

Happy Retirement!



Tam's Front Porch Ponderings
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For as long as I can remember, Sylvania has been a name I know. My Daddy began working in the 1950s at the lamp making plant in Winchester, Kentucky and lots of folks from Estill County drove the crooked twists and turns of Highway 89 to work there also. I bet alot of you didn't know that Sylvania actually wanted to build here in Irvine, but city officials at that time didn't want the "riff-raff" they said, that went along with a factory. Because of that decision, my Daddy drove to Winchester everyday of his life for years and years until his retirement. When Dad had to serve his time in the United States Army, he left Sylvania but as soon as he returned, went right back to work there. I can't tell you how long he was there or when he retired, I can only tell you that I was proud of my Daddy being an employee there and to this day I still buy Sylvania light bulbs. Our first television was a Sylvania, bought through the company store. Over the years, we owned numerous Sylvania televisions until finally they did away with the company store.

I recall the UAW strik-

ing once, when I was little. Daddy walked the picket line and I remember being afraid. I know it sounds strange, but I can see it just like it was yesterday, me perched against the edge of our claw footed tub, watching Daddy shave, as he explained what the Union was and why they had to strike. Daddy painted houses and did all sorts of things to make a living while the plant was on strike. We made it just fine and over the years it went from Sylvania to GTE Sylvania, then Osram Sylvania and as of July 1, 2016 it will change again.

When we returned from Kansas in the '80's, Corky worked at several different jobs until finally, he too settled on Sylvania. Corky tells the story of how Daddy took him around and introduced him to all the people at the plant. Daddy knew everyone and had always hauled riders. Corky became one of the riders and when Daddy retired, Corky took over his route. Like Daddy, Corky has worked almost all the lines and done a little of everything at the plant. He's drove the crooked twists and turns of Highway 89, through snow storms and ice, flooding and herds of deer, Corky has provided for our family by working hard in the sweltering heat of a lamp factory. He's traveled to Germany with the company, learning new lines and helping put new lines in place in Winchester. There was a trip to Massachusetts for the plant, that he spent every spare minute searching for a Baby Grover to bring home to Sarah Beth. He found it and Grover is still hanging around in the toy box. After years of hard work, now it's Corky's turn to retire!

A part of me is so very

happy that the time has come for Corky to retire, but deep down a part of me is very sad. For 55 years, my ENTIRE LIFE, all I have ever known is Sylvania. Over the years, things at the plant changed, but I remember Daddy taking us to an open house and how amazed I was at the fire of the big ovens and all the glass. The heat was so intense! Years later, Corky took me and our children to another open house and the sense of home I felt when I walked through the doors, was overpowering. The long aisles of wooden floors, shined like a new penny with all the equipment whirling along on the assembly lines. The plant that employed so many of Estill's residents has now dwindled down to barely 80. Lines have moved to Juarez, Mexico, Versailles, Kentucky and "up North" as Daddy always referred to it. Outsourcing has changed the place I've loved for so many years...to a stranger. The parking lot that was once full to maximum capacity with cars, looks strange with so few. Now after 27 years, the time has come for Corky to drive 89 for his last trip to Sylvania. It's name will change soon, along with new owners, new policies and people, the time is right for Corky to call it a day.

I will always cherish my Sylvania memories and I'm thankful for the life it has provided. Friday will be Corky's last day and I'm happy for him, I'm just wondering how long I need to wait before I hand him this Honey-Do list I've been working on?!

Congratulations Corky, you've earned it!

Until next time.....



Times Remembered
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The Birds

We have a cat and a dog but we enjoy the company of wild creatures as well... especially birds. There's nothing like watching wild birds enjoying a meal, unless, of course our feathered friends are interrupted by our stalking cat, SI. Our dog, Summitt isn't interested in them, but I have to keep an eye on the cat.

We never owned a cat until a few years ago when one frosty March morning; a little yellow and white skinny kitten appeared on my deck. I fed him and the rest is history.

Wild birds and pets can be a tricky combination, but with a little planning, we can help our favorite critters

coexist.

I know people with pets who never hang up a bird feeder for fear it would only invite birds to their doom. I'm convinced that you don't have to choose one side or the other if you understand the instincts of all the animals involved and work around them.

The first fact we must accept is that cats are natural predators of wild birds. Few things bring out the stalking instinct of a cat more than the sight of a bird.

Cats generally pose a greater threat to birds than dogs do. Dogs tend to get excited about birds and many scare them away by barking. Although they may fly off when the dog barks, they're back the moment it stops. It seems the birds know a dog can't climb a tree to reach them.

With patience, silent steps, and tree-climbing skills cats are far more successful bird hunters than most dogs are. Felines can pick up parasites and diseases from eating wild birds.

We put a bell on SI's collar to warn birds of a predator's approach... but I also know cats are smooth stalkers and could jump high enough to reach the bird's feeder; but he never has. Bob uses fishing line and suspends the feeder in mid-air and attaches it to a limb. This also deters the squirrels too. Birds will protect themselves

using their natural advantages like flight and sharp motion detection. Birds are very alert to motion around them. Do not hang a feeder next to a shrub or bush where a cat could hide and be able to spring from it to the feeder.

SI likes to catch blue-tailed lizards and toy with frogs; he don't really kill the frogs, he just loves to play with them. I scold him for bothering the frogs. I think the most fun thing for him to do is to claw my wicker table legs. He gets in trouble for that. You know cats don't seem to mind when you scold them they just tilt their head high and seems as though they are saying, "So what, I'll stop when I get ready to stop clawing the table legs."

On the other hand, if I scold Summitt, she will tuck her tail and lay down. She's such a sweet dog; she loves attention and still acts like a puppy even though she is 9 years old now. She's a Golden Retriever, (our third one) and they are so lovable. But SI, he picks and chooses his buddies; of course he loves Bob the best; he never scolds him and is always playing with him. SI just likes me because I feed him and if I rough him up like Bob does; he scratches me. But when I get on my "bear face," as my grandson Colton says, SI skedaddles off the wicker settee.



Contractors and county recycling employees (three at the right) collected hazardous household chemicals at the Estill County Fairbarn on Saturday morning. Another collection will be held in about a year.



These twins proved you are never too young to listen to a good story. They were very attentive while Miss Whitney read books at the farmers market on Friday afternoon.



The Osborne brothers played in the dirt under the shelter of the farmers market on Friday while listening to Miss Whitney. The Farmers Market is open every Friday, 4-8 p.m. at the Estill County Fairgrounds.



Whitney Hays, children's librarian at the Estill County Public Library, read books to children on Friday afternoon at the Estill County Farmer's Market.

50-mile yard sale on Hwy. 52

The Fifty Mile-Hwy 52 Yard Sale is coming up with the approach of the Fourth of July weekend. The official dates are Friday and Saturday, July 1st and 2nd. We expect there will be a lot of shoppers stopping at the roadside yard sales and flea markets from the intersection of highways, 52 and 30 in Breathitt County near Jackson and proceeding along Hwy 52 westward through the Elkatawa, Oakdale, Athol, Tallega, Monica, St. Helens, Beattyville

and Bear Track communities. The route of the sale takes it through Ravenna and Irvine in Estill County and on down Hwy 52 to the Madison County line. Communities through Bybee and Waco and on to Richmond are welcome to participate.

The watchword is Caution! A lot of shoppers and sightseers will be pulling off the roads to look for bargains before rejoining the flow of traffic. Shoppers and bargain hunters will be able to find everything from

antiques, hot food and apple pies and fresh ground meal to tools and hundreds of flea market items. In a time of a down economy a lot of folks will have the opportunity to convert truckloads of surplus items to some ready cash.

The sale began in 2005 as the brainchild of former State Representative Ted Edmonds, Linda Smith and Joanne Dunaway.

Come on out and join the fun. Buy, sell or trade and visit old friends.

Drivers injured in head-on collision

Two drivers were injured in a head-on collision on Kirkland Ave. The wreck occurred around 1:18 p.m. last Wednesday, June 15.

Deputy Russell "Doc" Morris reported that Margaret Smith of Vincent, Ky. rounded a curve on Kirkland as she was traveling east. The deputy added that as Smith's vehicle entered the curve, she apparently lost

control of the vehicle. It crossed over the center line and struck an oncoming vehicle driven by Marcia Hoover of Ravenna.

Smith and Hoover both received minor injuries. They were transported to Marcum & Wallace Memorial Hospital by Estill County EMS. Smith's passenger was reportedly not injured during the wreck.

Incidents reported by Deputy

■ Karen E. Dozier of Rice Station Road, Irvine reported the theft of a John Deere D-140 riding lawn mower on June 14. It was taken from her residence. Bailiff Glenn Carroll is conducting the investigation.

■ A vehicle was reported stolen by Rebecca Hull on Tangelwood Drive, Ravenna on June 14. The vehicle was valued at between \$500 and \$10,000.

Deputy Russell "Doc" Morris investigated. The vehicle has been recovered.

■ On June 13, Sheriff Gary Freeman charged Cody Isaacs with second degree criminal trespass. The citation states the sheriff found Isaacs in the loft of a barn.

The sheriff also served a bench warrant from Owen County on Isaacs.

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The Estill County Tribune

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