

213 TALES

by the late

Michael Dale Profitt

Memories of the late Michael Dale Profitt who lived much of his life on KY-213 and KY-52, now called Furnace Junction.

A Tribute to Jesse Willie Puckett "Willie the Barber"

Willie Puckett was born February 29, 1940 to the late Arnold and Mae Tipton Puckett. He went to Mt. Carmel School; then went to Estill County High. After graduating, he went to the National Guard. He later went to barber school.

He later got married to Brenda Farmer Puckett. Her parents, Ida Mae and Ernest Lee Farmer Sr., run the Western Auto Store. They sold everything from guns, tires, bicycles, sporting goods, and a lot more. Their brand of guns were Revelation, and bicycles were Western Flyer. They had a good business.

Willie opened a barber shop on River Drive in Irvine. He bought a house at Cedar Grove.

The barber shop had three barbers, Willie, Ray Rose and Sonny Cole. When they first opened, you couldn't get in the shop, it was so crowded. Later, one barber, Sonny, quit and that left Ray Rose and Willie Puckett.

Brenda went to work for GTE in Irvine. She worked there until they closed the office on Broadway. She went to work at Union Bank and worked several years. She then went to work for Estill County Schools. She is still employed there. They had two children, Mark and Selisa who married Steve Adams.

Ray Rose worked with Willie until he retired. Willie lived at Cedar Grove until his parents passed away. He then fixed the old home place up and moved back to Tipton Ridge. He was back home now.

Willie started farming and raising cattle and hogs. He raised corn on Millers Creek and cut a lot of hay. He later started raising tobacco and always worked hard.

His son Mark got out of high school and went to be a barber. Mark and Willie run the Puckett's Barber Shop for a few years. Mark had gotten married to Harry Fox's girl, Belinda, and moved to the Clay Tipton farm. Willie and Mark both worked farming now. They both raised cattle and worked the hay and tobacco crops. Mark decided to go to work for the Kentucky Department of Highways as an engineer. He still works there.

Willie would go to church at Mt. Carmel Christian. They had joined the church in the seventies when Mark

and Selisa were small.

Willie was always joking about something. I had a few cattle one year and he asked me what I was going to feed them. I told him I was going to buy hay. I wasn't going to be like Willie and another fellow and try to feed sage grass. He said he would put green sunglasses on his cows. I always joked him about that.

Willie was a big, strong man when he first started to cut hair. They say his family had crippling arthritis on the Puckett side. He worked a lot but it was taking its toll on him. He got sugar and had to quit chewing tobacco. He got a girl named Sheila to work with him a couple of years. She would also keep the shop open when Willie was sick. Sugar and other problems was getting the best of Willie.

The Puckett's Barber Shop was also a loafing spot and a lot of people loafed there. Bear Miller was a regular customer until he passed away. A lot of people would come in just to use the rest room. Willie was nice and wouldn't try to hurt anyone's feelings. He was always nice.

If you went down and got a haircut and didn't have the money he would wait on you. He would also let some people borrow money sometimes. He would try to help you if he could.

We would all joke him about having a lot of money. His dad and mom were really good managers of money. I don't know how good Willie and Brenda managed, but they sent both of their children to college.

Willie's cousin Omer Tipton Jr. told Willie he had a dream about overalls hanging on his bedpost. They joked my brother Chester about it and he told them it was one of the neighbor's overalls he seen on his bedpost.

Willie always joked us about something. We would just come back on him. I had moved to Stanton for several years but still went to him to get haircuts. Willie still used a straight razor to shave around your ears, neck and other places. Most barbers had quit this a long time ago. He always had a hand vibrator on your neck.

Willie was really good with kids, too. They loved having their hair cut by him. He would always give them bubble gum and candy. Sometimes, he wouldn't even charge his regular customers anything to cut their hair.

Willie never had many black customers until Clyde Bertram came along. He was a Kentucky State Police trooper and had been transferred to Irvine. He went ahead and cut his hair for him. Most people weren't against black people in Irvine like they were at other places in that time. Willie cut his hair as long as he came there.

When River Drive was widened, some of the construction workers came to Willie's to use the rest room. Willie let them come on in. Some of the women workers said if it wasn't



Willie Puckett and his son Mark (in background) cut hair on River Drive

for him, they didn't know what they would do. They started coming there to eat lunch and buy pop. They really liked Willie.

Some people's hair, I felt sorry for Willie, when some people would come in. Their hair was greasy and didn't look like it had been washed in a year. He would go ahead and cut it. He would clean his tools afterwards and put the comb in alcohol to kill any germs.

Some women got to coming to him for haircuts. He didn't like it but went ahead and cut their hair.

I always loved the way he trimmed my beard. He would try to cut your hair the way you wanted it. He had seen a lot of his customers pass on.

Willie worked a lot on his farms and yard. We passed there a few times and he would be mowing grass at 11:00 p.m. He was a hard worker. He joked my brother Chester about marrying a good woman.

Chester told him, "Heck, no!" He wasn't going to work 16 hours a day for no woman.

There for a while, Willie couldn't hardly stand up. He said his feet stayed numb. He would go ahead and cut hair anyway. That's what he loved. Sheila left and went to work in a beauty shop on Broadway. Willie was all alone again. He cut hair until he couldn't

anymore in 2008. He later closed the shop. He will be missed by a lot of people who were his customers and his friends and all who loved him. I know when he passed away on February 7, 2009, we lost a good friend and a great barber who was really loved by so many people. Now he can cut hair in Heaven for the angels. We will miss his love and joking ways a lot. The Lord wanted him to come on to Heaven to be with the ones who have already gone to Heaven. Heaven has now got one "Great Barber" and "Loving Friend" in Willie Puckett. If things were bad, he would cheer you up.

In loving memory of Jessie Willie Puckett, a great barber and February 7, 2009, we lost a loving friend. Michael D. Profitt

"We were married 46 years," Willie's wife Brenda remembers. "I buried Willie on our anniversary, that was hard. But it was God's will. "Mark talks about his Dad all the time," said Brenda. "They were so close, best friends; worked side by side for years. "And Selisa was a Daddy's girl. We miss him every day of our lives, he was a very special man."

"He is gone but he will never be forgotten," she adds. "He was so loved by everyone. But I loved him the most!"

Jesse Willie Puckett was a "leap year baby," born on February 29th.

Local Police activity report

Irvine Officer Jason Conrad served five warrants January 23 on **Christopher Allen Poe**, 37, of Twin Creek Road, Irvine.

The warrants were from district courts in Estill, Madison, Clark, and two from Powell district court.

Irvine Officer Stewart Morris served February 22 an Estill County complaint on **Kristen Neal**, 35, of N. Madison Ave., Irvine. The complaint was for non-payment of court costs, fees or fines.

Ricky Williams, 65, was served with an Estill County complaint on February 21 for theft by deception - including cold checks under \$500.

Sheriff Chris Flynn served an Estill District Court warrant on **Tisha Cornett**, 30, of Hoys Fork Road, Irvine on February 21.

Jimmy Drago, 57, of Wall Sreet, Irvine was served with a Madison Circuit Court warrant on February 21 by Court Security Officer Glenn Car-

roll. The warrant states that Drago had violated his conditional release and was to be held without bail.

Dragoo had been charged in Madison County with theft of identity of another without consent, possession of a handgun by a convicted felon, possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (heroin), drug paraphernalia -- buy/possess, failure to or improper signal, and operating on a suspended or revoked operator license.

Carroll also served two Estill Circuit Court warrants February 21 on **Michael S. Crim**, 30, of Substation Road, Irvine.

One warrant states that Crim violated the condition of his release by leaving the building and absconding Probation and Parole since January 14.

The second warrant states that Crim had possessed of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine). He was to

be held without bail.

Randall Hall, 27, of Pea Ridge Road, Irvine was served with a warrant from Estill District Court on February 21 by Sheriff Chris Flynn.

Sheriff Flynn served two warrants from Powell County February 20 on **Darrell K. Thacker**, 51, of Furnace Jct, Ravenna.

The district court warrant says that Thacker failed to appear on a traffic case. He was to be held without bail on the circuit court case.

Deputy Chris Coffey charged **Virgil Harrison**, 79, of Ridge Road with alcohol intoxication, open alcohol beverage container in vehicle, and terroristic threatening third degree on February 19.

Coffey responded to the parking lot of an apartment building on Ridge Road in reference to a man passed out in a vehicle.

Cody Begley, 25, of West Cedar Grove, Irvine, was served with a warrant on February 15 by Deputy Coffey.

Indictment waivers

John Earl Fowler, 47, waived a grand jury indictment on Thursday, Feb. 19 on the Rocket Docket.

Fowler pled guilty to charges of public intoxication (excluding alcohol), possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, possession of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.

The waiver states that Fowler was intoxicated at McDonald's on December 7. He had an unspecified controlled drug, marijuana, and drug paraphernalia (a pipe) in his possession.

He was sentenced by Circuit Judge Michael Dean.

Mary Moser, 48, of Substation Road, Irvine also waived an indictment by a grand jury.

She pled guilty on the Rocket Docket to possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense, driving on a suspended or revoked operators license, drug paraphernalia, and license to

be in possession.

According to the waiver, Moser had meth and a pipe in her possession on November 29.

A diversion order was entered for Moser by Judge Dean.

Arrested for possession

A Richmond Road man was charged with possession on February 22 following a report of a fight at his residence.

Deputy Chris Coffey responded to an apartment on Richmond Road to investigate the fight.

He asked **Michael Cornett**, 32, if he had anything on him. Cornett replied "no," and Coffey asked him to empty his pockets.

Coffey said there was a small baggie that contained a crystal-like substance consistent with methamphetamine. He added that Cornett named a female who had put it in his pocket.

Coffey also said there was a yellow sticky note that contained the same substance.

He charged Cornett

with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine).

The day after Cornett's arrest, Coffey charged **Earl Peters**, 64, who gave the same address and apartment number as Cornett.

The deputy stated that he saw Peters' vehicle sitting at Roses Garage in South Irvine.

Coffey said he saw Peters passed out in the vehicle and woke him up. The deputy was given consent to search the vehicle.

The deputy stated he found a straw with residue on it. He asked Peters to empty his pockets.

The citation states that Peters threw a small baggie on the hood of the car containing a crystal-like substance. He then pulled out a bag of "weed."

Peters was charged with possession of a controlled substance, first degree and first offense (methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, and public intoxication.