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Psalm 100:3

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Volume 10 Number 49

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

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Morgan County Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

On Hi Alert

Pappy left in the car. I don't know where he went. That man is always going somewhere. Ms Ivory and me, we miss that feller when he leaves.

He goes somewhere almost every day, that he calls work. It must be far away cause he is gone for a hours.

Well, somehow I figured out when it is time for him to get home. So, when Ms Ivory became my sister I shared the secret with her.

Now, we both start looking at the door about 30 minutes before he comes home. Mimi says that we are so smart.

Any-woof today when he left, we were sitting on the porch On HI Alert. All the while, patiently waiting to say HI to our Pap and give him wuff and tail wags. We knew he was coming even before we saw the car. We sounded the alarm, to let Mimi know Pap was back. We were so excited. Even though, he was only gone for 15 minutes.



He got out of the car and we were so thrilled! "HI, Pappy! We missed you and we wuff you!" He came in and gave us ear scratches and belly rubs. He said he missed his girls and he wuffs us, too. Ain't he just the sweetest feller in the world? Well we sure think so.

Hope everyone has a great week and stays warm.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Anyone having reason to believe that this permit should not be issued, must appear before the Morgan County Beer Board on the 12th day of December 2024 at 5:00 pm in the Office of the County Clerk.

White Oak Missionary Baptist Church of Sunbright's Christmas Program

White Oak Miss. Baptist Church/Sunbright will be having their annual Christmas Program "Encounters with Jesus" on Sunday, December 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Pastor Brent invites everyone to attend and promises to be blessed.

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

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— In Loving Memory —

Wanda June Lane Nelson



kets and yard sales. One of the highlights of her life was being cast as an extra in the movie "October Sky" in 1998 when it was being filmed here in Morgan County.

Wanda is survived by her sons Roger (Mary) Nelson, Randy (Lanita) Nelson and Steve; grandchildren Amanda (Esan) Hamby and James Nelson; great grandchildren Dillon (Kristy) Nelson, Charlee Nelson, Malory Hamby, and Lindsey Nelson; great grandchildren Easton, Bristol, Kingslee, Ely, and Allie. And a host of extended family and friends.

The family will have a private graveside at Forestner Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wanda June Lane Nelson.

Wanda June Lane Nelson, passed away peacefully at her home on November 19, 2024 after many health issues.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 67 years, Clifford Nelson; mother Minnie and father Gibson Lane.

Wanda was truly a wonderful, kind and thoughtful mother and grandmother who loved her kids, grandchildren, and great grandchildren very much. She was a homemaker and enjoyed sewing and cooking for her family and enjoyed flea mar-

Estel Jr Nelson, 54



parents Claude & Ruby Chambers, Wade & Beulah Nelson, Rev. Chuck & Peggy Duncan.

He is survived by his mother Barbara Lou Nelson; aunt Betty J. Bowlin and uncle Roy E. Chambers and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

The family has chosen cremation and no services are scheduled at this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Estel Jr Nelson.

Estel Jr Nelson, age 54, of Oneida passed away November 27, 2024. He was born June 10, 1970 to Estel Lee & Barbara Lou Chambers

He is preceded in death by his father Estel Lee Nelson; grand-

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 123:1

**Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.**

Rev. Dr. Donald R. Long, 84 - Veteran of the United States Marine Corps



He is preceded in death by his parents, John Riley and Bessie Long; sisters: Herlene Dickens, Geneva Melroy, Mary Davis, Kay Bradshaw, Janice Hurt and Brothers: Alvin Long, Ed Long, Owen Long, Orton Long, Harold Long, Gilbert Long, and Floyd Long; father and mother-in-law, Jesse Wayne and Oma Childs.

Bro. Long is survived by his loving wife of 55 years Nora Childs Long. Daughters: Pamela (Scott) Byers of Kingston, Donna (John) Rast of Ooltewah; grandchildren: Rebecca (Cody) Anderson of Kingston, Mark (Naomi) Byers of Mainz, Germany, Nathanael Byers of Dubuque, Iowa, Lauralee (Caleb) Fox of Seattle, WA., and Maryclaire Rast of Ooltewah; great granddaughters: Olivia Anderson of Kingston and Lydia Byers of Mainz

Germany and a host of nieces, nephews and special friend Dr. Billy Joe Edmonds.

Bro. Don faithfully served the Lord in many churches in Tennessee and Florida as pastor. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp and served as Chaplain with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, Florida Highway Patrol, and several City Police Departments and Sheriff Departments.

Bro. Don touched many lives and will be greatly missed. He loved the Lord Jesus and served Him each day. His favorite Bible Verse was Romans 8:28.

The family will receive friends Thursday, December 5, 2024 at South Harriman Baptist Church in Harriman, TN. from 4:00-7:00

p.m. with the funeral service to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Scott Carter, Rev. Randy Griffis, and Rev. Mark Byers officiating. Graveside services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Rockwood, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rev. Dr. Donald R. Long.



Our beloved Husband, Dad, and Heydad, Rev. Dr. Donald R. Long, age 84, went to be with Jesus on December 3, 2024 at his home.

He is with the One who Redeemed him and who he faithfully served as a Preacher of the Gospel for over 60 years. During his ministry, many souls came to Christ.



— In Loving Memory —

Kathleen Melton Byrd, 89



Mrs. Kathleen Melton Byrd, age 89 of Lansing, went home to be with the Lord Tuesday December 3, 2024, at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge surrounded by her family.

Kathy was instrumental in founding the Morgan County Genealogical and Historical Society. Along with Sammy Ruth McPeters, Kathy put in untold hours of legwork researching

and compiling information using Microfilm Readers. She was most proud of her work in this endeavor. Kathy served as the Librarian for many years at the Wartburg Public Library and was also the Morgan County Election Commissioner for a period of time. In her spare time, she took a keen interest in decorating and in flowers. Her family would tell you of her specific interest in curtains and would probably share stories of her many decorating fiascos. Her children would say she was the epitome of "Mom" and in her words, she loved her family "more than anything in this world". If you knew Kathy, you loved Kathy.

She was preceded in death by her husband: James "Jim" Byrd Her parents: Dewey and "Gertie" Williams Melton One infant son:

Daniel Byrd Two sisters: Christine and Ermadean Melton One brother: Eugene Melton One grandson: Bradley Alan Byrd II And one son in law: Lacy Gosnell.

She is survived by five sons and two daughters-in-law: Randy, Mike, Mark, Brad and Buffy Byrd, and Joel and Jill Byrd. One daughter: Kelly Gosnell. Eight grandchildren: Lauren and Carlos Salgado, Lindsay Byrd, Jerrika and Justin Steelman, Bethany and Josh Kidd, Abby Byrd, Ali Watson, Kaylee Gosnell and Zachary Freeman Four great grandchildren Two sisters and one brother-in-law: Emma and Ramon Newman, and Yvonne Armes. One brother and sister-in-law: Doug and Karen Melton. Special Friends: Lucy Sweat and Sue Scott And a host of oth-

er nieces, nephews, family and loved ones.

The family will receive friends Friday December 6, 2024, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 7:00 PM with Bro. Charles Webb, Bro. Justin Steelman and Bro. Josh Kidd officiating. Graveside services will be held Saturday morning at 11:00 AM in Clear Creek Cemetery.

Davis Funeral Home, Wartburg, is honored to serve the family of Mrs. Kathleen Melton Byrd.

Condolences may be sent to the family at: www.davisfuneralhomes.com

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.



Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.





**Tom Redmon
Columnist**

The Cancer Centers of America – What They Stand For

It's been quite a few years since I discovered the Mayo Cancer Centers of America and the best-known cancer hospitals in our country. Most of us hope we'll never have to visit one of these places.

The family and I were doing great in 1992 before Wanda, my wife came down with the dreaded disease called cancer. But in the Fall of 1993 my world came tumbling down and around midnight on December 29, 1993 as our family sat in a conference room on the 3rd floor of Manatee Memorial Hospital in fear of what the doctor was about to tell us. Wanda had been sick for too long and her family doctor had misdiagnosed her problem.

It has been too long for me to remember the doctor's name but I'll have to hand it to us as gentle as he could. The first question was from, Wanda, "How long do I have?" The good doctor said "well that depends."

When we found out what kind of cancer she had we decided to try to find the best treatment that we could find for Wanda. We found out the best nearby was Moffett Cancer Center around sixty miles north of our home. We also found out that pancreatic cancer was one of the worst and hardest to treat. I didn't want to believe any of the negative things about pancreatic cancer. I just thought every case was different and our Lord could heal her. We would take her all over the country if necessary.

I called Gene Witt to see if he could get her in a lot faster. It proved not to be a problem and I ended up taking her up there many times. Every time I took her up there, I hated to know from the doctors and nurses how she was doing, not that she was doing okay. I wanted to know if the tumor had decreased in size. One time Wanda got a call from the lab that the tumor had decreased in size by 25%. She came through the house praising the Lord.

As time went on everything seemed to be at a standstill. My family and I were not certain that Moffett was doing everything for Wanda that they should or could. That is when Robin, my daughter, came to me with an idea. She said, "Dad I saw this ad on T.V. about Cancer Centers of America, so I called them and I want you to consider it. Everything is free, all they require is your health insurance. They even furnished an apartment or room for you, they feed you healthy meals, they have a car for you to drive around town, and other things to make your stay at Cancer Centers of America as comfortable as they can. Oh yes, "and they buy round trip plane tickets for

you so there are no expenses at all." A friend of mine had taken his wife to one of the centers and he confirmed everything.

I called them and they sent us up at the center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They said my wife and I would have four doctors to work with us. The three main ones would be responsible for the physical, mental, and spiritual side, and the fourth would be a counselor. We would be there an entire week.

At the time I was going through the building of a new school on the campus. I found out right away that the Manatee County School System was going to help me in anyway they could. Gene Witt sent an assistant principal out to fill in for me. He told me not to be concerned about a thing at my school. We are here for you. Let me tell you they were. My teachers and staff bent over backward to keep the problems to a minimum: Little problems they tried to solve themselves. When I got back from Tulsa there were no school problems for me to solve.



The flight to Tulsa was eventful. Somewhere over Missouri our plane went straight down at a fast speed. I looked at Wanda and asked if she had experienced anything like this. She said, "no but this was really bad." The pilot came on the mic and said, "Sorry folks we just hit some rough weather."

When we reached Tulsa airport, we found a big car waiting for us. They took us to our room and handed me an agenda of our week. I cannot remember any of the doctors' names but they were all excellent. The spiritual doctor was from Harriman, Tennessee and she became a good friend to us. We met some good people who like us were praying for a miracle.

The wife of one couple we met looked like she was in bad shape. I often wonder about all the people we met. I know that cancer is a killer and when we someone goes to a Cancer Center of America, they are pretty close to the bottom, meaning this could be their last hope. One of the doctors told us they planted a tree on the property and placed a plaque with your name on it with the tree if you survived five years. There were very few trees planted there.

Wanda and I drove around some but she didn't feel well so we went back to our room. What I'd like to tell you about Cancer Centers of America is that they treat you like royalty. I had read up on pancreatic cancer and I knew Wanda's chances were slim but I believe in miracles. Thank you, Cancer Centers of America, for your wonderful outlook and for how you treated us.



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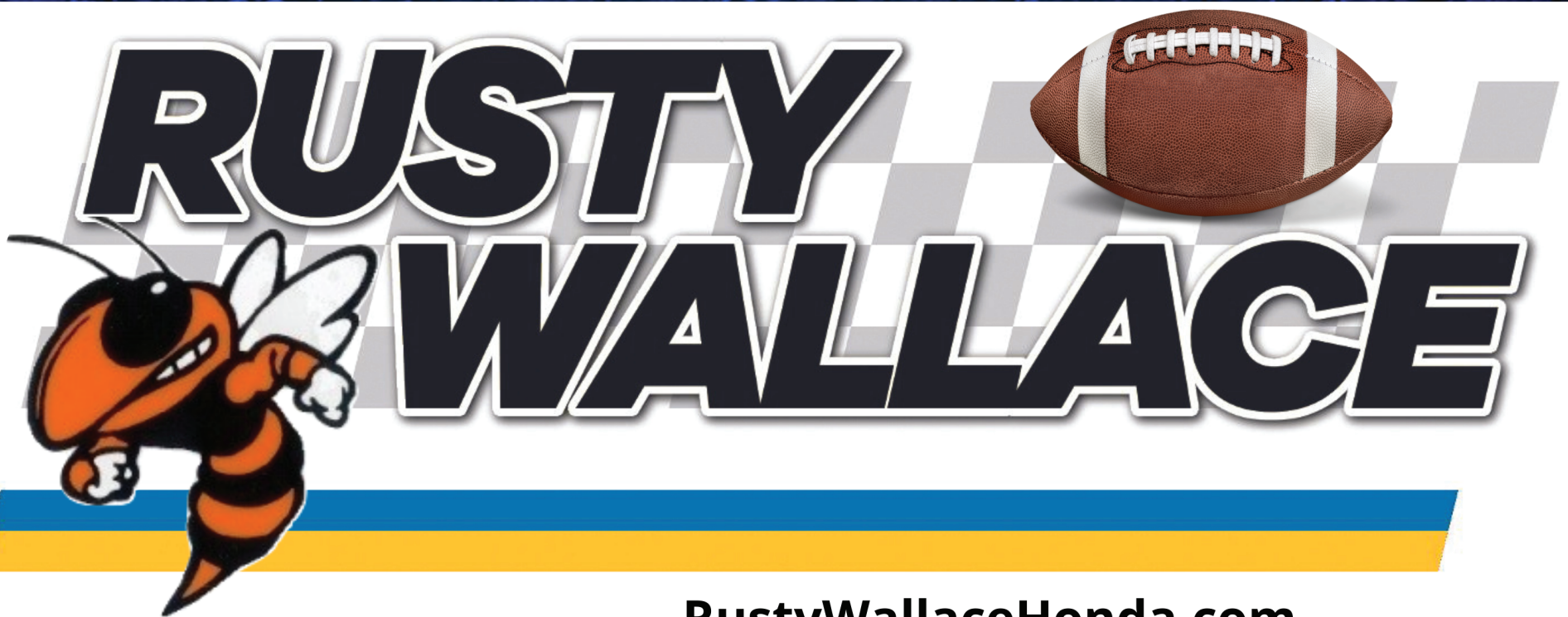
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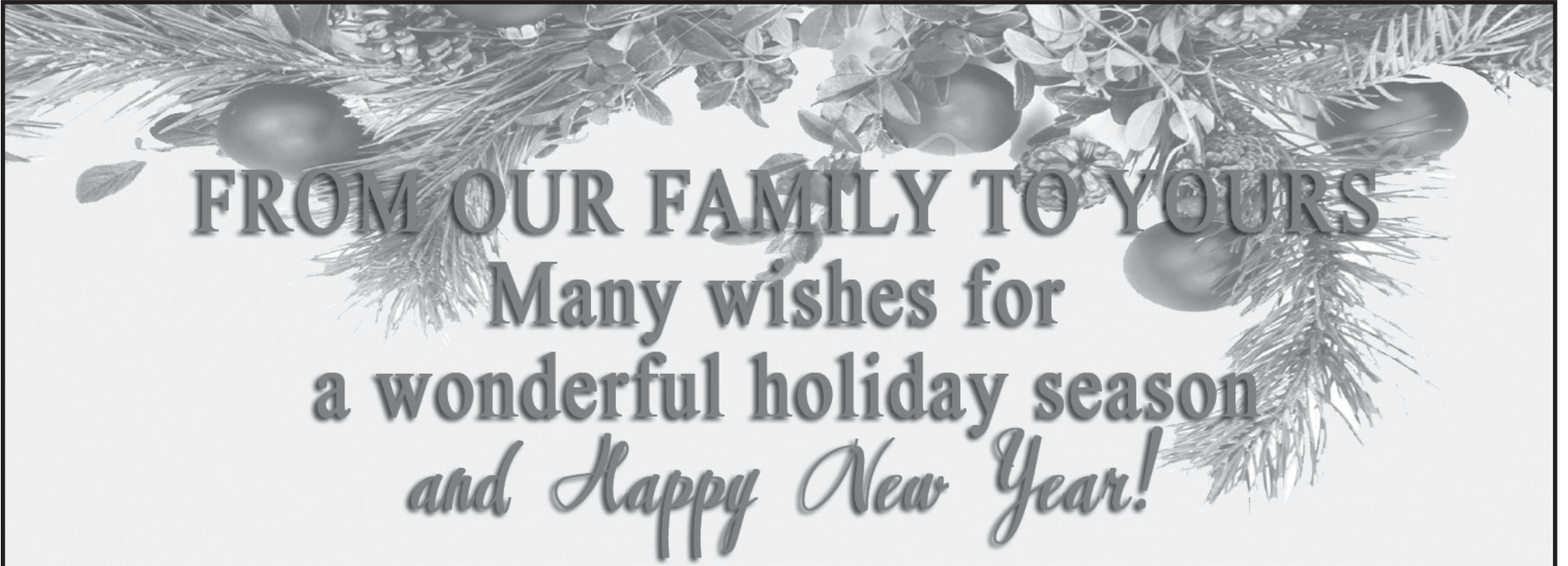
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David Zubler
Columnist

Trump picks new IRS Commissioner

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen former Missouri Representative Billy Long to become the new IRS commissioner.

"I am pleased to announce that former Congressman Billy Long, of the Great State of Missouri, will be appointed to serve as the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service," Trump said in a Truth Social post. "Billy brings 32 years of experience running his own businesses in real estate and, as one of the premier auctioneers in the country."

Trump also shared in the Truth Social post that since Long left Congress, he has worked as a tax adviser and helped people interpret IRS regulations.

"Taxpayers and the wonderful employees of the IRS will love having Billy at the helm. He is the consummate 'people person,' well respected on both sides of the aisle." Trump said.

Republicans have been in opposition to the Biden administration's vision for the IRS. The Inflation Reduction Act provided \$80 billion in additional funding to the IRS over the next 10 years. The plan included hiring 87,000 IRS employees over the 10-year period. G.O.P. lawmakers have already successfully canceled \$20 billion of the funding.

Danny Werfel was chosen to be the IRS Commissioner by President Biden in March 2023 and has been implementing the IRS expansion and technology changes.

House Ways and Means committee member Kevin Hern (R-Okla) said "a Republican mandate from the people and the voters that we need to rescind as much as possible, and I think that will part be part of this going forward" regarding the Republicans' plan to pass a reconciliation bill.

Since Presidents don't typically select the new Commissioner when they come into office, the Senate will need to confirm Billy Long for him to take over the position immediately after Trump becomes President.

Major tax legislation is expected now that is Trump in office. Without legislative action, Trump's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act tax changes will expire after 2025. The changes include lower individual income tax rates, higher standard deduction, larger child tax credit, larger lifetime estate and gift tax exemptions, and the Qualified Business Income (QBI) deduction.

Tax changes are a top priority on Trump's legislative agenda.

Trump has proposed abolishing the income tax on Social Security benefits, letting individuals deduct their car interest, use tax incentives and tax credits to promote home ownership, and bring back 100% first-year bonus depreciation and allow more expensing.

David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.

FLASHBACK, By Mick Harper

1. Name the original title of the Beatles film "Help!"
2. What was a deuce coupe in the Beach Boys' song?
3. "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" was a big hit for which group?
4. What was Jesse Belvin's biggest hit?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "All we need is a drummer, for people who only need a beat."

Answers

1. "Eight Arms to Hold You." In the 1965 musical comedy, a sinister cult (complete with mad scientists) is after Ringo, who has a special ring they want.
2. The deuce coupe was a 1932 Ford Model 18. The same model car also appeared in "American Graffiti" in 1973.
3. The Rolling Stones, in 1965. The song topped the charts in the U.S., but in the U.K. it was played on pirate radio stations at first because it was considered to be too suggestive.
4. "Goodnight My Love" in 1956. Belvin died at the age of 27 in a suspicious car accident after playing a concert in 1960.
5. "Dance to the Music," by Sly and the Family Stone, in 1967. It was their first song to get into the Top 10. Thirty years later the song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

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Historically Speaking**Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak****Ridge: The Manhattan Project Underway, Part 2**

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Scollin, grandniece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols continues her series on his life.

Ample reasons, most notably leadership skills, personality traits and qualifications, led to choosing General (then Colonel) Kenneth D. Nichols as Deputy District Engineer and subsequently as District Engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). In this capacity he had supervision of the research and development connected with, and the design, construction and operation of all plants required to produce plutonium-239 and uranium-235, including the construction of the towns of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Richland, Washington.

The responsibility of his position was massive as he oversaw a workforce of both military and civilian personnel of approximately 125,000; his Oak Ridge office became the center of the wartime atomic energy's activities. He also was responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

In this eighth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of command restructuring in the Manhattan Project.

Early in September 1942, General Styer requested Lt Colonel Nichols meet with him and bring Colonel Groves. Styer relayed certain concerns of Dr. Vannevar Bush, informed them of President Roosevelt's approval for a new Manhattan Project setup (including changing Colonel Groves' duties), and ordered completion of a higher priority rating for the project from AA-3 to AA-1 (aka AAA).

Groves, when informed he would be the Officer in Charge of the entire Manhattan Project, was not pleased, but Nichols recalls, "Despite his initial unhappiness with the assignment, once Groves fully took over the reins of the project, on September 23, 1942, I never again heard him voice a single word of regret. Once in charge, he quickly moved to assume de facto control not only of construction but also control of all research and development, operation of the plants, development of the bomb and the military aspects of the projection."

Marshall said, "I was told by Styer that Groves would handle the end down... [in Washington D.C.] and do whatever is necessary. ... I had written orders designating me District Engineer of the Manhattan District to report directly to the Chief of Engineers. That was the written orders, and the secret orders or verbal orders, was to do whatever this S-1 committee [wanted] – get the money for them, and see where we are going to build these plants and so forth..."

For the next 10 months Nichols worked for two bosses – Marshall (in New York) and Groves (in Washington D.C.). His time was stretched thin. Marshall recalls, "Immediately, I got Nichols... to accompany me practically every time I went over to these S-1 committees or went over to deal with Bush. "So gradually, Nichols and I together got the word across to Vannevar Bush and Conant and all the Nobel Prize people over there on these committees that this was a big engineering job ...

"I left more and more of the Washington work to Nichols, who being a PhD and a very bright fellow and more personable than I ever was, got along with the scientists."

Nichols and Marshall recall their secret journal,

Nichols: "We [Groves & Nichols] coordinated our efforts by telephone, short meetings and by entries in the project diary that Marshall had started the day Styer appointed him district engineer."

Marshall: "I started a secret journal ... and the only ones that had access to that time... was Colonel [Robert] Blair, the Chief Engineer, ... Nichols who was my Deputy District Engineer, and my secretary Ms. [Virginia] Olsson."

Eventually Marshall strategically decided to

simplify the chain of command. Marshall recalls, "... after four or five months, I proposed to Groves that they didn't need me – that Nichols could relieve me... Nichols could take over this thing tomorrow and let me go off to war."

Marshall, anxious to be "off to war" had fulfilled his mission with the MED after one year. Nichols recalls, "I have always felt that he [Marshall] did one of the biggest jobs in the Manhattan District of lining [up] of people. All the original organization was under him..., he knew the people and brought



Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols, District Engineer, Manhattan Engineer District Oak Ridge Administration Office, "The Castle on the Hill"
(Photo by Ed Westcott. Courtesy Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt)

them and did an excellent job of it. He left after a year ... it was Marshall that got... the bulk of the people for the Manhattan Project."

By July 20, 1943, Dr. Vannevar Bush had initiated Marshall's reassignment. Nichols recalled that Bush's main objections to Marshall were: he hadn't stayed in Washington D.C.; he was not high-ranking enough; and, he had not purchased the Oak Ridge site soon enough. Marshall was promoted to Brigadier General and eventually designated Assistant Chief of Staff of the US Army Services of Supply in the Southwest

Pacific area. Marshall's Manhattan Project duties and Manhattan Engineer District duties were split between Groves and Nichols.

Nichols was tasked by General Styers to inform Groves of his promotion to Brigadier General. With his first star, Brig General Groves was put in charge of the Manhattan Project as Commanding General. Groves acted as an Assistant Chief of Engineers reporting directly to Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, to the Military Policy Committee and to the Secretary of War, Mr. Henry Stimson. (Groves never was part of the Manhattan Engineer District.)

Nichols explains, "Initially... we didn't know what authority we had. We didn't worry. ... '43 or '44 [when] actually signing the DuPont contract ... was the first time that we formalized ... the authority [Brig] General Groves had and the authority [I had as] the District Engineer ... General Groves' authorities were quite extensive. In fact, I believe that in certain aspects they were greater than the Chief of Engineers' [Lt Gen Eugene Reybold]. [General Groves' authority] derived directly from Mr. Stimson, Secretary of War...in effect, the Secretary of War delegated practically all of his war powers to General Groves in so far as it pertained to the Manhattan Project. ... Much of that authority was in turn delegated to me as District Engineer."

Marshall and Groves ensured Nichols was promoted to full Colonel; Nichols was designated District Engineer, entirely responsible for the Manhattan Engineer District. Nichols reported directly to Groves on all matters instead of to the Chief of Engineers.

Nichols never served as Groves' assistant, deputy or personal aide during the war.

Nichols explains the segregation of duties: "The way it finally was settled after Marshall left was that I was the District Engineer and would have full responsibility, considering the way Groves operated, for the design, construction and operation of all the plants and for all the project except for Intelligence, overseas work, the training for the bomb delivery, and Los Alamos. I had administrative responsibility for Los

Alamos, but not technical."

It was now clear to Nichols that he would not be going into combat duty. He said, "My own advancement, while indeed welcomed, ended for all practical purposes my hopes for an overseas assignment as a combat engineer. By this time, however, I realized the importance, urgency, and challenge of my work, so I did not mind giving up my dream of commanding engineers in combat."

Colonel Nichols recalls the routing of reports to inform those further up the chain of command including the President, "The [MED] District made a narrative report once a month... addressed to [Brig] General Groves, but before delivering it to General Groves, I would visit either General [Thomas M.] Reybold [Chief of Engineers] or General [Eugene] Robins, let them read the report and explain what we were doing. In ... no case I recall did General Robins or General Reybold ever try to revoke a procedure that we were following. Occasionally, they would give us good advice on some particular problem that we had, but they considered that General Groves was running this project and that they would not interfere.

"However, we got on many occasions good advice and offers of assistance through some part of the Chief's office... we recognized that the Chief's office had a vast wealth of knowledge and experience that could help us.

"... every six months, I would assist Groves in writing a report... to the President, and [Groves] would have frequent meetings with the Policy Committee for various other authorities that he needed. Then [he would] pass to me [what] was done verbally at a meeting... Because of secrecy, we had nothing between Oak Ridge and Washington flowing in the line of letters.

"I did not see how it would be possible to cover in writing all the informal decisions that were made at the numerous meetings involved. Formal procedures would be time-consuming for both of us and definitely would slow the work.

"Between General Groves and [I], there was never any written directive except in one case. You see, I always helped him prepare the letters to the President and I would keep a copy of them in my safe. I knew what authority he had, what had been approved. The understanding was as long as I was working within those limits, why, he was aware of what was going on, that was it.

"I had the same relationship with my Area Engineers and subordinates that they would give the necessary approval that would be required of a contractor– like approving a drawing. ... We figured that we would get on the job the best man and therefore you were doing was coordinating it with some other activity."

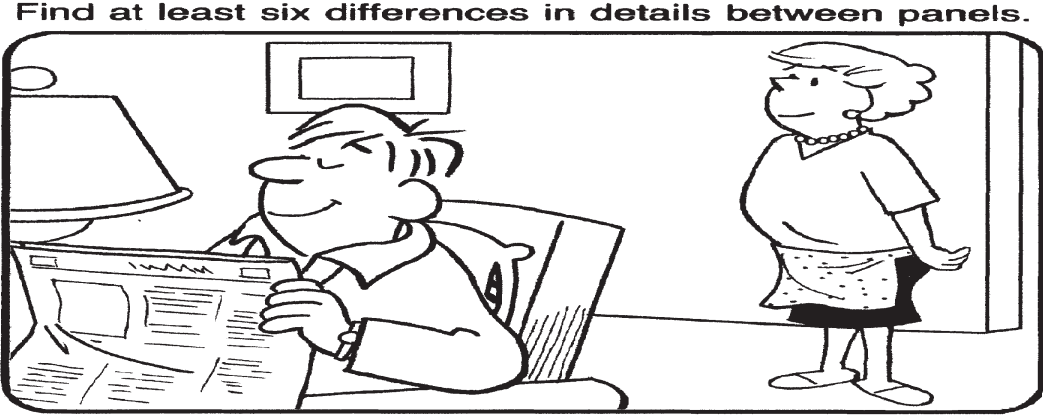
In summary: Leadership on full display.

Next up: The Manhattan Project Underway, Part 3 Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bianka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt; Diane Gulley; Gerald A. Potts; and Bruce W. Scollin for their assistance with this article.

Thanks, Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of General Kenneth D. Nichols, for continuing to provide insights into the life of your great uncle, Major General Kenneth D. Nichols. Your excellent research is shedding light on aspects of his life that have not been as well recognized as they should be. Keep up the good work!

HOCUS-FOCUS

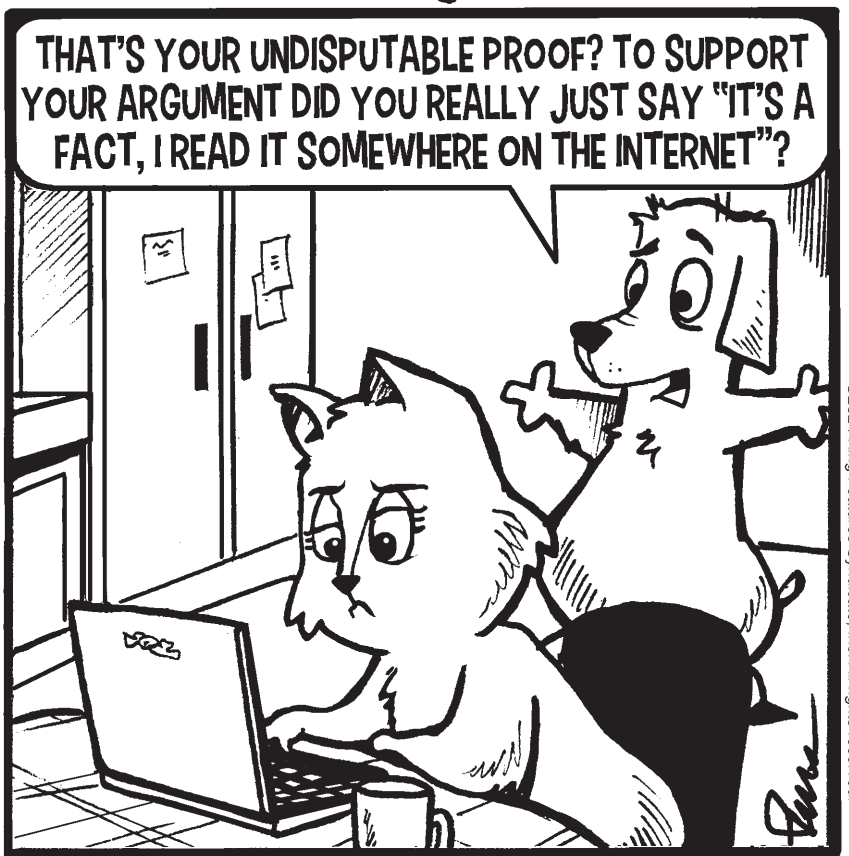
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Erika is native to Scott County and lives here with her two sons, Greyson and Emerson. When she is not in the clinic, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and coaching little league soccer. She is excited to continue to serve her hometown and looks forward to seeing new and familiar faces. Erika is currently accepting new patients and accepts most insurances.



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The Achaemenid Empire



John Burns
Opinion Columnist

Nebuchadnezzar would rule Babylon for 43 years from 605 BC until his son Amel-Marduk would become heir in 562 BC. He is most famous for releasing King Jehoiachin of Judah after 43 years in confinement. He would be assassinated in 560 BC by his brother-in-law Neriglissar.

He was of Aramean descent and he became a prominent official during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. His reign would last for 4 years until his death in 556 BC. He is most famous for his campaign to capture the kingdom of Appuwashu in Anatolia and bringing the Babylonian pantheon into the west.

His son would reign for two months before being assassinated by Nabonidus. He is the Bible king Belshazzar who would be the last Neo-Babylonian king during the time of Daniel. Cyrus the great would enter Babylon, ending the Neo-Assyrian line of kings in Babel.

Cyrus would enter Babylon as Belshazzar mocked the God of creation and his plans for the people of Daniel. Cyrus dammed the Euphrates River and his men entered Babylon without a battle and unseated Nabonidus who himself usurped the Babylonian throne.

Cyrus begins the prophesied reign of the Medo-Persian empire destined to replace Babylon while adopting the Babylonian pantheon and mixing it with the Persian religion centered in astronomy and science. Egypt, Assyria, Babylon and Persian religions were melded first under Cyrus the great.

Cyrus proves God is indeed ordering our footsteps as men. We first hear of Cyrus in the book of Isaiah who prophesied the reign of Cyrus in Chapter 45:1. Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him, and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leafed gates, and the gates shall not be shut.

Isaiah prophesied the events occurring in the book of Daniel, when Cyrus entered the palace to find Nabopolassar, mocking the God of Daniel. Daniel opens the scroll of Isaiah, penned 200 years prior, to read to him what God has ordained for his life.

The mighty Medo-Persian empire begins with the overthrow of Babylon, and the introduction to the Zoroastrian beliefs of Cyrus. It is a form of monotheism. The Achaemenid dynasty now ruled over the largest empire in history. The year is 550 BC.

Cyrus would issue the decree found in the book of Ezra, allowing him to return to Jerusalem to begin the rebuilding of the temple. Cyrus would fund his journey, and he would issue decrees guaranteeing their protection. Jeremiah's prophecy of the 70-year captivity was coming to a close.

Daniel would serve Cyrus faithfully. I believe Nabopolassar's mother possibly played a role. Cyrus executed the last Babylonian king, establishing control of Babylon under his Medo-Persian line. To save her skin, she would advise the king on matters of history dealing with Daniel.

Daniel had been carried away by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. His destiny and the destiny of the wife of Nebuchadnezzar were intertwined. She alone understood that Daniel heard from the living God of creation. Her and Daniel had known each other since 605 BC.

Cyrus entered Babylon in 539 BC during the Hebrew feast of tabernacles. It was October 12th on the Pagan Babylonian calendar. While Jews were in captivity in Babylon, Daniel was keeping the shabbat ordained in the wilderness by God forever. The feast of tabernacles points to a yet future desert wondering for the tribes of Israel.

As Nabopolassar threw a Pagan party lasting seven days, Daniel

and the Hebrews were captives in Babylon looking forward to the end of Jeremiah's prophesied 70-year captivity. They were in temporary shelters when Cyrus crossed the Euphrates and entered Babylon.

As Nabopolassar mocked the God of the Hebrews by consuming wine in the consecrated temple vessels, Cyrus had entered Babylon and the handwriting appeared on the wall. Fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah to the letter and the day God told Jeremiah it would happen.

The queen mother sends for Daniel at sunrise, to interpret the Hebrew handwriting that has appeared with a supernatural hand on the wall of the palace. Daniel brings the scroll of Isaiah to the palace and interprets the handwriting telling of the end of Babylon as an individual empire.

Nabopolassar's loins are loosed as the news reaches him that the Medo-Persian king is in Babylon and on his way to the palace. It would be the last time Nabopolassar breathes. Cyrus restores Daniel to his position as Prime Minister and chief advisor to the Medo-Persian crown in Babylon.

Daniel would serve Medo-Persian kings faithfully until his death in 538 BC.

Cyrus is God's man on the Pagan throne. He is being used by God, to begin regathering the Jewish people to their land to await the coming Jewish King and Messiah. His decree given to Ezra, is proof that God wrote the entire script before speaking man into existence.

Cyrus would conquer the Lydian kingdom, the neo-Babylonian kingdom, thus consolidating the Medo-Persian empire. Cyrus begins melding Persian culture with the territories he rules in Macedonia to the west and Afghanistan in the east. He inherited Egypt and now melds sun worship with moon worship and Zoroastrianism.

Cyrus the great had a view that empires were best served when all gods were accepted and religions all were tolerated. He orders the consolidation of the great libraries of learning and places them under the control of the priest class in the 127 provinces under his control.

Cyrus sets about manufacturing utopia and rules as an autocrat. Greece and Persia with their polytheist beliefs, were now on a predicted collision course with the plans of the God of creation.

Biblical monotheism and pagan polytheism can never coexist. God raises up kings to prove that he is at war with the seat of Satan on Earth. Time for an introduction to the Sar Paras or angel of Persia.

Let him who has ears, hear what the Spirit is saying.

9-18-2024 John Burns

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.

Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word



Luke Chapter 13



Melvin Howard

(Luke 13:1-5) The murderous Pilate: An unsettling report came to Jesus concerning Pilate, the sixth Roman procurator of Judaea (A.D. 26-36; see 3:1). He had slaughtered a number of Galilean Jews who had come to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices, which bloody deed apparently created a rift between the governor and Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee (23:12). While this incident is unrecorded in secular history, it is perfectly consistent with the character of this ruler as revealed in contemporary literature.

The Lord addressed the commonly held idea that those who suffer the most obviously are the most evil (the same philosophy of Job's friends). Was it the case, then, that these slaughtered Galileans were more evil than others? The answer was, "No." He then alludes to a natural tragedy. A tower near the Pool of Siloam had fallen and eighteen people were killed. Did this horrible accident logically lead to the conclusion that these victims were more corrupt than others? It did not. Here is the lesson to be learned: when tragedy comes, many will be unprepared unless they repent (a change of heart manifested by a reformation of life). Repentance is not the only condition of salvation, but it is the one being emphasized on this occasion. It stands for the entire process of reconciliation with God.

The warning contained a subtle prophecy as well. Forty years later, at the destruction of Jerusalem, thousands of Jews were killed by the Romans as they worshipped in the temple, offering their sacrifices (having rejected the true sacrifice for sin). In addition, multitudes were crushed as the Roman armies battered down the city walls. Those who do not learn from the mistakes of history are destined to repeat them---and suffer the consequences.

(Luke 13:6-9) The parable of the fruitless fig tree: The foregoing narrative hinted of the coming destruction of the Jewish nation. The parable that follows provides the reason for that judgment---fruitlessness! A man planted a fig tree. Some background is important here. Under Hebrew law, the fruit of the tree was not consumed for the first three years (Lev. 19:23). When it came time for the first harvest, the man came to the tree looking for fruit, but it had none, though every possible advantage had been supplied (v.8). Two more years of fruitlessness followed. After six years of nothingness, it was judged to be hopelessly barren.

The man who planted the tree represents God, the tree was the Hebrew nation, and their barrenness reflected their lack of response to the training and advantages Jehovah had been providing them over the centuries since the selection of the nation for its redemptive role. Not only were they generally not productive, they "cumbered the ground"---in the sense they did everything imaginable to frustrate the growth of Christianity during that period from A.D. 30 to 70 (as demonstrated in the book of Acts). Finally, ever since the destruction of national Judaism by the Roman invasion, the Hebrew "tree" has not sprouted again. And it never will!

(Luke 13:10-17) The deformed woman: Jesus was teaching in one of the local synagogues on the Sabbath when he observed a pitiful woman who was horribly disfigured, bent far over and unable to straighten up. She had been afflicted in this fashion for eighteen years. It was not a passing psychosomatic ailment. The Lord called to her and, in anticipation of what he was about to do, said, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity" (v. 12; the present tense emphasizing the certainty of the miracle). He laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made straight; she gave glory to God. The passive form of the verb indicates the force of the recovery was from beyond the woman herself.

Incredibly, the synagogue ruler was furious because the miracle had been performed on the Sabbath. Since a miracle could only be accomplished by the power of God, this was an action of the Creator himself. The Lord blasted the ruler and those nearby who were murmuring their agreement with the critic. "You hypocrites, any one of you will loose his ox or donkey on the Sabbath and lead it to water. And yet you deny this woman the right of being "loosed" from her illness on the Sabbath." The conclusion obviously was: "You elevate dumb animals above one created in the image of God!" Moreover, she was a "daughter of Abraham," which intensified the point. Christ's argument took the common from-the-lesser-to-the-greater form, a valid use of logic.

The woman is described as having "been bound of Satan" (v. 16). Commentators generally connect this back to verse eleven and the phrase "spirit of infirmity," concluding that the woman had been demon-possessed, the debilitation being the effect. If that was the case, it seems the demon had left the woman earlier, for Luke mentions no casting out of a spirit. As

a general proposition, all human ailments are ultimately traceable to Satan who, by his original temptation, has murdered the human family (Jn. 8:44) and left us with a lot of collateral damage.

The Lord's adversaries were "put to shame," and the crowd rejoiced for the things done by him (v.17).

(Luke 13:18-21) The mustard seed and the leaven (read Mt. 13:31-33; Mk. 4:30-32).

(Luke 13:22-30) Will few be saved?: As the Lord traveled through various cities en route to Jerusalem, someone raised a serious question (echoed by many today): "Will only a few be saved?" The Savior's response was indirect, but packed with objective propositions: (a) Entering heaven will not be easy in view of man's usual self-centered disposition. Especially would it be hard for many Jews who refused to identify Jesus as their Messiah. (b) It will involve striving (Greek "agony") because the door is "narrow." Sacrifices will be required and many will not be able---due to their own self-limitation-to enter (2 Peter 3:9). (c) Opportunities will be chronologically limited. There will be no postmortem plan of salvation. Pleading with the Lord after the "door is shut" will not avail (2 Cor. 6:2). (d) Past association will not prevail in the absence of present preparedness (v. 26). (e) The Savior's judgment will be final. (f) There will be conscious suffering for the wicked. (g) The Gentiles will be offered an opportunity to be in the kingdom (v.29). (h) Whereas the Jews had enjoyed a first-place prominence as the nation through whom the Messiah came, they would be placed last, with the Gentiles exalted above them.

(Luke 13:31-35) The rabid fox: It is difficult to assess the motive of those Pharisees who warned Jesus that Herod Antipas wanted to kill him; hence, he must leave the area. Some maintain these were sincere men who feared for Jesus' life. Others, speculating that Jesus was in Herod's territory and that he would be slow to act negatively against the Lord, speculate this was a plan to goad him nearer to Jerusalem and the deadly Sanhedrin. It is a fact that this rebel beheaded John the Baptist and, if left to his own devices, might well commit murder again.

With a cryptic and courageous message, Jesus responded: "Go and say to that fox [that weak and wily varmint---not a compliment], 'Look, today and tomorrow [the remaining portion of my ministry], I continue to work signs. The third day I am perfected [brought to completion]'" (v.32). The "third day" most likely is a reference to his triumphant resurrection. He must make his way on toward Jerusalem, for it is the city that relishes the blood of the prophets! Note the lament: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem." Someone has aptly said: "The fox was after the chicks, but Christ was the Hen guarding them." Unfortunately, they kept leaving their source of protection. Note the acknowledgement of free will: "You would not!"

Thus, their "house" (probably the entire city, including the temple) was therefore to be "left desolate." They were responsible for the "leaving," and "desolation" would be the city's fate (Mt. 24:15). The Lord then stated they would not see him again until they said: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (v.35). They would rise up to "see" him at the time of his Second Coming (Rom. 14:11), but then it would be too late to remedy their stubborn unbelief. Millennialists contend that the text refers to the national conversion of the Jews just prior to the alleged millennial reign. Such a view is the epitome of exegetical irresponsibility. How could anyone reflect upon the personal pronouns "you" and "your" in the text and conclude that it refers to a people thousands of years later? The Second Coming, which concludes earth's history, fits both the context and the universal reality of that event.

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