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Psalm 100:3

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Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Giving Thanks

As we enter this month of celebration may we all remember the real reason for this Christmas season, the birth of our **Savior Jesus Christ**.

We are all so blessed that He came and gave us all the gift of eternal life. All He ask in return is for us to believe in him so we not perish.

How great is that?!

So, have fun making memories with those you wuff and cherish.

Happy Christmas month, y'all from Morgan County Today, Ms Ivory, Mimi, Pap, and me Ms Avery Pearl.

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

WEEKLY WEATHER



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Thu 04	43°/32°	
Fri 05	44°/37°	
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Mon 08	44°/29°	

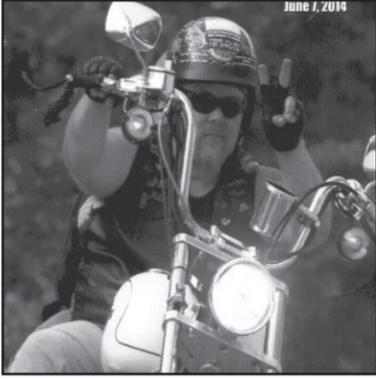


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— In Loving Memory —

Larry Kenneth Parris Sr.



Larry will also be missed by his favorite running buddies, grandsons Marverick Gene Parris and Mason Kenneth Parris. He could often be seen out with “Mav” and “Moo”.

Nobody enjoyed the outdoors more than Larry. He thought there should just be one season...WARM.

There are many who will remember seeing him out on his Harley every chance he got.

A Jack of All Trades, Larry worked construction all his life. Willing to help out a friend or even a stranger every now and then.

Heaven is one Biker richer and those left behind are much poorer for it.

Keep it between the Clouds and Enjoy the Ride.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Larry Kenneth Parris, Sr.

Larry Kenneth Parris, Sr. Passed away on November 21, 2025, at his home surrounded by his family.

Waiting for him in Heaven are his parents Vida Jean Wilson Parris can Cecil Edward Parris. Mother-in-law Betty Seabolt and adored granddaughter Dakota Grace Crady. Good friend Dustin Cooper.

He leaves behind the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Lora Seabolt Parris. Together they have three children: Larry Kenneth Parris Jr. (Kenny), Amanda Lynn Parris and Amelia Rochelle Parris.

Brother: Garry Cecil Parris and Sister: Mary Jeannie Parris Freeman.

Cynthia Ann Wicks, 55



Roberta is preceded in death by her parents Foy and Hattie Tilson, twin brother Gerald Wayne, sisters Ruby Pass and Charlotte Boshears, and niece Pam Shaver.

In addition to her husband Philip, she is survived by her daughters Lynn (Peter) Giuffre of Naugatuck, CT and Lisa (Mike) Pierce of Wartburg, sister Shelby Burgess of Dunlap, TN, grandsons Brian and Brandon Lester of the Joyner Community and Eric Giuffre of Naugatuck, CT along with many nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, November 30, 2025, from 1:00-3:00pm. Funeral Services will immediately follow with Pastor David Graves officiating. Interment will be at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg. Nephews Matthew, Michael, and Joey Mehlhorn, Barry, Mikel and Robbie Burgess, and Joseph Boshears, Jr. will be serving as Pall Bearers.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Roberta Mehlhorn.

Roberta Mehlhorn, age 82 of the Joyner Community died peacefully on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at Life Care of Morgan County. Philip, her loving and devoted husband of 64 years who never left her side.

She was a lifelong member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. She was among the first employees hired at Tennford Weaving in Wartburg until the plant’s closing. She then worked with the K-25 Clean-up Project until her retirement. When Roberta wasn’t assisting her husband at the family’s produce stand, she visited many parts of the United States with her sisters. She will be remembered fondly for her wonderful cooking -- especially her Chicken & Dumplings.

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



Historically Speaking

Pat Postma – Oak Ridge pillar for years – part 3

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause presents the final article in a three-part series on Pat Postma, a well-known Oak Ridger who has made significant contributions. She will be moving away after having grown up and lived here since 1943. This article is based on her own interview with Pat and one by Keith McDaniel in 2011.

Like her husband, Pat has helped form a bridge between Oak Ridge and Knoxville-based organizations, especially through the East Tennessee Foundation and the University of Tennessee. Here's how that accomplishment started.

In the early 1970s, she had been working at Oak Ridge National Laboratory part-time while raising their young children, Peter and Pamela. One of her jobs was dealing with census data as a member of an urban studies group. Then, in 1973, as Herman Postma was transitioning from his position as a division director to become the ORNL director, he suggested that it would be politically unwise for her to stay at the lab with the hope of securing a full-time job she desired.

Pat had already been accepted to enter graduate school in economics at UT. "To be an expert at something so I could solve the world's problems was really appealing to me," she said. "Going back to work at ORNL was part of that plan." I was shocked at his decision.

During that year, their house, which had burned down in 1972, was being rebuilt and slightly expanded. Peter was nine and Pam was six during the rebuild when the Postmas were living with Pat's parents. The fire, she said, was due to a ballast for fluorescent lights in one of the rooms; it lacked the safety technology required later. "It was hard to get somebody who would take down the remains of the house and clean all the bricks so we could use them again," she said. But she told Keith McDaniel, the kids were amazed that their fellow students responded to their loss by giving them nickels and dimes the family didn't need.

In 1981, halfway through Herman's 14-year directorship, Pat earned her Ph.D. in economics from UT. She obtained employment there, conducting research in the Tennessee Economic Policy Office. She worked with census data and published UT's statistical abstract, which she later revised.

One of the achievements Herman was known for was the establishment of a technology transfer program at ORNL to help researchers license their innovations to companies, believing they had the potential to become marketable. Pat set up a consulting practice aimed at encouraging lab innovators to launch technology spinoffs and startups.

She tried to connect future entrepreneurs with venture capitalists outside of Knoxville while a group in the city made a failed effort to start a venture capital fund for Tennessee-related businesses. She and others gained valuable experience as they learned what works and what doesn't work in attempts to make startups successful.

The management of the UT School of Business, where students can earn master-of-business-administration (M.B.A.) degrees, decided in the late 1980s to "start a concentration at the M.B.A. level in entrepreneurship, and I volunteered to set up a class that would teach the financial issues faced by startups," Pat said. As a new professor, she noted, she had "fun writing

business cases for the class to analyze, an activity that became popular.

"Because I had consulted with companies, I was able to write several case studies for my finance class in entrepreneurship to analyze," Pat said. "Then I invited the people who started the businesses my students were analyzing to be guests in the classroom." The business executives listened to and reacted to the students' analyses. The opportunity for her students to "talk to people who had started companies was a great inspiration to them," she added.

A business case is a formal document that seeks to justify starting a company because predicted customer demands for its new product or services would give venture capitalists a desirable return on investment. Pat's case studies were like what the Harvard Business School instructs its M.B.A. students to analyze, she said. The M.B.A. entrepreneurship track is now part of the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in UT's Haslam College of Business.

Pat said that her most innovative contribution to the UT School of Business was to lead in the design of and to direct a unique program for working managers throughout the United States. The managers attended classes at UT for two weeks and then returned to their companies for six weeks where their "homework" was to investigate how those principles were being applied in their own companies.

The two-week/six-week integrated curriculum allowed working managers to earn their M.B.A. degree in one year. UT was immediately asked to replicate that program in Taiwan. Within five years, two additional such programs, specialized for particular industries, were initiated. It brought the Business School international recognition and ranking.

Pat received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Haslam School of Business at UT for starting this series of revolutionary one-year Executive M.B.A. programs for managers across the country. She became an assistant dean of executive education in the business school and retired in 2003.

In 2006-2007, her first year as a member of the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club, she was named Rotarian of the Year. In the past 10 years she became a founder and member of the executive committee of the Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival, which she said is one of the best such festivals in the region because of the top-notch storytellers that perform here every June.

Sidebar: "Pat Postma and I were inducted into the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club on May 11, 2005. Soon, Rotary and friendship became family-ship. Together with Charlie Jernigan, we've woven a tapestry of community service, laughter, travel, cooking, and countless shared meals and ideas. Whether cheering for the Vols, planning the Flatwater Tales Storytelling Festival, or simply relaxing together, we've built a bond that feels like home.

Pat's passion for Oak Ridge, vision for excellence, and determination to make things happen inspire everyone around her. Pat enriches our lives, and we are grateful for the more than 20 years of work, play, and adventures still unfolding." —Emily Jernigan

Shortly after Herman died in 2004, the East Tennessee Economic Council established The Postma Young Professional Medal to honor



Herman and Pat Postma on Kiawah Island in 2003 where they vacationed frequently (Courtesy of Pat Postma)

both him and Pat, who had worked together in community service, including successful fundraising. It has been awarded annually since 2005 to young professionals who have positively affected the Oak Ridge community culture.

When asked how she managed to get through crises such as the destruction of her family house by fire and Herman's death, she said, "I think I have not been defeated by crises. I just always have a stubborn belief that we can get through this and that it'll get better, and it does. I learned to like feeling my independence and discovering that I can do things that I thought I could never do or have to do."

Pat and Herman's children and grandchildren have been successful in their careers. Both graduates of Duke University like their parents, Peter worked in information technology security for a federal government contractor before retiring, and Pam, who started out as a Morgan Stanley employee, later earned an M.B.A. degree from the University of North Carolina and became a certified financial advisor. Her two sons, both residents of New York City where she once worked, are newly married; one is an urban planner, and the other is a researcher for a hedge fund company.

One of the observations Pat made about Herman in speaking with McDaniel is that "he championed the women's cause very early. He would say, 'Pound for pound, you get a lot more out of a woman than you do out of a man.'" Herman would have been proud of Pat's lifetime achievements as she is of his.

Thanks, Carolyn. This series has been an exceptional look at Pat Postma's contributions to Oak Ridge over her long career, living, working, and volunteering, in ways that always brought substantial improvements and encouragement in whichever endeavor she chose to undertake.

- Continued on next page.

Historically Speaking

Pat Postma – Oak Ridge pillar for years – part 3

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

An additional award given Pat is the Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties Bow Tie Award presented to her in 2022. This award is special to me as Bill Wilcox created it and designated me as the first recipient in 2013 just before he passed away. Pat epitomizes the criteria for this award as she does all the others she has received.

I have been privileged to work alongside Pat on several initiatives, and without fail, I have been amazed by her dedication, initiative, and steadfast love for the city she has helped to advance. The most recent opportunity has been the Scarboro 85 Monument Committee that is now a Foundation. Her insights assisted in fundraising for that initiative.

The icon of Oak Ridge, the Oak Ridge International Friendship Bell, is prominently located in the center of our city primarily because of her vision and efforts. I am proud each time I take a group of tourists there and see the amazement with which they always react to the experience of ringing the bell. In my mind, I thank Pat each time a visitor expresses admiration for the concept of

peace and friendship conveyed by that simple yet elegant symbol of the relationship between Japan and Oak Ridge.

It is also with great pride that I feel fortunate to have known Pat Postma and been allowed to learn from her unfailing efforts to encourage young professionals through the East Tennessee Economic Council's Postma Young Professional Medal. She demonstrated her foresight by creating the Oak Ridge Fund for Achieving Community Excellence. I admire Pat and consider her an excellent role model of dedicated community support. We will miss her but hope to see her return frequently for visits. She is certainly a welcome visitor.

A few weeks ago, a special event was held at Dr. John Rather's home honoring Pat. At that event John had the foresight to ask Robert Fowler to create a video oral history of Pat being honored. Here is the link to that video: <https://www.rcig-inc.com/videos/images/patpostma.mp4>



Pat Postma and Ray Smith, when Pat was awarded the Bill Wilcox Bow Tie Award by the Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties in 2022. Photo by Jamie LaRose (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



Acts 22 and 23



Melvin Howard

(Acts 22:1-21) Paul's defense: Paul begins his defense in a very respectful fashion, even after the bloody beating he had sustained. When the assembly heard him speaking in their own tongue, the silence was even more profound. The apostle's speech falls into four segments: (a) his early life (1-5), (b) the Damascus road experience (v. 6-11), (c) his exchange with Ananias (v. 12-16), and (d) his temple vision (v. 17-21).

First, Paul provides some biographical detail. Born in Tarsus of Cilicia, trained under the celebrated rabbi,

Gamaliel, as a strict Jew, he had viciously persecuted the Christian Way, seeing to it that followers of Christ were put to death, both men and women. He was on record as seeking to destroy this religion even outside Palestine, Damascus in Syria (v. 1-5).

Second, en route to Damascus, he was suddenly engulfed by a great light from heaven. He heard a voice: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute?" It was Jesus of Nazareth, whom he had been persecuting. The Jews accompanying him saw the light and heard a sound, through they were unable to decipher it. He asked, "What shall I do, Lord?" He was instructed to proceed into the city where he would be told of the "things" (note the plural---not faith alone) appointed to be done. However, he was blind and had to be led by his companions into the city. Note that it was the "glory" of the Lord that blinded him, not the light per se; his companions saw the light, but they were not blinded.

Third, a highly respected Jew (a christian), Ananias by name, came and restored his sight. This man informed Saul that God had chosen him to know his will, to see the Righteous One, the resurrected Jesus, and to hear his voice. Saul's future role would be to bear witness to all people of what he had seen and heard, to Jew and Gentile alike. He was then instructed to "arise, and be immersed: (v. 16). The second verb is in a grammatical form that suggests "have yourself immersed." The decision for baptism has to be made by the candidate himself--- a believer and old enough to be guilty of sin --- not another (as in the case of infant baptism). The purpose was to "wash away your sins." Immersion puts one in contact with Christ blood, the ultimate cleansing agent (Heb. 9:14; Eph. 5:26). In this act, one is "calling on (Christ's) name" (2:21, 38). His baptism was not a "sign" of cleansing already received; such an allegation is a serious perversion of truth. Saul being a faithful Jew and also a Roman had prayed for three days and nights, but that did not bring him into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, neither does it today. Acts 9:11 "And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth," Galatians 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

Forth, after an extended interval, Saul had returned to Jerusalem. He was praying in the temple (showing abiding respect for the holy compound) when Jesus appeared to him again. The Lord told him to quickly leave Jerusalem, for his Hebrew kinsmen would not listen to his message. He attempted to argue with the Savior, suggesting that the Jews, knowing of his past, would surely believe. But the Lord replied: "Depart, for I will send you far away---unto the Gentiles" (v. 21).

(Acts 22:22-29) Paul, the Roman citizen: when the mob heard the word "Gentile," an explosion erupted. "Away with him", was the cry. "He is not fit to live!" In symbolic gestures, they threw off their outer garments and cast dirt into the air. The chief-captain was confused as to how to handle the situation. The only thing he could think of was to give Paul a beating and perhaps the truth would come out. He was brought into the fortress for the disciplinary measure (v. 24).

They tied him stationary with leather thongs. As they were about to apply the lash, Paul addressed a centurion standing nearby: "Is it lawful for you to beat a Roman citizen who has not had a trial, and thus has not been found guilty of any crime?" Such was an egregious violation of Roman law! The centurion was horrified. He went to Lysias and asked: "What are you about to do? Are you not aware that this man is a Roman citizen?" He therefore asked Paul about his citizenship. The captain had bought his citizenship, but Paul was born a citizen! This was a significantly higher caliber of citizenship. The captain was very frightened; this had been a close call. The following day, Paul was "loosed" (perhaps from his chains (21:33) and taken before the Sanhedrin, the purpose of which was to have the Jewish charges against him clarified in view of future proceedings.

Acts 23

(Acts 23:1-10) Paul's defense: Paul looked straight at the council (normally consisting of seventy or seventy-one members, seated in a semicircle) and began: "Brothers, I have lived in all good conscience until this day." A good conscience is no guarantee of correct conduct. Paul had been wrong in his persecution of Christians and he later was terribly sorry for that abuse (Eph. 3:8; 1 Tim. 1:12-14).

Suddenly, there was a rude interruption; the high priest, Ananias (A.D. 47-59), commanded that Paul be hit in the mouth (v. 2). Paul responded (if I may paraphrase): "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! Do you sit as a judge, obligated to respect the law, and yet you command me to be struck contrary to the law?" Those standing by exclaimed: "Do you dare to revile God's high priest?" To

which the apostle replied: "I know what the law says; but I do not recognize him as a rightful priest" (v. 3-5).

Some scholars contend that Paul had a temper burst on this occasion, but subsequently apologized. Such a view is not consistent with the facts. (a) The apostles had been promised guidance by the Spirit under just such circumstances as this (Mt. 10:17-20; Lk. 21:14). Was that promise applicable on this occasion or not? Paul did not apologize for the Holy Spirit. (b) The ruler was not a legitimate high priest (descended from Aaron), and he was exceedingly corrupt (Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews 20.9.2). (c) Paul's prophecy about the fate of the ruler came true. Ananias was assassinated nine years later. (d) The grammatical form of Paul's response suggests he was saying: "I did not and I do not now recognize this man as the high priest."

The apostle knew he would never get a fair hearing at this meeting. Hence, noticing that the crowd consisted of both Pharisees and Sadducees (highly charged opposing parties), Paul proclaimed his Pharisaic ancestry and his belief in the resurrection of the dead. Immediately, there was rancorous discord among the factions, for the Sadducees denied the idea of a bodily resurrection. The assembly was now in shambles (v. 6-9). Paul faded into the background in this dog-and-cat fight. The chief captain, now fearing that his Roman prisoner might be killed, took the apostle into the fortress for protection (v. 10).

Acts 23:11) the Lord's word of comfort: Paul, as a normal human being, was in great danger and doubtless under considerable stress. Accordingly, the following night, "the Lord stood by him, and said, "Be of good cheer: for as you have testified concerning me at Jerusalem, so must you bear witness also at Rome." In his letter to the Roman Christians, the apostle had expressed his desire to visit these brothers (1:10). Now he knows that interest will be realized. He is further assured that he will not die in the current crisis. There will be hardships to come, but the Lord is not finished yet with this great man!

(Acts 23:12-25) the Jews' plot: the Jews took an oath to get rid of Paul. More than forty determined to see the apostle dead, and the Sanhedrin was complicit in the lethal plan (v. 12-14). They would ask the chief captain to bring Paul down for additional interrogation, but would jump him and murder him in the process. Where men propose, God can dispose! Providentially, Paul's nephew overheard the plot and reported it (v. 45-46). When Lysias, the captain, heard of this plot, he made arrangements to get Paul out of town by night. Two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen were dispatched to guard Paul---quite enough to take care of forty, hot-headed Hebrews! The armed band, Paul in company, headed for Caesarea, where Felix, the Roman procurator, was in residence. A cover letter was sent explaining the circumstances.

(Acts 23:26-30) Lysias' letter to Felix: an explanation would be needed to explain why this prisoner was being sent to Caesarea; thus, an introductory document was prepared. Felix was the Roman official in Judea from A.D. 51 to 60. At this time, he was married to Drusilla (24:24), whom he had seduced from her husband. He was an unscrupulous ruler who once had been a slave. A Roman historian described him as a man who "reveled in cruelty and lust, and wielded the power of a king with the mind of a slave."

After a courteous introduction, Lysias set forth the "facts" (as he bends them to his advantage) for the ruler: (a) "The Jews were about to lynch this man, but I rescued him because I had learned he was a Roman." (b) "I presented him before the Jewish council, but their charges were religious and nothing was established deserving of the death penalty." (c) "His life is in jeopardy; thus, I am sending him to you." (d) "His accusers can make their case before you."

(Acts 23:31-35) the journey to Caesarea: under the protection of the Roman guard and the cloak of night, the armed force made their way toward the seacoast. It was an all-night trip. After a thirty-five mile trek, they came to Antipatris. They felt relatively safe at this juncture, so the foot soldiers and spearmen returned to Jerusalem; the seventy men of the cavalry continued on as escorts. When they arrived in Caesarea, Lysias' letter was presented to Felix, along with Paul himself. The ruler inquired regarding Paul's provincial nativity; upon learning it was Cilicia, for some reason he decided to review the matter personally, instead of having him transferred elsewhere. He promised to fully hear the apostle's case just as soon as his accusers arrived from Jerusalem. Paul was held in Herod's palace---a magnificent structure of white stone, covering 165 acres. He was restricted here for five days awaiting his hearing.

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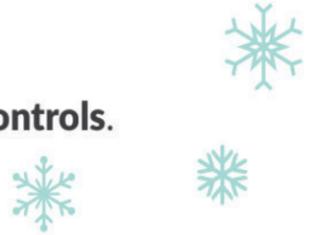


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