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Psalm 100:3
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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

2026 is HERE!!!

Ms Ivory, Mimi, Pappy and me sure hope everyone had an amazing Christmas! We did!

Especially, Ms Ivory and me. We got to eat some yummy turkey and ham! Yummy, yum-yum-yum!! Guess what? Can you believe, Mimi didn't scold Pap for sneaking us some of the little nuggets of deliciousness?

She said it was okay because we deserved it and good girls like us need a little treat on special occasions.



Now, that Christmas is over, 2026 is here! Mimi and Pap say that time sure flies by. I have to agree.

Any-woof, we sure hope that every one has a safe, healthy, happy New Year! One filled with love, peace, joy and gratitude.

May everyone see each day as the blessing it is.

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

WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
GAS
UTILITY DISTRICT**
MORGAN of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 06	61°/48°	
Wed 07	65°/45°	
Thu 08	66°/58°	
Fri 09	66°/57°	
Sat 10	62°/37°	
Sun 11	46°/27°	
Mon 12	42°/28°	

Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

— In Loving Memory —

**David Francis Rogers, 81
United States Army Veteran**



David Francis Rogers, 81, passed away on December 21, 2025, at Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He was born on February 22, 1944, in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, and raised in Coalfield, Tennessee. A lifelong resident of Coalfield, he carried the spirit of his community with him throughout his life, grounded in the values and connections formed in the place he always called home.

David proudly served his country in the United States Army from November 15, 1966, to November 14, 1972. He achieved the rank of Sergeant while serving in Battery A, 15th

Artillery, 2nd Infantry Division. His service included a deployment to Korea from November 29, 1967, to October 31, 1968, where he fulfilled his duties with dedication and honor.

Following his military service, David built a distinguished 35-year career at ORNL, K25, and Y12, where he held a variety of roles and responsibilities. He retired in 1999 as a Maintenance Supervisor from the Y12 National Security Complex, remembered for his strong work ethic, steady leadership, and commitment to those he worked alongside.

He was a Master Mason with Faith Masonic Lodge #756 F&AM in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and a devoted member of the Church of Christ in Oliver Springs, Tennessee. His faith and fellowship were important parts of his life and the values he carried with him.

David was a skilled electrician, carpenter, and mason—talents

he used generously to help others, solve problems, and build things that lasted. His craftsmanship was matched only by his patience and willingness to lend a hand whenever someone needed him.

He enjoyed a wide range of hobbies, including Amateur Radio, shooting, hunting, fishing, gardening, woodworking, and working on automobiles. Whether tending a garden, repairing an engine, or connecting with others over the airwaves, David found joy in working with his hands and sharing his knowledge.

David was preceded in death by his father, Johnny Rogers; his mother, Carrie Jackson Rogers; his brother, Lincoln Rogers; and his sister, Carol Joan Rogers Sloat.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Janet Toney Rogers; his daughter, Kimberly Rogers Jones, and son-in-law, Dan Jones; his grandson, Nich-

olas Jones, and fiancée, Helen Wagner; his brother, Paul Rogers; and his sisters, Mary Stewart, Catherine Holbrook, Carla Gant, and Karen Griffin.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 26, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 4:00-5:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 5:00 p.m. Gravesides services will be Monday, December 29, 2025 in the Roane Memorial Gardens at 2:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of David Rogers.

The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

- Lamentations 3:24

Holly LaVelle Duncan Hall



Mrs. Holly LaVelle Duncan Hall of Lancing, formerly of Petros departed from this world on Christmas morning, December 25, 2025. Holly was of Christian faith and enjoyed being in church service, listening to gospel music, and coloring with her niece Whitley.

She is preceded in death by her father, Roger Duncan and mother, Brenda Gibson; and nephew, Isaiah Nathaniel Peddicord.

She is survived by her son, Jordan Hall; sister Wendy Duncan Potter (Tom Feezell); nephews William Michael (Jenny) Potter and Walter McKinley Potter II; special niece, Whitley Meadows Potter; Godmother, Lora Davis, and a host of cousins and friends.

The family will receive friends Monday December 29, 2025 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg. A graveside service will immediately follow at New Petros Cemetery, Petros TN.

In lieu of flowers the family ask that contributions be made to Schubert Funeral Home P.O. Box 326 Wartburg, TN 37887.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Holly Duncan Hall.

Dorothy "Dot" Sexton



*Dorothy "Dot" Sexton
1/14/1938 12/22/2025*

Beloved Mother, sister, aunt, and friend, went home to be with Our Lord on Monday evening, 12/22/2025.

Dot was born in Kentucky but lived most of her life in Tennessee. She married the love of her life, Bob Sexton on 7/16/1958, and they enjoyed many great adventures together.

Dot is survived by twin daughters, Marlene Jerrolds and Charlene Kennedy, grandson Jacob Jerrolds and wife, Sabrina Dooley, sisters Elizabeth Jones and Faye Williams, many nephews and nieces, and friends.

Her daughters and family will miss her greatly but rejoice that she is not suffering or in pain anymore.

The family will be receiving friends at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg, Tennessee, on Saturday 12/27/2025 from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm EST with service from 12:00 pm EST. Interment will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge, Tennessee.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Dorothy "Dot" Sexton.



— In Loving Memory —

Joshua Roy Shelton, 36



Joshua Roy Shelton
December 1, 1989 – December
16, 2025

Joshua Roy Shelton, 36, of Alexander, North Carolina, passed away unexpectedly on December 16, 2025. Joshua was born on December 1, 1989 in Lenoir, North Carolina, Caldwell County.

Joshua was the son of Frederick and Janine Shelton. Joshua was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Roy and Georgia Shelton; his maternal grandparents, Lloyd and Anne Blunt; his aunt, LeDema Griffith; and his uncles, Lloyd Blunt Jr. and Michael Blunt.

Joshua was known to his family—especially to his niece and nephew—as “Joshie.” Though it was a nickname he wasn’t particularly fond of, he wore it like a badge of honor, a quiet reflection of the love he had for his family.

Josh was a hardworking, blue-collar man who took pride in working with his hands. He had a deep love for the outdoors and cherished time spent on his grandpa’s land in Tennessee. He especially enjoyed hunting and fishing, finding peace and joy in nature. He also had a passion for dirt bike riding and was an avid video gamer, often spending late nights gaming with his brother, Ryan—memories that will be forever treasured.

In addition to his loving parents, Joshua is survived by his sister, Elaine Hensley (Jimmie) along with their children Sarah and Lukas, of Leicester, North Carolina; and brother, Ryan Shelton, (Erica) of Alexander, North Carolina;

Joshua is also survived by his aunts Sandra Helton (James), of Oakdale, Tennessee; Tabitha Hamby (Dennis), of Wartburg, Tennessee; and Andrea Merida, of Barbourville, Kentucky. Joshua was also deeply loved by a host of cousins.

Joshua will be remembered for his strong work ethic, his love of family, and the quiet loyalty he showed to those closest to him. He leaves behind a legacy of shared memories, laughter, and love that will never be forgotten.

Pallbearers will be Ryan Shelton, Jimmie Hensley, Kinley Hamby, Kyle Ruppe, Elijah Ruppe, Eric Goldston, Lyndell Goldston, and Chad Ellege.

The visitation and funeral service will be held at Schubert Funeral Home, 1318 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg, TN 37887. His family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 21, at the funeral home, followed by the funeral service, officiated by Rev. Dr. Keith Hutchinson, at 2:00 p.m. The burial will then take place at Camp Austin Cemetery, 1976 Camp Austin Rd, Oakdale, TN 37829.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Joshua Roy Shelton.

Gloria Jean Redmon, 73



It is with great sadness that the family of Gloria Jean Redmon announces that she has passed away. Gloria Jean Redmon, age 73 of Lansing, TN, passed away at Methodist Medical Center peacefully while surrounded by her family on December 23, 2025.

She was born in Scottsbluff, NE on March 29, 1952 to parents Nicholas and Maggie Reyes. She worked at Wartburg Middle School in food service for 25 years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nicholas and Maggie Reyes; brothers: Senovio Reyes, Carmelo Reyes, Marshall Reyes, and Jesse Reyes; and sisters: Kathe Reyes and Virginia Ojeda.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 43 years, Wendell Redmon; children: Jonathan (Meagan) Redmon, Christopher (Whitney) Redmon, and Sarah; grandchildren: Gabriel Redmon, Landon Redmon, Coton Isham, Emery Redmon, Kara Redmon, Ariadne Martin, and Maddox McGhee; brothers: Angel Reyes (Darlene Fiest) and children: Michael and Mario along with their spouses and kids; Nick (Bea) Reyes and children: Nikki, Stephan and Patrick, along with their spouses and kids, and Jesse Reyes; sister, Victoria Reyes; many nieces, nephews and extended family.

The family will receive friends Wednesday December 31, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with a memorial service at 7:00.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gloria Jean Redmon.

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.



— In Loving Memory —

Robert “Bobby” Hicks, 61



Bobby was very talented and loved by his co-workers. Bobby’s careers ranged from building underground tunnels to operating heavy equipment in radioactive areas. One of his most recent adventures was Grey Beards Lawn care, where he partnered with his close friend Dave Hall. Bobby worked long hours and yet he had time for his family and community.

Bobby was well known for his coaching abilities at Sunbright High School where he graduated in 1983. He assisted the coaching staff at Sunbright High School where he impacted many young lives on and off the field.

Bobby is survived by his four beautiful children (of whom he was extremely proud), Johnathan Hicks, Dustin and Wife

Madison Hicks, Daughter Halee Hicks and Fiancé Zack and Daughter Natalie Diaz.

Bobby is further survived by his Mother- Ettie Jo Hicks, His Brother-James and wife Lynn Hicks of Georgia, Sister- Lisa and Husband Chris Russell, Nieces- Autumn, Mariah & Hollyann Russell, Nephews- Brian and wife Ashley Bledsoe, Aaron Moore and Amber along with a host of great nieces, nephews, uncles, and cousins.

Bobby is preceded in death by his Father Wilford Hicks. Aunts Eva England, Dorine Devaney and Doris Lawson and Uncle’s Billy Hicks, Jim Devaney.

The family will receive friends Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from

5:00-8:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. at Schubert Funeral Home with Bro. Charles Webb officiating. Interment will follow in Neal’s Cemetery.

Pall Bearers- Dustin Hicks, Johnathan Hicks, Evan England, Jessie England, Dave Hall, Chris Russell.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Robert “Bob” Hicks.

“Those we love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day... unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear.” – Unknown

Robert “Bobby” Hicks transitioned peacefully from his home in Sunbright, TN to his Heavenly home with his Lord Saviour on Monday December 22, 2025. Bobby was born on May 30, 1964, to Wilford and Ettie Jo Hicks of Sunbright.

Psalm 123:1

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



Mary Lou Daugherty Lindsay, 78



and wife Maddie. Great-grandchildren: Wyatt, Waylon and Walker Campbell, Case Ochoa, and Maverick Lindsay. Sisters: Kathryn Daugherty, Phyllis White and husband Connie, and Karen Daugherty. Best friends since birth Terry and Teddy Basler.

Also, a special place in Mary’s heart goes to Paula, Sonya, Marilyn and everyone with the Quality Family.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Smile Train at smiletrain.org and/or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital at st-jude.org.

The family will receive friends Monday, January 5, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 10:00-11:00 a.m. with the funeral to follow at 11:00 a.m. Interment will follow in the Family Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mary Lou Daugherty Lindsay.

Mary Lou Daugherty Lindsay, age 78, of Oakdale passed away on Friday, December 26, 2025.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Jack C. Lindsay, parents Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Daugherty, brothers Dennis Ray and Kenneth Daugherty Jr., grandmothers Rose Wallace and Louvernia Carroll, and aunt Sally Basler.

Survivors include her children: Deanna Rose “Gidgett” Daugherty, Rita Lynn Lindsay Huffstetler and husband Wayne, and Johnny “Goose” Lindsay and wife Dee Ann. Grandchildren: Kiara Elkins, Leslie Lively and husband Everett, Victoria Ochoa, and Michael Lindsay



— In Loving Memory —

Randy Arthur Gibson, 58



Randy Arthur Gibson, age 58 of Deer Lodge passed away on January 2, 2026, at the Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge after a short battle with cancer.

Randy was born on May 12, 1967, in Chicago, Illinois, but

grew up in Deer Lodge. Randy married the love of his life, Sherry, and together they raised their son, Andrew. He was a cable TV lineman for years and then ran his auto repair garage in Deer Lodge with his dad. He loved his music, and he had a great sense of humor, loved to laugh, and wanted to make others laugh. Those that knew him were often the recipient of his quick wit and desire to make you laugh.

Randy is preceded in death by his mother Patricia (Patti) Gibson and father Henry (H.C.) Gibson; grandparents Arthur and Beulah Robinson and Chester and Ada

Gibson; uncles Ross Branstetter and Jerry Robinson; and mother-in-law Dean Lavender.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Sherry; son Andrew and fiancée Bonnie Chaboudy; sister Debra Vertner-Brown and brother-in-law Jay Brown; father-in-law Wilfred Lavender; sister-in-law Karen Starr (David); aunt Kathy Branstetter; nephews, great nephews/niece, and cousins; and many great friends.

Randy loved his fur babies and to rescue those that needed a home so in lieu of flowers, you may want to donate to a pet shel-

ter or your charity of choice.

The family will receive friends on Monday, January 5, 2026 from 5-7 pm Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Services will follow at 7 pm. Graveside services will be Tuesday, January 6th at 11 am at the Mt. Hope Cemetery, Deer Lodge, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Randy Arthur Gibson.



Historically Speaking Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: Tensions Rise (1948-1952)

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). The responsibility of his position during World War II 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 wartime atomic energy activities. He was also responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

Following the war, Nichols kept close watch over the MED's production facilities as well as atomic weapon stockpiles until handing over responsibility to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). In New York, assisting the American representative to the U.N. Atomic Energy Commission, Nichols made numerous presentations to UN delegates on certain treaty provisions that were very successful in gaining support for international control of atomic energy.

Ordered back to Washington, D.C., Major General Nichols was key in developing doctrine with the Pentagon and the U.S. Congress for the use of atomic and hydrogen weapons to protect our nation and allies. Serving as Chief of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP), Deputy Director of Guided Missiles, and other key positions, General Nichols played a major role in the development of missiles for the delivery of nuclear weapons and what is today called anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense.

Serving as General Manager of the Atomic Energy Commission, 1953-1955, Nichols remained a fierce advocate of peacetime development of atomic power to meet and exceed our nation's growing energy needs. He assisted with the Atoms for Peace project and helped formulate the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

In this twenty-sixth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of his role during the tense early years of the Cold War. Complete invasion of Western Europe by the Soviets was at stake.

Major General Nichols' prescient concern with civilian control of atomic weapons by the AEC (see 25th article), unfortunately, proved accurate as conflict with the USSR became a real issue. Nichols and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) Chairman Lilienthal came to an understanding with a little help from President Truman. Called to the White House on March 11, 1948, along with Secretary of War Kenneth Claiborne Royall, Nichols tells the story, "Truman indicated that Lilienthal and I should take seats on two chairs that were directly in front of his desk and facing him. After we sat down, as I recall it, the president said to both of us, 'I know you two hate each other's guts.'

"Then, looking me squarely in the eyes, he said, 'Nichols, if I instruct Mr. Lilienthal that the primary objective of the AEC is to develop and produce atomic weapons, do you see any reason why you cannot cooperate fully with Mr. Lilienthal?' I replied: 'There is no problem if that is

the primary objective.'

"Then the president turned to Lilienthal and said: 'Dave, I am signing the letter appointing Nichols a major general, and he is to be chief of the AFSWP and a member of the MLC. You will have to forgo your desire to place a bottle of milk on every doorstep and get down to the business of producing atomic weapons.'

"Then, looking at both of us, he said, 'I expect you two to cooperate.' The president then excused Secretary Royall and me and continued a conversation with Lilienthal."

The Senate Armed Services Committee approved Nichols' promotion to Major General on April 22, 1948, and he was appointed Chief of AFSWP. (He was too young to be promoted to Lieutenant General; all future Chiefs of AFSWP would hold the rank of Lt General.) Nichols was



Dr. Vannevar Bush appears before a House Committee investigating Armed Services procurement.

December 5, 1952. Warren K. Leffler and Harris & Ewing.

(Courtesy of Harry S. Truman Library and Museum)

also appointed a Military Liaison Committee (MLC) member, Committee of Atomic Energy (CAE) member, and General Wedemeyer's Deputy in Plans and Operations Division (Atomic Energy).

There was no time to lose in a rapidly changing international situation that entailed preparations for possible war with the Soviets. Tensions with the Soviets escalated with Russia's:

- Overthrow of the democratically elected Czechoslovakian government in February 1948,
- Berlin Blockade, June 18, 1948,
- Successful atomic bomb test in August 1949, followed by 715 more,
- The installation of the Iron Curtain, and
- Invasion of South Korea, 1950.

The first A-bomb test by the Russians was a tremendous shock to Americans and took place years before predicted by Generals Groves and Nichols, and others. Complete invasion of Western Europe by the Soviets was at stake.

Nichols personally witnessed the evolution from Truman's existing Presidential order that no one should plan for the use of atomic weapons to an acceleration of atomic weapons production, and finally, to the full support of the H-bomb development.

This evolution was directly due to General Eisenhower's influence as Nichols witnessed firsthand in meetings with and personal briefings

to him. These meetings were held, sometimes daily, throughout the Berlin blockade, Berlin crisis, and Korean War (Nichols never referred to it as a "Conflict"). General Eisenhower greatly impressed Nichols with how easily he, "assumed leadership of the entire group as he entered into the discussions," recalled Nichols.

Now that Lilienthal and the AEC were ordered to produce atomic weapons, disputes arose over how many to produce. Nichols, negotiating with Lilienthal for over a month, drafted the required Presidential Order for how many weapons would be produced over the next 12 months; it was the best deal under the circumstances for a joint recommendation. But Ike insisted Nichols rewrite the Order in a half-hour. Ike said that, if necessary, he would personally call on the President to tell him why he was not in agreement

with Lilienthal. The revised March 1949 letter stated there should be a greater reliance on atomic weapons, and it was necessary to expand the program. Ike also ordered Nichols to expedite the training and equipping of atomic weapon assembly teams.

After the end of World War II, "economizing" became the watchword. But with the Soviets' A-bomb explosion, Nichols said, "When he [Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson] should have awakened was when we went up to see him on the Russian atomic explosion. I remember his comment to me – he said he wouldn't believe it no matter how good the Intelligence was.

"My comment was perhaps not an appropriate one. I said, 'Well, Mr. Secretary, you'd better prepare yourself to believe this one, because it happens to be right. We'll be up in two days with full documentation that the Russians have set off an atomic explosion.'"

Later, Nichols reflected, "You've got to look at the times – a sincere desire for peace on everybody's part, and to get along with Russia, and you shouldn't make any overt moves that looked like you were preparing for war."

The AEC increased production of fissionable materials. With Oppenheimer chairing the Long-Range-Objectives Panel under the MLC, Nichols enjoyed working with him and appreciated his "considerable support" with developing tactical use of atomic weapons.

Historically Speaking Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: Tensions Rise (1948-1952)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Nichols recalled, "Oppenheimer demonstrated his leadership and was a master at summarizing the discussions and recommendations of the group. The recommendations of this panel were very helpful both to the AEC and the military. Oppenheimer gave me considerable support for developing the tactical use of atomic weapons. I enjoyed working with him."

And,

"I would like to stress that I worked with Oppie, particularly after the war, on several very key committees pertaining to the course we should be following for weapon development and expansion programs, and that type of thing. And in most cases, Oppie would be Chairman of these committees. I found that he was excellent at preparing the summaries of meetings and merging and compromising diverse opinions. And I found myself in considerable agreement with him. And I also found he supported me as the Army representative for programs the Army desired."

The stockpile of Mark III weapons increased, and Mark IV weapons were in production. Development proceeded on improved implosion weapons for both plutonium and U-235. However, studies on the thermonuclear bomb continued at a slow pace.

As early as September 1948, coordination of U.K. air bases had been discussed in a meeting attended by three armed services chiefs; the Secretaries of the Army, Navy, and Air Force; Secretary of State Marshall; Generals Gruenther and Norstad; MLC Chairman Donald Carpenter; and Nichols. Nichols recalled, "The situation with the USSR was worsening, and a greater state of readiness to deliver atomic weapons was necessary. The situation certainly was getting hotter in the Cold War."

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was signed April 1949, in part to deter Soviet expansion in Europe. In the fall of 1949, Nichols inspected all British atomic energy facilities; obtained permission to send atomic weapon assembly teams to certain British bases; and met with British leaders, notably Lord Cherwell (see 19th article), to discuss the US-UK-Canada proposed atomic energy agreement.

Nichols, assisting General Vandenburg with drafting the Joint Chiefs of Staff's position on the development of the hydrogen bomb, explained that once the Russians exploded their first atomic weapon, many scientists were now in favor of working on the project. Scientists Lawrence, Teller, and Luis Alvarez urged support for a "vigorous" H-bomb program.

Nichols recalled General Bradley, "stated that he believed the United States would be in an intolerable position if a possible enemy possessed the H-bomb and the United States did not. He said that he personally supported development of the H-bomb; Norstad and the chiefs of the Army and Navy concurred."

Vandenburg decided in favor of development, and that went on record for the Joint Chiefs' position at a Joint Congressional Committee meeting and in the JCS's recommendation to Secretary of Defense Johnson in January 1950.

During this time the AEC attempted to isolate the MLC from any information regarding the H-bomb work in the national laboratories. "Without informing the MLC, Lilienthal took the report of the commission majority [against developing

the H-bomb] to the President," Nichols recalled.

Nichols believed it was a grave mistake to put in a key position in national defense anyone who does not believe you should prepare for war. Meeting with Dr. Vannevar Bush to request his support in convincing President Truman of the H-bomb development, Bush laughed and said, "Nichols, when will you learn to be patient? I know that you have been fighting Mr. Lilienthal on custody, and you're now fighting him on the hydrogen bomb. You finally have him out on a limb, and he's sawing it off himself... Just be patient - the whole Commission'll be gone by June of this year [1950]." Bush was absolutely right.

President Truman announced his decision to accelerate development of the H-bomb on January 31, 1950; Nichols reflected that once Truman had the facts, he acted "vigorously". Lilienthal resigned, eliminating the "biggest obstacle to cooperation," recalled Nichols. By July 1950, hostilities in Korea began, and in November, when the Chinese invaded, "an increased state of emergency existed," the new AEC Chairman Gordon Dean wrote to the MLC.

In November 1950, Nichols was assigned



Major General Kenneth D. Nichols, June 17, 1948,
(Courtesy of Barbara Rogers Scollin)



A meeting at The Lodge, Los Alamos, NM. Front row, L>R: Dr. John Manley; Maj Gen K.D. Nichols, A.S. Alexander (or possibly Mark E. Andrews?), Dr. Norris E. Bradbury, Lt. Gen. T.B. Larkin. Back row, L>R: Dr. Edward Teller, Dr. Alvin C. Graves, William Webster, Brig Gen James McCormack, Carroll L. Tyler, James Russell, Brig Gen S.R. Mickelsen, and Col. A.W. Betts.
(Courtesy of Los Alamos Historical Society Archives)

to work directly with K.T. Keller (see 13th article) as Deputy Director of Guided Missiles. [During Nichols' three years of service with Keller they established production programs for Army's tactical missiles Corporal, Hermes, Redstone and Honest John; Air Force and Navy's pilotless strategic bombers Navaho, Snark, Rascal, Triton and Rigel; Navy and Air Force's pilotless tactical bombers Regulus and Matador and air defense miles Nike, Sparrow and Falcon; and Navy's Sidewinder air-to-air missile.]

Nichols also served as Chief of Research and Development of the Army. Additionally, he oversaw the Nike Air Defense Project, focused on delivering atomic weapons for both offense and defense. Under Nichols, guided-missile atomic warheads were developed with Los Alamos and Sandia, and he coordinated the physical size requirement with the AEC. Nichols advocated "higher-yield weapons to make up for the inaccuracies occurring in warfare and to provide greater overpressure necessary to destroy hardened targets." Nichols also initiated research on antimissile missiles (now named antiballistic missiles or ABMs).

In December 1951, Truman approved continental atomic weapon testing. American cit-

izens prepared for possible nuclear attacks from Soviet Russia by constructing fallout shelters and conducting air-raid drills (e.g., "duck and cover") in schools and industry.

As the possibility that the Korean War would escalate into a world war, General MacArthur suggested "the necessity to use atomic weapons" in Korea to Eisenhower early in 1952. This was the first time the terminology of military "availability" of weapons was used instead of military need for "custody," recalled Nichols.

On November 1, 1952, Los Alamos successfully exploded America's first thermonuclear device.

Next up: The AEC (1953-1955)

Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; D. Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bianka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Rebecca Collinworth, Katy Jones-Gulsby and the Los Alamos Historical Society Archives; Diane Gulley; Gerald A. Potts; and Bruce W. Scollin for their assistance with this article.

Thanks for this Historically Speaking column and series goes to Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols.

Acts 28



Melvin Howard

(Acts 28:1-6) warm reception on Malta: Luke writes: "And when we were escaped..." The passive form of the verb, which may seem awkward to the modern reader, attributes the rescue to God. The island was called Malta (modern Malta). It is a small island (see 27:26) located one hundred eighty miles north of the African coast and about fifty-eight miles south of Sicily. The natives of the island, who did not speak Greek, graciously received them. It was cold and raining, so the islanders kindled a fire. Paul helped

gather the wood. Suddenly, a poisonous snake slithered from the heating pile and fastened on to Paul's hand. When the natives observed no harm to the apostle they concluded he was some sort of "god" (14:11, 19).

(Acts 28:7-10) Miracles of healing: the chief of the island, Publius, received them and entertained them with kind hospitality for three days ("we" and "us" may have been restricted to the Christian brothers; the text is vague). The father of Publius was very ill; Paul prayed, laid hands upon him, and healed him. Others came and were cured (v. 8-9). Some scholars see a difference in the terms "healed" and "cured"---the first referring to Paul's miracle, the remainder to Dr. Luke's curative treatments. They remained on the island for three months (v. 11) and were generously supplied with their needs.

(Acts 28:11-15) on to Rome: a ship from Alexandria had wintered at Malta. When favorable weather arrived, the Rome-bound folks were able to secure passage. They stopped at Syracuse (on Sicily) for three days. Archaeologists have discovered "Christian" catacombs here. They then sailed northward up the channel that separates the "toe" (Sicily) from the "boot" of Italy and stopped at Rhegium for a day before moving on to Puteoli, the region's major port. It was a bustling city of some one hundred thousand people, and about 142 miles south of Rome. Here they spent a week and found fellow Christians with which to associate. Finally, they started up the highway toward the imperial city. The news of their impending arrival reached the saints in Rome, and a welcoming party came southward to the Market of Appius and The Three Taverns (perhaps the name of a major traveling accommodation), a trip of some fifty miles altogether. When Paul saw them, he thanked God---probably for his safe arrival thus far and for these beloved brethren whose faith was known so widely (Rom. 1:8).

(Acts 28:16-22) communication with Roman Jews: finally, the seven-hilled city was entered. Its circumference was about thirteen miles, and it was reputed to have a population of more than four million (some consider it less), with perhaps two hundred thousand people on welfare. A large portion of the city was a slum area. Paul was permitted to secure his own dwelling, where he was under house arrest, being guarded by a soldier and under restraint (v. 20).

After three days, during which he probably was getting settled and securing a place to live (v. 30)---likely in the low-rent district---he called together a contingency of prominent Jews. It has been estimated that some twenty thousand Jews were in Rome at this time. When they assembled, he addressed them as common descendants of Abraham and made the following points: (a) He was not antagonistic to the nation or the customs of the Jews, yet the Jews had delivered him to the Romans. (b) They examined him and found no cause of death in him. (c) He had been forced by circumstances to appeal his case to Caesar, though he had not implicated national Judaism at large. (d) He thus urged them to give him a fair hearing because he still entertained the real "hope of Israel," for which he was suffering.

The Jews responded that they had not been prejudiced against him, either by letters or negative messengers. They were, however, most interested to hear more about the "sect" of Christians, for the movement had created controversy throughout the empire.

(Acts 28:23-29) an appointment for Continuing discussion: on an appointed day, the Jews returned (in considerable number) to his dwelling. He may have secured a large apartment in order to accommodate evangelistic studies. In a day-long session, Paul "expounded" (laid out in logical format) his case. The verbal tense would indicate a lengthy argument. (a) He spoke of the "kingdom of God". He may have shown prophecies regarding the coming of a new kind of kingdom (Dan. 2:44; 7:13; Zech. 6:12-13). He may have called attention to prophecies regarding the Jewish rejection of God's reign among Old Testament Israel and the replacement of it with a new and broader regime (Mt. 21:43). (b) He doubtless cited numerous Old Testament prophecies regarding the nature of the coming Messiah, his rejection by his own people, his atoning death, burial, and resurrection, along with the matching information concerning Jesus. His presentation no doubt was powerful, and the controversy was heated at times.

Some were "persuaded"---the verb can mean they started believing or that they became believing ones, they were ripe candidates for gospel obedi-

ence. On the other hand, other disbelieved, remained in their unbelief. They rejected Paul's message. There clearly was disagreement among the Jewish auditors. It is almost certain that the disbelievers would have been incensed that some of their colleagues had been persuaded by the gospel. Tempers likely flared, necessitating an apostolic rebuke. Paul gave them a stinging response. The Holy Spirit had spoken through Isaiah the prophet (6:9-10), foretelling the disposition of many of the rebellious Jews: (a) they would hear but refuse to understand, see but not perceive; (b) their hearts would be "gross" (thick), their ears "dull," and their eyes "closed"; (c) they simply did not want to believe and turn to God for his healing of their diseased souls (v. 25-27).

Paul's parting words would cut them to the quick. In view of their rejection, the "salvation of God" would henceforth be offered to the Gentiles. Unlike the spiritually deaf Hebrews, the pagans would listen---as indeed a "remnant" of the Jews had done already (see Romans chapter 11). Verse twenty-nine (KJV) is not found in the better Greek texts.

(Acts 28:30-31) conclusion: Paul remained in his dwelling, paid "at his own expense." Two entire years went by---the implication being that he was released at the end of that period. The New Testament indication is that Paul did "stand before Caesar" (27:24), even though it is commonly argued that Nero usually did not hear cases personally. During this two-year phase, the apostle enjoyed remarkable freedom to teach the gospel. He received all who came to his dwelling.

Thus ends the book of Acts---rather abruptly. Why? Apparently Luke knew of the outcome of Paul's situation; that is implied by the "two whole years" reference. We do not know why a further explanation was not given, save this was the design of the guiding Spirit. One thing is sure: no writer, directed solely by human impulses, would have left the story hanging in the way it ends. Surely this is a subtle evidence of the divine inspiration of the document.

During this two year span, four of Paul's letters were composed---Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. From references in these epistles, certain facts can be gleaned: (a) The apostle was under great stress, both physically and emotionally (Eph. 3:1; 4:1; Phil. 1:17; Col. 4:18; Philem. 1, 9, 10). (b) He had some anxiety as to how his trial before Caesar would go (Phil 2:23-24). (c) In addition to Luke and Aristarchus (27:2), Tychicus was there at some point; he conveyed Paul's letter to Ephesus (Eph. 6:21). (d) Timothy joined the apostle, for his name is connected to Paul's in the salutation of the letters to the churches at Philippi (1:1) and Colossae (1:1) and in the epistle to Philemon (v. 1). (e) Sometimes during this period, Paul came in contact with the runaway slave, Onesimus, and led him to the Lord (Col. 4:9; Philem. 10). (f) Mark joined Paul during this period, as did a Christian named Justus and another named Epaphras (Col. 4:10-12). (g) Demas, who later forsook the apostle, was there as well (Col. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:10). (h) Epaphroditus came from Philippi, bringing Paul financial assistance (Phil. 4:18).

As dark as this time must have been in some ways Paul viewed it positively, suggesting that his troubles really had worked for the progress of the gospel (Phil. 1:12). What a man!

This ends commentary on the book of Acts of the Apostles, but this does not end the pattern which they established, by means of the Holy Spirit, for the church of the living God, which is the kingdom of Christ. Every soul that was saved by the grace of God, through faith, were saved when they heard the PURE gospel of Christ and believed it and repented of their sins and confessed their faith that Jesus is the Son of God and were immersed (buried) in water into Jesus Christ for remission of their sins. This is how the Ephesians of Eph. 2:8-9 were saved (Acts 19:1-7). Friends, this is the way the truth and the one and only way to life eternal. We have this pattern of salvation in the book of Acts, many thousands of people are saved, made righteous by the blood of Christ at the point of surrender to the king. Hear in Romans 6:3-14 (please read) Paul explain it. All of the apostles died for the faith (the gospel), except John who was exiled. They did not distort the pattern of salvation as men do today.

Covenant: Luke 1:72; Acts 3:25; 7:8; Rom. 11:27; Gal. 3:15-17; Heb. 8:6-13; Heb. 9:1-4; 10:16; 10:29; 12:24; 13:20.

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