. (April 8, 2001)

*A pipe bomb went off at the Goodwill store in Cookeville when a customer lifted up the cushion of a couch for sale. It injured the customer, but he refused medical treatment. Attached to the bomb was an anonymous letter complaining of working conditions in the store. The store had received two similar notes through the mail previously. Police are investigating exactly who was involved in setting the explosive.

(April 23, 2001) A special graduation ceremony was held for Putnam high school graduates this week. Sixty-six members of the "Greatest Generation" got their high school diplomas.

The men failed to pick up their diplomas in the early 1940s because they'd enlisted to fight in World War II. A new state law this year directed school systems to honor similar veterans across the state for their bravery and duty to their countries.

Among those crossing the stage here this week in a long postponed high school graduation ceremony were: Claude Allen, Virgil Benson, James Carr, Hubert Bussell, Ernest Clark, C. D. Farley, Robert Maddux, James Quinn, Frank Markum, Luther Sliger, William Taulbee, Doyle Smith, James McKineloy and Carson Cowan.

(May 22, 2001) The Putnam County Commission has created a Planning Department to implement the Southern Standard Building Codes in rural Putnam County. The codes will protect new homeowners by insuring that new housing meets the new adopted standards.

(June 1, 2000) The groundbreaking for Burks Middle School was held this week with plans to open in August 2001. The 88,347 sq. ft. building has a core capacity of 600 students in grades 5-6 and will relieve overcrowding in Uffleman and Monterey High School. The school was named in honor of the late Senator Tommy Burks and his wife Senator Charlotte Burks.

(June 2, 2000) Dr. Michael Martin was elected the new director of schools. He'll serve Sept. 1, 2000, through June 30, 2003. His salary for the first year will be \$82,500 for the first year, \$85,000 for the second year and \$7,291 per month the third year.

(June 12, 2001) A \$5.4 million construction project is under way to straighten and widen North Washington Avenue from 10th street to Cookeville High School, now on the site of the old Putnam Airport. The traffic load dictates the need for the wider road.

(June 25, 2001) Cookeville has agreed to give \$50,000 towards the construction of a Millennium Pavilion band shell in the city's Dogwood Park between the library and the Drama Center for outdoor concerts.

(August 13, 2001) Dwight D. Eisenhower was running for his second term as President when Virginia Plummer won a subscription drive contest and a 1956 Chevy on July 9 of that year. She's still driving it.

With help from her husband, Bruce, she signed up 428 new readers for the Putnam Herald, beating 23 other contestants.

It's got a new paint job and only 41,167 miles on it today. And it "drives like a tractor," she says, laughing.

(October 7, 2001) As a teen in 1973, Cookeville Pastor David Eisenmenger watched the twin towers of the World Trade Center being built across the river from his home in Clifton, New Jersey. Last week, the adult Eisenmenger, pastor of Cookeville's First Presbyterian Church, went home to lead memorial services for a

former parishoner killed in the devastating attack on the World Trade Center by Islamic terrorists directed by Osama bin Laden. Rubble from the debris would fill the entire Tennessee Tech campus and rises twice as high as First Tennessee Bank on South Jefferson, he said.

(October 9, 2001) Putnam School director Michael Martin is putting together a \$6.9 million plan to renovate Capshaw Elementary, Putnam's oldest school building still in use. The K-4 school currently operates on a year round schedule.

(October 12, 2001) The Putnam Health Department is evacuated and the Cookeville Fire Department Hazardous Materials Team cautiously examines the scene after a small amount of mysterious white powder is found sprinkled on the doorstep of the South Dixie Avenue facility by an employee coming to work. The nation is in the grips of an anthrax scare in the wake of the Sept. 11 World Trade Center attacks. It's the first of several scares here and many other towns across the nation are experiencing similar incidents. No anthrax powder was found here.

2002

(January 6, 2002) Construction is progressing on the new Cookeville Technology Center at the corner of Old Walton Road and Neal Street. Classes are to begin in August on the 72,000 square-foot, one-story facility, which includes 13 classrooms, six computer labs, three large manufacturing labs and six other smaller labs. The \$12 million facility is being built to accommodate up to 1,000 students. Officially, it's called the Don Sunquist Advanced Technology Center.

(January 16, 2002) Huge construction shovels begin smashing into TTU's 45-year-old Dixie/Rye women's dorms on the corner of Dixie and E. 9th. Meadows and Early Halls also come down to make room for a new modern women's dormitory due for occupancy in the fall of 2003.

(April 18, 2002) Tennessee Tech students are among 250 college students from 21 Tennessee colleges and universities who hold a bake sale on Legislative Plaza in Nashville to try to convince state legislators to boost, not continue to cut, college funding in Tennessee. In the state's ongoing budget crunch, TTU and other universities have suffered a series of deep cuts in recent years.

(April 22, 2002) The report is in: total retail sales last year in Putnam County reached \$885.6 million. Cookeville continues its role as the economic hub of the Upper Cumberland region.

(June 1, 2002) The Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority has applied for a \$2.5 million federal grant to rehabilitate the overgrown tracks between Algood and Monterey to enable it to resume rail service there. It's also looking into ways to reopen the tracks eastward to make train travel from Cookeville to Knoxville possible again one day. NERA President William Drunic says, "People are waking up to the fact that we can't live on highways alone. They're too crowded and there's too much pollution."

(June 3, 2002) Cookeville's new Farmers Market Pavilion opens on Walnut beside the train tracks just south of TTU to give farmers a place to sell fresh produce and consumers a place to find home grown vegetables.

(June 24, 2002) It was probably the last big annual reunion this year for the old Central High School class of 1942, their 60th. It was the Cookeville class that had youth cut short by the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor when many classmates traded the classroom for boot camp and four years of war.

(August 12, 2002) 41-year-old attorney Lisa Chapman Fowler has become Algood's first woman mayor.

(August 18, 2002) The city's annexation of a 2,400-acre area straddling I-40 west of the former city line goes into effect today.

(October 16, 2002) The Cookeville Depot has a new 400,000 pound attraction, the 509, a 1913 Baldwin steam engine and tender identical to the ones that used to regularly run through town on the Tennessee Central Railroad.

(November 3, 2002) The United Methodist Church has opened the Manos Hispanas, an outreach center here to help the community's quickly growing Hispanic population better live in an unfamiliar culture.

(November 25, 2002) Changes in tobacco marketing to bolster prices for burley tobacco growers are causing tobacco warehouses here to fade. The Sparta Tobacco Warehouse in White County closed its doors for the last time here this week after 50 years in business. There are only two warehouses left in Middle Tennessee, both in Carthage. Tobacco companies began bypassing the warehouses two years ago to contract directly with area burley farmers.

2003

(January 2, 2003) A 'felony' stop here by the THP and Cookeville police on I-40 has left the James and Pamela Smoak family of North Carolina traumatized. Due to an apparent dispatching error near Nashville, the THP, alerted to a possible robbery, pulled the Smoaks over here and ordered them out of the car and down on the ground beside the interstate. Cookeville police officer Eric Hall was present as backup and when the Smoak's dog leapt from the car's open door, Hall said he felt threatened and shot the pet. The incident sparks outrage from pet lovers and media attention from across the country.

(February 11, 2003) The newspaper marks its 100th year in publication a century to the day after Elmer Wirt published the first Putnam County Herald on a small, hand-fed press. Another century of publication begins.

(May 3, 2003) A Cookeville woman was issued a medal this week whose father fought in the Civil War.

Aurelia Hulbert Hannon was issued a "Real Daughters" award by the Dillard-Judd Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans as the surviving daughter of a Civil War veteran.

Her father, Francis Hulbert, joined the Confederate Army in 1861 in Florida at the age of 16 was wounded in North Carolina in 1866. Patched up by Union medics, he walked home to St. Augustine, Fla., and arrived there after walking for 22 days just in time of the Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

Mrs. Hannon was the 18th and youngest daughter. She taught school for several years and has been a member of the Confederacy since 1933.

(May 10, 2003) A wave of tornadoes killed 32 this week in Kansas, Missouri and Tennessee. The Jackson, Tenn., area was the scene of 11 of those deaths.

Cookeville escaped the worst of the wave, but high wind and lightning uprooted dozens of big trees around town and kept utility workers busy repairing downed power lines.

The next day, a lightning strike on South Willow Avenue left most of the city without power for several hours.

(May 14, 2003) Cookeville City Council this week passed an anti-meth ordinance that is the first of its kind in the state.

The ordinance requires stores to keep over-the-counter cold medicines behind the counter of in locked cases because they contain ingredients used in the making of meth, which is being illegally made and abused here at record levels.

The measure also requires stores to keep a registry of those who buy the medicine

(May 25, 2003) There was a reunion here this week thanks to Jon Cupp's curiosity about an old black and white photo of his father and a Korean boy.

Cpl. Herman Cupp was 18 when he served in the Korean War and had his photo made with a Korean friend. Jon grew up wondering who the young man was.

Now, serving as a military journalist in Seoul, Korea, Cupp recently published his father's photo in the national newspaper, the Donga Ilbo, seeking the Korean's identity.

Chul Sul-man responded after seeing the photo of himself as a boy, when he served as a "ten boy," earning \$20 a week doing odd jobs for the GIs. Jon Cupp and Chul Sullman met and the two came to America this week and relived old times with the elder Cupp here in Cookeville.

(May 30, 2003) Pictured on page one today was a pile of rubble that used to be Capshaw Elementary.

The older sections of the school, built in 1939, are being removed and replaced with a newer building. A school playground is to be built where the older part of the school stood.

(June 11, 2003) Algood has a new city manager this week in a surprise move by the board.

Mayor Lisa Fowler had just finished explaining to the board the procedure for advertising for candidates for the position vacated recently by local political veteran Bethel Newport, who resigned for health reasons.

At the end of the discussion councilman Johnny Bennett made a motion to hire former postmaster Freddie Maxwell for the position without looking any further. Maxwell was amply qualified for the position, said Bennett.

The motion was seconded by Patt Judd. It carried and Maxwell began duties today as Algood's new city manager.

(June 19, 2003) They were lined up at midnight in bookstores here and around the world last night when J. K. Rowling's latest installment in the Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," went on sale. Many stores quickly sold out.

(June 25, 2003) Funeral services were held this week for Mozelle Medley, 93, an avid supporter of the Cookeville Depot and a former teacher widely known for her civic enthusiasm, her generous smile and her bright personality.

She taught for 21 years at the Tech Campus School, which was created as a teaching lab and school for Tech faculty member's children, and later became part of Putnam County's public school system.

Medley said in an earlier interview that when TTU President Everett Derryberry asked her to teach in the new school, the only previous classroom experience she had was teaching GI's how to write letters home in Mississippi in WWII. But she leapt in with enthusiasm and quickly became one of the school's most popular teachers.

*Meanwhile, Cookeville officials said this week that they were "shocked and disappointed" to learn that city police officer Eric Hall was suing the city for releasing information from his personnel file earlier this year during an incident that gained the city international notoriety.

Hall shot and killed the pet dog of a family during a stop on Interstate 40 earlier this year, setting off a storm of protests and spread around the world. Hall says he received death threats during the weeks the controversy raged.

City officials say they stood by Hall during the controversy and say they'll now fight his lawsuit "tooth and nail." The family whose pet was shot is also expected to file suit.

*Showing this week at the Carmike Cinema; Disney's "Finding Nemo."

2004

(19 January 2004) Local representatives of the USDA's Rural Development agency are meeting with leaders of Putnam's growing Hispanic community this week to fill them in on how low-income Hispanic families and individuals can qualify for loans to make them homeowners.

Putnam County, the state and much of the nation have seen an unprecedented influx of Hispanic workers in the last couple of years.

*Excited owners of 40 Putnam businesses are looking forward to midnight when tickets for Tennessee's first lottery go on sale. Most of them have already received and installed the special equipment the state provides.

Across the state, 3,200 retailers have been approved to sale tickets for the Tennessee Lottery.

*Showing this weeks at Carmike Cinemas, "The Lord of the Ring: Return of the King," the third and final installment of Peter Jackson's saga of Middle Earth.

2011

(Feb. 8, 2011) The Upper Cumberland Heritage Foundation found a new home at 144 South Lowe Ave., across from the Justice Center. The two-year-old non-profit organization states its goal is to "promote recognition, restoration and preservation of the history of the Upper Cumberland." The 60+ members plan to use the extra space to display permanent two-dimensional historical displays and temporary displays.

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