













# BellSouth donates whiz kids books

As part of BellSouth's continuing commitment to education and community involvement, the company will be donating 7,000 books to elementary schools and public libraries in BellSouth's nine-state region. The books, titled "The Math Wiz" and "The Gadget War," were written by award-winning children's author Betty Duffey, whose characters show an interest and ability in math and science.

"BellSouth wants to guarantee that our children are as well educated as any in the world," said Paul Smith, BellSouth regional manager. "Encouraging our children's interest and knowledge in math, science and technology will prepare them to

be successful citizens and employees in the information age.

"BellSouth parents are the current 'whiz kids' of technology, but the children are our future," added Smith. "Ms. Duffey's books create an enthusiasm for those subjects and show that learning math and science can be fun. We are pleased to provide copies of these books to schools and libraries."

Duffey is a recipient of several

literacy awards; some by her peers and some with children in grades K-5 casting the ballots. She builds her stories on ideas from her life, her children and the things they do.

"My characters are whiz kids," said Duffey. "They use math and science, not just to work homework problems for their teachers, but to solve life problems as well. BellSouth's donation of these books is a wonderful tribute to their com-

mitment to education and the community."

The books' focus on 'whiz kids' was a natural tie-in to BellSouth's corporate brand advertising campaign. The campaign theme line, "The Neighborhood Whiz Kids," points to BellSouth employees as the technology whiz kids capable of developing and delivering innovative technological solutions, and a logical extension of the "Nobody

Knows A Neighbor Like A Neighbor" campaign.

So parents, teachers and mentors, if your kids want to participate in the fun, join them in completing the "Neighborhood Whiz Kids" quiz at [www.bellsouth.com/whizkids](http://www.bellsouth.com/whizkids).

Kids can complete the quiz online, and receive an official "BellSouth Neighborhood Whiz Kid" certificate. And visit the

BellSouth's education gateway at [www.bellsouth.net/k-12](http://www.bellsouth.net/k-12) for more education-specific, teacher-selected information.

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## Avon representative honored

Janice Little of Wheelwright, was honored for her outstanding sales of over \$85,500 as an Avon representative last year. On stage at the Stumbo Convention Center at the Jenny Wiley State Park on June 2, Avon awarded Wilkinson a check for \$250 and she also earned a \$3000 cash award and an all-expense paid trip to Puerto Rico. Janice started with Avon more than 10 years ago just to help with the family expenses. She services more than 50 customers every two weeks and also does fund-raising for schools and other organizations.

## Grant to help disadvantaged college students

A \$2.6 million grant from the Department of Education will help more than 8,000 disadvantaged students who have the potential to succeed in higher education attend college in Kentucky. U.S. Senator Wendell Ford (D-KY) announced June 3.

Under the Education Department's Talent Search Program, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds will receive assistance through academic, career, and financial counseling, tutorial services, mentoring programs and workshops.

"The goal of this program is to identify and assist those students in completing high school and going on to receive postsecondary education," Ford said. "We all know that education is the great equalizer, and a college degree will certainly help these youngsters realize their goals."

Nine postsecondary institutions in Kentucky will receive grants to implement the Talent Search Program:

Nine postsecondary institutions in Kentucky will receive grants to implement the Talent Search Program:

Berea College \$241,632; Eastern Kentucky University \$283,531; Kentuckian Metroversity Inc. \$239,224; Lexington Community College \$227,652; Morehead State University \$513,784; Murray State University \$273,418; Northern Kentucky University \$291,188; Madisonville Community College \$259,331; and, Western Kentucky University \$281,892.

*Great Gift for Him!*

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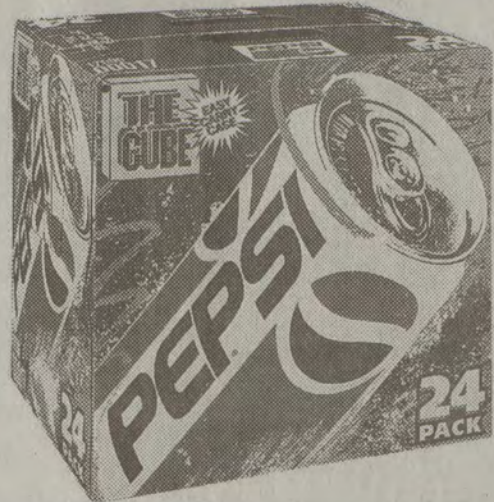
## Jaggering June Specials!

Prices Effective Wednesday, June 17th thru Saturday, June 20th

24-PACK CUBE

### Pepsi Cola

# \$4.98

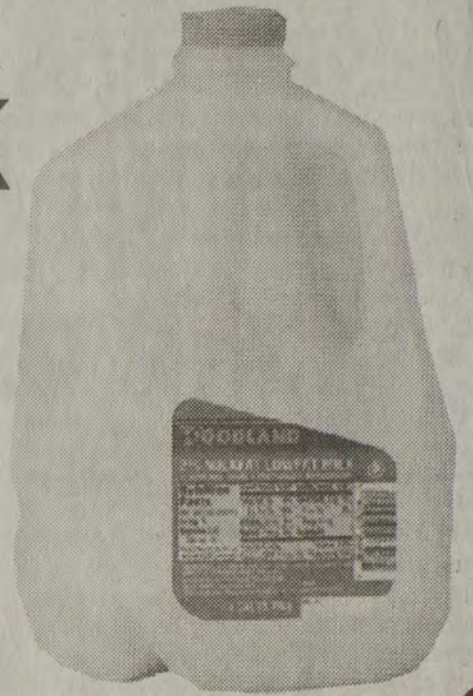


FOODLAND

### 2% Milk

Gallon

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### Hudson Cream Flour

5-lb. **88¢**



Peak  
**Pinto Beans**

4-lb. **88¢**



### Zesta Saltines

Red Box Only

16-oz. **98¢**



### Master Blend Coffee

34-1/2 oz. **\$5.88**



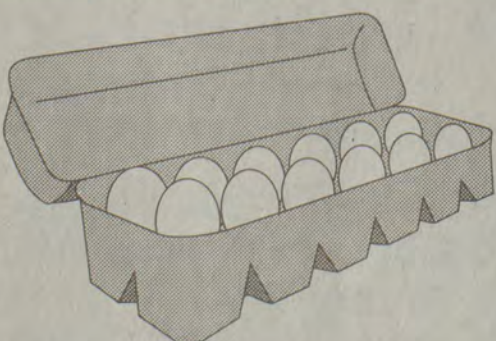
Van Camp's  
**Pork and Beans**

15-oz. **3/98¢**



Foodland  
**White Bread**

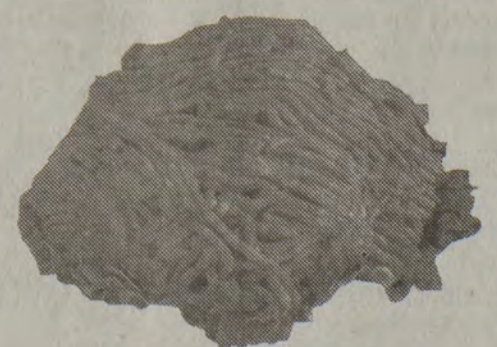
20-oz. **3/\$1.00**



Foodland  
**Medium Eggs**  
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### Bi Rite FOAM PLATES

50-ct  
**98¢**



### Ground Chuck

**99¢**  
Lb.















# WEDDINGS ENGAGEMENTS



Mr. and Mrs. Tony Phillips

## Vows exchanged

Vernon and Freda Akers of McDowell are pleased to announce the June 6 marriage of their daughter, Candi to Tony Phillips, son of Bud and Mary Phillips, of Franklin, Tennessee. The couple exchanged vows among family members and friends during a candlelight ceremony at Mountain Valley Wedding Chapel in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

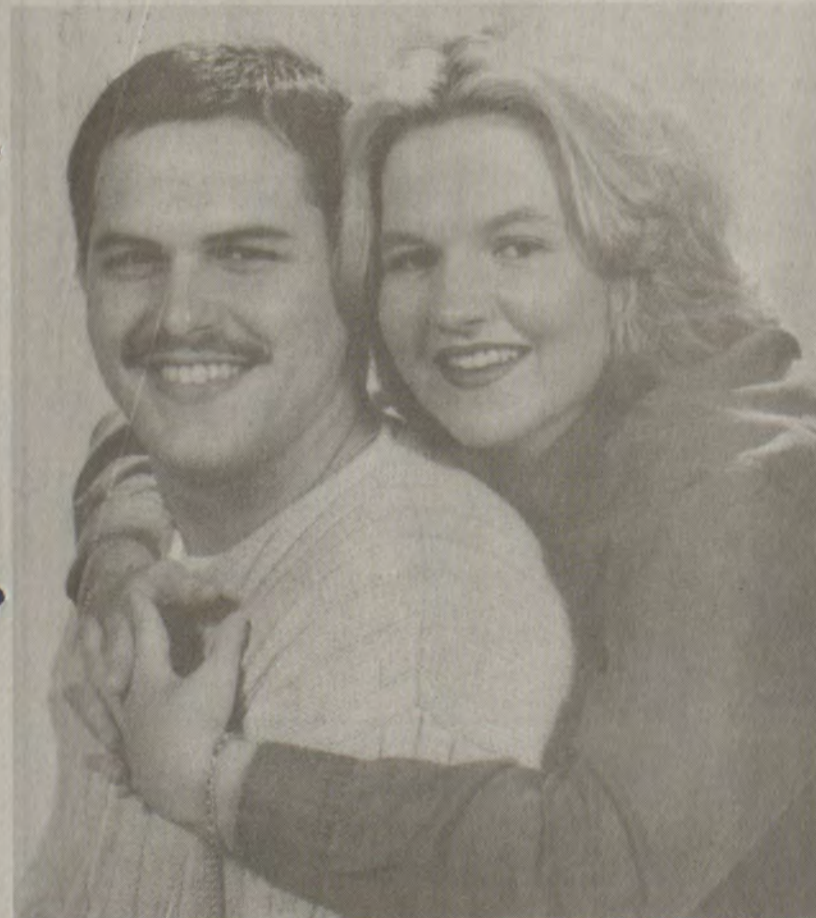
The bride is a senior at Morehead State University, currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in marketing. She is employed by MCI of Winchester.

The groom is a graduate of Morehead State University, and is pursuing a master's degree in business administration. He is a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

The couple currently resides in Morehead.



Ralph and Karen Goble of Hippo, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Pamela Goble and Jeremy Clements, son of Clarence and Lois Clements of Danville. Pamela is a '96 graduate of Allen Central High School and is attending University College of Architecture. Jeremy is a '93 graduate of Danville High School and is attending University College of Architecture. The wedding will be held July 11, at 2 p.m., at the Hueysville Church of Christ.



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hancock of Martin, and Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Hicks of Langley, announce the forthcoming marriage of their children, Sabrina Kay Hancock and Rodney Brandon Hicks. The bride-elect is a 1997 graduate of Allen Central High School and attended Alice Lloyd College. She will be attending Eastern Kentucky University in the fall, where she will be entering the nursing program. The bridegroom is a 1997 graduate of Allen Central High School and attended Alice Lloyd College. He will be attending Eastern Kentucky University in the fall where he plans to major in engineering. The wedding will take place Saturday, July 11, at 3:30 p.m., at the Maytown United Methodist Church in Langley. The gracious custom of open church will be observed.



Jenny Mead and Earl Cook, Jr.

## June wedding planned

Mr. and Mrs. Danny Mead of Hi Hat, announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Jenny Mead and Earl Cook Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cook Sr.

The wedding ceremony will take

place, Saturday, June 27, at 4:00 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of McDowell.

A reception will be held at South Floyd High School. The gracious custom of an open wedding will be observed.



### Vows exchanged

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Rose of Prestonsburg, announce the marriage of their daughter Misty Rose and Timothy Ferguson. Timothy is the son of Timmy Ferguson of Prestonsburg and Jackalee Martin of David. They were married on April 18, at Katy Friend Freewill Baptist Church in Prestonsburg.

## COURTYARD CAFE

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7:30 a.m.

### Weekly Specials

**Mon:** Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, corn and roll.

**Tues:** Chicken Stir-Fry with rice.

**Wed:** Soupbeans, fried potatoes, mustard greens and cornbread.

**Thurs:** Tavern Ham, baked beans, potato salad and hot roll with butter.

**Fri:** Roast Beef Special

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Refreshments will be served!

## Grand Opening Celebration

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 19th 20th, & 21st

\$50,000  
Cash  
Giveaway!



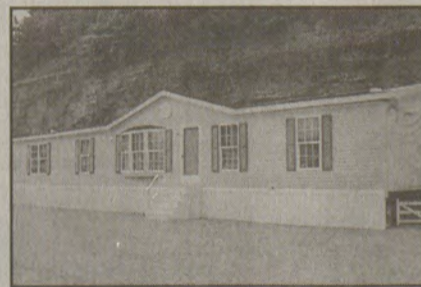
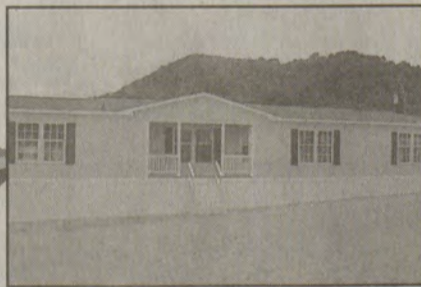
A Five-Star Manufactured Home Location Has Arrived...

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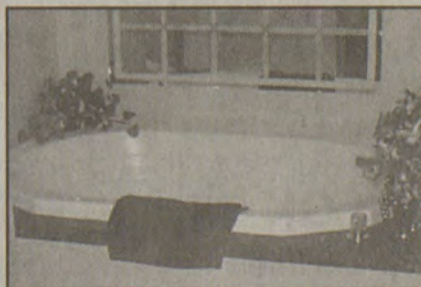
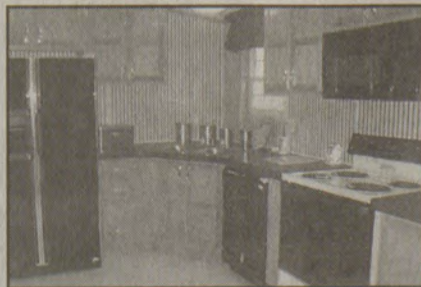
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**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE Pursuant to Application Number 836-5209 Operator Change**

In accordance with 405 KAR 8:010, notice is hereby given that Miracle Coal, P.O. Box 66, Rt. 122, Drift, Kentucky 41619 intends to revise permit number 836-5209 to change the

operator. The operator presently approved in the permit is the Permittee, Miracle Coal. The new operator will be North Star Mining, Inc., 29501 Mayo Trail, Catlettsburg, Kentucky 41129.

The operation is located 1 mile northeast of Drift in Floyd County. The operation is located approximately 1.0 mile east from KY 122 junction with

Stonecoal Branch Road and located 0.01 miles north of Stonecoal Branch. The operation is located on the McDowell U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quadrangle map at lati-

tude 37° 30' 41" and the longitude is 82° 44' 15." The application has been filed for public inspection at the Department for Surface Mining Reclamation and

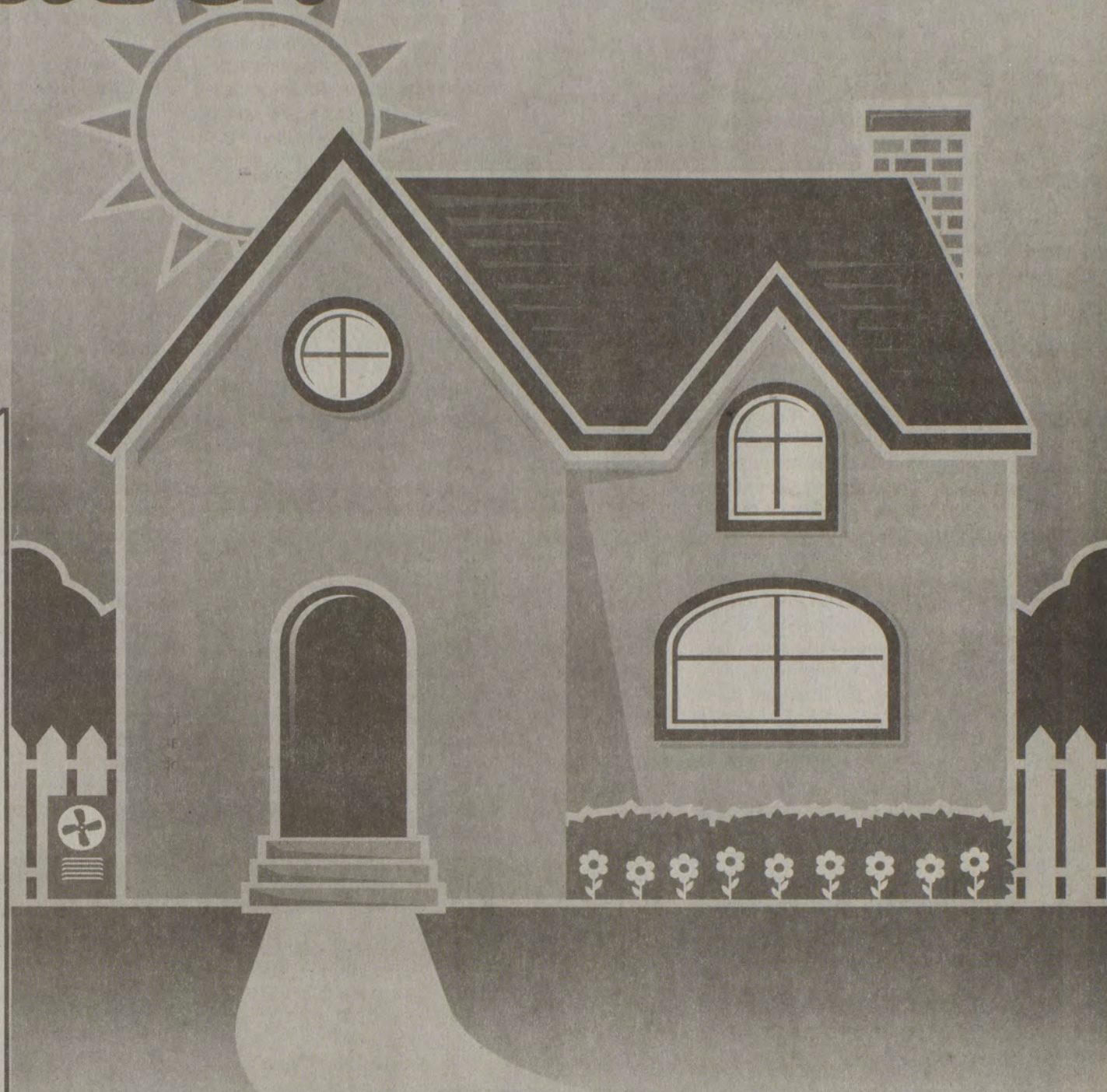
Enforcement's Prestonsburg Regional Office, 2705 South Lake Drive, Prestonsburg, Kentucky 41653. Written comments or objections must be filed with the Director, Division

of Permits, #2 Hudson Hollow, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. All comments or objections must be received within fifteen (15) days of today's date.

# Yard Sale?

**Get Your Free Cash & Carry Yard Sale Kit!**

*The Floyd County Times*  
112 South Central Avenue  
Prestonsburg



**Want to have a garage or yard sale but aren't sure how to put it together? We've got everything you need to make the most of it!**

## YARD SALE KIT INCLUDES:

- A 2-inch bordered ad appearing for 2 days
- FREE (reusable) plastic YARD SALE or GARAGE SALE sign for your lawn
- 40 FREE price stickers
- FREE tip sheet on how to have a successful Yard Sale
- FREE inventory sheet to record items sold

**\$10.00**

**COMPLETE PACKAGE**

**ALL FOR ONLY**

All ads must be paid for in advance, NO EXCEPTIONS!

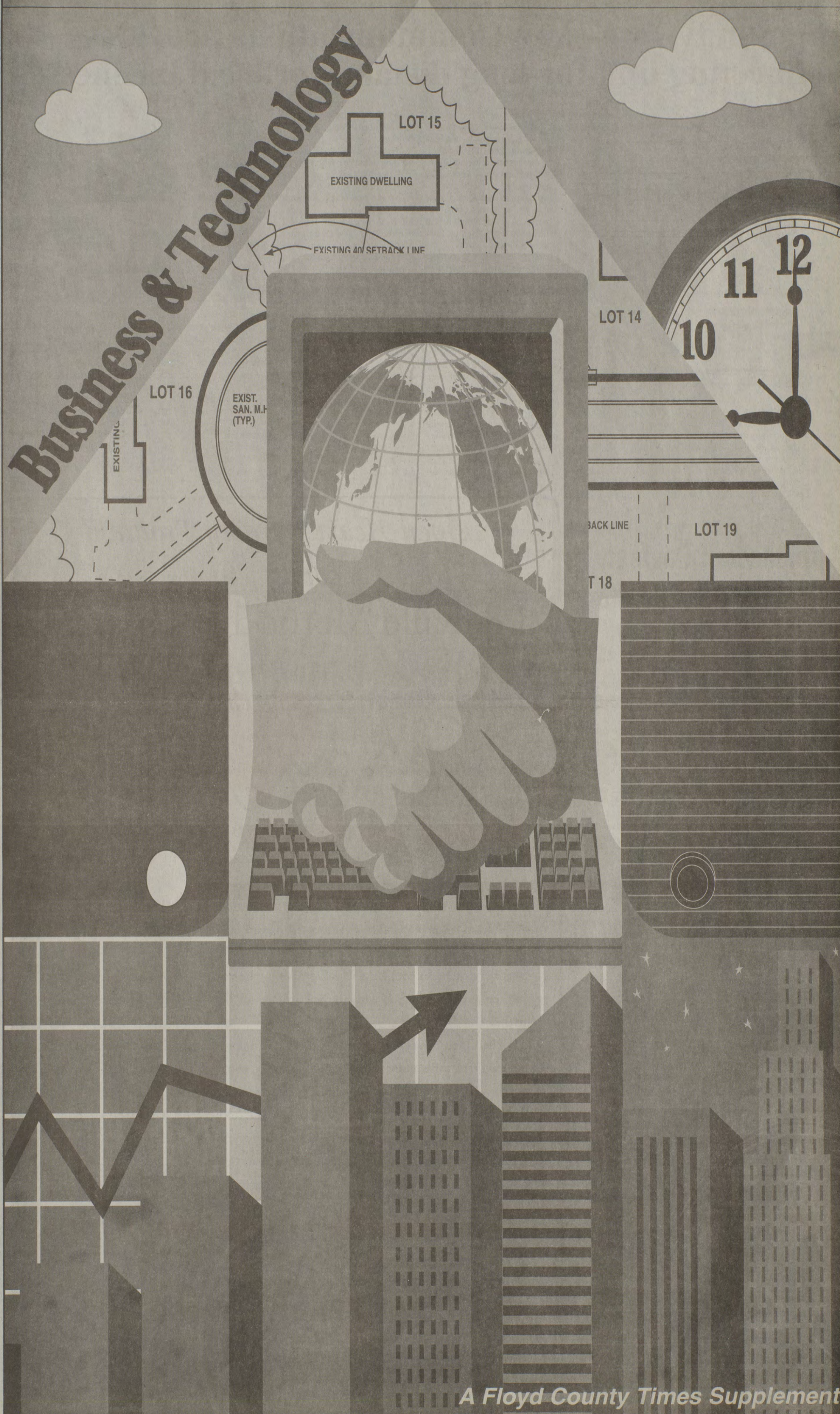
Stop by and place your ad today at

*The Floyd County Times*





# Business & Technology



# Big Sandy Two-Way Communications provides connecting link for long distance or local businesses

The Eastern Kentucky mountains have always other industries depend on heavy equipment and a more



depended on communications in one form or another. In the past, it was messages carried by hand, from town to town, on foot, by wagon or on horseback, and even though it took longer, in those times it served its purpose.

As times changed, technology changed. Mining and

specialized way of getting a job done, sometimes bringing with it more danger. Two-way radios have long been a method to bring some security to workers, whether mining, hauling coal, logging, or stringing wire through rough terrain for telephone and electricity.

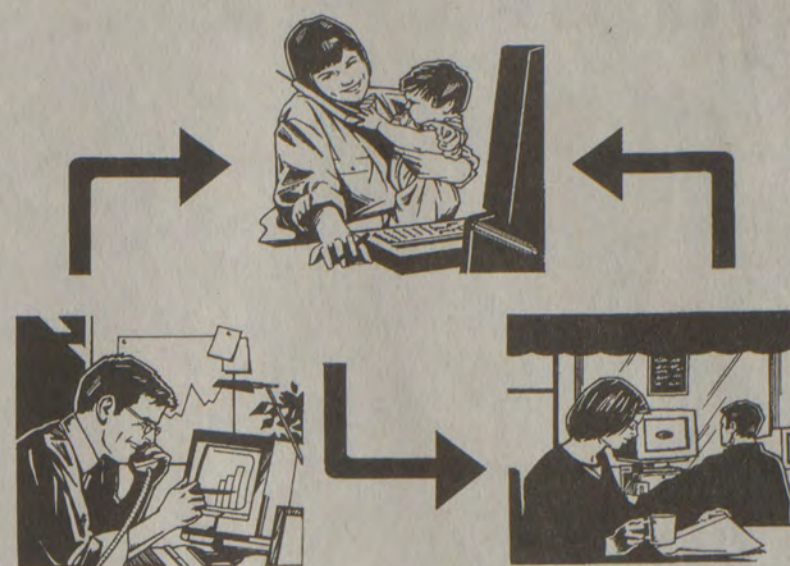
Two-way radio gives workers a link with the outside world where assistance can be obtained quickly should it be necessary. In addition, drivers are often kept safer because of the quick communications between a state trooper and his post or between an ambulance and the hospital to which it transports accident victims.

Big Sandy Two-Way Communications, Inc has been a Floyd County service facility since 1982 and even prior to that under different management. It has a group of technicians who are capable and courteous and whose services are sought out by many Eastern Kentucky radio users. These men keep two-way communications working in this area. Even with the advent of cellular and paging, two-way still has its place in the communications industry. Two-way is a cheaper, more localized form of keeping touch. It works well

with paging and cellular in completing the communications picture.

Big Sandy's shop is an obscure location, often going unnoticed by those who are not familiar with two-way. It is located one-half mile north of Highlands Regional Medical Center on the left behind the Ashland Food Mart. Big Sandy's workforce is made up of Floyd and Johnson County residents who are loyal to their area and to their jobs. Its owners, Johnny and Lane Dutton, live in downtown Prestonsburg and participate in many community activities. They are also part owners of Appalachian Paging Inc. (one of the larger paging companies in Eastern Kentucky) and D & L Towers Inc. (a company that rents towers and two-way radio systems to small business).

Greg Murray is the shop's service manager and is a trusted friend to many companies



in our area when it comes to keeping their two-way systems working. Murray is a graduate of Mayo Vocational Technical School but, above that, is a self-taught, efficient technician who cares about his work and the work of the men he supervises. He and his wife, Valerie, are residents of Paintsville.

The other employees are Eddie Ratliff, who resides in Prestonsburg with his wife,

Janie; Jim Estepp, who lives in Oil Springs with his wife, Sheila; and Jeremy Ward, who lives at Allen with his wife, Geneva.

Eileen Campbell is bookkeeper and the company's in-house financial expert. She resides with her husband, Keith, on the Left Fork of Abbott.

The business's receptionist and secretary is Tami Collins, who lives at David.

## Appalachian Paging: One of the area's fastest growing businesses

One of the fastest growing businesses in the country is paging. One company, Appalachian Paging, Inc., offers some of the best coverage and friendliest service to the Eastern Kentucky area. This company has been in business for just over three years and has already made a name for itself in this area.

One of its proudest accomplishments has been providing paging services to the award-winning Pike County 911 emergency services. It has played a significant role in that undertaking and has a very satisfied customer in Pike County. It has provided around 650 pagers to that county with virtually every emergency service provider carrying one.

Their local coverage gives each customer service from here to Ashland, Morehead, Huntington, Lexington, Louisville, Somerset, Bowling Green and back along the Tennessee line to Pike County.

In addition, local coverage includes Gilbert, Logan, and Williamson, West Virginia, as well as Norton and Wise, Virginia.

This is quite an area for local coverage and one number paging. In addition, the company offers coverage in portions of ten other states and the network is growing more every year.

The owners, Johnny and Lane Dutton and Larry and Pat Lake have

worked hard to give their customers the best service possible for the money.

"Every system has its drawbacks, but we feel that our system has the most reliable track record with the most satisfied customers," the owners said.

Appalachian Paging is part of the 19th largest paging carrier in the country, Southernet Association of Paging. One of the owners, Lane Dutton, is secretary of that association and has been for more than two years.

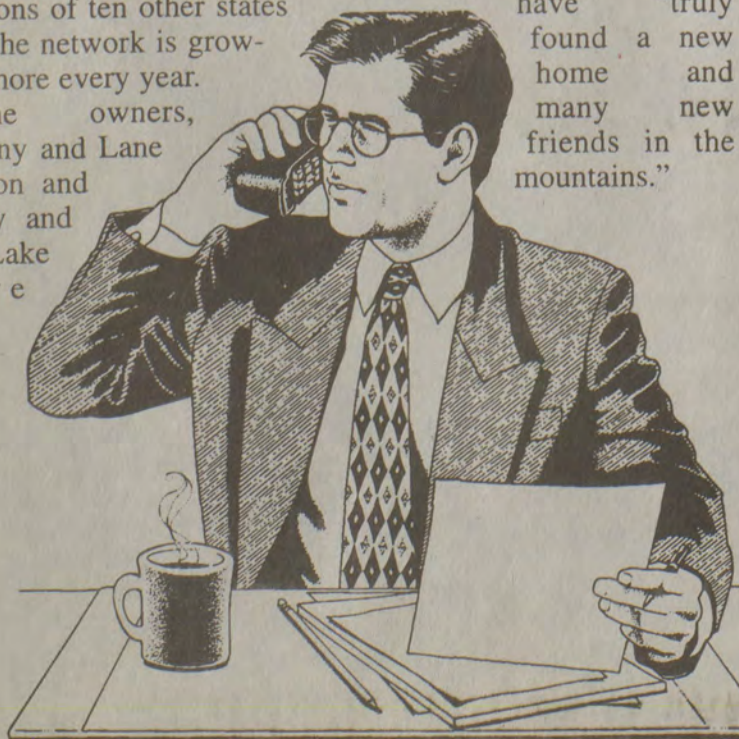
"We have among our staff the best technicians in the area, as well as a great office staff. We have friendly faces and cheerful, helpful employees to greet our customers when they visit our offices," Dutton said.

Their offices are located one-half mile north of Highlands Regional Medical Center on the left behind the Ashland Food Mart.

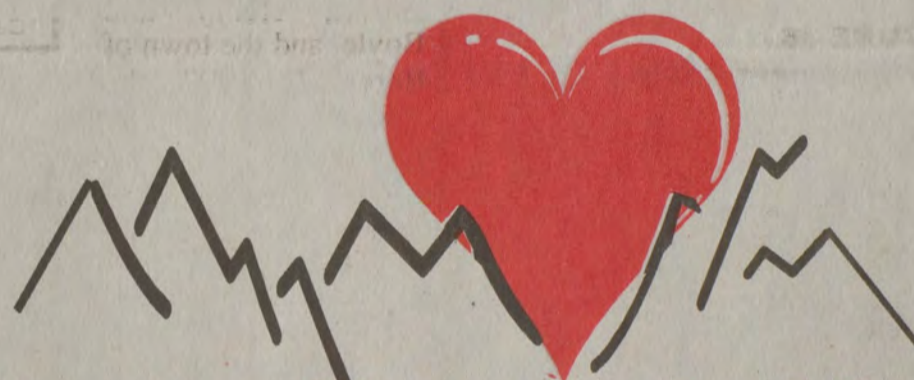
"It is hard to find sometimes, but worth looking for," Dutton said.

The Duttons expressed their appreciation to residents of Eastern Kentucky for embracing them after their move from Alabama 17 years ago and trusting them to provide communication service to the area. They said they

have "truly found a new home and many new friends in the mountains."



## Open Heart Surgery Program coming to Pikeville Methodist Hospital



### Keeping your Heart in the Mountains

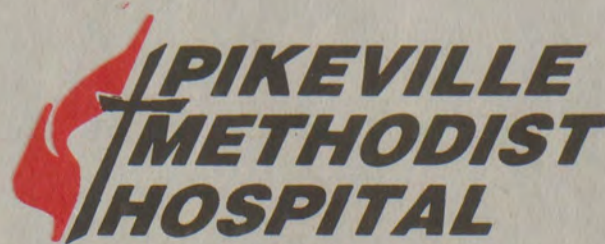
Pikeville Methodist Hospital is proud to announce that the state approved our application for an Open Heart Surgery Program on April 15, 1998.

This program will enable the people of Eastern Kentucky to receive more timely treatment of heart problems without traveling hours for medical care. Instead, you can remain in this region with all the comforts of home and among your family and friends.

The Open Heart Surgery program will be incorporated into the new hospital building currently under construction. Surgical suites will be built along with the purchase of additional equipment and additional medical support staff.

Once the program is underway, Pikeville Methodist Hospital will be the only open heart surgery program south of I-64 and east of I-75. The Board of Directors, Medical Staff, Administrative Staff, and employees are so very honored to be bringing this type of service to our community in the near future.

*Dream Big - Things Happen*



911 South Bypass Road Pikeville, KY 41501 (606) 437-3500

*"Your Regional Medical Center"*

# Kentucky small business owners have quicker and easier access to information

by Susan Allen  
Staff Writer

Dramatic changes have come about in the business world, mainly issues related to technology, which can provide Kentucky's small business owners with quicker access to valuable marketing information.

In a report from the state's Long-Term Policy Research Center, most small business owners use computers in their work, but less than half have Internet access. The study found that most small business owners use computers for basic office functions instead of using the technology to gain access to global information.

Some business owners point to their lack of understanding of which hardware and software programs are needed to perform those functions. Some also say that it would be difficult to train workers on the many computer uses in the office.

About ten percent of Kentucky's businesses that employ fewer than 20 people have a web page on the Internet and about 40 percent have Internet access, according to those companies surveyed in the study.

The ever-evolving world of technology allows busi-

ness owners greater and faster access to suppliers, customers and business-related information. Customer orders can be processed through the Internet and business relationships can be fostered through the use of e-mail.

Companies regularly using computers can earn ten to 20 percent in pay. State officials have initiated a process to connect all regions of the state with technology. The Kentucky Technology Service (KTS) and the Kentucky Innovation Fund (KIF) are two groups that have been formed to offer technology assistance to small and mid-sized businesses.

The groups can offer companies ready-made and distinctive computer software with information regarding management assistance, marketing strategies and company productivity.

The KTS, which is funded through a matching state grant and a federal Technology Reinvestment Project, provides for engineers to work with companies to boost productivity. The state program is also affiliated with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program.

The KIF is intended as a technology investment fund which will be used to support the development and research of the state's technology infrastructure.

The state's Cabinet for Economic Development works to distribute elec-

tronic data interchange (EDI), a mix of computer hardware and software intended to link businesses throughout the state.

technology operations are the Kentucky Science and Technology Council Inc. and the Kentucky Research and Development Infrastructure. The Science and Technology Council is given the charge of disseminating technology developments to local business markets and to establish the Research and Development Infrastructure, which is to develop two research centers, as well as several satellite centers that will operate with the states universities.

In a survey of ten surrounding state's, Kentucky ranked ninth for businesses having sites on the World Wide Web. The growing percentage of Web users, who use the service to make purchases, is a leading incentive for businesses to market their products over the Internet.

For customers who do not make purchases through the Internet, many use the Web to research the products or services sought before making purchases.

Kentucky businesses that are on the Web are mainly in the Lexington-Louisville-Northern Kentucky areas. Some rural counties which are using the Internet to provide information about businesses are Lyon, Elliott, Henry and Boyle, and the town of Berea. In 1997, the study found that 1,366 Kentucky businesses had sites on the Internet.

Goods and services available through the state's businesses found online include computer software and hardware; communication equipment; books and magazines; arts and crafts; food; clothing; teddy bears; comic books; aquarium maintenance; and health care products.

Some benefits of having a business in the Web include sales access to new areas; recruiting new customers; instant access to business information; and an increase in sales.

Business owners can develop their own Web sites or seek the services of professionals. Web sites can provide general or detailed information about the company; can list an e-mail address; or provide a physical address and phone number. Sites are usually updated infrequently.

Web site information is usually stored on a Web service, which can be somewhat expensive. A standard Web server costs about \$3,800 and can climb as high as \$20,000. Business owners can rent Web space from professional companies for prices ranging from \$50 to almost \$80 a month.

Source: The Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center.



**Getting down to business**

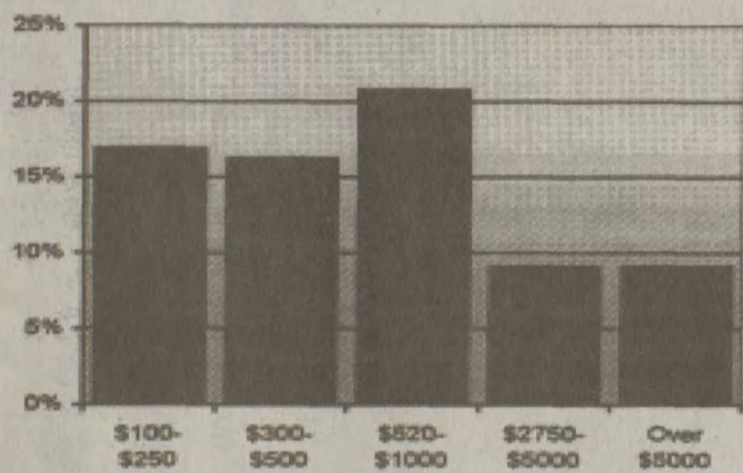
Students at Mayo Regional Technology Center in Paintsville learn the basics of keyboarding as a part of the school's office technology courses. Instructors Carla Reynolds, Arlene Butcher and Mark Wells teach students necessary skills related to a business and office degree. (photo by Chris McDavid)

**TABLE 17**  
**How Kentucky's Small Businesses Use the World Wide Web**

Gain rapid access to business, market and regulatory information	33.7%
Research competitors	26.4%
Find new markets	25.4%
Research customer needs	23.3%
Purchase supplies or services	19.7%
Find new suppliers	17.1%
Train employees	3.1%
Other	37.3%

Source: Survey of Small Business Owners, Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, 1997

**FIGURE 36**  
**Web Site Development Costs**



Source: Survey of Small Business Owners with Sites on the World Wide Web, Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, 1997

ness owners greater and faster access to suppliers, customers and business-related information. Customer orders can be processed through the Internet and business relationships can be fostered through the use of e-mail.

Kentucky companies which do not use computers in their business can affect the wages of employees. The study found that employees who work for

tronic data interchange (EDI), a mix of computer hardware and software intended to link businesses throughout the state.

The EDI is used to network businesses to use the same electronic formats for orders, shipping, invoices and other standard business forms.

Other groups slated to operate throughout the state to enhance Kentucky's business and

**TABLE 16**  
**Information Technology Use by Kentucky's Small Businesses**

Use Computer	83.0%
Use E-mail	29.4%
Use EDI	12.3%
Use EFT	14.5%
Access Internet	41.1%
Have Web Site	10.4%

Source: Survey of Small Business Owners, Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, 1997

## A Powerful Partner for Your Community



We're AEP, the same company you've come to know. We've lived and worked with you for years. And we're committed to continued community growth and development. Our goal is to work with you to enhance the quality of life for everyone.

**We're AEP**, your partner for a stronger community.



AEP: America's Energy Partner<sup>SM</sup>

# “OUR VISION IS EASTERN KENTUCKY A

## Highlands Regional Medical Center

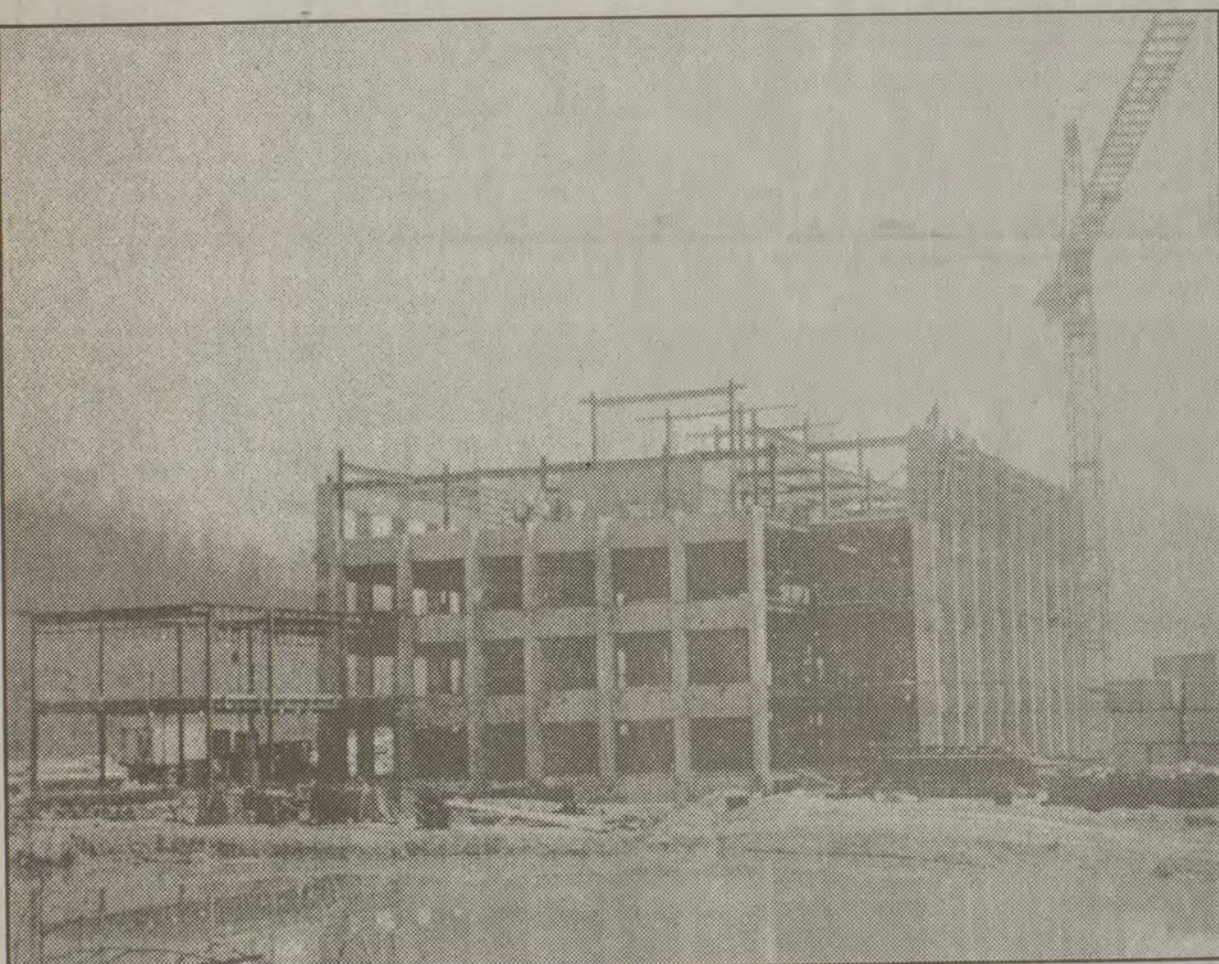
1973 began a new page in the history of Eastern Kentucky, as a community dream became a reality. That year, Highlands Regional Medical Center came into being, the beginning of a sophisticated new approach to the area's healthcare needs, with a truly regional approach. Goals and plans were established that would not only deal with the requirements of the immediate healthcare needs of the time, but would implement multi-level healthcare and specialty care programs to meet the future needs of the community.

Some of the region's most outstanding citizens were responsible for transforming the dream into a reality—Dr. George P. Archer, HRMC's founding father and Board President, Chalmer H. Frazier, Administrator of the Prestonsburg General Hospital, Burl Spurlock, President of the 1st National Bank of Prestonsburg, Dr. James Adams and Congressman Carl D. Perkins. These dedicated individuals raised some \$6 million to build and equip the new facility, and concerned area residents donated an additional \$150,000.

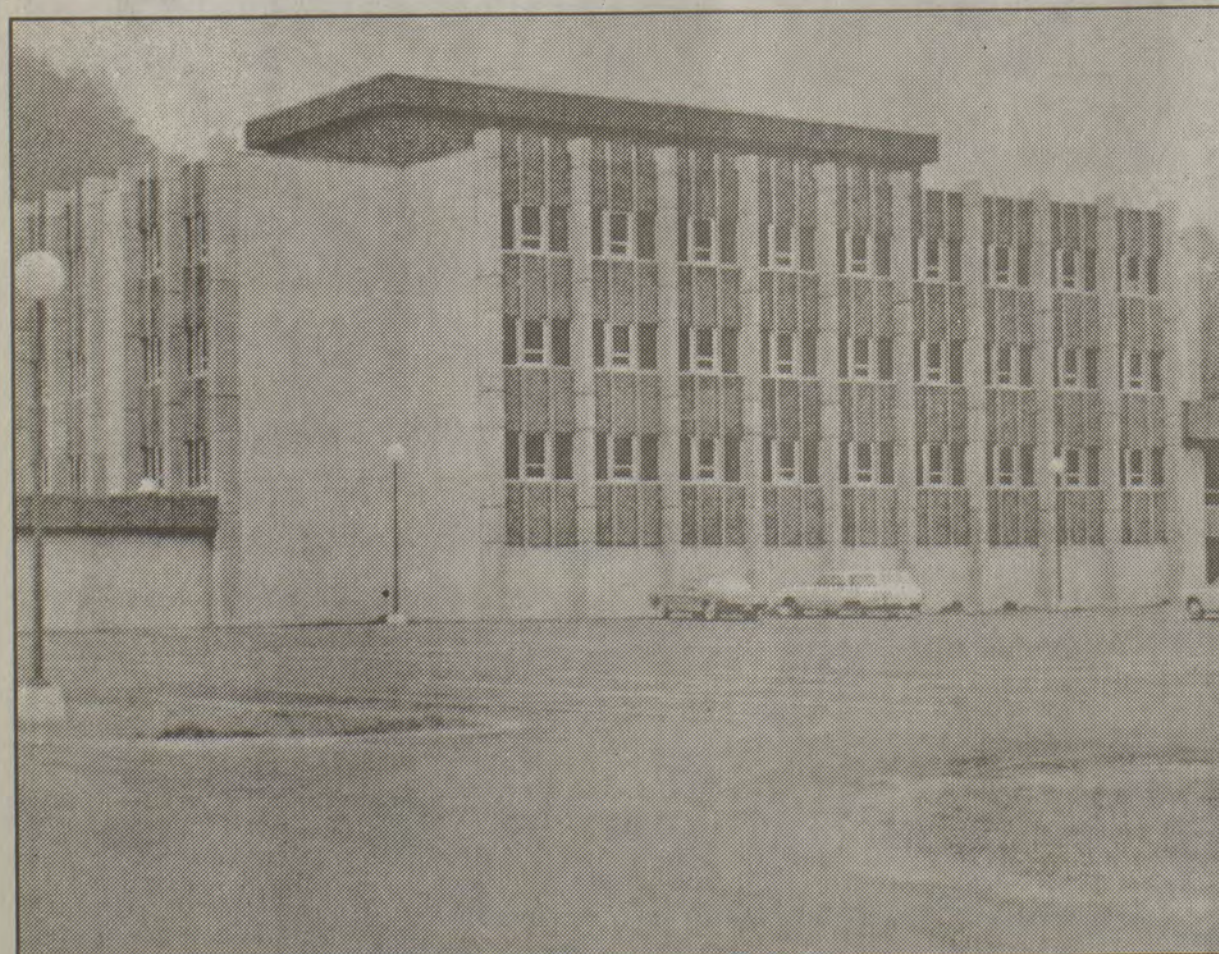
Not-for-profit status was chosen for the community owned and operated medical center. A regional perspective was due in large part to the coalition formed by healthcare professionals from Floyd, Johnson, Martin, and Magoffin counties who needed the facility's modern technology, and because of the involvement of the Big Sandy Area Development Council. A site location midway between Paintsville and Prestonsburg was chosen and ground was broken on April 4, 1970. Construction was completed and the doors of Highlands Regional Medical Center opened for the first time on January 3, 1973. The new Medical Center meant that local people no longer had to travel hundreds of miles for certain specialty procedures.



Ground breaking ceremony for Highlands Regional Medical Center on April 4, 1970. Pictured: Allan "Bud" Perry, Trustee; Burl Spurlock, Trustee; James N. Grey, Contractor; Russell Williamson, Trustee; Carl Perkins; George P. Archer, M.D., Trustee; James Carpenter, Trustee; Robert Nolan, Architect; Harry Leviers, Trustee; Chalmer H. Frazier, Trustee.



Construction photo reprinted from The Floyd County Times, 1971.



HRMC construction completed in January, 1973.

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# TO HELP MAKE BETTER PLACE TO LIVE"

## er's 25th Anniversary, 1973-1998

Then in 1985, a growing population, due in part to a "coal boom," necessitated a \$10 million expansion to the Medical Center, adding 47 acute care beds to accommodate patient occupancy which had been consistently pushing 100 percent. The biggest expansion was in space for emergency services. The original emergency room was built to handle the approximately 9,000 patients seen annually in 1973, but by the early 80's that number had grown to 18,000 annually. Five additional beds were added in the new coronary care/intensive care unit to improve bed availability. The expansion also added a new patient admissions area, expanded surgery, medical records, radiology, laboratory, physical therapy, and staff education classrooms.

1998



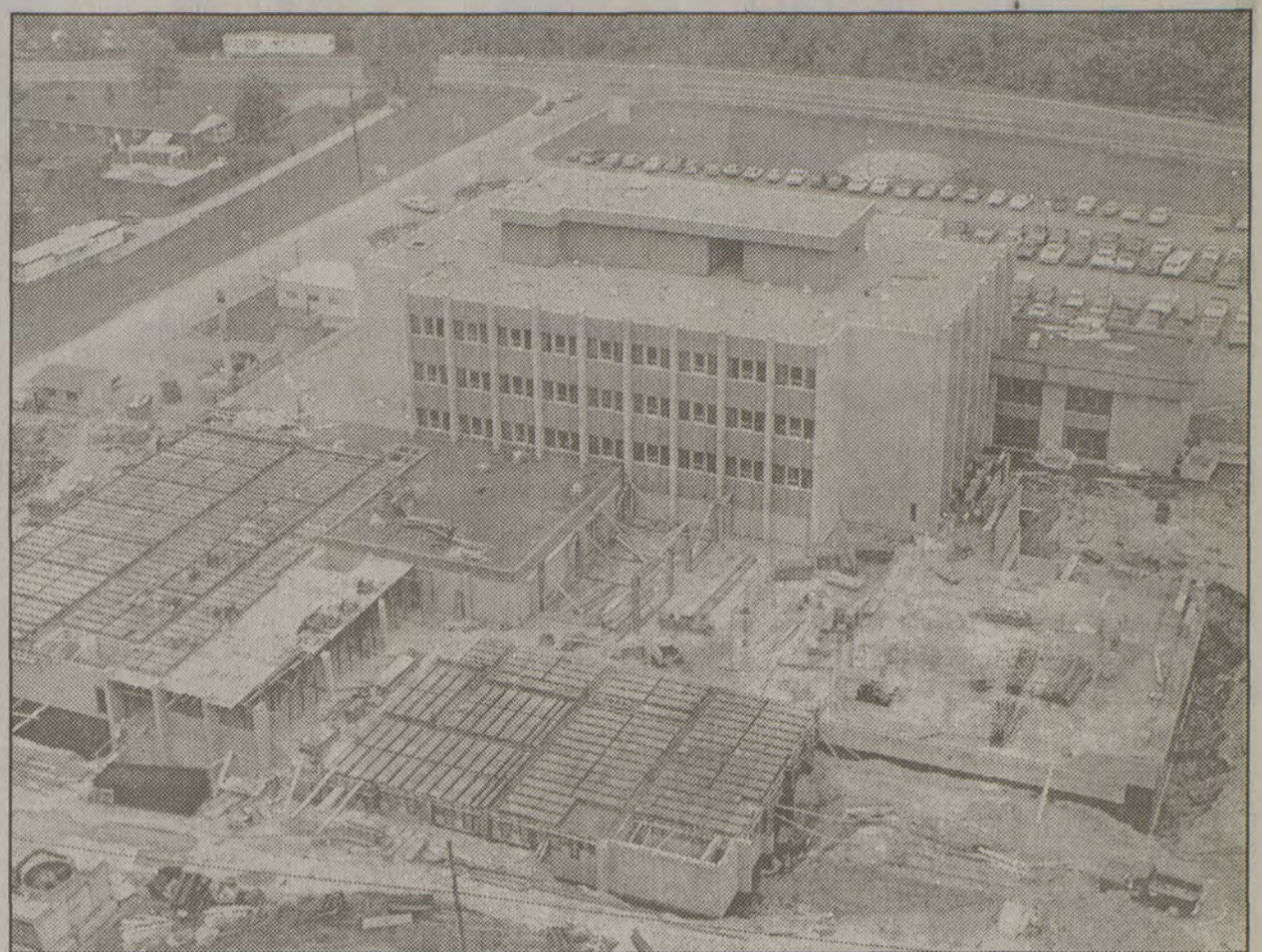
In the early 90's, in an effort to help contain healthcare costs and provide additional specialty medical care close to home, Highlands again expanded with the addition of an \$8 million medical office building. The five-story, 72,000 sq. ft. building houses three floors of medical offices (15 suites), a medically directed Wellness Center and a Food Court and has been a key factor in recruiting physicians to the area. Recruiting and retaining a highly skilled staff of medical professionals to assure the availability of quality healthcare for the region is one of Highland's commitments and throughout the past 25 years Highlands' promises have been kept to provide quality healthcare and maintain sound economic principles. By providing quality healthcare services close to home through Highlands Regional, Highlands Clinic, Highlands Paintsville Medical Offices, Harold Primary Care and Martin Primary Care, Highlands is working to fulfill its mission to look after the health, wellness, and medical needs of our neighbors in Eastern Kentucky, and to provide our services in the place that best meets their needs.

at the past 25 years. We know you have appreciate you choosing Highlands. e to serve your healthcare needs."

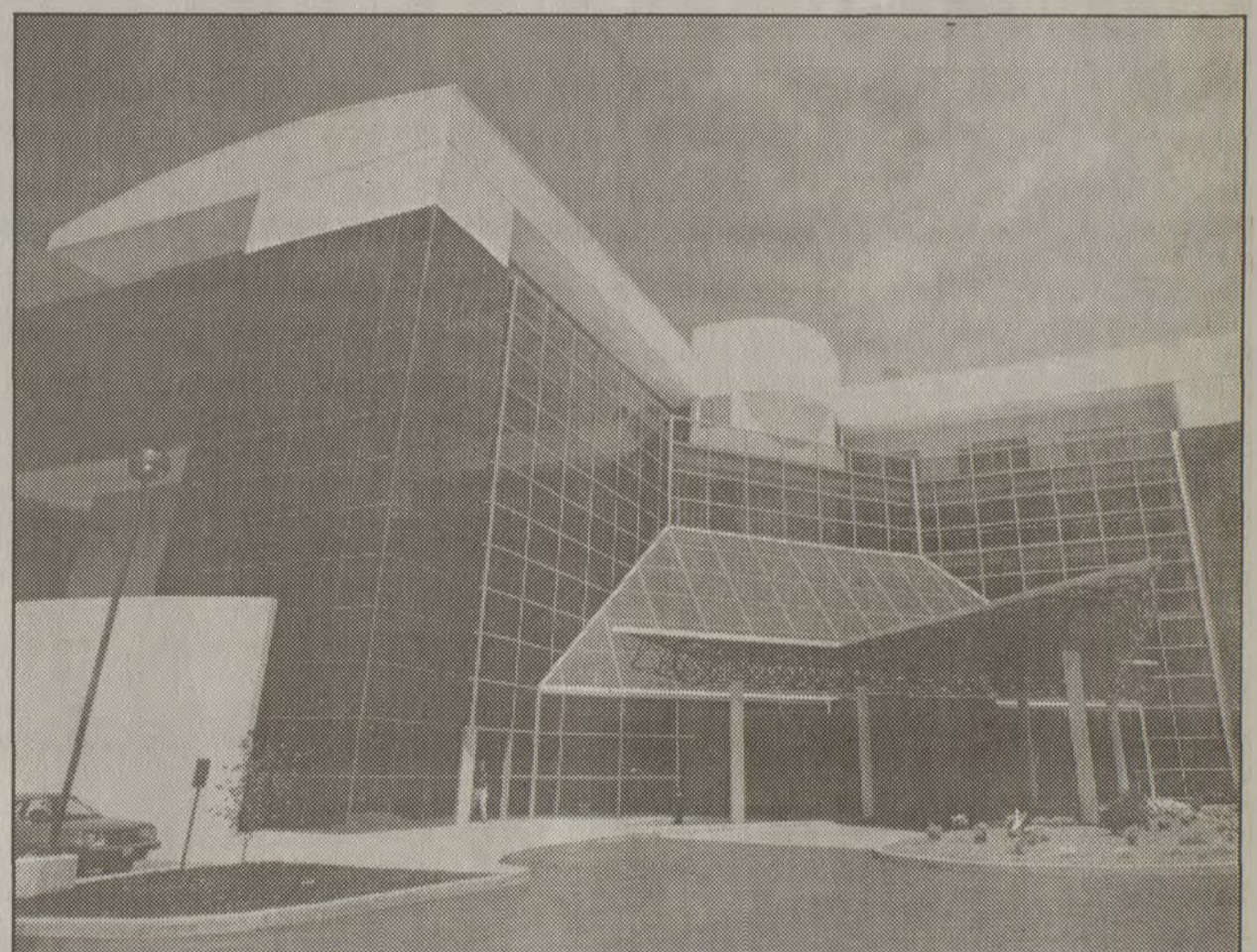
# HIGHLANDS

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10-million-dollar expansion, 1985.



Medical Office building Expansion in May, 1996.



Highlands Regional Medical Center, today.

# Over 50 million access internet daily

by Ed Taylor  
Sports Editor

It was the year 1895. An Italian inventor, Guglielmo Marconi, sent the first radio signals through the air and so began the radio industry. In 1920, Detroit station WWJ was thought to be the first commercial radio station.

Radio stations soon sprang up all over the USA and network broadcasting began in October 1921.

But while radio is still around today, television became the big craze around the world as man found a way to mix both video and sound together. Experiments leading to the invention of television began in the 1800s. Television, as we know it

receive more information than you can in just a telephone call. Also, the internet offers video conferencing between different businesses in different areas where it is not convenient to meet face to face.

The start up cost of getting a business on the internet will vary, according to Geier. Much of the cost will be determined by how much of your business you want on the internet.

"Do you want to do full sales? Do you just want to be of an advertisement business? Different business benefit more from actually selling to just advertising."

Geier said a service base industry is not going to do a whole lot of sales over the internet.

"As far as what some would consider negative, there is the possibility of over using it,"

— Michael Geier

today, was not developed until the 1920s, but it had little importance to communications until the late 1940s.

In a 10-year span - 1940 to 1950 - televisions became part of most households in America. Many organizations, including businesses, began to use televisions for their own special purposes.

Today, radio and television continue to be much part of the everyday life of every person around the globe. The two means of communications has touched every life in one way or another.

But now comes a new kid on the block and he is destined to become the bully of the three means of communications — the internet.

The internet has become one of the fastest growing means of communication to come along in several years.

In the mid '70s, the internet was just an experiment that soon would come into nearly every home throughout the known world. Today, it is estimated that over 50 million people access the internet daily.

Michael Geier, a transplant from Houston, Texas, shared information about the phenomenal growth of the internet today. Geier, who heads up a team of three, is the senior web developer for Gearheart Communications and the East Kentucky Internet. According to Geier, television and radio are not the only two media access venues.

"We have sites for 40-50 different businesses on our system," he said. "As far as businesses using it, I would say that 20-25 percent of our customer-base is businesses. Now that would be over 5,000 individuals."

But Geier said that the World Wide Web has become the choice of most businesses in ways of communications.

"Businesses today can use the internet to track their competition," said Geier. "They can promote their own services or products. Some business places actually sell their products over the internet through credit card sales and e-mail sales."

Another way the business world is using the internet is obtaining new information about new and upcoming technology or ways to do their business better. According to Geier, the internet affords the business person to communicate through the e-mail service.

"It is a lot quicker than even the fax," he said. "You can

"A business that quotes prices for individuals is not going to do a tremendous lot of sales over the internet," said Geier. "However, if you have a number of products that you are selling to the general public, it is a good place to do sales."

Geier said building a web site for a customer could range in prices.

"That can range from a minimum price of \$80 to design it and \$25 a month to host it," he said. "It could range to as much as \$500 to \$1,000 for design, depending on how complicated the design is, and could range up to \$300 to \$400 a month for the site."

Geier can design a site for a business place over the East Kentucky Internet. But first there has to be that meeting.

"We would like to sit down and talk to them and see exactly what it is they want to do with their web site," he said. "I recently met with a company in Jackson County. They couldn't express to me exactly what they wanted."

"By sitting down and talking with them, I was able to pull some of that information out they were not able to

we will change it for them," he said.

However, a business place can use individuals in their own company for web page designing.

"If they want they can use East Kentucky Internet as a design team. They can use individuals in their business as a design team and use East Kentucky Internet as a hosting agent. East Kentucky Internet may not even be involved but advise and consult on it."

Geier said it was at the discretion of the consumer. "If they feel our prices are reasonable, and our work is acceptable, we would be happy to do whatever they would have us do," he said.

Designing a business web page takes about a day, according to Geier, or it could take weeks, depending on the simplicity of the pages and the speed the information is received.

"If they have someone on their own team who has already designed it, it could be a day. Just posting it, it could be up that day. It could be a very expedient process or a slow process, depending on the customer."

While the initial posting has been done, a web site can be changed.

"If they feel information has become outdated or they want to change the looks or implement a new technology, we can change it," said Geier. "Sometimes they may call and say, 'hey, we've moved.' We can change the address. If it is a redesign of the site, then it is another sit down meeting and walk through the steps of designing another site."

Geier said that once the pages have been designed and posted, East Kentucky Internet isn't finished then.

"We make their site available to everyone in the world," he said. "If you are local, that is fine. We promote your business locally as well as through our web site."

"We will put a business on search engines. Consumers around the world can type in certain words and find your site, and you have increased your customer range."

Power failures fail to shut down the internet. The local source maintain a continuous power source with a generator so that everything stays on-line all the time.

"We keep our servers up and running constantly," said Geier. "Our web site is never down."

There are many uses for business on the internet. Real estate, restaurants, hospitals, lawyers and car dealerships are just a few who use the local source.

"We even had sites for politicians in the just completed election," said Geier. "We have one gentleman who was actually advertising horses, such as breeding, stabling them. Computer companies and all of Gearheart Communications affiliates are on our network."

Geier said that most business places locally are of the informative mode.

"We don't do many on-line sales," he said. "That is an expensive adventure for a business. Taking a credit card and maintaining a data base of products for the customer and is updated as they do sales."

For business that want to go the credit card route, Geier and his staff will create a form that consumers will fill out.

"It accepts a credit card number and a name with expiration date. The business accepts their credit card number with an agreement with a banking institution. Then they

would submit that slip like you would in a restaurant."

According to Geier, it is not a free adventure.

"The banks get some of the money, and the business place

work in on-line and consumers can actually shop in the comfort of their own homes.

"Without leaving your house, you buy anything on the internet," he said. "You

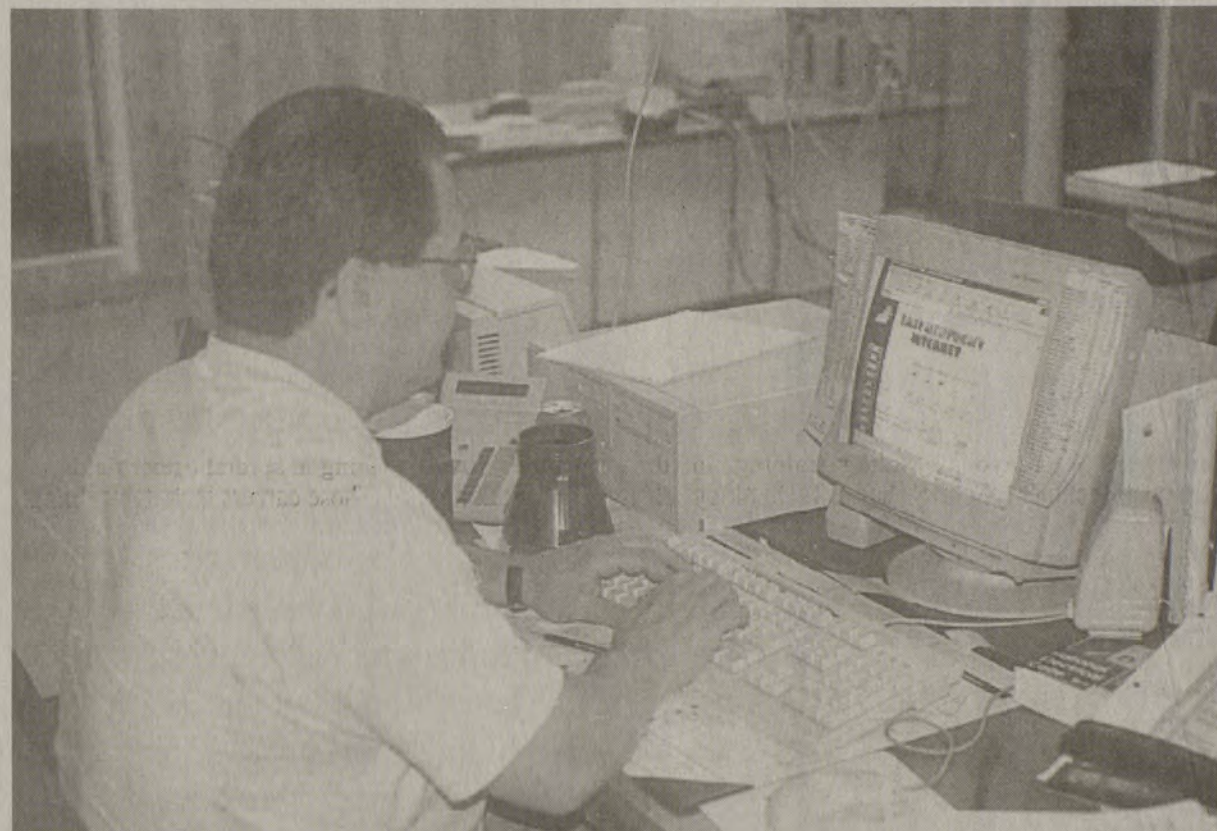
Geier said there are some down sides to it.

"As far as what some would consider negative, there is the possibility of over using it," he said. "It's not an addiction, but



Keeping an eye on the Net

Gearheart Communication workers maintain continuous monitoring of company's internet operations. The system is set up with a generator to protect it from power failures so that everything stays on-line all the time. (photo by Ed Taylor)



gets the rest," he said. "You have to have a security clearance over the internet. Customers want to feel safe sending you their credit card number."

What of the internet's future? Geier sees great things yet in future years for the internet.

"Radio. You are actually able to pick up radio stations on the internet. They have to invest the money and get on it," he said.

"Television is moving toward that way. There have actually been on-line shows. They haven't done very well, but it is a trend and is moving that way."

Geier says the QVC net-

can have food delivered to your home and never leave home. It is an unfortunate idea, but it is convenient."

The internet is a rapidly growing industry and Geier said he is hoping that it continues to show growth. He said it is not the popularity of the service, but it will become more and more essential.

"Young children are learning more and more about the internet," he said.

"They are getting their parents more and more involved. Once a parent becomes more involved, they see more opportunities for business, sales and purchasing."

While there is many good things to say about internet,

ignoring everything else. Spending too much time on the internet could be, not hazardous, but detrimental to everything else going on (in our lives). If you stay on it until the early morning hours, work will suffer as well as the family."

Geier is hoping that our government doesn't step in and assume control of the internet.

"There really isn't anything there to concern the government to make them want to take control," Geier said.

Radio, television and now the internet. The world has access to each other. What is on the horizon?



Business with good taste

Jack and Nora Abshire have proven that business can be entertaining as well as productive. They own a chain of restaurants called Sam an Tonios. The restaurants have a Tex-Mex flavor. The Abshires have become an important part of the community and contribute to worthy causes and athletic events in the area.

(photo by Becky Crum)

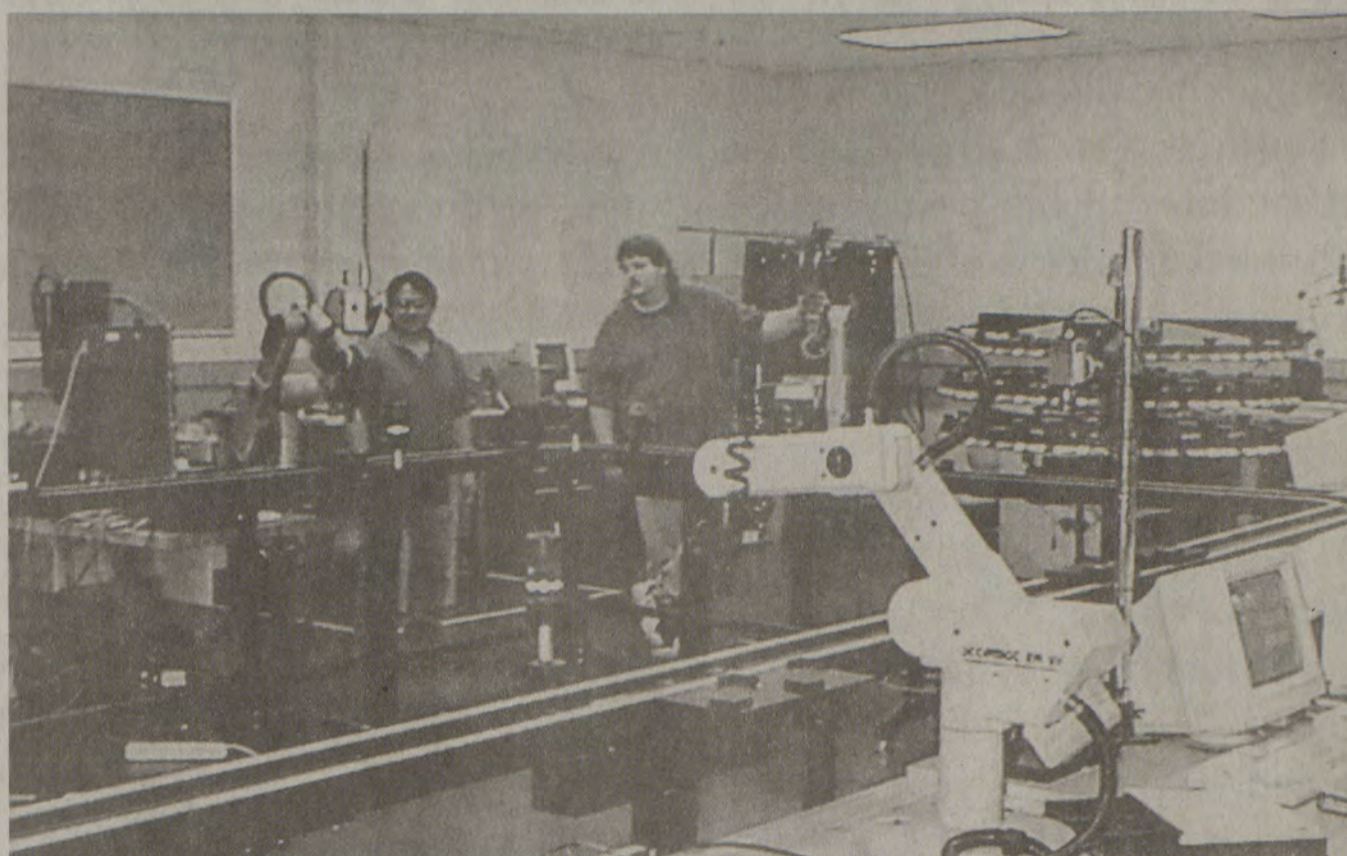


## July marks Mayo College's anniversary :

# 50 years of bringing business education to the region



As one student worked with conduit at the college's Paintsville campus Friday, another observed the delicate procedure. The Electrical Industrial Technology class teaches students construction wiring in accordance with the National Electrical Code.



Mayo Technical College's Industrial Campus, located near American Standard, offers robotics manufacturing systems technology classes to prepare students in the ever-changing workforce. Dean Robinson said the Mayo College's robotics class is set apart from others in the state because of the equipment and conveyor system used. (photo by Chris McDavid)

## Mayo continually evolving with technological world to meet the needs of its students

by Chris McDavid  
Staff Writer

In the last 50 years, Paintsville's Mayo State Vocational-Technical School has gone through many changes, some of which include a name change and an extension campus devoted to state-of-the-art technology.

The school was recently included in the Kentucky Community and Technology College System (KCTCS), along with other regional colleges as Prestonsburg Community College.

The Mayo college, located on Third Street in Paintsville, has provided area residents with valuable training in a variety of career fields since its establishment in July 1938.

According to Robert L. Marsh's "Mayo State Vocational/Technical School: 50 years of Progress and Commitment," more than ten thousand people attended the school's formal opening ceremony.

Within four months, more than 100 students had enrolled and additional applications were being submitted each week, Marsh's article says.

The school continued to grow and, by 1942, it became involved in training students for war production, such as radio communications for military services.

"From this beginning, Mayo School grew to a role of prominence in Kentucky and in the nation," Marsh wrote. "During World War II, Mayo trained aircraft workers in woodworking and metalworking for employment at Wright Patterson Field in Dayton, Ohio."

Today, the college has grown and advanced to training students with high-tech equipment, as well as in other career fields such as cosmetology and practical nursing.

The college's regional technology center, located near American Standard, offers students state-of-the-art technology in such fields as manufacturing systems; computer-aided drafting and design; robotics manufacturing systems; and diesel and heavy equipment.

Dean Robinson described the center's robotics class as "one of the best in the state." The center opened its doors in August 1995, he said.

Robinson said the robotics department at the center is set apart from similar classes in the state because of the type of equipment and conveyor system used.

The center's diesel and heavy equipment department enables students to learn about performing maintenance, rebuilding and oper-

ating equipment such as bulldozers and 18-wheelers by computer analysis.

Students receive hands-on training in the Machine Tool Technology classes by working with CNC (Computer Analysis Control) machines.

Those machines "can do continuous operations with the same accuracy over and over again," Robinson said.

But a new program at the technology center may have placed it above other technology colleges in the state.

The center's most recent program, Manufacturing Systems Technology, is the only one in Kentucky, Robinson said.

The program is designed to train personnel for the future needs of world-wide industries by providing a technological base of trained people to fill the employment needs of the industry.

In the program, students are taught how to plan and write computer programs for control systems that automate operations.

They also learn to write complete sequences of machine instructions and routines necessary to complete processing cycles; develop programs; and prepare flow charts, documents and

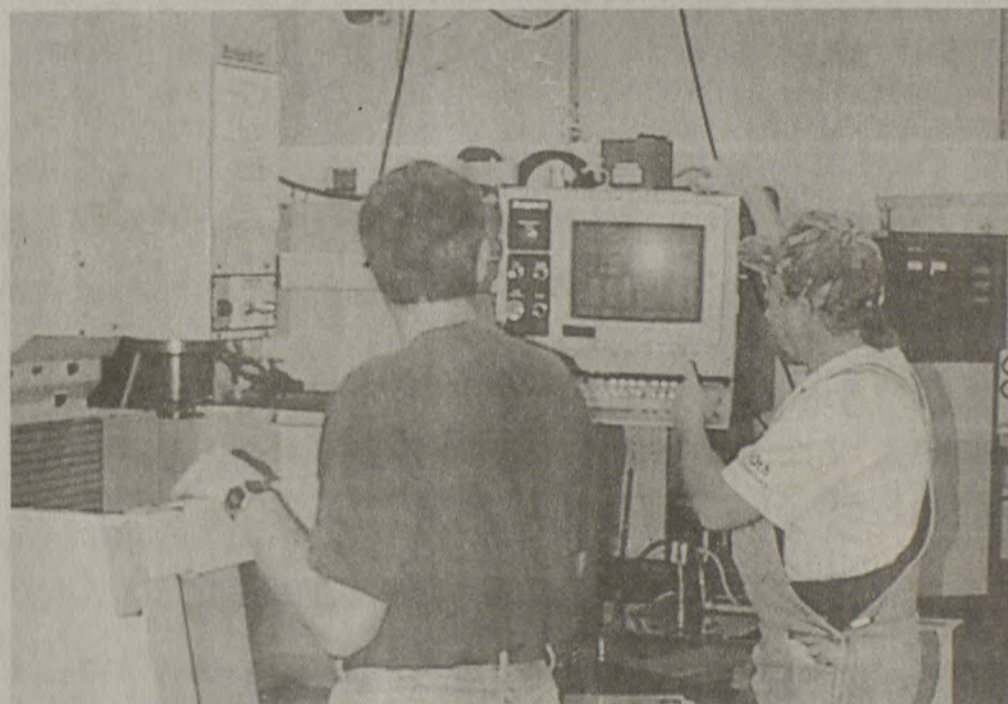


### Heavy Equipment

Students learn intricate procedures in diesel technology and heavy equipment classes. They receive hands-on training of working with and operating the heavy equipment. Computer systems also enable the students to pinpoint problems within the equipment.



The college also offers a computer-aided drafting program for students. In the above photo, a student manually drafted a document during classes this week. Students also have computer equipment to assist in drafting assignments.



In Machine Tool Technology classes this week, two students worked with a Bridge Port CNC Mill, a delicate computer system which can cut 3-D parts for just about everything.

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# OUR LADY OF THE WAY HOSPITAL: Growing To Meet The Needs of The Community

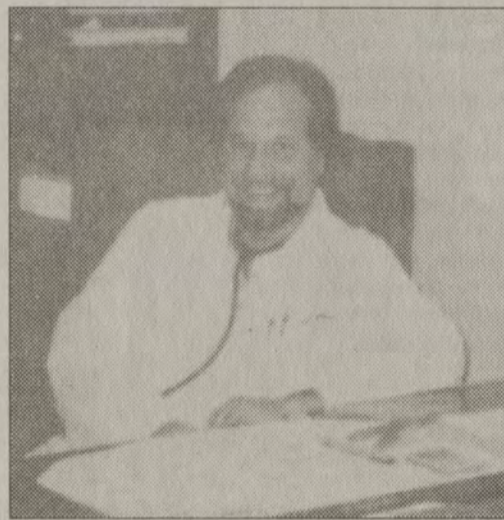
Recognizing the need for additional health care services in the area, Our Lady of the Way Hospital has opened three clinics in the past year. "The goal of opening the additional clinics was improved access to primary care services," stated Kathy Stumbo, the hospital's vice president and chief operating officer.

The hospital initially expanded services into the medically under-served Wheelwright area when the Wheelwright Family Health Center was opened early last year. The Martin Family Health Center, located in downtown Martin, opened next. Finally, an existing clinic located in the Seton Complex, Martin, was converted to the Seton Family Health Center.



Dr. Prem Verma

Each clinic provides care to patients of all ages with both acute and chronic illnesses. The clinics offer a full range of primary care services. Preventive services including sport and school physicals, immunizations, yearly pap smears, and general wellness check-ups can also be scheduled. Appointments are accepted and walk-ins are welcome as well.



Dr. Terry Wright

The clinics are staffed by a team of highly qualified professionals including medical doctors and physician assistants. "Physician assistants are health care professionals licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision," explained Brent Davis, PA-C, one of the physician assistants who provides services at the clinics.



Brent Davis, PA-C

"In general, a physician assistant will see many of the same types of patients as the physician. Common services provided by a PA include taking medical histories

and performing physical examinations; ordering and interpreting lab tests; diagnosing and treating illnesses; assisting in surgery; prescribing and/or dispensing medication; and counseling patients," Davis said.

Physician assistants are educated in intensive medical programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. All PAs have Bachelor's Degrees and many now have Master's Degrees as well. PA students are taught, as are medical students, to diagnose and treat medical problems. Education consists of classroom and laboratory instruction

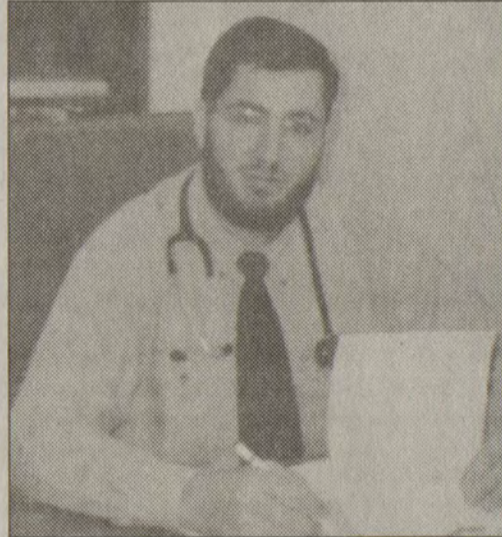


Carla McGlone, PA-C

in the basic medical and behavioral sciences (such as anatomy, pharmacology, pathophysiology, clinical medicine, and physical diagnosis), followed by clinical rotations in internal medicine, family medicine, surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine and geriatric medicine.

A PA's education does not stop after graduation. Upon graduation, physician assistants take a national certification examination developed by the National Commission on Certification of PAs in conjunction with the National Board of Medical Examiners. To maintain their national certification, PAs must log 100 hours of continuing medical education every two years and sit for a recertification exam every six years. Many PAs now also complete postgraduate training programs in specialty practice such as family practice, surgery and emergency medicine.

In addition to the physician assistants, each clinic has a physician who serves as medical director. "The relationship between the PA and the supervising physician is one of mutual trust and respect," explained Jamal Attalla, M.D., who serves as medical director for both the Wheelwright and Seton clinics.



Dr. Jamal Attalla

"The physician and physician assistant work in close partnership. Referral to the physician or close consultations between the PA and physician is done for unusual or hard to manage cases," Attalla stated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES PROVIDED OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT,  
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**Martin Family Health Center**  
285-3733

**Seton Family Health Center**  
285-3690

**Wheelwright Family Health Center**  
452-2300

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# The mountains best kept secret is not a secret anymore

The Mountain Arts Center is home to what is our region's best-kept talent secret - The Kentucky Opry Junior Pros.

They will make their national debut at the John F. Kennedy Center for The Performing Arts in our nation's capital.

As a 29-member group of local talent that gives performances along with the Mountain Arts Center's own Kentucky Opry, our community swells with pride as their June 18 premier date draws near.

Created to serve as an opening act for the Kentucky Opry, the Junior Pros have grown into a group with diverse choral and musical skills.

From five-year-old Morgan Hughes to the elder of the bunch, 23-year-old Chris Lafferty, our Juniors represent eleven schools as well as seven counties in the Big Sandy Region.

The Junior Pros perform with such pride, infectious fun and genuine talent so evident that once you see them in action, you will want to see them, again.



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**HOME OF THE KENTUCKY OPRY**

At seven years old, Ernest Collins is already an experienced performer. A string broke on his fiddle during a show recently and no one but his mother knew there was a problem.

"I could tell something had happened by the look on his face," Sherry Collins said. "But he kept right on playing. When I asked him about it later, he told me his string broke. He said he just kept going but didn't play when he needed that string."

Ernest was six in July, 1997, when he first performed with the Jr. Pros at Jenny Wiley. He played Old Joe Clark on the fiddle.

"My first time on stage, I was scared to death and almost cried," Ernest said. "But now I am not scared. The bigger the audience, the better."

Hoping to someday be a professional fiddler, Ernest takes lessons from David Morris at the Mac and practices every day. He was thrilled when he got to play with one of his heroes, Ricky Skaggs, backstage after a performance at the MAC. Afterward, Skaggs autog-

graphed his fiddle.

Other performers who have autographed his fiddle include the Oak Ridge Boys,

**NAME:** Ernest Franklin Collins  
**AGE:** 7  
**SCHOOL:** Paintsville Elementary  
**PARENTS:** Estill and Sherry Collins  
**HOMETOWN:** Van Lear, KY

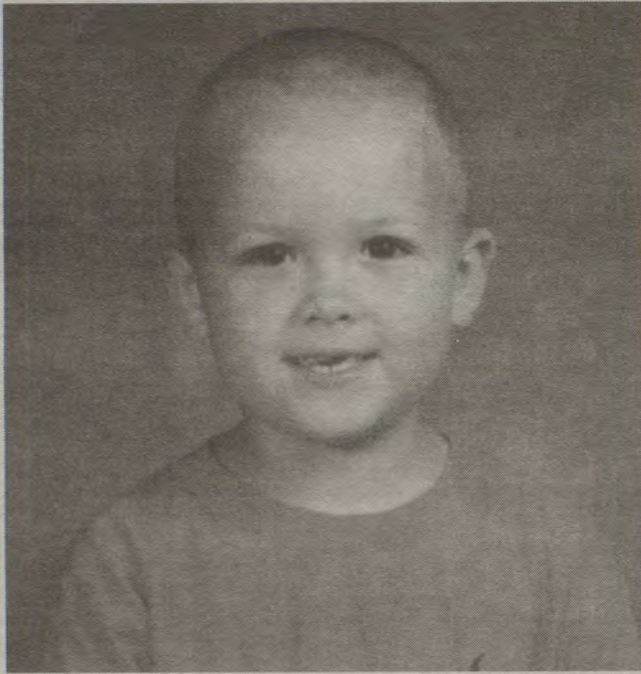
Billy Ray Cyrus, Larry Sparks, Ralph Stanley and Melvin Goins.

Besides playing the fiddle, Ernest plays piano and does a

little acting as the title character in the Jr. Pros' Leader of the Pack skit. He takes piano lessons from Chris Lafferty who he thinks is "cool".

When asked about people he admires most, Ernest said, "My dad is my hero because he helps me."

Ernest says he loves the opportunity to play for a lot of people. "It's all so exciting. I love the MAC!"



Ernest Collins, fiddler

Amy Jarvis is a busy young lady. She enjoys cheerleading, roller blading, swimming and spending time with her friends. But, what she enjoys most is performing with the Junior Pros.

Amy said she was 8-years-old when she first

performed publicly. "It was October 19, 1996, opening night at the Mountain Arts Center. I played the fiddle,"

**NAME:** Amy Jarvis  
**AGE:** 10  
**SCHOOL:** Allen Elementary  
**PARENTS:** Charles and Donna Jarvis  
**HOMETOWN:** Banner, KY

she said.

Amy has been taking fiddle lessons for three years. She practices every day for an hour. She also loves to sing and spends another three hours each day singing and listening to music. She especially enjoys Faith Hill songs.

"I started out with the group only playing fiddle," Amy said. "The most exciting thing for me was when I got to start singing solo."

Audiences will remember Amy best for her vocal rendition of Blue Moon of Kentucky. With poise and confidence, she begins slowly in a clear, strong a cappella, then changes tempo as the instrumentalists join in. It is a powerful performance that is always a crowd-pleaser.

"Performing is really fun, and I have made a lot of new friends. I would like to thank David Morris and Billie Jean Osborne for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Junior Pros," said Amy.



Amy Jarvis fiddler

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## Highlands Regional Medical Center salutes the Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros

These dedicated, talented young people have worked countless hours to develop their individual talents and bring them to the stage of the Mountain Arts Center in an outstanding musical performance. The Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros represent a sampling of the extraordinary talent for which Eastern Kentucky is famous.

Highlands Regional Medical Center's Vision is to help make Eastern Kentucky a better place to live, and the Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros are helping to make that Vision a reality.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

**Fiddlers:** Ernest Collins, Amy Jarvis, Beth Watts, Crystal Kanney, Karen Bowman, Wesley Ketchum, Rachel Kanney, Sarah Howard, and Sarah Allen.

**Other Instrumentalists:** Kory Caudill, Brad McKinney, Joe Newsome, Shane Boyd, Renny Hall, Eric Conley, and Jason King.

**Vocalists:** Morgan Hughes, Kristin Everage, Brian Woofert, Jo Pack, Laura Ford, and Shea Leslie.

**Key Players:** David Morris and Chris Lafferty.

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As a 14-year-old fiddle player for the Junior Pros, Crystal Kanney has been taking fiddle lessons for the past

**NAME:** Crystal Kanney  
**AGE:** 14  
**SCHOOL:** Pikeville High School 8th Grade  
**PARENTS:** Jerry and Carolyn Kanney  
**HOMETOWN:** Pikeville, KY.

three and one-half years.

A student at Pikeville High School, Crystal is the sister of Rachel Kanney, also a fiddler for the Junior

Pros. Her parents get a double treat whenever their girls perform.

"Every Monday I take a 30-minute lesson. My most exciting moment so far has been finding out I was going to Washington," Crystal said.

"It was funny, once we were playing at Pikeville College and the electricity went off! We had to very hurriedly get those acoustics on stage."

Performing with the Junior Pros when she was nine, was her first stage experience. I have been in several plays since," said Crystal.

Planning to do "something artistic," when she is an adult, Crystal said she loves art-sculpture, painting and drawing animals.

The best thing about the Junior Pros for Crystal? "Jamming with others who have the same interest for me - music," she said.



**Crystal Kanney**  
fiddle

Karen Bowmann's first performance was nowhere near the Mountain Arts Center. It was in Minneapolis, Minnesota where she played violin at the Minnehaha Academy when she was six years old. Now her violin has become a fiddle as she performs a different style of music with the Jr. Pros.

**NAME:** Karen Bowmann  
**AGE:** 10  
**SCHOOL:** Mountain Christian Academy  
**PARENTS:** Craig Bower and Deborah Schmedemann  
**HOMETOWN:** Minneapolis, MN

Karen's family has been here since August on a one-year family sabbatical.

Karen doesn't know yet whether she wants to become a meteorologist or play fiddle for a country band but she enjoys being on stage.

She takes fiddle lessons each week and practices every day. She also listens to fiddle tapes.

Karen's most exciting performance to date was when she traveled to Frankfort with the Jr. Pros and performed for the State Transportation Department.

Besides playing fiddle, Karen enjoys animals, traveling, sewing and art. One of the people she admires most is Mrs. Classen, a teacher back in Minneapolis. Karen said, "She's really nice."



**Karen Bowmann**  
fiddler

# Rachel & Crystal Kanney

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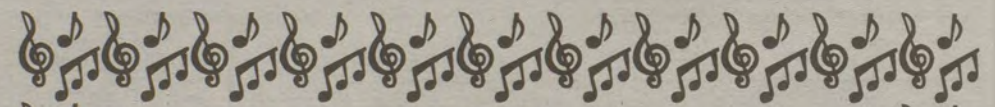
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Jerry Kanney

Dennis Rohrer



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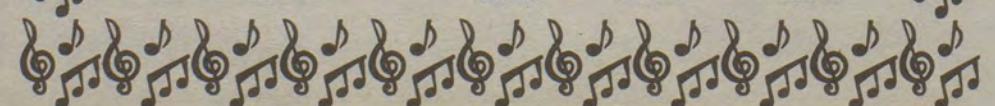


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Taking a 30-minute lesson each week and daily practice sessions

**NAME:** Rachel Kanney  
**AGE:** 11  
**SCHOOL:** St. Francis  
**PARENTS:** Jerry and Carolyn Kanney  
**HOMETOWN:** Pikeville, KY

for 45 minutes have made 11-year-old Rachel Kanney a fiddling success.

The daughter of Jerry and Carolyn Kanney of Pikeville, Rachel, like most of her fellow Pros, thinks her most exciting moment has been "when I found out I was going with the Junior Pros to Washington."

A fifth grade student at St. Francis School, Rachel remembers the funniest thing that has happened to her while performing was "when the fire alarm went off during a show because of the fog machine," she laughed.

When she was six-years-old, Rachel said she began playing fiddle by taking lessons at her house from David Morris.

Admitting "I don't know yet," when asked about her career plans, she is sure that she likes best performing with the Pros during the fifties skits, and playing fiddle with everyone else, said Rachel.

Her sister, Crystal, is also a fiddler for the Junior Pros.



Rachel Kanney fiddler

This Perry County girl says the most exciting thing that happened to me is "when I am playing out in the audience!"

The daughter of Bradley and Patricia Howard of Krypton, Sarah is in the eighth grade at Chavies Elementary.

"I like my lessons with David Morris, and I listen to tapes to learn new songs and different songs," Sarah said.

Just beginning to play fiddle, her first performance was with the Junior Pros.

Her mom plays the mandolin, and Sarah enjoys jamming with her on gospel music. I also like softball, art and drama, and swimming," she said.

She says she admires Ralph Stanley, Bill Monroe, and Allison Krauss. "They are bluegrass musicians, which is my favorite music."

Sarah said that "being with the Junior Pros is like being a part of another family, and in my music, I can

express my feelings and thoughts through fiddle

music."



Sarah Faith Howard fiddler

**NAME:** Sarah Faith Howard  
**AGE:** 12  
**SCHOOL:** Chavies Elementary  
**PARENTS:** Bradley & Patricia Howard  
**HOMETOWN:** Krypton, KY

Wesley Ketchum started playing violin when he was in kindergarten in Lansdale, Pennsylvania. His first concert was at the age of 5 and he has been playing regularly since then.

"When my dad got a job at the new Medical School in Pikeville last year we looked for a new violin teacher," Wesley said. "We were sent to David Morris at the Mountain Arts Center and, within two months, I was a member of the Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros and performing on stage. My first performance with them was in October of 1997, at the Mountain Arts Center's First Anniversary Show."

Wesley said he practices five hours each week. He also enjoys baseball and swimming. He collects stamps and he loves to read and write. "I have decided to be a writer when I grow up," he said. "I have already written several short stories and several poems."

"The thing I like best about being a part of the Jr. Pros is being able to go on stage and perform for peo-

ple," Wesley said. "Once, in the middle of Orange Blossom Special during a show, the microphone I was using fell out of its holder

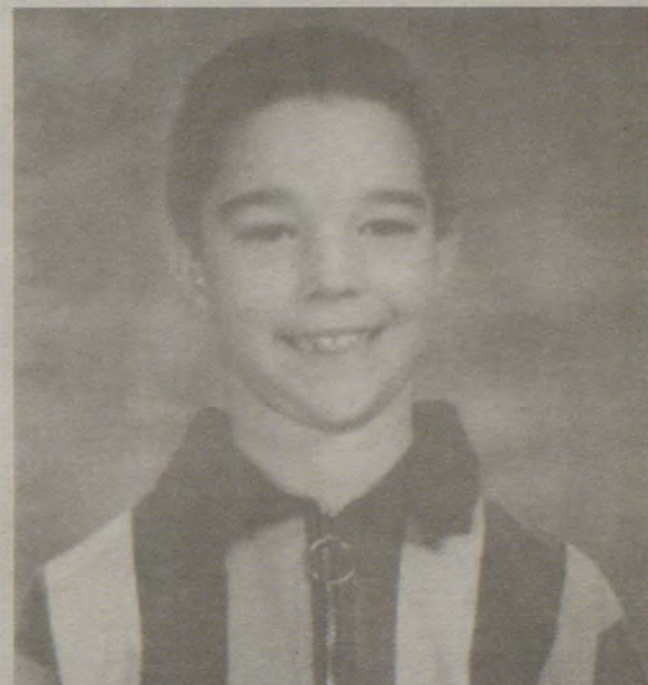
stop playing and Brad, the guitar player, had to come and replace the microphone in its stand."

"I love to see and hear the people in the crowd when we play. It's sometimes hard to see the crowd with the spotlights on us, but I can hear them clap and applaud. I really love

and 'thunked' right on my violin. But I didn't want to

it when people enjoy listening to us play.

**NAME:** Wesley Robert Ketchum  
**AGE:** 10  
**SCHOOL:** Pikeville Elementary  
**PARENTS:** Robert and Kimberly Ketchum  
**HOMETOWN:** Pikeville, KY



Wesley Ketchum fiddler

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Jr. Pros

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Claude and Missy Allen's daughter, Sarah, is a 14-year-old fiddler with the Junior Pros.

She is a freshman at

Prestonsburg High School, and has taken fiddle lessons for the past two years. "I practice daily to hopefully become a better fiddler and

**NAME:** Sarah Allen  
**AGE:** 14  
**SCHOOL:** Prestonsburg High School  
**PARENTS:** Claude and Missy Allen  
**HOMETOWN:** Prestonsburg, KY

per- former, and I also enjoy listening

to music from every genre," Sarah candidly admits.

"Aside from going to Washington, I thought it was very exciting to be photographed for Country America magazine," she said.

Her first performance came at age nine while playing piano at her church.

Her future plans are to practice geriatric medicine.

Two people play prominent roles with Sarah: "David Morris, who teaches fiddle, and David Leslie, who teaches piano. They are extremely talented and great at what they do," she said.

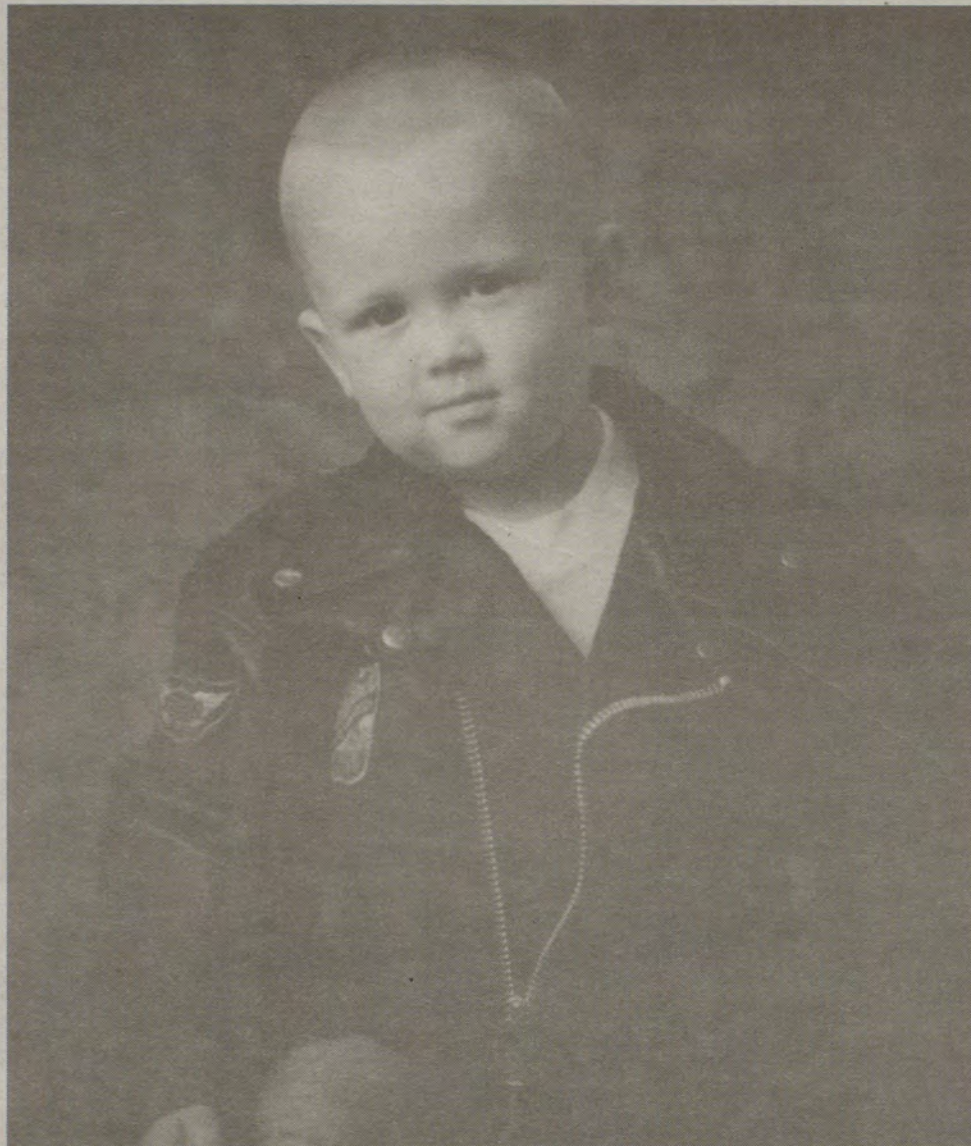
Her most memorable moments with the Junior Pros are happening each time they get together. "You never know what will happen next - there is never a dull moment! Last year at the ampitheatre fireworks went off at the wrong time."

She concludes by sharing "I am glad that the Mountain Arts Center is here for young people in our area.

"For those who want to learn to play an instrument, now they can!"



Sarah Allen fiddler



Ernest Collins, Leader of the Pack

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Brad McKinney attends Prestonsburg High School when he isn't being "the only guitarist for the Junior Pros."

This 17-year-old junior at PHS is the son of Joseph and Louise McKinney.

"The best way to practice for me is to spend at least one hour a day practicing, and of course, the best way to practice is with the band," he said.

His shining moment was "when I became the Pros' full-time guitarist," Brad said.

Funny things happen with the Junior Pros all of the time apparently, but already seasoned performers, the audience does not seem to notice them.

"I thought it was funny when Chris Lafferty hit his head on the bottom of the keyboard during a show," he laughed.

Beginning performing at age 15, his debut came with the Junior Pros on the Mountain Arts Center's opening day.

"I'd like to be a studio

musician in Nashville someday," he said.

Most young people have

**NAME:** Brad McKinney  
**AGE:** 17  
**SCHOOL:** Prestonsburg High School  
**PARENTS:** Joseph and Louise McKinney  
**HOMETOWN:** Prestonsburg, KY

lots of outside interests they wind down with but Brad insists he just loves to play music with the people in the



Brad McKinney guitar

This Emma native is an Allen Elementary student, the son of Paul and Debbie Boyd.

At age 13, Shane sings and strums the guitar and mandolin for the Junior Pros. "I sometimes spend 30 minutes each day practicing, but I practice seven days a week. I took mandolin lessons for three years, and have recently quit taking the lessons," Shane said.

His most exciting thing about being with the Pros so far has been when they "took an overnight trip to Louisville to play at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. We spent the night there, and stopped at the Fayette Mall on the way back," Shane said - a mall kid just like any other.

Seemingly flawless to the audience, this young man said it was funny when "I tried to exit stage two songs too early, and when I realized it, I tried to come back and slipped and fell on stage in front of about 1,000 people," he said.

His performance career began when he was only nine years old, and it was at Jenny Wiley Theatre with the Junior Pros.

Shane plans to be a "songwriter, and record a tape in Nashville," Shane said.

"I like to fish, play sports and video games," he

**NAME:** Shane Boyd  
**AGE:** 13  
**SCHOOL:** Allen Elementary  
**PARENTS:** Paul and Debbie  
**HOMETOWN:** Prestonsburg, KY

insists. "What do I like best about performing with the Pros? Being able to perform in front of as many people as possible," Shane said.



Shane Boyd guitar, mandolin, vocals

Opry. "My hero is Jimmy Olander with Diamond Rio, and I also admire Brent Mason, Wade Hayes, Heath Wright and Joe Newsome," he said

"The good thing about the Junior Pros is that they are all good musicians, which makes it easy to work with them.

Joseph Lee Newsome plays bass for the Junior Pros.

He is the son of son of Joseph Newsome and graduated from Betsy layne high school.

Practice is very important to Joe. "I really think about the music when I practice. I like to watch our tapes and listen to our songs whenever I practice," he said.

Among his favorite parts of being with the Junior Pros has been the opportunity to "go on long trips and perform in front of people that like watching young musicians perform," Joe said.

At age 16 Joe performed at the convention center for his very first time. His professional career plans are almost complete; "I want to play with the Kentucky Opry, and play my music on the road," he said.

He enjoys using his spare time to "play music with my friends, an hanging out with them," Joe said.

Joe lists several fine musicians as individuals he admires: "Stevie Ray Vaughn, The Allman

Brothers, and Eric Clapton are among my favorites," said Joe.

**NAME:** Joseph Lee Newsome  
**AGE:** 20  
**SCHOOL:** Betsy Layne High Graduate  
**PARENTS:** Joseph Newsome  
**HOMETOWN:** Craynar, KY

The best thing about being with the Junior Pros for Joe has been "not having

to set up the equipment before the show, also playing with good musicians," he laughs.

"Playing with this group of people has taught me so much about music, being responsible, and BEING ON TIME,"

he admitted.



Joseph Lee Newsome bass

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**Renny Hall**  
drums

Renny Hall's initial claim to fame was being the talented little drummer hidden behind his big drums. Now at 14, he's big enough to be seen and his talent has grown with him. Renny is son of Reynold and Lora Hall of Bull Creek at Prestonsburg.

As a drummer for the Junior Pros, Renny insists he prepares for performances by "watching the recorded Junior Pros performances and learning from my mistakes."

Quite an adult outlook for someone not yet in high school. Another impressive trait about Renny is that he is a true showman. "I dropped one of my sticks during a show, and had to play with only one during the song," he admitted. (Renny is one of the twenty-six reasons the group is called 'Pros').

Starting to play drums at age seven, Renny plans to be a professional drummer in Nashville, someday.

He admires the drummer Dave Mathews "because I like the way he plays and his ability to create original

sounds with the drums."

Being with the Pros gives Renny the chance to "perform for different people and going places," which any

young person with this group finds appealing.

His most exciting moment to date has been to "get a chance to play in Washington, D.C., and the time we got to perform in the governor's mansion.

"This has been a wonderful experience, being with the Junior Pros. I can't wait to go to Washington!"

**NAME:** Renny Hall  
**AGE:** 14  
**SCHOOL:** Adams Middle School  
**PARENTS:** Reynold and Lora Hall  
**HOMETOWN:** Prestonsburg, KY

Kory Caudill first performed at the tender age of three at Prestonsburg Community College with the Kentucky Opry. "I've played piano since I was a little boy," the 12-year-old said.

If talent is genetic, Kory is a blue blood. Both parents - Keith and Kathy Caudill - are proficient in vocals and instrumental performances.

"I listen to tapes to learn songs," Kory said of his method of practice. His greatest moment has been when Ms. Osborne announced the Junior Pros would be going to the Kennedy Center.

As any typical boy would think was funny, Kory remembered a summer performance that was scheduled to end with fireworks for additional drama. "They were supposed to go off at the very last song, but were set off at the wrong time," he said.

He is unsure of his future career, not yet deciding if he will be a musician or a scientist.

Kory's talents also are diverse, musically. He is able to play the drums, saxophone and trombone. He is a member of the Adams

**NAME:** Kory Caudill  
**AGE:** 14  
**SCHOOL:** Adams Middle School  
**PARENTS:** Keith and Kathy Caudill  
**HOMETOWN:** Prestonsburg, KY

Middle School band in Prestonsburg where he resides with his parents.

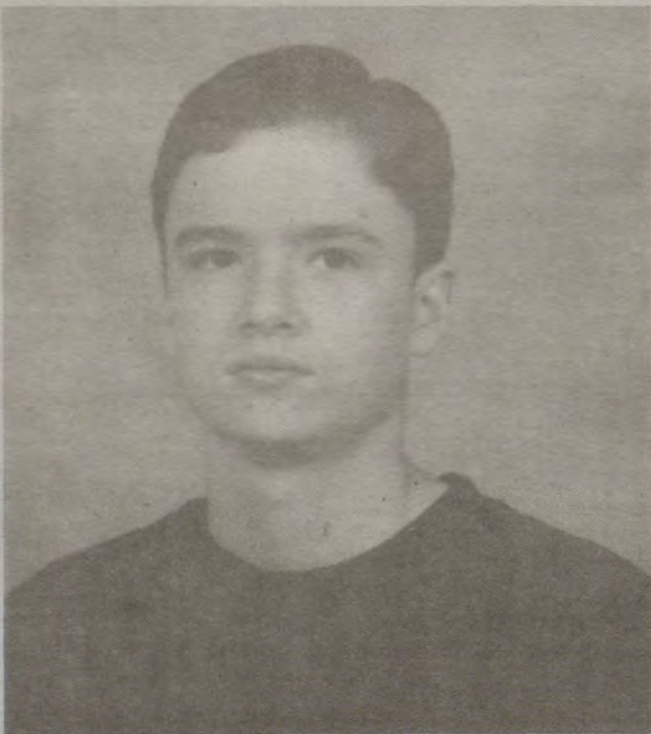
He is learning to "play by ear," and is also a member of the school's basketball team and the gifted and talented musical program

He enjoys performing at area churches and gospel sings.

"I practice each day at least 30 minutes, and play along with tapes, also," said 14-year-old Eric, who lives at Hueysville with his parents, Dexter and Beverly.

A freshman at Allen Central High School, Eric said his most exciting thing so far has been "to do a solo with this group."

**NAME:** Eric Conley  
**AGE:** 14  
**SCHOOL:** Allen Central High School  
**PARENTS:** Dexter and Beverly Conley  
**HOMETOWN:** Hueysville, KY



**Eric Conley**  
drums

Stage presence is so important to these kids, that Eric finds his funniest incident has been when "I forgot to wear black socks for the performance, and wore white ones on stage.

"They stuck out like a sore thumb," he insists.

He debuted recently at the Mountain Arts Center on drums.

His professional career plans are "either having a career in music, or work with some kind of engine," Eric said.

With music and engines, his motorcycle is among his favorite things.

Eric admires two people specifically: "Cecilia Prater, because she was always was there for the band no matter how sick she was; also, Billie Jean Osborne, because she really made her dream come true," he said.

"Just the privilege of playing with the Junior Pros is a very wonderful and



**Kory Caudill**  
keyboards

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Jason King  
banjo player

Chris Lafferty says the most exciting time of his life was "when I found out I would become the piano player for the Kentucky Opry and that I only had a few weeks to be ready."

Chris must have used his preparation time well because he is now a key person in both the "Big" Opry and the Jr. Pros.

Besides his great talents as a singer and on the keyboard, Chris is an arranger, originator of skits, writes show lists, and coordinates the vocal parts and the band. He is also a voice and piano instructor at the Mountain Arts Center.

Chris' first performance was at the age of four in a church in Lima, Ohio. When asked what he likes most about performing, he said, "When I started, it was the roar of the crowd and the excitement that surrounded the show atmosphere."

I get my enjoyment now from seeing kids that I have helped teach get that same feeling of joy I used to get when I received the adulation."

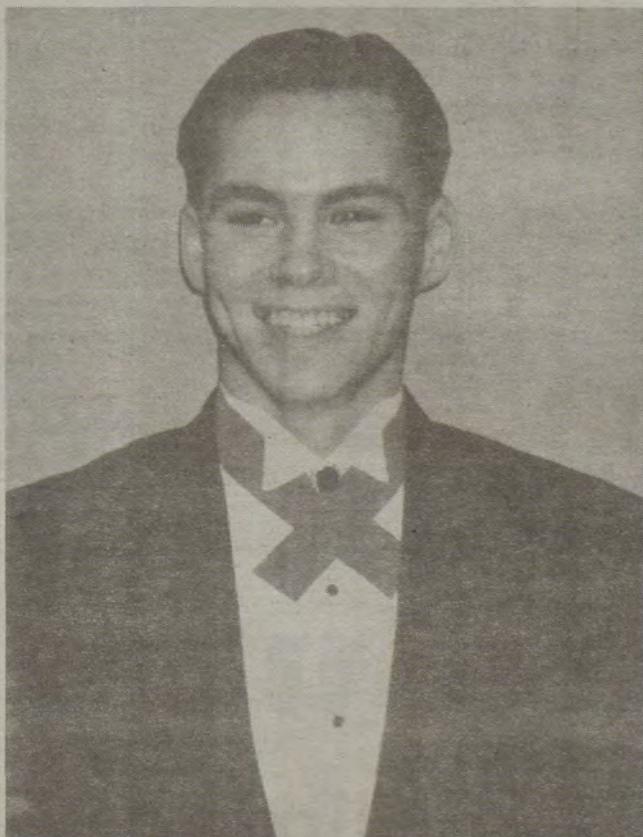
That seems a little modest because he is still receiving adulation.

He is so good looking and personable that he is considered to be the "heart throb" of the group and young girls especially

delight in his performances. The 23 year old veteran of the troupe is a senior at Morehead State University.

**NAME:** Chris Lafferty  
**AGE:** 23  
**SCHOOL:** Morehead State University  
**PARENTS:** Fred and LaVonne Lafferty  
**HOMETOWN:** Martin, KY.

He aspires to become a full-time arranger, composer, teacher and coordinator for the Mountain Arts Center and the Kentucky Opry. The performance in



Chris Lafferty  
Vocals, keyboard

Washington will only make his long list of accomplishments a little sweeter.

"The Jr. Pros are truly some of the most talented musicians and singers I have ever shared the stage with," Chris said.

They volunteer their efforts so that the show will go on and so that they can represent their families and fellow Eastern Kentuckians proudly."

The most exciting thing that has happened to Jason King was "when we went to Louisville and played for 800 women. Now, that was exciting!"

This junior from Auxier who attends Prestonsburg High School is the son of David and Tammy King.

He said the funniest thing that has happened to him since performing with the Junior Pros was when "he was so nervous that my

picks made a clicking noise on my banjo during a show."

Like many other members of this performing

**NAME:** Jason King  
**AGE:** 17  
**SCHOOL:** Prestonsburg High School  
**PARENTS:** David and Tammy King  
**HOMETOWN:** Auxier, KY

troupe, Jason's first performance was at the Jenny Wiley's Convention Center at age 14. He also has performed skits at other places before joining the Pros.

In a statement that is

refreshing for someone his age, when asked whom he admires or considers a hero, he quite frankly admits that "My hero is Jesus Christ, my savior."

Another thing striking about Jason is that the thing he likes best about being with the Junior Pros is "the feeling I get when I make people smile and laugh when I'm on stage."

Summing up his tenure with the Pros, Jason continues to be candid about being a performer. "A lot of work goes along with this package," he said.

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Karen Bowmann, Amy Jarvis, and Ernest Collins perform on an outdoor stage.



Betsy Nighthorse from The Heritage Conservancy in Haworth, New Jersey, presented Billie Jean Osborne with a check for \$3500 last December. The check was in honor of Dwight Yoakam who named the Mountain Arts Center as his favorite charity.



Sarah Allen at a family reunion last August.



Kory Caudill has been performing on stage since he was three years old.



Laura Ford, Kristen Everage, and Shea Lafferty deliver a lively performance.

# Kentucky's Newest Stars



Fiddling is always a favorite part of the show.



Amy Jarvis gives Chris Lafferty a hug.



# Pepsi Salutes The Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros

Compliments of East Kentucky Beverage, Pikeville, Ky.

This Knott County Central High School freshman can belt out "How Can I Live?" on stage like a young Trisha Yearwood.

A resident of Hindman, along with her parents Archie and Bobetta, Kristin said she "sings every day, whether it be with the Opry, church, school programs or community services like entertaining at nursing homes.

"I also even sing in my room with CDs and tapes. I love to practice in front of my favorite audience - my toy poodle," she said.

Kristin said she loves to watch CMT and listen to Christian music. She has a

"great deal of respect for all varieties and styles of music."

She says that some of her favorite music stars are Dolly Parton, Trisha

**NAME:** Kristin Hope Everage  
**AGE:** 15  
**SCHOOL:** Knott County Central  
**PARENTS:** Archie and Bobetta Everage  
**HOMETOWN:** Hindman, KY

Yearwood (naturally - you can tell this admiration once you hear her) and Shania Twain.

Kristin's most exciting moment in her performing career came when she got to entertain for Bill Clinton when his campaign express stopped in Ashland. "It was about 95 degrees, and we had to sit under the stage to

keep cool. The only thing more exciting than that will be to perform at the Kennedy Center, which will be a great honor," she said.

A good sense of humor is evident with Kristin, and necessary in her business. "Funny things happen all of the time, like trying to get back on stage after a costume change - wow! Sometimes I'm running on to the stage with one shoe on and one off. It's crazy and great fun when we forget lines or words to the skits and try and cue each other.

She began performing at age two when she began singing in front of the video camera, and enjoyed watching it play back.

She sang at her grade school at age seven at a fall festival, and has been singing every day, since.

Her professional career plans include education, and - of course - singing.

"I am a people person," she insists.

Working with the Junior Pros has been a high point in Kristin's life, and she said "The best things are the friends I've met and the great relationship I have with all of the members of the group. They are like my second family, and we have a real good mix. They are great," said Kristin.

"I truly appreciate the opportunity that I have had to be a part of the Kentucky Opry Junior Pros. I have learned a lot and have grown with this experience. I not only like to sing on stage, I love to perform my songs. It is a great feeling to step on stage and represent the Pros," she said.

Keep listening - Kristin Everage is a name you will hear again.

A lady with attitude - that is five-year-old Morgan Hughes of Stanton. She may be the shortest person on stage but her presence and patented strut shows the audience she can command the spotlight with anyone.

The daughter of David and Kathy Hughes shows those for whom she performs who is the boss when she halts mid-song to demand of her audience "Are y'all having a good time - I SURE AM!"

Making it a point to single out at least one member of her audience is perhaps her most endearing trait. "You - there in the red shirt, right there - will you be my Cowboy Sweetheart?" then launches in to the song with a finesse that it is hard to remember she is only in kindergarten.

Her talent comes with daily practice, according to her mom, and her biggest accomplishment was to win first place in a gospel talent show at Renfro Valley last month. She was the youngest member to enter the competi-

tion. Morgan most definitely loves the Junior Pros, but at

being a veterinarian. She wishes to begin instruction on piano, soon.

When she first visited the Mountain Arts Center, she was only concerned as to where the stage was. Watching her perform, is it quite apparent she belongs there quite naturally.

**NAME:** Morgan Hughes  
**AGE:** 5  
**SCHOOL:** Stanton Elementary Kindergarten  
**PARENTS:** David and Kathy Hughes  
**HOMETOWN:** Stanton, KY

the present is torn between singing country music and



Morgan Hughes vocals



Kristin Hope Everage vocals, dancer

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"I practice every day, whether for the show or just singing something," said 20-year-old bass Brian Woofter who is a junior at Morehead State University.

"Getting to meet new people and making new friends is an exciting part of being with the Junior Pros," according to Brian. However, he has also found that giving performances for dignitaries such as governors, senators and the president is okay, too.

Brian has performed since the age of 18, and can be found playing golf, tennis and basketball when not on stage.

"My parents, David and Linda, that is who I most admire. They have always encouraged me to do my best and strive for my dreams," said Brian, who is planning to "sing gospel music full-time as a professional goal.

He says he enjoys being with his "best friends getting ready to travel with the Pros."

Showing his lighter side in a way only youth can, Brian said that "forgetting the words to songs and com-

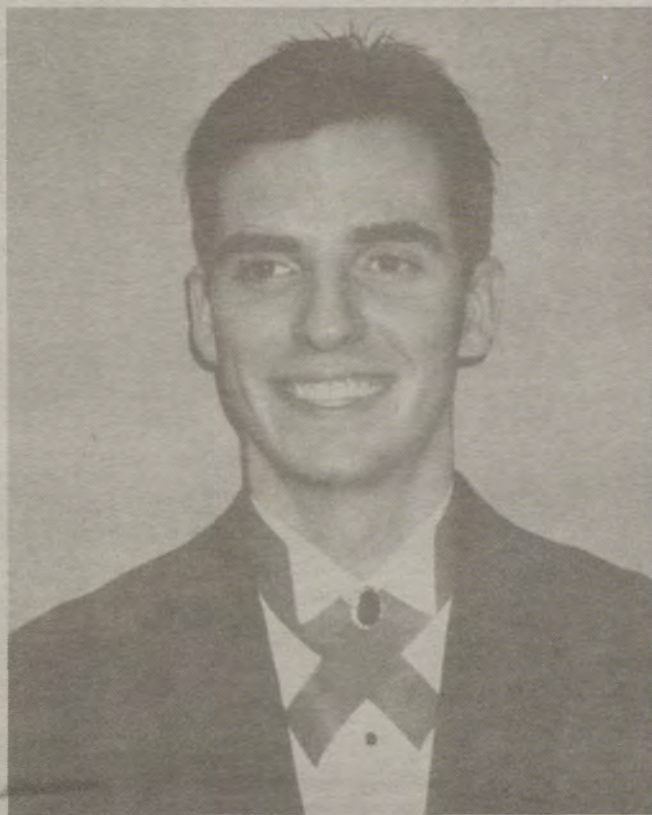
ing in on the wrong pitch is the funniest thing that hap-

some from someone way beyond his years, Brian's thoughts on the Junior Pros are that "they have given me opportunities I thought I'd never have.

"I consider it a privilege to be a Junior Pro," he said.

**NAME:** Brian Woofter  
**AGE:** 20  
**SCHOOL:** Morehead State University  
**PARENTS:** David and Linda Woofter  
**HOMETOWN:** East Point, Ky

pens to me." In a statement seeming to



Brian L. Woofter vocals

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Leslie of Emma; Shea is a 22-year-old physical therapy major working at the University of Kentucky Center for Rural Health, and she is also a singer with the Kentucky Opry Junior Pros.

"I prepare myself for performances by practice, and dedication," Shea said. "And the most exciting thing that has happened to me since I started singing with the Pros is finding out that we would be traveling to Washington."

Another Trisha Yearwood-like vocalist that certainly has the talent to match, she remembered that her first performance "was when I was 17-year-old, and sang Trisha's song 'That's What I Like About You.'"

Her career plans are already underway - "I am hoping to finish physical therapy school in a year, but my dream will always be to become a famous singer," she said.

"I like dancing and acting, and I've always liked to read," Shea said.

Her most-admired person

is Patsy Cline. "I have always admired her because,

**NAME:** LaShea Leslie  
**AGE:** 22  
**SCHOOL:** UK Center for Rural Health  
**PARENTS:** Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Leslie  
**HOMETOWN:** Emma, KY

she had an awesome voice," said Shea.

Another Pro that has fond moments of their road trips, Shea remembers a funny incident which still makes her laugh.

"We were in Frankfort for

a performance, and they had a tornado warning. Our guitar player was counting our songs in the style of Hootie and the Blowfish," she said.

"We are extremely close," said Shea of her co-performers in the troupe. "The girls make beautiful harmony together and it has always been fun," Shea said.

"I love all of the members of the Junior Pros, and it has been an honor to perform together," she said.



LaShea Leslie vocals

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Laura is a 19-year-old sophomore at Pikeville College who sings with the Junior Pros. "I have had 12 years of private vocal training, and I just sing all of the time. I get on my friends' nerves but I believe in learning by experience so I am getting all I can," she said.

what he wants," she said.

**NAME:** Laura Ruth Ford  
**AGE:** 19  
**SCHOOL:** Pikeville College  
**PARENTS:** Bob and Janice Ford  
**HOMETOWN:** Pikeville, KY

Celine Dion, and hopes to be able to have the vocal quality and ability to "captivate the audience" like the singing star.

Her feelings about performing with the Junior Pros - "Awesome."

Laura is the daughter of Bob and Janice Ford.

Laura especially admires



Laura Ford  
vocals

While she enjoys the out-of-town trips, she maintains that performing "in front of a lively crowd is always fun and exciting," Laura said.

Along with talent, her sense of humor is a big part of her appeal. She isn't afraid to laugh at herself as she remembers "during a high school performance I tripped over Chris Lafferty's piano chord and fell flat on my face and slid about two feet."

"A classmate then stood up and yelled 'HOME-RUN!' I was slightly embarrassed but it was very funny," she said.

Performing since age four, Laura is studying Spanish and vocal performance. "After school, the Lord will lead me to do

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## David Morris

David Morris has a busy life already with his family at home. He and his wife, Monica, have two daughters; Charlotte and Cecilia.

Add that to his role at the Mountain Arts Center with the Junior Pros: assistant director, fiddler, vocals, coordinating the musicians and putting together shows.

He is also an instructor of the fiddle, banjo and mandolin at the Mountain Arts Center.

This 30-year-old is pretty impressive.

David has recorded an album which has just been released. He, his wife, and his brother-in-law wrote all the songs. His mother played acoustic guitar on some of the songs and his wife sang harmony. The Kentucky Opry band backed them up. The album was recorded in the MAC recording studio.

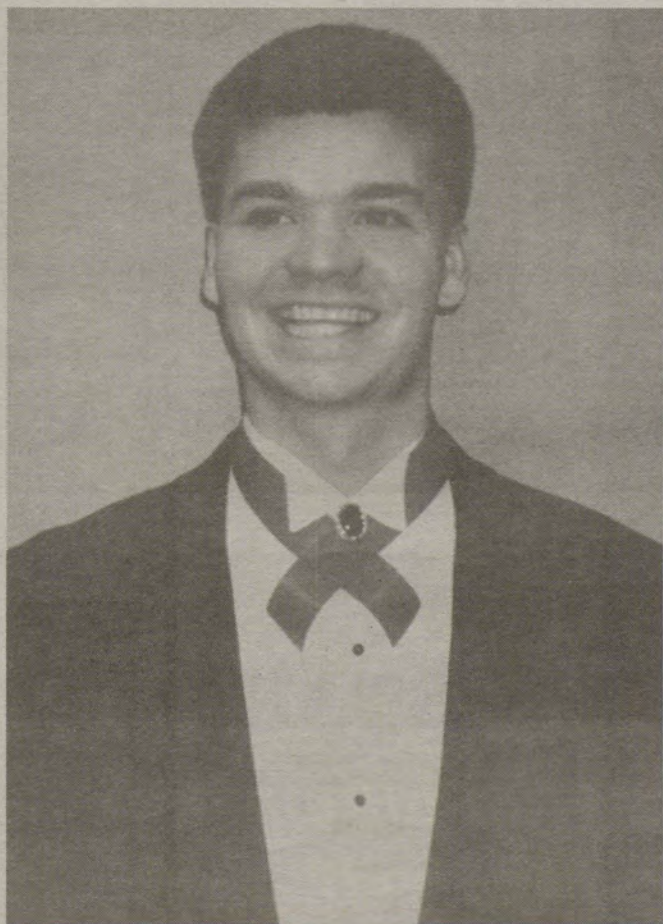
David claims to already be content with his professional career by teaching and performing music.

His heroes are "Louis Edge and Billie Jean Osborne, because of their work with youth in their areas and the help they've given me," he said.

"The best thing about performing with the Junior Pros is seeing the kids grow and develop their talent," said David.

His first performances were at nursing homes at age 13, playing guitar. By age 14, he was playing the fiddle.

His hobbies include spending time with his wife and daughters, reading, fishing, and he can also be found at times playing a hauntingly beautiful fiddle for the St. Martha's Church.



David Morris  
instrumentals, vocals, instructor

Good Luck  
Kentucky Junior Pros

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Although classified a Junior Pro, Jo Pack already has the stage presence of a professional.

Watching her perform - be it in a poodle skirt or military costume - makes it obvious the great amount of work and practice that this young lady puts herself through to step in and out of different stage personas with style.

Regarding how she does it, "I get ready by practice, practice and more practice," she said.

"My mother was always there for me and she was the one who taught me to

sing," Jo said about her most admired individual.

Jo offered her first performance at age 17 by singing and clogging. Her

**NAME: Jo Pack**  
**AGE: 18**  
**SCHOOL: South Floyd High School**  
**PARENTS: Johnny and Peggy Pack**  
**HOMETOWN: Drift, KY**

parents are John and Peggy Pack.

Her professional goals are high. "I want to be a country music star," she said.

After watching her confident stage mannerisms, coupled with the fact that is quite obvious that this

young lady is really having fun, it is easy to understand Jo saying that she "likes the attention I get from being on stage."

"Being on stage is "most exciting, when I'm in the spotlight performing with some of the most gifted and talented people of Eastern Kentucky," Jo said.

Just finishing her junior year of high school, Jo a typical cheerleader and sports enthusiast who always finds some time to spend with her family and friends.



B. Jo Pack  
vocals, clogs



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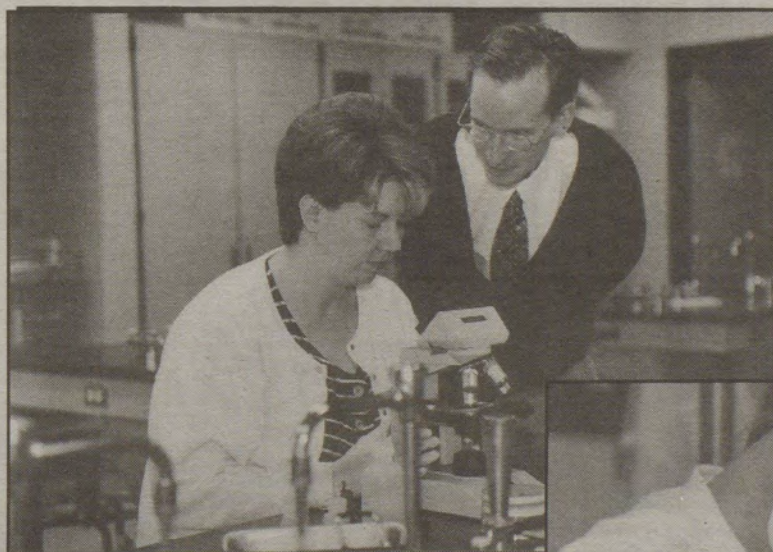


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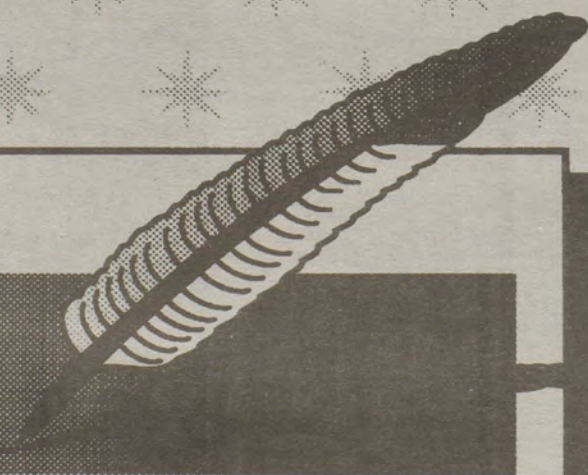
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# Miss Billie Jean

**by Rhonda Kretzer**  
 Much has been written about Billie Jean Osborne, the organizer and driving force behind the Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros. We've watched her dreams of a Mountain Arts Center and a Country Music Highway become a reality. Politicians and philanthropists, accustomed to messages that "Miss Billie Jean is here to see you," respect her vision and her ability to get things done.

What people may not understand is that, inside the savvy fundraiser, inside the powerful presence that works her way into the offices of legislators and financiers, is the heart of a rural school music teacher determined to find a way for her students to accomplish anything their ambitions and abilities can envision.

Miss Billie Jean developed her skills through years of helping her students accomplish whatever they aspired to do. If students wanted to be in the band but had no instrument to play, she helped them come up with one. If there was

no money for band uniforms, she found a way to pay for them, and she never settled for just getting by. She knew what it took for her students to feel like champions and she never settled for less. **Her success in overcoming obstacles was based on her formidable talent for team-building. She knew her strengths but she knew her limitations too and she enlisted the cooperation of others to reach important goals. Students, parents and businesses worked together under her direction and, when the goal was reached, everyone shared in the satisfaction. There was a sense of pride throughout the whole community in regard to "our" band.**

Long before Olympic contenders hired motivational psychologists to help them achieve their potential, Miss Billie Jean knew that a person must feel like a winner before he or she could become one. Her bands marched into competitions expecting to win first

place—and they did. Her students made their ways to the all-state levels of band and choral competition and returned with more than their share of superior ratings. She expected it of them and, more importantly,

taught them to expect it of themselves.

Miss Billie Jean recognized and encouraged whatever talents and abilities students had even if they did not fall within her music department. On a walk down the hall-

way, she might congratulate a young lady who won a spelling contest and compliment a basketball player on making his free throws. Students would bring her pictures they had drawn or essays for her to

read. She studied them with great concentration and bragged on this or that. She said so many times, "You keep working on that, you keep practicing and you'll be amazed at how good you'll be."

It has been many years since her retirement from teaching, but Miss Billie Jean has never slowed down. She is still recognizing and encouraging young talent, still finding ways to meet challenges and still refusing to settle for anything less than the best. She has broadened her focus to impact the lives of young people all over our region. The current line-up in the Kentucky Opry Jr. Pros includes students from 17 area schools. The opportunities they have been given are due, in large part, to one lady's determination to find a way.

Today, 24 young musicians and vocalists are on their way to Washington, D.C. to entertain at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Hopefully, there will be an opportunity for Miss Billie Jean to join



Miss Billie Jean Osborne

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