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Volume 12 Number 19

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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Stk# R3259
\$48,958



2016 Subaru Forester Touring Edition
Stk# T1834A
\$16,994



2023 Ford Escape AWD
Stk# R3227
\$28,968



2022 Jeep Cherokee Trailhawk, 4WD, 26k Miles
Stk# R3188
\$27,994



2023 Ford Bronco Outer Banks Ed., 4WD
12k Miles, Stk# R3215
\$47,999



2025 Ford F-250 Super Crew - 6.7 L Powerstroke
Stk# R3261A - **\$61,555**



2026 Ford Escape ST-Line, 18k Miles
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\$28,953



2016 Ford Fusion Titanium Pkg.
Stk# B3544
\$10,910



2023 F-150 Super-Crew 25k Miles
Stk# R3231
\$36,954



2021 Ford Explorer XLT 4WD
Stk# R3241
\$28,960



2020 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited "Willys" 4WD, 43k Miles, Stk# B352A
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**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Double Eagle Grill

Well, Mimi and Pap found a nice little restaurant at Emory Golf Club in Harriman called Double Eagle Grill. Mimi said there was a waitress there named Emma, that was the sweetest little thing.

Any-woof, they don't just open for those playing golf, it is for anyone. They serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner. They don't have a full menu like Cracker Barrell or other restaurants. But, if you're in the mood for Grill Food, it was pretty good. They also do music on some nights.

So, if you're out and about looking for some place different, give them a try.

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

WEEKLY WEATHER



TUE 5/26		73° 67°
WED 5/27		76° 64°
THU 5/28		80° 60°
FRI 5/29		79° 59°
SAT 5/30		74° 54°
SUN 5/31		72° 55°
MON 6/1		73° 55°

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

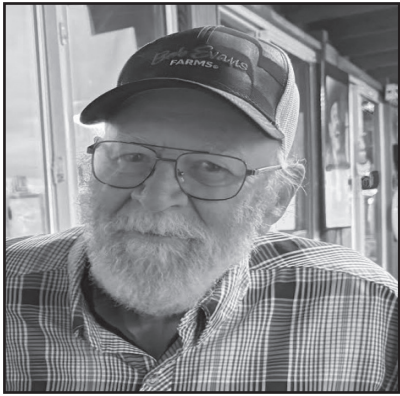
STORE HOURS

MONDAY	11:00	TO	8:00
TUESDAY	11:00	TO	8:00
WEDNESDAY	11:00	TO	8:00
THURSDAY	11:00	TO	8:00
FRIDAY	8:00	TO	9:00
SATURDAY	8:00	TO	9:00
SUNDAY	8:00	TO	6:00

DOUBLE EAGLE GRILL

— In Loving Memory —

Gary Lee Barnette, 77



Gary Lee Barnette, 77, of Lancing, Tennessee, went home to be with our Saviour, Sunday April 26, 2026, surrounded by loved ones, after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Gary was a friend to everyone he met, always had a smile on his face, and could crack you up with his quick wit and infectious laugh. He loved his family very much and had a special love for his Grands and Great Grandkids. He was a member of Wartburg First Baptist

Church in Wartburg, TN, and traveled with Southern Gospel Music Group Eternal Heart for 25 years where he was known as Paw, Daddy, sound man, best friend, prayer warrior, bus driver, mechanic and biggest fan. He also taught Sunday School for many years at Calvary Baptist Church. Gary owned and operated Barnette Paint & Body Repair in Lancing for over 38 years. He had many loyal customers throughout all those years. He had a talent for making things look "brand new" again. Even though he was a diehard FORD man, he was also employed as the Body Shop Manager for Sexton Chevrolet in Harriman, Tn for nearly 10 years and Morgan County Road department for about 3 years.

Gary was preceded in death by the Love of his Life for over 58 years (wife) Judy Barnette, his

parents Lee W. II and Lucille Norman (Tx), his brother Mike Barnette (Tx), son-in-law Leon Kennedy (Deer Lodge), brother-in-law Roger Parker (Tx), sister-in-law Jeannie Parker (Ky), Mother-in-law Charlotte Corley (Tx) and Father-in-law Louis Parker (Tx).

He is survived by his brother Lee III (Wendy) Norman (Wartburg), brother-in-law John Parker (Ky), sister-in-law Sharon (Dennis) McCallister (Tx), sister-in-law Sheryl Parker (Tx), sister-in-law Linda Frederick (Tx), brother-in-law Mike Parker (Tx), Daughter - Tammy (Jimmy) Giles of Oliver Springs, Son- Roy (Heather) Barnette of Wartburg, Daughter- Shelley Kennedy of Lancing. Grandchildren who knew him as "Paw", Maci Giles, (Dylan Henderson), Eli Giles, (Taylor Milen), Haley Barnette, Hannah Barnette, Noah (Raelee) Barnette,

Christian (Kayla) Redmon, and Lily Kennedy. Great Grandchildren Kolter, Hudson, Grayson, Brynlee, Lex, Salem, Lennox, Capri, Lucy, Teagan and Oaklynn.

The family will receive friends Saturday May 2, 2026 from 12-2pm at Schubert's Funeral Home in Wartburg, Tn. The funeral will follow at 2pm with Bro. Brandon Peters and Bro. Matt Ward Officiating. Interment will immediately follow at Clear Creek Cemetery in Lancing, Tn.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Gary Barnette.

Vernon Ray Hawn, 74

United States Army Veteran, Vietnam War Veteran



Vernon Ray Hawn, a devoted son, brother, decorated veteran, father, husband, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully at his home on April 22, 2026, surrounded by the family he loved so dearly. He was 74 years old.

Vernon's life was defined by a profound love for God, his family and his country. A proud veteran, he served with honor

in the 101st Airborne Division during the Vietnam War. His bravery and commitment to his fellow soldiers were hallmarks of his character that he carried with him throughout his life. Whether in uniform or at home, Vernon was known for his steadfast spirit and his unwavering faith.

Vernon was a pillar of strength for his large and loving family. While his presence will be deeply missed, his legacy lives on through those he leaves behind. He is preceded in death by his daughter, Dominique Hawn; his parents, Oscar and Octavia Hawn; his brother, Doyle Hawn; and his sister, Vanessa Hawn.

He is survived by his wife, Susie Hawn; his children, Curtis Hawn (Dawn), Cole Hawn Sheperd (Tasha), and Kyra Hawn (Qua-

terrio). He also leaves behind his sisters, Cheryl Joyner and Michelle McCormick (John); his grandchildren, Erika Vibbert (Isaiah), Tierra Markley (Adam), Andres Rogers aka AJ, and Unique Sheperd; and his great-grandchildren, Tatum Markley and Eleanor Vibbert. Additionally, he is survived by many beloved nieces and nephews, and Margie Hawn Malicoat, a friend of 55 years, who was once his wife, who is the mother of his 2 oldest children, remained active in his life, remained faithful to their friendship, and helped tremendously during his illness, whom all will cherish his memory.

The family will receive friends and loved ones to celebrate Vernon's life and honor his service

at the Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg on Friday, May 1st from 5pm to 7pm, officiated by Brother Doug Morgan. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at 11am at the Mossy Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, where Vernon will be laid to rest with military honors.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Vernon Ray Hawn.

Jackie Darrell Langley, AKA "Ronnie," 64



Jackie Darrell Langley AKA "Ronnie" age 64 of Sunbright, TN. peacefully passed away at home on May 15 2026 with

his daughters by his side after a long battle with cancer.

He worked hard all his life and contributed much to those around him towards the end. He brought back together the ones he loved, and he will be missed and loved by all who knew him.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Lozena Poe and father, Edwin Langley; brothers Ed Terry David Langley and sister Robin Bonham.

He's survived by his ex-wives Roberta and Debbie; daughters Tara, Krystal, Jackie; son Michael; several brothers and sisters he dearly loved and a legacy of grandkids who loved him beyond words.

The family will have a Celebration of Life, June 27, 2026 at the Sunbright City Hall from 11:00-3:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jackie Darrell Langley.

— In Loving Memory —

Florence E. Potter, 97



mel and Clyde Potter, Summer Williams, Cheyenne Williams, Robby Williams, Dillon Williams, Maddie and Nick Duncan, Gracie and Reed, Riley Parton. She is also survived by her great great grandchildren Kathy Haney, Axton Williams, Wrenley Williams, James Duncan, Oakley Williams, Beckett Reed, Brynlee, Reece, Nevaeh Brady; step grandchildren Austin and Corey Keathley, T.J. Hall and Autum, Jonathan Curl and Victoria, Amber, Greyson and Lydia Schlatter.

Florence E. Potter, age 97, a loving mother, and grandmother passed away April 21, 2026 at her home after a short illness.

She is preceded in death by her husband Lester Potter.

She is survived by her son Martin Potter and daughter Elizabeth Williams; grandchildren Shawn Hummel, Vanessa Potter and Brandon Potter, Robert and Bridgett Williams, Tony and Stephanie Williams and Patrick Haney, Jay and Bobbie Williams, and Nikki Williams, and David Parton; great grandchildren Danica and David, Potter Seth, Noah and Nathan Hum-

The family will receive friends Saturday at Schubert Funeral Home from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Bro. Mitch Hawn officiating. Interment will follow in the Old Potter Chapel Cemetery in Lancing.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Florence E. Potter.

Lydia Allene Lawler Garrett



She dearly loved her husband Wayne Garrett, her (6) kids, Damon Soles (Ariel Soles), Rickey Soles, Michael Lawler (Maria Lawler), Jason Lawler, Chris Garett, and Dana Duvall, her (13) grandkids; Kendra Soles, Damon Soles, Jr., Kurtis Soles, Callie Soles, Addilee Lowrance, Luke Soles, Austin Wise, Carlie Willis, Nicolas McDowell, Dominic Lawler, Daniel Lawler, Andrew Garrett, and Ashley Garrett, her (4) Great Grandkids: Carter, Elo-die, Kilian and Kaysin.

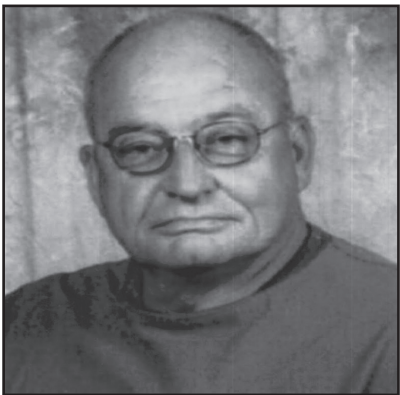
Mrs. Lydia Allene Lawler Garrett, born July 14, 1961, in Phoenix, AZ. She was a loving daughter to her parents, Dewey and Alice Lawler. She was a loving caring wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She loved singing, cooking, being outdoors, and absolutely loved her fur babies. Her favorite season of all is fall, but what she loved most of all in the whole world was her family and getting them all together to make sweet memories. She would always bring a smile to everyone's face.

She was a loving Daughter-in-law to Mildred and Freddie Garrett, a loving sister to her (5) siblings, Susan, Mark, Lee, Michelle, and Eric. She was a family woman who put God and her family first above all. She passed away peacefully in her home on April 11, 2026, surrounded by her family. She will forever be loved and in our hearts.

She was the best wife, mom, and mawmaw in the world.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Lydia Allene Lawler Garrett.

Garry R. Seabolt, 76



Garry leaves behind son, Garry "Joe" Seabolt; daughter Lora Parris; grandchildren Kelsey Gage Seabolt, Larry Kenneth Parris, Jr., Amanda Lynn Parris, Amelia Rochelle Parris; great grandchildren Maverick Parris and Mason Crady; special cousin and friend Roy Freels and a host of extended family and friends.

Garry R. Seabolt, age 76 of Sunbright passed away April 9, 2026 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge.

Garry was known for working on and driving motor freight trucks. He could sit for hours talking about trucks.

He is preceded in death by his parents Ralph and Verd-ie Seabolt; infant son Jarrod Seabolt; wife Betty Ward Seabolt; great granddaughter Dakota Grace Crady and son-in-law Larry Parris.

The family will receive friends Monday, April 13, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Terry Potter officiating. Interment will follow in the Sun-bright Cemetery in Sunbright.

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

Judith Eveline Yearly Gibson



(James) Beck and Andy (Bry-anna) Daugherty; great-grand-children: Trenton Daugherty, Chloe (Larome) Wright, Chase Wilson, Olivia Neece and Ava Daugherty and one great-great-grandson, Parker Daugherty.

Judith Eveline Yearly Gibson went to her Heavenly home on Thursday May 14, 2026. Her long battle with Parkinson's disease is over and she can now walk again. She loved her family with all her heart. Her face would light up at the sight of her grandchildren. She loved being outside and loved flowers and feeding her birds. She worked many long years at Advance Transformer in Wartburg where she went on to retire. She will be greatly missed by all of her loved ones.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 9:00-10:00 a.m. with the funeral to follow at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow in the Roane Memorial Gardens in Rock-wood.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Judith Eveline Yearly Gibson

She is preceded in death by spouse, James Gibson; par-ents, Andy and Ethel Yearly; sis-ter, Jacqueline Brown and her brothers Eddie Yearly, Glenn Yearly and Franklin Yearly. She is survived by her daugh-ter and son-in-law Cheryl and Donnie Daugherty; step son, Tony Gibson; grandchildren: Steven Daugherty, Heather



— In Loving Memory —

Marvine Cox Rainey, 97



Marvine passed away peacefully after 4 years of Alzheimer's.

A special thank you to Alexander Guest House staff and UT Hospice care givers.

In lieu of flowers contributions can go to Wounded Warriors Project.

Marvine Cox Rainey, age 97, of Oliver Springs passed away April 25, 2026 at the Alexander House in Oak Ridge.

She is preceded in death by her parents William M. Cox and Ellen (York) Cox; sister Ruby Smith, brother Charles Cox, brother Harvey Lee Cox, sister Maxine (Cox) Harris; nieces Margaret Ann (Harris) Wallis and Donna (Smith) Hester; nephews Don Cox, Infant Charles Cox, Bobbie Lee Harris, and husband Louis Rainey.

She is survived by niece and care giver LuVena (Harris) Ware, Pat (Cox) Davey, Gene Hester, LeAnn (Jeremy) Griffin, Amy Hester, and Jace.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 30, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 3:00-5:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow with Bro. Roy Langley officiating. Interment will follow in the Petros (COG) Cemetery in Petros.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Marvine Cox Rainey.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Marvine Cox Rainey.

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.**

J. Harold Johnson, 78



He is survived by his devoted wife, Wanda Johnson; his two children, Terri Johnson and Jeff (Kat) Johnson; and two precious grandchildren, Anson and Maverick Johnson.

The family will receive friends Tuesday April 28, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with the funeral to follow at 1:00, Bro. Mike Jones officiating. The graveside service will immediately follow at Friends Chapel Community Church Cemetery in the Chestnut Ridge Community.

J. Harold Johnson died on April 25, 2026, in the early hours of the morning at Cumberland County Medical Center. He was born on June 29, 1947 to Clifford and Edna Johnson.

Harold was a kind man who would gladly give those he cared for the shirt right off of his back and was also a loving husband and father.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Edna Johnson; and his brother, Ferrell Eugene Johnson.

"We love you, Daddy, and we'll miss you very much! Be happy and have fun riding those old cars you love so much down the streets of gold. Rest in Peace."

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of J. Harold Johnson.

Clara Luanna "Snookie" Steelman Shearer



Special Aunt and Uncle Chester and Judy Huling. She has 2 grandsons, 1 granddaughter and a great granddaughter as well as a host of nieces, nephews and cousins who loved her very much.

Snookie was an avid basketball player and enjoyed her high school years at Sunbright. After high school she joined the United States Airforce where she met her husband, William Shearer. When their son was born in England she decided to leave the Airforce. After moving back to the states, she began a career in financial administration where she remained until retirement age. Snookie's last place of residence was Crossville, TN.

The family will receive friends Thursday, April 30, 2026 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Mike Hammond officiating. Graveside services will Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Lavender Cemetery in Deer Lodge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Clara Luanna Steelman Shearer.

Clara Luanna "Snookie" Steelman Shearer born May 5, 1952 went to her heavenly home April 27, 2026.

Snookie is preceded in death by her great grandparents Lige and Leann Williams, Mindy Ann and Leo Ooten; grandparents Marvin and Edna Steelman, Clara Lee (Clint) and Floyd Coots, and parents Vance Claude "Pete" and Anna Kathleen "Katie" Steelman and brother Micheal Dwayne "Mick-e-y" Steelman.

Snookie has two surviving children, Clayton Lee Shearer (Holly) and Chandra Leann Pate (Mark). Snookie is one of seven children: brother Rick (Rita) Steelman, sisters: Cheryl Bishop (Freddy) and Terri Ryon (Rick), younger twin brothers Tom Steelman and Tim Steelman (Trish) and sister-in-law Kathy Steelman.

Nola June Armes Ritter, 82



Bailey (Jon) Fuller of Maryville, TN and Sydney (Brett) Boling of Knoxville, TN; great-granddaughter and the light of her life, Sloan Fuller of Maryville, TN; brothers-in-law: Mitchell Wilson, Russell Shields, and Gary Ritter; sister-in-law, Linda Shields; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. A very special thank you to cousin, Randi Clay.

The family will receive friends Monday May 18, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00, Dr. Jim West officiating. The graveside will immediately follow at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg, TN.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Nola June Ritter.

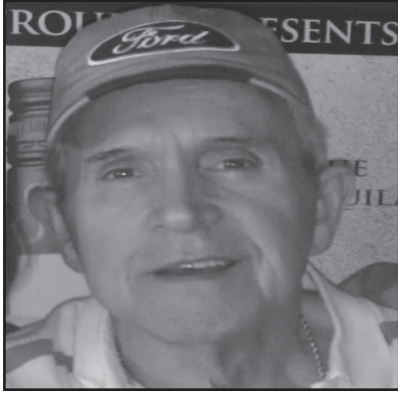
Nola June Armes Ritter, age 82 of Maryville, went home to be with the Lord on Saturday May 16, 2026 at Fort Sanders Regional Medical Center. Nola was born and raised in Petros, TN where she was a member of Petros Baptist Church. She later moved to Knoxville, TN where she was a long time member of Farragut Firsts Baptist Church where she served as the pianist for many years.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Anderson "Dock" Armes and Oma Lee Armes.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Harold of Maryville, TN; son, Jim (Tammy) of Louisville, TN; granddaughters,

— In Loving Memory —

Jimmie Hawn, 87



He is survived by his daughters Teresa (David) Pierce, Cathy (Don) Potter; brothers-in-law Bill (Cheryl) McGowan, Don McGowan; grandchildren Crystal (Bart) Pierce, Sarah (Adam) Guy, Jonathan Pierce, Karen Pierce, Cassie, Don, and Chad Potter; sisters Carol Armes and Wanda Young.

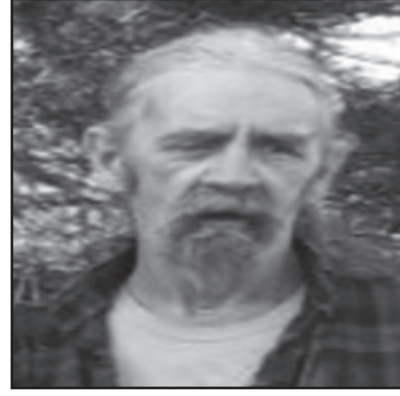
The family will receive friends Monday, May 4, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the Caney Branch Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jimmie Hawn.

Jimmie Hawn, age 87, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on April 28, 2026. He was a life long truck driver. He loved listening to trade time and always wanted to by another truck.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 54 years Barbara Hawn; mother and father Maude and Virgil Hawn; children Jimmie, Oscar and Karen Hawn; brothers Alonzo, Gene, Bobby and Randall Hawn; sister Jeanette Bunch.

Elmer Phillips, 58



and Wilma (Joe) Higgins; sister-in-law Lori Phillips; brothers Jimmy Phillips, Reno Jr. (Brandy) Phillips and Randy (Cindy) Phillips and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Elmer loved working outside and making bird houses and many other things out of wood.

Elmer Phillips, age 58, of Sunbright went to his heavenly home April 29, 2026 at his home. He was born April 18, 1968.

He is preceded in death by his father Reno Phillips; brothers Robert, Jessie, Charles (Duke), Eddie Phillips; sister-in-law Robin Phillips and brother-in-law Paul Jones. Grandfather Johnny Hummel and grandmother Pearl Kelly.

Elmer is survived by his mother Wilma Phillips; 3 sisters Betty Jones, Brenda Phillips,

The family will receive friends Monday, May 4, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. David Dial officiating. Interment will follow in the Byrd Cemetery in Sunbright.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Elmer Phillips.

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

Maeagile Morgan Stringfield, 82



Emily Gunter, Carl Morgan, Vance Morgan, Harl Morgan, and Reba Gibson.

Maeagile is survived by her devoted companion and caregiver, Harold Stringfield; and his siblings, Frances Denney, Marvin Stringfield, and Arlene Paxton. She also leaves behind her loving children, Joey (Marcia) Stringfield and Jolene (Kevin) Hamby.

Her legacy continues through her cherished grandchildren: Lucas (Jonna) Pittman, Olivia (Ethan) Broadus, Eli Stringfield, Ryan (Sierra) Hamby, Aaron (Danielle) Hamby, Jenna (Hunter) Capps, Jozie Shelton, Julianna Shelton, and Karson Hamby. As well as her beloved great-grandchildren: Theo and Ellie Pittman, Judah Broadus, and Neyland, Leland, Casen and Nolan Hamby.

She is also survived by a host of nieces and nephews, all of whom she loved dearly—each proudly claiming the title of “Aunt Madge’s favorite.”

Maeagile was known for her strong work ethic and dedicated many years of service to Roane Hosiery Mill, Red Kap, and later to Tricor at the Morgan County Regional Correctional Complex.

She was always willing to roll up her sleeves and assist in whatever was needed. Above all, she poured her heart into her family, and her children and grandchildren were her greatest joy.

In her retirement, she enjoyed traveling or simply relaxing on the porch, taking in the quiet beauty of the evening.

She was guided by her faith and attended several churches throughout her life, most recent-

ly Redemption Baptist Church in Lansing, Tennessee, where she attended until her health no longer allowed.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the outstanding care provided by Quality Hospice.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the fellowship hall of Redemption Baptist Church in Lansing on: May 16, 2026, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Friends and family are invited to drop in at any time to share stories and honor her life.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Maeagile Morgan Stringfield.



— In Loving Memory —

Wesley Kainan Wade Hamrick, 28



Wesley Kainan Wade Hamrick, age 28, passed away suddenly on May 2, 2026 at his home in Oliver Springs, TN. He was born July 7, 1997 in Cortez, Colorado to Laura Sword and Wesley Hamrick, Sr.

He was known as Wesley to friends and coworkers but his family affectionally called him Kainan. Kainan loved to travel and he loved nature. He was stubborn and strong-willed but would give you the shirt off of his back. He loved to camp,

fish, and hike. He felt deeply for the people around him and called most people his friends. Kainan loved his dog, Timex, and his cat George. He was charismatic and bright and always made us laugh.

Kainan had no wife or children but was survived by six sisters and two brothers. He is also survived by his mother, father, stepparents, maternal and paternal grandparents as well as his maternal great grandma.

The family is having a Celebration of Life, Friday, May 8, 2026 at the American Legion Hall in Wartburg from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wesley Kainan Wade Hamrick

Brenda Sue Phillips, 67



Brenda Sue Phillips, age 67 passed away suddenly on May 5, 2026 at Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge with the family by her bedside. She was born June 13, 1958 to Reno and Wilma Phillips

She is preceded in death by her father Reno Phillips; brothers Elmer, Robert, Jessie, Charles (Duke), Eddie Phillips; sister-in-law Robin Phillips and brother-in-law Paul Jones. Grandfather Johnny Hummel and grandmother Pearl Kelly.

Brenda is survived by her mother Wilma Phillips; 2 sis-

ters Betty Jones, and Wilma (Joe) Higgins; sister-in-law Lori Phillips; brothers Jimmy Phillips, Reno Jr. (Brandy) Phillips and Randy (Cindy) Phillips and a host of nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 8, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. David Dial officiating. Interment will follow in the Byrd Cemetery in Sunbright.

Brenda loved going places even if it was just to the doctor's office. She loved eating KFC and going to Partners Pizzeria for the salad bar.

She will be missed by all who knew her.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Brenda Sue Phillips.

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

Jimmy Lee Taylor



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Jimmy Lee Taylor of Sparta, TN after a long, courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jimmy is survived by his loving wife, Tiffany Elaine Taylor, daughter, Naval Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Katrina Ivora Moore, and son, Kaleb Mikel Taylor. Father and mother, Sammie & Ollie Taylor of Petros, TN, Mother in law Tamie Moore, future father in law, David Wolfenbarger, Brother, Steve Taylor & wife Karen of Crossville, TN, Brother, Jesse Taylor & wife Amanda of Lenoir City, TN, Sister, Angela Yarber & husband Ron of Coalfield, TN, Sister, Theresa Billingham & husband Walter of Knoxville,

TN and Sister in law, Lorine Moore.

He is also survived by Niece, Krislyne Hope Yarber, Nephews, Walter Billingham II, Tesla Billingham, Brandon Billingham, Derrick Taylor, Cody Taylor and Riley Taylor. He's also survived by close friends who were like a brother & sisters to him, Stephen Price & wife Not Kelley and Robin Rose and Kim Collins. Jimmy is survived by and loved by many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He is preceded in death by father-in-law Gary Moore, and brother-in-law Gary (Beeper) Moore Jr.

He had a varied professional career working as a Phlebotomist, a CNA, a morgue technician, assembler at Flowers bakery, assembler at Aisin, assembler at Delbar, as well as a corrections officer for Cumberland County Sheriff's Department.

Jimmy had a quick wit, a generous heart, and a knack for making everyone laugh. He was known for his practical jokes,

big personality, and unwavering dedication to those he loved. Jimmy's legacy of laughter, loyalty, and love will be carried on by those who knew and adored him. Jimmy found joy in his life-long love for bowling, fishing and hunting. He was a proud member of the bowling team Ghost Ryders which included team members Bob Young & Dave Whaley, his son Kaleb and wife Tiffany.

He loved being a part of and cheering for an Exceptional team of young bowlers some of which are part of God's Angel Choir which he was a big fan of.

Special concert and road trip buddies included Vance Milliken & Carolyn (Stitch) Byrum, Bowling friends included Robin Rose, Kim Collins, Michael Rose, Katy Collins, Breanna Sells, Heather Bouchillon, Bradley Styer, Lindsey Boles, Ivan Overstreet, Lori Moore, Kristine Atterberry, Tina Wofford, Destiny Young, Ellis Taylor and Libby Miller. He was a fan of NCIS and loved watching it with his friends Hazel Newman and Solomon Maadox.

The family will receive friends Friday, May 8, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. EST with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. EST with Pastor Steve Tiebout officiating. Singers will include Preston Lowe and an ensemble from God's Angel Choir. Interment will follow in the Union Cemetery in the Joyner Community.

Pallbearers will be Steve Taylor, Jesse Taylor, Katrina Moore, Kaleb Taylor, Walter Billingham II, Tesla Billingham, Stephen Price, Billy Lowe, Kaeleb Kettle, BJ Lowe, Phillip Bartylak, Vance Milliken, Cody Taylor, Derrick Taylor, Mike Johnson, and Sebastian Schlau.

Reception will be held after the interment at Coalfield Senior Citizens Center 1600 Coal Hill Road, Coalfield, TN 37748.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jimmy Lee Taylor.



— In Loving Memory —

James Kelly Hamby, 61



by, Nathan (Darlene) Hamby, Jimmy (Monica) Hamby; sisters Joann Clark, and Bobbie Sue Johnson; In-laws Johnny Shannon, Nadine Hamby, Karen Brown, Bobbie Gail (Eddie) Forsythe, Tub (Andrea) Shannon, Matthew (Sydney) Lamance, Debbie Lamance, and a host of extended family and friends.

James Kelly Hamby, age 61, passed away on May 10, 2026.

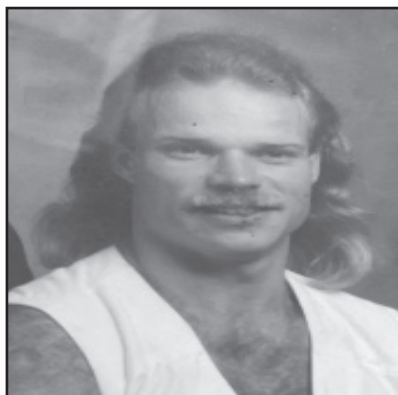
He is preceded in death by his parents Ray & Hattie Hamby; sister Mary Lou Shannon; brothers R.P. and Steve Hamby; brothers-in-law Sydney Clark, William Johnson, and William Brown.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years Pamela; son Aaron (Madison) Hamby; granddaughter Vada; brothers Burnis (Brenda) Hamby, Roger (Terri) Ham-

The family will receive friends Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Jeff Beard officiating. Graveside services will be Friday at 11:00 a.m. in the Hamby Cemetery in Lancing.

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

Michael Ray Potter, 59



He is survived by his mother Brenda Howard; brother Larry Potter; sister April Padgett; aunt Kathy Howard; special niece Kayla Potter and a host of other nieces, nephews and friends.

The family will have a graveside service Friday, May 15, 2026 at High Point Cemetery in Deer Lodge with Bro. Bill Durham officiating.

Michael Ray Potter, age 59 of Crossville passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

He is preceded in death by his father Jerry Potter; brothers Jerome Potter and Stephen Howard.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Michael Ray Potter.

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

Christy Koblenz, 52



dren deeply, as well as all of her siblings. She enjoyed being at the lake, making people laugh, and joking around with everyone she loved. Christy had a kind heart and shared a special bond with her mother and father. She will be deeply missed and forever loved by all who knew her.

Christy Koblenz, age 52, passed away May 8, 2026 at her home in Oliver Springs.

Her favorite song:

“If I leave here tomorrow, would you still remember me? For I must be traveling on now, cause there is too many places I’ve got to see, but if I stay here with you, things just couldn’t be the same. Cause I am as free as a bird now, and this bird you cannot change.”

She is survived by her sons Andrew (Connor) Turpin, and Alex (Amber) Turpin; mother JoAnn Vann; brothers Bucky Nance, Larry Nance, and Mike Nance; aunt Betty Dyer; grandchildren Kayden Turpin, Braxton Turpin, Braydon Turpin, and Bristol Turpin.

The family is honoring Christy’s wishes to be cremated. No services have been scheduled at this time.

She is preceded in death by her father Irvin Vann; brother Ricky Nance.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Christy Koblenz.

Christy passed away peacefully at her home on May 8, 2026. She was a mother, daughter, grandmother, and sister. She loved her sons, and grandchil-

Cheryletta Gail Williams



Newport; grandchildren Maria Pride, Sarah Pride, Samantha Pride, Erin Williams, Kyle Williams, Edith Williams, Hunter Williams, Justin Newberry, Asher Smith, Jayce Smith and a host of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Cheryletta Gail Williams departed this world for her heavenly home on may 1, 2026.

She is preceded in death by her parents Lamual & Velva June Newport; daughter Jennifer Pride; grandson Ajax Pride; brother Brad Newport and special uncle Theodore Taylor.

The family will receive friends Saturday, May 8, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 4:00-6:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 6:00 p.m. Graveside services will be Sunday at 1:00 p.m. in the Coal Hill Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Cheryletta Gail Williams.

She is survived by her sons Donald Williams, Ronald Smith, Jr. and daughters Amanda (David) Newberry; sisters Carol Miller, Joye (Todd) Busser and brother Carey (Martha)



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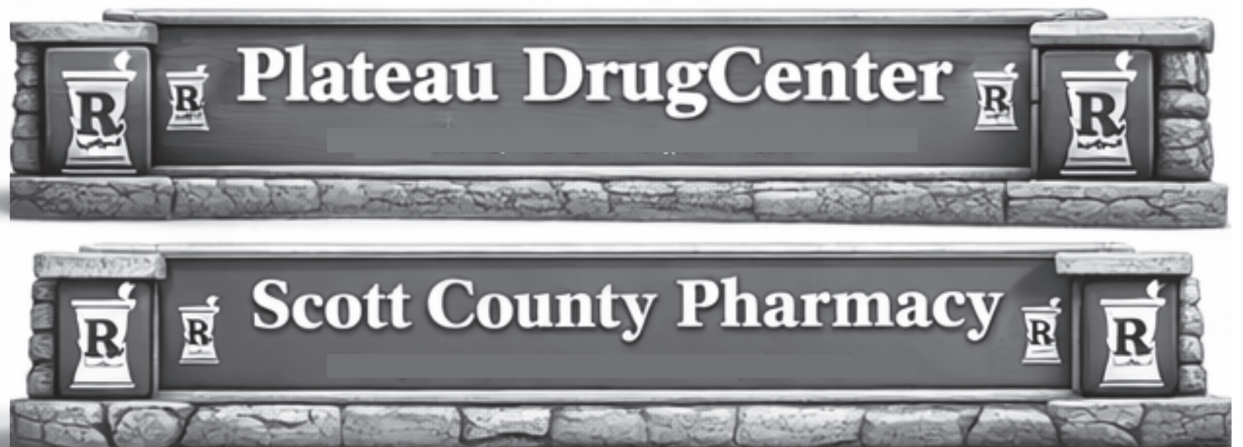
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Historically Speaking

Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: The Oppenheimer Hearing, Part 2 (1954)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Rogers 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 the wartime atomic energy's activities. He also was responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

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 United Nations 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 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-ninth installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we continue to learn of his role in Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer's security clearance issues following World War II (see also 29th article).

Dr. Oppenheimer decided for a hearing with the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). A hearing board ("Gray Board") was selected. The hearing was conducted April 12- May 6, 1954. AEC General Manager Kenneth D. Nichols said, "In a normal security case, the general manager would have the final decision. But ... I was told, and I certainly concurred, that this should be a Commission decision, not just the General Manager's."

And, Nichols wrote, "Prior to accepting the

responsibility of chairmanship [of the hearing board], Gordon Gray asked me what I considered the key issues. He reminded me that I once had told him I believed Oppenheimer to be loyal. I confirmed that I still considered Oppenheimer loyal and that I thought the Chevalier incident was the only issue that might create any doubt about his loyalty.

"I hoped that the board would be able to get to the whole truth of the matter, that to date we

ment', I have never been able to come up with a procedure whereby it could have been avoided, once J. Edgar Hoover had called the president's attention to [William L.] Borden's letter.

"Oppenheimer was a victim of the political climate of the times. Except for [William L.] Borden's action [Executive Director of the Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy], the probability was good that Oppenheimer gradually would have lost his position of great



Atomic Energy Commission Meeting, 1954

L-R: AEC Commissioners Thomas Murray, Eugene Zuckert, Joseph Campbell. AEC Chairman Lewis Strauss seated in foreground and AEC General Manager K.D. Nichols seated directly behind Strauss.
(Public domain. Courtesy Barbara Rogers Scollin)

had conflicting statements and at best only half truths. Then I voiced my reluctance to include Oppenheimer's opposition to the H-bomb in the letter because it might imply that we were trying to control the thinking of scientists.

"I let Gray know that I hoped he would accept the chairmanship. It was a difficult, onerous assignment; no matter what he decided, it would be controversial, but considering all the circumstances, the task had to be done."

The hearing board reported its finding that Oppenheimer was a security risk by a decision of 2 to 1. As General Manager, Nichols wrote a letter with the help of attorneys Roger Robb and William Mitchell and Security Staff C. Arthur Rolander to the AEC Commissioners summarizing the hearing board's recommendations; Nichols' recommendation was that Oppenheimer's clearance not be reinstated.

The Commission's decision not to reinstate clearance by a decision of 4 to 1 was released June 19, 1954. Of the nine people making decisions, seven decided not to reinstate Oppenheimer's security clearance. President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved the decision.

Reflecting on the Oppenheimer hearing, Nichols wrote, "There were no winners in the Oppenheimer hearing, except possibly the preservation of the security system for protecting classified data. For Oppenheimer, it was an undeserved tragedy, although he was not blameless. Clearance was denied, but public opinion supported Oppenheimer.

Many people, even today, believe that Oppenheimer was punished for his opinion on the H-bomb. It divided the scientists, some supporting Oppenheimer and others supporting the government. [Dr. Edward] Teller became ostracized by many in the scientific fraternity.

"The hearing should have educated the public to distinguish between 'security risk' and 'loyalty,' but somehow it did not. There should never have been a hearing, but considering the spirit of the time, McCarthyism, and the political campaign concerning 'Communists in govern-

responsibility in national defense circles. Many thought that his scientific opinions were becoming biased by his moral sense of guilt and his desire to influence political decisions.

"[AEC Chairman Lewis L.] Strauss had already taken steps to curtail his use as an adviser to the Department of Defense and the National Security Council. This type of action is normal with the change in administration. Political advisers and those who try to get in that field (as distinguished from those who confine their advice to their own expertise) frequently find they are no longer wanted by a new administration."

The details of Oppenheimer's security issues are detailed in General Nichols' book, *The Road to Trinity, A Personal Account of How America's Nuclear Policies Were Made* and in multiple interviews. Four significant differences between clearing Oppenheimer in 1943 versus 1953 are provided by Nichols and are summarized below:

1943

- Oppenheimer was absolutely essential to the success of the Manhattan Project, and his veracity was never an issue during the war. As early as June 1942 when Nichols first met Oppenheimer, Oppenheimer described the 'super' (hydrogen) bomb and was ready to support further research; but the Military Policy Committee's priority was for a fission bomb because of the urgency of the Project,

- Soviet Russia was our ally,

- The Chevalier incident was unknown when security clearance was given. The Chevalier incident was revealed voluntarily but piecemeal by Oppenheimer during the war. Generals Leslie R. Groves and Nichols doubted he was telling the whole truth but assumed he was protecting his brother. [Specific details concerning the Chevalier incident are covered in General Nichols' book.] After the war, security clearance was granted to Oppenheimer in 1947 by the AEC but at that time the complete record of the Chevalier incident was not made available to the AEC by the FBI, and,

- Continued on Page 21

Historically Speaking

Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: The Oppenheimer Hearing, Part 2 (1954)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

- Brig General Leslie R. Groves established his own security clearance rules during the war; Groves and Nichols waived some of the rules whenever a person was considered essential to the Project.

1953

- Oppenheimer was no longer essential to the work of the AEC. By the time William L. Borden's (Executive Director of the Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy) letter was written, Oppenheimer had been eliminated from practically every committee in the Department of Defense, was no longer an advisor, and consequently his security clearances had been dropped.

- He had ceased being a member of the AEC's General Advisory Committee for over two years and had only been utilized by the AEC for two days during 1952 and four days during 1953. One of his few remaining clearances was with the AEC. There was some question about Oppenheimer's veracity involved in his opposition to the H-bomb after the war,

- Soviet Russia was our potential enemy,
- The Chevalier story told by Oppenheimer to the FBI after the war differed from his tape-recorded story told during the war. Oppenheimer admitted to lying to security officers during the hearing. This constituted a felony, and that alone was reason enough not to reinstate his security clearance, and,

- President Eisenhower established rigid rules concerning the definition of a "security risk". Specifically for Oppenheimer, Eisenhower would not lift the 'blank wall' until a security hearing had been conducted, he would not renege on his election campaign promise (see 28th article). The Atomic Energy Act of 1946 made it impossible to consider Oppenheimer not a security risk due to his continued association with Communists, and the Act made no allowance for his wartime contribution.

Final observations on the Oppenheimer security issues:

- Nichols interviewed Oppenheimer for the position of Director of the Los Alamos Laboratory as well as attended various S-1 Committee meetings where final decisions to choose Oppenheimer were made in 1943. He whole heartedly agreed to hire Oppenheimer. (See article 16.)

- Nichols had multiple opportunities to thwart Oppenheimer's Manhattan Project security clearance but did not. He could have refused to sign Oppenheimer's clearance but did not. (See article 16 specifically discussing Nichols signing Oppenheimer's clearance in 1943.)

- After WWII ended, Nichols had multiple opportunities to give unfavorable comments and refuse recommendations to Army or Air Force security when questioned thereby blocking Oppenheimer's post-war military work but did not.

- Harold P. Green, Esq. [drafter of the letter handed to Dr. Oppenheimer on December 21, 1953] said, "When I saw the [Oppenheimer summary] files, looked at them, I was quite willing to agree that he was a bad guy and that going through this exercise was not illegitimate. It's not the way I would have handled it. But my conscience, which is a fairly sophisticated,

delicate conscience on these matters, was not offended by the fact that this proceeding was being initiated."

What Green did not see in the FBI's "summary" files were the detailed security records including a tape-recording Brig General Groves and Nichols turned over to the FBI when closing the Manhattan Project and Manhattan Engineer District. From the wartime tape-recording of Oppenheimer's meeting with security officers, it was clear that inconsistent statements or outright lies concerning the Chevalier incident were stated by Oppenheimer.

Prior to the hearing, Nichols discovered the omission of the detailed security records and ensured that the FBI find the tape recording for the Gray Board. Nichols sincerely hoped the full story of the Chevalier incident would finally be known, Oppenheimer would clear up the inconsistencies and clear his name; unfortunately, the hearing did not resolve the issues.

authors attempting to ascribe motives to Nichols for carrying out President Eisenhower's orders in the AEC's handling of the Oppenheimer hearing by misstating Green and Bernstein results in an uncharacteristic and unfair portrayal of Nichols.

- The audio (recently released) and written transcript of Harold Green's 1984 interview and Bernstein's Stanford Law Review article on the hearing do not provide support for supposed direct quotes by Nichols (concerning Oppenheimer, name calling and the hearing). Various authors attempting to ascribe motives to Nichols for carrying out President Eisenhower's orders in the AEC's handling of the Oppenheimer hearing by misstating Green and Bernstein results in an uncharacteristic and unfair portrayal of Nichols.

Green's lack of a prior working relationship with Nichols (see article 28) apparently led Green to assume Nichols had a pre-determined outcome for the hearing. However, there was nothing disingenuous about Nichols' statement that he did not know how the Commission would decide.

What Green was not privy to at the time he was assigned to read the FBI's Oppenheimer "summary" file and draft a letter of the derogatory information, was Nichols' ten-year history of working with Oppenheimer and intimate knowledge of his detailed security issues. Nichols could either carry out the hearing as required by Eisenhower or resign.

Nichols was not one to chit chat with Green when time was of the essence to draft the letter. Nichols was a man of action and wanted to ensure the Board had complete knowledge of facts and circumstances to make a fair decision.

- Nichols never "despised", "resented" or "loathed" Dr. Oppenheimer. Further, there was never any rivalry, "irritation," "hostility," "changing relationship," or "shift of attitude" between Nichols and Oppenheimer. The use of these words, phrases, descriptions and portrayals in books, articles and film is unsubstantiated.

President Eisenhower verbally and in writing instructed Strauss to conduct a hearing upon receipt of Borden's letter. Oppenheimer could have resigned, and nothing would be known to history. Oppenheimer chose to have a hearing to clear his name. Once he made that decision, many additional actions had to be taken.

Nichols said, "Due to the national importance of this case to the government, to the scientific community, and to the national security system, the Commission insisted on approving my actions step by step, and Strauss kept the White House informed. J. Edgar Hoover assigned Charles Bates to assist the AEC."

The result of the hearing was not a surprise

to Nichols and frankly was a relief for him. As a West Point graduate, Nichols lived his life abiding to the Honor Code "cadets will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do." He carried the burden of Oppenheimer's security risk for many years until the hearing resolved the matter.

In 1943, Nichols' judgement (as well as General Groves') thought it best for the safety and security of the country to move forward with ending the war – and Oppenheimer was a significant contributor to that objective. But in 1953 once Eisenhower issued his Executive Order and "security risk" was redefined, the hearing was going to take place unless Oppenheimer privately decided to resign.

Oppenheimer proactively decided for a security hearing with the AEC instead of resigning. Had he resigned from the AEC's contract, nothing further would be known to history, subject to Eisenhower's decision. The situation was held in secrecy for over four months until Oppenheimer's decision was received.

Behind the scenes, Strauss, Nichols and others were working to avoid a security hearing altogether for many reasons including avoiding embarrassment to Oppenheimer or let the AEC contract expire during this time. But Oppenheimer decided for a security hearing and Oppenheimer's attorney (Mr. Garrison) released the Borden letter to The New York Times calling the whole matter to the public's attention, especially with the one paragraph Green included on Oppenheimer's veracity published as four separate paragraphs, increasing the impression that having the wrong opinion is a factor in making one a security risk.

- Nichols' working and personal relationship with Oppenheimer during and after the war was of utmost respect, professionalism, and friendship (see especially the 26th article). Nichols outlived Groves, Oppenheimer, Mitchell, Green and others directly involved with the hearing. He had ample time to spin history but did not. He repeatedly stressed that Oppenheimer was loyal to the United States.

Next up: Moving Ahead (1954-2000) 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; 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 General Kenneth D. Nichols. She has done an exceptional research initiative and has compiled the content of a book intended to be published soon. There is one more Historically Speaking column which will be the 30th one produced in this series.

1 Corinthians Chapter 6



Melvin Howard

(1 Corinthians chapter 6:1-11) Unrighteous civil litigations: This context is extremely difficult of application. May the Christians ever have recourse to civil law for protection? Is he destined to be a doormat for unscrupulous church criminals? No interpretation may be assigned to this context that conflicts with biblical truth elsewhere. (a) A Christian has the right to civil protection (Acts 25:11; Rom. 13:4). (b) The child of God is authorized to seek civil remedy in obtaining a divorce from an impenitent fornicating mate (Mt. 5:32; 19:9). To allow a criminal church member to go unchecked, victimizing other Christians, would be irresponsible. The church is not a sanctuary for outlaws.

The Corinthians church was plagued with party wrangling. Undoubtedly some of these conflicts had accelerated to the point of civil litigation. Church controversies should not be litigated before civil courts, disgracing the church before non-Christians authorities. Surely there are wise men upon whom adversarial parties could agree to help settle such conflicts. There is a sense in which the world "is being judged" by the church (by example Heb. 11:7) even today (v. 2). (This affirmation has nothing to do with an alleged millennial reign, as some contend.) Whatever the precise meaning in Paul's mind (and such is ambiguous), he reasons from the greater to the lesser, contending these brother's have the ability to resolve their problems spiritually, rather than in public court. The same argument applies with reference to angels (v. 3).

In dragging church problems before the world, the litigants are reflecting upon wise brothers who might help ameliorate the disgraceful circumstances (v. 4). "Shame on you; surely you ought to be able to settle these matters without publicly disgracing the cause of Christ (v. 5). Your current actions are a serious defect (loss); the church has already been damaged (v.7)." These are cases where the Christian should choose the "high road," letting himself be defrauded rather than seeing the Lord's name disgraced (v. 7-8). Again, however, it must be emphasized: this context grants no license for church members to flout the law and escape liability from criminal activity. Lawbreakers need to be prosecuted, whether in the world or the church.

There is a higher court where true and ultimate justice will be meted out (v. 9). The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. "Unrighteous" in generic, including those who have refused the gospel and those who fail to accept Christian responsibility. More specifically, fornicators (sexually promiscuous), adulterers (violators of their marriage vows), idolaters (subordinating God to other interests), homosexuals, thieves, covetous (the greedy, lusting after material things), imbibing intoxicants (including recreational drugs), verbal abusers, and swindlers---those pursuing these vices cannot be saved in these sins.

Many of the Corinthians had come out of such sordid backgrounds. They were practitioners of such evils in the past, but through repentance had abandoned these vices. (The fact that some had been adulterers demonstrates they were subject to divine marital law before becoming Christians.) None of these forms of wickedness were genetic diseases over which they had no control. They were choices. However, when they became Christians they were "washed" (literally, washed themselves (Acts 22:16) by their personal obedience to the Lord when immersed in water (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12) into Christ (Gal. 3:27). Too, they were "sanctified" at the time (Eph. 5:26), and thus were justified by their faith, acting in obedience to God's will (Rom. 5:1; 6:3-4, 16-18). This, my Friend's, is how the Ephesians were saved through the faith (Acts 19:1-5). This process was in "the name of," by the authority of Christ (Col. 3:17) and by the instruction of the Spirit of God (Eph. 5:26; 6:17). Note that all three persons of the Godhead are mentioned as separate entities in the conversion process.

(1 Corinthians 6:12-20) The human body, a sacred temple: The phrase "all things are lawful for me" is grossly misunderstood. Paul is affirming that all human actions are subject to his control ("lawful" literally means "subject to my power"), yet even things subject to one's control must at times be reined in by expediency, so as to profit not only himself, but others as well. Further, the apostle would not abuse his liberty (in things permissible); he would bring himself under control in the use of optional items. Even right things can become wrong things!

"Meats" is a generic term' it can be food generally or meat in particular, depending upon the context. The proper use---or not-use---of such also depends upon respective persons and circumstances. God designed food for the stomach, and vice versa; eventually, this relationship will cease with the decomposition of the body. The Christian, however, must use spiritually seasoned common sense in the use of things lawful, food. On the other hand, the human body is never to be used for fornication (illicit sexual in-

dulgence). The body is to be set apart for the Lord's service (v. 13). Just as God raised Christ from the dead, so eventually he will raise us by divine power---including Paul (v. 14). This negates the common charge that Paul believed the Second Coming would occur in his lifetime. (Our resurrection will partake of the same nature as Christ's; this excludes the possibility that our resurrection will be one of a figurative nature, as some (radical preterists) contend.)

Do we not realize that our bodies are members of Christ? When the Lord purchased us (Acts 20:28), he bought us body, soul, and spirit (I Thes. 5:23). One must not, therefore, contaminate his body with sexual sin. Never! (v. 15). He who joins himself to a prostitute, in some sense, becomes "one" with her. This is not analogous to becoming one in marriage, but is a connection so intimate as to be exceptionally degrading, both spiritually and physically. The sexual union was sanctified for marriage from the very beginning of time (Gen. 2:24). Thus, one must "flee" (consistently) illicit sexual indulgence---a sin to which Corinth was particularly prone. All sins are violations of divine law and each has varying consequences. Fornication is unique in that the body becomes deeply involved in the transgressing, and such can generate an enslaving vice, powerfully drawing one toward destruction. Sexual promiscuity can have physical and psychological consequences unlike any other sin (v. 18). One may, however, overcome it and obtain pardon.

The child of God should ever remember that his body is a sacred temple for the Holy Spirit which is in him (Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 4:16). The Christian does not belong to himself; he was bought with Christ's blood. He must, therefore, glorify the Lord in his body, as well as with his spirit (v. 20; Rom. 6:12-13).

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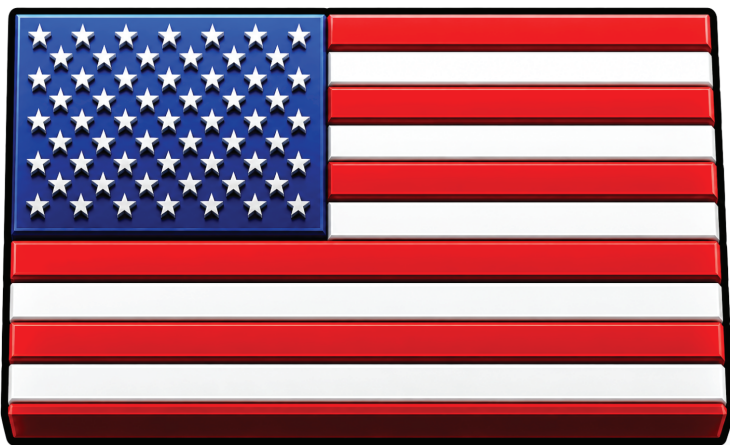


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