

## Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session July 6th, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, July 6th, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilmen Dennis Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff.

### Reading of the Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the June 6th, 2020 regular session. None being heard and on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to wave the reading of the June 6th, 2020 regular session and accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Robert Leslie presented Council with the balances in each account and the expenditures as of June 30, 2020. The Mayor asked for questions on the report. None being heard, the Mayor asked that the Treasurer's report be made part of the minutes.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to approve the Treasurer's report and the expenditures as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor reported on the additional funds that would be received in the next couple of weeks.

### COVID-19 Update and Impact

The Mayor updated Council on the State mandate, which had been handed down by Governor Justice, and the impact the mandates would have on the operation of the Town and its employees.

### Route 60 Floodwall Closure

The Mayor advised the Corps of Engineers had notified the Town that they were not going to be involved with the inspection of the Route 60 floodwall gate because of the COVID-19 pandemic and they asked the Town to self-inspect.

### Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Revisions

The Mayor reported on the progress being made on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget revisions, which are due July 10th, 2020.

### Handicap Parking Space for 341 1st Street, East

The Mayor advised Council of an application for a handicap parking space at 341 1st Street, East. After discussion and on a motion by Joe Ratcliff and a second by Robert Leslie, Council voted to approve the application for the handicap parking space at 341 1st Street, East. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Resolution to Authorize Pre-Printed Check Destruction

The Mayor advised Council of the need to destroy pre-printed checks that had accumulated over the years as the Town was now using computer-generated checks. The Mayor requested a resolution to permit the Town clerk to destroy the accumulated checks.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to approve a resolution to permit the Town clerk to destroy the accumulated, pre-printed checks. All were in favor, motion carried.

### 2020 Tri-State Transit Authority Annual Donation

The Mayor presented Council with a request for the \$2,500 annual subsidy payment to be made to the Tri-State Transit Authority.

On a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Robert Leslie, Council voted to approve the \$2,500 payment to the Tri-State Transit Authority for 2020. All were in favor, motion carried.

### COVID-19 Testing

The Mayor addressed the need for the staff and officials of the Town to be tested within 5 days after traveling outside the area and the need for a 14-day quarantine before returning to their positions.

### Ceredo Water Works

The Mayor addressed a question raised by the accountant conducting the audit asking why the Town did not charge rent to the Ceredo Water Works for spaces being used, as they were a separate utility.

After a discussion on the proposal, the Mayor recommended charging the Ceredo Water Works \$500 per month to offset the cost of the utilities in the spaces occupied by the Ceredo Water Works.

On a motion by Joe Ratcliff and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve a \$500 per-month rent to the Ceredo Water Works for the spaces utilized. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Police Report

The Mayor reported on the activities of the police department for the month of June 2020 and the problems being encountered in collecting fines.

### Stormwater Report

The Mayor addressed the sewer inspection held last Thursday and the problems encountered with the Main Street sewer lift station.

### 2020 Paving Projects

The Mayor updated Council on the status of the blacktopping projects.

### Miscellaneous

The Mayor discussed the installation of the hanging baskets and the upkeep. He also addressed the possibility of the 2020 C-K AutumnFest being cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

Over the past several months I have brought attention to the fact that our tax base in Ceredo has been on a decline, caused primarily by a decline in the coal industry. As we battled to bring revenue and expenses in line, the coronavirus pandemic struck with a vengeance, resulting in reduced revenue for many of our small businesses and a severe reduction in the amount of coal that passes through Ceredo. In simple numbers, the budgeted tax revenue for the 2020-2021 fiscal year is \$188,000 less than our budgeted revenue in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

In most towns our size, the loss of \$188,000 in annual revenue would be reason to sound the alarm and turn out the lights. Fortunately, our Town Council has been vigilant in overseeing our finances and recognized the downward trend in time to keep the ship stable. By

changing our health insurance from a small-group plan to the large-group PEIA plan, we were able to cut annual health insurance costs by nearly \$60,000. Thanks to our employees working in a safe manner, we were able to reduce general liability, fleet, property and worker's compensation insurance costs by \$25,000. Without these steps the town would be in a dire place.

Council has agreed to eliminate some discretionary, non-essential spending as we move forward, but our residents shouldn't notice any significant changes in municipal services. This is a great credit to our Town Council and their ability to properly analyze, plan, and produce a balanced budget as we enter a new period in the financial history of Ceredo.

Construction is expected to begin in earnest on the

I-64 Broad Hollow Bridge project later this month. The state has changed the construction plan on the project, and now plans to detour traffic from I-64 through Ceredo and Kenova for several months. For approximately two months, eastbound traffic on I-64 will be forced to use the Kenova exit, and detoured through Ceredo to the 17th Street entry ramp in Huntington. The traffic will then be switched, and westbound I-64 traffic will be detoured through Ceredo to the Kenova entry ramp.

The detour of this traffic will significantly affect our ability to travel in Ceredo, particularly our ability to cross Route 60 during daylight hours when interstate traffic is heaviest, and we can expect to see a great increase in the number of trucks moving through town.

Please exercise due caution during this period of heavy

traffic.  
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While the pandemic has caused many problems in cities and towns across America, the residents of Ceredo have continued to show their resiliency. The number of walkers and bike riders in town is amazing, our children have rediscovered the joys of playing outdoors, and our many pickleball players have developed an acceptable social distancing protocol that allows the courts to again be heavily used. Let's hope the virus ends soon, and when it does let's continue the exercise programs that we have developed during this strange time.

I am pleased to note that our annual street paving is nearly complete, and that two long-standing stormwater problems have been cured. Sections of Fairwood Drive, B Street, the old B&O

alley, the alley between Main and 1st Street West, and the 6th Street West plaza exit have been paved. Some work remains on pot holes in alleyways, and that should be completed within a couple of weeks.

For a number of years, we have had a problem with stormwater drainage on Route 60 in front of Tudors, and on 6th Street at the Plaza exit. In both those places, asphalt work done several years ago caused blockages that did not allow stormwater to reach the drain basins, resulting in ponding on the streets after heavy rains. During this year's repaving project, we were able to grind old asphalt and reopen the curbs so that stormwater will drain as designed and we will no longer have water standing along the roads for days after a rain.

The street department is now involved with our annual sidewalk replace-

ment work. The many trees in Ceredo are quite beautiful, but trees have roots and roots cause sidewalks to crack or become uneven. This is an annual undertaking, and we hope to replace the worst sections of sidewalk each year. If you are aware of a particularly bad section of sidewalk, please contact Town Hall.

I urge each of you to continue following state and local guidelines to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Regardless of which medical expert we believe, we all agree that the virus is real, and whether we believe it is deadly or not, we don't want it. If we can keep our "at-risk" residents safe by washing our hands and wearing a mask, please do so. If you are aware of any resident that needs assistance during this pandemic, please contact Town Hall. If we all do our part we will get through this.



Alyson and Miranda Gue with Mayor Paul Billups and their Grandfather, Ron Nicholson

## TOWN OF CEREDO SCHOLARSHIPS

The annual Town of Ceredo scholarships were awarded this year to Alyson and Miranda Gue. The sisters, both 2020 honor graduates of Spring Valley High School, will be attending Marshall University.

The Town took great pride this year, as Alyson and Miranda are granddaughters of Ceredo employee Ron Nicholson. The proud grandfather is our CDL driver and maintains the heavy trucks owned by the town.

As the Gue sisters start their college careers, Alyson plans to major in Early Childhood Education, with plans to become a teacher. Miranda is undecided on a major.

These scholarships are made possible through the donations of our residents. The program was initiated in 2018 at the suggestion of former resident Mike Watts and the late Herb Stephens, Jr., and since that time many of you have donated each year so that we can assist students from Ceredo that attend Marshall.

# 2020 C-K AutumnFest Cancelled

It is with extreme disappointment that we make this announcement. The C-K AutumnFest Board of Directors voted to cancel the 2020 C-K AutumnFest and Pumpkin House festivities. The Board has been monitoring the COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines and we feel it is in the best interest and safety of our visitors, vendors and community

to make this decision. This cancellation includes the C-K AutumnFest Pageant, Parade, Cruise-in, Tractor Show, Arts & Craft Fair, Canning Competition, Bake-Off, Concert Series, The Pumpkin House and Kid's Activities. The Board is planning to offer events that can be socially distanced or viewed digitally, such as the Business and Residential Scare-

crow Contest. The Scarecrow Contest will allow us to celebrate the beauty and creativity which fills our community! Follow C-K AutumnFest on our website ([www.CKAutumnFest.com](http://www.CKAutumnFest.com)) and Facebook page ([Facebook.com/CKAutumnFest](https://www.facebook.com/CKAutumnFest)) for details as they are announced in the upcoming months. The C-K AutumnFest would like to thank our

sponsors for supporting this festival throughout the past decade. As disappointed as we are about this cancellation, the Board will be taking advantage of this extra time we have to plan the 2021 C-K AutumnFest! Sincerely,  
C-K AutumnFest Board of Directors

- DO**
- **Wear a cloth face covering**
  - **Wash hands frequently**
  - **Disinfect common areas**
  - **Get tested if you feel symptomatic**
  - **Social distance**
  - **Make utility payments online, by mail, or By using the deposit box at Town Hall**
- DON'T**
- **Engage in large crowds**
  - **Go out if you feel don't feel well**
  - **Travel to high risk hotspots**

The annual Eric Sparks Memorial Golf Tournament was a great success, in spite of the COVID restrictions that forced cancellation of the C-K Sports Banquet. It was reported that a record number of golfers participated in this most worthy event, where all proceeds are used to support C-K youth programs. Director Bob Sparks has done a great job in making this a "must event" on the calendar of area sportsmen.

donate a book at any time, and return books to the box after reading. This is a great idea, and Amy deserves our thanks for taking the initiative to make Ceredo a little better place. The Little Library Facebook page, "Ceredo Park Little Free Library", provides information concerning available and new books for all residents.



Pickleball is back in full force at the Ceredo courts. Government restrictions delayed action early in the summer season, but relaxed regulations and guidelines established by the core group of players have resulted in full courts on "all comers" days of Saturday and Tuesday mornings.

The PGA Tour has the FedEx Cup, but the Ceredo Golf Association, in conjunction with the Wayside Golf Course Alumni Association, has the Hal McFann Pure Oil Cup. The Cup is awarded to the Ceredo golfer over fifty years old that maintains the lowest average score over the season. In addition to the prestigious Pure Oil Cup, the winner will receive a free oil change and lube at Hal's Pure Oil station. The second-place finisher will receive a can of Andy Granatelli's STP Fuel Treatment courtesy of Nat

## AROUND TOWN

Jarrell's Exxon. Midway through the season, David Pennington holds a slim lead over Clarence Pratt and Gary Runyon. With Elba Gene Cox not playing this year, the Cup race promises to be close to the finish.

Ceredo lost two long-time business establishments and one resident this month. Lindsey Harrison retired and closed his hair styling business that was located in the Town Shoppes on 6th Street, and Dr. Mike Frederick closed his chiropractic practice that was located on B Street. Both of these businesses have been great for the town and will miss Lindsey and Mike.

B Street resident Larry Wellman has sold his Ceredo property and is moving to Kenova. Larry and his family have been wonderful residents and we certainly hate to see them move, even if it is just to Kenova. Prior to moving, Larry confirmed with Town Hall that he will be allowed to keep his resident status until such time as he moves back.

Our annual floodwall inspection conducted by the Corps of Engineers is underway. As part of this process, the Town was required to install the flood gate that crosses Rt. 60 near Larry McCoy Auto. Closing the highway gate is an undertaking, requiring assistance from the Department of Highways and causing minor traffic delays.

The coronavirus has af-

ected us in ways we would not have imagined. More of us are eating at home (a lost art over the past thirty years), meaning the grocery business is good and Food Fair manager Michael Fink is staying very busy. As a collateral affect, our household garbage has increased significantly, meaning our maintenance staff is handling around 30% more trash per week. Additionally, it appears that many of us have utilized this "stay home" time to complete "Spring cleaning" of garages and do minor remodeling jobs, again increasing the amount of discarded items our staff picks up each week.

To assist our crew and to keep our garbage removal costs under control, we ask that you place items you want picked-up in the alley behind your residence on the evening before regular trash pick-up. That is, please only place items in the alleys on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, so they may be taken away on Monday

and Thursday morning. Please do not place items in the alleys on other days, as it disrupts the regular schedule and increases town expenses.

Two new employees have joined the maintenance staff. Tim Haynie and Chris Mullens are now working with the general maintenance staff, and both men have skills that are much needed. According to supervisor Dustin Long, the addition of these two young men has removed a strain on the department as we deal with the retirement of long-time employees Tommy Workman and Sonny Gilkerson.

We all like dogs, but we must all be considerate of our neighbors. Town Hall has received several complaints recently of dogs running loose in town. Please remember that all dogs must be leashed when outside your house or yard. We are very reluctant to contact

the dog warden about this problem, and thus ask each of you to follow the rules. Dogs like to run free, but free-range dogs make a mess of neighbor's yards or scare elderly people can't be tolerated.

West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Leonhart was a recent visitor to the Ceredo Farmers Market. According to farmer Bill Stewart of Greenbrier Farms, Commissioner Leonhart was impressed with the Ceredo Market and feels it is an example that should be followed by other West Virginia towns. Stewart and farmer Jason Ekers of Rocky Top Farm are the "anchor" farmers for the Ceredo market, and through their efforts our market is enjoying it's fourth season of providing area residents with farm-fresh vegetables and fruits.



Dale Maynard, Tyler Lyons and Tim Haynie finishing a sidewalk project on B Street

## Street Party Cancelled

The Ceredo Halloween Street Party, the longest-running such event in West Virginia, has been cancelled for this year due to coronavirus restrictions. With the cancellation by the Governor of all fairs and festivals in the state, the Town had no choice but to cancel the event.

No decision has been made as to whether trick-or-treat will be allowed in Ceredo. With approximately three months before the event, and no planning required as would be with the Street Party, we can wait a while before determining the fate of our costumed friends this year.

## COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER

Open 7 Days a Week

**HOURS:**  
Mon-Thurs 7am-9pm  
Fri 7am-8pm  
Sat 8am-3pm  
Sun 1pm-5pm

1201 Poplar St  
Kenova, WV 25530  
304-453-2449

**EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE**  
Nautilus Exercise Equipment  
Free Weights  
Cardiovascular Equipment  
New Shower Facilities

Classes Available

**MONDAY**  
Toning 9-10am  
Silver Sneakers 10-11am  
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm  
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm

**TUESDAY**  
Zumb Toning 6:30-7:30pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
Toning 9-10am  
Silver Sneakers 10-11am  
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm

**THURSDAY**  
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm  
Zumba 6:30-7:30pm

**FRIDAY**  
Toning 9-10am  
Silver Sneakers 10-11am

**SUNDAY**  
Zumba Sentao 2-3:15pm

**MEMBERSHIP RATES**  
Single (18+) \$180.00/Yr  
Family (Married Couple \$270/Yr  
Additional family members 13-18 who resides in the same household is \$70/Yr per family member.  
Seniors (60+) \$110/Yr  
Daily \$5  
Monthly \$30 (adult)  
\$25 (ages 13-18)

**"Do you have your Medicare Plan through HUMANA?"**  
You may qualify for:  
Healthways SilverSneakers® Fitness Program

**INSTRUCTORS:**  
Heather Ferguson (Zumba, Silver Sneakers, R.I.P.P.E.D., Toning)  
Sarah Lester (Zumba Gold)

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**FIRST AMENDMENT**  
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances

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# “FIRST THINGS FIRST”

– Devotional thoughts from Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ceredo.

## “A Sermon in the Sky”

Since moving here to Ceredo back in December, I have had the opportunity to meet and come to know several new friends and I just found out that one of these new friends and I have a mutual interest in astronomy – we like to star gaze. He even showed me an app that helps the layperson like me locate certain things in the night sky (yes, there IS an app for that!!!).

If you are like my friend and I and you like to look up into the night sky to find what wonders behold, this summer has been a stellar time (no pun intended)! We have been graced with the passage of comet Neowise, which only comes

by this way every 7000 years. Hope you caught it this time. If not, you’ve got a long wait! And there have also been a couple of significant meteor showers, which are always fun if you like to keep count of (and make a wish upon) “falling star”.

These astronomical phenomena remind me of the words of Psalm 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands” (NIV). Every time we look up into the dark night, we see a little glimpse of the glory of a great God who made it all! As Paul reminds us in Romans 1:20, God’s “eternal power and divine nature” (NIV) are on full display through the created order we look at and live in. The magnitude and intricacy of creation give undeniable testimony to an

infinite, almighty God!

Believe it or not, there were stargazers in the Bible too. As a young shepherd watching his father’s sheep on the hillsides of Bethlehem, David enjoyed looking at the night sky and he used those times to meditate upon the greatness of God. “When I consider Your heavens, The work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, What is man that You are mindful of HIM, And the son of man that You visit him?” (Psalm 8:3-4). David was overwhelmed at the majesty of God seen in the majesty of creation. But David was also overwhelmed at the smallness of man and the fact that this great God would even be concerned about people like us!

When we move about

2000 years after David, we see the full realization of his words in the coming of Jesus Christ! John tells us in the first chapter of his gospel that “the Word (Jesus Christ) became flesh and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14). God has truly “visited” humankind by becoming a human Himself. What an awesome thought to realize that this great creator God actually became a part of His own creation! Unfortunately, when He came, the creation that He Himself failed to recognize Him. John 1:10 says, “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him”. That still did not stop God from showing His love and concern for us in becoming one of us and ultimately go to a cross to die for our sin to save us. That’s a sermon in the skies worth listening to!

Jeffrey F. Canterbury is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, 448 Main Street, Ceredo, WV. For more information about the church, including service times and archived messages, please visit the church’s website at [www.fbcceredo.com](http://www.fbcceredo.com). Or you can call the church at 304-453-2092. All Scripture quotations are from the New

King James Version of the Bible. If you have any questions related to the Bible you would like answered, please send them to Pastor Jeff at [fbccsecretary@zoominternet.net](mailto:fbccsecretary@zoominternet.net) or mail them to P.O. Box 967, Ceredo, WV 25507.



**Our Doors Are Open To You!**

**Service Times:**  
 Sunday 10:45 am  
 (In-person & Live Stream)  
 Sunday 7pm  
 (Live Stream)  
 Wednesday 7pm  
 (Live Stream)

448 Main St.  
 Ceredo, WV 25507  
 Phone: 304-453-2092  
[www.fbcceredo.com](http://www.fbcceredo.com)

Find us on Facebook:  
 First Baptist Church  
 Ceredo West Virginia

**First Baptist Church Ceredo**  
 Pastor Jeffrey F. Canterbury

Services live streamed on our website.

## HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	10/20
Jim and Pat Billups .....	02/21
John C. Hall .....	05/21
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/21
Jack and Ann Riggs .....	05/21
Mike and Susan Watts.....	09/20
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/20
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter .....	10/20
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens.....	08/20
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft .....	08/20
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups .....	08/20
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine.....	04/21
Katrina Childers .....	05/21
In Memory of Alberta “Dossie” & Sherman Medley.....	04/21
Herm Matney .....	08/20
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs.....	08/20
In Memory of Kathleen Wooren Marcum .....	08/20
In Memory of Larry Cole .....	08/20
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts .....	09/20
Jeanette & Roger Barker .....	03/21
Karin & Mike Dawson .....	02/21
American Legion.....	01/21
Ceredo-Kenova Community Center .....	01/21
Evaroni’s.....	01/21
CUMC .....	12/20
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell .....	03/21
In Memory of Robert (Pete) & Carolyn Sullivan .....	04/21
Jennifer Ferguson.....	04/21
Oscar, Bonnie, Michelle Booth.....	04/21
John M. Spangler, Esq.....	05/21
In Memory of Frances Cornell.....	05/21
In Memory of W.W. Mills, MD.....	05/21
In Honor of Larry Jack Heck.....	06/21
Floyd Mays.....	06/21
Mike & Karen Skeens.....	07/21
Keith and Freda Chadwick.....	07/21
Tyler Dawson, DDS .....	07/21
Raymond Keigley.....	07/21
Brenda Francis .....	07/21
O’Dell Mannon .....	07/21
Dr. Ron & Lucenda Akers.....	07/21

The New Crescent Honor Roll is intended to be a way we give special recognition to those persons who donate at least \$50.00 during the year to support our publication. Since the Honor Roll is a twelve-month feature, you will need to renew your contribution every twelve months to remain on the Roll. Your name not appearing indicates your year had expired. A very special “Thank You!” to all of you who have helped us to continue the paper with your gifts. With your help, we have been able to publish and deliver The New Crescent to every home in Ceredo since February 1990!

## CEREDO BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE AUGUST 2020 YARDS, BLOCK AND BUSINESS OF THE MONTH



### YARD OF THE MONTH

369 A STREET  
LINDA DEJARNETTE

### YARD OF THE MONTH

432 1ST ST W  
STEVE MCCLOUD AND  
KELLI MOORE



### BLOCK OF THE MONTH

700 BLOCK OF 2ND ST W



### BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

DOLLAR TREE



## Supporting Our Community Ceredo United Methodist Church Thrift Store

Clothing, Shoes, Housewares, Books, Collectibles For everyone in the family  
 Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 10:00am-4:30pm • Saturday 10am-2pm  
 All Donations Greatly Appreciated  
 Location: 218 Main Street, Ceredo

# Whatever Happened To ... The Life and Times of Dr. Ron Akers

The New Crescent frequently receives calls asking “what-ever happened to ...” various former Ceredo residents. We have received several inquiries about former South Ceredo resident Ron Akers, and this article is the first of a series to bring us up to date on the whereabouts of our former residents.

Late actor Robin Williams, in the movie *Dead Poet’s Society*, familiarized us with the Latin term “carpe diem”, or “seize the day.” Ceredo native Ron Akers took the phrase a step further by “seizing life”, or translated to Latin, “carpe vita tua.”

Although Ron was born in Huntington, both his parents were of Wayne County stock and soon moved back to Ceredo where Ron and his sisters attended Ceredo Graded School. Ron was in the fifth grade on Valentine’s Day, 1957, when the old school building was destroyed by fire. The fire prompted Ron’s first visit to a jail, as his school classes were held at the old town jail while a new school was being built. During his sixth-grade year, Ron was a member of the School Safety Patrol in what may have been a precursor to one of his later professions.

Moving on to Ceredo-Kenova High, Ron participated in a variety of activities including the band, where

he was stellar, and football, where by his own admission he “played, but not very well.” Graduating in 1964, Ron immediately was hired as a DJ by Huntington’s top popular music radio station at the time, WKEE. Ron continued to work at various radio jobs in the tri-state while attending Marshall, and credits his time as a popular DJ with helping develop “people skills” that became essential in his later pursuits.

While attending Marshall, Ron married Kenova resident Lucinda Noe, youngest daughter of then Wayne County Sheriff SB Noe. Lucinda joined Ron on his sojourn in the radio industry, and she apparently enjoyed the Ron’s company as they recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

Following the birth of their first child in 1966, Ron started looking for a profession with more stability than that of a vagabond radio DJ. Perhaps drawing on his experience as a member of the Safety Patrol, Ron applied to the Ohio Highway Patrol Academy and was certified as a Trooper in the Ohio Highway Patrol in 1968, thinking that his days in broadcasting were over. During this time Ron joined the Air Force Reserve, and spent several years in active reserve status while stationed by the OSP at Post 44 in South

Point, Ohio.

Fate again intervened. A low back injury caused Ron to seek treatment from a chiropractor, and discussions during treatment sessions led Ron to have an interest in chiropractic medicine. Ron returned to college, taking classes at Marshall and Ohio University to obtain the required credits to apply for admission to chiropractic school. Ron was accepted to attend Palmer College in Davenport, Iowa, and graduated with Magna Cum Laude honors and a Doctor of Chiropractic degree.

To this point the “normal” life of Ron Akers had included time as the top DJ in Huntington, a Trooper in the Ohio State Patrol, a member of the Air Force Reserve, being an honors graduate from chiropractic school, and time spent in the Ceredo jail as a student. A full life for most, but not for Ron Akers.

In addition to his studies at chiropractic school, Ron had a family to support. The skills he first learned as a DJ in Huntington came to good use when Ron was made aware of an opening at WHBF-TV in Rock Island, Illinois. Hired, without experience, as a television news anchor, Ron quickly learned the trade and became a full-time television anchor while attending chiropractic school. Apparently, Ron was

a quick study, as he won several awards from the Illinois Broadcasting Association for his work as a TV anchor while being a full-time student.

Following graduation from Palmer College and being a newly-minted Doctor of Chiropractic, Ron located an established practice in Cleveland, Tennessee. Lucinda packed the children and soon the Akers family assimilated into a great community where the “people skills” Ron learned during his radio days once more became important. Shortly, Ron had the busiest chiropractic practice in town.

By 1980, Ron decided to again “seize life” and return to school. Feeling limited in his practice as a chiropractor, Ron managed to complete medical school and added “MD” to the previously established “DC” on his office door. The medical practice continued to grow and Ron expanded by opening a second office in Chattanooga. In 1982, Ron was appointed by the Governor of Tennessee as a member of the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the licensing board for all chiropractic physicians in Tennessee. As could be expected from a good South Ceredo lad, Ron was later named Board Chairman.

Once more, a pretty full life for a common man, but

not for Ron Akers. After establishing his practice in Tennessee, Ron’s public service calling led him to join the Tennessee Guard where he served as Battalion Surgeon, rising to the rank of Major before retiring after the First Gulf War.

A fractured cervical spine suffered in an automobile crash necessitated Ron’s retirement from chiropractic work. Since that time, he has continued as a practice consultant, assisting with the opening of health care clinics on the Navajo Reservation in Northeast Arizona, and volunteering as a training officer with his local Sheriff’s Office.

In retirement, Ron and Lucinda live on a small horse farm just outside Cleveland, TN. The couple had three children, Rondal D. Akers II, who passed away in 2001 leaving one child, Lindsey Akers, who works in neurosurgery in Charleston, SC; Katrina Akers Davis, an attorney in Chattanooga; and Andrea Akers Studdard of Etowah, TN, a retired 911 supervisor.

“I am proud of my roots in West Virginia and Ceredo”, said Akers. “I never pass up an opportunity to talk about Ceredo and my wonderful experiences as a youth playing along Twelve Pole Creek and running over the hills on the South side of town.

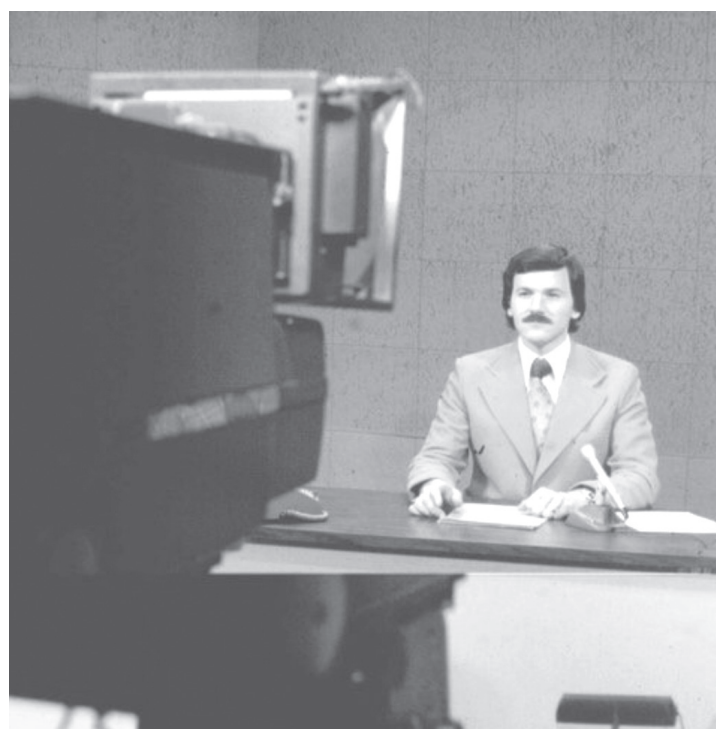
Some of my best memories of growing up in Ceredo are of the people, and how everyone knew and watched over the children. My sisters and I always felt safe, and it is unbelievable to people today when I tell them that on Halloween many people would invite children into their homes to warm up and chat a while.”

Ron’s sister Cathy still resides in Ceredo, and his sister Karen lives near Barboursville. Ron makes it “home” as often as possible to catch a Marshall football game, visit his sisters, get a Frost Top hot dog, and stop for ice cream at Austin’s. If Ron was to publish a business card, it would read something like – DJ, OSP, TV, DC, MD, and Maj. Despite those accolades, Ron would much prefer to be known simply as a good father and family man who, when opportunity or necessity presented itself, wasn’t afraid to step to the plate.

“Once a Ceredo Boy, always a Ceredo Boy.” While Ron Akers has truly seized life by excelling at his many professions, and continuing to reach for – and attain – his dreams, he will always be a Ceredo Boy to those that knew him here. The Good Doctor has, indeed, made Ceredo proud.



Ron Akers - Ohio Highway Patrol



Ron Akers - WHBF-TV News Anchor



Ron and Lucinda Akers

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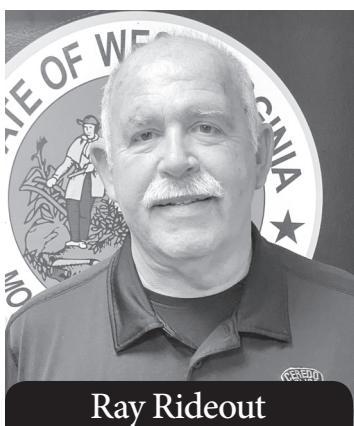
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## Employee of the Month

Police Dispatcher Ray Rideout has been employed by the Town for approximately three years. In 2019, Ray was chosen to work as a part-time police officer for several months while our regular officer was attending the police academy, and fulfilled those duties without incident.

A Kenova native, Ray attended Ceredo-Kenova High School before joining the Marine Corps in October, 1969. Following 8 ½ years of service in the Corps, Ray returned to the tri-state and joined the West Virginia Army National



Ray Rideout

Guard, where he spent 12 ½ years, primarily as a recruiter. Before retirement, from 2006 through 2014 Ray worked for the Veteran's Administration.

"Being a police dispatcher in Ceredo is a great job

for me", said Rideout. "My military training is of some value, and as a more mature employee I think I bring some stability to the workplace." Police Chief Tony Poston is glad to have Ray as an employee, stating, "Ray has all the traits of a career military person. He is dependable, works hard at his job, and always has the well-being of our officers and the public at the forefront."

The Town salutes Ray's service to our nation, and we are glad that he has chosen to spend time in our employ.

## Ceredo Boat Landing

From the beginning of time until the Greenup Dam was completed in 1962, Twelve Pole Creek passed through Ceredo as a mostly wadable stream, consisting of shallow water over sandbars with only intermittent pools of water deep enough for swimming. One such pool was located near old Brownstown in South Ceredo, and the next upstream pool deep enough for swimming was at Turn Hole, near the present-day gas compression station on Walker's Branch. Other than an occasional flat-bottom jon boat, the creek was not navigable.

Twelve Pole changed in 1962. The Greenup Dam was built to provide a steady pool of water for navigation and flood control in the Ohio River, and as a result of a new river pool level, the pool level of Twelve Pole Creek in Ceredo raised by approximately eight feet. With a "new normal", Twelve Pole became a navigable stream from its mouth near Camden Park to the Turn Hole pool.

Almost overnight, small boat docks sprang up behind nearly every house that bordered Twelve Pole. These docks mostly consisted of 55-gallon steel drums for floatation with decks built of rough lumber, and were 12 to 16 feet in length and 8 feet wide. A number of dock owners tied small fishing boats to their docks, while others used the docks as a fishing or swimming platform.

Perhaps the largest such dock built along Twelve Pole was constructed by Luke and Dan Perdue. The brothers placed their dock just downstream from Austin's Ice Cream, near where the Ceredo Floodwall turns north toward B Street. There was a dirt road leading from upper B Street to the creek, maintained in a passable condition so that cars could

drive to the creek bank during the summer dry season. The dock became known as "Perdue's Landing," and was used through the 1960s and early 70s.

For a fifty-year period following the Second World War, boating was a popular pastime in America. Ski boats of all shapes and sizes crowded every waterway, house boats became fashionable, and later, bass fishing boats became vogue. The Corps of Engineers did an acceptable job of constructing river access boat launching areas, Virginia Point in Kenova being an example, but there was no public access launching point along Twelve Pole, meaning boaters were forced to launch at Virginia Point of in downtown Huntington and travel on the river for several miles before entering the relative safety of Twelve Pole.

In 1994, flush with money and looking to make life a little better for Ceredo boaters, Mayor Mose Napier set about to cure the problem of boat access to Twelve Pole. Assisted by then-Ceredo policeman Tim Bias, Mayor Napier contacted Ceredo resident Pete Lowe, then the maintenance foreman at Oglebay-Norton Coal Company (now KRT), and developed a plan.

Mayor Napier, with assistance from town Street Superintendent Charlie Watts, used a legal pad to draw the proposed "Ceredo Boat Landing." The plan called for an entrance and exit road to be built just East of the concrete floodwall on B Street, utilizing the old Perdue Landing road, and construction of a floating steel dock anchored to the creek bank, with a small convenience store for boaters, parking area, and space to add fuel tanks.

Lowe, probably the best non-degreed engineer in these parts, obtained permission from the coal company

to use a bull dozer, and the plan took life, albeit a short life. Bias and Watts obtained a number of old car tires and placed them across Route 60 so that Lowe could drive the dozer from the coal yard to what is now the Ceredo Gun Range. Before the day was over, an employee under the direction of Lowe was moving dirt along Twelve Pole and town employees Jack Bowen and Jim Ward were removing trees and brush. By some accounts, Charlie Watts was already looking for a new cabin cruiser.

Unfortunately, some Ceredo resident apparently didn't like progress, boating, or Napier. By day two of the construction project, the Corps of Engineers had been notified of the project and demanded that construction cease. Apparently, the Corps believed that their engineers could develop a better plan than that developed by Napier and Lowe, and then there was the issue of a construction permit for building anything on a navigable waterway. The Corps obviously believed in the "ready, aim, shoot" technique, while Mayor Napier often preferred the "ready, shoot, aim" theory.

Alas, as quickly as it began, the Ceredo project ended. At the direction of the Corps of Engineers, all dirt that had been moved was replaced, and Ceredo boaters continued to use Virginia Point for access to Twelve Pole. The boating craze appears to have taken a downturn, with few pleasure craft and fewer water skiers seen on the Ohio or Twelve Pole these days. The access road to Perdue's Landing is still there, maintained by the town these days as a grass walking path to the creek.

## The Crescent Kitchen

### SMALL BATCH PASTA SALAD

by Natalie Hemann

I love pasta salad but most of the recipes I have found make a large quantity. I don't want to eat it for days on end, so I was happy when I came across a recipe for a smaller pasta salad. The recipe called for ground beef which did not appeal to me... cold beef just does not sound good! I made up my own recipe using ham and added ingredients that I thought would pair well with ham. I am happy with how it turned out. I hope you are, too! (If you have any comments or questions about any of the recipes I have submitted, feel free to email me at: nipit@zoominternet.net)



#### Ingredients:

2 cups Uncooked Spiral Pasta  
 ¾ cup Diced Cooked Ham (I use packaged cooked diced ham.)  
 1/3 cup Diced Onion  
 ¼ cup Diced Cucumber  
 1 large Carrot, Sliced  
 ½ cup Classic Catalina Dressing (more or less to taste)

#### Directions:

Cook pasta according to directions. Heat ham in microwave for one minute to drain juices and set aside. Drain pasta and rinse in cold water. Add the ham, onion, cucumber, carrot, and dressing to pasta and mix together. Refrigerate at least one hour before serving.

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# CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

## Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

*EDITOR'S NOTE: There was a time in America when every small burg had a handful of "characters," people that marched to the beat of a different drummer, lived life their way, and had no desire to conform to societal expectations. From every social, financial, and political class, these characters could bring a smile to your face, cause you to shake your head in wonderment, and often make those living in the social norm to vicariously enjoy the personal freedoms expressed by a character. Ceredo has had its share.*

Ceredo-Kenova lost a true character in July with the death of boxing legend and local athletic historian "Little Bob" Null. If ever we had a

person that lived life his way, it was Little Bob.

Bob was raised in Kenova and lived a good portion of his adult life in Ceredo. He passed away in Missouri, where he and his wife Carol had resided for the past few years. A graduate of Ceredo-Kenova High School in 1952, Null served in the Army before returning to earn a degree from Marshall and beginning a career in the trucking industry where he held managerial and executive positions before his first retirement. As a second career, Little Bob took over the iconic Midget Market and Carry Out in Kenova, a business started and operated for many years by his mother, Herma Smith.

Null played football and basketball for the Wonders, but reached regional fame as an amateur boxer. Bob won the Huntington Advertiser Golden Gloves novice featherweight championship in 1950, and followed that by representing West Virginia in the Eastern Golden Gloves at Madison Square Garden after winning the West Virginia open division featherweight titles in 1951 and 1952.

A crowd favorite in both Huntington and New York thanks to his non-stop punching and aggressive style, Null is remembered as one of the toughest fighters ever to participate in the Huntington Golden Gloves. Shortly after completing

boot camp in the Army, Little Bob earned a spot on the Army boxing team and spent a majority of his service time fighting for the Army team around the world.

Old-time fight fans in the area will remember Bob for his action-packed fights, including classic battles with Georgie Adkins of Huntington. To younger generations in Ceredo-Kenova, Bob will be remembered for his brilliant memory of C-K athletic contests. Bob had the ability to recall particular names, plays, player's numbers, and scores of contests that took place decades before. Regardless of the sport, Bob was the "go to" source for information long lost in the memories of most people.

Little Bob always had a smile and a story. When he operated the Midget, Bob wouldn't let the lack of funds get in the way of a person needing groceries or refreshments, and his generosity was so genuine that most people would return to pay the tab when fortunes improved.

Local lads preparing to fight in the Golden Gloves often sought out Bob for advice, and Bob was most willing to provide advice on boxing or about any other subject. In 1972, Bob's nephew Ronnie Jarrell was embarking on a pugilistic career and inquired of his uncle whether he should train at the Huntington VFW or the Modern Press

Gym. With perhaps the best advice ever offered to an aspiring contender, Little Bob said "It doesn't matter whose robe you wear. Once the bell rings the only thing you should worry about fighting for is your life"!

In his later years Null trained boxers for the American Legion in Kenova, where he had the opportunity to train another nephew, welterweight contender Greg Null, and several other local boys.

To borrow from Frank Sinatra, Bob Null lived life his way. He was loved by the community, and he loved Ceredo and Kenova. A true character of Ceredo, Little Bob Null will be missed by all who knew him.

## Congregational History In Ceredo

Congregational Church historians are in agreement that congregationalism came to America in 1620 aboard the "Mayflower", making the Pilgrims the first Congregationalists in the New World. Many of the values of our founders were based on Congregational principles, and a number of our early northeast colleges were products of congregationalism.

The descendants of the Pilgrims are credited with forming the missionary movement in America. By the 1850's, the "cause of the day" for Congregationalists was abolition, and Ceredo's founder, Eli Thayer, was part of that movement. As a result of Thayer's work, Ceredo was laid out as a typical New England village, inhabited by many New England immigrants that brought their congregational beliefs to the South.

Early settlers, between 1857 and 1874, held church services in homes and later in Ceredo's Crescent Hall, where the church rented space for meetings for \$50 per year. On November 14, 1874, our founders officially chartered the First Congregational Church of Ceredo with 14 members. A Building Committee was appointed by the church on January 10, 1883, comprised of Dr. John T. Wharton, George Osgood, Robert Wright, C.B. Hoard, and J.H. Millender.

A building site for the new church, on the corner of C Street and 1st Street West, was donated by C.B. Hoard on November 3, 1885, and architect S. Floyd Hoard designed the beautiful structure that remains in use today. Much of the lumber used in the construction was donated by Pitt Hoard and floated down Twelve Pole Creek to Ceredo, where it was milled at the J.H. Millender Sawmill. The church building was completed and dedicated on June 27, 1886.

The First Congregational Church of Ceredo was one of only two Congregational churches in West Virginia, the other being in Huntington. Unlike the Ceredo church, however, the Huntington church belonged to the United Church of Christ, leaving the Ceredo congregation as the only Congregational society remaining in the state.

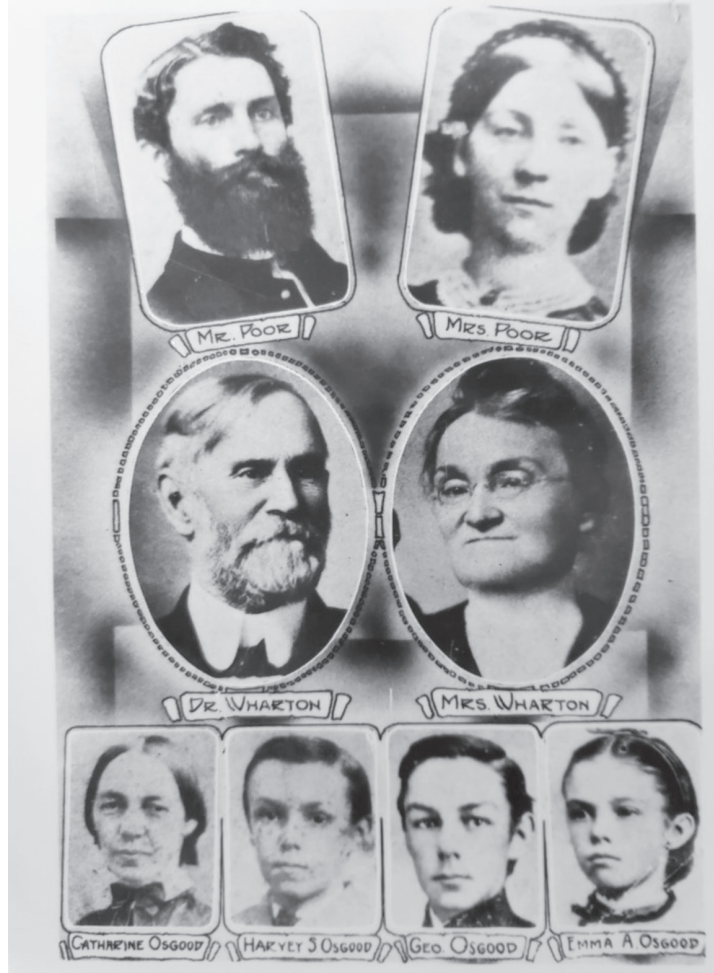
The church pews were purchased in 1910, and the pulpit, installed when the church was first built, remains in use today. One of the few churches today which still use a church bell, it is truly a glorious sound when tolled each Sunday morning. The exact origin of the bell, installed when the church was built, is lost in antiquity. Late Ceredo historian Ed Adkins, a member of the church, writes that the bell was presented by the Cincinnati Congregational Churches at the time of dedication. This theory has some force, in that the dedication



speaker on June 27, 1886, was Rev. Simpson of the Walnut Hills Church in Cincinnati. A more widely accepted story is that the bell was donated by the Captain of an Ohio River steam boat. Whatever its origins, we are blessed to have the bell in Ceredo.

The Congregational bell has a "toller" on it, and for many years

Crescent Hall and that building, along with the Ramsdell House, served as hiding places until slaves could be transported across the river to Macedonia. Adkins takes some question with the writings of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Ward Beecher, contending that the settlement in Macedonia was actually larger than the settle-



Congregational Founding Members

the bell would be tolled when a funeral procession started in Ceredo toward the church, then again following the funeral service until the procession reached Brown's Hill (now Crescent Hill Cemetery) where many of our early residents were buried.

Historian Adkins, at pages 101-104 of his "Journal 2", notes that all the early members of the Ceredo church were abolitionists, and while the church did not directly participate in Underground Railroad activities, church members met at

ment in Ripley, Ohio, that was the subject of the Stowe and Beecher writings.

The Ceredo Congregational Church, like the Town of Ceredo, was formed by abolitionists. The church is proud of that history, and proud of the Pilgrim roots that spread to Ceredo and have been instrumental in making the Town a flourishing community for over 160 years. Led today by Pastor Marty Gute, the Congregational Church remains an integral part of Ceredo.



Ceredo Congregational Church – Present Day

## Wonders Transition

It is generally accepted by fans, sportswriters, and the boys at the hardware store that the "Golden Years" of Ceredo-Kenova Wonders football was the period between 1961 and 1994. During those 33 seasons, the Wonders amassed 11 state championships and were, during most of those 33 years, one of the better teams in West Virginia. Between 1963 and 1983, the Wonders took the state title 10 times and finished as runner-up on three occasions. Between 1961 and 1974, the state playoff was limited to two teams, and at least four C-K teams during that span finished the regular season rated third and thus didn't make the championship game. All of those teams were, by consensus, the best AA teams in the state.

So, the boys at the hardware store pondered, how did C-K become so dominate? A look at the 1959 team sheds some insight. Led by C-K grad and former WVU two-way lineman Dick Treadway, the '59 Wonders were a senior-laden group with reasonably good football talent. Captains Marvin Jordan and Bill Money were excellent athletes, and the team featured an excellent backfield with quarterback Sam Cassidy, Money, Kenny Hay, and Doug Graham. On the line with Jordan were Bill Smith, Jerry Chaffins, Bugs Canterbury, Junior Maynard, John Stickler, and Mike Chapman. Tough boys, one and all.

The '59 team finished the season with a 4-4-2 record, beating Huntington High, Hurricane, Madison, and Milton. The two rivalry games, with Vinson and Wayne, ended in ties. Looking solely at the record, it was a so-so season, much like the Wonders had played since the late 1920's, and certainly didn't cause railbirds to believe a dynasty was in the making.

Following the 1959-1960 school year, Coach Treadway left C-K to start a successful career as a coach and administrator at the college level, and another C-K grad, Carl Ward, was hired to coach the Wonders. It is of note that Dale Craycraft, also a C-K grad and an assistant under Coach Treadway, stayed on as an assistant to new coach Ward.

The new coach didn't have a magic wand to wave before the 1960 season, but it appears that

he did have a long-term plan. Playing mostly underclassmen, Ward led the 1960 Wonders to one of their worst records in history, one win against nine losses, and according to some old timers there was a move afoot to replace Ward before the 1961 campaign.

Coach Ward started anew, moving players to new positions and getting game experience for boys he expected to lead the team in 1961 and 1962. Shortly after the season began, it was apparent that the Wonders were weak offensively. Coach Ward started the season with perhaps his best senior athlete, David Hatten, at guard. Shortly, Hatten was moved to halfback in an attempt to generate some offense. Starting the season with one of his best players at the guard position became a trademark for later Ward teams, but the 1960 squad simply didn't have the backup talent to allow that.

Of their nine losses, the Wonders were shut-out four times, and in a 57-6 shellacking by Huntington East the only Wonders score was on a kickoff return by the Broad Hollow Bullet, junior Charlie Akers. Not one to shy away from competition, Ward continued to schedule Huntington East, one of the largest schools in the state, and over the next ten years C-K beat HEHS on a regular basis, never forgetting the 1960 score.

The 1959 and 1960 teams were comprised of approximately 35 players each year. Following Ward's first season, participation in Wonders football doubled and by 1963, when C-K won its first modern-era championship, C-K

teams averaged between 60 and 75 players. With his now classic single-wing offensive scheme established, and with Coach Craycraft handling the defense, the 1961 Wonders presented a formidable team and one that many observers think was better than some state champion teams.

By 1963, at the urging of Coach Ward, a youth football league was established at C-K and the coaches were mandated to use only the offensive and defensive plays that Ward used for the high school team. Thus, any boy entering his sophomore year had been running the same plays for five seasons. Most anyone that played for Coach Ward 60 years ago can, today, diagram every play.

It is also of note that the boys that made up the early C-K Little League championship teams between 1959 and 1961 came of age early in Coach Ward's tenure. The established Little League program produced a great group of athletes that accepted a team concept by the time they began playing football.

It's unlikely that West Virginia scholastic football will ever see another dynasty like the Wonders enjoyed between 1961 and 1994, and it is just as unlikely that such a dynasty will ever again have as its foundation a team with one victory and nine defeats. It was a classic example of establishing a goal, developing a system, and being able to recognize improvement, and hold the course to allow those nine losses to become ten victories.



This is Truax Traer (now KRT) baseball team around 1954. We are asking for anyone that can identify any of the players to please contact Town Hall with information.

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