



**Tam's Front Porch Ponderings**  
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Today I was given a precious gift, more valuable than silver or gold, diamonds or pearls. All the money in the world couldn't buy the four items that were bestowed upon me to preserve for future generations. In my lap lies the history of two Puckett women, two special women that I had the honor of knowing as Grandmother and Great Aunt. Hazel Mae Puckett Hicks and Affie Lee Puckett Ingram.

A Northern Cousin (I won't hold it against him that he's a "Buckeye") showed up at school with

## A Visit from a Buckeye!

my Momma in tow, carrying a large, black, garbage bag. I hadn't seen Tom Jacobs in years but there he was, standing at the door ringing the bell. I hurried to greet them and excitedly showed them into my office.

"I come bearing gifts!" he exclaimed as he hugged my neck. Momma smiled as Tom opened his package and began removing... QUILTS!

My eyes lit up, "What are you doing?" I cried in disbelief as familiar patterns and fabrics tumbled onto my office chair.

"My daughter had her DOG sleeping on one! I decided right then, they needed to be with someone who would appreciate them. Now...they're yours", and he laid the treasures in my arms. "This one", he went on to explain, "was a wedding gift from your Granny Hicks, September 1972. The quilt lasted longer than the marriage! You keep it and choose another, then give the remaining two to your sister".

I was speechless! Tears filled my eyes as I ran my fingers over the familiar 'Around The World' pattern that Granny had given him. I had a similar one in my blanket chest she had given me on my thirteenth birthday, December 1973.

There were two 'Star of Bethlehem' and a 'Rail Fence' made by his Grandmother (Aunt Aff) with the help of my Granny Hicks and Aunt Shirley. I quickly recognized fabrics from all four because they appeared in quilts of my very own. Masterpieces the sisters, no doubt, had worked on together. One fabric in particular, held a special place in my heart. Tiny red and yellow flowers scattered on a black background, appeared in all four quilts. That same fabric hangs within arm's reach of my stove - my favorite apron, a gift from Granny Hicks when I was a teenager helping her with Thanksgiving dinner. It's been washed so many times, the cotton has become oh so soft and slightly worn.

I have many memories of Granny carefully cutting fabric squares, then sewing them into works of art worthy of hanging in a museum. Aunt Shirley would help piece too, all three ladies happily busy with needle and thread. My life has been lovingly wrapped in quilt making, at five years old I would play quietly under Aunt Mag's quilting frames while she stitched. Again---family! Great Aunt Mag was a stepsister to my Granny and Great Aunt Aff. My Aunt Shirley always has a quilt in the making and Momma taught me to piece doll quilts when Sarah Beth was a little girl. Tom knew my love of quilts and I was humbled by his faith in me to properly care for the treasures.

After far too brief a visit, I hugged his neck, "I can NEVER thank you enough", I said with tears in my eyes.

Turning to go, he tossed a smile over his shoulder at me and said..."You just did!"



**Times Remembered**  
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## A First Pocketknife For Christmas

as indispensable as his car keys or work tools,

Nearly all elderly men sat in country stores, or under a shade tree near the courthouse swapping knives and telling tales. I remember Uncle Preacher always whittling on a piece of cedar; sometimes he would have a stash of cedar shavings near his chair, and they smelled so good. This was an important part of their daily routine. Pocketknives were an important part of life.

I have thought about buying Colton a pocketknife for Christmas; but I suppose he's still a little young, he is 5; but I could start him a collection for the future. It would be my luck he might carry it to school and get in trouble.

Not being able to carry knives speaks volumes about the world we live in

as well. The wrong things that some people do punish everyone that obeys the law.

When I was about 10 or 12, virtually every boy carried a pocket knife, not only when fishing or hunting but in school as well. Boys assisted the teacher with classroom chores,

Whether it was cutting string or kindling they were a big help. The ones who didn't have a knife wished they did.

Boys used knives for cleaning fish, rabbits and squirrels. And in all sorts of ways to perform chores around the house.

The sure way you measured whether a knife was "keen," was seeing if you could easily shave the hair off one's forearm; if not, you needed to sharpen some more.

Neither my Dad nor my

Grandfather would have set foot out of the house without their trusty pocket knife handy. Both owned a nice collection and usually we purchased Dad one for Christmas every year.

I love borrowing Dad's knife to whittle a piece of wood; I accidentally cut my finger one time while I was whittling on some old squash, but that did not stop me from whittling. Occasionally, Dad would send me to the garden to get a cabbage head and let me use his knife, I really thought that "big time."

I was just thinking about how many uses there were for pocket knives. Dad would peel apples and peaches, cut string to stake tomatoes, open boxes and letters, and even pick a briar out of fingers, just to name a few.

Without a knife it was difficult to function.

Even in Dad's later years, until he passed, he carried a knife. I have the knife he was carrying the day he got sick and was admitted to the hospital. I cherish it and carry it on occasion.

The knife reminds me of a time when people lived close to the earth and a knife was considered a necessity; A lifestyle where pocket knives deserve praise and a prominent place in daily life. Knives are, in short, increasingly part of a world we have lost. How terribly sad.

## ESTILL SCHOOLS MENUS

Milk included with every meal; juice with breakfast

MONDAY November 24	TUESDAY November 25	WED-FRIDAY November 26-28
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### SOUTH IRVINE BREAKFAST

Breakfast Pizza Apple, Juice, Milk	Strawberry Yogurt SD Snacks, Cant.	NO SCHOOL!
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### SOUTH IRVINE LUNCHES

Chicken Tenders w/Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Applesauce	Pepperoni pizza Romaine Salad Ranch dressing Corn, Apple Milk	NO SCHOOL!
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### ESTILL SPRINGS BREAKFAST

Mini Maple Waffles Apple, Juice, Milk	CT Crunch Cereal Grapes, Toast, Milk	NO SCHOOL!
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### ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES

Chicken Tenders/ Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Applesauce, Milk	Pepperoni Pizza Corn, Apple Romaine Salad Ranch Dressing Milk	NO SCHOOL!
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### WEST IRVINE BREAKFAST

Mini Blueberry Waffles, Apple	Toast, Grapes Cin. Toast Cereal	NO SCHOOL!
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### WEST IRVINE LUNCHES

Chicken Nuggets /Rolls Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Sliced Pears, Milk	Pepperoni Pizza Broccoli /Dip Corn Apple Milk	NO SCHOOL!
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### ESTILL MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Breakfast Pizza Or Fruit Loops Cereal Strawberry Pop tart Banana Assorted Juice Milk	Trix Yogurt Reese Puffs Cereal Raisin Bran Cereal Brown Sugar Cinn. Pop tart Pears, Milk	NO SCHOOL!
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### ESTILL MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH

Chicken Nuggets Texas Toast Mashed Potatoes California Blend Veg Banana Apple	Bosco w/Marinara Sauce Or Pepperoni Calzone Romaine Salad Carrot Sticks, Milk Pears, Cantaloupe	NO SCHOOL!
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### ESTILL HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Cereal, Pop Tarts Yogurt Assorted Juices Banana or Apple Milk	Sausage & Biscuit Cereal, Yogurt Assorted Juices Banana or Apple Milk Choice	NO SCHOOL!
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### ESTILL HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH

Chicken Patie or Hamburger/WG Bun Potato Wedges Normandy Blend Peaches/Side Kicks Stuffed Crust Pizza Variety Milk, Orange	Chicken Tenders or Spicy Tenders/Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Tropicals/Pineapple Stuffed Crust Pepperoni Pizza, OJ	NO SCHOOL!
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## Conservation District Announces Annual Contest For Local Students

The Estill County Conservation District is proud to announce the annual Conservation Writing and Jim Claypool Art Contest. This contest is sponsored by the Kentucky Division of Conservation, Kentucky Farm Bureau, and Kentucky's 121 Conservation Districts. The contest has begun every year since 1944 with the announcement of the theme. The 2014 theme is "Protect Kentucky's Soil"

The art contest is open to students in grades 1-5 and the writing contest to grades 6-12. This includes all students in public, private and home schools.

2014 Contest materials and teacher's guide are available online: kyfb.com/federation and conservation.ky.gov. If you are unable to locate these please contact the local conservation district at 606-723-5104 for assistance.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

**State Winners:** \$250 first place, \$150 second place and \$50 third place

**Area Winners:** \$50 to the writing and art winner in each of the nine Soil & Water Conservation Commission areas.

**District Winners:** \$25 to the writing and art winner in each of the 121 conservation district in Kentucky.

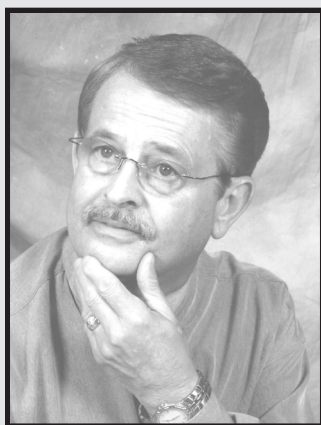
\*State and Regional winners will receive a personalized plaque and certificate. County winners that win regional or

## ESTILL LIBRARY BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

246 Main Street, Irvine, KY - Call 723-3030

LIBRARY IS CLOSED -- NO BOOKMOBILE THIS WEEK!

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Judge Executive Wallace Taylor, right, presented a plaque to Bobby Gentry at Monday's fiscal court meeting on behalf of the Sons of the American Legion.