



Times Remembered

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My Mom has been gone more than a decade now, and seldom does a day pass when I'm not reminded of her. Usually, it is some small occurrence which brings back memories of a woman of surpassing sweetness and goodness.

I recall how loving and easygoing Mom was, she never minded noisy children or grandchildren nor a husband who was hard-headed, independent and "I'll do it my way outlook on life." She loved us all anyway.

I think of Mom often in terms of food. She was a marvelous cook. She was a loving example of the old mountain adage which suggests: "Make do with what you've got." She never wasted anything whether it was food or repairing clothing and such. I always said, she could take a sow's ear and make a silk purse. She just had that knack.

Mom always cooked; times were different then; we had no fast food

Memories of Mom

restaurants and junk food wasn't plentiful. We ate vegetables and fruit and raised our chickens, beef and pork. It tasted so much better.

We always had fried chicken on Sunday. Mom's fried chicken was to "die for." After breakfast she began to prepare the chicken to fry. After a good coating of flour and seasonings several times, it was fried in a large cast iron skillet bubbling with hot grease or lard. Mom would fry the chicken on a relative low heat until it was golden brown. The slow frying made it so tender, yet crispy, not deep fried like today's chicken. After it was done she would put it in a low temperature oven at about 150 degrees to keep it warm while at church. It was fried chicken at its best. When we came in the kitchen door from church the aroma was overwhelming; it was better than finger licking good.

Momma baked cornbread several times a week. She also used a cast iron skillet to bake her cornbread. I don't re-

call a pone ever coming out anyway other than golden brown on top, and a darker, crustier brown where the batter touched the skillet. She also used lard or bacon grease to bake the cornbread. A piece of her cornbread slathered with homemade butter ... mmm-mmm!!

Green beans was a staple that Mom canned and cooked even more than pinto beans. She preferred white-runners and they were about the only ones she planted. She wouldn't hear of today's tender crisp beans cooked in olive oil. She put her half-runners in a big pot of water, with fat back/streaked meat and brought them to a boil; then reduced to a simmer and cooked them all day. I always said they were "holy beans," she cooked them so long. They were delicious!

I could go on and on and talk about the wonderful things she cooked and said and did. I thank God for the memories of all the wonderful things we shared.

Reprinted from 2018

Billy goats aren't the only creatures with hard heads



America's Heartland

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A man from the big city was driving through the country one day when a billy goat jumped into the road and collided with his car. He had never seen a billy goat before, so he turned into the parking lot of a country store and ran inside.

"I just ran over something and I don't know what it is," he frantically explained to a group of old fellows gathered around a potbellied stove.

"Well, what did it look like?" one of the fellows asked.

The city slicker said: "It has a hard head, a great

big belly, and it's the ugliest thing I've ever seen."

One of the other fellows jumped up from his chair and said, "Lordy mercy, you've run over my wife."

Isn't it odd that the city slicker's description of an old goat could so aptly describe some people you've known, especially the hardheaded part?

Preachers in particular have always had to deal with people like that. In fact, the Bible tells us that the Old Testament Prophet Ezekiel faced those kind of folks way back in his day.

God prepared Ezekiel to preach to such people, revealing to us that the Lord loves even the most hardheaded people and that He wants to have a relationship with them. The Bible shows that God equipped Ezekiel for the task by giving him a hard head, too.

"Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. As an adamant hard than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not neither be dismayed at their looks" (Ezekiel

3:8-9).

Your own preacher very likely could tell you some most entertaining stories about his efforts to share the Gospel with hardheaded people. Some folks just don't want to hear the Good News, and your preacher, like Ezekiel, has probably had to butt heads with them.

God's desire is for everyone to be saved, including the old hard heads. So, while it would be easier to skip past such folks, God's will is that they hear His Word. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, into the world that everyone in the world, including hardheaded folks, can be saved.

God told Ezekiel to go, speak to those people, sharing with them God's word, whether they want to hear it or not. And that's just what he did.

Let me encourage you not to give up on hardheaded folks. God loves them very much, and He wants them to experience His amazing grace.

But be warned, after talking with such folks, you might think you've collided with a billy goat.

Greg Whitaker Receives MBA at Ashland U.

Gregory Whitaker of Irvine, received a Master of Business Administration degree during Ashland University's winter 2019 commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 14, 2019.

Whitaker is majoring in Executive Management.

Ashland University is a mid-sized, comprehensive private university conveniently located a short distance from Akron, Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio.

Area Students On Dean's List at Berea Col.

More than 460 Berea College students were named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List, including Kaylee Horn of Waco and Donovan Satterfield of Irvine.

A student is named to the Dean's List who achieves a GPA of 3.4 or higher while passing at least four total credits, a course load equivalent to 16 semester hours.

Berea College awards four-year tuition scholarships to all its students, who because of financial circumstances cannot otherwise afford a high-quality, residential, liberal arts education.

Berea's student labor program creates an atmosphere of democratic living that emphasizes the dignity of all work and provides opportunities for students to earn money for their rooms, books, and board.

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