

Greensburg-Green County A proud past — A promising future Way Back When

1961 – A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new City Sewage Disposal Treatment Plant at the end of First Street

By CAROL DIAL
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

May 4, 2011
Tornado hits - A tornado, with winds of 105 mph, left a path of destruction 500 feet wide and 3 miles long from downtown Greensburg to Bluff Boom Road April 27.

Prom Queen and King - Frankie Montgomery and Andrew Akin were crowned 2011 GCHS Prom Queen and King.

PRIDE clean-up - Volunteers were treated to a cookout after removing bags full of trash from city areas.

Greenhouse opens - There was a ribbon cutting ceremony Friday during the Grand Opening of the new 30 foot X 100 feet greenhouse at Central Farmers Supply.

May 2, 2001
Mailboxes vandalized - Approximately 40 mailboxes were destroyed in the Hudgins and Allendale communities.

National Day of Prayer - For fifty years, the National Day of Prayer has been observed in America. The event will be marked locally with a ceremony on the Old Courthouse lawn.

Three injured in wrecks - Carol Jane Milby, James O'Banion and Jordon Milby were treated for injuries sustained in three separate accidents last week.

Judd honored - Mike Judd was named Campbellsville/Taylor County Chamber of Commerce's Member

of the Year.

May 1, 1991
Martin's model wins - GCHS Junior Travis Martin built a scale model replica of the Old Courthouse that took first place in Kentucky Junior Historical Society competition.

Lottery sales - There have been \$739,408 in local sales of lottery tickets in the past two years.

FBLA national competition - Three local Future Business Leaders of America members, Amy Houk, Rebecca Christie and Tammi Simpson, will compete at the National FBLA Competition.

Summershade, Hazel Kessler - This has been a beautiful Spring. The Dogwood and Redbud trees were so pretty.

April 30, 1981
Fire on E. Columbia - A house on East Columbia Avenue, owned by Bob Williamson, was destroyed by fire. Arson is suspected.

Blakeman home - Sixteen-year-old Mark Blakeman is back home after being hospitalized for several months.

Decorating the governor's mansion - Elegant pillows, bedding and upholstery made by Custom House of Greensburg decorate the Lexington home of Gov. and Mrs. John Y. Brown.

Sign for school - Students at the Vocational School have made a sign for the Ebenezer one-room school with the in-

scription "Ebenezer-Our Last One-Room School".

May 6, 1971
Tornadoes hit 7 counties - Tornadoes that roared through seven counties Tuesday night left 10 dead, over 100 injured and an estimated property damage of \$7,850,000. Green County sustained a lot of damage.

Burley quota vote - Green County burley farmers voted in favor of the marketing quota for burley.

Obituaries - Martha E. Judd, 79, April 28; William Showdy Vaughn, 78, April 30; Lonnie Patterson, 75, April 27; T. G. "Tom" Adkins, 82, May 3.

Our Boys in Service - Three young men, Army Private James L. Barnett, Army Private Marshal L. McAllister and Airman William E. Boils recently completed eight weeks of basic training.

May 5, 1961
City clean-up - Next week has been set as Clean-Up and Beautification Week. Citizens are urged to clean up their property.

Ground breaking held - A groundbreaking ceremony was held for the new City Sewage Disposal Treatment Plant at the end of First Street.

Two hospitalized - Kenneth Simpson and Carlos Bagby were hospitalized for treatment after falling into an oil tank.

Little Barren - Now that May is here, we will surely have pretty weather.



Green County jailer, Isaac S. Coffey (seated on left), with his family in front of the county jail, approximately 1905.

Jailhouse History

The Green County jail which previously stood at the present location of the county courthouse endured a century of use before it was destroyed ninety-one years ago.

Town lot 128 was purchased by the County Court in 1830 from George Clark for the purpose of building a new jail that would replace the county's original jail. Henry Sanders was contracted to demolish the old structure and to use any salvaged material in construction of the new two-story limestone jail, which was built with a dungeon and a debtor's room.

For the next 100 years, the jail was used to hold those convicted of minor crimes and who were awaiting trial or even execution. Countless stories could be told about the jail and individuals connected to it throughout the decades.

It is the same jail where infamous Carington Simpson was housed when arrested in March 1840 for the horrific murders of Lucinda White and her family. Simpson's two accomplices, while in their cell, met their end. One man smothered the other before hanging himself. Simpson was executed by hanging in September of 1841.

Isaac S. "Dick" Coffey, a well-known and highly respected man in Greensburg was elected six times as Jailer, serving a total of 24 years in that position as well as town marshal for a period. Shortly after becoming jailer, Coffey allowed a prisoner, Tom Wilkerson, who was charged with obtaining money by means of forgery, to stay in the



Green County Public Library Genealogy
Laura Johnson

debtor's room due to bad health. The area was less secure than a cell and when no one was looking, Wilkerson forced open the door leading downstairs. He walked away but was soon spotted by Dr. A. S. Lewis when passing by his residence. The doctor, armed with a pistol, promptly escorted the man back to the jail.

On a Saturday night in April 1907, Logan Ward, charged with horse stealing, escaped custody. While the jailer was eating his supper, the prisoner pried at the bars on the window, squirmed out the second floor opening, and dropped to the ground below.

Two Green County men admitted setting a fire that destroyed the old county jail in December 1930. Robert Smith and Oscar White were on their way to the penitentiary to serve five years for robbery of the Dulworth and Cowherd store on the public square when they made the confession. They had reportedly found loose papers in their cell, punched a hole in the ceiling,

poked the papers inside, and lit them with a match. The upper floor was quickly engulfed in smoke and flames.

The loss of the old jail was a short term complication for the county which was already badly in need of improved facilities. A decision was made by the Court to construct a new courthouse on the site that would have ample office space for all county officials, a large courtroom, and a modern jail. It was completed October 1931 and marked a new beginning for the court system in Green County.

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Greensburg Guards in Waco, Ky.



Photo submitted

Steven Ray Menefee, a member of the 4th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, participated in a Civil War event at the Flatwood Cemetery in Waco, Ky., Madison County, on April 11. The Sons of the Union Veteran of the Civil War, Sgt. Elijah P. Marrs Camp #5 dedicated a military grave marker on the grave of George T. Grinstead, CO. F. 8th Kentucky Infantry, 1843-1917. In 1906 Grinstead was elected commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. George Grinstead's family operated at pottery business at Waco under G.W. Grinstead and Bro. Waco.

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