

# 40330 At Home

By Lois Mateus

Dr. Tammy Hoskins has been making her Harrodsburg Eye Center home at 40330 for almost 28 years. A native of Casey County, Tammy chose Main Street in Harrodsburg for her eye care practice back in 1990. Below, she reflects on all these years and tells us a bit more about herself and what motivates her day to day.

**You had just graduated from Western Kentucky University and Southern College of Optometry in Memphis Tennessee, ready to start a practice, what brought you to Harrodsburg?** Dr. Avery Hill and I bought a practice from Dr. John McCann which was located across the street from the current C&T market. It was so small that we needed a larger space in order to accommodate more patients. We met Ralph and Ruth Anderson who had just purchased the wonderful Blue Front Building at 201 South Main Street where my practice is today. The building had been condemned and was going to be torn down had it not been for the generosity of the Anderson's. Ralph and Ruth were truly my angels sent from heaven. My oldest child, Spencer Anderson, now 21-years-old was named in honor of their kindness to me.

**What was Main Street like in those days?** I remember everyone being so friendly and genuinely caring about others. I would go to the Blue Ribbon Deli for lunch, eating Sue and Granny Gilvin's chicken salad with fruit plate. I ate that everyday! I can remember having a sore throat one day when they served me hot tea with honey trying to help me feel better. It always seemed the same crowd would be there having lunch: Jackie Freeman, Skip and Joy Stocker, Bill Randolph, Will and Ann Harriet Dedman and many others. Then, everyone would meet back for a coffee break around 3:00-3:30. While I didn't get to break away for the 30 minute coffee breaks, I would greet them if I ran in to get a quick

afternoon drink of water or ice tea.

**How has it changed?** I just think our lives get more and more busy and we sometimes overlook the important things, the simple things that in the long run bring us so much more pleasure and happiness.

**What is your primary motivation?** No question about this; it is my children Spencer Anderson Sabharwal, age 21, and Kennedy Alexis Sabharwal, age 18. They are my everything! They are such great children and always make me so very proud.

**As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?** I can still remember the night I jumped out of bed and ran down the steps to tell my parents I would become an eye doctor! I was seven years old at the time. I never wavered after that, I set my goal and went after it. The only other thing I ever even gave thought to was becoming a movie star. If only Goldie Goldsmith and her brother Ron Browning had been teaching talent lessons when I was a little girl, perhaps I could've made that dream come true (smile).

**Any mentors along the way?** My parents have always been my mentors and biggest fans. Growing up, they always supported any dream

my sister or I had. They ingrained in us that family was everything, and without family you really have nothing. They also showed us that hard work doesn't hurt anyone.

They would tell us that just because we came from a small town was no reason we couldn't have things other children in larger cities and bigger schools had; that the only thing that could limit us was nega-



Photo Submitted  
**Dr. Tammy Hoskins had made Main Street the home of her business, Harrodsburg Eye Center, for 28 years.**

tive thoughts. They told us that if we dreamed big enough, and were willing to work hard we could do anything we wanted. Moreover, they were always there for us. I can still remember when I was a cheerleader at Western, and I would look up in

the crowd to see my parents cheering me on! I didn't care about anyone else watching me in that crowded 15,000 seat arena, I was just excited to see my mom and dad! They would drive three and a half hours to watch me cheer at every home game, getting back home at one in the morning, sleep a few hours, and get up and head back to work. Simple things like this are what make a child feel loved and empowered.

**What was your best subject in school?** Science. **And your worst?** English.

**Do you believe in luck?** Absolutely. My dad is the luckiest person I know.

**Got a motto or message to your inner self?** Pretty is, as pretty does. My grandmother taught me this phrase at a very early age. It is one of the first things I taught my daughter when she began to speak in sentences.

**I have read of your pro bono work. Got a comment about helping others?** I try to live by Proverbs 11:25 and Matthew 7:12

**What's your favorite snack?** Gummi Bears.

**Can you cook?** No, but my daughter cooks like a gourmet chef; I have learned a lot from her.

**On your bedside table?** Always

fresh flowers. Flowers make me happy. And then there's my bible, a glass of water and my favorite eye drops, of course!

**Are you a morning or evening person?** Definitely morning.

**Best ever vacation?** Abroad, it's Venice Italy. In this country, Hawaii.

**Five words that best describe you:** Positive, precise, professional, practical and particular.

**If you had a lot of money to burn, how would you spend it?** Helping others just the way Ralph and Ruth Anderson reached out to help people, expecting nothing in return.

**What never fails to make you laugh?** A good "Brady Bunch" rerun.

**What phrase or words do you overuse the most?** Bless your heart.

**Tell us why we should take care of our eyes:** Our eyes tell so much about our overall body health. Things like diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and thyroid disease sometimes show up in our eyes before we even realize we have a problem. Therefore, even if you feel like you don't need glasses, everyone should have routine eye exams to keep their eyes healthy.

*(Editor's Note: Mercer native Lois Mateus is chair of advisory board of the University of Kentucky's Institute of Rural Journalism and Community Issues, on the board of Centre College President's Council. She lives on a farm near Mayo with her husband, Tim Peters.)*



MATEUS

## Life on the Farm: COUNTRY STORES



By Randy Grider  
Contributing Writer

Travelling through Salvisa, one day my Ford almost like an alien intervention was drawn to Main Street, coming to rest in front of an old, but still surprisingly sound looking building. Unchanged, looking the same it did in the 1980s, but windows darkened, and no signs of life, the author exited the steel steed to examine a part of his past. It was Dickerson's General Merchandise, run by proprietor Jimmy Dickerson, and his wife, name of which I never knew.

This was taking me back to the days when I had just graduated High School, and was milking cows for a dairy on Cole Lane. My employer frequently sent me to Dickerson's for farm supplies, and Booth's Ashland for any tire repairs and fuel.

Dickerson had it all, fence, feed, posts, gates, barbed wire, all around back, and inside the dimly lit high ceiling of the building, ancient ceiling fans slowly turned, not like a airplane propeller new ones do, but just a slow lazy turn, just enough to tease you with a hope of a breeze. The front door would be a wood screen door, the kind that creak on opening, and slam loudly when released, a simple return spring being the reason. Walking into Dickerson's was like walking back into the 1920s. The rough, dark stained wooden floors moaned and creaked with every step. The ceiling was high, and covered with a type of tin that had a square design on it. Dickerson's had clothes, and they too looked to be from the 1920s. Farmer clothes, the striped bibs that the old timers still wore in the 1980s, rugged work boots, bolts of printed cloth and patterns for the

old time farm wives to make their own dresses from. A meat case was probably the most modern equipment in Jimmy's facility, but alas, it and the pop case were his only hint of 20th century modern conveniences, and they too appeared archaic. A ham sandwich and soft drink would be my usual order, and out came the butcher knife, Jimmy refusing to knuckle in and purchase a meat slicer. As many years as Jimmy used a butcher knife you would think he could do it with precision, but it usually turned out huge thick chunks of meat that would choke a grizzly. You did not eat this sandwich as much as just gnaw it down to a swallowable chunk.

Another periodic purpose was Tingley rubber boots that pulled on over my work boots, a necessity on a dairy farm, and since I never liked wearing wrist watches, a bullseye pocket watch. The boots were thin, and would tear easily, and the watch quality was poor, loudly ticking, and badly made, you had to reset time every day, and replace the entire watch about every four months. The entire purchase was then settled up at the giant, ornate cash register, that resembled a bank vault with ornate designs, Jimmy punching the keys firmly, I'm sure from necessity to make it function.

My favorite country store was B+S in Mayo, owned and operated by Jimmy Burns, and Wallace Sheperson, two people that will always hold a special place in my heart. After relocating to Central Pike at 20 years old I had my own dairy partnership, and all the bills, headaches, work, and low income that goes with it. Back then, credit was asked for and given freely. I

ran an account all year, and paid it off when the tobacco crop sold. Groceries and gas were on that account. I truly believe if not for Jimmy and Wallace allowing this I may well have starved. B+S did this for many, and some took advantage of their generosity, money they never got. Years later I visited the store and Wallace told me, "Your the only one never beat me out of it." I can take pride in that quote and will never forget it.

Wallace is long passed, but Jimmy is still around, and I see him weekly at my place of employment. Rarely do I get to talk with him much, but I owe him a lot. At least an occasional steak dinner.

I cannot count how many country stores we had back then but about 15 come to mind. Far as I know, Rose Hill is the only one still operating on a full time basis.

After taking a photo of Dickersons, next stop is Dollar General Store in Salvisa. They have everything at a cheap price, a veritable mini Walmart.

But do they? Something is missing. No Fence, barbed wire or post. Good luck finding calf milk replacer there. No Tingley rubber boots or Redwing shoes. I'm sure they probably have digital watches made in China, but no loud ticking American made bullseye pocket watches that keep terrible time. The storekeeper is most likely a different person every week, and they care about nothing but quitting time. No butcher knifed ham sandwich, no creaking rough floors, no slamming wood screen door.

I want to go back, at least for a visit.

*(Randy Grider has been a resident of Mercer county since age 10. He lives in the Burgin area on a small farm with his wife. They have three grown children and five grandchildren. He is employed by Kentucky Utilities at the E.W. Brown Generating Station as a plant operator. His passions are gardening, hiking, bow hunting, archery and fishing.)*



GRIDER

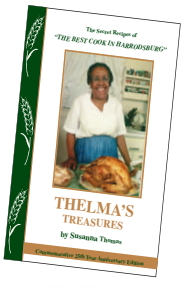


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A photo of the current Dickerson General Store in Salvisa.

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