

Tribune and Crayne gatherings recall community spirit

Each year that goes by the old communities and the families that lived there are more forgotten. What a pleasant time spent for us older generation to recall and remember the way things used to be when we were growing up in these wonderful friendly communities of our youth.

May 1996 Friends remember old times

When the country grocery store at Tribune closed its doors for the last time in 1962, the once tight-knit community grew apart. Folks moved away, new families moved in and neighbors became strangers.

Like many small communities, the country store was the commercial and social hub of the area. People came to the Tribune grocers store, which was owned for many years by Lynn Orr, for gas, lumber, dry goods, shoes, groceries and there was even a feed mill and blacksmith shop out back.

The country store was the center of the universe, or so the folks who lived in the east-central part of the county between the Depression years and the early 1960s.

When the store was thriving, doing as much as \$3,500 in receipts on a good Saturday, the gas station and general store was not only a place to purchase goods, it was also a gathering spot. Charlie Orr, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Orr, operated the store between 1938 and 1957, remembers that business hours were long and on a cold winter's night, men would flock around the heating stove for a friendly game of Rook or Checkers.

Times change and when the store went out of business many of the people who lived in the Tribune area lost touch with one another. That's what spurred the younger generation of Tribune descendants to host a community reunion on the grounds of the old store.

Charlotte (Orr) Mott, Marilyn (McDonald) Holt and Sandra (McDonald) Belt were the first three to begin pushing for the community to hold a reunion.

With a little more inspiration from Lucille Roberts and Charlie and



Crayne Day in 1985 was full of yard sales, vendors and booths from one end of town to the other. Talking and visiting with neighbors and friends was all part of the fun.

Gladis Orr, the plans were drawn, the old store site bush hogged and trimmed and several phone calls and RSVPs were made.

The results were nearly perfect, organizers say, after the first Tribune community reunion held at the well-known crossroads where Ky. 120, Ky. 654 and Copperas Springs Road converge.

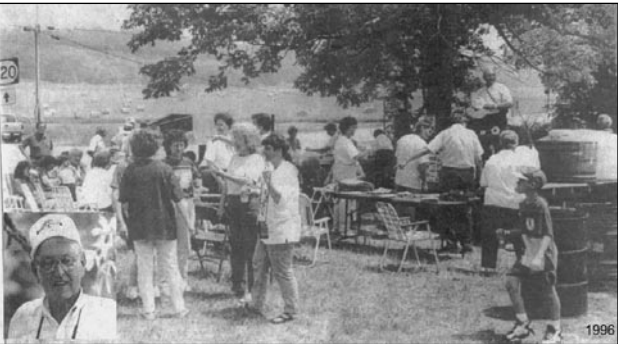
More than 100 residents, former residents and their relatives attended the gathering under a large oak tree. The sun was hot, and it kept the old flames of friendship burning as some folks were reunited after not seeing one another for more than 30 years.

The history of the area was also on everyone's tongues. Charlie Orr grew up in Tribune while his family ran the country store. He saw the community during its prime, when horse drawn wagons would be lined for hundreds of yards waiting to get to the mill to grind their grain into livestock feed.

Across the street from the store was the New Salem or Hills Chapel Church. Just down the road near the Copperas Springs, where mineral water bubbled to the earth's surface, was the community school house. People would come from miles around for a drink of spring water.

The spring always ran the same – never faster, never slower, Charlie Orr said. It ran one gallon per minute.

Orr was just 14 when his parents began operating the store. He even ran it himself for one year, in 1957, after his parents retired. Perry and Mildred McDonald operated the store from 1958 until they closed it for good in 1962 after an auction sale of the inventory. The old structure still stands and while some of the reunion organizers were



Folks gathered under the shade trees at Tribune in 1996 to look at old photos and remember their days living in the Tribune community. In the left corner is the late Charlie Orr enjoying the day with friends.

cleaning up the area they found several antiquated store credit ledgers.

Folks at the reunion flipped through the pages of the old journals and found where they or their ancestors had charged items at the grocery store during the early 1940s. One line on the ledger listed five gallons of gasoline sold to Press Guess for \$1.30.

“We were so surprised we found these old journals,” Sandra Belt said. “I’m surprised they were still here after all these years.”

Belt even found in the ledger entries where her father had purchased a tricycle for her. The cost was \$7.50. She was two years old at the time.

Family names that lived in the Tribune community during the middle of the century are still familiar here – Hunt, Orr, McDonald, Travis, Roberts, Hurst, Drennan, Hillyard – and most of them were at the reunion.

Charlie Orr said it was a shame that despite all the modern conveniences that make life easier, people still tend to find less time to visit with our neighbors. (The remains of the old Tribune grocery store was torn down in the mid 1990s.)

Wonderful Crayne Days of Yesteryear

The first Crayne Day meeting was held in the lobby of the post office. This was in 1984. The idea was proposed by postmaster and lifelong local resident Rose Ann (Stalion) Bebout.

Rose Ann thought it would be a good way for neighbors and the community to get together and have a fun day and

visit with everyone. When she mentioned the idea to her friend and neighbor Peggy Malcom, it was a hit and they immediately started to work on their plan. Several group meetings with the interested residents of Crayne took place at the Post Office to make plans and find ways to let people near and far know about this very special day.

There would be yard sales, bake sales, craft booths, and specialty items booths were invited to attend and sit up. Folks that like to swap and trade knife collections or other items were also invited to attend and show their collections. There would be different home-town foods for sale, if you got hungry during the day, and to end this fun filled day would be some special singing groups for everyone to enjoy.

It wasn't long until Crayne Day had become a huge hit and was a much looked forward to yearly event. It was always the first Saturday

in June.

Out of town residents of the Crayne community would plan their vacation at this time so they could be here on this day. For some out of town Crayne folks it would be a three-day homecoming event. On Friday night would be the Crayne Cemetery Fish-fry, then on Saturday the big Crayne Day, to walk up and down the little community and reunite with old friends and neighbors. Then Sunday would be the U.S.A. Presbyterian Church homecoming where many of the visitors and community residents had attended church for many years.

The highway from the top of Crayne hill where you exited the community hosted, yard sales, vendors, food sales, and people would be lined on both sides of the highway. A favorite item everyone wanted was one of Ruby Frantz's homemade fried apple pies. Ruby sold them for \$1 each, and they sure didn't last

long. People still talk about them and wish for one today.

Time and events have a way of changing things, and such it was with Crayne Day. The 2000 tornado that devastated our little community also hurt some of the spirit that had created Crayne Day. It never was the same after this and the annual event was called off for several years.

Most all the former residents who helped and enjoyed those first days have passed away, their houses now are homes to different families and only a few of the original family members are left in the community.

Wanting to keep the history alive, the late James Robert Dorroh, organized the last Crayne Day for June 5, 2009. It would be the 25th anniversary of that first Crayne Day in June 1984.

Although there was only a scattering of people there with only a few yard sales, it was an enjoyable morning for those of us that attended.

We miss those days of yesteryear.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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2026

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May 19, 2026

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Dear Valued Clients, Friends, and Family,

As I prepare to retire on October 1, I want to take a moment to thank each of you who have been a part of my journey. Looking back, I see a lifetime of work, beginning when I was just 12 years old. For 55 years, with the last 50 spent working solely on commission sales, I have been blessed beyond measure by the kindness and trust of so many people.

My career path has been shaped by wonderful opportunities and experiences. In 1970, I started at Charlie Hodge's Westside Market. One of my most rewarding experiences was working the farm driving a tractor for H.B. Phillips. By 1974 at age 16, I was working at Beavers Brothers Texaco, followed by R.F. Brown Chevrolet and J.R. Chevrolet in 1975. In 1984, I joined Trice Hughes Chevrolet, and in 2004 I began this chapter with Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance. Each step has brought me relationships, challenges, and blessings that I will never forget.

Through it all, my wife Linda has been my greatest supporter. For nearly all of these 50 years in commission sales, she has stood beside me, encouraging me, believing in me, and sharing the ups and downs that come with this kind of work. I am deeply grateful for her unwavering love and partnership.

To my friends, customers, and colleagues: thank you for the kindness you've shown me through the years. Serving you has been an honor. Your support has not only sustained my career but enriched my life in countless ways.

And above all, I want to thank God. It has been such a blessing to walk this path, and I know I could not have done it without His guidance and grace. He has truly been good to me, and I give Him all the praise for the experiences and relationships I have been fortunate enough to share with you.

As I close this chapter and step into retirement, I carry with me gratitude, memories, and faith. Thank you again for allowing me to be part of your lives for so many years.

Sincerely,
Ricky Brown

Community Calendar

Call (270) 965-3191 to share your organization's meetings in this free, weekly community calendar.

- Thursday, Sept. 25**
- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- Friday, Sept. 26**
- Food Distribution will be from 8 a.m.-noon at Crittenden County Food Bank located at 402 N. Walker St. in Marion.
 - Crittenden County Friends of the Library will have a book sale at the Crittenden County Library from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Marion, KY 42064

NOTICE OF PASSAGE
AND
SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 25-15 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE TAX
LEVY FOR THE YEAR OF 2025

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at its special called meeting held on September 17, 2024 , at 5:00 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at a regular called meeting of the City Council held on September 15, 2025, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

This Ordinance levies an ad valorem tax on each One Hundred Dollar of Fair Cash value of the below listed property in the City of Marion, Kentucky:

\$.2290 per One Hundred Dollar	Real Property
\$.2710 per One Hundred Dollar	Personal Property
\$.2290 per One Hundred Dollar	Public Utilities
\$.229 per One Hundred Dollar	Motor Vehicles
\$.229 per One Hundred Dollar	Motor Boats

These assessments are due by November 1, 2025. If paid after a 25% penalty will be assessed. and shall bear interest at the rate of ten per cent (10%) per annum.

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk in the City Building, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

PREPARED BY:

/s/ Robert B. Frazer
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September 22, 2025