



**Tam's Front Porch Ponderings**  
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## I Love A Good Road Trip

I love a good road trip and the weather last Saturday was perfect to be out and about! I loaded up my things, stopped by for Mom and niece Scarlett, then hit the road. We were headed to Liberty, KY because I needed a few things from the bulk store plus there were wonderful shops along the way we could visit. Mom had agreed to go only if, "we are home by 3:15, Kentucky plays ball". Now anyone that knows my Mom, knows she DOESN'T miss basketball games. I assured her we would be home in plenty of time as I whipped into McDonald's in Richmond, hurriedly parked the Tahoe and ran inside to order since the drive-thru was backed up a city block! That should have been my first clue that time would not be my friend that day. I waited twenty minutes for a cup of oatmeal and a chicken biscuit. I was so harried from my encounter in McDonald's, I turned the wrong way coming out of the parking lot and both Mom and Scarlett wanted to know where I was going. I tried to play it off like I was headed to the shoe repair shop to have a couple of back packs repaired, but I don't think they bought it. I dropped the back packs at the shop and made my way to Lancaster Road. We rode along laughing and talking and really enjoying the sunshine until we came to Paint Lick. There was a

little shop on Main Street I had always wanted to stop at, so I pulled in the parking lot and we obeyed the sign that read, "rang bell". I peeped my head in the door at the amazing stuff strewn about and just started to take a step in when I saw a rather large dog looking at us over a wooden crate. Eyeballing me as tiptoed backwards out of the shop, he never barked, just let me know he was there watching the place. Scarlett "rang bell" again but we never saw a soul, so we got back on the road.

Driving through the countryside, making our way towards Hustonville, we began to notice the houses dotting the hills. They were big, white homes with huge columns that stretched from the ground floor porches to the roofs of the second floors. It was plain to see these homes had been around for years and years. Well maintained and stately, they seemed to be old souls guarding the goings on of the valley below them. We oohed and aahed as I slowed down so we could peer into the windows of the past. I think these houses are called Federal Style homes and they reminded us of a time when girls wore hoops under their skirts and sweet tea was sipped on swings where the afternoon breeze would provide relief from a hot, Kentucky afternoon.

Porches were decorated with swags of pine and cedar, wreaths of holly tied with big, red ribbons hung from all the windows and doors wore wreaths decorated with feathers, magnolia pods and greenery of all sorts. It was a feast for the eyes and we enjoyed every moment and every home. Before long the style of houses changed to more modern and I sped up on the road to Liberty. Just before we got into town, we passed another wonderful little shop and we decided to make another stop. Scarlett fell in love with a French

Provincial, five piece bedroom suit that had a four poster bed. It reminded me of something a Princess would sleep on! I admired an antique, cherry game table while Mom checked the prices of other cherry pieces in the store. We left with a Christmas wish list a mile long!

Finally, we made it to the Mennonite community and I picked up what I had on my list, along with homemade bread, spices and apples. Scarlett picked out a homemade apron and Mom left with a container of double dipped, chocolate covered peanuts. I glanced at my watch and could plainly see we were NOT going to make it home in time to watch Kentucky's ballgame. Driving back, all the homes we'd admired on our way to Liberty, were alive with candles in the windows and twinkling lights upon the banisters. We were content to listen to the game on the radio while we enjoyed the Christmas decorations. We didn't darken the doors of home until 6:00 p.m.!! Although I didn't get Momma home on time, I wouldn't trade that day for anything, three generations of Muncie women sharing a day together at the most wonderful time of the year. I can honestly say, this was the best Christmas present ever! The only thing missing was having my sister along with us but that just gives us an excuse to take another...  
**Road Trip!!!**



DECEMBER 25  
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These students are holding books donated by the Lions Club here in Estill County. The Lions Club donated over 150 books to be distributed by the Estill County Beta Club to the Backpack Buddy program that serves 150 elementary students each week. A big THANK YOU to the Lion's Club and to Traci and Becky Snowden for delivering such a generous contribution to the program! Students pictured left to right are: Jordan Martin, Sarah Thacker, Abby Winkle, Sarah Barnes, and Colton Malicote.

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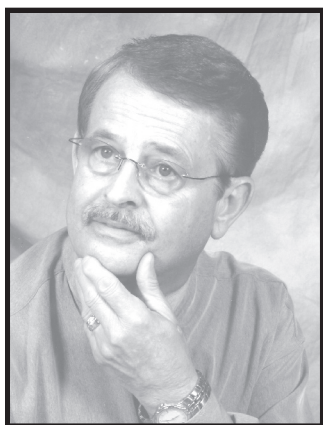
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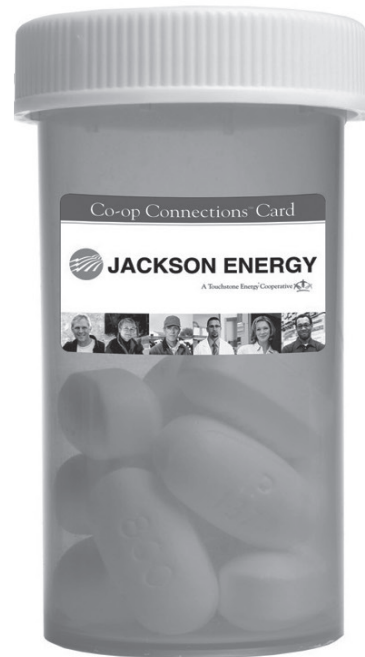
John Cox

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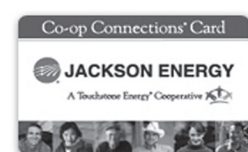
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