

# Precious

stand.”

The Church of the Nativity, as it is called, was originally commissioned in 327 by Constantine and his mother Helena. The original basilica was completed in 339 and destroyed by fire during the Samaritan Revolts in the 6th century. A new basilica was built in 565 by Justinian, the Byzantine Emperor, restoring the architectural tone of the original.

The site of the Church of the Nativity has had numerous addi-

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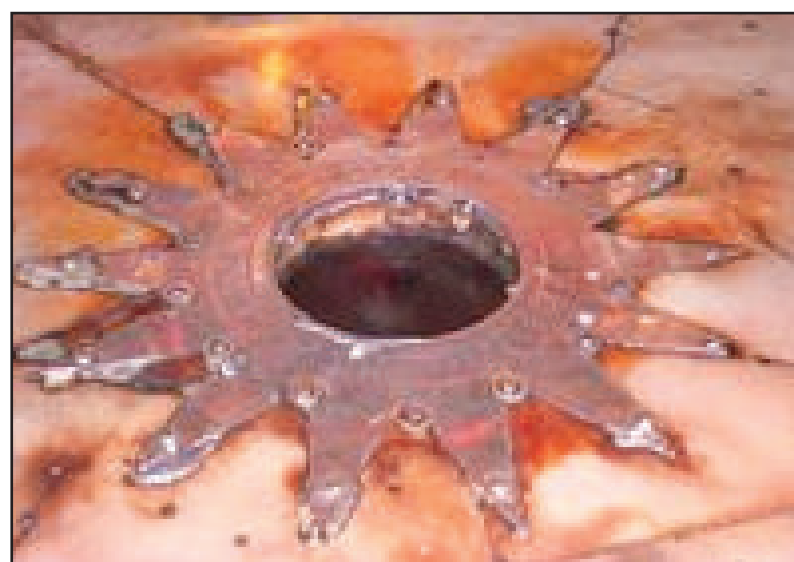
INGRAM

tions since this second construction, including its prominent bell towers. Many peoples have occupied this place, of which I won't elaborate.

Due to its cultural and geographical history, the site holds a prominent religious significance to those of both the Christian and Muslim faiths. It is a big church, and three churches worshiped there regularly at that time in 1969, when

I was there, the Greek Orthodox, the Catholic and the Armenian Churches.

A door to the side of the pulpit took us down some stairs to the cave where Jesus was born. Remember, there isn't much wood around this area. I had always thought when the Bible mentioned the "Wilderness of Judea," that it meant a forest of trees like we have.



The Star of Bethlehem.

Photo Submitted

# Personal

Fiesta has been created in 47 different colors.

But this sickly, dead white isn't one of them. Don't feel bad, these have fooled many collectors, rookies and seasoned alike.

It was the color that first drew a red flag for me. The color is just off and nothing—nothing—like the ivory produced by Homer Laughlin. It's just a knock-off that was likely made for a flea market type venue.

Now, if these had been the

original tripod candlesticks in the red, cobalt or the ivory they would have been valued, in a retail environment, for about \$400 a pair.

The other original colors would fetch about \$250 a pair. Even in the Bloomingdale's editions they would sell for about \$40.

But yours are going to be valued, at around \$15. They still have that cool looking shape, so don't be afraid to use them and enjoy them.

Thanks for sharing them with us.

(Jerry Sampson is owner of J. Sampson Antiques, Books and Appraisals on Harrodsburg's Main Street. A native of Mercer County, he has been collecting, selling and appraising antiques for several years.)



SAMPSON

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# Collier

he managed an SEC Coach of the Year honor in 1954 with a 7-3 record. But, there was one honor he won in 1959 that may never be duplicated. After losing to LSU 9-0 in 1959, he was named SEC Coach of the Week. His Wildcats held All-American Billy Cannon to 11 yards rushing. This would be a great trivia question.

By today's standards Collier's teams would have played in several bowls, but during those years there were only six or seven that drew any interest at all. Today there must be at least a hundred, even to the point of considering teams with losing records.

But not then.

Collier assembled a coaching staff at Kentucky that would later become a "Who's Who" in the profession. Of the eight, including Collier, all went on to have success in the NFL, five of them becoming head coaches. Ed Rutledge became a scout; Howard Schnellenberger, Baltimore Colts; Ermal Allen, assistant at the Dallas Cowboys; Don Shula, Colts; John North, head coach New Orleans Saints; Bob Cumings, assistant at the Saints; Bill Arnsparger, head coach New York Giants; and Chuck Knox, head coach Los Angeles Rams. Knox was even named NFL Coach of the Year his first season.

Two weeks after Collier was fired, he was hired by legendary Paul Brown to be his top assistant in Cleveland. Two years later he had become head coach, and in 1964, while still being paid by the University of Kentucky, he led the Browns to the NFL title. Just as he had done at Kentucky, he coached eight years in Cleveland, leaving with a sterling 76-34-2 record.

Collier paid his dues in the coaching profession. After graduating from Georgetown College he returned to his hometown and began a coaching career at Paris High school in 1924, first in basketball, where he compiled a 373-141 record and four trips to High School State Tournament over 20 years. His 16 years of football coaching

led to an overall record of 73-50-10.

In 1944, Collier joined the Navy at the age of 37 because it was the patriotic thing to do. With football team rosters depleted by the war effort, the only coaching job he left behind was basketball.

Paris resident Betsy Kuster recalled that her dad, Eddie Reynolds, took over the basketball team.

"My daddy worked in a nearby school system, but agreed to come over to Paris and coach basketball when Blanton left," she said. "Everyone in town knew he'd come back when the war was over, but he didn't."

It was at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago that he met Paul Brown for the first time. Two years later when Brown was hired to jump start the Cleveland Browns in pro football, he brought Collier along as his assistant.

From 1946 to 1953, Collier was a big part of the team's success as it won the NFL title in 1950, and lost in the championship games the following three years.

Collier was given much credit for the development of Hall of Fame quarterback Otto Graham, as well as creating a player grading system that is still used in part today.

So when Bryant departed, UK didn't have to look far to find his replacement.

Collier's successes were well known, and on occasion he would do some scouting for Adolph Rupp's basketball team. There were even some closed door discussions that Collier's name was in the mix to replace Rupp, should he not be able to survive the scandal that cast a dark shadow on the program in the late 40s and early 50s.

During his eight years, Collier coached several All-Americans including Steve Meilinger, Howard Schnellenberger, Lou Michaels, Irv Goode and Calvin Bird.

As memories fade with each passing day, coaches and players are now microwaved at such a break-neck speed, it's difficult to latch on to what they are about. Collier's

major successes came through football, and his achievements as a basketball coach have almost been lost.

To further show that Collier's basketball coaching history had slipped through the cracks, former UK basketball coach Joe B. Hall said, he had no idea Blanton even coached basketball.

"I had never heard of it before now," Hall recently said. "His record at Paris shows he must have been a heck of a coach."

Roy Kidd, the former hall of fame football coach at Eastern Kentucky University, also didn't know of Collier's basketball coaching success.

"When I was a high school football coach in Richmond, I'd go over to Lexington for some of his clinics," Kidd recalled. "He always found time for me even one-on-one. He'd draw up some plays on the blackboard for me. Coach Collier always seemed to share his time."

Collier's name and what he accomplished is very much relevant today. His memory should not be lost, and to make sure it's not, look no further than the record books in Kentucky prep coaching, UK football and the NFL Cleveland Browns. It was a while back, but Collier made sure in 1964 that Cleveland rocked.

Collier died in March of 1983 at the age of 76. He and close friend Bill Arnsparger, another Paris native and former NFL head coach, are buried in Paris.

There's no excuse. Get up, get out, and get going!

(Editor's Note: Gary P. West wrote extensively about the Gregorys in his book "Kentucky Colonels... the Real Story of a Team Left Behind. He can be contacted at west1488@twc.com)



WEST

# A Brief History of the Alexander and Royalty Funeral Home

By Jacob Sanders  
Contributing Writer

A fine house made out of red brick fired on location, an exemplary example of a blend between Victorian and Golden Age architecture, is the first impression one has when they spy Alexander and Royalty Funeral Home, perched near the rail road tracks on East Lexington Street.

Though construction of it began around 1872, it was not finished for another six years, probably due to the care needed to make such a quaint and refined home. Features include stained glass windows visible from the front, hardwood flooring, a large mirror purchased in the late 19th century in New Orleans, several fireplaces, and a library.

This building was originally meant as a home for Jesse and Lucy Newton Cogar. Together they owned Cogar Feed Grain and Coal Company, once located on the aptly named Cogar Avenue, where the brick yard is presently.

Mrs. Cogar was a descendent

of Isaac Shelby, the first governor of Kentucky. Cogar's father was a captain of the river boat Fannie Freeze in the Brooklyn community.

Though the length of the Cogars' stay in this house is unknown, what is known is that several families have lived in it between them and when J.C. Royalty and Charles Alexander bought it in 1931 as a new location for their funeral home and as an actual home for Charles.

It was in 1968 that Larry Sanders, one of the current owners of the funeral home, joined the staff, some 14 years after the death of both Alexander and Royalty. When he came into full ownership of the funeral home he carried on the tradition and lived upstairs for several years. Nothing now occupies the said location other than an office.

Due to it being a commercial building, it can be a difficult endeavor to maintain its originality, a feat that one can see has been greatly mastered if they were to enter this old and historic business.

# McAfee

From page 2

that capacity until 1929 when she became the county superintendent. Since that time, with the exception of one year, Mrs. T.G. Harned has been the principal.

In (1927?) another forward step was taken when, for the first time in the county, the teaching of vocational agriculture was introduced. This position, since 1927, has been held by T.G. Harned. Also, at this time, additional rooms were added and the auditorium was enlarged and improved.

During the summer of 1935 plans were completed for the erection of a splendid gymnasium containing a beautiful stage and two class rooms. Construction was carried out in the fall and winter and, now, the McAfee School and community may again be proud of improved educational facilities.

It is of interest to note that, since its construction in 1923, the McAfee High School has gradu-

ated approximately 150 students. Of that number, one third have continued their training in college, nurse's training, business schools, or some other specialized form.

The school likes to feel that it also helps to build good citizens who are not specialists and it would remember many among its former students who, having completed high school, have taken their place as homemakers and substantial citizens.

So to a history so deserving honor and credit, we pay tribute and voice the sentiment that it behooves the school and community of today to add its share of merit to a glorious past.

McAfee School Faculty: High School—Alice C. Harned, Principal; T.G. Harned, Rebecca Long, and Carlos Ezra Jones. Elementary School—Myrtle B. Watts, Beatrice Sims, Katherine D. McBeath, and Louise Lapsley.

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The Herald reserves the right to accept, reject and/or edit all submissions.