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Psalm 100:3

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Volume 11 Number 38

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



**“All death can do
to the believer
is deliver him
to Jesus.”**

– Charlie Kirk



Morgan County Today
Your Community. Your News.

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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

**Courage in faith.
Trusted his Lord.
Legacy of wisdom.
A warrior taken.**

**Charlie Kirk
1993-2025**



WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
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MORGAN of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 16	81°/59°	
Wed 17	84°/59°	
Thu 18	87°/62°	
Fri 19	84°/62°	
Sat 20	80°/61°	
Sun 21	79°/60°	
Mon 22	80°/60°	

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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.

— In Loving Memory —

Shirley Jean Jones, 77



Shirley Jean Jones, born August 11, 1947, passed away August 7, 2025. She was the daughter of the late Curtis and Beulah Anderson Owens and wife of the late Charlie Jones. Mother to Charles Edward "Eddie" (Jolene) and Dirk Wayne Jones, baby Eric (dec). Grandmother to Samantha (Logan Reagon), Kimberly (Dakota Mayse) and Victoria and step grandmother to Brittany (Tyler Seabolt). Great Grandmother to River and Paisley, step great grandmother to Bentley Kennedy, Riley, and Conley Seabolt.

Sister to Susie (Bill) Kries, Azalee (Chester) Jones, Claudia Owens, Allen Owens, and Patty Newport. Sister-in-law to Barbara Goodman and Vickie (Tom) Swint.

She was preceded in death by family members: brother and sister Winford and Phyllis Owens, brothers-in-law; Brad Newport, Carl (Freda) Jones, Dwayne Scott, and David Goodman.

Shirley was a loving aunt to many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and a few great-great nieces and nephews. She was a cousin to many and a devoted friend to more than you can imagine.

She was a great asset to the Deer Lodge Community, where she spent numerous years volunteering in the school system, community center and historical society. One of her greatest joys, aside from her family, was being

able to be part of the planning of the July 4th Parade and Celebration for many, many years.

Shirley wanted to slip away quietly, she asked to have nothing long and drawn out, nothing fancy, that was typical Shirley, but the family wanted to give her a glorious send off, so we compromised.

Friends and family are asked to gather at Mount Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge at 2 pm on Sunday, August 10, 2025. We will spend time together honoring her by remembering and telling our story of the very loved lady. Please join us in this celebration of Shirley in Shirley's Way.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Mount Hope Cemetery Association.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Shirley Jean Jones.



Eula Mae Hogsed Bruce Hopper, 87



Eula Mae Hogsed Bruce Hopper, age 87, peacefully passed into the presence of the Lord on August 16th, 2025. Eula was born on May 4, 1938, in Murphy, NC to John Everett Hogsed and Bessie Roberts Hogsed. She was the youngest of nine children: Garland, Laudis, Frank, Marshall, J.E., Boyd, Herman, and Pauline.

She was preceded in death by her parents, all of her siblings, her husband, Leslie Bruce, their son Greg Bruce, and her husband Charles Hopper, Sr.

She is survived by her children: Faith Ann Daegele of Connecticut, Charlie Hopper, Jr. (Tina) of Lancing, and Steve Hopper (Valerie) of Lancing;

Eight Grandchildren: Matthew Hopper (Brandy), Keith Daegele (Georgiana), Katie Knox (Zandy), Anna Russell (Rick), Greg Bruce II (Jessica), Alanna Hargis (Rodney), Nichole Daegele (Joe), and Renee Tinch (Ricky). Fifteen Great-Grandchildren:

Nick (Jenises) Hopper, Courtney Hopper (Zach), Brianna and Eli Hopper; Mara, Zola, and Daniel Daegele; Elsie and Steven Knox; Greg Bruce III and Malcom Bruce; Quincy Quintiliano, Enzo and Dominic Dias; and Waylon Tinch.

Three Great-Great Grandchildren: Everleigh and Easton Holbrooks and Keelynn Hopper

Eula was a most beloved aunt and is survived by many dear nieces and nephews that she cherished throughout her life.

Eula moved to Lancing, TN in 1973 with her husband Charles Hopper, Sr. She and Mr. Hopper were some of the first members of Fairview Baptist Church, in Lancing. They spent many years bringing children in the community to church and helping neighbors and families in many capacities. Eula was ever faithful to her church and deeply valued the friendships and family bonds that formed over the five decades of serving God by serving His people.

In 1978, Charles and Eula established Hopper's Wholesale Florist which allowed them to build professional friendships with many people across east and middle Tennessee. They retired from this service in 1994. Eula worked tirelessly and gave generously and was a role model of sacrifice for her

children and grandchildren.

Soon after her retirement, Eula began volunteering at Central Elementary School in Wartburg. For 25 years she spent the majority of her days reading with children, grading their papers, and serving the school in numerous other ways. She also found time to help with daily care-giving of her own great-grandchildren and continued to serve as the matriarch of the Hopper family.

In addition to her love of helping children, Eula cared for many elderly people even until her last days. She was a faithful companion to many dear friends who came to consider her as family. She called and visited the sick and shut-in in their homes and in the LifeCare Center, where she made her home and community most recently.

Throughout her life Eula was known for boldly inviting people to join her at church, and inquiring of their standing with the Lord. She wanted everyone to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ and encouraged them to put their faith in Him.

The family will celebrate her faith, her life, and her heavenly reward that she is now experiencing on Friday, August 22, 2025, at Fairview Missionary Baptist Church in Lancing. The receiving of friends will be held from 3:00- 5:00 PM, with the fu-

neral at 5:00 PM and interment to follow. Rev. David Tapp will officiate, joined by other pastors that Eula dearly loved. Matthew, Nick, and Eli Hopper, Zandy and Steven Knox, Rodney Hargis, and Ricky and Waylon Tinch will serve as pallbearers.

The family wishes to thank the many individuals at Life-Care Center who helped care for her, the Covenant Hospice team, and Schubert Funeral Home for their compassionate, accommodating service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Eula Mae Hogsed Bruce Hopper



— In Loving Memory —

John Boyd (Johnie) Adams, 91 United States Army Veteran



John Boyd (Johnie) Adams left this world surrounded by family on August 30, 2025.

Johnie was born July 7, 1934 to John Calvin and Anna Elizabeth Adams. Johnie enlisted in the Army where he served in Germany during the reconstruction as a Crane and Shovel Operator in the late 1950's. While talking about his military service, he never failed to say that he found GOD was in Germany too. After his service, he married the love of his life, Ruby June Williams and was blessed with four children. Johnie was a faithful Christian who loved serving the Lord Jesus Christ. He was a soft-spoken, devoted husband and loving daddy and grandpa. In his spare time, he enjoyed fishing and wood-working.

Johnie was preceded in death by his loving wife of 47 years, Ruby June; sons, Allen Clyde and John Mitchell (Mickey);

parents, John Calvin and Anna Elizabeth; great-grandson, Wyatt Andrew; great-granddaughter, Kendra Alizabeth; and many adored siblings.

Johnie is survived by daughters Ronita (Nathan) Beasley and Becky (Dana) Hawn and Lisa Adams Kimbro; grandchildren, Jessica (Ashley) Stedam, Rebecca Medovich, Nick (Carrie) Beasley, Rachel Dalton, Jonnie (Katlyn) Beasley, Mark (Sabrina) Rice, John Nelson Adams, and Jennifer Adams; great-grandchildren, Trevor Hembree, Eli Bryge, Alexis Medovich, Austin Beasley, Isabella Rice, Lettie Stedam, and Hannah Patterson; sister Faye Howard; and brother Ronnie Kennedy.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, from 2-4 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 4pm with Bro. Nathan Beasley and Bro. Doug Morgan officiating. Internment with Military Honors will follow in the Adams Hill Cemetery, Deer Lodge, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of John Boyd (Johnie) Adams.

James Louis Greene, 87 United States Army Veteran



James Louis Greene, age 87 of Wartburg passed away on September 2nd 2025.

James was a 1956 graduate of Central High School in Wartburg. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and was stationed in Korea. He delivered mail in Wartburg for 40+ years before retiring. James was also known for his love for flying. He was an avid pilot and loved flying with his friends and his family. James is preceded in death by his parents, Mary (Schubert) and Bruce Greene, brother Bruce (Buddy) Greene.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Janet Greene, son Richard (Dana) Greene. Grandchildren, Kayla Stewart, Richard (Lindsay) Greene, Brooke (Michael) Thacker and a host of great grandchildren.

A special thank you to all of James's hospice nurses and caregivers.

The family will receive friends Friday, September 5, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. Graveside services will be Saturday, at 11:00 a.m. in the Liberty Church Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of James Louis Greene.

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.**

Carolyn Sue Northrup, 76



Carolyn Sue Northrup, age 76, of Sunbright passed from this life on September 9, 2025, surrounded by her family.

Carolyn was a faithful Christian and always showed her love and support for her family.

She leaves behind her husband of 60 years, Reverend Charles Northrup; 2 sons David (Amber) Northrup, Daniel (Misty) Northrup; 7 grandchildren, Jared (Deborah), Courtney (Tyler), Grace, Lonnie, Finley, Olivia (Ethan), and Alexis; 3 great grandchildren, Braylon, Bethany, Lincoln; 2 sisters

Joyce (Clarence) Northrup, and Dorothy (Dick) Edwards, and a host of nephews, nieces and other relative and friends.

The family will receive friends Thursday, September 11, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Troy Burchfield officiating. Graveside services will be at 11:00 a.m. in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Carolyn Sue Northrup.

Betty Seabolt, 83



Betty Seabolt, age 83, of Sunbright passed away September 6, 2025 at her home surrounded by her family.

Betty enjoyed a lot of things in life but she always enjoyed cooking, taking care of her family and everyone she knew, and going to church.

She is preceded in death by her parents Eligah and Matilda Ward; grandson Robert Walker; Daughter-in-law: Gail, Father and Mother-in-law: Ralph and Virdie Seabolt; nieces Sharon and Barb and 10 Siblings.

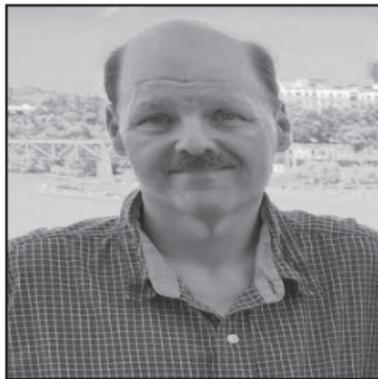
She leaves behind her husband of 45 years Gary Seabolt; children Bobby Walker, Missy (Doug) Jones, Lora (Larry) Parris, and Joe Seabolt; grandchildren Brad Walker, Kendall & Colton Walker, Amanda, Amelia, Kelsey Seabolt, and Kenny Parris; brother Bepo Ward; sister Willa Dean and husband, Fred; and sister-in-law Shirlene, and a host of extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Bro. Doug Morgan officiating. Internment will follow in the Sunbright Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Seabolt.

— In Loving Memory —

Kelly Jones



Kelly is survived by his brother-in-law, Bobby Hembree; nieces, Jeannie Basler and husband Nathan, and Joanie Hammock and husband Brandon; nephew, Brandon Hembree; great-nieces and nephews, Brooke Basler, Brylie Basler, Tyler Hammock and wife Emily with daughter Ivy, Ethan Hammock and son Baby B, Ian Hammock, and Trevor Hembree; along with a host of extended family and friends who will miss him dearly.

Kelly Jones, of Wartburg, passed away peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, August 20, 2025.

Kelly was a generous man who dearly loved his family, University of Tennessee football, wrestling, his late cat Izzy, and especially his many friends and coworkers. He took great pride in his career at the Life Care Center, where he often spoke of his deep respect and affection for the colleagues and friends he made there.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Bobby and Wilma Jones; his sister, Sheila Kay Hembree; his brother, Kim Jones; his grandparents, Stanley and Allie Jones of Glades, and Ray and Rose Brown of Jamestown; and his beloved pet Izzy.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, August 24, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. Funeral services will follow with Bro. Nathan Basler officiating. Graveside services will be held immediately afterward at Union Grove Cemetery in Sunbright.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you honor Kelly's generous nature by making a donation to any charity or group of your choice

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Kelly Jones.

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

Thomas Luther Justice, 68



Logan and Olivia Justice, Jenna Lacy, and Brayden Payne; sisters Gloria Gregory, Sonza Shelton, Wanda Daugherty, Barbara Jackson; brother Robert Justice and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family would like to thank Danielle Lacoua for her kindness and care.

The family is honoring Thomas' wishes to be cremated and no services.

Thomas Luther Justice, age 68 of Petros passed away September 10, 2025 at his home.

He was an avid Fisherman and loved camping.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, Wayne and Uvine (Lowe) Justice; father and mother-in-law Troy Sr. and Doris Chaney; brothers Allen, Paul, Everett, and Gilbert Justice; sister Hester Woods; brother-in-law Robert (Papa) Woods; and special nephew Rick Woods.

Thomas is survived by son Thomas Alan (Patricia) Justice; daughter Crystal Uvine (Bradford) Payne; grandchildren

Emma Lou Bingham-Meunier, 73



Her ex-spouse Gary Meunier. Her cousins, Donnie Norris, Jeanie Bingham, Patricia Brown, Cindy Kernea, Nancy Wright, David Terry, Steve Terry, Ronnie Bingham, Allison Bingham, Paula Tollett, and numerous other cousins and family friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Richard and Myrtle Bingham and her lifelong best friend Jean Ruppe.

Emma Lou Bingham-Meunier went to be with the Lord on Monday, August 25, 2025 after a battle with dementia. She was a member of White Oak Baptist Church where she was the church pianist. A role she had for 73 years. She began playing at age 11. Up until the end Miss Emmie maintained her love for her family, friends and God. Right until the end she would still sit at the piano and play a hymn especially Child of the King and Oh What a Savior. Miss Emmie was also a lifelong Tennessee Vols and Saint Louis Cardinals fan.

As you know, Miss Emmie taught school for 41 years and influenced so many. I hope all her former students and colleagues know how much she cared for them and how much she loved teaching.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, August 28 at White Oak Church in Oakdale, receiving of friends 11:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral immediately following and lastly a private burial. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made for funeral expenses and a future scholarship in Miss Emmie's name..

Miss Emmie's life can be summed up easily. She lived what she sang about. She sang about a loving God and his promises and now she's where she sang about all those years.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Emma Lou Bingham-Meunier.

Miss Emmie is survived by her daughter, Kathryn Zachary, her son-in-law Richard Zachary.

Wilda Mae Young, 86



Siblings Sam Henry and wife Deloris, Fred Henry, Ronnie Henry and wife Valerie, Sue Brown, Monetta Hoffman, Barbara Tompkins and husband Bobby, Linda Bates and husband Anthony, Peggy Muse and husband Junior, sister-in-law Carol Henry, brother-in-laws James Young, and Roy Young.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, August 17, 2025, from 5-7 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral services will follow at 7pm with Bro David Dial officiating. Graveside services will be Monday 11 am at the Mount Zion Baptist Church Cemetery, Sunbright, TN.

Wilda Mae Young was born March 5, 1939, went to be with the Lord on August 16, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband William Gilbert Young, parents Hubert and Eunice Henry, brothers Ed henry wife Lila and Tom Henry.

She is survived by children Danny Young and wife Joyce, Loretta Mullins, and husband Robert,

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wilda Mae Young.

Grandchildren Danny Young and wife Ashley, Joshua Young and Matthew Mullins, great grandchildren Dalton Young, Isaiah Young, Emmett Young, Levi Young, and Kayce Young.

— In Loving Memory —

Wanda Josephine Bowling, 94

Wanda Josephine Bowling, age 94 passed on to Heaven, Thursday, August 28, 2025.

Wanda was a loving wife, and mother to David and four daughters, Paula Padilla of Mobile, Alabama, Janet Kilgore of Chickamauga Georgia, Vickie Smith of Hixon, TN., and Lynn Perruso of Hixson, TN; who meant everything to her. She was a kind and giving person who loved the Lord.

Wanda loved music, singing, and celebrating Christmas. She extremely enjoyed singing gospel songs with her church's quartet in her younger years. People from everywhere looked forward to her outdoor Christmas decorating. Her two-story white house off hwy 27 would be fully lite with its yard displaying

a hill full of lite Christmas paraphernalia. She also delighted in the act of Christmas giving to family members and friends.

Wanda is preceded in death by her mother Effie Thomas; father Rufus Thomas; eight sisters and two brothers.

She leaves behind husband, David; four daughters; six grandchildren; great grandchildren and a host of nephews and nieces and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 1:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Calvin Sexton officiating. Interment will follow in the Kilbeck Cemetery in Robbins.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wanda Josephine Bowling.

Freda Jo. "Gunter" Johnston, 84

Freda Jo. "Gunter" Johnston Passed away peacefully at the age of 84 on August 25, 2025.

Freda was born on June 15, 1941, to Lee and Betty Gunter. She was a graduate of WCHS, Class of 1959. In 1966 she was one of the first women hired by Caterpillar where she retired after 35 years of service.

To Freda, God was not distant – He was her comfort, her guide and her closest friend. Known for her warm heart, quick wit and loving devotion to her family. She was the thread that held it all together. She cherished time spent with her children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren and family.

Left to cherish her memory is her loving daughters Gwen (Bob) Wilkins, Denise (Larry) Ross, Sheila (Kirk) Wilkins and Leila

(Colin) Conner. Grandchildren Bobby (Jen) Wilkins, Amanda (Sean) Denny, Heather (Justin) Whyte, Adam (Marianna) Ross, Nikki (Tim) Freel, Lorne (Chrissy) Wilkins, Brook (Justin) Look, Kyle (Megan) Huckaby and Faith Conner. From those grandchildren she was blessed with 28 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are her brothers David (Astrid) Gunter, Wayne Gunter and numerous nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly. Also a very special friend Ed Kapp.

Freda is preceded in death by her husband Earl "Butch" Johnston, grandchildren Daniel Disney and Mollie Conner plus numerous loved ones that met her at the pearly gates with open arms.

The family will receive friends on Saturday August 30th from 5-7 with services at 7 officiated by Pastor Jim Disney at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. Interment will be on Sunday August 31st at 1pm at Mossy Grove Baptist Church Cemetery in Harriman.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Freda Jo. "Gunter" Johnston.

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

Skyler Raylen Lester, 15

Skyler Raylen Lester, age 15 passed away August 24, 2025 at her home. She was born May 5, 2010.

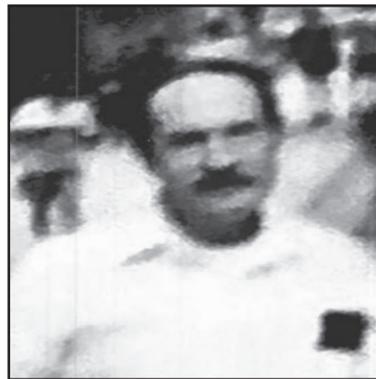
Skyler was a light in the lives of everyone who knew her. She brought joy, laughter, and love to everyone she met. Skyler was beautiful, and smart, with a kind heart and a energetic spirit was beyond her years. Though her time with us was far too short the impact she

made will last a lifetime. We will carry her smile, her laughter and the love she gave in our hearts forever.

She is survived by her parents Ronald Lester and Summer Shelton; siblings Johnathan Lesters, Tristan Shelton, Taylynn Shelton, Taya Terrell, and Teara Denton and a host of family and friends who will forever cherish her memory.

The family will receive friends Saturday, August 30, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 2:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Skyler Raylen Lester.

Wilbert Tackett, 87

Mr. Wilbert Tackett, age 87 of Wartburg passed away Thursday, August 28, 2025 in Rocky Top, TN.

He is preceded in death by his wife Lorine Tackett; daughter Dorothy Lou; brother Lee Tackett; sister Marie Kennedy

Wilbert is survived by 3 sons, Robert, James, and John Tackett; 2 daughters Litha Kennedy and Verdie & Herbert Kenne-

dy; stepdaughter Elaine Cox; sisters-in-law Pauline Leab and Sue Carroll; brother-in-law Ray Young and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The family will receive friends Thursday, September 4, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Bro. Otis Phillips officiating. Interment will follow in the Jones Cemetery on Red Oak Mountain.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wilbert Tackett.



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 Was: 30,773 Best Price: \$27,773 24 NISSAN ALTIMA 2.5 SL 20,302 MILES, NAV. #N410338A	 Was: 30,887 Best Price: \$27,887 24 NISSAN SENTRA SR ONLY 12,915 MILES #N375657A	 Was: 33,377 SOLD Best Price: \$30,377 24 NISSAN FRONTIER SV 14,465 MILES #N654034A	 Was: 34,996 Best Price: \$31,996 24 NISSAN MURANO SV ONLY 1,850 MILES #N123932A	 Was: 39,992 Best Price: \$36,992 25 NISSAN PATHFINDER SV 11,516 MILES #N202656A

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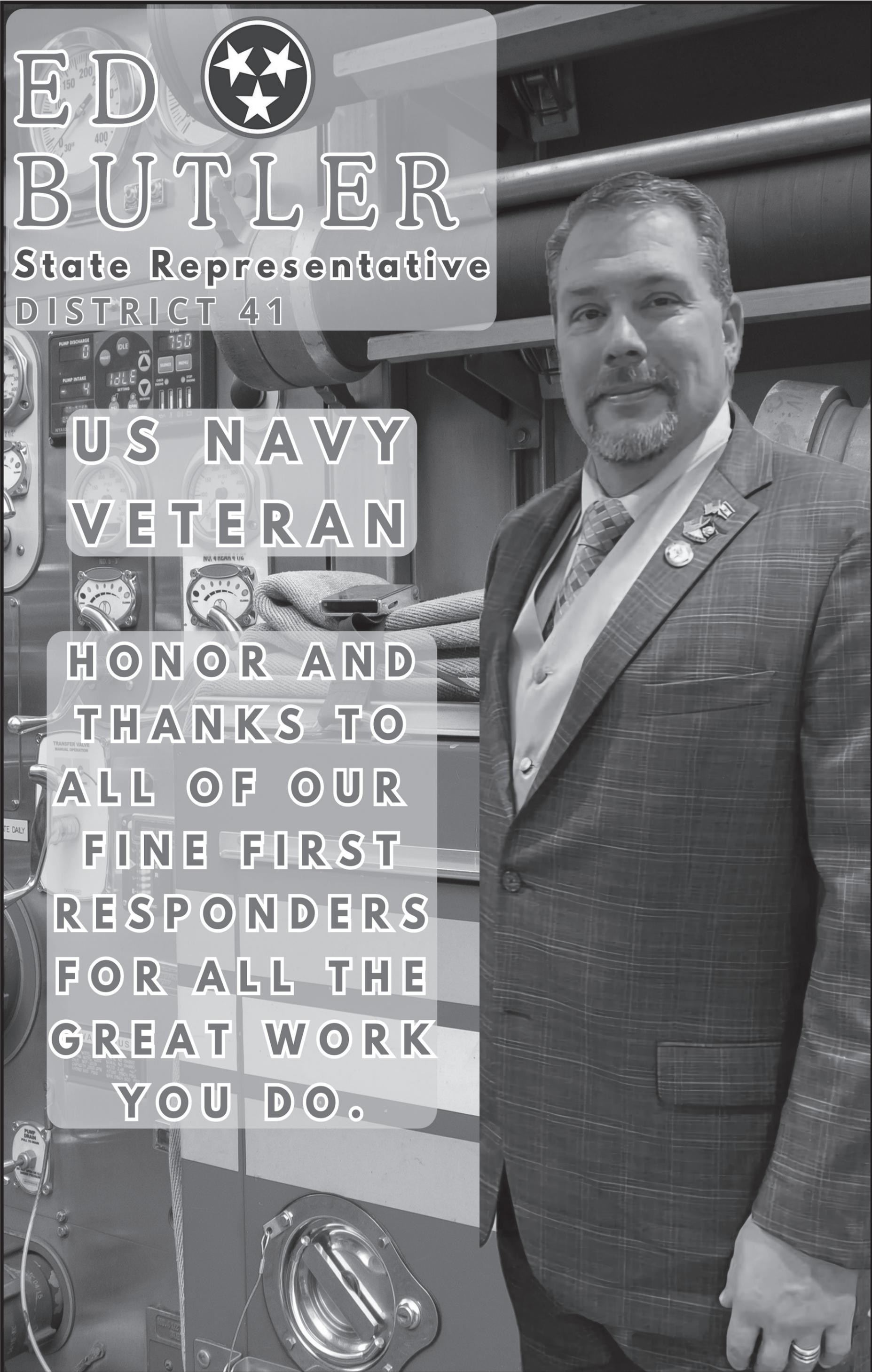
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Historically Speaking

The Snakes:

An Amazing Softball Team

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Earl Nall brings us this story of a truly unique softball team.

From the beginning, Oak Ridge Nuclear contractors provided a plethora of recreational activities for their employees, all of which had overflowing participation.

There was a sport or club that fit about anyone's interest: Camera club, Men's and Women's softball, volleyball, basketball, and bowling. Tag football, billiards, bridge, ping pong, golf, rifle, and even skeet shooting.

Early on, each plant had individual recreational departments with little inter-plant play, but that all changed in 1972 when one central recreational department was created for K-25, X-10, and Y-12. Until the late 1950s, the plant leagues were fast-pitch softball, but in the early 1960s, they replaced it with slow-pitch, which immediately increased participation.

Not only at the Oak Ridge facilities, but the 1970s were emerging as the golden days of slow-pitch softball nationally. Every city had multiple leagues; there were two major national softball associations: ASA, the Amateur Softball Association, and USSSA, the United States Slow-pitch Softball Association. National, regional, and local tournaments were everywhere.

One of these new slow-pitch teams was the Y-12 Snakes, which were put together by the Y-12 Statistics Department in the spring of 1969.

The Snakes, which were hastily put together on the last day to enter the Y-12/K-25 softball league, were just like hundreds of other teams over the years, with no thoughts but to play softball for the summer recreation league. The team consisted of statisticians, engineers, and software developers so they were not your typical jocks so success on the softball field was not expected.

No one on that team could have known they were part of the start of an extraordinary 11-year run that would see them become the most dominant recreational long-term softball team the plant leagues had ever seen.

The ingredients for a perfect storm played out in that first season - luck, statistics, a once-in-a-lifetime player, and a leader who turned a bunch of individuals into a tight-knit family and built a sustaining foundation that would carry the team to an 11-year win-loss record of 230 - 12.

Halfway through that inaugural season, the Snakes were undefeated. That was unexpected. For the first time, team members started to feel something was different about this team. They had already encountered some statistical oddities -- turning five double plays in a seven-inning game and coming back from an 11-0 deficit to win another. They had won the coin toss every game, which had helped in three games being won by a single run.

There was more. Horace Moorman, a newly hired statistician from Nashville. Moorman was shortstop for the Tennessee State University baseball team that went undefeated in 1968. Nobody had ever seen anything like him in the history of recreational slow-pitch softball at the plants.

He was incredibly quick getting to the ball, but also had a lightning-fast release on his accurate and powerful throws. His range as a shortstop allowed the third baseman to play closer to third base, the left and center fielder could



1969: (First Snake Team) Bottom L-R: Jerry Harris, Bud Lewis, Loyd Wyatt, Phil Mason, Bill Maddux. Top Row L-R: Horace Moorman, Earl Nall, Bob Culton, Jim Balch, David Alsbaugh. Not pictured Chuck Holland

Snakes Softball Team started in 1969 (Courtesy of Earl Nall)

play deeper, and the second baseman to shade further towards first base - all these adjustments increased the defensive ability of the team. All of this was because Moorman could cover more of the field than a normal shortstop.

Word was getting out, and attendance of Snake games swelled as fans wanted to see the shortstop - the legend grew. One of the upcoming opponents of the Snakes had even been practicing hitting to right field to keep the ball away from him.

The Snakes continued to win, and ironically, their last game of the season was against the Braves, another undefeated team. Both teams entered the game at 17-0. The Braves won 13-3 to end the season undefeated. The Snakes were outclassed.

The Braves were much better. They were the heavyweights of the league and had some well-known softball players: Jim Milligan, Gary Ellis, Stephen Babb, Bobby Hopkins and Larry McDonald. The Snakes played like the team that had hoped to win 50% of their games in 1969.

One thing the Snakes did do, however, was run the table, winning the coin toss to start the game -- they were 18-0. And the statisticians liked repeating that the probability of doing that was 1 in 262,144.

So, the success of an average team got everyone excited about the next year, and the person who would keep the momentum going was Charles Holland. Holland, using his wits, political savvy, and salesmanship, recruited three big-time players for the next year that laid the foundation for adding great players every season - until their final season in 1981 when the Snakes called it quits.

Holland had a history of success in sports. In college, he put together an intramural team that won every sports championship that the school had. In the early 1980's he developed a rating system that used a high-level modified multivariate factor analysis program that analyzed the data he entered on high school football recruits. And as a by-product introduced the 5 Star system that is used today by all recruiting organizations. He had a top 100 that was so accurate that national magazines picked up his rankings, and he became nationally known. He burst into the spotlight when he was soon to be famous Herschel Walker # 1, and no other system had him listed.

Same thing with future NFL Hall of Famer Reggie White. He left Y-12 in 1982 to create Qual-Pro, a company that helps organizations/businesses achieve breakthrough improvement using a unique MVT® Process that he had developed. Holland used those skills to put together the successful Snake team and a structure that enabled them to be so successful for 11 years.

The next softball season in 1970 started quite differently from the previous year. One difference was that the Braves didn't field a team. The Snakes tied for the regular season 1st place and won the postseason tournament.

Starting in 1972, the first year of a combined recreation league of all Y-12, X-10, and K-25 plants, the Snakes compiled a regular season record of 171-6 over the next 9 years. (with 3 of those losses coming in 1975 but still finished first). After finishing in 2nd place in 1969 they finished in 1st place every year until they disbanded after 1981.

With the new combined recreation department, Clark Center, with its two softball fields, became the new home for all games. It was the perfect setting. Little traffic, plenty of parking, children could run about without worry of cars, plenty of picnic tables -- and for softball players and family, a place to relax and socialize before and after games.

The creative Holland had found a way to keep a team winning. He had built a solid foundation of a core group of players, but he understood that this was a recreation league, and not all players could be there for every game. So he devised an ingenious plan. Holland was well known at all three plants for his statistical prowess, and he had a network of people who knew great softball players who didn't play in the plant league.

Each year, he would sign up a few of these players with the understanding they would be put on the roster and he would call them to play when the team was to be short-handed. It was a good deal for these players -- they might play one game with the most dominant and well-known team in the league, and with that would probably get a trophy and a T-shirt. Stan Stines, Doug Pollett, Neal Nolan, John Murphy, Ron Jeffers, Rick Hicks, Mike Ritter, and Joe Greenlee were some of these one-game players.

- Continued on Page 17

Historically Speaking

The Snakes:

An Amazing Softball Team

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Over the 11 years the Snakes played, they had a total of 64 players. Twenty-one of these players were with the team for six or more years, and many of them were, according to Holland, 5-star recruits. Horace Moorman, Bob Culton, and Earl Nall were the only players to play all eleven years with the team.

There was Arnold Hawkins, Richard Tate, Harold Conner, Lonnie Hawkins, and Yancy Hampton, all of whom played on big-time softball teams that flew on weekends to tournaments all over the nation. There was Marvin Anderson, who was an all-star city league player (still playing softball in 2024), Ricky Stacey who was the Most Valuable Player in the Knoxville City tournament that had over two hundred teams competing, Earl Nall, who pitched for Solway Hardware when they won the state ASA Class A tournament, and E.T. Stamey who was a small college baseball All-American.

Two others were unique and the most solid players you could imagine. Calvin Angel only played for the Snakes. He didn't play in the city or church league and every year turned down offers to play for more competitive teams. How good was Angel? One time, the Snakes didn't have enough players and were within five minutes of forfeiting a game when he arrived. He hurried out of his car, ran up the hill to the big field at Clark Center, picked up a bat, and ran to home plate with his slip-on shoes on and hit the first pitch 30 feet over the center field fence.

Bob Culton was another. Bob was from Pineville, Kentucky, and had been all Eastern Kentucky in both football and basketball in high school. He went to the University of Kentucky to get his degree in mathematics. While at Kentucky, he played intramurals. One of his positions was punter. He was so good that Kentucky head coach Blanton Collier came to his games and asked him to punt for the varsity. For the Snakes, he played first base and in eleven years never dropped a throw - the most solid player most had ever seen.

Others were solid contributors -- Ron Sharp, Horace Miller, Holland, Hoyt Eason, and Jerry Harris.

Other utility players were there to fill out the lineup if needed -- and several times made a critical play that helped win a game - Gerald Scott, Mike Sherrill, Vaughn Thomas, Bud Leete, David Alspaugh, and others.

The Snakes were friends off the field... Each year, there was a pre-season cookout at Culton's lake home and a post-season party at various places.

Despite all the winning, the Snakes stayed true to the spirit of recreational leagues. If anyone had a city or church league game, they played there. If someone had any other outside party or event to go to, they went. The Snakes played plant league games for the fun of it. In 1978, the Lasers beat the Snakes on a Friday night when the Snakes had most of the team playing in another tournament. That win snapped a 56-game win streak. After the loss, the whole team walked over and congratulated the Lasers for their victory. That was the sportsmanship of the team.

Miscellany: The Snakes never lost a game when they had their full team present. Winning streaks of 56, 48, and 42 games. Hoyt Eason once had 18 consecutive hits. Earl Nall once had 13 consecutive doubles. The team had seven consecutive home runs in an inning (Conner, Hawkins,



Played all 12 Years: L-R Bob Culton, Earl Nall, Horace Moorman

These three people were on the team all 12 years, left to right, Bob Culton, Earl Nall, and Horace Moorman (Courtesy of Earl Nall)

Tate, Angel, Stamey, Stacey, Anderson). One loss over six seasons. Almost had a perfect-pitched game and retired the first 19 hitters before someone hit a single. Nall pitched 3 years without walking anyone. Powerful Arnold Hawkins hit a line drive that the opposing shortstop almost caught, but the ball was hit so hard that it cleared the outfield fence by 20 feet. Hawkins also hit a home run onto the top of the hill in center field on the little field, and 2 innings later, it rolled back down the slope. The team originally wanted to be named "They Forfeited," but was vetoed by the recreation department. They once had a game delayed for 20 minutes because of skunks on the field. In 1969, there were wooden bats, unrestricted flight balls, 60-foot bases, no fences, no shorts, no T-shirts, no spikes. In 1981, bats were all metal, a very restricted flight ball, 65-foot bases, a fence, everyone wore shorts, T-shirts, and had rubber spikes. They once scored 27 runs in the first inning. And finally, the Snakes were involved in maybe the strangest play in plant league softball history. It was a late game and foggy. After a hit ball, the runner who was on first base ended up on third, and the batter scored with no outs being made. Both teams and umpires could not figure out what happened, but the play stood.

How good were the Snakes? Could they have won a state tournament or even a national softball tournament?

There is strong evidence they could have competed at the highest levels. They certainly could have competed in the State ASA Industrial tournament. Consider: The Snakes always defeated the team that won numerous Tennessee ASA state Industrial tournaments. Scores like 23-5, 32-7 were the norm. (Note: No contractor of the Oak Ridge facilities sponsored athletic teams, but the ASA requirement was that every player on an industrial team had to work at the same company, so the team that won the state tournament just got another business to sponsor them - they were legal.) The Snakes would not try to compete in the industrial state tournaments since six of their players played in the ASA Open division (The big boys) in weekly national tournaments. These players were blue chips - 5-Star from the Hollandrating world.

Since the team that the Snakes beat in the plant league frequently won the state industrial championship each year and always made a good showing in the nationals -- it is solid logic that the Snakes would have been a major factor in the ASA nationals.

In 1975, the league was split between men's softball and mixed league softball. Mixed league where a team had to have seven men and

three women on the field at a time. The mixed league was a huge success.

The first year the Snakes played, there were 18 teams in the K-25/Y-12 league. Each team played all the others in the regular season. By 1981, there were 76 men's and mixed league teams, and scheduling games became a nightmare for the recreation department. With that many teams, each having a roster of around 15, that means that almost 10% of the employees at the three plants were playing softball. The max games that could be held each night on the Clark Center fields was 8, and they only played 4 days a week -- so the maximum games a week would be 32. With 76 teams, there are not enough summer weeks to schedule games for that many teams. When there were 18 teams, it would have taken just over 4 weeks to complete the regular season. With 76 teams divided into 5 leagues, it would take 16 weeks or 4 months to play a season. Recreation had tough decisions to make about softball schedules.

In 1969, a perfect storm of events led to the creation of the Snake softball team. In 1981, a perfect storm of events convinced the Snakes it was time to retire from softball. Plant league softball had seen dramatic changes - there were fewer all-men's teams, and the mixed leagues were on a growth spurt. Of the 76 teams, 52 (68%) were mixed league and growing. There were so many teams that it was hard to schedule officials, and not enough months to play all the games necessary.

Nationwide, the boom days of slow-pitch softball were over. City, county, and community leagues were seeing a rapid decrease in participating teams. Numerous national softball organizations were created to challenge the ASA and USSSA, so there were literally hundreds of "national championships" offered -- the prestige of winning a state or national championship was waning. There were fewer travel teams, which affected the six Snake players who had enjoyed all the free weekend travel. For the Snakes -- many players had played for multiple years, and their physical abilities and personal goals were changing. It was the right time to retire.

Thanks, Earl, for an excellent review of the amazing Snakes softball team.

Note: The legacy of the Snakes was preserved by Earl Nall, who wrote a 51-page book, "The Snake Almanac," detailing the history of the Snakes that was packed with statistics and recollections of the rich history of the team. Most Information in this book was used in this story.

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Acts Chapter 9



Melvin Howard

(Acts 9:1-9) Saul's journey to Damascus: like a foaming-at-the-mouth mad dog, Saul of Tarsus vented his wrath against this disruptive "sect." Obtaining arrest warrants from the high priest, he started for Damascus, about one hundred forty miles to the northeast. If he found any of "the Way," man or woman, he would bring them back to Jerusalem for trial. As he drew near the city, he was overwhelmed by a great light out of heaven. He fell to the ground and heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why do you keep on persecuting (force of the verb) me?"

The bewildered zealot asked: "Who are you, Lord?" "Lord," was a mere title of respect at this point. The response was: "I am Jesus whom you persistently persecute (verbal emphasis). Rise, enter the city, and you will be told what you must do" (v. 6).

The men with Saul heard the sound, but they did not see Jesus. When Saul arose and opened his eyes, he was blind from the "glory of the light" (22:11), namely the resurrected, glorified Christ (v. 17, 27; 22:24; 26:16). He had to be led into the city where he fasted and prayed for three days (v. 9, 11). And yet for all his contrition and prayer he still was lost.

The Lord did not tell Saul to go pray, but he was a Jew and did not know of anything else to do. One can be sure that if any man ever prayed a sinners prayer, Saul did, but that three days and nights of praying did not take away his sins. Acts 22:16 did. "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." The Lord tells Ananias that Saul is praying, in other words, he is no longer cursing and swearing at you Christians.

(Acts 9:10-19) Saul's conversion: the Lord spoke to a disciple in Damascus whose name was Ananias. The brother was told about Saul and given his location. "He is blind, but has been informed that you will come, lay hands on him, and he will regain his sight." (It is unwarranted to conclude that Saul received the Holy Spirit through Ananias. That the two are mentioned in the same sentence does not demand they were simultaneous.) Ananias was fearful indeed, for he knew of Saul's reputation and even of his deadly mission to Damascus.

But the preacher was told to go; this man had been chosen to be a "vessel," bearing Christ's name unto those of high and low estate, to Jews and Gentiles alike. In his ministry he would suffer many things on the Lord's behalf (v. 16; 2 Cor. 11:23). Ananias submitted and went as directed. He informed Saul that he had been sent by the Lord to restore his sight by the laying on of his hands; and, at some point, he would receive the Holy Spirit (v. 17). As observed above, the two acts did not necessarily occur together, as commonly believed. The reception of the Spirit was either the result of his baptism (2:38) or a supernatural endowment qualifying him for his apostleship. Immediately, the persecutor was immersed for the forgiveness of his sins (2:38; 22:16), took food, and was strengthened (v.18-19).

(Acts 9:19-22) Saul preaches in Damascus: for a while (the length is not specified) Saul remained with the church in Damascus. They obviously viewed his conversion as genuine. He went to the synagogues, continually proclaiming (the force of the verb) Jesus---that he "is the Son of God." His son-ship status has been retained, even in his glorified state. All that heard him were amazed, rehearsing his violent reputation. But Saul steadily increased in strength, debating and confounding his Jewish antagonists, "proving" that Jesus is the Messiah (v. 22). The term "proving" (to bring together) suggests that Saul used Old Testament prophecy, combined with facts about Jesus, to make an ironclad case for the Lord's identity.

(Acts 9:23-25) a plot to murder Saul: "many days" go by, during which Saul likely made his trip into Arabia (Gal. 1:17). The Jews' vengeance, therefore, may have referred to this second sojourn in the city. When their murderous plot became known, some of his converts helped him escape out of the city, and he made his way toward Jerusalem---from the frying pan into the fire. He was a tough man.

(Acts 9:26-30) a brief stay in Jerusalem: after the one-hundred-forty-mile trip back to the capital of Judaism, Saul approached the disciples and attempted to "join" them. But they were afraid of him, not believing his con-

version was genuine (v. 26). The generous Barnabas escorted Saul to the apostolic band and informed them of his interview with the Lord and his conversion. He rehearsed his bold preaching efforts in Damascus. He was graciously received by the Jerusalem church. This says much for the credibility of Barnabas.

Saul was "with them," going in and out of Jerusalem. Apparently he stayed with Peter and was in the city some two weeks (Gal. 1:18), preaching boldly in the name of Christ. He entered into a number of disputes (the verbal thrust) with the Grecian Jews, who feverishly initiated a plan to kill him. When the brothers heard about the deadly plot, they brought Saul to Caesarea, about sixty-five miles from Jerusalem, when he was put aboard a ship that would take him to his native Tarsus in Cilicia---perhaps some three hundred miles away. At some point, before he left, as he prayed in the temple, the Lord appeared to him, urging him to leave Jerusalem and to begin what would be a more fruitful ministry among the Gentiles (22:17-21). It is estimated he stayed in Tarsus some seven to ten years. We next read of him in 11:25.

(Acts 9:31) the status of the Palestinian church: for a while, the "church" throughout Judaea, Galilee, and Samaria (Palestine) enjoyed peace---a respite from persecution. ("Church" is singular; it was the ekklesia. The term is not employed here of a "congregation" or an "assembly," but of the "called out" of God within a certain region.) The saints were built up as they daily walked with deep reverence for the Lord and in the comfort of the Spirit. The last expression may refer to the supernatural possession of the Spirit by the apostles in confirming their religious activities. In view of all these factors, the church grew numerically.

(Acts 9:32-35) the miracle at Lydda: Lydda was on the road from Jerusalem to Joppa, about thirty-two miles west of Jerusalem. Peter passed through this community and found there a certain man named Aeneas. The man had been an invalid for eight years with palsy. The apostle said to the afflicted man, "Aeneas, Jesus is healing you. Get up and spread your bed (for yourself)." Immediately, he arose, fully healed. As a result, "all" (a great many) in the area of Lydda and Sharon saw the evidence of the miracle and turned to the Lord, This is precisely the goal miracles were designed to facilitate. They were never ends within themselves. Miracles were used to validate the gospel message in the early church.

(Acts 9:36-43) the resurrection of Dorcas at Joppa: after Peter left Lydda, he traveled the nine miles westward to Joppa. In this community was a lovely disciple whose name was Dorcas. Her life was filled with good works and almsdeeds (acts of kindness). She suddenly fell sick and died. Her body was washed and laid out for imminent burial. Since Lydda was nearby and Peter was known to be there, he was summoned to come quickly. When he arrived, he went to the upper room where her body was.

A number of widows were sobbing loudly and displaying the garments she had made when she "was with them." The text suggests they were wearing these, and "she", her spirit, was gone. Peter kneeled and prayed. Then, turning to the body (he had not prayed to the body), he said: "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. The apostle raised her up and presented her to the widows who doubtless wept even more, this time with joy. As a result, many in Joppa became believers. In the meantime, Peter decided to visit for many days with Simon the tanner who lived here.

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