

# EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!! GEORGETOWN STORIES BY DADDY'O THE PAPER BOY!



## **DADDY'O'S GEORGETOWN STORIES INDEX:**

### **INTRODUCTION**

**CHAPTER 1:** BIG VERDA FAMILY OVE TO GEORGETOWN

**CHAPTER 2:** DADDY'O THE PAPERBOY STARTS HIS DAY

**CHAPT: ER 3** NEGRO SHOTGUNNED, BEATEN TO DEATH

**CHAPTER 4:** GEORGETOWN WOMAN SHOT SIX TIMES

**CHAPTER 5:** TWO HARLAN YOUNGSTERS DIE AS HOME BURNS

**CHAPTER 6:** ARREST OF 3 SOLVES GEORGETOWN NEGRO'S MURDER

**CHAPTER 7:** TWO GEORGETOWN MEN SHOT TO DEATH IN BENHAM

**CHAPTER 8:** HARLAN MAN IS CHARGED IN GEORGETOWN SLAYING

**CHAPTER 9:** WOMAN HELD IN GEORGETOWN SLAYING

**CHAPTER 9.5:** GEORGETOWN MAN HENRY BROWN FATALLY WOUNDED; ROBERT CLOUD, HELD FOR THE KILLING

**CHAPTER 9.75:** PEEWEE (CHARLES LANGFORD) DIED IN A CAR C

**CHAPTER 10:** LESTER WAYNE COTTON SHOTS AT DADDY'O

**CHAPTER 10.25:** REFLECTIONS OF ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL HARLAN, KENTUCKY 1920 TO 1964

**CHAPTER 10.5:** 1919 FUND RAISING FOR THE ROSENWALD SCHOOL IN HARLAN, KY.

**CHAPTER 10.75:** THE CITY OF HARLAN LOCATION AND HISTORICAL POPULATION

**CHAPTER 11:** GEORGETOWN FLOODS

**CHAPTER 12:** CONGRESSMAN HAL ROGERS AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAVED HARLAN FROM THE FLOOD WATERS OF THE COMBERLAND RIVER

**CHAPTER 13:** ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL GREADUATES 1933 TO 1963 AND GEORGETWON GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN COMMEORATION

## DADDY'O'S GEORGETOWN STORIES

### INTRODUCTION:

My name is Alaska Williams, aka Lester, aka Daddy'O, I am 75 years old. These stories are about my life in Georgetown. Many of the stories were taken from newspaper articles, public records, my memory and interviews.

Georgetown was a special place. It was in the heart of coal country when the Harlan County coal wars were raging. Many people lost their lives trying to bring the coal miners' union into this part of the world.

Many of these stories reflect Georgetown, the good, the bad and sometimes the ugly.

Georgetown was located in a flood zone. In the 1970s the US Army Corps of Engineers rerouted Martins Fork river. As a result, Georgetown was evacuated. This rerouting was necessary to save the downtown area of Harlan from the devastating floods that the area had experienced over the years.

Georgetown was sacrificed for the greater good. That does not excuse us from recognizing this vibrant Black community and the fact that it was removed from the face of the earth. I am leading an effort to commemorate our community, its rich history and to respect the legacy that it deserves.

This book tells stories of a vibrant Black community, located in the coal fields of Eastern Kentucky. This was a remarkably interesting era that included the wars of the local coal industry. Georgetown had a number of notable events that occurred at the same time.

## CHAPTER 1

### BIG VERDA FAMILY MOVE TO GEORGETOWN:

I am Daddy'O, the paperboy. My family moved to Georgetown the summer of 1954, Mother was pregnant with Carl, the baby of the family. Dad was a coal miner and union officer. Harlan is the county seat of Harlan County. Georgetown was a sub-community of Harlan.

My oldest brother Sonny was not with us. He left home at an early age. "Big Lon" Alonzo Jr., Jean, Aubrey, Otis, Me, Betty Rae, Johnny moved to Georgetown on a rainy day that summer. Our new house was five doors from the park. It was big news to have seven kids move into the neighborhood. A playmate for everyone. We were 2 years apart and most families had the same make-up.

Georgetown started when you come across the bridge. To the left was Ken Hurst's place, a two-story brick building. Houses lined both sides of the street. Central Ave. ended at Kentucky Ave. To the right was the Hall, the center of Georgetown. The Hall had a food counter, dance floor with a jukebox, pool room / gambling area and a barber shop in the front. The Hall had a food counter, dance floor with a jukebox, pool room / gambling area and a barber shop in the front. Mr. Obey Tentman sold whisky by the half-pint. The Hall was the place to be on the weekend.

Miss Bea (Beatrice) Hensley, a White lady, had a grocery store in a two-story building across the street from the Hall. Miss Bea's had everything, ice cream, fresh vegetables, a fresh meat deli and more. Miss Bea was a genuinely nice lady. She also owned a beer warehousing business. She had a big barn in the back of the store full of beer by the case. Harlan was a dry city, and Miss Bea was a

big-time bootlegger, she sold beer by the case to the retail operation in the area.

Georgetown had approximately sixty homes. There were only two named streets, KY Ave. and Green St. The rest were alleys that ran throughout. A back alley that ran the full length of KY Ave. on the R.R. side. Green St. ran from the R.R. to the river. There were three asphalted allies on the river side of KY Ave.

My future wife now of 55 years lived at 111 Green St., I lived at 306 KY Ave. less than 100 yards away, “go figure. She lived with her mother, her older brother William and her father. Aka “Catherine” to her family was the luckiest little girl in town. She lived on the same street as her uncle Roy and his significant other aunt Ruby Wever, aunt Sarah, and her father’s sister aunt Estell. She had family in over half of the homes on the Street.

The Shiloh Baptist Church was on the RR side of Green St. and Miss Frances Lee’s place was on the corner of Green St. and KY Ave. on the park side and Rev. Tentman’s little convenience store on the other corner. Miss Frances’ place had a dance floor, jukebox and snack bar. She and her girls lived in an upstairs apartment. We loved Miss Frances; mother had an account with here and we could get an orange ad every day. I loved that.

Georgetown park was at the end of KY Ave., and it had everything us kids needed to have fun. There was a baseball / football field with bleachers in the center of a big field that was Georgetown park. On the R.R. side was a large 10 ft. high slide with swings, teeter totter board, horseshoes area, monkey bars and other recreation equipment. On the river side of the park, was a basketball court, and a tennis court. Just beyond the park was the Nickel Hole where many of us learned to swim. We played from sunup to sundown and

beyond. After dark we played kick the can hide and go seek and others fun games. Georgetown was a great place to grow up.

Rosenwald high school used the park for football and track practice, with a high jump and pole-vaulting area. Rosenwald High won the State track championship in 1963. My brother Aubrey was on the team.

**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

**“BIG VERDA FAMILY MOVE TO GEORGETOWN”**

## Chapter 2

### DADDY'O THE PAPERBOY STARTS HIS DAY:

In the summer I picked up my papers around 12:30 PM and headed to Georgetown. The pickup location was in the back of the Harlan Daily Enterprise, in the same alley with the Greyhound bus Station. This was 1959 in KY, so if you were Black and needed to eat at the bus station, there was a pigeonhole area in the back to place your order. Coming out of the alley I would see the big glass window showing the counter where the White people were served their food. At the time I did not think anything of it; but now I can see how that must have impacted my psyche.

Lightheartedly, I moved through town on Central Ave. toward Georgetown. I passed the donut bakery with the aroma of donuts baking, I loved the smell of fresh donuts, I would buy one from time to time. Moving on, I passed the barber shop, the bank, the Coca-Cola bottling plant and the VTC line bus Station. And then there was the swimming pool, the only full-size pool for Blacks in the county. I loved our swimming pool; I would go once a week.

After the pool I would start across the bridge. At the high point of the bridge, I would often stop to look at the fish in the river below and dream of catching one of the big ones. I loved to fish.

Then I was on to Georgetown to deliver my papers. I enjoyed my job, delivering papers to my customers and getting paid. Getting paid was nice. Mother was the manager of the paper delivery service of our household. When I collected from my customers I would give her the money, so when it was time to pay, she would give me the amount she had. I would go to the paper office and pay the bill. More often than not I would be short, but the man that I paid would give me a little tip. He was a genuinely nice man.

I also had a Knoxville Journal Sunday route. The route was so large and the papers so big my father would drive me to the pickup point. I would start there, and he would drive the route and drop off smaller amounts on the route. This way I didn't have to carry all of those heavy papers all at once.

The Knoxville Journal man that I worked for would come to the house for his money. Mother would work things out with him. As I remember we would always be a little short. When I was eleven and twelve, I was hospitalized to repair my hips. Both of them had slipped and I had to be operated on, to pin my hips together. Both times I was in the hospital for months. To my surprise the Knoxville Journal had insurance on me, and I was paid workman's compensation both times. It was nice getting a check when I got out of the hospital.

Mr. Ken Hersh was my first customer just beyond the Georgetown bridge. He and his wife lived in a two-story brick building. With a barber shop on the right and a restaurant with a soda bar on the other side. The soda bar was great and just as nice as the ones up town for the White people. . They had two apartments upstairs. Ken and his wife lived in one of them. And he rented out the other one, years later my brother Aubrey would rent that extra apartment with his young family. When we were teenagers, this building became Henry Brown's place, Henry turned the barber shop side into a juke joint much like the Hall. He served beer, whisky by the half-pint, food and there was a jukebox as well. It was the hot spot for older teenager and young adults.

My next customer was to the left on Kentucky Ave. Miss Davenport and her family lived next to the Methodist church. Rev. Adams was the minister and lived in a house connected to the back of the church. Next was a customer in back of the Mills' house that was at the end of the street.

Then I was on to Mason Hurn's house, his mother was a good customer, she paid every week. I had a number of customers throughout Georgetown. Some were good and some not so good. There were some I had to wait until check day to get paid. To me they were all good customers.

There were some customers that would buy my extra papers, Mr. Fats was one of them. Fats was a nice guy, and I would stop by just to say hi and enjoy his company. He would buy a paper if there was notable news. Nearing his house, I would call out; "EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT"! Mr. Fats enjoyed my having fun with him.

I would go by the Hall to sale my extra papers. The Hall was the main entertainment place in Georgetown. It had a lunch stand and barber shop in the front, next was a dance floor with a jukebox and in the back was a pool hall with a gambling room. When I was sixteen, I worked as the barber and spent my free time in the back shooting pool and playing cards with some of the older guys. I enjoyed my time at the Hall.

At the corner of Green Street and Kentucky Ave. was Rev. Tentman's convenience store and Miss Frances' place. We loved Miss Frances; it was a wonderful place for young people it had a dance floor and a jukebox. It was the place to be on the weekend. It was a two-story brick building with an apartment upstairs. She and her three girls lived upstairs.

We lived on the same side of street as Miss Frances. The Shiloh Baptist Church as on the RR side of Green St. Shiloh Baptist was our family's church. Dad was the Deacon, and my brothers would fire the stove and ring the bell to start Church service. We lived three doors for the corner of Green St. at 306 Kentucky Ave. on the same side of the street as Miss Francis Lee's.

Along with Kentucky Ave. and Green St. there were four main alleys in Georgetown. The back alley that ran along the RR all the way to the park. The other three alleys were on the riverside. The first was the Kirksey's on the right and the Hollingsworth's on the other side of the alley. Miss Lorine Cranford and her family lived in this alley.

The next alley just past Green St. was the chicken shack alley, it was across the street from our house. My best girlfriend Georgeann lived in the chicken shack, I spent much of my free time at Miss Sunshine's, her mother. Miss Sunshine and I would play cards, together, we played conquian (coon) you just needed two to play and she and I would play for hours. If we could find two others, we would play "bid whist" we had big fun playing cards together. Miss Sunshine also sold homebrew and beer. It was my job to put the beer in the freezer to get it cold quick and to get it out before it would freeze. Us kids would sale the beer and homebrew when Miss Sunshine was not home. Missy (Naja Merita) Georgeann's sister and I were also good friends as well, we were friends with benefits for most of our early teenage years. Miss Fay and her family moved to this alley when I was yet a teenager. This was a fun alley for a young teenager male to hang out, I loved it.

The next alley was by the park. There was a streetlight on Kentucky Ave. at the end of this alley. We played many of our early night games under that streetlight. Some of the games we played ~~was~~<sup>WERE</sup> hide and seek, kick the can and other fun games. There were always plenty of kids to play with at this end of Georgetown. We had Miss Nina's kids 4 or 5 kids, the Fluker's 5 or 6 kids, Miss Sunshine's 5 or 6, the Perkins house had 4 or 5, our house of 6 or 7, and others. That's not counting the up the street kids, from Green St. up was up the street part of Georgetown. At one time we call ourselves the down the street gang and the up the street gang. I don't remember ever doing

anything as a gang. We were up the street and down the street gangs in name only.

Mr. Ves Hinton was my only customer on the RR side of the back alley. Miss. Fay Fields and her family also lived on the RR side at this time. Miss Fay was directly behind our house. I had fun with her and her daughters, many of them were the same ages as me and my siblings. Our ages were Carl 4, Johnny 6, Betty Rae 8, I was 10, Otis 12, Aubrey 14, Jean 16 and Big Lon was 18. Fay's family had about the same ages, and she had about the same number of children.

Ves Hinton was a coal miner and a farmer. He also raised hogs. He had a big corn field behind the park and a sugarcane field on the other end of Georgetown. He owned a mule and horse that he used to plow his corn and sugarcane fields, he also plowed local gardens. I worked for Mr. Ves; I would go with him when he had a garden to plow. I remember going to a house on Kelly Hill, a White area. I went to the door. A little boy came to the door and yelled out "there is a "N" at the door. That was first and only time I remember being called that word throughout my childhood.

The fun part of working for Mr. Ves was he would let me ride the horse and mule through Georgetown to get water in the river. I was called the "mule Boy" and I loved that title. This is a side note.... Mr. Ves owed me \$3.00 for my work. I decided not to ask him for it. You will understand why after my next story.

When there was big news in the paper, to sale my extra papers I would call out.

**EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

**"DADDY'O THE PAPERBOY STARTS HIS DAY"**

## Chapter 3

### NEGRO SHOTGUNNED, BEATEN TO DEATH

There was no bigger story than the one about Mr. Vessie Hinton and Jake Blunt!

“Vessie Hinton is jailed, charged with slaying of Jake Blunt, 50”  
report from: The Harlan Daily Enterprise.

This is my recall of this story. Jake was a tough guy, a gangster type, my mother was a friend of his and he had given mother his gun for safekeeping. So, when Ves was chasing him down, he was trying to get to his gun at our house. Two weeks earlier Ves and Jake had argued about Jake hitting Ves's mule with the butt of his gun. Ves had said he was going to get back at him for hitting his mule.

I talked with Miss Queenie Perkins about this story, she said it was more to it than the mule issue, she said Ves' woman Emma Pearl was kid-folk of Jake. Ves had gotten into it with Emma Pearl and had dumped her into a big slop barrel. The 55 gal. barrel was in the alley in back of our house near Ves' place. She had to walk home dripping with slop. I remember seeing her going home that day.

Jake and Ves had words about the way Ves was treating his kin and Jake had said he was going to get back at Ves for it. They both had been in prison for manslaughter and what they said was not to be taken lightly.

It was early Sunday afternoon. Jake was walking along the back alley behind Shiloh Baptist Church, in front of Ves' house. Ves said “O” I got you without your gun. And he grabbed his shotgun and started to run after Jake. Ves had a limp from a mining

accident, so he was hopping along after Jake. Jake was in a full sprint, but Ves was able to keep up with him. Jake ran down Green St. to Kentucky Ave. he turned left and when he got to our house he turned left to get to his gun. But as he turned Ves shot him in the shoulder and he fell under my mother's kitchen window. Ves came up on him and used the butt of his gun to hit him in the face a number of times.

I was there and Ves was standing back from Jake. Jake was breathing and blood was pumping out of his body. Ves said, nobody go to him! My father asked, let me go to him; Ves said, OK Mr. Lonzo, you can go. But it was too late, Jake died right there, under my mother's kitchen window.

**EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

# The Marian Daily Enterprise

## Negro Shotgunned, Beaten To Death

### Vessie Hinton Is Jailed, Charged With Slaying Of Jake Blunt, 50

A Georgetown Negro man was shotgunned and beaten to death Sunday afternoon and a second Negro has been charged in the killing.

Marian City Police said Jake Blunt, about 50, was the shooting victim. Vessie Hinton, 57, is being held in county jail under \$10,000 bond awaiting grand jury action.

Officers said the shooting apparently stemmed from a two-week old argument in which Hinton accused Blunt of hurting a mule he owns.

Patrolman Lawrence Thomas, who investigated the shooting along with fellow officer Bill Baker, said evidence found at the scene and the testimony of witnesses indicated Hinton fired three shotgun blasts at Blunt.

#### Hit On Shoulder

Thomas said the man was hit once in the right shoulder. He said a witness told him Hinton began hitting the man in the face with the butt of the shotgun after he had been shot.

Hinton said in county jail this  
Continued On Page 2, Col. 6

again.

#### No Gun Found

Thomas said no gun was found on Blunt or located in the vicinity. Hinton said previously he believed Blunt had lost the gun or thrown it away as he was running.

According to the officer, Blunt was hit with only one shotgun blast, and beaten about the mouth instead of shot.

Blunt was pronounced dead on arrival at Marian Memorial Hospital.

Thomas said Hinton and Blunt had argued previously and Hinton had accused Blunt of hurting his mule. The officer said the mule did not seem to be suffering from any injuries.

#### Fired One Blast

Hinton used a 12-gauge shotgun, Thomas said, and was standing on his back porch when he fired one blast at Blunt. Two other empty shells were found.

Both men had previous arrest records, authorities disclosed. Blunt had served one prison term for carrying a concealed deadly weapon, and a second term on a similar charge.

Hinton was previously in prison for shooting and wounding another Negro in the arm in an incident several years ago.

Attendants at Kennedy Funeral Home said arrangements for Blunt are incomplete. A list of survivors was not available.

## Vessie Hinton Is Indicted For Murder

Vessie Hinton, Marian Negro charged in a killing at Georgetown Sunday afternoon has been indicted by the Grand Jury.

Bond was set at \$10,000 for the 57-year old Hinton who was indicted yesterday. He is still being held in county jail.

Hinton is charged with the shotgun slaying of Jake Blunt, 50, another Georgetown Negro.

Marian Patrolman Lawrence Thomas said Hinton hit Blunt with one of three shotgun blasts fired at the man. The incident apparently began two weeks previously when the two men argued over a mule Hinton owns.

No date for a Circuit Court arraignment for Hinton has been set.

Attendants at the Kennedy Funeral Home said arrangements for Blunt are still incomplete.

12

12

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **GEORGETOWN WOMAN SHOT SIX TIMES:**

Aggie Sanford Jones lived in the house on the right side us on Kentucky Ave. She was a colorful lady, she and her bother Bud, sold homebrew, by the quart and beer. There was always something going on at their house. Bud sold barbecue in the front yard and homebrew and beer in the back. Bud was a fun guy, and he managed our baseball team and help us raise money for our team. He was a good person to hang around with. He could tell the joke "The Signifying Monkey" like no one else.

One evening Aggie and Edna Brown had a disagreement and Aggie started chasing Edna with a gun and shooting at her. Many of us were out, either on our porches or in the street. So, as Aggie was chasing and shooting at Edna, seeing this we, called out "run Edna runnn, run Edna run." She didn't catch up with her nor did Edna get hit by any of the hot bullets that came her way.

Since no one was hurt it became a joke; RUN EDNA RUN, RUN EDNA RUN!

I was working in my barber shop in the Hall, when Merle Wilson asked me to cut his two-year-old son's hair. He had the kid in his lap and the child was not happy getting his first haircut. He started to cry. Instead of calming the child, Durite slapped my hand and stormed out of my barber shop.

Merle Wilson, aka "Durite," was known to be difficult, so I was not surprised.

Aggie and Durite got in an argument about their kids. Durite said he was going to kill Aggie. The next day he came to Georgetown to do just that. He shot her six time and killed her on the street right in front of her home. Right next to our old house at 306 Kentucky Ave.

**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!**

**"GEORGETOWN WOMAN SHOT SIX TIMES"**

## Georgetown Woman Shot Six Times

### Merle Wilson Is Held In Slaying

A Harlan woman, about 40, was killed instantly yesterday when she was shot six times on Kentucky Avenue in the Georgetown Addition of Harlan.

Witnesses told officers yesterday that when first shot Mrs. Aggie Jones threw up her arms and was turned around by the bullets that were being "pumped" into her.

Mrs. Jones, who was shot with a .38 revolver, received six wounds in the right side, chest, left upper arm and back.

A 57-year-old Clovertown man has been charged with her murder.

Merle Wilson, who turned himself in to County Judge Hugh Hall, was charged with murder in a warrant obtained by the slain woman's father, Tom Sanders.

#### Held In County Jail

Harlan Police Chief Felix Belcher, Sheriff Jason Howard and O'Dell Shepherd recovered five .38 caliber shell casings at the scene.

The shooting apparently occurred as a result of an argument between Wilson and Mrs. Jones last Saturday over Mrs. Jones' grandson, witnesses told officers.

Wilson threatened to kill her during the argument, they said.

Wilson is being held in county jail pending arraignment before Judge Hall.

A sister of Mrs. Jones, Leola S. Walker, 37, Harlan, wrecked the 1957 Chrysler Imperial she was driving to the scene of the shooting, State Police reported.

#### Collide At Traffic Light

Mrs. Walker collided with a 1963 Comet, driven by Edna Dilbeck Smith, 20, Chevrolet, beneath the traffic light at the intersection of Central Street and Cumberland Avenue, Trooper Green Long said.

The accident occurred approximately 15 minutes after Mrs. Walker's sister had been shot.

Miss Smith's car was heavily damaged, Trooper Long said, and Mrs. Walker's vehicle received moderate damage.

## Jones Rites To Be Held On Sunday

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday at 2 p. m. for Mrs. Agnes L. Jones, 42, Harlan, who was fatally injured by gunshot wounds Tuesday at her home in Georgetown.

The shooting followed an argument between Mrs. Jones and Merle Wilson, 57 of Clovertown. Wilson was charged with murder.

Services will be conducted in the First Baptist Church with the Rev. J. E. Bowen officiating. Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery at Keith.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sanford, Harlan; two children, Mrs. Elizabeth Ann Fitzgerald, and James Jones, Jr., of Harlan.

Also surviving are three brothers, Charles Sanford, Harlan; Eugene, Detroit, Mich.; Tom, Germany; four sisters, Mrs. Leola Walker and Mrs. Gladys Sanford, Harlan; Mrs. Frances [unclear] West Virginia; Mrs. [unclear] Lee Rhodeman, Louisa; and one grandchild.

She will receive friends at the Kennedy Funeral Home, Harlan, Sunday from 9 to 11 a. m.

Agnes L Jones  
in the Kentucky, U.S., Death Index, 1911-2000

Detail

Source

Name: Agnes L Jones

Death Date: 11 Jul 1967

Death Place: Harlan

Age: 41

Residence: Harlan

Volume: 32

Certificate: 15787

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## CHAPTER 5

### TWO HARLAN YOUNGSTERS DIE AS HOME BURNS

Willie Cotton aka "Dollar Will," moved his family in a house just behind us in the alleyway next to our house. He had four kids, three boys and a girl (Lester Wayne 10, Hester Jane 9, Chester Lane 7 and Eddie James 5). They moved to Georgetown after his wife died of a gunshot wound during an argument with a neighbor.

Late one night their house caught fire, the fire burned hot and fast. Dollar Will was at a house nearby and rushed home to do what he could. The fire was just too hot, and he could not do very much.

I was home and remember it as heartbreaking for our community.

I saw this. The tragedy was; when Chester Lane aka "Pap" came out onto the porch and went back inside for his little brother Eddie. He could have saved himself, but he returned to save his baby brother. They both died in that fire. So sad!!

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# Two Harlan Youngsters Die As Home Burns

Continued From Page 1  
Police about 1:25 and the bodies were found a half-hour later. Search lights were used by the Rescue Squad to find the bodies of the two victims.

One wall of the house which had

been left standing, had to be propped up to enable the searchers to continue to look for the bodies.

## Mother Is Dead

The mother of the children is deceased. Bystanders said the four children were apparently asleep in the house when the fire broke out.

The Fire Department has been unable to determine the origin of the fire.

The fatalities are the first in a Harlan fire since last year when a Harlan woman was burned to death in her home.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete this morning. Kennedy Funeral Home is in charge.

## Brother, Sister Escape Unhurt In Sunday Blaze

### Father Injured Trying To Save His Children

Two young Negro boys were burned to death early Sunday morning as flames swept through their small frame house at Georgetown on Kentucky Avenue. An older brother and sister escaped unhurt.

The bodies of Chester Lane Cotton, 7, and his brother, Eddie James, 5, were recovered by members of the Harlan County Rescue Squad about an hour after the flames were smothered by the Harlan Fire Department.

Burned beyond recognition, the bodies were recovered in separate parts of the house. Rescue Squad Captain James McCreary said the body of the smaller boy was recovered near a bedroom window with his arms outstretched.

### One Found In Kitchen

The body of the older boy, he said, was found in what was the kitchen of the house. Both had apparently made efforts to escape from the burning building, McCreary added.

A Harlan Fire Department spokesman said the father of the dead boys, Willie Cotton, was at a neighbor's house at the time the fire occurred, shortly after 12:30 a. m. Sunday. Observers said Cotton suffered a cut hand and burns that didn't require hospital care in efforts to rescue

## CHAPTER 6

### ARREST OF 3 SOLVES GEORGETOWN NEGRO'S MURDER:

7/27/1957 Three men killed Robert Thomas and dumped his body on Green St., near the Shilo Baptist Church. I was only 8 but I remember everyone was talking about it. The men had been gambling on River Street and used a baseball bat to kill Thomas. LC Perkins was one of the men accused of the killing. He was the father of our lifetime friend Joyce. Joyce said her father did not go to prison for the killing.

I called and talked with Miss Queenie Perkins, L.C.'s wife, November 2023. She remembered it like it was yesterday. She said when her husband L. C. was in jail she visited him. He was a Mason but had not practiced for some time and did not remember the knock. She went to the jail and taught him the knock. She said that may have helped him with the officials that were dealing with his case. Anyway, he did not go to prison for the killing.

June Worthington reported that Thomas had a knife during the fight and cut L. C. with it. June Worthington also said he gave the knife to Miss Queenie. Miss Queenie said L. C. did not get cut, and she did not receive or have any knife. In the end no one went to prison for the killing.

**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!**

**“ARREST OF 3 SOLVES GEORGETOWN NEGRO'S MURDER”**

# The Harlan Daily Enterprise

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## Arrest Of 3 Solves Negro's Murder Here

Continued From Page One

where they dumped him near the Shilo Baptist Church.

"I gave Robert's knife to Perkins' wife and told her that was a present L. C. got cut with," Worthington admitted to police.

Mrs. Mabel (Rabbit) Green, in whose River Street home the men gambled, was also questioned by authorities. Police recovered the big club used in the beating, Forrester said.

Examining trial for the trio is set for Tuesday afternoon. All are charged with wilful murder.

## Murder Case Hearing Set Friday For Trio

Examining trial of three Negroes charged with the murder of Robert Thomas, 31, Georgetown has been postponed from this afternoon to Friday morning, according to County Judge Wix Unthank.

Thomas died in Harlan Hospital Saturday morning from a fractured skull. City police said he was beaten, following a gambling argument, by William (June) Worthington, 45, Coxtown, L. C. Perkins, 43, Georgetown and Wilson Williams, 24, Clovertown.

Thomas is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Thomas Harlan, two sisters, Mary Ann Mitchell of Minneapolis, and Bertha Lou Thomas of Harlan.

Funeral services will be conducted Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Kennedy's Funeral Home, with the Rev. P. H. Tentman officiating. Burial will be in Lynn View Cemetery.

## CHAPTER 7

### TWO GEORGETOWN MEN SHOT TO DEATH IN BENHAM

George Mills aka "Jet" 53 years old, was well known in Georgetown and throughout Harlan County. Jet was a man bigger than life in many ways. When he was in the room you knew it. He was a big-time gambler, womanizer, bootlegger, and other things if you needed them.

Jet had fathered 10 kids by his wife Lola and 2 by his woman Inez Huff. Inez also lived in Georgetown on Green St.

He had a sidekick, John L. Goins, 32 years old. John L. lived with Miss Frances Lee and had two children by her. They lived just up the street from our house on Ky Ave.

I remember Mr. Jet loved football. He would be on the field when Rosenwald played their home games. Many of his boys played and he was all in, supporting them.

Jet had let it be known if he found anyone with his woman. The woman that lived in Benham. He was going to kill them. Jet was known to carry a gun and didn't have an issue using it.

James D. Peeples, 43 was the man that was running around with the woman that Jet was warning everybody about. So, Peeples knew he had an issue when Jet came to the door. It was late on a Sunday and Peeples was at Jet's woman's house. So, when Jet came to the door, he had to do what he had to do. So, Peeples shot through the door killing both Jet and his sidekick J L. Jet was found with a cocked gun under his body.

Peeples went down the street to his sister's house and called the police. He turned over the gun and surrendered. Peeples did not go to prison for the killings.

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

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## Two Harlan Men Shot To Death At Benham

Two Harlan men were shot to death late Sunday night in Benham by a home-owner as they apparently tried to break in the house, Sheriff Robert M. Hall said this morning.

Dead were George (Jet) Mills, 31, of wounds to the head and stomach and John L. Goins, 32, of a stomach wound, the sheriff said.

Both men were shot with a .38 caliber revolver by James D. Peoples, 43, about 10:20 p. m., he added.

Peoples told the sheriff he was awakened by the sound of glass shattering and got up with his pistol in hand to investigate.

"I looked around the corner of my front door and saw that someone was trying to break in," Peoples said, "and I hollered asking who they were, but I didn't hear any answer so I started shooting."

### Found On Perch

After shooting five times through the door, Peoples told the sheriff, he didn't hear any more movement so he went out onto his perch, after reloading his gun. He found the two men stretched out in a pool of blood.

Peoples then went to the house of a sister and called Sheriff Hall and waited there for him, he said.

"When Deputy Jack Hall and I arrived," the sheriff said. "Peoples told us his story and surrendered his gun to us."

### Mills Had Gun

A loaded and cocked revolver

was found underneath Mills' body Hall said, and Mills car was found about two houses down the street with the motor still running.

Following the sheriff's investigation the bodies were removed to Johnson's Funeral Home in Lynch at the order of Coroner Dr. Phillip Begley, Hall said.

(Continued On Page 8, Col. 6)

## Two Harlan Men Slain At Benham

(Continued From Page One)

No charges were placed against Peoples pending a coroner's inquest at 1 p.m. today, Hall added.

Peoples and the dead men are Negroes.

## CHAPTER 8

### HARLAN MAN IS CHARGED IN GEORGETWON SLAYING

Wheeler Beach had a compound on Green St., and they were the only white family in Georgetown. Tracy and Claudette were like one of us, we were great friends. They had two houses and a pony on their property. My wife Rhoda lived next door to them and played with Claudette often.

Claude Beach was 51 years old and was known as a gangster and a bootlegger. He had been to prison for killing another White man. Claude was no one to mess with.

Wheeler and Claude were bootleggers and had some of their whiskey stashed in different areas around Georgetown. One of their stashes was on the riverbank by Rhoda's house. She would see them go down to the river and hide their whiskey. She and others knew not to mess with Claude's liquor. If you had a brain in your head, you knew not to fool around with their liquor. Evidently, Ernest Barton aka "Pud" did not get the word. So, when Claude found out that he was stealing his liquor, it was his demise.

The Harlan County Public Library oral history program had a goal to produce stories about living in the Appalachia region of Kentucky. O T Henderson was one of the contributors.' The following is part of his contribution.

O T and James Kirksey aka "Big James" were fishing buddies with Claude. They would go to Tennessee to fish in the lakes over there. On one occasion Claude told O T that Pud had been getting into his liquor and he was going to kill him.

O T went to Pud and said, “man you need to get out of town because Claude said he was going to kill you”. Pud said Claude likes me better than he likes you. O T said Claude and me grow up together I know him, and he will kill you. Pud did not leave town.

One night Claude rolled up on Pud near the river side of Green St, and it was said that Pud cried out “don’t kill me Claude,” but the gun was fired, and he was dead. Claude was picked up and charged with the killing.

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

**“HARLAN MAN IS CHARGED IN GEORGETWON SLAYING”**

# The Harlan Daily Enterprise

Copyright Harlan Newspapers, Inc. 1971

## Harlan Man Is Charged In Slaying

One Harlan man is dead and another has been charged with wilful murder after a shooting about 6:35 p.m. yesterday in the Georgetown section.

Ernest "Pud" Barton, 27, died early today at Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital from a gunshot wound in the chest. State Police said they were notified of his death at 1:30 a.m.

Claude Beach, 51, was arrested this morning for wilful murder and is being held in county jail pending a hearing in Harlan Police Court.

Beach was picked up last night by State Police and City policemen Dave Jones and Bob Joe shortly after the shooting. He was charged with shooting and wounding with intent to kill, and freed on \$500 appearance bond.

After Barton's death, State Police obtained the murder war-

## Ernest Barton

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday at 2 p.m. in the chapel of Kennedy Funeral Home for Ernest (Pud) Barton, 27, Harlan, who died Dec. 2 at Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital as a result of gunshot wounds.

Burial will be in Lynnvie Cemetery with the Rev. C. J. Adams officiating.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Betty Ray Pope, Harlan; father, James Barton, Middleboro; and a brother, James Barton, Chicago.

## CHAPTER 9

### WOMAN HELD IN GEORGETOWN SLAYING

John Boyd aka Buddy 26 was home visiting his father from Chicago. When he was shot and killed. Wilma McKeithen, 24, was arrested pending arraignment for the killing.

I called Miss Queenie Parkins, John Boyd's sister-in-law. Miss Queenie said she was living in Chicago at the time. Buddy was going home to visit his father. One of his brothers was going to go with him. But Buddy did not want to wait, so he went to Harlan anyway. Buddy's family didn't like him going alone.

John and Wilma aka "Boone" had been boyfriend and girlfriend in High School. But Buddy married another girl he had gotten pregnant and moved to Chicago to live.

This was seven years later, and Boone was still in Harlan. She had not gotten over the fact that Buddy Boyd had ran off with another woman.

The night before he was to leave it was around 2:30 AM. allegedly, Boone confronted Buddy Boyd on the Georgetown bridge and shot him dead with a small caliber gun.

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

# The Harlan Daily Enterprise

Copyright Harlan Newspapers, Inc. 1927

## Woman Held In Slaying Of Man

A Chicago, Ill., man, John Boyd, 26, died almost instantly after being shot in the chest with a small caliber gun early this morning on Central Street in the Georgetown section of Harlan.

Wilma McKethern, 24, Harlan, was lodged in county jail pending arraignment in County Court for murder in connection with the shooting.

Boyd was shot about 2:25 a. m. and the woman was picked up by Officers Creed Thomas and Steve York about 25 minutes later at her home on River Street.

### John L. Boyd

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church for John L. Boyd, 26, Chicago, Ill., who was shot to death early Monday morning in Georgetown.

Burial will be in Hillcrest Cemetery with the Rev. Richard Thomas officiating. He had

been living in Chicago for about seven years.

In addition to his wife, Ida, he is survived by parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Boyd, Cloplint; three children, Ronald, Anthony and Monica; four brothers, Raymond Perkins, Cumberland; Willie, L. C. and C. J. of Chicago, Ill.; and two sisters, Lucy Vines and Nellie Richardson, Detroit.

The family will receive friends Saturday from 6 until 9 p.m. in the chapel of Kennedy Funeral Home.

## CHAPTER 9.5

### GEORGETOWN MAN HENRY BROWN FATALLY WOUNDED; ROBERT CLOUD, HELD FOR THE KILLING:

Mr. Henry Brown was a good guy. He was a single parent and did an excellent job raising his three boys, Garnett, Alle and Lenn. Garnett was a year or so older than me, Allen and Lenn were younger. Garnett was in the same class as my wife Rhoda and was promoted with her to the sixth grade from the fourth grade. Lenn was in my sister Betty Rae's grade. He was always sweet of her. In Georgetown, we were all one big happy family, going to school and playing together.

Henry Brown also owned "HENRY'S PLACE" and ran it out of the old Ken Hursh building. He had the same restaurant as Mr. Hursh on the left side but on the right-side Henry had a nigh-club, with a jukebox. He sold whiskey and beer. Henry's was the place to be for older teenagers and young adults.

Henry was a single man and quite the lover. He had relationships with a number of women, Miss Sunshine's Missy, Miss Frances Lee's, Wanda Sims and others.

Henry was killed during an augment with a white guy on Georgetown's Kentucky Ave. near his place of business.

EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!

**"GEORGETOWN MAN HENRY BROWN FATALLY WOUNDED"**

# The Harlan Daily Enterprise

Copyright Harlan Newspapers, Inc. 1971

## Henry Brown Fatally Wounded; Cloud Held

A 54-year-old Harlan man was fatally wounded about 3:20 p.m. Tuesday in the Georgetown section.

He was identified by City Policeman Bob Fee as Henry Brown. Arrested by Fee and charged with wilful murder was Robert Cloud, 51, Grays Knob. There were several witnesses to the shooting on Kentucky Street, who are alleged to have said the two men were arguing.

One report said the argument was over "who had the most money." A .32-caliber pistol, which is believed to have been the murder weapon, was recovered. Six shots were fired although one bullet was found in the barrel of the pistol. Five bullets were discharged and police reported Brown was struck once.

Cloud was transferred to the county jail where he is being held in lieu of a \$10,000 bond. It is expected the case may go before the current grand jury.

### Henry Brown

Funeral services will be conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. in Turner Chapel, Georgetown, for Henry Brown, 67, Harlan, who died Tuesday.

Burial will be in Resthaven Cemetery with the Rev. C. L. Adams officiating.

He is survived by three sons, Garnett Brown, Atlanta; Sgt. Donald Brown, Vietnam; and Allen Brown, Philadelphia.

Also surviving is a brother, Allen McCree, Athens, Ga.; and sister Mrs. Mattie Pledger, Brownsville, Pa.

The family will receive friends Saturday from 7 until 9 p.m. in the chapel of Kennedy Funeral Home.

## DIED IN A CAR CRASH:

Peewee and I were in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class at Rosenwald the highest class the year it closed, 1964. The upcoming fall all grades would be intergraded and go to the white school. Peewee and I were in Mr. TJ Walker's class when Peewee was cutting up. Mr. Walker said, (Peewee) "you can't wait to get with those white girls next year, but you will not even make it". This was a prolific statement because Peewee died that summer.

I was seating on Jennett Fluker's steps, talking about her husband Philip. She and I was giving him the blues. Mr. Philip was a womanizer, and we were talking about him "bad". Mr. Philip came out on the porch, put his hands on his hips and said, "I know you are talking bout me". I lived across the street, so when he came out I thought I would have to run home, but he went back inside, and Jenette and I continued sitting there.

When Willie Dixon or as I called him "Will Dill". drove up with Peewee and the others in the car and asked if I wanted to ride to Lynch with them. Willie was my best friend, and I was always up for a car ride. But for some reason I said, "NO I AM GOOD". And they drove off. I did not get in that "death-wagon that night". Thank God.

On their way back home from Lynch, they had a bad car accident, Peewee died, and Jackie Robenson was severely injured. Peewee, Jackie Robenson, Willie Dixon and Willie's cousin were in the car, Willie or his cousin was driving.

**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!! "CAR CRASH KILLS YOUNGSETER AND BADLY INJURES PASSENGER"**

## **CHAPTER 10**

### **LESTER WAYNE COTTON SHOTS AT DADDY'O**

**It was a Sunday afternoon and as usual, I left Clovertown to go to Georgetown. All my friends lived in Georgetown and that's where I spent most of my free time. I worked for Mr. Obie Tentman. He ran the Hall for his brother Bill Tentman. I was 17 and worked as the barber in the Hall. I had gone from cutting hair on my porch to working in a two-chair barber shop with all the dressing of a full barber shop. I wore a white smock, I had clean barber aprons, and I used a big dusting powder brush on my customers and oiled them down with after shaving lotion. Mr. Obie had everything cleaned and the shop well stocked, I paid him a share of my in-take. I was a big-time barber and I loved it.**

**It was Sunday and I didn't have to work. I was off to Georgetown all dressed up with my double breast blue sports jacket. I bought it from Powers and Horton the highest and classiest store in Harlan.**

**I worked and paid my own way. Mother didn't have very much money, so she didn't have me to worry about. When she needed it, I would give her lunch money for my younger siblings. I was immensely proud of that.**

**That Sunday I went to the hall and some of us boys decided to shoot dice, craps if you will. Since I worked for Mr. Obie the Hall's owner, I assumed the position of dealer for the dice game. I was on the back wall, and we played on the pool table. As we were playing, my good friend Robert Sanford had to use the restroom. It was his turn, so when he returned, I tossed him the dice. Lester Wayne Cotton thought it was his turn. He argued**

with me and then stood on the table to stop the game. I was running the game; so it was up to me to deal with this interruption. I got up on the pool table and pushed Wayne off the pool table.

I had no idea that this little rascal had a gun. As he hit the floor Wayne turned around and shot at me. As I remember it, I checked to see if my jacket was hit. Then I jumped behind the pool table and started throwing pop bottles to keep his head down. He didn't shoot anymore and in a little while Mr. Obie came and stopped everything.

I stayed in the Hall. Lester Wayn was outside gathered up with Bow Henry, Truman and other older Georgetowners. At that point I had a choice, I could leave out the back and head toward Clovertown where I lived, or I could deal with it head on. I decided to deal with it head on. So I went outside, and I walked up to Lester Wayne and the others and reached out my hand to him. I said, "man let's settle this" and I shook his hand that diffused the situation.

To my discomfort my mother happened to be on the porch just across the street. She was visiting my sister Jean. When I saw that my mother was aware of what had happened it hurt me, and I shed a tear. Miss Essie my mother was a no-nonsense person. She said, "we need to file a police report." She and I headed toward the police station up town. We were halfway across the bridge when Mr. Obie stopped us and said, "please don't go, because if you do, they might shut me down." Obie was on probation from prison and didn't need to have anything to do with the police. My mother thought the better of it and we did not file the complaint. She and I headed to Clovertown.

**That incident was not brought up again. Thank God, my Sunday afternoon, being shot at didn't cause any long-lasting damage to either one of us.**

**I'm glad that it turned out that way. Lester Wayne and I were not good friends but friends for the rest of our lives.**

## CHAPER 10.25

### REFLECTIONS OF ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL HARLAN, KENTUCKY 1920 TO 1964

This chapter will reflect the history of the Rosenwald High School. Much of the information was collected after 1991. As is stated these are “REFLECTIONS AND DREAM TEAMS OF OUR BELOVED ROSENWALD ”. Please keep this in mind and enjoy the following “REFLECTIONS.

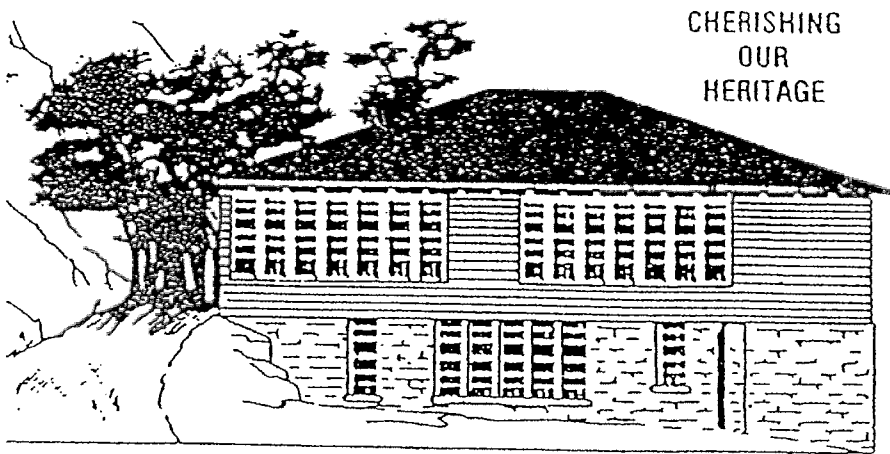
**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

**“REFLECTIONS OF ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL”**

1

10.25

**REFLECTIONS  
OF  
ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL  
HARLAN, KENTUCKY  
1920 TO 1964**



CHERISHING  
OUR  
HERITAGE

Rosenwald High School

31

## MR. WILLIAM WOOD

2

William Morris Wood came to Harlan in 1928 from Sommerset, Kentucky. He had completed his college experience at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and arrived to Harlan as an educator fresh out of college. At that time, Rosenwald was a small frame building with only a few rooms. He saw that his services were needed badly in order to train the children in the community, and found himself wearing three hats (one as a teacher, one as coach and one as the Principal).

During Mr. Wood's administration as a principal, Rosenwald grew in every respect. In 1928 there were only two grades in high school, however, under his guidance a four year high school curriculum was added, and in 1933 the first Rosenwald graduating class completed their secondary education. He was a man of strong opinion which caused him to loose his job in 1943 for speaking out in favor of a gymnasium for Rosenwald. He was rehired in 1945 with the promise of providing a gymnasium for the school.

As the years passed, the enrollment increased including both city and county pupils; the curriculum activities and athletics strengthened; the physical plant remodeled; gymnasium units and extra classrooms added.

Mr. Wood was a guiding light in the community. He was affiliated with the Harlan Lodge #96, F and Am and was Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and member of the Eastern Star #98.

Mr. Wood was a Deacon, and Sunday School Teacher at First Baptist Church, and served on the Advisory Board of the Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital Association. He was a member of the Kentucky and National Education Association, the association of Secondary Principals, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Wood's school of thought on education was a combination of Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. DuBois which certainly influenced many people in Harlan County and the state of Kentucky.

32

FOOTBALL

("The Dream Team")

Carl Ledford - 42  
 Billy Pope - 46  
 John Hale - 47  
 H. L. & Wilbert Johnson - 33  
 Earnest Fitzgerald - 39  
 Paul & Monroe Johnson - 39  
 Alfred Walker - 41  
 Lawrence O'Larry - 42  
 Winfred Didlake - 42  
 Henry Tentman - 44  
 John & Francis Goins - 46  
 Kenneth Barnes - 51  
 Charles Sweatt - 53  
 Arper Tentman - 54  
 William and Barley Lee Hanna - 39  
 Fred Wilson - 49  
 Charles Muse - 62

Jim Williams - 56  
 Billy Latham - 56  
 Clark Gray - 58  
 A. D. & Donald Williams - 58  
 Rozell Hollingsworth - 56  
 Ezell & Charles Hicks - 61  
 John & Willie Boyd - 61  
 Leslie, Edwin & Charles Phillips - 62  
 Albert & Maurice Hollingsworth - 63  
 J. C. Seay - 61  
 Arthur Lee Edwards - 61  
 George Mills - 60  
 Fred Goodson - 42  
 Paul Fomby - 56  
 Michael Trigg - 63  
 Earnest Turner - 48  
 Charlie Tentman - 62

The Dream Team has chosen Russell Simms and Earnest Fitzgerald as the Team Captains, and Dugy Mills as Honorary Captain.

In addition, we salute Mrs. Jesse Banks and Miss Alberta Lewis, the only two survivors of the class of 1933. They are both residents of Dayton, Ohio, former teachers of Harlan County, Dayton, Ohio and Detroit, Michigan. The Lord has blessed them both, and we wish them many more years here with us.

It was wonderful to reflect how Shed Pittards and Big Ned Bradley took ownership of the school as well as the students. These two gentlemen served as custodians but also as "Acting Assistant Principals" and "Acting Assistant Football Coaches". They, too, punished us in many ways, and we were told during football season not to hold any of the girls' hands or drink beer.

It has been said that Ned Bradley, Tolbert Walker, Dopey McKinley, Marshall Mills, Hynie Carr, Dallas Blue, Vernet Seay, Gene Carr and Jimmie Chamber were "tigers" in football and basketball at Rosenwald. The following titles have been given to those students who can be considered as "Hall of Fame" Inductees":

- Best Football Player Tolbert Walker, Ned Bradley, and George J. Washington
- Best Basketball Player Jimmie Chamber, George Tyra, Don Williams, Charlie Tabb, and Aubrey Williams
- Best Lineman Hynie Carr, Pearlie Stone, Clarence Edward and J. C. Seay
- Best Linebacker Vernet Seay and Danny Mills
- Best Halfback Duke Jones, Bill Jones, Marshall Mills, and Dopey McKinley
- Best Quarterback Ernest Harbin and Ollie Bankhead
- Best Football Coach Mr. Kendall
- Best Basketball Coach Mr. Gray
- Best Punter Floyd Turner and Ned Bradley
- Best Scholar Athlete Ray Moore, George Barnes, Eddie Sandford, Newt McCravey and Jack Gibbs
- Best Pass Receiver Earnest Biddings, Frize Coleman and John Hale
- Most Versatile Player Harold Harris and O. C. Dupree

The dances after the football games were the greatest activities we had in school, but most of all, little did we know that the bean dinners purchased daily at Mrs. Hill's and Mrs. Tentman's were foods that sustained our body development and provided nutrients that are now recognized among the list of foods necessary for good health.

### "DREAM TEAMS"

During the period of 1956 - 1963, Rosenwald Basketball teams experienced a winning record of 190 games with a lose of only 25. They went to the Black State Tournament and lost in the second round, but won the District Tournament twice. It was 1956 that "Doc" Grey came to the school and taught basics such as screening and boxing out, picking rolls and discipline. During this time, these fine players were much taller, heavier, and quicker than athletes borned during the depression. We can contribute this to better nutrition, better medical care, better living conditions and the weight program. All of these factors contributed to the outstanding performance of Rosenwald High School Dream Teams.

### BASKETBALL

#### ("The Dream Team")

Jackie Rhodeman - 51  
 Bobby Ray Blue - 50  
 Clark Gray - 58  
 Jimmy Chambers - 60  
 George Tyra - 59  
 Don Williams - 58  
 Charlie Tabb - 59  
 Robert Samuels - 54

Aubrey Williams - 63  
 Rozel Hollingsworth - 59  
 Ollie Bankhead - 62  
 Calvin Cole - 57  
 A. D. Williams - 60  
 Gramual Clay - 58  
 B. Ray Phillips - 61

### FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL TRAINERS

#### (Honor Students)

Billy Tye  
 Charles Henderson  
 Robert Goins  
 Donald McGee  
 Jack Gibb

Flint Smith  
 James McGhee  
 Ed Tye  
 William Billups

### PLAYERS WHO BECAME COACHES

Duke Jones  
 Larry Kirksey  
 Francis Goins  
 Pearlle Stone

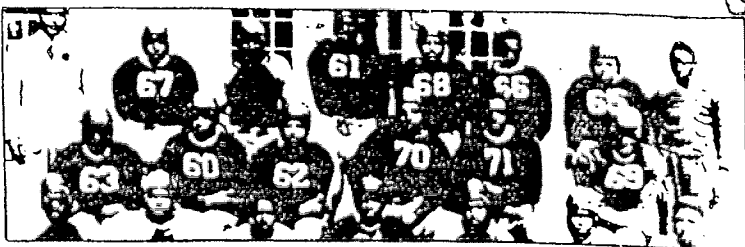
John Hale  
 Bobbie Ray Blue  
 H. L. & Wilbert Johnson

(6)



**History Makers**

The 1942 Rosenwald Red Devils Basketball team was the first squad from the school to be able to challenge other teams. Although the team was of the court yard variety instead of the hardwood and failed to win a single regular season game, the club gave a good showing in several matchups. The team lost to Pineville by two points in overtime, but the game left a great impression on the minds of the public. Called a moral victory for Rosenwald, two Red Devils were named to the all-tournament team, Lawrence McKinley and John Hale. Also on the '42 team were Richard Coleman, Herman Williams, Booker Kennedy, Jess Fenderson, Dallas Hue, Thorne Anderson, George Pratt and Henry Tentman.



**Undefeated Devils**

The 1942 Rosenwald Red Devils breezed through an abbreviated '42 season with speed, power and a will to go on. Rosenwald gave up only one touchdown all season to LaFollette. Strong teams such as Lynch, Lancaster, LaFollette and Hazard fell to the Devils. Benham and Middlesboro were the only squads successful in tying the Devils, with both contests ending scoreless. Rosenwald didn't play enough games in the Cumberland Valley Conference that season to claim the league title, but placed four men on the all-conference team. They were Richard Morris, Sidney Prince, George Washington and Norman Morris. The team record was 4-0-2.



**Lady Red Devils**

Shown here are members of the 1942 girls basketball team at Rosenwald High School. The team was nicknamed the Red Devils.



**Rosenwald School**

Shown here is the classroom section of the Rosenwald School before the addition of a gymnasium. The photo is taken from the rear of the building in 1926. Although the gymnasium still stands, this section was torn down. (Photo Courtesy Harlan City Schools)



**Rosenwald Squad**

Members of the 1945-46 Rosenwald High School Basketball Team included: captain Isadore Knox, co-captain Julian Moore, George Barnes, George Tyson, Hymie Orr, John Hale, Paul Kennedy, Robert Rogers, Ernest Harbin, Francis Golins, Bert Kennedy, Melvin Shipp and trainer Flint Smith. According to the school yearbook, "The Red Devil basketball team started the season with a success under the direction of coach J.N. Kendall. Although we had a few defeats, our team showed great improvement in the latter part of the season. We were chosen to attend the district tournament which was held at Middlesboro High School gymnasium. The Devils made a great showing by their winning third place...The team is very proud to have the former Rosenwald basketball star, Sgt. John Hale, who is a veteran of World War II. He also showed great work in the season of 5-46." The yearbook notes Knox, a forward, was the team's leading scorer that season, followed by Moore, the center, with 72 points; George Tyson, a forward with 53; and Hale, a guard, with 46.



**A Class Act**

Members of the Rosenwald Junior and Senior Dramatics Clubs posed as groups for these pictures in 1948. The photo at the top is of the junior group, while the senior club is below. Mrs. Edgar Watts seen at the left in both pictures was sponsor. Junior officers were Edna L. Johnson, president; Danna Woods, secretary; Mary H. Flowers, assistant secretary and Betty A. Jackson, treasurer. Senior officers were Sarah C. Copeland, president; Audrey Tye, vice president; Bernye Jackson, secretary; and Bettye L. Gardner, treasurer. The photos are taken from the school yearbook, "The Torch."



(36)

**TOLBERT J. "COACH" WALKER**  
**NOV. 7, 1919 - SEPT. 10, 1991**



Tolbert J. "Coach" Walker was born in London, Kentucky, on November 7, 1919, to William and Fannie Ridgeway Walker. His family moved to Harlan when he was nine. He departed this life on September 10, 1991, at the Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital following a long illness of cancer.

A graduate of Rosenwald High School, he was awarded a football scholarship to play at Kentucky State College in Frankfort. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

He was a civics, math and American history teacher at Rosenwald High School, as well as the head football coach. He was the first black teacher and coach in the Harlan City School System in 1963. Throughout his tenure as a teacher, he was recognized with student-teacher achievement awards.

"Coach" touched the lives of many and left them better for having been a part of his life. His ready smile and warm greeting will be irreplaceable. The memory of him will remain and the values he held dear will remain with us forever.

## CHAPER 10.5

1919 FUND RAISING FOR THE ROSENWALD SCHOOL IN HARLAN, KY.

The following handwritten pages will show how the Harlan community came together to build the "Rosenwald" school for the Colored children of Harlan.

May 17, 1919, a meeting held at the AME Church at 8:30 PM. The meeting was called to discuss ways to raise money to build a school for the Colored children of Harlan.

Rosenwald Fund Representative Prof William Wood of Paris, Ky and Prof. F.D. Perkins Superintendent of Harlan Schools were in attendance. They spoke of the amount of money that the Harlan board had appreciated for the colored school. Prof Wood explained that the colored people needed to raise \$500.00 within 60 days for the school building. He explained it was a requirement to receive the funds from the Rosenwald foundation.

The Colored School Building Society met May 31, 1919 @ the first Baptist church to discuss raising money for the new Colored school. It was reported that they needed to raise \$500.00 for the new school building.

A number of Colored in attendance pledged to pay their part for the new school building. Please see the list in the following pages and enjoy the journey back in history.

**ROSENWALD SCHOOL HISTORY**  
**DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING FOR**  
**HARLAN'S BLACK SCHOOL**  
**1919**

①

Harlan Ky.  
 May 27, 1919  
 The Colored people of Harlan  
 Met at the C.M.E. Church  
 Saturday evening at 9:30  
 o'clock May 27  
 Prof. Wood of Paris Ky. was  
 present and explained the  
 Rosenwald Fund as applied  
 to colored schools.  
 Prof. F. D. Perkins Supr. of the  
 City school of Harlan was  
 also present and spoke of  
 the amt. of money the  
 Board of Education had appor-  
 priated for colored school.  
 He explained that the colored  
 people must raise \$5000  
 within 60 days before  
 the Board would start  
 the school building.  
 After that the colored

②

Harlan, Ky.  
 May 30, 1919  
 The Colored School Building  
 Society met at the Baptist  
 Church Saturday evening  
 at 8:30 P.M. May 31  
 The President was in the chair.  
 Song by the Society  
 Prayer by Rev. Robertson  
 Raising money for col. school  
 was made the business of  
 the day.  
 An motion and record  
 Rev. B.H. Williams  
 C.E. Robertson  
 Was appointed Committee  
 for raising school funds.  
 The meeting adjourned until  
 Wednesday night June 4, 1919  
 J. S. Cornett Pres.  
 L. S. Turner Secy.

# ROSENWALD SCHOOL HISTORY

## DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING FOR HARLAN'S BLACK SCHOOL

1919

people organized the Colored  
School Building Society with  
Daniel B. Cornett, President  
Lillard S. Turner, Secy.

The following pledges  
were made to raise money  
for colored school building

Prof. F. D. Perkins	\$ 25.00 (Paid)
Mr. J. B. Butler	25.00
L. S. Turner	25.00
Mr. D. S. Cornett	25.00
Mr. Evans Baety	25.00
Mr. S. S. Taylor	25.00
S. J. White	5.00
Rev. B. H. Williams	25.00
Mr. Charles Jennings	25.00
Robert Mail	25.00
Rev. P. A. Mayfield	25.00
Charles B. Cornett	25.00
C. E. Robertson	25.00
Lloyd Baker	10.00
D. W. Mahoney	25.00

Sam Kitson 25.00

The full amt. paid  
by each individual in  
pledges of twenty five dollars

Rev. C. E. Robertson	55.00
Mr. Evans Baety	25.00
F. D. Perkins	25.00
Rev. P. A. Mayfield	36.00
Sam White - note	65.00
Jess Ross	43.25
Daniel B. Cornett	29.00
Lillard S. Turner	30.00
Rob. Mail	31.10
Charles B. Cornett	29.00
George Mahoney	20.00
B. H. Williams	36.00
W. B. Buchanan	5.00
Sam Kitson	5.00
Charles Jennings	12.00
S. S. Taylor	7.00

# ROSENWALD SCHOOL HISTORY

## DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING FOR HARLAN'S BLACK SCHOOL

1919

(5)

Harlan Ky.  
June 4, 1919

The Colored School Building Society met Wednesday night June 4. Previn. Chan. Pledges were taken for money from the following persons named below. And amount

Thomas Baety	10 00
Mrs. Sureset	5 00
Miss Macy Duval	5 00

The meeting adjourned to meet Wednesday night June 11, 1919.

D. S. Barnett, Pres.  
P. A. Mayfield Act. Secy

(6)

Harlan Ky.  
June 11, 1919

The Colored School Building Society met Wednesday, with President in chair; the meeting was called to order at 9 o'clock P.M.

The minutes of the last meeting was read and adopted.

Partial payment was made on pledges of twenty five dollars from the following named persons.

D. S. Barnett	\$ 5 00
P. A. Mayfield	12 00
Lillard S. Turner	10 00
<b>Total Collection</b>	<b>27 00</b>

On motion and accord the following persons were appointed Committee on refreshment

# ROSENWALD SCHOOL HISTORY

## DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING FOR

### HARLAN'S BLACK SCHOOL

#### 1919

(7)

Mrs. Maud Corbett  
 Hattie Turner  
 & family  
 on Motion and second  
 all members pledging  
 \$25.00 should be given a  
 paper if desired to solicit  
 money  
 on Motion and second  
 the June 28 was set aside  
 for an ice cream party  
 Wilson Buchanan pledge  
 to raise \$25.  
 The society adjourned  
 to meet June 18th.

Harlan Tex.  
 June 28, 1919.

The Colored School Building  
 Society met Saturday June  
 28 with President in the  
 Chair. The meeting was  
 called to order at 8:30 P.M.  
 The minutes of the  
 last meeting was read  
 and adopted.  
 Payments were made  
 by the persons named  
 below on Pledges

Mr. E. B. Beatty	25	00
S. J. White	55	00
Rev. P. A. Mayfield	13	00
George Davis	17	85
Rev. C. E. Robertson	65	00
Geo. Mahoney	15	00
Robert Moore	15	00

(4)



# ROSENWALD SCHOOL HISTORY

## DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING FOR HARLAN'S BLACK SCHOOL

### 1919

Harlan Ky		to pay the following	
July 24, 1919		Amount	
The Colored School Building Society met Thursday July 24 with President in chair.		Hattie Turner	3 00
The meeting was called to order at 9 o'clock.		Eva Gray Cruch	2 00
Amount of money received outside the meeting and in the meeting was as follows:		Fred Johnson	1 00
Viola Thompson	1 00	Mrs. Robertson	3 00
Lillie Cruch	5 00	L. Ledford	1 00
Bob Moore	5 00	The meeting adjourned until Aug. 1st 1919.	10 00
Total outside	11 00	E. S. Cornett Mrs.	
Amount taken up in the meeting:		L. S. Turner Secy.	
Daniel S. Cornett	2 50		
L. S. Turner	1 00	Amount of money received:	
Charles Cornett	15 00	Robt Moore	15 00
Total	18 00	H. S. Cornett	10 00
Pledges were taken to meet July 17		L. S. Turner	3 00
		Chas Jennings	12 50
			32 50
		The meeting adjourned	

(3) (9)

# ROSENWALD SCHOOL HISTORY

## DONATIONS AND FUND RAISING FOR HARLAN'S BLACK SCHOOL

### 1919

	\$	¢
Vindex Ty		
Pledged to Fund		
Farrow to raising	5	00
Kildavil Ty		
W. F. Tyl	1	00
Lebrat Tyl	1	00
69) Mrs. Mary Hawkins	5	00
Mr. H. H. Hawkins	1	00
George Harris	1	00
Mr. Thomas Walker	1	00
Mrs. (L. J. Jure) Walker	1	00
20th Mr. George Tyl	1	00
Vladil Ty		
Warren Shurst	2	50
Arthur Wilson	2	00
Mr. or B. Brown	1	00

	\$	¢
Rev. B. H. Williams	2	00
G. G. Corneth	13	00
+ Ell Ledford	1	00
+ Hattie Turner	3	00
George Mahoney	5	00
Sam White	9	90
Bob Moul	6	10
S. S. Taylor	6	00
Supper. Hattie Turner, Maugherman	0	70
Vincent Johnson	1	00
L. S. Turner	3	00

The amount of money raised by interlaiments	
June 28,	11 85
Aug. 30,	10 70
Total	22 55

(10)

(44)



*[Profile icon]* *duvidendakes*  
*[Handwritten signature]*

78

*[Profile icon]* *Deane Downlands*  
 That was a busy little town back in the day eh?

2w Like Reply

*[Profile icon]* Write a comment...



## CHAPTER 10.75

### THE CITY OF HARLAN'S LOCATION AND HISTORICAL POPULATION.

This chapter has a brief history of the city of Harlan published in 2019. Its geography, demographics, historical population, education, media, notable people, and more. Harlan is a rural-class city and is the county seat of Harlan County.

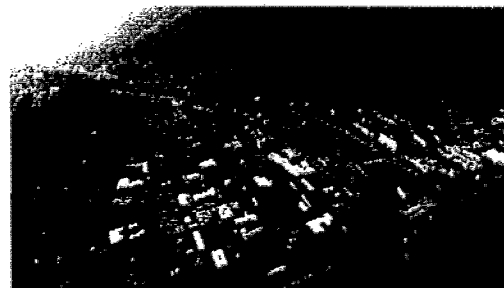
# Harlan, Kentucky

**Harlan** is a home rule-class city in and the county seat of Harlan County, Kentucky, United States.<sup>[2]</sup> The population was 1,745 at the 2010 census,<sup>[3]</sup> down from 2,081 at the 2000 census.

Harlan is one of three Kentucky county seats to share its name with its county, the others being Greenup and Henderson.

## Harlan, Kentucky

City



Harlan in 2015

## Contents

- History**
- Geography**
  - Climate
- Demographics**
- Education**
- Media**
- Notable people**
- References**
- External links**

## History



The fifth and present courthouse of Harlan, Kentucky, built from 1918 to 1922

Harlan was first settled by Samuel and Chloe Howard in 1796. Upon the founding of Harlan County (named for Kentucky pioneer Silas Harlan) in 1819, the Howards donated 12 acres (49,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of land to serve as the county seat.<sup>[4]</sup> The community there was already known as "Mount Pleasant", apparently owing to a nearby Indian mound. A post office was established on September 19, 1828, but called



Location of Harlan in Harlan County, Kentucky.  
Coordinates: 36°50'29"N 83°19'12"W

<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>State</b>	Kentucky
<b>County</b>	Harlan
<b>Named for</b>	Its county
<b>Area</b>	
• <b>Total</b>	1.33 sq mi (3.45 km <sup>2</sup> )
• <b>Land</b>	1.30 sq mi (3.37 km <sup>2</sup> )
• <b>Water</b>	0.03 sq mi (0.08 km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Elevation</b>	1,191 ft (363 m)
<b>Population</b> (2010)	
• <b>Total</b>	1,745
• <b>Estimate</b> (2016) <sup>[1]</sup>	1,606
• <b>Density</b>	1,342/sq mi (518.1/km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Time zone</b>	UTC-5 (Eastern (EST))
• <b>Summer (DST)</b>	UTC-4 (EDT)
<b>ZIP code</b>	40831
<b>Area code(s)</b>	606

"Harlan Court House" due to another Mt. Pleasant preempting that name.<sup>[5]</sup> During the Civil War, Confederate raiders under Gen. Humphrey Marshall occupied the town; the local postmaster renamed the community "Spurlock" after himself;<sup>[5]</sup> and, in October 1863, the courthouse was burnt down in reprisal for the Union destruction of the courthouse in Lee County, Virginia.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1865, the post office was renamed "Harlan" and, although the community was formally incorporated by the state assembly as "Mount Pleasant" on April 15, 1884,<sup>[6]</sup> the town was already usually called "Harlan Court House" or "Harlan Town" by its inhabitants.<sup>[5]</sup> The city's terms of incorporation were amended to change the name to "Harlan" on March 13, 1912. One year before, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad had arrived in Harlan and prompted massive growth. The city had initially expanded east along the Clover Fork; after World War II, it also expanded south along Martin's Fork.<sup>[4]</sup>

**FIPS code** 21-34732  
**GNIS feature ID** 0493746

Harlan is the site of a criminal case in which a man, Condy Dabney, was convicted in 1924 of murdering a person who was later found alive.<sup>[7]</sup>

A flood in 1977 prompted federal aid that diverted the Clover Fork into man-made tunnels under Ivy Hill in 1989.<sup>[4]</sup> In the 1990s, a flood wall was completed on the city's west side along the four-lane bypass U.S. Route 421.

## Geography

Harlan is located in west-central Harlan County at 36°50′29″N 83°19′12″W﻿ / ﻿36.841487, -83.320066﻿ / 36.841487; -83.320066,<sup>[8]</sup> at the junction of the Clover Fork and Martin's Fork rivers. The Clover Fork continues north 1.5 miles (2.4 km) to join the Poor Fork, forming the Cumberland River, a major tributary of the Ohio River. Harlan is in a narrow mountain valley, constrained to the north by the western end of Black Mountain, to the south by Little Black Mountain, and to the west by Ewing Spur. The elevation at the Harlan Courthouse is 1,197 feet (365 m) above sea level, while the surrounding ridges rise outside the city limits to 2,100 feet (640 m) (Black Mountain), 3,000 feet (910 m) (Little Black Mountain), and 2,300 feet (700 m) (Ewing Spur).



A view of U.S. Route 421 from downtown; the flood wall and Harlan Independent Schools' athletic fields are also visible.

U.S. Route 421 passes through the city as four-lane highway; it leads north 34 miles (55 km) to Hyden and southeast 23 miles (37 km) to Pennington Gap, Virginia. The closest city with a population greater than 10,000 is Middlesboro, Kentucky, 42 miles (68 km) to the southeast via U.S. Routes 119 and 25E.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city of Harlan has a total area of 1.4 square miles (3.5 km<sup>2</sup>), of which 0.03 square miles (0.08 km<sup>2</sup>), or 2.45%, are water.<sup>[3]</sup>

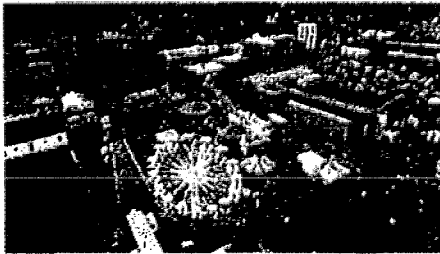
## Climate

46

The climate in this area is characterized by hot, humid summers and generally mild to cool winters. According to the Köppen Climate Classification system, Harlan has a humid subtropical climate, abbreviated "Cfa" on climate maps.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Demographics

As of the census<sup>[11]</sup> of 2000, there were 2,081 people, 926 households, and 550 families residing in the city. The population density was 1,187.4 people per square mile (459.1/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 1,060 housing units at an average density of 604.8 per square mile (2,339/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the city was 91.01% White, 7.02% Black or African American, 0.29% Native American, 0.86% Asian, and 0.82% from two or more races. Hispanics or Latinos of any race were 0.62% of the population.



Downtown Harlan during the annual Poke Sallet Festival

There were 926 households out of which 24.0% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 41.3% were married couples living together, 14.4% had a female householder with no husband present, and 40.6% were non-families. 39.0% of all households were made up of individuals and 19.4% had someone living alone

who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.17 and the average family size was 2.91.

In the city, the population was spread out with 21.3% under the age of 18, 8.1% from 18 to 24, 25.8% from 25 to 44, 25.1% from 45 to 64, and 19.7% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 42 years. For every 100 females, there were 89.4 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 81.8 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$17,270, and the median income for a family was \$29,135. Males had a median income of \$37,500 versus \$20,852 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$15,572. About 23.8% of families and 32.4% of the population were below the poverty line, including 40.0% of those under age 18 and 20.6% of those age 65 or over.

## Education

Two school districts, the Harlan County Public Schools and the Harlan Independent Schools, are based in the city. The independent schools, whose district roughly coincides with the city limits of Harlan, feature Harlan Elementary, Harlan Middle, and Harlan High.

Harlan County High School, which opened in 2008 as the consolidation of the county district's three previous high schools (James A. Cawood, Evarts, and Cumberland), serves all other public high school students in the county. Harlan also features a campus of Southeast Kentucky Community and

### Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
<b>1890</b>	361	—
<b>1900</b>	557	54.3%
<b>1910</b>	657	18.0%
<b>1920</b>	2,647	302.9%
<b>1930</b>	4,327	63.5%
<b>1940</b>	5,122	18.4%
<b>1950</b>	4,786	−6.6%
<b>1960</b>	4,177	−12.7%
<b>1970</b>	3,318	−20.6%
<b>1980</b>	3,024	−8.9%
<b>1990</b>	2,686	−11.2%
<b>2000</b>	2,081	−22.5%
<b>2010</b>	1,745	−16.1%
<b>Est. 2016</b>	1,606 <sup>[1]</sup>	−8.0%

U.S. Decennial Census<sup>[10]</sup>

Technical College.

Harlan has a lending library, a branch of the Harlan County Public Library.<sup>[12]</sup>

## Media

*The Harlan Daily Enterprise* (<http://www.harlandaily.com>) newspaper is published Monday through Saturday. Radio stations serving Harlan are WHLN (adult contemporary, 1410 AM), WFSR (gospel, 970 AM) and WTUK (country, 105.1 FM).

Some storylines of the FX Networks drama *Justified* take place in Harlan, although no scenes have been filmed there. The 2012–13 National Geographic series *Kentucky Justice* which followed the Harlan County Sheriff's Office in their daily duties was filmed in Harlan and Harlan County.

Harlan was also featured in the Darrell Scott song "You'll Never Leave Harlan Alive" (later performed by Brad Paisley, Patty Loveless and in 2019 by Montgomery Gentry on the CD "Outskirts".), the Steve Earle song "Harlan Man", the Anna McGarrigle song "Goin' Back to Harlan" (notably covered by Emmylou Harris) and the song "Harlan County Line" from Dave Alvin.

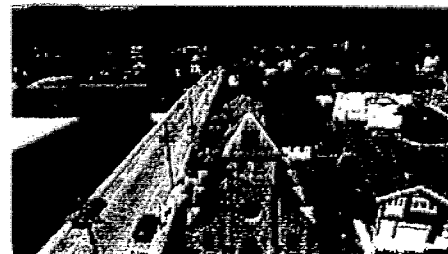
Harlan County, USA a documentary about the coal miners' strike against the Brookside Mine of the Eastover Mining Company in Harlan County, Kentucky in June, 1973. Eastovers refusal to sign a contract (when the miners joined with the United Mine Workers of America) led to the strike, which lasted more than a year and included violent battles between company personnel and the picketing miners and their supportive women-folk. Director Barbara Kopple puts the strike into perspective by giving us some background on the historical plight of the miners and some history of the UMWA. It won an Oscar for Best Documentary in 1977. This is one of the reasons it is called "Bloody Harlan".

## Notable people

- Maxine Cheshire, journalist
- Karl Spillman Forester, federal judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky
- Edwin B. Howard, Chief of Intelligence of the Allied Land Forces in Central Europe
- Wallace Jones, NBA player
- James E. Keller, former justice of the Kentucky Supreme Court
- Nick Lachey, singer
- Cawood Ledford, University of Kentucky basketball and football announcer
- George Ella Lyon, author
- Jordan Smith, musician and winner of Season 9 of *The Voice*
- Green Wix Unthank, United States District Court judge
- Don Whitehead, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and author

## References

1. "Population and Housing Unit Estimates" (<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/data/>)



Overlooking East Central Street. Harlan High School and Middle School are visible on the left.

## **CHAPTER 11**

### **GEORGETOWN FLOODS:**

Georgetown was in no doubt a flood zone. The Martins Fork Creek next to Georgetown would flood every year. When the water would run us out of our home Dad would find a place for us to go. I remember once we stayed at a lady's house on River St.

When we had to leave, I would go to the courthouse because most of the Georgetown kids would go there. We had fun, they had food and drinks for us. It was great fun for us kids.

Clovertown was on a tributary and the water ran passed Clovertown to the lower areas like Georgetown. A few times, the water wouldn't back up enough to cause Clovertown some concern.

Georgetown would have high water or flooding every string you could count on it. Georgetown endured 25 floods from 1947 to 1978, the water rose from 16' in 1947 to as high as 34.5' in 1977.

Our family lived in Georgetown March of 1963 when there were three floods within 11 days. After one of these floods some residents seat things they had salvaged outside and on the sidewalk. When the next flood came and washed everything away. That was very heartbreaking.

My wife Rhoda and her family did not suffer that heartbreak. They were living with Aunt Bert's in Clovertown. She and her mother were the only ones living in their house at the time and they didn't have anyone to help them clean up and move their things out. That was a blessing in disguise, their things did not get washed away by the second flood. Later her brother William came to visit from Cleveland, Ohio and help clean the flood mud out the house and move them back in.

Our father Mr. Alonzo Williams died January 1, 1963, so after the floods that spring, my mother Miss Essie (Essie Williams) moved us to Clovertown. Living there I didn't have to worry about the floods. When the next flood came, I thought it would be a "hoot" to go to Georgetown and watch the water rise. It was raining and I was off to Georgetown to watch the water. (I am sorry I did that); it was not anything to make fun of. It wasn't funny to my friends that had to live through it and I'm sorry for what I did back then.

The US Army Corps of Engineers built a flood wall, covered over the Georgetown and opened up the mountains so the waters could flow freely. Georgetown was sacrificed for the greater good.

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

"Devastating Flood Hits Harlan County"

# The Harlan Daily Enterprise

H.P.T.

VOL. 76-80

HARLAN, KENTUCKY -- WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 1977

15 CENTS -- 18 PAGES

## At Least Three Died . . . As The Result Of Flooding Devastating Flood Hits Harlan County

**By E.WELL BALLTUP**  
Of The Enterprise Staff  
Harlan County is a scene of devastation and disaster today after the worst local flood in recorded history Monday swept through the lowwater area of the Upper Cumberland River Valley.

The loss of life, property and damage caused by the waters of the Cumberland River and its tributaries is overwhelming. At least three persons died as a result of the flooding.

Hundreds of Harlan Countians were driven from their homes as high water affected virtually every area of the county in one way or another. Business districts were inundated.

The mandatory nature of the flood damage was available early yesterday. A Harlan County Civil Defense official said that estimate probably will not be set for several days.

Several counties of Eastern Kentucky were flooded yesterday, but Harlan County appeared to be hardest hit. Neighboring Bell County also was among the list of counties experiencing the most severe flooding.

Four Fork of the Cumberland River crested Monday at 9:30 a.m. at Baxter, the official recording site, at 34.3 feet—18.6 feet above flood stage and 8.3 feet above the level of a high flood which had served as a high water benchmark for 14 years.

The flooding was spurred by a six inch rainfall which began Sunday evening and continued through Monday night.

Emergency and rescue service agencies began their operations early Monday morning and continued working throughout the day and evening. (See related report this page.)

Two Tri-Cities area residents died in the flooding. One of the victims, Baltho Saebach, Lynch, drowned, and the second person, Mrs. Scales Evans, Benton, died as the result of a heart attack. (See related report this page.)

Reports concerning the third death, also a drowning, were incomplete early today but the incident occurred on Carrons Creek at Little Creek. Emergency service officials said there were unconfirmed reports of a fourth death by drowning.

**RESCUE OPERATIONS**  
The Harlan County Emergency Rescue Squad and units of other emergency service agencies were called upon throughout Monday to assist in evacuating several areas in and around the city of Harlan.

Many people also had to be rescued as the rising flood waters drifted around their homes. Everett Jones, Harlan County Civil Defense director, said a "conservative estimate" would place at 150 the number of people who were rescued from the flood.

"We had many people trapped in their homes," Jones said. Many people also had to be rescued as the rising flood waters drifted around their homes. Everett Jones, Harlan County Civil Defense director, said a "conservative estimate" would place at 150 the number of people who were rescued from the flood.

Sheriff Billy G. Williams, in whose office an emergency operations center was established, said "thousands of calls" for assistance had been made. The phones were constantly ringing.

At one point Monday afternoon, he said, "The damage and flooding to be widespread we really can't cope with it. Everybody is working to capacity and we're still getting calls for assistance we can't answer."

Some of those rescued were taken from the upper floors of their homes after the lower portion of their houses had been covered by water. Jones said the people were warned of the flood before they were trapped and they had time to evacuate under their own ability, but many remained in their homes. Many were concerned about their furniture, he added.

As of early yesterday when the flood water was receding, many people were still trapped in their homes. Many were concerned about their furniture, he added.

One of the rescue operations was carried out in the Clover Fork area with a helicopter. Sheriff Williams said a chopper owned by Elbe Blanton, operator of the Kentucky Harlan Coal Company, and piloted by Vernon Baker, airfield in poor weather conditions, took two people from Evans to Maclain, Appalachian Regional Hospital for emergency medical attention.

One of those rescued was a pregnant lady who was in labor. The second case involved a person who was suffering from internal bleeding.

The sheriff was necessary as KY 30 in Harlan and US 111 South heading from Harlan to the hospital were impassable due to flooding. In terms of total evacuation, Jones indicated, agents too conservatively, that two in the Harlan County were forced from their homes by the flooding. Emergency shelters were established in schools and churches in virtually every area of the county.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**  
Property damage resulting from the flood appears great. Some homes were only moderately damaged, but others—both conventional and mobile homes—were washed away by the high water.

No area appears to have escaped the flooding. Jones said the flooding was very widespread. Sheriff Williams described the flooding as "barbaric everywhere we went" and said the results were "catastrophic" and "disastrous."

He said many small communities—such as Agate, Canton, and Verdon on Clover Fork—were "under water bad."

No official at the emergency operations center could say how damaging the flood was, beyond the obvious, due to the water covering the damage.

In the city of Harlan several businesses along North and South Main Street and Cumberland Avenue were severely damaged. Water from Clover Fork and

Marion Fork rivers flooded South Main Street from near the corner of Main and Clover to Main and Island streets. Homes along Cumberland Avenue were also severely damaged.

Damage reports from areas other than the Tri-Cities could not be obtained as the city of Harlan was virtually an island as flood water blocked passage along US 61 and KY 31.

Many people were heard commiserating after the flooding began they never expected the water to reach the height it did. Some of those people had their homes raised after the 1963 flood in hopes of preventing inundation. However, even some of those homes were damaged by the Monday flooding.

On another matter, Jones said he had received several reports of bridges in various parts of the county being washed out. At least two fires were reported during the flooding.

Sheriff Williams said Evans' Wholesale Supply, Evans, was destroyed by fire Monday afternoon. He said a fire developed in a building housing the firm and then some type of explosion occurred.

The fire burned out of control, he said, as the Evans Fire Department could not move its equipment to the area due to high water. Another fire was reported at Perfection Cleaners, Baxter, where a liquid propane gas tank ignited.

**NO WARNING**  
Jones said the flood came as a "complete surprise." He explained "We had no warning of a flood and no advisories from the weather service until the river was already up. After we started flooding they sent out flash flood warnings."

The flood water did rise quickly. Jones said the river level at Baxter stood at six feet at 4 a.m. Monday. By 3:30 a.m. the water stood between 11 and 14 feet. Flooding began shortly thereafter.

He attributed the rather quick rise to the great amount of rainfall which was recorded. As the flood came quickly, it also went quickly after the rains halted Monday about 9:30 p.m. Usually, the river continues to rise for a period after rains but as runoff water from mountains in the area contributes to the flooding.

**OTHER MATTERS**  
One major rumor was associated with the flood. A report held a dam at a site at Highgate had failed. State Police, acting on information furnished that agency, urged people to avoid the dam to "move to higher ground."

As it turned out, there is no dam at Highgate. In another case early during the flood period emergency service agencies were told a man was trapped at the river at Kinn and were asked to come rescue him.

Upon arrival, the crews found a man who refused to leave a house surrounded by water. Sheriff Williams, however, said to unusual law enforcement problems were associated with the disaster.

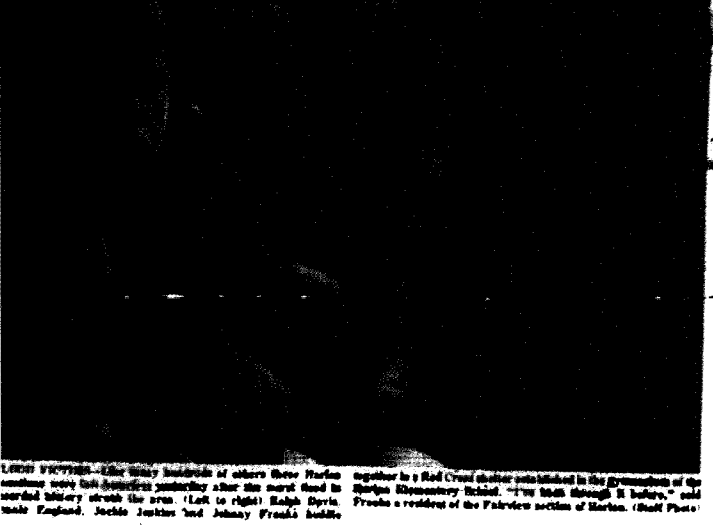
Williams said the point was serious potential problem Monday afternoon resulting from flooded propane gas tanks and fuel oil tanks. Several of the tanks floated down Clover Fork River and Williams added a tank with "several thousand gallons capacity" derailed near Harlan on Four Fork.

Williams expressed concern the tanks could possibly explode or the gas could possibly be ignited should the tanks begin leaking.

In some sections of the city of Harlan, the amount of propane gas and fuel oil was very strong at times. Emergency service officials received one report Monday night which related flood water was flowing into gas and oil storage tanks at Richards, Tassco, Baxter, from their neighbors.

On another issue, Jones expressed appreciation for the cooperation and assistance given Harlan County Civil Defense by various agencies who participated in emergency service operations.

"We had a lot of volunteers," Jones said, "and I'm thankful for their service. Everybody wanted real well together. I appreciate the service of the State Police, the Rescue Squad, American Red Cross and all those others who I have failed to name. There were so many of these groups."



LOOKING NORTH—This view from a boat looking towards the north end of the flooded area. (Left to right) Ralph Davis, made England, Jackie Jackson and John Praska built.

## Vigil Began Before Dawn For Those In Flood Zones

**By ED JENNINGS**  
Of The Enterprise Staff  
For someone residents of Harlan County it started before dawn as neighbors, many of whom had maintained their vigil throughout the night, were sounding the door-to-door do-or-die Paul Harvey signaling the coming onslaught—flood.

By 8 p.m. many of the unfortunates who had not been alerted by the emergency services were circling their homes, alerting only problem signs to escape the rising terrors of the three branches of the Cumberland River—the Harlan, Park, the Four Fork and the Clover Fork.

Only those very victims of previous floods expected that the rain which began shortly before dark Monday would end in the worst flood in the recorded history of Harlan County.

Some victims gathered as many possessions together as possible and headed for the nearest safety, whether it be the homes of relatives, friends or a Red Cross shelter.

Others, however, stubbornly remained with their property hoping against hope that the rain would stop and the waters ebb to their normal level. Still others never believed the waters would reach their homes.

Most of those who waited until they were trapped in their homes were advised to collect water for future use due to possible pure water shortage. Some residents with advance warning were able to prepare their homes for possible flood damage by moving furniture and headclogging their homes.

Reports of such slides on major highways in and out of the area continued throughout the afternoon and as at least two occasions US 119 was completely blocked.

Water from Clover Fork and Marion Fork rivers flooded South Main Street from near the corner of Main and Clover to Main and Island streets.

Homes along Cumberland Avenue were also severely damaged. Damage reports from areas other than the Tri-Cities could not be obtained as the city of Harlan was virtually an island.

Many people were heard commiserating after the flooding began they never expected the water to reach the height it did. Some of those people had their homes raised after the 1963 flood.

In the city of Harlan several businesses along North and South Main Street and Cumberland Avenue were severely damaged.

On another matter, Jones said he had received several reports of bridges in various parts of the county being washed out. At least two fires were reported during the flooding.

what I've got on. "But thank God I've got my life and my children are safe. "There'll be a brighter day if it doesn't stop raining, though there won't," said Mrs. Gillison with a big laugh.

By 11 p.m. the waters had started to recede almost faster than they had risen. What few people who were left waiting the streets were calm, almost serene in the knowledge that the disaster would soon be over and the time for cleaning and rebuilding would be near.

Those who required privacy from the crowds of the Red Cross shelter during their night's vigil returned to their homes, while businessmen shut themselves out of their establishments in hopes of preventing the above-ground traffic of business which means to follow down as early as the rising sun.

The crisis seemed to have passed. The Enterprise has been affected by the recent flooding in Harlan County due to impassable road conditions which resulted in a "high water" Tuesday edition which was published as newspaper personnel could not transport press plates to Middletown. An edition was published Monday but the severe weather conditions did not permit distribution of the paper that day.

The Enterprise will return to a normal publication schedule today and Monday's edition will be delivered with Wednesday's paper. We regret the inconvenience caused our readers by the disrupted publication schedule.

## Rowing Is Confirmed Tri-Cities Area Hard-Hit By Flood

**By ED JENNINGS**  
Of The Enterprise Staff  
What is described as one of the first boats in the history of the Tri-Cities had left at least one night on a large number of boats on the river according to the area.

Miss Joie Evans, a Benton resident, died after suffering an apparent heart attack when she fell in which she was driving a boat. She was found to have died of a heart attack. Unofficial reports state that Miss Evans and her husband were

low lying areas were advised to collect water for future use due to possible pure water shortage. Some residents with advance warning were able to prepare their homes for possible flood damage by moving furniture and headclogging their homes.

Reports of such slides on major highways in and out of the area continued throughout the afternoon and as at least two occasions US 119 was completely blocked.

## Major Problems Hit Harlan Water System

An apparent major problem has developed in the water distribution system of the Harlan Municipal Water Works. Early Tuesday morning, the system was without water.

Water company employees could not offer an immediate explanation for the lack of water but they speculated a main had broken, perhaps under one of the rivers in the area. Subscribers of the water system were urged to rest off electrical power to their water heaters to avoid damage. Also the water company

# The Harlan Daily Enterprise

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VOL. 76-88

HARLAN, KENTUCKY — FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1977

15 CENTS—12 PAGES

## Guard Units Ending Flood Recovery Work

By ROBERT SANGORGE  
United Press International

The Kentucky National Guard is going home today. After more than a week of slogging through mud and breathing dust in flood-stricken Southeast Kentucky, most of the men called to active duty for the massive initial flood relief task are packing up, turning the job over to private contractors and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Gov. Julian Carroll and Adj. Gen. Richard Frymore decided late Wednesday to begin phasing out flood assistance by the guard.

Guard operations reached a peak Thursday, just before the units were to start heading home. Some 800 guardsmen were involved in relief work Thursday, more than at any time since flood waters began to recede.

Tom Little of the state Division of Disaster and Emergency Services said the guard was being sent home "because we're going out of the emergency phase in most areas."

The guard begins its withdrawal with the bulk of the force leaving all areas except except Pikeville and South Williamson by Saturday. "On Saturday all but 12 will leave Pikeville," Little said.

He added that the 39th Engineering Co. and the 11th Military Police Battalion will remain in the eastern Pike County area around South Williamson until relief efforts there begin to move more smoothly. "After Saturday, fewer than 100 will be on active duty."

Carroll and Frymore discussed the matter following a day-long helicopter tour of several flood-ravaged cities Wednesday.

In separate meetings with local officials on the trip, Carroll repeatedly stressed the fact that state government cannot be reimbursed from federal funds for any of the cleanup effort carried out by the guard, while private contracting for cleanup is reimbursable.

"It's costing us about \$50,000 daily to pay for the services of the guard," Carroll said. "And we're willing to pay it. But you local officials ought to get working on getting private contractors to do much of the cleanup work from now on."

Little said state Bureau of Highway engineers have begun meeting with local officials to draw up contract specifications for counties and cities to get private contractors into the cleanup effort.

He also said state officials have been in contact with the Army Corps of Engineers, "to ensure they'll be available" if communities want to have the Corps do the contracting for them.

"There's basically two routes counties and cities can go," the DES spokesman explained. "They can contract out the work themselves or ask the Corps to come in. Then it becomes a federal responsibility. But if a county or city decides to do it themselves, they can get federal reimbursement for it. It's really a matter of how they want to use the funds it's on a case by case basis."

The first guardsmen were called out for flood relief duty April 4, with the major buildup of manpower occurring around April 7. About one-fifth of the state's 4700 guardsmen have participated in the work.

In other flood-related developments, the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration announced its eight relief centers to aid flood victims in the 15-county area would be closed by next Tuesday night, but help will still be available. The centers through Thursday have provided assistance to 7,875 flood victims.

While activity was reported down in some centers, the office in hard-hit eastern Pike County at Bellary had 300 people register during its first day of operations this week, the most persons to register at a center on its initial day.

Susan Hullard of the FEMA in London said officials of her agency were considering making special effort to assist people in the devastated South Williamson area, such as a moving "mobile team" office.

Rep. Carl D. Perkins, D-Kv., whose district includes much of the flood area, said in an interview Thursday he believes federal troops should be brought in to Southeast Kentucky to assist in the cleanup.

station operator, recommends that a car should be sprayed before running it through an automatic car wash so as to protect the paint job from sand, and grit scratches.

Branon also said that air filters and oil filters should be changed more often in dusty conditions as Cumberland is now experiencing. "It is also important that a car be greased as soon as possible after going through all this mud and water. This will help push a lot of grit from the suspension and steering systems," he said.

Hoisting and crating filters in the home should be checked more frequently than usual, according to hardware store operator Earl Boggs.

"The efficiency of a heater or air conditioner depends greatly on the amount of force required to push either warm or cool air through the unit. With dust like this a filter can become clogged in a matter of a few days and make the unit less effective," Boggs said.

For the time being, residents of Cumberland will have to cope with dusty homes and roads, red eyes, clogged breathing passages, more frequent visits to service stations and car washes and dust bowl-like conditions.

There is a brighter side however. Road construction in the city is scheduled for completion by late summer and silt from the flood will eventually be cleaned up and away with that, hopefully the dust will also disappear.

Howard reiterated a plea that homeowners and residents, living in flooded areas check their home plumbing systems for leaks. If leaks are found the water should be shut off.

He also asked operators of heavy equipment be told where meter boxes and fire hydrants are to prevent further damage to the system.

The water company's office on River Street in Harlan will remain open, but business operations will be limited as the office was flooded.

Howard added the water company will not mail bills due by May 1. However, plans call for bills to be mailed in June and the statements will carry service charges for two months.

Since water service has been restored, Howard said the demand for water "has been terrific. We're using all the water our treatment plant can produce. I hope this demand begins to diminish soon."

The demand for water stems from the need for it during clean-

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HIGHWAY DEATH TOLL RISES — Great Stallard, M. Baxter, manager of the A&P Supermarket, Cumberland, was killed early last night on US 119 near Putney when his car and a pickup truck driven by William L. Brassfield, 15, Salsburgh, collided head-on in a curve. (top photo, Victor R. Cook, 26, and Sheila Motley, 18, both of Benham, were injured a short time after the fatal accident. Cook's car struck an embankment and flipped over in the highway in a separate accident about four miles from the scene of the fatality. (bottom photo. (Staff Photos)



## Baxter Man Killed, Wife Injured In Auto Accident On US 119

An Enterprise Staff Report (the person was killed and four others injured in two separate traffic accidents early last night on US 119 near Putney.

Sgt. Green C. Long said Grant Stallard, 46, Baxter, was dead on arrival at Harlan Appalachian Regional Hospital after his car and a pickup truck driven by William L. Brassfield, 15, Salsburgh, collided head-on in a curve about four miles north of Putney.

Mrs. Stallard, 43, Baxter, and Brassfield were both admitted to HARL for treatment of injuries sustained in the county's second fatal highway accident this year. (the highway fatality was recorded during the same period last year.

Both vehicles involved in the accident were total losses.

Incomplete early today. An accident a short time later took about two-thirds of a mile north of Putney last night, car driven by Victor R. Cook, 26, Benham, a total loss, and Cook and Sheila Motley, 18, Benham with injuries.

Trooper Jack L. Howard said Cook apparently lost control of his car and the vehicle struck an embankment, flipped over, and skidded down the highway on its top.

Investigation of the two accidents is being continued. Two persons complained of injuries following an accident Wednesday at the Wallace exit on US 119S.

Trooper Harry Johnson said a pickup truck driven by Coeburn

Howard, 54, Haysport, struck the rear of a station wagon driven by Robert Johnson, 58, Wallace.

Johnson and Jesse Henley, 68, Wallace, complained of injuries.

Howard's pickup sustained moderate to heavy damage, and the station wagon was a total loss, the trooper said.

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## Harlan Municipal Water Not Yet Declared Safe

An Enterprise Staff Report. Water from the Harlan Municipal Water Works distribution has not been declared safe for drinking purposes without additional treatment.

An announcement was made yesterday that water from the tap could be drunk without further treatment but an official of the company said the Harlan County Health Department advised him tests of water samples have not been reviewed and the unsafe label has not been taken from the water system.

The health department will announce when the water is safe to drink from the tap. Until such a time the water is declared safe, it should be boiled or treated in some other manner before drinking.

Inquiries concerning the sanitary condition of the water should be directed to the department.

In another matter, Harlan Howard, system manager, said water service has now been restored to all areas in and around Harlan. The system was knocked out due to flood damages.

Howard said two fire hydrants and a two-inch service line were found broken in the aftermath of the flood. Also, he said service to about 100 homes has been disconnected as leaks developed in the homes' plumbing system due to flood damage. These factors resulted in the system's storage tanks being drained and leaving customers of the system without water.

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## County Court Actions, Dispositions Reviewed

The following cases were disposed of in County Court after the past two weeks.

produced and proof was given in a separate hearing. Robert

drunkenness, \$29.50, Robert

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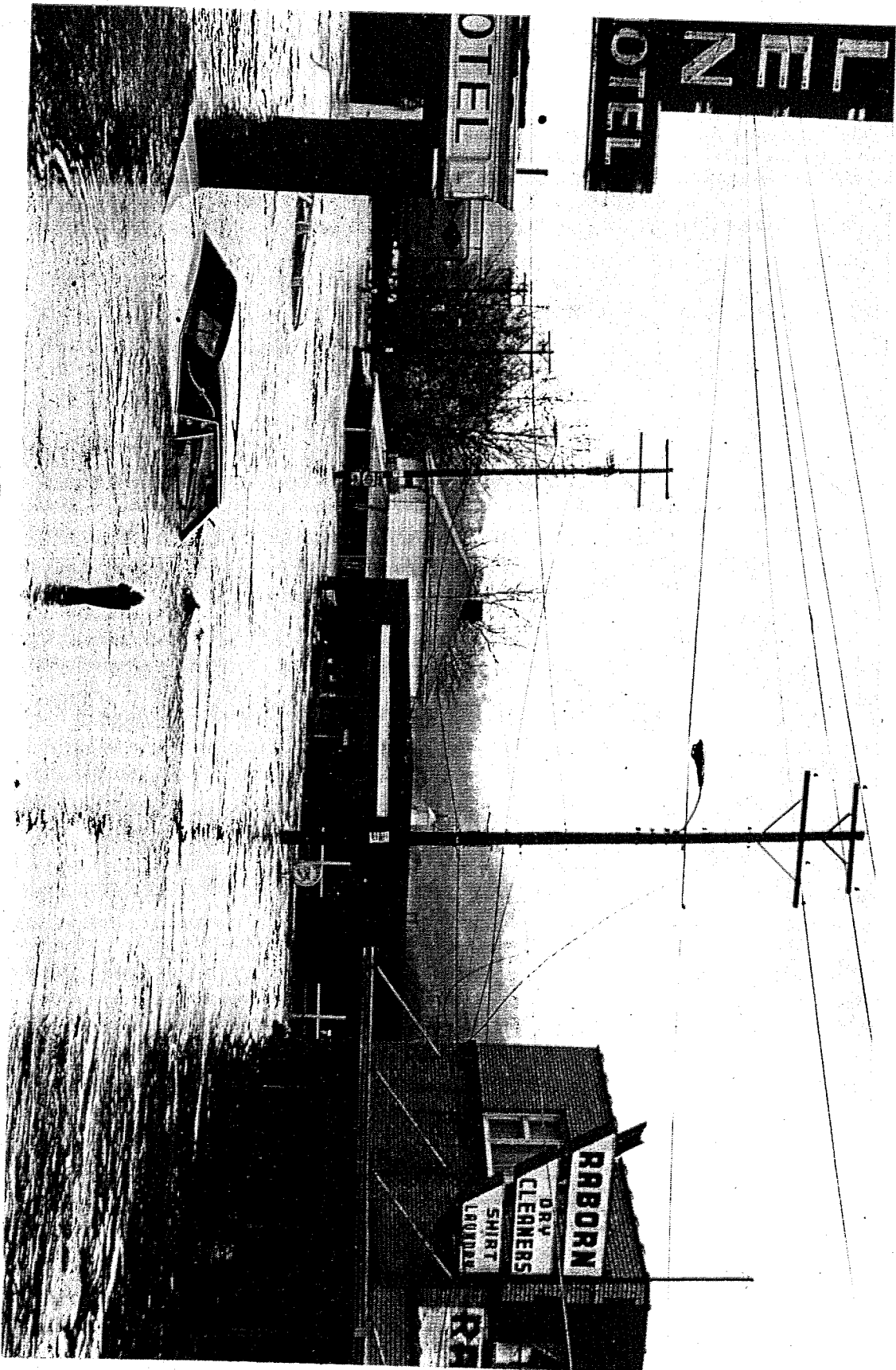
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drunkenness, \$29.50, Robert

drunkenness, \$29.50, Robert

drunkenness, \$29.50, Robert



*Many businesses were destroyed*

*www.peoplestranded.....*

4



5

# Recovery

## Baxter Businesses Progress In Clean-Up

Published April 12, 1937

By EWELL BALLTRIP  
Of The Enterprise Staff

Cotton Roper wanted so many in rebuilding his business which was destroyed by last week's flood.

"A man who has a business to take care of can't afford to wait," Roper said. "I have to hurry and get open again. I have stores and people I have to take care of."

Roper's business, a wholesale-rail produce and fruit market alongside US 41 and the Cumberland River at Baxter, was demolished in the flood. The building which housed his business was washed away by the inundation.

Last Wednesday he, members of his family and friends began the task of placing a new structure on what was only a muddy lot.

The work over has made progress. Yesterday, Roper stood on a plywood floor which had been placed on a foundation. Wall frames stood around the construction.

"I think we'll be back in

business by the end of this week or early next week," Roper said as he looked around the worksite during a break. "As quick as I can get a top put on this place, I'll start putting stuff back in."

Roper was able to save nothing at his market from the flood water. Even his walk-in cooler which once stood alongside the building, was washed somewhere downstream.

"I never dreamed it (the flood) would be this bad. This is the first time the water has ever got like this. When it started flooding, I came up and just set stuff up off the floor," he said.

"Then I came back up here and found my building laying on the ground. I was really surprised."

Roper had no flood insurance on his business. "I didn't have flood insurance because I never thought I would need it. I'd been hearing people talk that we would never have another flood like we had in 1933," he continued.

In rebuilding his business,

Roper is somewhat philosophical. He says he's building a place which will be better than the one he lost to the flood.

There's also going to be an expansion. Roper's Greenhouse, which was located at Ligonville and wiped out by the flood, will be housed in the new building.

Roper said the lumber for his construction work was taken from the Cumberland River at Loyal where tons and tons of new lumber and debris washed downstream and lodged under a bridge.

"We've had lots of help in doing our job here," Roper continued. "We have a lot of good friends who are helping out. It's during times like these that a man finds out whether he has any friends."

Eddie Roper, who operated the greenhouse and son of the older Roper, said, "There's no point in crying about what you've lost. Now is the time to get back on your feet."

He turned, walked away and began helping in assembling a

wall frame.

Just down the road from Roper's Market is Owen Coldiron's Baxter Service Station, another business victim of the flood.

Flood water came within 18 inches of reaching the ceiling of the station building.

"We didn't have time to get anything out before the water got in," said Owen Middleton, Rosopoint. "The only thing we saved were some filing cabinets records. No merchandise."

The 34-year employee of the service station said, "I've heard Owen (owner of the station) talk about he lost everything he had to here."

The March 17, 1933 flood put water one and one-half feet deep in the station. "But we didn't expect this flood to get as high as it did. That's the reason we lost so much. The flood was so unexpected. I would have never bet a million dollars water would get as high as this," he said.

Looking around the station "we laid merchandise and stuff up on the shelves, to where the water got in 1933. But that wasn't high enough."

Station personnel began cleaning the business Tuesday after the flood water receded. "There was nothing but a ball of mud in here. It's been a slow job, but so far, we're getting along with it pretty good," Middleton said.

Allen Howard set stooped over a tire rim, cleaning flood mud from it. Across the room, a couple of other men were going about their job of cleaning up the mess last week's flood had brought.

Howard had reason to be busy and to keep his regular employees at Harlan Retreading at Baxter, plus eight or ten extra men, busy.

Water stood at eight feet four inches in Howard's place of business before the flood created.

"I didn't expect the flood to get this high," Howard said. "I was expecting something like we had in 1933."

"The flood got everything in the new building we have next to our office here," he continued. "I guess probably \$100,000 worth of tires and tools were destroyed or washed away."

"We lost our recapping shop. I don't think I'll open it back. We just had that some new equipment in there," he said.

Part of the tragedy facing Howard's business is he had no flood insurance. "I don't know why I never bought it. I guess I just never really understood it and no one talked to me about it. I just put off buying it. I guess," he said.

The clean-up job at Harlan Retreading is going "pretty good." "I think we've made good progress. We've used a pump pump to bring water from the river (which is directly behind the store) to clean the mud out. Some of Eastman Mining Company's equipment was here for awhile helping us. We've been able to keep everyone busy," he said.

Howard said his business should be open on a limited basis by the end of this week. But it will be some time before his operation returns to normal.

When asked about the impact of the flood on businesses in the area, he replied, "Oh boy," with a sigh. "These businesses in the flood, it's going to be months before they get back to doing what they were before the flood. It's going to be six months at least before we do as much business as we were before the flood."



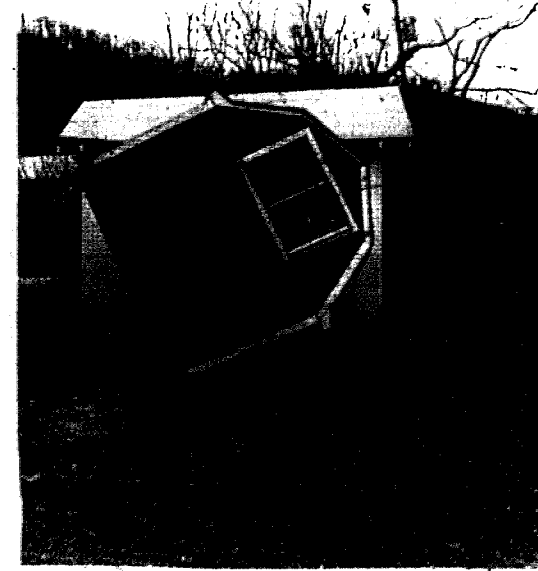
MOVING ON CLOVER FORK — Waters of the Clover Park River ran quickly and high through Harlan during the flood period. Here, the river has left its banks to flood part of the Fairview section of the city at the Sargeant Avenue bridge. The river is with the tree at the right of the photo.



WILD RIVERS — The Anasimbe commonly near Harlan was among those neighborhoods hard hit by the flooding. Here, water has inundated homes along Martin Street. The water came from Clover and Martins Parks of the Cumberland River. It takes from the roadbed of the US 121 by pass which structure.



CLEANING UP — This end loader was put to work in the Fairview section of Harlan after the flood water receded. The equipment's job—move tons and tons of flood mud which had jammed the area during the high water.



NEW DESIGN: Not really. One building washed away in the flood of April 1 just happened to have come to rest against another shed of Layell, creating an unusual scene.

## Flood Teaches Woman To Trust In The Lord

(Continued from page 11) their experiences in last week's disaster.

"We got about nine feet of water in our house," said Mrs. Lena Walker, a resident of River Street. "It just destroyed everything we had. We got some help from the Red Cross, but it wasn't nearly enough. We need a refrigerator, some rugs and a dining set."

Having been hit by floods before, Mrs. Walker said this month's disaster was by far the worst she had experienced.

"I saved all of my stuff out of the 1933 flood, but not this time. But neither did any of my neighbors. They've got as much to clean up themselves as we can't help us. You're on your own now."

Pointing to a spot above an

outside window on her house on May Street, Mrs. Louise Gilbert said that flood waters completely engulfed her dwelling last Monday.

"We had a crippled fellow staying in our house and we didn't have time to save anything. By the time we got him out, it was too late," she said.

A former resident of Harlan Gas, Mrs. Gilbert said her family moved to May Street recently and this had seen her first flood experience ever.

"I've never had anything like this happen to me before," she related.

Inspecting her mud-filled dwelling on May Street, Mrs. Annetta Green said, "The water got about seven and one-half feet in our house this time. It left

mud about a foot deep inside and we had to pry our front door open."

Mrs. Green also last Monday's flood waters rose too quickly for her to salvage any of her family's belongings.

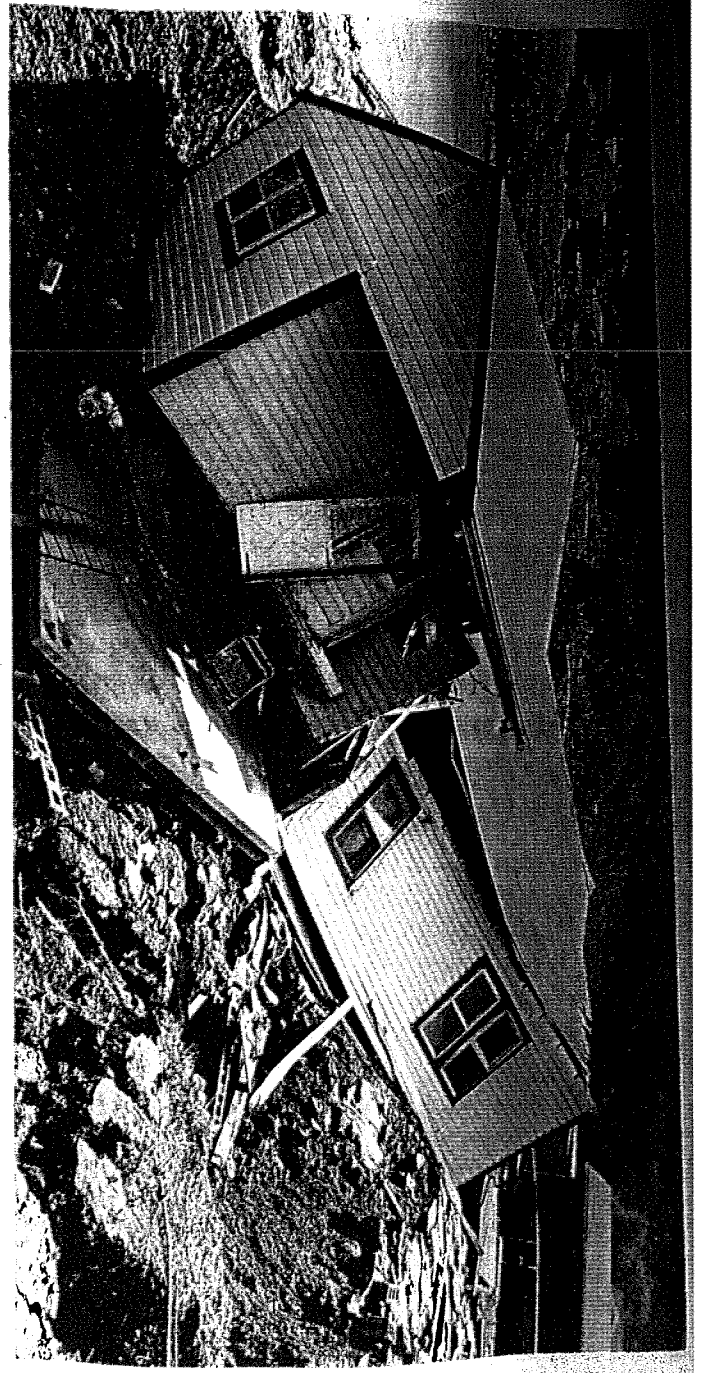
"I tried to save some things but it came up so fast that I was lucky to round up two families of kids. My sister was out of town and I had to pick up her children too," she commented.

Noting that she was forced to drill holes in the floor of her home to remove the slippery mud left by Monday's disaster, Mrs. Green said she had some match work to do on the surface.

"I went through the 1933 flood but it wasn't anything like this. It will take us a while to pull out from under it," she concluded.

## Rio Vista Residents Say They're

6



# The Harlan Daily Enterprise

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VOL. 76 - 79

HARLAN KENTUCKY — MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1977

15 CENTS—12 PAGES



MOVING NIGHT — The team of the Harlan County Courthouse was the scene of quite a bit of construction this past week, as several cars working vehicles started work on the new jail here and it

## To Meet Today

### Carter Looks For Mideast Peace

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter, who plans to meet personally with all Arab leaders in a search for a Middle East solution, was expected to greet Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat at the White House today. Carter's arrival in Washington today, after a week-long tour of the Middle East, will be the first time he will be given a "state dinner" since he took office. Carter's arrival in Washington today, after a week-long tour of the Middle East, will be the first time he will be given a "state dinner" since he took office. Carter's arrival in Washington today, after a week-long tour of the Middle East, will be the first time he will be given a "state dinner" since he took office.

### Overweight Trucks Still Big Problem For State

FRANKFORT, Ky. (UPI) — Kentucky's Department of Transportation (DOT) is still looking for ways to deal with the problem of overweight trucks on the state's highways. DOT officials say that the problem is still a major concern, and that they are working on various solutions to reduce the damage caused by these trucks. They mention that the state is considering various measures, including increased enforcement and infrastructure improvements.

### County Threatened By Flood As Rain Continues

Harlan County is on the verge of its first flood of 1977. Heavy rains fell throughout the county with more than two inches reported and a possibility of two more inches today. Harlan County is on the verge of its first flood of 1977. Heavy rains fell throughout the county with more than two inches reported and a possibility of two more inches today. Harlan County is on the verge of its first flood of 1977. Heavy rains fell throughout the county with more than two inches reported and a possibility of two more inches today.

### Man Jailed Following Shootout

A shooting incident in Harlan County resulted in the arrest and jailing of a man. The incident occurred on a road near the town of Harlan. The man was charged with several offenses, including carrying a concealed weapon and resisting arrest.

### Constitution Revision Group Is Plotting Course

By RICHARD L. WALKER (Staff Writer) LOUISVILLE, Ky. (UPI) — A group of men are plotting a course for a constitutional convention in Kentucky. The group, known as the "Constitution Revision Group," is working to gather support and resources for a potential convention. They are currently in the early stages of organizing and recruiting members.

### An Analysis

So even though the statewide referendum to call a constitutional convention is nearly seven months away, the prospects of change are already being discussed. This analysis looks at the various factors influencing the potential for a constitutional convention in Kentucky. It examines the current political climate, the interests of different groups, and the challenges ahead.

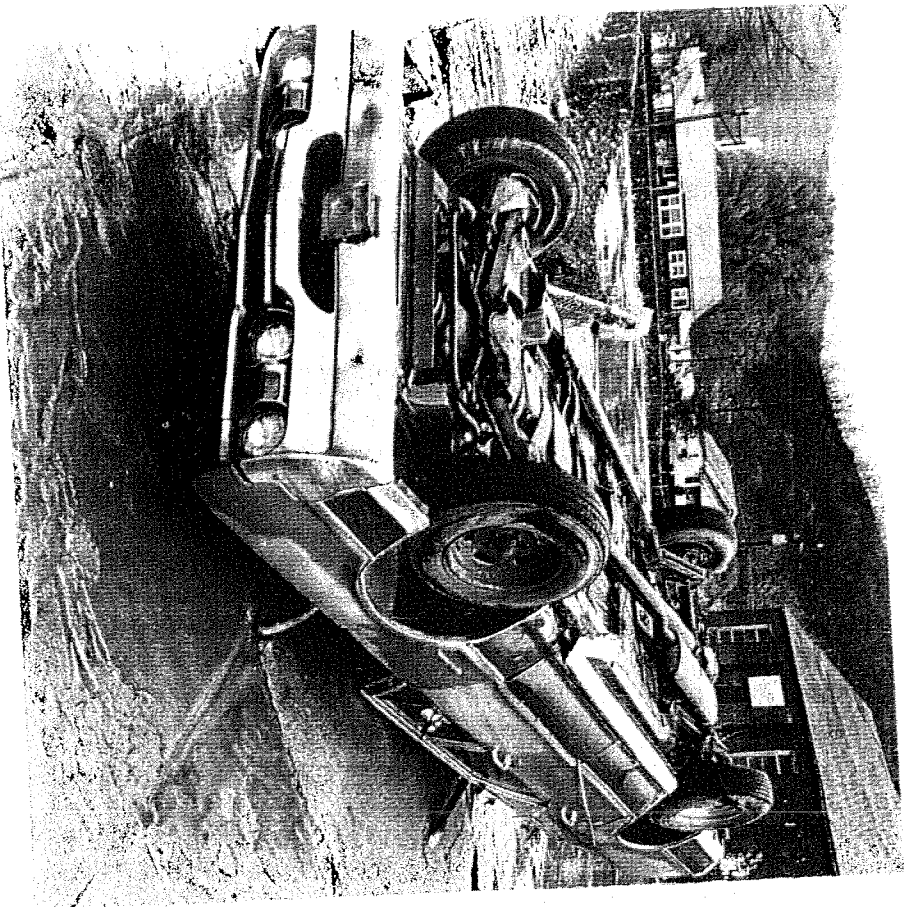
ago, but the National Weather Service in Louisville said the state was in for some severe thunderstorms and flash flooding today and tonight. The Kentucky State Police at Harlan County Sheriff's Office said that the rain in Harlan County will be in the range of 1 to 2 inches. The rain is expected to start around 10 p.m. and last through the night. The National Weather Service in Louisville said that the rain in Harlan County will be in the range of 1 to 2 inches. The rain is expected to start around 10 p.m. and last through the night.

Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Associated Industries of Kentucky have already promised to support active campaigns against a constitutional convention. They are concerned that a convention would lead to increased taxes and government spending. However, other groups, such as the Kentucky Bar Association and the Kentucky Women's Political Caucus, are in favor of a convention.

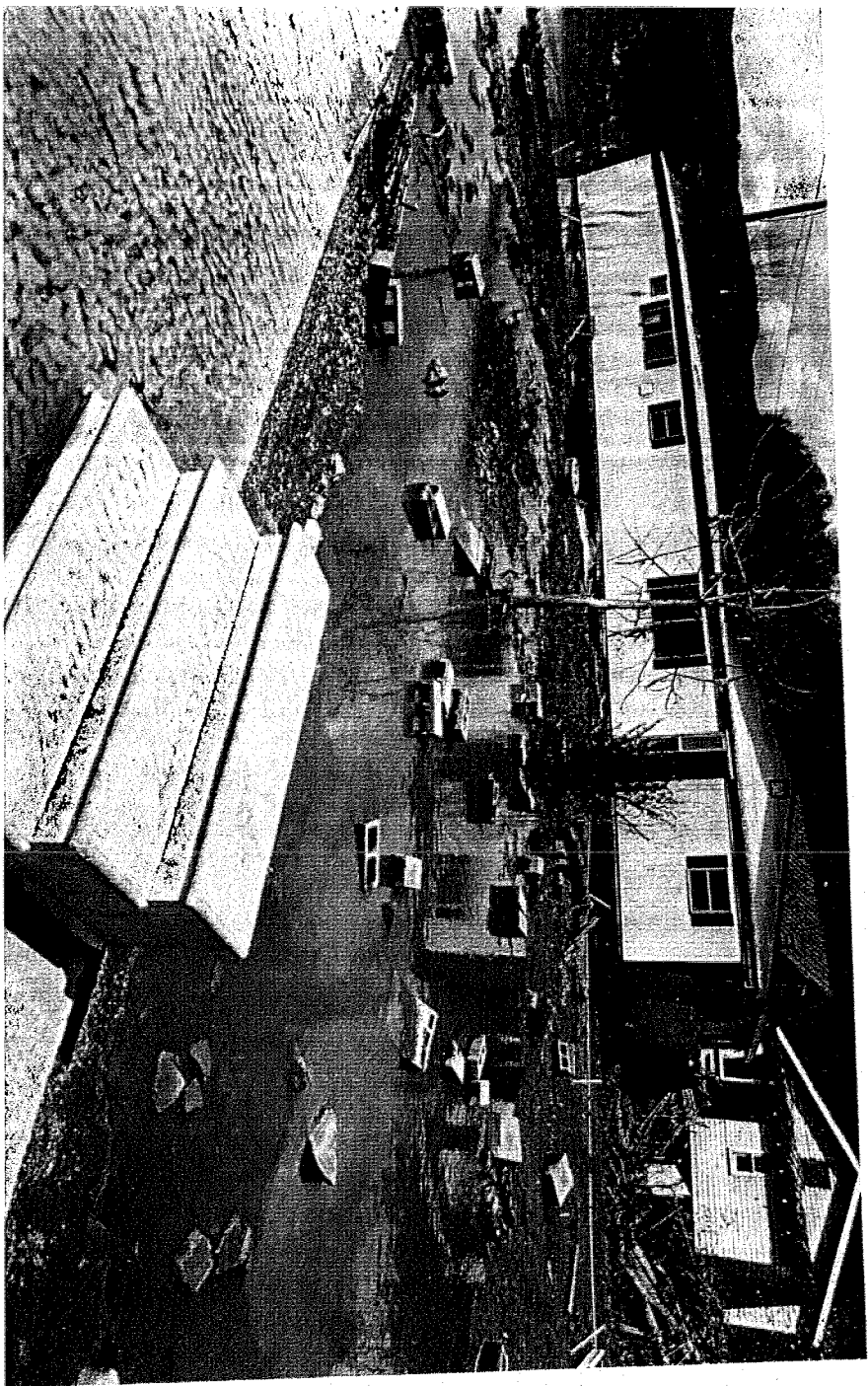
"People in this part of the state have always voted against a convention," he said. "We've voted against the Federal Constitution, then we've voted against the state constitution. We've voted against the state constitution, then we've voted against the state constitution." This statement reflects the historical opposition to constitutional conventions in Kentucky, particularly in certain regions of the state.

8

*When the water receded  
the shock began.....*



The Eastover Miner — Special Edition





# Harlan County Floods

Date	Crest
June 28, 1947 .....	16.0'
February 14, 1948.....	18.9'
February 1, 1951.....	17.9'
December 15, 1951.....	16.0'
March 22, 1955.....	16.0'
February 18, 1956 .....	17.3'
April 16, 1956 .....	17.3'
January 29, 1957 .....	22.2'
January 22, 1959.....	19.7'
March 6, 1963 .....	18.3'
March 12, 1963.....	29.2'
March 17, 1963.....	23.1'
March 26, 1965.....	17.2'
February 13, 1966 .....	18.2'
March 7, 1967 .....	23.7'
December 31, 1969 .....	28.5'
April 28, 1970.....	19.8'
November 27, 1973 .....	19.6'
November 28, 1973 .....	22.0'
January 11, 1974.....	21.7'
March 12, 1975.....	17.8'
March 13, 1975.....	16.0'
April 4, 1977 .....	34.5'
November 6, 1977 .....	19.0'
January 26, 1978 .....	17.4'



*Handwritten signature*

June 18 at 7:40 PM · 25

You and 43 others

### Most relevant



**Andy Johnson-Bentley**

I lived there during 15 of the floods. The worst one was in 1969. I didn't live there in 1977.

Like Reply



**Kathy King Smith**

I lived through 7 of them! We moved in August '69.



Write a comment...

## CHAPTER 12

CONGRESSMAN HAL ROGERS AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAVED HARLAN FROM THE FLOOD WATERS OF THE COMBERLAND RIVER:

HARLAN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DEDICATED October 25, 1999. Thanks to Congressman Hal Rogers, this \$181 million dollar project came to the small city of Harlan. We will be forever thankful for his kind and thoughtful work for our community.

\*\*\*EMBED THE "HARLAN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DEDICATED 20 YEARS AGO Published 6:16 am Saturday, November 30, 2019

# Harlan Flood Control Project dedicated 20 years ago

Published 6:16 am Saturday, November 30, 2019

By Staff Reports (<https://www.harlanenterprise.net/author/newsroom/>)

1 of 4

12 P 1



<p>Photos courtesy of Army Corps of Engineers</p> <p>Water from the Cumberland River, flows through the Harlan Tunnels in Harlan, Ky., May 25, 2011. The District diverted the waterway through the tunnels and around the Harlan Embankment as phase one of the Harlan Flood Control Project. Officials dedicated the over

NASHVILLE — Officials dedicated the Harlan Flood Control Project 20 years ago on Oct. 25, culminating over a decade undertaking to provide the maximum level of flood protection to the towns of Harlan, Baxter, Loyall and Rio Vista in Harlan County, Kentucky.

Dignitaries led by Congressman Hal Rogers, Kentucky 5th District, Joseph W. Westphal, assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Brig. Gen. Robert Griffin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Great Lakes and Ohio River Division commander, local dignitaries, and Nashville District staff dedicated the project as part of Eastern Kentucky PRIDE Week events Oct. 25, 1999.

PRIDE stands for Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment, a program Rogers helped start in 1997 to promote environmental activities and to improve water quality and living conditions for residents.

In dedicating the \$181 million project, which ironically took place during a period of extreme drought, Rogers declared victory to the citizens of Harlan County.

“Today after years of effort and millions of dollars we can now say that the work to keep the Cumberland River out of your homes, your businesses, your streets, your churches, is complete,” Rogers said.

Rogers supported the project in Harlan County from its beginning to its completion. He kicked off the historic project during a groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 9, 1989 on North Main Street in Harlan. He initiated a plunger signaling the ignition of several charges on the hillside to begin excavation to divert the flow of Clover Fork River around Harlan’s central business district.

Colonels James A. Ward, Ohio River Division commander, and James P. King, Nashville District commander, along with Harlan County Judge-Executive Delzinna Belcher, Harlan Mayor L.C. Howard and J.C. McDaniels, Upper Cumberland Area engineer for the Corps of Engineers, also participated in the groundbreaking.

“There are very few projects in the United States that match the sheer ingenuity and perseverance of the monumental Harlan Flood Control Project,” Rogers noted in a statement written in September 2019 about the 20 year anniversary of its completion.

“The responsibility rested upon our generation to find a life-saving solution to the deadly floods that ravaged families and businesses in Harlan County for generations. It required a multi-faceted, multi-million dollar response with a full decade of planning and execution. Trusted partnerships across every level of government were vital to our success, coupled with the tireless patience of local residents, and the brain trust of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to bring it to fruition. Now, 20 years later, as we reflect upon a project that ultimately rerouted the Cumberland River, it is with the utmost gratitude that we can rejoice in the unknown number of lives that have been saved and businesses that have been protected. Likewise, the Harlan Flood Control Project impacted every community downstream, reining in the mighty Cumberland through Pineville, Barbourville, and all the way to Williamsburg. It’s nearly impossible to imagine what the Cumberland Valley would look like today without the flood control projects in our region. We started paving a brighter future for Southern and Eastern Kentucky decades ago, and today the sun is shining brighter than ever before in the communities along our Appalachian riverbanks,” Rogers wrote.

12 P 2

The Corps of Engineers divided the work into three phases, stretching from mile 690.5 to 694.1 of the Cumberland River, mile 0 to mile 4 of the Clover Fork River, and mile 0 to mile 1.2 of Martins Fork River. Clover Fork, Martins Fork, and Poor Fork come together near Harlan to form the Cumberland River.

In phase one the Corps of Engineers constructed four 2,000-foot tunnels through Ivy Hill to divert flows from Clover Fork around Harlan’s central business district. About 600 people watched and cheered when the Corps diverted the water through the tunnels Sept. 21, 1992.

A report about the diversion of the Clover Fork River by Stony Merriman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District Public Affairs chief, noted that one observer said, “Throughout history, only two men are known for moving great bodies of water: Moses and Congressman Hal Rogers.”

The Harlan Tunnels work included construction of bridges for Highways 38 and 72, and utility relocation.

In phase two the Corps of Engineers constructed a 4,000-foot flood wall adjacent to Highway 421 and Martins Fork at Harlan, Ky. Three highway floodgates, one railroad floodgate, and an 875-foot levee segment provided protection for rising waters. The Corps completed this phase of the work in September 1996.

“We’ve seen Harlan and Loyall saved from devastating floods over the last two decades thanks to the Army Corps of Engineers construction of the flood control project in Harlan County,” said Dan Mosley, Harlan County judge executive. “We see the flood walls and levees each time we drive through these communities but we don’t realize how thankful we are for them until Mother Nature strikes. I’ve seen multiple times how important this investment was. I am forever grateful to Congressman Hal Rogers for his vision in getting this funded years ago and know that this investment will continue to protect the people, homes, and businesses from the wrath of flooding for generations to come.”

In phase three the Corps of Engineers diverted a 3,800-foot stretch of the Cumberland River around the city of Loyall and constructed a 6,000-foot levee system to protect the cities of Loyall and Rio Vista. Bridges were constructed at Highways 840 and Park Street. The Corps also constructed a 2,000-foot flood wall, railroad track relocation, and two highway floodgates and one railroad floodgate upstream of Loyall.

The Harlan Flood Control Project included non-structural acquisition of real estate. The program raised individual homes and commercial establishments out of the floodplain, demolished and replaced structures or bought out owners for demolition. The project included a flood warning and emergency evacuation plan for Harlan County.

Wayne Huddleston, Nashville District's project manager, who has since retired, said the Corps constructed the most cost-beneficial option that would reduce the most flood risk to the towns susceptible to flooding along the Cumberland River and its headwater streams.

He said the Corps had to overcome challenges and difficult hurdles with real estate acquisition, connecting sewer lines to homes along waterways, and funding complications associated with construction of a new regional sewage treatment plant. At that time, communities did not have adequate sanitary sewage systems or treatment plant to serve the region.

"Since the district doesn't have authority to fund local projects, this decision rested with the chief of engineers. After significant coordination and documentation, we were given authority to transfer project funds to the sponsor, and the regional plant is now in operation," Huddleston said.

Huddleston said there were significant engineering achievements, especially with the diversion of the Clover Fork and excavation of the Harlan Tunnels, but the work behind the scenes by the Nashville District Real Estate Office and other work centers really paved the way for the project's success, and flood risk reduction benefits.

"In addition to providing flood protection in an area which had been routinely flooded and assisting in sanitary sewage improvements, our investment in the area was significant in building the local economy and promoting growth," Huddleston stressed.

Today the Corps of Engineers continues to build and maintain relationships with the communities that own and operate the flood walls and levees that continue to reduce the risk of flooding in these communities that benefited from the Harlan Flood Control Project completed 20 years ago.

Park Ranger David Robinson has worked at nearby Martins Fork Lake in Smith, Ky., since 1996. He attended the completion ceremony in Loyall 20 years ago, and remembers Congressman Rogers promising Harlan would never flood again.

"Those words are still etched in my mind," Robinson said. "And so far so good. Even with the high waters we had back in the spring, downtown stayed pretty dry and the levees did their job. The diversion tunnels diverted the water around Harlan."

Robinson recalls a huge Corps of Engineers presence in the 1990s with construction, engineering, contracting and real estate personnel at offices in nearly every town. Two decades later he says only the projects remain, ready to be operated when flood waters rise.

"I think it is very interesting what they did to flood proof the city of Harlan," he added.

Robinson said he now serves as a local point of contact, a conduit, a liaison between the Corps of Engineers and the towns that continue to operate and maintain these projects. It's his responsibility to communicate with the Nashville District's Levee Safety Program manager to coordinate annual visits to inspect the projects to ensure the flood protection systems continue to meet program guidelines.

There are some old timers who remember how massively awful the flood of 1977 was that flooded the city of Harlan and many other towns, so this project was a big deal to them. Young people in their 20s don't remember much about it, Robinson emphasized.

"We've got the flood wall and diversion tunnels, and the people just accept these things as normal now," Robinson said. "People don't expect to be flooded now."

That devastating flood spurred Congressional authorization for the project in Section 202 of the Energy and Water Development Act of 1981 to provide communities with a minimum 100-year flood protection.

12 P 3



1:30 am EST January 31, 1957  
Surface Analysis

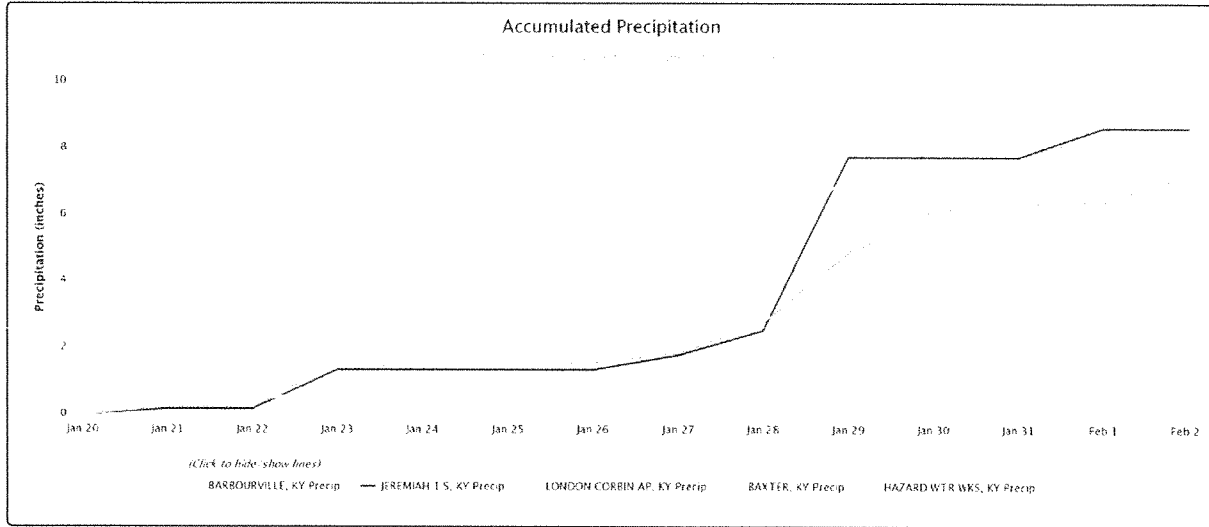


1:30 am EST February 1, 1957  
Surface Analysis



1:30 am EST February 2, 1957  
Surface Analysis

The following graph illustrates the timing of the rainfall prior to and then during the flood by depicting rainfall accumulation at Barbourville, KY (Knox County), Jeremiah, KY (Letcher County), London, KY (Laurel County), Baxter, KY (Harlan County) and Hazard, KY (Perry County) between January 20, 1957 and February 2, 1957. The heaviest rain occurred over the flood area on January 28th and 29th, when a general two to six inches of rain fell over southeast Kentucky.



204

A further examination of hourly rainfall amounts during the period of heaviest rains, January 27th through the 29th, shows around 60 hours of nearly continuous rain fell over southeast Kentucky with two distinct waves of heavy rain. The first wave of heavy rainfall occurred during the late morning and midday hours of January 28th with two to six hours of two-tenths to one-half inch per hour rainfall rates. The second heavier wave of rain hit later that evening and lasted through much of the morning of January 29th. Hourly rainfall rates during this wave of rain were generally between two-tenths and six tenths of an inch. At Barbourville, 1.29" of rain fell in two hours between 6:00 am and 8:00 am ET on January 29th and 3.17" of rain fell in seven hours between 2:00 am and 9:00 am ET.

## CHAPTER 13

### ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1933 TO 1963 AND GEORGETOWN GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN COMMEMORATION:

2016 following eight years as president of Rosenwald Harlanites Inc. (national organization). I contacted a number of Georgetowners and raised \$2,100 to commemorate our beloved Georgetown. I was convinced by two family members to stand down. They said I was no longer the president, and it was not my position to head up this project. I reluctantly acquiesced and returned the money to AD Williams, Aubrey Williams, Willus Meeks and others.

Keep this in mind as you read this story to commemorate our beloved Georgetown and Rosenwald High School.

Larry Kirksey was inducted into the Kentucky Football Hall Fame Class of 2022. I was excited about it. Larry and I played on Harlan High's basketball team when I was a senior, and he was a freshman. Our team went to the state tournament in 1966. We also lived in Georgetown on Ky. Ave., he lived at the front end of the first alley just past the Hall and I lived down the street just past Green St. near the park. Needless to say, we know each other very well.

I called Larry and said, "man we need to do something about this, we should have your name on the football field in Harlan." They have some White man's name on it now. He said we also need to recognize Georgetown somehow. I agreed and said I would get to work on it.

I fashioned a petition, and my son Dr. Darin posted it online. We received over 130 signatures.

Armed with Mr. Kirksey's okay and our petition I contacted Mr. Charles D. Morton, Superintendent of Harlan Independent School.

Mr. Morton and I had worked together some years ago when I was president of Rosenwald Harlanites, Inc. I asked what he thought about our idea. He agreed the school system should do something to recognize Mr. Kirksey and commemorating Georgetown was also a promising thought.

He informed me that they had a \$4,000,000 project to upgrade the football field and park area and it would be a suitable time to do something like this. He said he would present my thoughts to the board and get back with me.

I was on to the Mayor's office. To present our presentation; can you believe it? Mayor Joe Meadows said he agreed with Mr. Morton. Not only did he agree, he said the City was going to build a new bridge to the old Georgetown area and it would be appropriate to acknowledge Georgetown with the new bridge project.

Larry and I talked often about our project. Not knowing what we would have to do to get it off the ground. We needed to raise funds for our project. I had a list of Harlanites and other people who we thought would be willing to help. I sent out a number of e-mails, asking for help. I e-mailed the Rosenwald Harlanites Board and all of the members on my e-mail list, I was president of Rosenwald Harlanites, Inc for eight years. I also ran a golf outing for ten years, so I had the e-mail addresses of all or as many Harlanites as anyone. A number of e-mails was sent for any and all help for our project.

Larry contacted Mr. Fred Sutton and he donated \$10,000.00. With the caveat, we needed to match his donation. This was much the same as the black community had to match Julius Rosenwald's donation to build the school for the back children of Harlan in 1919, (Rosenwald High School).

We were off and running Larry donated \$1,000.00 and so did I. We gained a number of our sponsors along the way. Please see the list of sponsors embedded in this chapter.

Our fund raising was going well. When the Corps. of Engineers came to mind. I called their office to float the idea. After all they were the ones that built the flood wall and covered over Georgetown. I talked with Ashley Fuentes. To my amazement Miss Fuentes was the head of a program to recognize communities displaced by the Corps projects. She stated that our project could serve as a pilot project for them. Since we were well underway they could help with our plans.

Ashley was promoted and Sydney Curnes became my contact. Sydney obtained approval and received funds for the project. We then had \$10,000.00 to pay for the Georgetown plaque.

With the Georgetown plaque paid for, we had \$20,000.00 to use. And that is when the Rosenwald Plaques idea was born.

When I was president of Rosenwald Harlanites, Inc. we had T-shirts with the names of the Rosenwald High School graduating classes of 1933 to 1963 on the back of them. With \$20,000.00 to use we were able to manifest this miracle, 2 aluminum plaques 40" by 48" with a head plaque for our beloved "ROSENWALD".

This work bring forth the spirit of our forefathers and mothers, Booker T. Washington and Julius Rosenwald.

This is not a project it is a "MIRACLE," and we thank God for it!!

Embedded in this chapter are e-mails, letters, meeting notes, the petition, and copies of the Rosenwald and Georgetown plaques.

**EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

ROSENWALD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1933 TO 1963 AND  
GEORGETOWN GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN:



Hi Everyone,

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024!!!**

Please join us this Saturday February 10th at noon Eastern Time and 10:00 AM Phoenix time.

**CONFERENCE CALL: Just call 1-339-209-5760 and you will be added to the conference.**

"GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS, GOOD NEWS" DO NOT MISS THIS MEETING!!!

**AGENDA:**

General report and update	Les Williams
US Army Corp. of Engineers update	Ashley Fuentes (report)
Georgetown Plaque	Lane Awards Quote
Rosenwald Teachers list update	Mona Watts Hurley
Rosenwald, Honorees and Donors Plaque	Lane Awards
Quotes	
Donation and Pledges report	Les Williams

**\*\*THIS IS NEW: "ROSENWALD LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP "** (We need a scholarship committee)

This is a 501c3 project, your contribution is tax deductible.

Make checks payable to **RHMM** mail to 1174 N. Florence Dr. Chandler, AZ 85226,

MEMO: "*The Georgetown Park Project*" (501c3 #82-4694814). Or Zelle to 810-624-7701.

**YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!**

Thank you in  
advance.

Committee Chairman  
Les Williams  
810-624-7701  
[awilliams9041@gmail.com](mailto:awilliams9041@gmail.com)

13 PL

**GEORGETOWN PARK PROJECT MEETING 12/9/2023 HIGHLIGHTS:**

**AGENDA / MEETING NOTES:**

General report and update

Les Williams REPORTED:

Mr. Sutton was informed that we have matched his \$10,000 donation.

We have \$20,180.00 in the bank to date.

He was happy to hear news and said he and his wife plan to attend the plaque unveiling.

US Army Corp. of Engineers update

Ashley Fuentes

\*Les sent Ashley a Georgetown plaque quote. She added it to her project proposal. She will get back with us soon.

Dedication of the Football field

Mr. Charles Morton HIS Superintendent

\*Les called Mr. Morton; They plan to have a ceremony for the new football in August 2024 at the first football game.

Georgetown & Rosenwald Plaques

Lane Awards Quotes

\*We have quotes for both the Georgetown and the Rosenwald plaques. The quotes are well within our budget.

Rosenwald Plaque update  
under review.

Mona Watts Hurley \*The Rosenwald staffs list is

Donation and Pledges report

Les Williams \*Donations are going well.

This is a 501c3 project, your contribution is tax deductible.

Make checks payable to **RHMM** mail to 1174 N. Florence Dr. Chandler, AZ 85226,

MEMO: "*The Georgetown Park Project*" (501c3 #82-4694814). Or Zelle to 810-624-7701.

**YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!**

Thanks in advance,

Committee Chairman

Les Williams 810-624-7701 [awilliams9041@gmail.com](mailto:awilliams9041@gmail.com)

13 PR



Alaska Williams <awilliams9041@gmail.com>

## Harlan Plaque Info

2 messages

Curnes, Sydney E CIV USARMY CELRN (USA) <Sydney.E.Curnes@usace.army.mil>

Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 11:21 AM

To: "awilliams9041@gmail.com" <awilliams9041@gmail.com>

Good afternoon Alaska!

Great talking with you again yesterday on the updates to the plaque sizes. I appreciate you keeping me updated. If you have the plaque design details, feel free to share them. On the phone you mentioned the potential opportunity of USACE putting our logo in the header of the plaques or finding another way to represent our involvement. We will take a peak once you send it over.

I will follow up with you at the end of the month once I hear back from our structural section chief on if we can mount the plaques on the floodwall or if we will have to take another route. I will share a Teams link and invite City of Harlan Representatives to join.

Feel free to call me anytime with questions or concerns along the way! I am excited to get the project rolling.

Sincerely,

Sydney Curnes

Landscape architect & Planner

Planning Division

Nashville District, Corps of Engineers

615-339-9548

Alaska Williams <awilliams9041@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 11, 2024 at 4:08 PM

To: "Curnes, Sydney E CIV USARMY CELRN (USA)" <Sydney.E.Curnes@usace.army.mil>

Thanks Sydney,  
I will get back to you.

[Quoted text hidden]

1393



Alaska Williams <awilliams9041@gmail.com>

## Georgetown Project

2 messages

Fuentes, Ashley A CIV USARMY CELRN (USA) <Ashley.A.Fuentes@usace.army.mil>

Wed, Dec 20, 2023 at 12:34 PM

To: Alaska Williams <awilliams9041@gmail.com>

Cc: "Curnes, Sydney E CIV USARMY CELRN (USA)" <Sydney.E.Curnes@usace.army.mil>

Good Afternoon Mr. Alaska,

I wanted to give you a brief update. We have officially submitted the project to HQ. They are working on approval and will be sending funding as soon as they can. They are tracking a middle of January end date for sign ordering, so we **\*should\*** have the funding in house by then (hopefully within the next week or so pending holiday leave schedules). I would like to set up a meeting with a few folks from our end and yours to discuss the project in a bit more detail. We have requested enough funding to support the sign purchase as well as some labor for us to participate how we can.

I am still finding the best person to be at the ribbon cutting ceremony from USACE, but since we do not have an exact date right now, it will be hard to determine the person/people who will be present. Please do not let me forget to talk about the 1-3 sentences that we will need to add to the plaque to ensure that it satisfies the "flood Risk" component of the Floodplain Management Services Program. I will work with our team here to ensure it will fit on the sign. Let's plan on circling up after the New Year for that meeting. Is there a day and time that works in your schedule for the first few weeks?

I hope this news finds you well.

Ashley Fuentes

Chief, Environmental and Cultural Section

TN Silver Jackets Coordinator

Planning Branch

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Cell: 615.490.1275

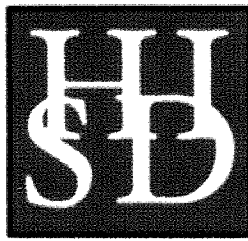
Alaska Williams <awilliams9041@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 20, 2023 at 1:19 PM

To: Larry Kirksey <larrykirksey@yahoo.com>

[Quoted text hidden]

12 P4



**HARLAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

TEL. (606) 573-8700  
FAX (606) 573-8711

420 E. CENTRAL ST.  
HARLAN, KY 40831

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

1395

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the Rosenwald Harlanites organization and their mission to continue to the legacy of Rosenwald High School through their generous gifts for scholarship and financial aid to deserving students.

The Harlan Independent School is proud of our current and historical connection with the Rosenwald Harlanites organization. Upon the integration of schools, Rosenwald and Harlan began a partnership that served to strengthen and diversify the educational experience for our school and community.

We are proud to support the Rosenwald Harlanites in their efforts to commemorate their school, community, and contribution to the betterment of all Harlan County.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Morton, Superintendent

Top Header is 2" tall  
 Other Headers are 0.785" tall  
 Verbiage is 0.3" tall / 70 kerning  
 Names are 0.25" tall / 70 kerning

40x48 Georgetown Plaque•ASI  
 Alaska Williams

# GEORGETOWN

## GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN - 1904 TO 1977 DEDICATED - 2024

TORRENTIAL RAIN FELL APRIL 2-5 OF 1977 CAUSING DEVASTATING FLOODING ACROSS SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY, SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA AND PARTS OF TENNESSEE. SEVERAL COUNTIES IN KENTUCKY WERE DECLARED A DISASTER, INCLUDING HARLAN COUNTY. THE DEPTH OF MARTINS FORK RIVER AT THE CITY OF HARLAN DURING THE 1977 FLOOD WAS ABOUT 27 FEET ABOVE NORMAL STREAM LEVEL. HUNDREDS OF HOMES AND BUSINESSES WERE DESTROYED, AND THE COMMUNITY SUFFERED A GREAT LOSS. PARTICULARLY IMPACTED WAS GEORGETOWN, A BLACK COMMUNITY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF HARLAN ALONG THE FLOODPLAIN. AFTER THE FLOODING EVENT, THE CITY OF HARLAN WORKED WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NASHVILLE DISTRICT, TO CONSTRUCT THIS FLOODWALL. THE FLOODWALL WAS COMPLETED IN 1996 AND DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A GREAT LEVEL OF PROTECTION FROM FUTURE FLOODS.

"GEORGETOWN WAS A VIBRANT BLACK COMMUNITY. WHEN YOU CROSSED GEORGETOWN BRIDGE, IT FELT LIKE HOME.

KENTUCKY AVENUE AND GREEN STREET WERE THE MAIN STREETS, AND THEN THERE WERE THE ALLEYS THAT HAD NO NAMES BUT WERE A VITAL PART OF THE TOWN'S CHARACTER. LINING THESE STREETS AND ALLEYS WERE ABOUT SIXTY QUAINT HOUSES WHERE PREACHERS, TEACHERS, BUSINESSMEN, NURSES, COAL MINERS AND MANY OTHERS OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONS LIVED. WE WERE HARDWORKING PEOPLE, UNITED BY A BOND OF FRIENDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP. WE ATTENDED ONE OF TWO CHURCHES ON SUNDAY. WE SHOPPED IN THE STORES OF DOWNTOWN HARLAN. HARLAN WAS THE PLACE TO BE ON THE WEEKEND. HOWEVER, IF YOU WERE BLACK, GEORGETOWN WAS THE PLACE TO GO. YOU WERE INVITED TO A BACKYARD BARBECUE OR TO JUST COME UP ON THE PORCH TO TALK FOR A WHILE. KIDS WERE SAFE PLAYING IN THE PARK, RIDING BIKES IN THE STREETS OR DROPPING IN ON FRIENDS. THE PARK WAS AT THE END OF KENTUCKY AVENUE. IT WAS EITHER A FOOTBALL FIELD IN THE FALL OR A BASEBALL FIELD IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER. IT ALSO HAD A BASKETBALL COURT, A TENNIS COURT, AND OTHER PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT. THE ONLY BLACK FULL-SIZE SWIMMING POOL IN THE COUNTY WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. HOWEVER, MOST OF US LEARNED TO SWIM IN THE NICKEL HOLE, WHICH WAS PART OF THE CUMBERLAND RIVER. THE HALL WAS THE SOCIAL AND ENTERTAINMENT CORNERSTONE FOR GEORGETOWN. IT HAD A POOL ROOM, BARBER SHOP, MUSIC, DANCING, FOOD AND MORE. WE WERE FRIENDS AND FAMILY AND WE LIVED, WORKED, AND PLAYED TOGETHER AND KNEW WE COULD DEPEND ON EACH OTHER. GEORGETOWN WAS THE LIFELINE FOR MANY GROWING UP IN TRYING TIMES. IT DOES NOT EXIST ON THE MAP ANYMORE, BUT IT WILL LIVE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS."

- CO-CHAIRMAN OF ROSENWALD HARLANITES MID-MICHIGAN, ALASKA WILLIAMS AND LARRY KIRKSEY

### GEORGETOWN FAMILIES

WILLIE & ANNA MAE ALLEN	MILDRED ALLEN	CECELIA ALLEN	WALT & JOSEPHINE ARNOLD	WILLIAM & ELIZABETH AVERY	MARY BANKS	CORNELIUS AVERY	CLAUDE & VIRGINIA BEACH
WHEELER & GERTIE BEACH	JAKE BLUNT	FRANK & MAE BODY	DELORIS (MAMIE) BODY	JOHN & GERTRUDE BROOKS	HENRY & LOILA BROWN	LINDSAY BROWN	BEULAH BROWN
ROBERT BROWN	EDNA BROWN	MR. BROWNFIELD	JOHN RUCHANAN	MARTHA CARLISLE	LEWIS & DARATHESTER CARTER	BLEASE & CORA CARTER	ESTELLE CARTER
JUNIOR CARTER	WILLIA DEAN CARTER	GERNICE CHAMBERS	MR. CHISLUM	HANNAH CLARK	SYLVESTER SR. & EMMA COOK	MARY JANE CORNETT	JOE & JESSIE CORNETT
ELIZABETH CORNETT	LOVELESS & RUBY COTTON	WILLIE COTTON	LOUBELLA CRANFORD	WILLIAM SR. & LORENE CRANFORD	SHED & MILDRED DAWSON	DEWITT & MARY LOLA DAVENPORT	ERNIE DAVIS
JIM & FOREST DAVIS	ESSIE DAVIS	EMMA DEADWILDER	NELLA MAE BENSON	OTIS DUPREE	RUBEN & NINA ELLISON	CHARLES & PRINCELLA FARROW	RICHARD & SUSIE FIELDS
PAYE FIELDS	ERNEST & ANNA RUTH FITZGERALD	MARY JANE FLOWERS	LEVESTER & PRICILLA FORESTER	WILLIE MAE FORESTER	PHILLIP & JEANETTE FLUKER	KATIE BELL GARIE	BUTTERCUP GHOLSTON
MYRTLE GHOLSTON	JOHN L. GOINS	LORETTA GRAY	MELVIN & GENEVA GRAY	WILLIE & BILLIE GRAY	JAMES & FRANCES GRAY	GERALDINE GREER	GEORGE GRIFFITH
JOHN & MYRTLE HALE	FRED & ANNETTA HANNAH	JIM & AMANDA HANNAH	SYLUS & MARY ELIZABETH HARBIN	MELVIN & ELIZABETH HARBIN	MAMIE HARRIS	OTIS & BERTHA MAE HENDERSON	MARY JANE HENDERSON
BEATRICE HENSLEY	EMMA PEARL HINTON	VESSIE (VES) HINTON	IRVIN LEE & ADDIE HOLLINGSWORTH	LUCILLE HORN	INEZ HUFF	BENNIE MAE HUGHES	CHARLIE HUNTER
KENDRICK & DORA HURST	DEE JACKSON	WALTER & HAZEL JAMES	EARL & NEDUIE JARMAN	WILLIAM & FANNIE JENNINGS	JAMES & AGGIE JOHNS	ANNA B. JOHNSON	ELZA JOHNSON
WILLIAM & MARIE FRANCES JONES	ROBERT & OTTIE JONES	HAZEL JONES	EZRA & BLONDINE JONES	ESTILL KING	JAMES & SALLY MITCHEL KIRKSEY	CREOLA LANG	JOE OLLIE LEE
HARVEY & FRANCES LEE	RICHARD & SUSIE LEE	SYLVESTER MARTIN	DOVIE MAE MARTIN	HORACE & MARY MCCONNELL	JAMES & MARY ANN MCKINLEY	LAWRENCE & PRUDENCE MCKINLEY	GEORGE & LOLA MILLS
BENNIE SR. & MARY PATTON	LARRY C. & QUEENIE PERKINS	ROOSEVELT POPEYE	JACK & GEORGIA REED	HERBERT & TOMMIE LEE RHODEMAN	ED & LAURA RODGERS	CHRISTINE ROSS	DAVID ROSS
SHERMAN ROSS	WILLIE & NOVELLA SAMUELS	CHARLES & LUCINDA SANDFORD	EDDIE SANDFORD	GLADYS SANDFORD	EDDIE & AMANDA STALLINGS	JESSIE STARKS	SUNSHINE MAE SWAIN
CHARLIE SWAIN	DOSHA TABB	OBEY TENTMAN	REV. PHILLIP & MARY TENTMAN	WILLIAM TENTMAN	KING TERRELL	LESTER SR. & ALICE THOMAS	AMANDA THOMPSON
ROY THOMPSON	SARAH THOMPSON	LEAN TUGGLE	ANNA D TYSON	FANNIE WALKER	FRANCIS (BESSIE) CURD	TOLBERT AND LEOLA WALKER	WILLIAM & ELIZABETH WALKER
RUBY WEAVER	FRANCIS WEAVER	LUICE & ADDIE WHITTIES	ELIZABETH WILLIAMS	DARSAW & HELEN WILLIAMS	ETHEL WILLIAMS	GERNICE WILLIAMS	ALONZO SR. & ESSIE WILLIAMS
TOOTSIE WILSON	JOSEPHINE WRIGHT	GEORGE & EMMA YOUNG					

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### BLACK DIGNITARIES OF HARLAN

LARRY KIRKSEY

NFL COACH, KY FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME 2022

WILLIS MEEKS

NASA SCIENTIST

DR. BETTY HENDERSON

ROCHESTER, NY

ROZEL HOLLINGSWORTH JR.

CHIEF U.S. PROBATION EASTERN KY

AUBREY WILLIAMS

ATTORNEY, JUDGE, KY STATE LEGISLATOR

DR. GEORGENNA RILEY

MERCY HOSPITAL

DDS DONNA WALKER

CINCINNATI, OHIO

MRS. DANNA WOOD WEBB

ATTORNEY NY, NY, ASST. DEAN COLUMBIA U.

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June 27, 2024

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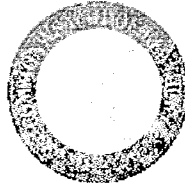
# Acclamation

to

Andy Beshear  
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



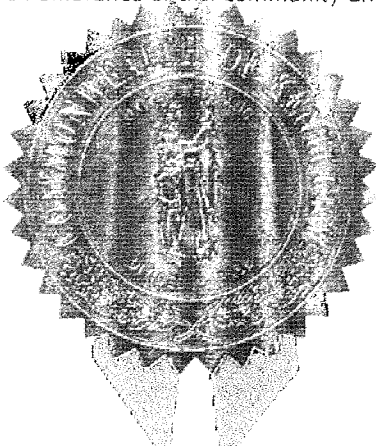
*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

- WHEREAS, Georgetown, once a vibrant Black community in the city of Harlan, Kentucky, was destroyed during an unprecedented flooding incident nearly five decades ago; and
- WHEREAS, Georgetown, with dozens of homes lining Kentucky Avenue and Green Street, was a close-knit community near the banks of the Cumberland River connected to downtown Harlan by the Georgetown Bridge. This low-slung bridge was used daily to make the ten-minute walk to town; and
- WHEREAS, Devastating flooding occurred during a torrential rainstorm which began on April 2 and ended on April 5 in 1977, causing the normally calm branches of Martins Fork on the Cumberland River to rise 27 feet above its normal stream; and
- WHEREAS, The residents of Georgetown feared the worst as the waters receded, and the community suffered irreversible damage. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed flood walls and ordered the evacuation of the citizens of the Georgetown community; and
- WHEREAS, The hardworking residents of Georgetown, united for generations by fellowship and friendship, had no choice but to move elsewhere; and
- WHEREAS, Today, the land has been reclaimed for a new high school football field and tennis courts, but the former residents and their descendants have not forgotten Georgetown and are gathering for a dedication in honor of this former community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ANDY BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby pay tribute to

## **THE FORMER GEORGETOWN COMMUNITY, HARLAN COUNTY**

in remembrance of this community and the people who once lived and worked there.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four and in the 233<sup>rd</sup> year of the Commonwealth.

ANDY BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR