

Marcum and Wallace Hospital gets Kentucky Colonels Grant

Mercy Health Foundation – Irvine is proud to announce it received a grant from the Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels in the amount of \$15,000 to be used towards the purchase of a new bed for the medical unit at Marcum and Wallace Hospital. The (bariatric) bed costs over \$30,000 and can accommodate a patient that weighs up to 600 pounds and includes safety features for both the patient and healthcare provider.

“We are so grateful for the support of the Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels towards the purchase of this new equipment,” said Deanna Seale, RN, Marcum and Wallace Hospital Medical Unit Manager. “The cost of this bed was a challenge, but financial assistance from the Honor-

able Order Kentucky Colonels will upgrade our equipment and enhance patient care and patient dignity.”

Within Marcum and Wallace Hospital’s primary service area of Estill, Lee, Owsley and Powell counties, 34.8% of all adults identify as obese (with a BMI greater than 30), exceeding state and national adult obesity rates. Last year, Marcum and Wallace Hospital recorded an increase in patient body mass index (BMI) by six points. Eastern Kentucky is a region with high poverty rates and economic distress which contributes to unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking, obesity and little physical activity.

“Funding cuts and the hospital’s limited budget, make financial assistance

necessary to upgrade the facility and equipment,” said Arielle Estes, Director, Mercy Health Foundation-Irvine. “We appreciate the gift from the Kentucky Colonels to be used towards the purchase of a new bariatric bed for the medical unit.”

The Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels distributed \$2 million for the 2018 annual grant program to than 230 charities throughout the Commonwealth. The Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels is a 501(c)(3) supporting Kentucky charities and worthy organizations through its Good Works Program. Donations are given by Colonels appointed by the Governor, who chose to exercise this honor in a meaningful way. For more information go to www.kycolonels.org.



Pictured at right is Deanna Seale, RN, Marcum and Wallace Hospital Medical Unit Manager with Commanding General Lynn Ashton from the Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels. Marcum and Wallace Hospital recently received a \$15,000 grant from the Honorable Order Kentucky Colonels. (MWMH photo)

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by the late
Michael Dale Proffitt

My name is Michael Dale Proffitt, and I was born and raised in Estill County. I was the ninth child born to Charlie Elmer Patrick and Elsie Patrick Proffitt and was the first born in a hospital. Mom was born at Cob Hill, the ninth child of twelve children.

Mom was a big woman. She was born April 12, 1923. She met Dad at Cob Hill Church of God. She had went to school at Cob Hill School. They only had a one- or two-room house for school then and had a big pot-belly stove in them to heat with. They would have old outdoor toilets to use. They only had first through eighth grade and the same teacher would teach them all. They would give each class something to do, then go on to the other grades. I believe you could learn more then because you had to listen to them teaching the other classes while you were doing your work. She went through the eighth grade. You had to go to Irvine to high school.

I never had lice in school or didn't know what they looked like. Mom said a lot of people had them when she went to school. They had the old seats in school that had the desk on the back and the seat would fold up. They had a hole in the desk to put your water glass in. She said when Uncle John was in school, a girl in front of him had them (lice) so bad they would fall on his desk. He would pick them up and throw them back in her head. They didn't close that school until 1965 or 1966. Then, they made the kids come to Ravenna Grade School. The one-room schools being

closed were a loss to the community.

Sometimes, Mom would take us over to “Grandma Patrick’s” at Cob Hill to stay the weekend. There wasn’t any electric and you cooked on wood. The old house was down over the hill and you had to walk down there. Dad would take us most of the time in the 1950 Pontiac he had. It has black and had a real long hood with a big Indian on it. The back came down real fast and didn’t have a very big trunk. We would all pile in the back seat. Cob Hill was steep and was hard to pull. You couldn’t go very fast because there was a big curve in the middle like an “L.” The road was gravel.

When we got there, Dad would let us off at Uncle John Patrick’s house. He had a lot of children, too. His wife was named Hazel Oaks Patrick. He had a lot of pretty girls. John had one girl by his first wife. Her name was Leora Patrick Rogers. She was already married. I would go up and play with his girls and boys sometimes.



John Patrick and family

John lived on Grandma’s old farm and built a house there. He worked in the oil fields in Lee County. He had a funny-looking, old pickup truck; a 1950 something Dodge. It looked so funny! He had worked in the oil field until he got sick and the doctor wouldn’t let him

work. He couldn’t get his Social Security for a long time and had it hard raising his children. He survived by raising tobacco for his children. Also, he would help other people on the farm. Some of his family was done grown before he got his disability. I know it had to be hard on him. He had 12 children.

Sometimes Mom’s other sisters and brothers would come while we were there. They would get in the kitchen and cook a big meal on the old wood cook stove. They would kill their own chickens and fry them. All of the food was really good. A wood stove makes food taste better. Even the corn bread is a lot better tasting and real light brown.

Grandma would sit in her rocking chair and smoke her pipe. It was a stone pipe with a long cane pole stem in it. She always smoked Prince Albert tobacco in it. It smelled so good!

After eating dinner, we would go play. We would always find something to play with.

Sometimes my Aunt Alma Combs would come down with her husband James. Most of her children were older than I was. They lived in Lee County and James worked in the oil field.

James Harold was a couple years older than I was and we would play together all the time. She had two girls and another son who was a lot older than I was. Later, she had another son named, “Scottie.” Gerald was the oldest boy and always wanted to joke with you. Tootsie and Daisy Mae were the girls’ names. Daisy Mae got married when she was young.

Mom’s cousin Leonard lived with Uncle Clinton. Leonard was divorced and had three sons who lived with him. They were all older than me. Their names were Ronald, Terry and Mike.

Leonard was in World War II and lost an eye when he was in the Army. He farmed and drew a check from

the Army. He later went to work in Lexington at the Christmas Tree Factory. They made artificial Christmas trees there.

On Sunday evening, Dad would come back to get us all to go home. Sometimes we would go around Watson Ridge back to Furnace and on home from there. We called it “Bald Rock” because of the big, red rocks around through Watson Ridge.

Those were the good old days. Grandma passed away when I was 10 at the age of 82. She had lived a long, hard life. I was very upset and cried a lot. I went out to Dad and he hugged me and told me I would be OK. But, I still missed her a lot.



Mertie, Elsie, Myrtle, Granny & Mike

Aunt Mertie Smith Patrick cried a lot and said she had wanted Grandma to come on back home with her. She said no one would come see her now. Grandma had lived with them for several years and I know Aunt Mertie missed her. Grandma was buried at Cob Hill Cemetery next to Grandpa. She was a native “Cob Hill” resident all her life.

Aunt Mertie wanted people to come see her, so I did. I would go over during summer and stay a few weeks sometimes with her and Uncle Clinton.



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