

CHILDREN AT RISK - DRUGS PUT DEADLY GRIP ON TEENS - LAST IN A SERIES

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - March 2, 1991

- Author/Byline: ROSEMARY WEATHERS, KENTUCKY POST STAFF REPORTER
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James Patrick Short was 17 and teetering on the threshold of manhood.

A youthful blush tinted his cheeks and a little boy's smile curled across his face like a ribbon of naivete. But he stood almost 6 feet tall and his feet had grown into size 10 1/2 shoes - bigger than his foster father's.

Last May 22, Jim and a friend climbed into a Chevy S-10 pickup and took a ride.

Along Woodspoint Drive in Florence, the truck suddenly veered off the two-lane road and crashed at nearly 60 miles per hour into a tree on World of Sports golf course.

"His chest was basically crushed from the impact of the crash," Boone County Coroner Don Stith said at the time.

But the wreck didn't kill Jim. He was already dead.

"Death was due to inhalation of a Freon-type gas before impact with the tree," an autopsy report stated. "The driver was deceased before the wreck."

Jim had inhaled chlorodifluoromethane, the autopsy disclosed. A 30-pound canister of the compressed gas, with an open valve, tubing and an oxygen-style mask and mouthpiece was in the truck, Florence police reported.

The gas, which can be bought easily, is used by mechanics to service air conditioners in cars and trucks. Jim used it to get high.

More and more teen-agers in Northern Kentucky are inhaling deadly gases to get high. The trend is the same whether they live in rural, suburban or inner-city communities in Northern Kentucky. Kids are sniffing butane, propane, White Out, gasoline, paint - all substances readily available.

"Parents will call on the phone and say I cleaned my son's room today and I found three cans of Rustoleum," said Marlene Bendel, head nurse at the adolescent chemical dependency unit of St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

"Huffing" robs the body of oxygen, damaging the brain, nervous system, lungs and heart.

"The heart rate increases tremendously and it gives you a rush," said Ms. Bendel. "Basically it burns brain cells."

Sometimes huffing kills quickly. More often it kills slowly, permanently damaging a teen-ager's brain.

Increased use of inhalants is just one trend witnessed by those who try to help adolescents overcome chemical dependency. Counselors say the predominant drugs used by Northern Kentucky teen-agers are alcohol, marijuana, LSD and cocaine - in that order.

They're now seeing children young enough to play dress-up wearing the weary visage of an alcoholic or drug addict.

Ms. Bendel noted that St. Elizabeth is conducting more drug-use assessments on 11- and 12-year-olds, at the request of parents and court officials who suspect the children are substance abusers.

Counselors find drug use severe enough among children so young that they have critical difficulties in school, troubles with the law and are sexually promiscuous.

"And that's at age 12," said Jennifer Mason, coordinator for Comprehensive Care's outpatient program for adolescents in Newport.

When Ms. Mason started at Comprehensive Care three years ago, the agency's patients were between 13 and 18. The age keeps dropping.

"It is not unusual for us to see a child who's 11 or 12 years old and for that usage to be going on for a year," Ms. Mason said.

She gets irked by surveys that report how many high school seniors are using drugs.

"I've only had one high school senior," said Ms. Mason, whose office counseled 189 adolescents in intensive therapy last year.

"They don't make it to be high school seniors."

Such criticism was acknowledged by Dr. James Mason, assistant U.S. secretary for health and head of the Public Health Service, at a recent press conference on the latest survey among high school students.

"We know from other studies that drug use among high school dropouts is clearly higher," Mason said. In fact, dropouts reported a 63 percent higher rate of drug use in a national survey, Mason noted.

Surveying adolescents - or adults, for that matter - on their use of alcohol and illegal drugs is an iffy business. But enough surveys have been conducted to paint a picture of alcohol and other drug use by adolescents in Northern Kentucky.

The sum of these studies shows the pervasive use of chemical substances by Northern Kentucky adolescents and the penetrating depth of that use.

The studies underscore the warnings of counselors that alcohol is the No. 1 drug and that its threat to today's youth is not taken seriously. What these studies can't show is how rapidly and acutely an adolescent's chemical dependency escalates.

"What happens to them in a two-year time span, happens to an adult in five to 10 years. It gets a lot worse quicker."

A chemically dependent teen-ager isn't old enough to have the skills to deal with such severe problems.

"Adolescents are very different than adults," Ms. Mason explained.

"When you are looking at someone who did not start drinking until 20 or 25, their patterns of coping are already developed. When you are talking about rehabilitation, you're talking about getting back to a prior level of functioning. With adolescents, you don't have a prior level of coping."

In addition, an adolescent has little control over his environment - his family, friends, school, neighborhood. And at the very age that he craves to fit in with peers and rebel against adults and structured authority, a young alcoholic or drug addict must resist peer pressure and follow step-by-step programs of recovery.

"AA is not easy for a youngster," Ms. Bendel said. "Think about being an adolescent and you're trying to break away from structure."

Alcoholics Anonymous is one of the resources used by counselors and others who work with children. They also use foster care, parent education programs, juvenile courts and the state Cabinet for Human Resources. St. Elizabeth Medical Center will open an outpatient program for adolescents in April. Comprehensive Care's intensive outpatient programs in Newport and Florence require its young clients to attend counseling sessions five days a week for a total of 10 hours.

But those who work with chemically dependent teens say all these resources aren't enough.

Adolescents often need a place to live - a safe environment - in the early months of recovery. Only one such residential program exists in Northern Kentucky - Kids Helping Kids in Boone County - and its costs are prohibitive for most youngsters.available.

Through Transitions' residential programs for adults, Ms. Perrin has an idea of the scale of the need for adolescent residential services in Northern Kentucky.

Transitions served 713 men and women in its residential programs last year. It has a total of 110 beds for adult clients at four locations - Droege House in Dayton, York Street House in Newport, and Eighth Street House and Greenup Street House in Covington.

Ms. Perrin estimates twice that many beds, or 220, are needed for adolescents in Northern Kentucky because of the acute nature of their illness and the greater length of time they need to live in a safe place.

"The longer you can keep them away from the drugs, the better," Ms. Mason agreed.

In addition, hospital inpatient programs have been hit by government cutbacks as well as by insurance companies' stricter rules.

"Six weeks was pretty standard for treatment a few years ago - insurance gave 45 days," said Ms. Bendel.

"Three weeks is standard now."

Medicaid pays for 14 days of hospital treatment for chemically dependent children, and approves that only after other methods of treatment have failed. St. Elizabeth contributes to that for a total of 17 to 18 days.

"If a child is on cocaine, 17 days is not sufficient," Ms. Mason said.

However, some children can't even get 17 days. Those whose families don't have health insurance - but who aren't quite poor enough to qualify for Medicaid - fall through the gap. Counselors call that gap "scandalous."

The costs of inpatient programs are prohibitive for children who fall in that gap. And no matter how acute or chronic their dependency is, those children almost never get hospital treatment.

FAX

13 warning signs

The following types of behavior are red flags for parents and others involved with adolescents. They may indicate drug or alcohol abuse.

1. Has the young person suddenly acquired new friends and discontinued long-term friendships?
2. Does he or she spend a lot of time alone?
3. Does he give vague answers when questioned about activities?
4. Is his behavior suddenly impulsive or erratic?
5. Are problems developing at school, such as failing grades, skipping classes, behavior troubles and loss of interest in school activities?
6. Does he have a sullen and negative attitude? Is he irritable and easily angered? Is he argumentative or passive, the two extremes?
7. Has he lied about friends or school? Has he been caught stealing at home or shoplifting?
8. Are there persistent health problems, such as fatigue, swollen or red eyes, appetite changes, respiratory infections or chronic cough?
9. Does he maintain poor hygiene and not seem to care about his appearance?
10. Has he run into minor troubles with the law?
11. Are drugs missing from medicine cabinets?
12. Does he have money you can't account for?
13. Are other kids coming to see him for only a brief visit?

BURGEONING DRUG USE

Surveys conducted in recent years paint a portrait of widespread abuse of alcohol and other drugs by adolescents in Northern Kentucky.

In 1990, the Community Chest reported that local use and abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs mirrored national statistics. A National Institute on Drug Abuse survey in 1990 showed that almost all - 89.5 percent - of high school seniors had used alcohol; one-third of all seniors had consumed five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks. One out of every five 12- to 13- years-olds had used alcohol. Fourteen percent of adolescents between 12 and 17 said they had used marijuana in the past month - 2.2 percent used it every day. Eighteen percent of high school seniors had used inhalants; 9.4 percent had used cocaine.

A 1990 survey of seventh- to 12th-graders at Covington's Holmes High School revealed that 14 percent of the junior high students said they first drank beer before they were 10 years old. One out of every 12 ninth-graders said they had used inhalants; 5 percent were frequent users - some every day. Nearly 38 percent of the senior high school students - and 18 percent of junior high students - were moderate-to-heavy drinkers. About 19 percent of 10th-graders were moderate-to-heavy users of marijuana.

A 1989 survey in Boone County public schools showed that 37 percent of fifth- and sixth-grade boys (and 25 percent of the girls) said they had tried alcohol and 9 percent had used it moderately or heavily. The survey also showed that 19 percent of eighth-grade boys had experimented with drugs, and moderate-to-heavy drug use was reported by 10 percent of the junior high boys. The percentages increased with their ages: One out of every five boys in 11th and 12th grades said they were moderate-to-heavy users of drugs and half the students were moderate-to-heavy drinkers.

In 1987, Alcoholism Councils in the Greater Cincinnati area estimated about 17 percent of area adolescents have problems with drug or alcohol abuse.

A 1987 survey showed that adults perceived the problem of drug and alcohol abuse among teen-agers as the most serious social

problem in Northern Kentucky, according to the Community Chest and United Way. Half the area population ranked teen substance abuse at the top. Community leaders in Northern Kentucky were almost unanimous in considering it the most serious problem: in Campbell County, 93 percent ranked it No. 1; in Kenton County, 80 percent ranked it first; and in Boone County, 73 per cent did.

A 1986 study reported that more than 11,000 adolescents in Northern Kentucky may meet the definition of potential problem drinker - that is, having a pathological drinking style. About 1,300 may meet the still more strict definition of alcoholic.

That 1986 study also reported that substance abuse is a factor in 50 percent to 75 percent of the cases worked by area juvenile services.

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BOWERSVILLE CHURCH'S PROGRAM FOCUSES ON FAMILY PROBLEMS

Dayton Daily News (OH) - April 3, 1991

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- Section: NEIGHBORS
- Page: Z6-2
- Column: HEREABOUTS

The Bowersville Church of Christ is offering a program called CURE, which stands for Christian United Recovery Effort, a self-help support program designed to address problems facing families.

The issues of divorce, single parenting, chemical dependency, co-dependency, adolescent rebellion, low self-esteem and alcoholism-related problems are discussed.

Meetings are usually from 6:30 to 9 p.m. the first and third Tuesday of each month at the church and are open to members and non-members. The next meeting is April 9.

Bowersville resident Michael Severs, who heads up the CURE program with his wife, Sheila, said many families suffer parallel problems from a variety of family dysfunctions.

"The disease may be different but the symptoms and resulting dysfunctions in the family are often the same," he said.

Severs has incorporated the guidelines of several national self-help programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, a 12-step program for dealing with alcohol dependency; Kids Helping Kids, a long-term alternative for adolescent treatment of drug and alcohol abuse; and Tough Love, a support group for parents of teen-agers, into CURE.

Severs said the group's goal is to offer solutions to personal and family crises and to "stop the blame and guilt."

He said the program is based on anonymity. "Whatever is said here, stays here," he said.

Jeff Johnson, minister at Bowersville Church of Christ, invites anyone who feels in need of support and understanding to come to next week's meeting.

The church is on Ohio 72 in Bowersville, seven miles south of Jamestown. For more information, call the church office at 453-2280.

"We'd like to see more families and individuals take advantage of this excellent program," Johnson said.

Students to cruise after the prom

"All dressed up with no place to go" won't be a problem for students attending the after-prom party planned by parents of the junior class at Beaver creek High School.

Students are invited to dance the night away at an after-prom cruise on the Ohio River aboard Cincinnati's B&B Riverboat.

"We are asking for contributions from parents and businesses to help defray the costs," said committee member Bonnie Kelley. "We want every student who wants to go to be able to afford a ticket."

The committee's task was to come up with a party that appeals to the students and provides a safe and controlled environment.

"After-prom parties are a tradition and there can be problems. We want to give the students a safe alternative," Kelley said. She added that the involvement of more parents is needed.

Chartered buses will leave at approximately 1 a.m. from the high school, arriving in Cincinnati in time for the 3 a.m. boarding.

The three-hour "cruise" will include a disc jockey and dancing. Food will be available at a concession area.

Buses will return the students to the high school following the 6 a.m. docking in Cincinnati.

Donations are being accepted by Donna Wolfe of the After-Prom Committee at 900 Donham Drive, Beaver creek 45385. For information, call Kelley at 426-6663 or 426-4191.

The concert series at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Xenia will conclude the 1990-91 season with a piano and woodwind quartet performance at 4 p.m. Sunday, featuring award-winning pianist Mary Fahrenbruck of Central State University.

Fahrenbruck's program will include contemporary arrangements. She has won numerous awards including second place in the 1989 Columbus Symphony Concerto Competition.

The Woodwind Quartet was founded by clarinetist William Denza, associate professor of music at Central State.

The quartet will play Quartet No. 1 in F Major by Rossini, Suite No. 1 in G Major by Bach, and Quartet in F Major by Andre-Frederick Eler. Playing French horn will be Lisa Yeago; Rebecca Magg, flute and Marcia Blalack, bassoon.

All perform with the Dayton Philharmonic.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church is at 990 Old Springfield Pike. Freewill donations will be accepted in lieu of ticket charges. Child care will be available.

For more information, call Joyce Hemenger, 767-9383; or the church office, 372-9246.

Beavercreek wins safety award

The Miami Valley Automobile Club has honored 15 area communities participating in the 51st annual Pedestrian Protection Program.

Cities being honored for pedestrian accident-free records include Beavercreek for one year without a pedestrian fatality.

Other communities recognized for their pedestrian safety programs and records were Oakwood, Englewood, West Carrollton, New Carlisle, Fairborn, Germantown, Greenville, Trotwood, Kettering, Centerville, Miamisburg, Moraine, Eaton and Vandalia.

Neighbors in the news

Gretchen Rives, communications specialist for Greene Memorial Hospital, has been elected secretary of the Dayton chapter of PR for Health, the local affiliate of the Ohio Society for Hospital Public Relations. Rives will be in charge of the chapter's newsletter. She is a resident of Xenia.

Beavercreek resident Doug McLarty, vice president for Penny/Ohlmann/Neiman Public Relations, has been appointed director-at-large in charge of membership of the Dayton-Miami Valley chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

The Dayton/Miami Valley chapter is one of 90 PRSA chapters throughout the country. Local membership is comprised of public relations counseling firms, government agencies, educational institutions, hospitals and other non-profit organizations.

Students in the news

Kathleen G. Leithold, a 1985 graduate of Beavercreek High School, has been elected to Epsilon chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society at Wright State University.

She will graduate in 1992 from the WSU School of Medicine.

The daughter of Lawrence L. and Carol F. Gutman of Beavercreek is a 1988 graduate of Kent State University. She lives in Dayton.

Jennifer Lynn Combs of Mad River Twp. has received a Trustees Scholarship from Xavier University in Cincinnati. Recipients of a scholarship to Xavier University must rank in the top 15 percent of their high school class and must achieve a high score on either the American College Test or the Scholastic Aptitude Test. Combs is a graduate of Beavercreek High School. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Combs.

• **Caption:** PHOTO: Kathleen Leithold

• **Memo:** IF YOU or a friend or relative recently achieved honors of some sort, or your club or organization has an activity you think would make interesting reading, call 427-1615 or send a typewritten notice to: Neighborhood News Department, Dayton Daily News, Fourth and Ludlow streets, Dayton 45402. We want to hear from you.

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ART, FOOD AND FUN AT WHITE TENT AFFAIR - ST. ELIZABETH'S AUXILIARY PLANNING FUND-RAISER ON SOUTH HOSPITAL LAWN

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- Author/Byline: ALICE KENNELLY ROBERTS
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Glossy, hot-pink-and-white invitations in a triple-folded tent design are in the mail, announcing a "White Tent Affair."

St. Elizabeth Medical Center Auxiliary/Volunteers will host the event from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 25 on the lawn of the south hospital in Edgewood.

Artist Tom Gaither will exhibit his original watercolors and prints. John Ruthven will display his paintings. And Dixie Lee will demonstrate the way to bake and braid bread. Williams-Sonoma of Tower Plaza, Cincinnati, will display gourmet cookware and kitchen gadgetry.

The St. Elizabeth auxiliary hopes the afternoon of refreshments, entertainment and unique door prizes will expand its membership and show the many community activities in which it is involved.

Too often, auxiliary members are seen only as weekly volunteers who do hospital duty. No longer is this a true picture.

Auxiliary members also attend plays, go on trips, work on fund-raisers and sponsor activities.

Mildren Canfield is chairperson of the "White Tent Affair," assisted by Mary Ann Menke.

Other committee chairmen are Gale Lawson, publicity; Sylvia Ruh, invitations; Jean Longshore, reservations; Nancy Bunnell, decorations; Rita Wahl and Monica Poole, refreshments; Linda Gross, hostesses; Donna Helms, welcome basket; Connie Hoffman, computers; Jackie Hirt, logistics coordinator; and Jim Sorrell, treasurer.

The deadline for reservations is Sept. 13. For information about invitations, call the volunteer office at 344-2140 or Mildred Canfield, chairwoman, at 331-1823.

Art club tea

The Covington Art Club will host a tea honoring new members at 1 p.m. Sept. 9 at the clubhouse. Tea chairperson is Mrs. Dorsey Reel.

Each of the art club's seven department chairwomen will review the work of her department. Registrars will be Mrs. Ross Owens and Mrs. William Armstrong.

Hostesses will be Mrs. R.T. Acra and Mrs. Eugene Barnett.

New members to be honored include Mrs. Jim Bunning, Mrs. Gary Bockelman, Mrs. William M. Lucas, Mrs. Marilyn B. Moushey, Mrs. John W. Blom, Mrs. Gloria Dooley, Mrs. Helen Kissmeyer, Mrs. J.V.C. Summerell, Mrs. Harold Banta, Mrs. Donald Frey, Mrs. Ray E. Duncan, Mrs. Raymond Donelson, Mrs. Richard J. Blum, and Mrs. Howard A. Heringer, Sr.

Publicity chairwoman is Dorothea Eichelberger.

Drug council awards

The Alcohol and Other Drugs Council of Northern Kentucky held its third annual dinner recently at the Turfway Ridge Office Park in Florence. Keynote speaker was Gary Faulkner, executive

director of the Governor's Office for Drug-Free Kentucky.

Dave Lindemann received the first Dr. J. Emmanuel Willett Founders Award, for outstanding contribution to fulfilling the goals of the council. Boone County Judge-Executive Bruce Ferguson installed the new board of directors: Philip Trzop and Robert Crouch, Boone County; Rosemary Fischer and Rosemary Beiting, Campbell County; Ron Gillespie, chairman, and Harold Clifton, Carroll County; Phyllis Harsin, secretary, and Vesta Moore, Gallatin County; Sharon Faulkner and Dr. Clay C. Parks, Grant County.

Also, Geof Scanlon, treasurer, and Robert Zumbiel, Kenton County; Rev. Gene Weaver and Charlotte Weaver, Owen County; Jim Blau and Mary Scott, Pendleton County; Dr. J. E. Willett, Comprehensive Care; Penny Walker, Kids Helping Kids; Bill Davis, vice chairman, St.

Elizabeth Medical Center; Rosemarie Blau, St. Luke Medical Center; and Ann Perrin, Transitions, Inc.

The Leadership Award was presented to Ferguson. Special awards went to Dayton High School, Owen County Schools, and Boone County Schools.

Zona King is office manager of the local AOD office.

McBee Bean Bash

Redwood School and Rehabilitation Center, Boone Adult Work Activity Center, and Kids Helping Kids will receive proceeds from the 1991 McBee Bean Bash.

The bash will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Oct. 12 at Turfway Park Race Course, 7500 Turfway Road, Florence. Scripps picnic

A picnic for members of a Scripps Howard Publishing Division was held a picnic recently at the Burlington farm of Pat and Nancy Tretter Jones. Mrs. Jones is executive assistant to William R. Burleigh, executive vice president of Scripps Howard.

Some of those enjoying a day of horseshoes, fishing, pony rides, a hay ride, and a country buffet were Susan Miller, vice president/editorial; Frank Shepherd, vice president/operations, his wife, Beth, and son, Ben.

Also, Tony Delmonico, corporate director/circulation, his wife, Vivian; Tim Stautberg, marketing/circulation assistant, and his wife, Katherine.

- Caption: PHOTOArtist Tom Gaither looks over one his paintings with Sylvia Ruh and Ruth Brown, organizers of St. Elizabeth Medical Center Auxiliary/Volunteers "White Tent Affair." Joe Munson, The Kentucky Post
- Memo: Column Alice Kennelly Roberts, a retired teacher and writer, writes this column on people and social events weekly in The Kentucky Post.

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POLITICAL NOTES - MCBEE HOSTS 17TH BASH FOR CHARITIES

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Former state Rep. Bill McBee will host his 17th-annual Bean Bash Saturday, Oct. 12, at Turfway Park.

Political figures and celebrities will attend, including U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford and Melissa Ebert, Mrs. Kentucky USA.

As in past years, all proceeds will go to the Boone Adult Workshop, Kids Helping Kids and Redwood School. This year's goal for the charities is \$30,000.

Entertainment will include music by Ebby and the Southern Comfort Band, pantomime by master of ceremonies Charlie Riley and an auction. Prizes to be raffled include a sea cruise.

Events will begin at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3. Senior citizens admitted free.

Don Bell, Republican candidate for state treasurer, has challenged his Democratic opponent, Frances Jones Mills, to debate their qualifications for office.

Bell served 20 years with the U.S.

Secret Service and six with the FBI.

"I am willing to compare Frances Jones Mills' qualifications to mine at any time and anywhere," he said.

"My opponent's record is the perfect example of everything a public servant should not be. She is a self-serving, power-hungry politician of the past."

Jed Deters, candidate for Kenton District Court judge, will hold a rally at Oldenberg Brewery on Monday, Oct. 28. Tickets for the 7 to 8:30 p.m. event are \$10 each or \$20 a family. Children are welcome.

A forum for candidates for New

port City Commission will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 23 at Newport Jr. High School. The school is at Eighth and Columbia streets. The public is invited to question the candidates. All five commission seats, including the mayor's office, are being contested in the Nov. 5 general election. The forum is sponsored by the Two Rivers Two Neighborhood Association.

A fund-raiser for Covington City Commission candidate Jim Eggemeier will be held from 5-7:30 this evening at the Devou Park Golf and Tennis Building.

Tickets are \$10 each.

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ANNUAL BEAN BASH PAYS OFF FOR 2,000

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - October 14, 1991

- Author/Byline: JACK HICKS, KENTUCKY POST STAFF REPORTER
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- Page: 7A

It was a day for legumes and loot at the 17th Bean Bash at Turfway Park Saturday.

Legumes, more familiarly known hereabouts as beans, were consumed in great quantities by the more than 2,000 people at the charity event. Those people also dipped into their purses and pockets to support charities to the tune of some \$30,000, estimated Bill McBee, originator of the bash. The event also meant loot to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Marsh of Florence. The Kentucky Lottery, one of the bash's corporate sponsors, sold scratch-off lottery tickets at the event.

The Marsh Family bought a ticket with a \$10,000 payoff, according to McBee.

The Bean Bash also will benefit the Boone Adult Workshop, Kids Helping Kids and

Redwood School.

Promoters won't determine the exact amount of proceeds

for a few days, McBee said.

But he expects to raise more than the goal of \$30,000.

Attendance may have been slightly less than a year ago, when McBee estimated it to be the event's largest throng ever.

The crowd Saturday included U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford, 4th District Congressman Jim Bunning and numerous candidates for state and local offices.

A former state representative, McBee always has emphasized that the bash is non-political and for charity, but many political candidates and activists regularly attend.

As in past years, the bean cook was Forrest Harmon of Florence, who cooked up 350 pounds of white navy beans.

"People say they just keep tasting better every year," McBee said.

Along with the lottery, other corporate sponsors were Turfway Park, Waco Oil Co., First Commercial Realty and Campbell County Chevrolet.

- Caption: PHOTOBean Bash originator Bill McBee chats with Cheryl Wood. Darlene Coe ladles at an even pace to keep the line flowing at the Bean Bash. Tem House of Independence provides entertainment with his juggling, far right, and Pam Thompson of Florence adds her singing to the festive fund-raiser. Money raised at the annual event benefits the Boone Adult Workshop, Kids Helping Kids and Redwood School. Terry Duennes, The Kentucky Post

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CLUB SEEKS DONATIONS FOR EYE TESTS

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The Florence Lions Club is collecting donations for programs that include eye-screening tests for students and food and clothing for the needy.

The club's annual White Cane Drive will continue through the holiday season. Donations will be solicited door to door and in front of the Thriftway supermarket, Wal-Mart and Sam's Wholesale Club in Florence.

Among other things, the White Cane Drive supports the club's eyesight and hearing programs.

Specific projects include eye-screening tests for students at Boone County Schools and St. Paul School in Florence; food, clothing and money for needy families in Boone County; Kids Helping Kids; Trooper Island; Boone County Youth Soccer; the Special Olympics; Blind Youth Camp; Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Boone County High School substance abuse programs.

Donations may be mailed to the Florence Lions Club at P.O. Box 522, Florence, Ky., 41022-0522.

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COVINGTON CHILDREN'S HOME DEDICATES NEW COTTAGES

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A heavy downpour failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the many guests who descended upon the Children' Home of Northern Kentucky Dec. 2 to dedicate and tour the new cottages on the Covington hilltop next to Devou Park.

Each cottage has six semi-private bedrooms, bathrooms and showers, kitchen and dining facilities, laundry and housekeeping areas, recreation room, treatment rooms and staff offices. Ten or twelve residents will be housed in each cottage. Two cottages have been completed.

"Cottages allow us to have a more family-like setting in which the children can live," said David Olds, executive director of the Children's Home. "We hope the children who are victims of family conflict or abuse can develop a sense of safety and security, which will help them to work out the issues which brought them here in the first place."

Richard H. Tapke, Jr., president of the board of the Children's Home, opened the dedicatory program, and was followed by Dr. Stephen Riser, pastor of Lakeside Presbyterian Church, who gave the invoca

tion. Key speaker was Earl Kreisa, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Northern Kentucky. His remarks focused on the need for such a facility and the importance of preserving and strengthening family units.

A plaque, dedicated to the late James C. Ware, legal counsel for the home and honorary co-chairman of the fund-raising campaign for the cottages, was displayed, prior to permanent placement in a suitable location. The other honorary co-chairman was Ralph V. Haile Jr.

Dr. and Mrs. Edward R.

Elicker were general co-chairmen of the fund-raising effort. About \$740,000 of the \$2 million goal has been pledged.

Robert Edmiston and Clancy McCurdy will head the capital campaign committee as it continues to raise funds to complete the project. Phase II calls for the construction of another cottage and the renovation of the main building, once used as an orphanage. Bluegrass Land

Mary E. Wharton of Lexington, retired chairwoman of bio

logical and earth sciences at Georgetown College, lived long enough to see her beautiful new book, "Bluegrass Land and Life," released by the University Press of Kentucky Nov. 16; then died Nov. 28 at her Lexington home.

Co-author of the book was Roger W. Barbour, retired professor of zoology at the University of Kentucky. Both Ms. Wharton and Barbour were active in efforts to preserve Kentucky's natural heritage, and the book is rich in colored illustrations.

Both were named "Distinguished Scientist of Kentucky" by the Kentucky Academy of Science. They were the first two people designated as outstanding naturalists by the Kentucky Society of Natural History.

They also are co-authors of "A Guide to the Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky," and "Trees and Shrubs of Kentucky." Their last book, "Bluegrass Land and Life" has a list price in hardback of \$40. It may be ordered from the University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. 40508-4008.

Hospice volunteers

St. Elizabeth Medical Center' Home Health/Hospice division extended its service to residents of Grant County Nove. 18. The Home Hospice Program provides care for terminally ill patients and families in the comfort and familiarity of their own home.

"The final weeks and months of life are an incredibly precious time," said Chris Carle, administrator of Grant County Hospital. "We are gratified that St. Elizabeth has made the service available to Grant County."

Although St. Elizabeth will provide the health professionals, volunteers will be needed from Grant County. People interested in learning about being a Hospice volunteer for the new Grant County program, should call (606) 292-4040. Pat Cahill is Hospice volunteer coordinator. She may be reached at (606) 292-4436.

Birthing center

St. Luke Hospital West will have open house at its new Birthing Center from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Continuous entertainment will be provided with tours of the center, door prizes, face painting, fingerprinting of children, visit with Santa, and holiday food. Baby contests will be held with prizes for the curliest hair, baldest head, chubbiest cheeks, baby crawl race, and baby/ parent look-alikes.

For further information and times of baby contests, phone 525-5263 or 572-3277.

White Cane Drive

The Florence Lions Club has kicked off its 1991 White Cane Drive.

During the holiday season, members will collect money in front of Thriftway Supermarket, Wal-Mart, and Sam's Club in Florence. They also will canvass neighborhoods.

The White Cane Drive supports the eyesight and hearing programs of the club. Last year, the club screened more than 2,000 students at Boone County Schools, and St. Paul's School for eyesight problems. If the families could not afford glasses, the club purchased them.

They also handled more than 100 hearing cases, providing hearing aids where needed. Other support went to Kids Helping Kids for drug education; Trooper Island, a state police program for children; Boone County Youth Soccer; Special Olympics; Blind Youth Camp; Boone County High School substance abuse programs; Mothers Against Drunk Driving; and food and clothing for needy families.

Donations may be sent to Florence Lions Club, P.O. Box 522, 1991 White Cane Drive, Florence, Ky. 41022-0522. Joe Aulette is president of the Florence Lions Club. Ray Fleischel is chairman of the 1991 White Cane Drive.

- Caption: PHOTOEarl Kreisa, executive director of the Mental Health Association of Northern Kentucky, dedicates the new children's home cottages. Terry Duennes, The Kentucky Post
- Memo: Column Alice Kennelly Roberts, a retired teacher and writer, writes this column on people and social events weekly in The Kentucky Post.
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A FATHER'S GIFT - VILLA HILLS AUTHOR BRINGS SANTA TO JESUS' CRIB

Kentucky Post, The (Covington, KY) (Published as The Kentucky Post) - December 18, 1991

- Author/Byline: HOLLY JO HIGHTCHEW, KENTUCKY POST STAFF REPORTER
- Edition: KENTUCKY
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Joyce Prewitt had kept her Christmas story a secret for 25 years.

When her youngest daughter graduated from high school, Mrs. Prewitt decided to record the story for her family. She never planned to write a book for children of all ages. But, that's just what she did.

"Father's Gift," takes a heavenly look at the creation of Santa Claus and the birth of Jesus.

"I had the concept for the story before I started writing the book," said Mrs. Prewitt, of Villa Hills. "It was over a span of 25 years that I began piecing the story together in my mind.

"I wanted to find a way to put Santa Claus at the crib," she said. "I wanted to make Santa Claus a gift from God."

Mrs. Prewitt said so many people have trouble putting the birth of Jesus and Santa Claus together. "I wanted to write a story that wouldn't offend anyone, but would make them ask, 'Could it have really been this way?'"

The result of Mrs. Prewitt's efforts is a 29-page hardback children's book filled with illustrations.

When Mrs. Prewitt sent her book off to a New York publisher, she told herself not to get discouraged when the manuscript came back with a rejection letter.

To her surprise, it arrived in the mail eight days later with a letter of acceptance.

"I hadn't even told my husband I was writing the story," Mrs. Prewitt said. "I had wanted it to be a surprise."

Her book was a surprise to the entire family, especially when they read within the pages characters that described them all perfectly.

"The characters in the book are my husband, my three children, and other close family members," Mrs. Prewitt said.

Mrs. Prewitt wrote the book in celebration of her 25th wedding anniversary as a gift to her husband, Dr. Gerald

Prewitt.

The author also said inspirations for the book came from her work with Kids Helping Kids, an group that helps children with drug and alcohol problems. Mrs. Prewitt has worked with Kids Helping Kids for 11 years.

The Villa Hills author will read and autograph her book at 7 p.m. Thursday in the lower center court at Florence Mall. "Father's Gift" is being sold at area Waldenbooks for \$6.95.

Ft. Thomas native Gerald Toner has written a family Christmas novel this year, "Whittlesworth Comes to Christmas."

It follows a 1990 collection of short stories surrounding the holiday season, titled "Lipstick Like Lindsay's and Other Christmas Stories."

Toner, a 1968 Highlands High School graduate, now lives in Louisville, where he is a partner in Ogden, Sturgill and Welch Law Firm.

Although "Whittlesworth Comes to Christmas" was released this year, Toner's Whittlesworth character has evolved since 1967, the year he wrote his first story for the Highlands High School newspaper.

Short stories from "Lipstick Like Lindsay's" have been printed in the "Saturday Evening Post" and "Redbook," the author said.

"Lipstick Like Lindsay's" is perfect for a family wanting to select a Christmas story to read during the holiday season," Toner added.

"Whittlesworth Comes to Christmas," a 143-page hardback book, and "Lipstick Like Lindsay's," a 109-page hardback book filled with 10 short stories, can be purchased at The Blue Marble children's bookstore on Ft. Thomas Avenue, Florence Mall's B. Dalton bookstore, and area Waldenbooks for \$14.95 a copy.

FAX

The Prewitt clan

Author Joyce Prewitt filled her children's Christmas story with characters from her family.

Angel Lady Julie Ann, the soft-spoken problem solver is Mrs. Prewitt's oldest daughter, Julie Ann Schneider, 25, of Independence. She is married with two sons.

Angel Master Todd, the young inquisitive angel, is Mrs. Prewitt's son, Todd Gerald Prewitt, 24, of Villa Hills. He is a medical student at the University of Kentucky.

Angel Miss Teen-ager Lisa Marie, the teen-age angel who rides on rainbows, is Mrs. Prewitt's youngest daughter, Lisa Marie Prewitt, 19, of Villa Hills. She is a junior at Thomas More College. Holy Saint Joshua, keeper of the Treasure Chest of Marvelous Majestic Memories, is Mrs. Prewitt's grandson, Joshua Schneider, 3.

Angel Doctor David, keeper of Earthly Records, is Mrs. Prewitt's son-in-law, Dr. David Schneider, 28, of Independence. He is a teacher at Northern Kentucky University and Thomas More College.

Saint Sir Gerald, wisest of advisers, is Mrs. Prewitt's husband, Dr. Gerald Prewitt, 51, a chemical physicist. Angel Hilda, heavenly seamstress, is Mrs. Prewitt's mother, Hoodie Zurborg, 70, of Latonia.

Angel Marguerite, heavenly seamstress, is Mrs. Prewitt's mother-in-law, Marguerite (Prewitt) Maus, 82, of Newport.

- Caption: PHOTOJoyce PrewittGerald Toner

- Record: KNP121803530260026

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