

OVER THE WAVES
Folktales and Anecdotes of Rowan County

by
Nancy Morris

TO MY MOTHER
who has always wanted
to write this herself

INTRODUCTION

At every Cornette - Hogge family gathering when the dinner is over and stomachs are full of favorite recipes, we all gather to tell and listen to the often told tales. We sit for hours and enjoy stories most of us have heard many times before. Eventually, everyone becomes tired and quiet. At this time, someone always looks serious and says, "Somebody should gather all these stories and write a book before they are forgotten."

I have enjoyed hearing the stories told by my relatives and friends and always agree when they talk of gathering and writing them down.

My mother has always wanted to write the tales but the opportunity has never presented itself. Now, it seems as though it has fallen my lot to write and preserve the lore.

Most of these stories will lose something in the writing but I feel this is the best and only way to preserve the anecdotes and tales of my family's area.

I hope I can entertain my children with these stories as I have been entertained. Some of the language is a bit salty and some of the stories are risqué, but to change the wording or leave anything out would be presumptuous on my part.

The stories and anecdotes I'll include in this writing will pertain mostly to people and situations in Rowan County. When possible, I will include my source of information.

In the back of my book, I'll include a section entitled "About the Contributors." Here, you will find a short biographical sketch and a picture (when possible) of each person who helped me with this booklet.

UNCLE PETE HONAKER

Uncle Pete Honaker

Uncle Pete Honaker died at age 95 in 1942. He was a very colorful character and he foretold the weather with a goosebone. His grandson, App Honaker, son of Junk Honaker, was one of the stars of Morehead High School football team and as far as Uncle Pete was concerned, he was the team. App played with such well-known Rowan County citizens as Jun Evans, Bub Tatum, Denver Hall, and Fred Cassity. This was such a great team that they often scrimmaged with the college team. Uncle Pete never missed a game and always foretold who was going to win.

Many of the people I have interviewed have told stories concerning Uncle Pete. Most of these stories were told by Uncle Pete to these people.

From: Rowan County News

Uncle Pete Honaker decided his very spacious house should be painted. He went to Owingsville to buy some paint. He and his son, Junk, painted the house an air color and then, went to town.

When they came home that night, they ran into the house with their car and nearly tore it down. Uncle Pete said, the next day, they had to go back to town and buy a can of black paint and paint a stripe around the house so they could find it.

Told by Mary Flood

Uncle Pete Honaker was the night watchman at Morehead's Spoke Factory and he used a single-barrell shotgun which was bent like a rainbow. When asked why his gun was bent so, he said, "These fellers around here, they been aggravating me and a' slipping around. I just bent it that was so I could shoot around the corner!"

The truth of the matter is it had fallen in a fly wheel and when the motor started, it bent the gun.

Told by Roy Cornette

Uncle Pete said he had a son in California who just lacked \$1.98 of being a millionaire.

Told by Margaret Morris

Uncle Pete and his son, Lee George, went to the Gulf of Mexico. When they came back to Morehead he reported, "Everyone thinks the Gulf of Mexico is water, but me and Lee George rode all over it horseback."

Told by Mary Flood

Lee George was going into the watch repair business so Uncle Pete said he ordered him a "box-car load of main springs."

Told by Roy Cornette

Uncle Pete said his father always ran a sawmill. Once, he was moving it from down on Slate Creek to up past Owingsville and had to climb the Owingsville Hill. He had three span of mules and one horse hitched to a wagon.

When they started up the hill, the horse lay down and refused to pull. Uncle Pete told his father that he'd take care of that horse, so he dug out a hole right under the horse's hip and put in a stick and a half of dynamite. "When that dynamite went off, that ol' horse jumped up, shook himself, and you never saw so much a' pullin' in your life!" Uncle Pete bragged.

Told by Roy Cornette

Mary Flood heard Uncle Pete telling this story to Noah Kinard, a long-time citizen of Rowan County. According to Mrs. Flood, Uncle Pete probably hadn't had a bath in ten years.

Uncle Pete said he had a certain time he had to go to bed. He always took a bath and went to bed at the same time. Once, he was uptown at a street carnival. He said, "I looked at my watch and it said 9:00! I started for home and I barely made it to the gate. I fell at the gate, fell sound asleep, and had to call Lee George and Junk to carry me in, give me a bath, and put me to bed."

Told by Mary Flood

Uncle Pete once went up North. He said the people were just talking away but they couldn't hear anything because the words would freeze up. Uncle Pete said, "That spring when it thawed out, you never heard such jabbering in your life!"

Told by Roy Cornette

Uncle Pete often bragged about how agile he was. He claimed he could jump up, turn off the light, and be in bed before it got dark.

Told by Charlie Jennings

FAMOUS ROWAN COUNTIANS

Famous Rowan Countians

There have been many famous and infamous Rowan Countians. Some were politicians (Judge Alley Young), some were inventors (Ed Maggard), some were educators (Cora Wilson Stewart). These people and others will be found here or in other sections of this anthology.

Elisha Edward Maggard invented and manufactured a moving picture machine called the cosmograph. This machine was to take the flicker out of movies and was sold internationally.

The first electric light plant in Morehead was built and operated by Mr. Maggard. He operated the town's first ice plant and first telephone system. Mr. Maggard drove the first automobile ever in Rowan County. The car, a Ford, belonged to S. M. Bradley. Senator Bradley could not drive the car but Mr. Maggard could and did on his first attempt. Mr. Maggard then purchased a car himself, the second ever owned in Rowan County.

Ed Maggard invented the cosmograph which took the flicker out of movies and was an international success. Mr. Maggard made quite a bit of money from his patented invention. Many were even sent to Russia during the Czar days before the revolution. The Russian Government sent a man over here to buy the cosmograph. The man placed his order, immediately left for Mexico, and took all the money.

Told by Roy Cornette

Jasper Amburgy was the seventh son of the seventh son and had never seen his mother, so, naturally, he was able to remove warts, stop bleeding, and most anything.

He simply rubbed his finger over a wart and it was gone in two or three days.

Told by Roy Cornette

Jasper Amburgey sold whiskey, so he often over-indulged.

Many mornings, he would wake up and go to the big mirror in the living

room. He would stand in front of the mirror and say, "Jap, you're a good-looking man. Whose boy are you, Jap? Jap's Mammy's boy. Jap, what do you eat? Jap eats ham and eggs, ham and eggs. Jap, you got any money? Jap's got plenty of money."

Told by Roy Cornette

Squire Daniel Boone Cornette lived directly across the street from where Jasper Amburgey sold whiskey. Squire did not approve of the way Jasper lived and handled his business.

Being quite a wit, D. B. wrote a poem about Jasper and had it posted on the toilet door. The following is an excerpt from that poem:

There is a man who boasts of wealth,
Who lives on eggs and ham.
Pray, tell me how he got his wealth,
I'll treat you if I can.
His doggery stands beside the road,
Close by the public school;
A place for decent folks to shun,
A snare for all the fools.

Told by Roy Cornette

No man knew more about illegal moonshining in Eastern Kentucky during prohibition days than R. Lee Stewart of Morehead. He raided thousands upon thousands of stills and had heard a hundred times the blow of a horn atop a mountain warning another moonshiner in the valley or on the next ridge that "the revenuer's are here!" Lee Stewart was more feared by the moonshiners than any other man and he had the stealth of an Indian and an uncanny ability as a detective in ferreting out the moonshine operators. Uncle Lee Stewart always contended "no man is a tenth as smart as he thinks he is."

Uncle Lee was shot while raiding moonshine stills on Licking and was

run over by a moonshiner in Elliott County. He once destroyed 17 moonshine outfits in two days and had a running gunfight to boot. Another time, he located and confiscated 25 stills in three days. He was reputed to have cut up more moonshine stills than any other man in the United States. Raiding was his career from 1901 to 1948.

He was a Republican member of the House of Representatives and a police judge of Morehead. He homesteaded 160 acres in Oklahoma territory in 1907.

Stewart was to encounter the same brand of ingenuity on Wooten Creek in Leslie County as he did here. In a cabin there, he found several tubs of corn sprouting in water. It looked to him like a batch of malt in the making. He turned to the old woman for further light.

"Pon my honor, Lee," she said, "that don't mean anything in this world. The ol' cow's teeth got so p'int blank bad we soak her corn in water to make hit soft."

Often, when a group of law enforcers had to be gone for a number of days and were trying to find a place to stay, the moonshiner himself would invite them to stay at his house.

Usually, the raiders presence preceded them. The moonshiners shot their guns and rang dinner bells to let people know they were there.

Some of the methods Lee used to locate the stills were:

1. He listened to informers who were tempted to talk by a government fee of ten dollars.
2. He could smell it.
3. He looked for the smoke.
4. He searched the countryside.

COLORFUL CHARACTERS

5. He looked where he'd hide one himself.

Sometimes the moonshiner would reveal his own hiding place to get the ten dollars.

From: Rowan County News

Colorful Characters

Every community has its unusual and unique characters. Rowan County is no exception. There are as many included here as I could find stories about. There is no doubt there are many more but I feel Rowan County has been blessed with colorful characters.

Uncle Az was the stereo-type mountain man. He came here from Virginia and married the sister of Susan Ward Cornette.

Uncle Az once took a train ride from Grayson to Hitchins. He found an old newspaper on the train, picked it up, held it upside down, and proceeded to tell the passengers near him, "I see where they've had a great storm on the ocean. All the ships are upside down."

Told by Roy Cornette

Uncle Az had two sons. One of them was named Os (Oscar).

He told Os, "Si b' God, Os, you slip down to the barn and give the horses one and a half ears of corn."

"Well, Dad," Os asked, "can't I just run?"

Az replied, "No, Si b' God, you slip!"

Told by Roy Cornette

Uncle Az came to Morehead to spend a few days with his brother-in-law, Daniel Boone Cornette. He was very impressed with the way D. B. lived. Az had always had to depend on an open fire for heat.

Upon seeing D. B.'s parlor furnace he said, "Si-Boone, that's a mighty fine piece of furn-i-toor you got there."

Told by Roy Cornette

Mary Stigall and Hawkie Nell were sisters who lived in a log cabin up Rockwall Holler under the very poorest of conditions. Both women were ignorant and uneducated. Mary had been married but Hawkie Nell remained single.

Mary's husband was dead and being lowered into his grave. Mary was crying

and going on when Hawkie Nell walked up to her, put her arm around her said, "Now, Mary, there's no need to go on like that. You're young and pretty and can get you another one."

Told by Mary Flood

Roy Cornette was the superintendent of Rowan County schools. Mary Stigall came in every day. One specific day, she came in and said, "Roy, I'm hungry. I want you to give me a dime, I've got to get a loaf of bread."

Roy said, "Mary, it just so happens it's about two days until payday and I've got one dollar. That's all I've got. I haven't got any change."

She pleaded, "I haven't got a penny to my name and I'm starving."

He replied, "All I've got is this dollar."

She said, "Well, I'll change it for you!" She pulled out a little tobacco sack and poured change out on the desk. Roy counted out a dollar in change and gave to Mary the dollar bill.

Told by Roy Cornette

On another of Mary Stigall's visits to the superintendent's office, she went into the office of the supervising teacher, Mabel Alfrey, threw her arms around Mabel's neck, and said, to the top of her voice, "Lord-God, I love you, honey, 'cause you look so much like Hawkie Nell!"

Told by Margaret Morris

Lalo Bradley was Alec Bradley's son who stayed in jail most of the time. When he wasn't in jail, he was drunk. In the winter, when Lalo was drunk and needed a warm place to sleep, there would be a bell outside the courthouse for him to ring so the jailer would come to put him in jail.

He went to school up to the fourth grade and all he learned was one little verse. Every time he passed one of his friends, he'd say, "I love little kitty; her fur is so warm, and if I don't hurt her, she'll do me no harm."

Told by Roy Cornette

Bill Sample, Claude Clayton, and Roy Cornette were seated in the Eagle's Nest drinking coffee one afternoon.

Mr. Cornette brought a fact to their attention by saying, "Now, Bill, you're the president of the radio station and, Claude, you're the president of the postmasters of Kentucky, and I'm the president of the Hardware Association of Kentucky."

Upon hearing this, Bill Sample replied, "We're ass-deep in presidents!"

Told by Roy Cornette

A student came to attend Morehead Normal School where many students found it necessary to work to put themselves through college. This particular student got a job driving Doctor (Doc) Jerry Wilson to see his patients. Part of the pay was room and board. The student was allowed to share the bed of Doc Wilson's youngest boy, Glenmore. The student stayed at the Wilson home for over a year, working and attending school.

There were no segregated restrooms; only a building up on the hill which the students referred to as Egypt. This student always went to Egypt with the other boys, but often hung back and sometimes wouldn't go in at all.

A traveling salesman from up around St. Paul, where the student had lived, came through Rowan County and recognized the student as Saint Elmo, a girl from

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS
as written in the Rowan County News
in the early 1900's

his home town. The salesman told someone here and people checked around and found out it really was a girl.

Told by Mike Flood

Roll Alfrey was the superman of Licking River. He could run faster, jump farther, leap higher, and lift more than any man in the area. Lots of stories are told about Roll; some of them, of course, are very exaggerated. With all of the above mentioned talents, he couldn't swim, yet he made his living by fishing.

Roll could walk on the floor of the river. If logs were jammed or rafts were stalled, Roll would fix it. He was often called on to perform feats of strength.

One time, to play a joke on Roll, some kids found a sand bar in the river. They swam out to it and made big footprints on it. They swam back and went to find Roll. They told him that one of the kids had jumped that far. When Roll tried to perform the same jump, he landed in the middle of the river and had to walk back.

Told by Jack Ellis

Mr. and Mrs. Newt Kissinger, a pioneer family of Rowan County celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on March 18, 1933. In discussing their happy marriage, Mrs. Kissinger said they had only had one fight during their fifty year marriage.

Shortly after they were married, when Newt was playing baseball, he hit a home run. As he was rounding third base, Mrs. Kissinger reached out and tripped him. The hit was so good, he got up and made it home.

In a short while, they made up and "lived happily ever after."

From the Rowan County News

Sam Bradley, at one time, was the richest man in Rowan County. He sent out West for a couple of buffaloes which were shipped in by express. He turned them loose on 30 or 40 thousand acres of land he owned.

Told by Roy Cornette

Weddings and Funerals in the Rowan County News

A much more flowery style of writing was used in the earlier journalism. I have tried to show this with the following items from the Rowan County News and the Morehead Independent.

FUNERAL

She was but 20 years of age, a young and tender woman who knew but little of life's storms but much of its sweetness. So young and fair, so full of hope and promise, so much adored, it seems indeed strange that Clellie should be taken away.

FUNERAL

Once again, the Death Angel had entered our city and gathered from our midst a shining mark in the person of Mrs. Amelia Young, who departed this life Monday, August 31, 1914.

Her life was a beautiful gilded book, whose every page was filled with noble deeds. Her character was truly the handiwork of God, as great as it was grand, and there is no pen that can portray the grand and noble elements of her life.

WEDDING

Miss Maggie Allen and Mr. Elijah Hogge, both of this city, were united in marriage. County Judge, Mat Carey, officiating. Although this was the Judge's maiden effort in tying the nuptial knot, he accomplished the pleasant task without a struggle.

WEDDING

When their charming and intelligent daughter, Miss Thelma, was united in marriage to Mr. B. F. Johnson, a well-known and popular traveling salesman and an all-around hustler.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries

I found it interesting that practically every obituary written in the early Rowan County News referred to the deceased as "Uncle" or "Aunt." The reason for this appeared to be a matter of respect. Although, in many cases, due to isolation, the elderly people were related to a large portion of the people in Rowan County. However, usually, the term was one of endearment.

Uncle Daniel Boone Smedley died in 1947 at the age of 89 at his home on Craney.

According to a November 1946 Rowan County News, Mr. Smedley held the honor of being "the rootenist-tootenist, straightest-voting Democrat in the United States." He had never failed to go to the polls and vote the straight Democratic ticket except once in 1944 when he was critically ill.

Uncle Daniel told a tale about the Union soldiers camped in Rowan County. In order to maintain their campfires, they burned all the fenceposts in the neighborhood.

"Them rebels killed all the hogs, chickens, ducks, and geese," he recalled. "Why, they even went into our poultry house and killed Mother's old setting goose." Mr. Smedley saw his father, Samuel Smedley, shot and D. B. took off his boots and threw them at the Union soldiers.

From Maggie Hogge's Scrapbook

It was a shock to everyone when Cyrus (Uncle Si) Alley died. He was born at the start of the Civil War and was sometimes referred to as "Mr. Rowan County" or "Mr. Licking River Himself."

Uncle Si lived through the days when Farmers was a booming lumber town. He told many interesting stories but one of his most remembered is about when John Howard Payne was the aggressive president of Morehead State College.

Dr. Payne was ill and when the editor of the paper visited him, he expressed a desire for some wild squirrel with gravey.

Knowing that Uncle Si had many squirrels on his farm, the editor went there with a .22 rifle.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Usually, Uncle Si permitted no one to kill his squirrels because they were pets. However, because of the illness, he cooperated.

"Just sit here on the front porch and pretty soon you'll see one in that tree," he advised. Within three minutes, a young gray squirrel darted out on a limb. The editor aimed the gun but missed the squirrel.

"Give me that gun, young man," Uncle Si said.

Si put a bullet through the squirrel's head and sent the visitor on his way with a recipe for squirrel and gravey.

At the time of this story, Uncle Si was 70 years old.

Job Opportunities and Entertainment

Job opportunities were limited in the past to farm work and helping the Morehead merchants. People found entertainment where they could. They helped each other with work and often turned the work into a party with "bean stringings" and "corn huskings." There were a few carnivals and road shows that came to town. Often companies would come to town and help local people put on plays.

Mr. J. A. Lewis came to Rowan County in 1890 by ox wagons. Nearly all the roads were creek beds and nearly all the creek beds were frozen over. There were no bridges in Rowan County and people forded the Licking River or went by ferry boat.

Later, the county proposed a tax levy to build bridges and the Hogtown precinct, which covered the whole southeast part of the county, cast only three votes for the tax.

Sometimes during a celebration, young people walked ten miles into Morehead. The girls would carry their shoes until they were almost there so they would be nice and clean.

Boys never saw a girl's ankle unless she happened to slip and fall or something happened, and that was not very often.

From the Rowan County News

Woody Hudgins had perfect timing and was musically inclined. In fifth grade, he could put a pencil in his mouth and play a tune on it.

He shined shoes down on Railroad Street and was often hired, not to shine shoes, but to play a tune with his shining rag.

Told by Roy Cornette

When a train came into Morehead, there was always a group of boys to meet it and carry the passengers' baggage to the People's Hotel. The smallest of these boys, Woody Hudgins, hardly ever got any business.

One day, when the train came in, all the boys but Woody were playing "keeps" with marbles. Woody took advantage of the situation and ran to the train.

There was only one passenger on the train--a big, fat woman who was very grateful to have some help.

The other boys, realizing they had missed the train, teased woody with, "Yeah, Woody's a' carryin' a big fat woman's bag!"

In reply, Woody said, looking at the lady, "You can kiss this big fat lady's ass. Ain't that gettin' 'em told, big fat lady?"

Told by Roy Cornette

Friday afternoon entertainment at school was a spelling bee or a time for everyone to get up to recite poetry. Everyone jumped up and said poems, except one boy in fourth or fifth grade who wanted to say a poem, but didn't know one.

He stood up anyway and just looked around, and finally he said, "I know I've been shot by a cannonball!"

Told by Elsie Lee Hogge Cornette

At spelling bees at school, to count off, the students used to say the presidents in order. They had named George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and when it was Allie Stewart's turn, he couldn't remember his president, so he said, "Rebel Jack Hawkins!"

Rebel Jack Hawkins, leading a Jenny with a pack on it's back, looking very

much like a prospector might, was a Civil War veteran who lived in Morehead.

He could give the "Rebel Yell" so that the hair would stand up on the back of one's neck.

Told by Roy Cornette

The Cozy Theater was the only theater in town and the silent movies were shown. During the movies, suitable selections were played on the piano by Elizabeth Raines.

Every time a stream of water was shown, Elizabeth played "Over the Waves."

Told by Elsie Lee Cornette

It was hoped by Rowan County citizens and politicians that the state college which was going to be placed in eastern Kentucky would be placed in Morehead. People from Paintsville, Louisa, and Ashland were hoping that the college would be put in their communities.

In order to make Morehead appear progressive, and influence the people who were to select the location, Ed Maggard made a movie showing how busy Morehead was. There were only three cars in Morehead at the time and only one paved street. As the cars circled the block, Mr. Maggard would take pictures and prepare them so that it looked like there was a great deal of traffic. He also took pictures when the train came in. Several people boarded the train and then got off so that it looked like a lot of people were visiting Morehead. Then, some of the same people got back on the train to make it look like a busy depot.

The film was sent to Frankfort and the college is located in Morehead. It is believed that the film is still in existence--somewhere.

Told by Margaret Morris

Ed Maggard's son, Earl, and Roy Cornette went to a street carnival and wanted to see and ride everything, but they had very little money.

Earl's father ran a theater and Earl remembered there was a bunch of tickets like those at the carnival in the theater. The next day, Earl and Roy went to the theater and stuffed their pockets full of tickets and went back to the carnival.

The boys' friends noticed all the tickets, so they started asking for money. Earl and Roy gave tickets to their friends, so the ferris wheel, merry-go-round, and all the shows and rides were going full blast, but no tickets had been sold for an hour.

The manager finally stopped the carnival and changed the tickets just as the boys were ready to go.

Told by Roy Cornette

The spoke factory used to be where the power plant is now on Norman Wells Street, formerly Spoke Factory Layne. The factory made spokes for automobile and buggy wheels.

The spoke factory, at one time, made ready-made houses.

Alvie Foster ran it.

Told by Roy Cornette

The heading factory was at Clearfield where the Lee Clay Products Office was. They made headings and staves for barrells and kegs--especially kegs.

Told by Roy Cornette

Before the streetlights were put up by Ed Maggard, the streets were lit by kerosene lanterns. Noah Kennard was employed by the city for eight dollars a month to light the lamps. He lit them around sundown and turned them off between 11:00 and midnight because everyone should have been in by then and to save money.

Lee Cocharan, an old Rowan County "residenter" was about 6'6" tall. He was a laboror and always wore bibbed over-alls.

A stock company came to Morehead to put on a show at the Cozy Theater where Battson's Drug Store is now. The show was a melodrama with the villian and the whole works.

The villian was performing and had hidden behind a tree to avoid the hero who was entering.

The hero ran out on the stage yelling, "Where'd he go? Where'd he go?" Lee, who was sitting in the front row, engrossed in the play, jumped up,

popped his fist, and yelled, "There's the son-of-a-bitch behind that tree!"

Told by Mary Flood

Mary Louise Oppenheimer often sang solo at the Morehead Christian Church. One Sunday morning, she sang the lovely selection "I Heard The Forest Praying." After the church services, several people went up to tell Mary how well she had sung and Marna Carr was especially pleased and told Mary Louise how happy she was that she had made that selection "since Daddy is in the lumber business."

Told by Margaret Cornette Morris

EARLY INDUSTRIES

Early Industries

Rowan County has never been thought of as an industrial area. Most of the early families made their living farming and even today farming and education make up the county's biggest payroll. Rowan County is considered more industrial today with Cowden and Browning Manufacturing companies. In the past, we have had such industries as tie yards, tile, and brickyards, lumber yards, a heading factory, a spoke factory, and a cosmograph factory.

TRIALS, COURT, AND CRIMINALS

Trials, Court, and Criminals

Even to this day, the grand jury seldom convenes when there is not a murder trial to be decided in circuit court. The courthouse had been at its present site since Morehead became the county seat. It burned once in Rowan County's early history and some of the records from the burning building were sent to Fleming County and remain there to this day. The courthouse square was the center of town at one time. Hitching posts were where parking meters now stand. The courthouse had been the center of attention for a long time; most recently in a dispute over the condition and moving of the courthouse.

In most cases, the judicial system in Rowan County is taken seriously, however, there is a lighter side.

The first jury in Kentucky with female jurors was held in 1921 in Morehead, Kentucky. Until 1921 it was illegal for a woman to sit on a jury.

The jury consisted of : Mrs. Gertrude Snyder, Elizabeth Young Dressler, Mrs. Lesra Hurt, Mrs. Rena Wells, Mrs. Maggie Hogge, and Mrs. G. C. Nickell. The judge was Uncle Sammy Caudill and the chief of police was Uncle John Nickell.

According to Mrs. Hogge, they were all scared to death. It seemed as if they were the ones on trial.

The case had to do with one woman attacking another. The woman was sentenced \$5.00 plus court costs.

From Rowan County News in Maggie
Hogge's Scrapbook

In order to convince the court that he was telling the truth, a witness on the stand said, "If that isn't true, I hope the Lord will strike me dead." At that moment, the plaster cracked and fell making a terrible noise and the witness was the first one to make for the door to escape.

Told by Walter Hogge

Dan Caudill and Bert Proctor made a financial settlement when Uncle Charlie Proctor died. Eda, Dan's wife and Bert's sister, got the better end of the deal, since Dan was a lawyer and circuit judge at the time.

Bert had been drinking one night, not long after the settlement. He got his cow and dog and led them from town up Wilson Avenue stopping at every house making the same speech. He said, "This is my cow and my dog. Dan Caudill has taken everything that I got and I'm taking him my dog and cow."

Told by Roy Cornette

A movie style shoot-out took place in west Morehead about 1:30 on a Sunday morning in 1953. An ex-convict, Frank Eden, dashed from a burning building with his six-gun blazing only to be mowed down by a barricade of police bullets.

Eden's sister had sworn out a warrant for him for beating up his mother who was between 80-90 years old.

Sheriff Chester Lewis and his deputy, James Brammar, surrounded the residence and the sheriff called out, "This is the sheriff and we have you surrounded and want you to come out peaceably so you won't get hurt!"

Came the reply from the house, "This is Frank Eden and I don't give a - - - who you are. I have a gun here with plenty of lead. If you come in, Rowan County will have a dead sheriff!"

From the Rowan County News in Maggie Hogge's Scrapbook

Ile Pelphrey was the county judge. There was a case in court in which one man accused another of selling a "whopper-jawed" mule. He said the mule couldn't even eat corn. Judge told Ben McBrayer, the sheriff, and Bill McBrayer, deputy, to bring the mule into court. They got the mule in a pick-up truck, backed it up to the courthouse, and brought that mule right into the courthouse.

Lyda Amburgy was working in Wisconsin for the Pet Milk Company, and she wrote to Mable Atney saying, "My goodness sakes, you can put Rowan County against the world. In the paper up here, I saw where they took a mule right in the courthouse down there. I know it's not the truth, but what tales you

TRANSPORTATION

get on Rowan County!"

In reply, Mable wrote, simply, "It was the truth."

Told by Roy Cornette

Transportation

In Rowan County's early history, cars were unknown, and even later, they were an unfamiliar sight. When discussing early transportation, the people discussed the depot, early cars, and a sign on a post by a curve which read, "Sound your claxon!"

Alec Bradley and the McKinney boys and Walter Hogge ran all day with their hands on the fender of Sam Bradley's car which was the first in Rowan County.

Told by Elsie Lee Hogge Cornette

The first time Roy Cornette saw a car, he was hoeing corn on a small island near Gayheart Pond. He threw down his hoe and chased the car.

Told by Roy Cornette

Mrs. Cassity took Ruth and Nell to Ashland before there were cars in Morehead. When they saw their first car, the girls ran after it yelling. Mrs. Cassity, in order to cover up her embarrassment and the girls' ignorance, said, "Come back, children, that isn't your father's car!"

Told by Mary Flood.

LAMS

Laws

These are a few city ordinances. Some may still be on the books in city hall.

If any person shall ride or drive any horse through the streets of the city at a reckless or dangerous speed, or shall engage in racing or running horses upon the highways of the city, such person shall be fined not less than five or more than \$35.00 for each offense.

Whenever a car went around a curve, it had to honk.

The speed limit on Main Street was 15 MPH.

Women were to wear their dresses a certain number of inches from the ground.

Skating on streets or sidewalks was prohibited and the fine was one to five dollars for each violation.

It is unlawful for any person to wear a bathing suit or shorts on the streets.

It was against the law to spit on a city street.

Told by Margaret Morris

CRACKER BARRELL COMMENTS

Cracker Barrell Comments

The Cracker Barrell Comments were written by Woody Hinton and were a weekly column in the Rowan County News.

I hear that Mayme Wiley has been relieved of her position as head of the old age assistance. If so, please put her on your Christmas list.

Someone has stolen my dog. Will they please bring me one of the puppies around April 27.

Woody summed up the defeat of the Republican party in these words:

"Truman came to Morehead, stopped his train for 20 minutes, introduced the Missus and Margaret, smiled at everyone, promised the farmers bumper crops and the laboring men twice as much pay and half as many hours. He then shook hands with all the kids and smiled at the widder women. Mrs. Truman accepted some flowers from the Democratic women of our community as if she hadn't ever had a bouquet in her life . . . then Dewey came to our city. The train didn't even stop, but those at the station saw Tom sitting on the cow-catcher with his moustache flying in the air. Right then I made up my mind that the Republicans were sunk deeper than our friend down at Farmers who was digging a well and it caved in on him."

He referred to Beedy Deeton, local garbage collector, and Alley K. (Hoss) Sorrell, Rowan County jailer, as the biggest men in Rowan County.

When a new post office was built in Morehead, a mural was painted on one wall. Many of the local people felt the picture depicted them as country people. In order to show his lack of appreciation, Woody Hinton wrote this satiristic letter to the Postmaster General, the Honorable James A. Farley.

Dear Jimmie:

Thank you for those or that picture you sent us for our new post office; we sure appreciate it. We hope some presidential year you will be able to meet the characters in the mural (down here we call it a picture).

Let me see--I know most all the folks in the picture--

Sitting in the window there is Mary Alice Calvert, and, as I live and breathe, she is talking to Buell Hogge. Well, I'll declare, at first I thought that was a boy sittin' on the porch, but it's "Lump" Penix. There is J. A. Lewis's lantern that he milks with, and there is John Cecil's cat, with its tail wrapped around the porch post. Aunt Minnie Graham is sitting in the rocker. She is from Fleming. Good old Aunt Minnie! She always gave me cookies.

Why, there is Jimmie with his guitar--where is his case marked, "No pay; no play"? I sure am glad he went on a cash basis. There is Riley Bowling. Now, I bet he has just killed a hog and wants to sell some sausage. The last I bought from him had a mustache hair in it. When I told him I thought it would help his business to have it cut off, he said, "By Cracky, I'll go out of that meat business afore I cut it off."

Why there is "Queen" that's George Jamison's bitch. You know, the one that trees so many possums and coons, she is sniffing at Jimmie's foot.

There is Howard Spurlock leaving for Tar Flat with the mail. Say! His horse is scared. Well I don't blame it, I'd be scared, too, if I saw a wheat field on Tar Flat.

Now, Mr. Farley, may we here in Morehead suggest a picture for your post office in Washington?

First select the largest wall--it must be smooth--and paint the biggest greenback pie you can paint. Now, around that pie, paint "pot-bellied" politicians and have them have a finger in the pie.

Kindest personal regards,
I am your obedient customer,

Woody

HOME REMEDIES

Home Remedies

Rowan County hasn't always been the medical center it is today. Not only didn't the county have a hospital until 1963, but until the late 1800's there were no doctors.

The people took care of themselves with herbs, and tried-and-true home remedies which had been passed down from generation to generation.

FOR A CHEST COLD

You put rock candy in a jar and nearly fill it with rye whiskey. Add a twist of orange and a twist of lemon and let sit for several days.

When you get a chest cold, drink a little and your chest clears. Drink a lot and you don't care.

Told by Margaret Morris
by her grandmother, Susan Ward Cornette
Wife of Daniel Boone Cornette

To cure a chest cold, fry an onion, put it in a rag and place it on the chest of the person who has the cold.

You boil nearly a cup of water. When the water is boiled, pour in a glass and add one shot (or a shot and a half--depending on how bad the cold is) of bourbon whiskey. To this mixture, add a twist of lemon, a dash of cinnamon, a teaspoon of sugar or honey. Serve to the patient who is sitting in a tub of hot water.

Three of these will cure anything.

Told by Margaret Morris
by her grandmother, Maggie Belle Allen
Hogge

FOR FEVER BLISTERS

Use the end of a match (or a Q-tip) to retrieve fresh ear wax from your own ear. Rub it on a fever blister or cracks around the mouth. This can be done at night and within two or three days, the infection will be gone.

Told by Gwendlyn Perry Kidd

FOR AN EAR ACHE

A few drops of fresh urine from a member of the opposite sex dropped into the ear with a medicine dropper will cure an ear ache in short order.

The person will never complain again.

Told by Gwendolyn Perry Kidd

Another remedy for the ear ache is to blow cigarette smoke into the infected ear.

Told by Jacqui Bowman
by her grandmother, Anna Ramey

FOR THRUSH

A person who has never seen his mother blows into the mouth of a baby who has thrush.

Told by Elsie Lee Hogge Cornette

When you cut yourself or step on a nail or a wire, grease the wound and the object you got cut on with the same salve. Put a cloth on the wound, tie it up good, and the place won't even get sore.

SUPERSTITION

Superstition

Mountain people are often unique in their superstitious beliefs. This is probably because of their isolation and having to depend on themselves and what they know instead of medical facts. Some of the superstitions may appear ridiculous, but many are still believed.

To remove warts, steal a dishcloth, and hide it making sure no one sees you. Leave it there, and shortly the wart will go away.

To remove a wart, rub a rotten potato over it. At midnight, bury the potato in a rotten tree stump.

A wart is caused by a frog peeing on your hand.

A sty on your eye is caused by peeing in the road.

Whatever you do on the first of the year sets the tempo for the whole year.

Eating cabbage and/or black-eyed peas on New Year's Day will bring you luck through out the year.

If you take the ashes out on New Year's Day, you will die before the year's out.

If a bird gets in your house, someone will die.

Death comes in threes.

If an owl hoots outside your window three nights in a row, someone will die.

If you sweep under someone's feet, they will never get married.

A place to dig for a well can be located by a water witch using a forked branch of a fruit tree.

If you put a new quilt over a single girl, she'll get married within the year.

Thunder in February; frost in May.

A horseshoe nailed above the door will bring you good luck. It must be nailed upside-down or the luck will run out.

Rain before seven; quit before eleven.

If it rains on Sunday, it will rain every Sunday for seven weeks.

If snow stays on; it's waiting for another to top it.

To avoid rabies, bite off the dog's tail.

POLITICS

POLITICS

It is said the "politics in Kentucky is the damnedest" and Rowan County is no exception. Many of the most exciting and well-known people in Rowan County have been involved in politics.

Judge Allie Young, who was running for state senator, had given his son, Taylor, one hundred dollars. Mrs. Young, who was very frugal, got wise to it and ran from her home on Main Street to Taylor's home on Wilson Avenue.

She jumped up on Taylor's porch and jerked open his door and lit in on her husband, the judge. She started beating him over the head with a paper and he ran out of the house and was running down the street holding his pants up. He was yelling, "Come on you poor people and help your senator!"

Taylor was way behind him yelling, "I'm with you old hoss!"

This "parade" went on until midnight with people lined up on the street watching them.

The fighting among the Young family went on almost every night. People would often close their stores to watch the fight.

Told by Roy Cornette, Elsie Lee Cornette,
Mary Flood, and Mike Flood

When Cora Wilson Stewart, who started the Moonlight Schools, came to town, everyone knew it because she was considered high society. She had been married three or four times and her father always told her, "Cora, you're a smart woman, but you don't know a damn thing about men!"

Judge J. W. Riley, one of Eastern Kentucky's most active political figures was 80 years old Monday--April Fools' day in 1946. On his 80th birthday, Judge Riley, the man whom the old timers say "came into Rowan County with a candidate card in his hand", locked his office, retired from 50 years of law practice, and resigned his position as United States Commissioner.

Some 40 years before, Judge Riley vowed that when and if he became 80 years of age, he would retire--and he did.

Receiving his license to practice in 1892, Judge Riley immediately entered the race for the Democratic nomination for judge of Rowan County. He was nominated and elected in one of the bitterest fights the county had ever had. In 1909, he ran and was elected to the county attorneyship. He was re-elected in 1914. From then until 1921, he served as mayor and on the city council of Morehead and again won the county judgeship.

When John Young Brown was running for governor against Happy Chandler, Mr. Brown was being introduced by Judge Riley. In his introduction of Mr. Brown, he made reference to a former introduction of Happy Chandler by Warren Lappin. He had said Mr. Chandler was a man on campus who had just changed his politics a week before from Republican to Democrat. "You know the man I have reference to. He looks like he's been weaned on a pickle!"

Bill Sample was, at one time, a Kentucky State Senator and always involved in politics. The Rowan County News once reported the salaries of state senators and, for the time, it was a rather large sum.

Mr. Sample was in the Eagles' Nest one day when one of the waitresses asked him what he did as a senator. He replied, "I don't do anything but go around on Friday afternoon and pick up my check."

She said, "Well, isn't that quite a bit of money to pay you for not doing anything?"

He said, "Yes honey, it is. But you'll have to realize that I'm grossly overpaid."

Told by Roy Cornette

Albert Caudill, Lyda's father and Billy's brother, worked for Billy who was County Court Clerk for 26 years. Albert drank whiskey so he'd often go to Mt. Sterling to get it.

Norman Wells had just been elected sheriff, saw Albert, who was extremely drunk, coming back on the train. Albert offered to let Norman spend the night with him at Royce's Boarding House. Norman said, "No, Albert, I'm gonna have to take you to jail."

Albert said, "What, what? Take me to jail? Shit-shit, Norman, you're just a' learning!"

Told by Roy Cornette

Dan Caudill was running for circuit judge in the 1940's and he gave a large sum of money to one of his campaign workers with which he was to buy votes. Instead, the official took the money to buy himself a cadillac.

When the story got out, the case became known as "Caudillac."

From a paper by Darrell Martin

Two old moonshiners were going to make moonshine for an upcoming election. One was to wait with the still while the other got water. Before one got back, the police arrested the one with the still.

The other moonshiner visited the one in jail and said, "Doggone it! I always knew you were gonna get into trouble with that still of yours!"

From a paper by Darrell Martin

Hubert Pennington was once in a tight county judge election. There was a man around Morehead who closely resembled Mr. Pennington. A day before the

election, the opposition bought the look-alike a suit of clothes, got him drunk, placed him in a taxi, and hauled him around the county. They made frequent stops so the people would see "the next county judge who was now so drunk he could not even drive his own car."

Hubert Pennington lost this election.

From a paper by Darrell Martin

Uncle Andy Thomas and Judge Cogswell got drunk while in a ragweed field. A rain was approaching and lightning bugs were flashing all around.

Uncle Andy stuttered and said, "Judge, where we at?"

Judge Cogswell replied, "Don't you see all those lights? We are right in the middle of Cincinnati!"

From a paper by Darrell Martin

Uncle Tom Barker used to get arrested about every two weeks for drunkenness. One Monday, Uncle Tom was caught and fined. A few days later, Tom was picked up again. The judge told him, "Tom, haven't you learned by now it's expensive to be fined twice in one week?"

Tom replied "You can't fine me again because this is the same drunk I was on when you fined me on Monday!"

Many of Tom's friends used to tell him, "Tom, you're in bad trouble this time and need a lawyer."

Tom would say, "I don't have the money for a lawyer and I should hire a few witnesses instead."

From a paper by Darrell Martin

An elderly man who was supposedly a lawyer used to go to the jail to see who was "behind bars." He had a special fee for misdemeanor cases which was ten dollars for a straight case and twenty dollars if he furnished the witnesses.

From a paper by Darrell Martin

There was a felony case against a man who couldn't afford a lawyer. The judge appointed the newest lawyer, his brother, Billy, to defend the man for nothing.

The lawyer and the accused went into a room to discuss the case. They stayed in there for quite a long time, and, finally, the judge sent someone in to check on them. When he went in, Billy was alone. He asked, "Where's your client?"

Billy replied, "The last I saw of him, he was headed for that pine thicket up on the hill."

He asked, "What do you mean? Did you help him escape?"

Billy said, "No, he didn't need much help, but I gave him advice."

"What did you say?"

"After he explained his side of the story, I thought it was such a bad case that I couldn't do much for him. The best advice I could give him was 'Head for the hills and don't stop'."

When the judge heard of this, he said, "I should fine you for contempt of court." He then broke down laughing.

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Mr. Roy Cornette is the son of Daniel Boone and Susan Ward Cornette. He came to Rowan County from Carter County in 1907. Mr. Cornette graduated from Morehead State Teachers College and was involved in the Rowan County school system as teacher, principal, and superintendent for about 20 years. He was in partnership with Glennis Fraley in the Monarch (Hardware) Supply Store for about 20 years. He was one of the founders of the First Federal Savings and Loan. He was the first president of the First Federal Savings and Loan and remains in that position at this time.

Elsie Lee Hogge Cornette is the daughter of Elijah and Maggie Belle Allen Hogge. She graduated from Morehead State Teachers College. Mrs. Cornette worked for the Rowan County Board of Education for about 20 years. She is a life-long member of the First Baptist Church and has served as treasurer of the Eastern Star for 41 years.

Mrs. Mary Flood is the daughter of Elijah and Maggie Belle Allen Hogge. Mrs. Hogge's father, Alexander Charles, has a twin brother named Charles Alexander. Mrs. Flood has worked at many stores in town including Allen's I.G.A. and J. A. Bays Jewelry. She is well known as one of the best cooks in Rowan County and, at one time, operated a small bakery.

Mr. Mike Flood is a retired rural mail carrier. He was the owner and operator of the Shady Rest Tourist Camp and Restaurant for many years. Mr. Flood was one of the early owners of the Eagles Nest Restaurant. Mrs. Flood resides on Bays Avenue. Mr. Flood died May 15, 1979.

Margaret Sue Cornette Morris is the daughter of Roy and Elsie Lee Hogge Cornette and the wife of Fenton Lee Morris, formerly of Williamson, West Virginia. She graduated from Morehead State College and has been employed by the Rowan County Board of Education for the past thirteen years. She is currently chairperson of the social studies department of Rowan County High School.

Mr. Jack Ellis, son of Dot and Lon Ellis, graduated from Morehead High School and Morehead State University. He received his Masters Degree from George Peabody and his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi.

He is presently employed Director of Library Services at Morehead State University.

Mr. Charles E. Jennings was born December 13, 1903. He was a farmer for four years and an elementary school teacher for five years. Mr. Jennings has always been very involved in politics. He was Circuit Court Clerk for six years, County Judge for four years, Deputy Sheriff one year, City Clerk one year, and NYA Supervisor one year.

He was in the United States Navy two years during World War II and was a member of the United States Special Police in Washington, D.C. for 25 years. He has been awarded the Certificate for Outstanding Service by the Federal Government.

He is a charter member, organizer, and first president of the Morehead Lion's Club, and is an active member of many other organizations.

He has been a member of the Rowan County Board of Education for the past thirteen years. She is currently chairperson of the social studies department of Rowan County High School and Morehead State University. He received his Bachelor's degree from Morehead State University and his M.A. from the University of Kentucky.

Gwendolyn Perry Kidd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Perry, graduated from Breckinridge Training School. For several years, she ran a second hand store. She is very knowledgeable in the field of antiques and is considered a local authority on the subject.

Mr. Walter Hogge is the son of Elijah and Maggie Belle Allen Hogge. He is a long time employee of the Lexington Leader as a lino-type operator. He is now retired and lives in Florida.

Miss Jacqui Bowman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zay Bowman. She is presently a sophomore at Rowan County High School.

Grade A
very interesting material
good presentation
it would be nice
if you could
continue on with
this project