



Times Remembered

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Do you ever just take a leisure drive down the back roads and countryside? Since we have retired we have a little more time to do those type of things. We love seeing all the farms, and ponds/lakes and I like old cemeteries.

Last week I had several doctor's appointments and basketball games on the same day so we had some time in between to do some exploring and driving the back roads.

We were in Richmond to do some Christmas gift exchanges that we had received from Christmas and when we finished we decided to take old Route 25 to Lexington for my doctor's appointments.

Like most back roads, the neighborhoods have gone down; houses have been torn down or fell down and things aren't quite as neat as they used to be several years ago. We all know time changes things.

We stopped at White Hall Shrine and saw some of the wind damage they

A Back Roads Drive

received a few weeks ago. Several big trees were down and tarps were on the roofs. Contractors were working to repair all the damage. It still is very pretty and stately.

Located across from White Hall is a beautiful lake and walking paths. It's a very nice place to walk and to fish. The lake is a FIN lake; which means, "Fishing in the Neighborhood," and it is open to everyone. All you need is a fishing license and a fishing pole or rod. The area also has picnic shelters, docks and rest rooms. Very nice for a day of fishing.

We traveled on down 25 where cattle were munching on hay from their hay ring. I suppose that's what you call it. The farms are really pretty, especially in the summer.

My favorite place to visit is Boone's Trace Subdivision. The houses are gorgeous and are very expensive. I'd love to live there.

I found out a year or so ago that some of my ancestors are buried there. I found the Arvin cemetery was in the middle of Boone's Trace Subdivision. My great-great-grandfather, William Arvin is buried there and some other relatives are also buried there. The names on most of the tombstones are not legible. The cemetery is overgrown with weeds, brush and trees in the summer, but in the winter I was able to read more names because the vegetation had died. It is sad that

everyone isn't identified that is buried there.

Most of the Arvins are buried in Estill County. I found that my great, great grandparents are buried on Wagersville through a cousin, Billy Arvin, who did extensive research on the Arvins.

In fact, after my Mom and Dad passed I was able to receive most of their pictures and I found a map of the Arvin Cemetery in Madison County. I didn't know at the time that the cemetery was in Boone's Trace. Again one summer day Bob and I set out to find it; we searched and searched and it took a while but I was so happy when I found that cemetery in the midst of the subdivision.

I got cold chills when we found those graves that summer day two years ago. Tears stung my eyes as I walked inside the fence... I was excited, but sad because of the condition the graves were in. I'm just that way... I wish I could have known them and all of my grandparents.

This summer I'm going to do some more research on where they lived in Madison County and speak with the Madison County Historical Society concerning the clearing of the cemetery.

We finally proceeded on our way to Lexington for my next doctor's appointment. That afternoon was bittersweet on the back roads but it sure lifted my spirits.

When hiccups come into our lives we want them gone



America's Heartland

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I heard about a fellow who flung open the doors to the drugstore, rushed up to the pharmacist's counter and asked, "Do you have anything for hiccups?"

Without a word, the pharmacist slapped the man across the face.

The fellow, shocked and angry, asked the pharmacist what he thought he was doing hitting him that way.

"Well," the pharmacist said, "you don't have the hiccups any longer, do you?"

"No," the man said, "but my wife out in the car does."

Hiccups can be so very bothersome, coming out of nowhere and taking center stage in our lives.

You can't ignore them, because when they strike, they're just so terribly annoying. And, if they last very long, we're willing to do just about anything to get rid of them. We'll drink water upside down. We'll encourage a friend to scare us. We'll hold our breath, hoping they'll pass. We'd even welcome a slap by a pharmacist if that would make them go away.

Of course, we face other kinds of hiccups in life, those bothersome things that come along seemingly just to irritate us, those things that tend to take our focus off what's truly important.

Everyone will deal with these kinds of hiccups at some point. There's no way around it.

Did you ever have your car breakdown at just the wrong time, as if there's ever a good time for your car to break down? All of a sudden that becomes the most pressing issue you're facing. It's bothersome. You can't ignore it. But that doesn't mean it should stress you to the breaking point.

The Bible tells us we should reach out to the Lord when bothersome

hiccups interrupt our lives.

"I called on the Lord in my distress; the Lord answered me. The Lord is on my side" (Psalm 118:5-6).

Those verses are so helpful when we face hiccups in life, those things that just appear out of nowhere and irritate us to no end. Many other verses can be helpful, as well. I really love the words of Jesus as recorded in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give unto you. ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

When life's hiccups come along, we need to remind ourselves that our Jesus is right there with us. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He'll walk right alongside us through whatever life throws at us.

It would be far better for us to turn to Jesus when we face life's hiccups than to go to the drugstore and be slapped by the pharmacist.

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