

Good Triumphs Tragedy: A Story Of Forgiveness

Every now and then a story causes me to deviate from the column norm. I pondered for days and sought spiritual guidance about how I would start this first article of 2020. One friend suggested that I share some of the many thought-provoking comments I have received from across the country. Another friend suggested contacting my white homegirls who have written for this column to get their thoughts as we have reached Article 36. Both suggestions seemed

too self-centered and not befitting the first column of 2020 - A new year that in my opinion finds most average Americans a bit above concerned - more like worried.

Beware worrying is considered a sin.

My mind and heart rested on a Facebook post sent to me by a Yalobusha native now living in Jackson. The post was written by Dr. Hilliard Lackey, a native of Marks. He writes about a personal, tragic incident in Water Valley many years ago, when he was only five



By Dottie Chapman Reed

Reed is a native of Water Valley and graduated from Davidson High School in 1970. This article is part of a project to compile and share info about women in the county who have made an impact on the African American community. Her column appears bi-monthly, with occasional exceptions. She can be reached at (678) 825-2356 or reed2318@bellsouth.net

www.blackwomenofyalobusha.com

years old. I felt compelled to share it here with Dr. Lackey's permission. "We study about Moses, George Washington, and even Martin Luther King," he says,

"but we don't know a thing about (our) grandpa and grandma."

Listen carefully to the timely challenge he issues at the end of the story.

A Facebook Post by Dr. Hilliard Lackey

When I was five years old in 1947, November 11 became a day to remember....

My mother said in the kindest tones that Daddy won't be coming home. He was sleeping at the hospital. He was going to heaven and sleep there.

Confused. Confounded. Bewildered. Pick a word and then add a million more. This was all messed up. My Daddy was not coming home? Ever?

I was not exactly sure what die, dying and death meant. But it (they) had to be bad and somehow good because everybody was crying and yet making a fuss over us.

They were trying to explain that Daddy was gone to heaven and wouldn't be coming home again. Then, they would embrace and cuddle us while making promises like if you ever need anything.... Well, I wanted some cookies and candy like my Daddy used to buy for me on our trips to the store. Nobody could understand my descriptions (Of course, I ate my loot before returning home to keep from sharing with five brothers and sisters) and Mom didn't know either. The solution was to take me shopping at Garmon Farms Sabino plantation store. Sure enough, there was that big jar of cookies, and down the counter a bit was the nectar of the gods - orange slices. My Dad may not be com-

ing home, but in his name came more cookies and orange slices. It would take me years to understand that my Daddy sleeping in that bed on wheels they called a casket would (really) not be coming home.

Years later I found out where, how and why Daddy died in Water Valley, Mississippi.

Black Lives Matter is one way of reminding some that black lives have seemingly not mattered. Some of us have vivid memories and testimonies...

My father, Hilliard Lackey, was born on October 25, 1916. Racism killed him in the Dr. George Brown Water Valley, Mississippi Hospital on Panola Street and Elm Street November 11, 1947. He was 31. Over the years I have vacillated between seeking revenge and vengeance or vindication. He had ulcers from the stress of being black in the Mississippi Delta. He left Marks to have his ulcers removed by Dr. George Brown in Water Valley, Mississippi after the family finished its cotton crops that year. The only doctor that would see him lived in Water Valley. However, the hospital had a racial policy of no blacks allowed in rooms inside the main building. They surgically removed my father's duodenal ulcers in the hallway but had to place him in the garage behind the hospital to recuperate. There was no heat, and a November

cold snap rolled through causing temperatures to drop drastically. My father died out there in the cold garage shivering from exposure. Perhaps, that's the main reason why I recruit valedictorians and salutatorians who aspire to be doctors!

I spent Saturday afternoon September 20, 2014 visiting that old hospital and the new integrated Yalobusha County Hospital. Water Valley has come a long way. My father would be pleased. Happy birthday Dad! I am no longer angry just inspired!

History should be prologue to the logue we are currently living and writing. Each of us has a story. My father's plight was the norm rather than the exception. Almost all older people can weave a tale of woe about the way we were. Sadly, few young people will listen. Our schools teach pseudo history or HIS-Story while living black history is in our midst and fading away as our children strap on earphones and our elders slowly die off. We study about Moses, George Washington, and even Martin Luther King, but we don't know a thing about grandpa and grandma. Knowledge is power! If we only knew the road trod to get each of us to our respective present, we would perchance be inspired to try harder in our own endeavors!

where. What can we learn from his story - from his life accomplishments?

Can we try harder in our own endeavors in 2020? Can we forgive the atrocities of the past and deal with the current rise in racism in this country, in Mississippi, in Yalobusha County, in Water Valley in a positive way? Could exploring your heritage

provide insights that could perhaps make you a better person and the world a better place?

A bountiful New Year to All!

(Note: In the previous column the correct title for Emma Faye Gooch should have read Retired Army Sergeant First Class.)



Hilliard L. Lackey, Ph.D.

Associate Professor / Coordinator of Doctoral Student Development Hilliard L. Lackey serves as Visiting Professor of Urban Higher Education for the Jackson State University (JSU) Executive Ph.D. Program. He earned degrees (B.A., History and Political Science, MS.Ed. in Educational Administration and Supervision, and the Ed.S. in Educational Administration) from Jackson State University and the Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from University of Mississippi. He has been an administrator/professor at JSU including; Director of Alumni Affairs, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs, Special Assistant to the Executive Vice President. He has also served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Director of Enrollment Management at LeMoyne-Owen (Memphis, TN). Dr. Lackey is a 2008 inductee into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame, 2003 Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund HBCU Alumnae of the Year, 1997 NAFAEO Distinguished Alumni Award honoree, and in 2004 the McCormick Freedom Museum of Chicago placed his quote on a monument. He was a Fulbright Fellow to North Africa (the Maghreb) and is an authority on the Historical Geography of the Mississippi Delta.

COMING EVENTS

Lions Club Will Serve Pancakes On Jan. 11

The Water Valley Lions Club has rescheduled their next pancake breakfast to Saturday, Jan. 11, due to the holidays. They will serve pancakes, sausage, coffee and juice from 6:30 to 9 a.m. for \$5. They will also have a few chocolate and cinnamon coated pecan halves for sale, along with cheese.

Deadline To Register For ServSafe Class Is Jan. 21

ServSafe Food Certification Class will be taught February 18 and 19, beginning at 9 a.m. both days. The certification exam will begin around 3 p.m. on the 19th and should be completed by 5 p.m. The class will be held at the MSU Extension Service Calhoun County. The cost of the course is \$140 and the deadline to register is January 21st. Call Pamela Redwine at the MSU Extension Office Yalobusha County at 662-675-2730 for additional details and to register.

YHS Reports January Meeting Will Be On A Sunday

The next Yalobusha County Historical Society meeting is scheduled Sunday, Jan. 19, at 3 p.m. This Sunday afternoon meeting is a one-time experimental time for the monthly society meeting. The speakers are Ann Garland, Chris Morgan, and Don Sides. The topic is the book "Our Little Piece of Earth" by Ann's mother Eunice Weaver. A copy of "Our Little Piece of Earth" will be given by Don Sides to each person paying their thirty dollar 2020 YCHS membership dues on January 19, 2020. "Our Little Piece of Earth" is about Coffeeville and surrounding areas. Refreshments are served afterwards. Visitors are welcome.

WVHS Class Of 1970 Schedules Meeting To Plan Reunion

Members of the Water Valley High School Class of 1970 will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 13, in the Fellowship Hall of Woodland Hills Baptist Church to plan their 50-year reunion. All class members are encouraged to attend.

Weekend Activities At The VFW Include Bingo, Dance

Bingo will be played at VFW Post 4100 Friday night, January 10, Doors open at 5 p.m. and play begins at 7. Providing music for the regular Saturday night dance on January 11 will be the Bobby Hood Band. Music begins at 8 p.m. and concludes at midnight. Post 4100 is located at 11535 Highway 315, west of Water Valley.

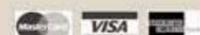
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426 N. MAIN ST. WATER VALLEY M-F 8 am to 5 pm Saturday 9 am - 3 pm (662) 473-3332



All interested public and private transit and paratransit operators within Yalobusha County, are hereby advised that the Central Mississippi, Inc. is applying to the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jackson, Mississippi, for a grant under Section 5310 of the Federal Public Transportation Act, as amended, for the provision of Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Service would be provided within Yalobusha County. This program consist of enhancing and expanding the mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services.

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties, including transit and paratransit operators, of the service being planned for providing transportation services for the elderly and disabled within the area as described above, and to ensure that such a program would not represent a duplication of current or of proposed services provided by existing transit or paratransit operators in the area.

Comments either for or against this service will be received at any time within fifteen (15) calendar days from the date of this notice. All comments should be addressed to:

Central Mississippi, Inc.
ATTN: Dr. Pamela Gary
P.O. Box 749
Winona, MS 38967