



ONE MAN'S TRASH: The 'Net makes the world even smaller

By Jim Young / jimyoungreporter@gmail.com

— The power of the Internet continues to amaze me.

In my last column, I talked about the Crossville Congregational Church postcard signed by S. C. Bishop, prominent Crossville resident and publisher/editor of the *Crossville Chronicle* in the late 1800s and early 1900s that I bought through eBay. With the *Chronicle's* Web site now publishing to the world and my e-mail address part of the posting of that column, I got a lot of very interesting responses to that column, including one from half way around the globe!

One e-mail I received came from an old eBay acquaintance, Jack Hill of Nashville, who does a booming business in self produced CDs that include humor mixed with old stories of a Crossville and a time now gone by. His most recent effort is a book he put together, researched from old letters, many between his mother Katie Maxwell Hill and his father Lloyd Hill while they were courting. Those letters, along with other correspondence, photos and documents, make up the outline. The book highlights life and activities of the Upper Cumberland area in the 1920s.

Once Hill organized all the letters in order by date, he took information and detail from the letters and put it in the form of a diary as it might have been written by his mother. All in all the technique works well and gives a fascinating insight into the daily life and activities taking place in the Crossville, Algood area of the time.

Hill's mother attended the Cumberland Mountain School while preparing to become a teacher. Her first teaching assignment was a new school on Millstone Mountain above Waldensia. Anyone with interest in the old days in these areas or simply a close up look at how life used to be should find the book fascinating. You can buy the book online through Hill's eBay site by searching for seller "Jaxghill" or at the Davis Kidd book store at Green Hills in Nashville in their regional section.

I also got e-mail from a couple of Bishop family members interested in genealogy and details about Mr. S.C. Bishop.

Apparently some branches of the Bishop family were not in good communication with each other and are looking for information. I heard from the Oklahoma branch of the family, descendants of Bishop's father, Dr. Nimrod Bishop.

I can relate to this after hearing out of the blue recently from a great-aunt that I didn't even know existed. She had seen my name connected with a Web site at Iowa State where I had helped provide some information and photos about my great-grandfather who was a professor there and later head of the Iowa Agricultural Extension Service. She called from Ontario, Canada, one day when we happened to be home for lunch and we have been e-mailing since with photos and information. I also heard quite a few stories about the old Congregational Church building including people who had taken school classes in basement of the building and those who had attended scout troop meetings there.

And as unbelievable as it sounds, I also heard from Down Under! In the last column, I mentioned a Web site for purchasing books that I like, www.abebooks.com. I mentioned the site cataloged used books from bookstores across the U.S. Grant Leach of Blue Basket Books in Robe, South Australia, had read the column online and e-mailed to tell me ABE Books was world wide, including his store. He said that there were versions of ABE Books for French, Spanish, German and soon Italian.

Mr. Leach said he had sold books all around the world including here in Tennessee. He also sent best wishes to everyone in Crossville from Robe, Australia.

It really is a small world!

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