

# Job titles change

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soil. The board also approved the purchase of two new buses and two new trucks for the transportation and maintenance departments through Kentucky Inter-local School Transportation Association.

## JOB TITLES CHANGED

Job titles for two administrative staff members were changed so the titles would sound more collegiate.

Phyllis Curry, whose title was Instruction Supervisor, will now be the Academic Dean/Instructional Supervisor. Robbie Harmon, whose title was Director of Pupil Personnel, will now

be Dean of Students/Director of Pupil Personnel.

Reed said he believes these changes will make it easier for students and faculty to relate to Harmon and Curry.

Presentations were made by each school about the implementation of the Leader in Me program.

The GRIT team, a team of 18 Adair County High School students who are committed to being leaders in their school, made a presentation to the board about the role of the team.

Reed said ACHS is somewhat of a pilot for the Leader in Me program and he is excited to see where it goes.

By Toni Humphress  
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# Locals recall dark days of Great Depression

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not get together and try to formulate any kind of plan," Keltner said. "So the country was just in limbo there for a while."

## LIVING IN THE DEPRESSION

For people like Bob White, 88, the Depression was not so different from everyday life. White's family lived in a rural area.

"We learned how to be self-sufficient," White said. "Most of us had a little farm, had a garden, and cows for milk and provided for ourselves. We didn't need much money, and we couldn't get it anyway if we did."

They made enough money to pay the important bills and had a little left over.

"We didn't worry about it (the Depression) because we didn't know any other way because everyone was living the same way we were," White said.

Keltner's father, who had seven children, sold tobacco and owned a combination country store and post office in Mell. On top of whatever profits he may

have been fortunate enough of make, he earned a small postmaster's salary. William's father, who had eight children, had to give up his career to take shifts digging graves with another man.

"My dad was a civil engineer and surveyor," Williams said. "And nobody was having their property surveyed because they couldn't afford it. So he got a part time job."

Many people would work 12 hours a day and make one dollar, and they would be glad to get it, Keltner said. He remembers one time his father received a check for selling tobacco that was higher than usual.

"One check was in the 40s, and you would have thought that he won the lottery," Keltner said.

Because of the lack of money, many things would be free or cost little. Live shows and cinema shows could be seen for free or a few cents. Five gallons of gas cost around 90 cents. Big boxes of groceries could be purchased for \$5. Some farmers would offer their crops at low costs rather than let them go to waste.

"The President said those



George Keltner says some people moved away to find jobs during tough economic times 85 years ago.

that have got farms of whatever they grew had people come in and pick stuff for their family, and it didn't cost them anything, because they didn't know what to do. They couldn't sell the food. Nobody had any money to buy it," Williams said.

According to Holmes, many things could be purchased for nickels and quarters. One day somebody gave him a quarter and he remembers the excitement to this day.

"A quarter back then is like having a 10 dollar bill now," Holmes said.

People found ways to survive, Williams recalls.

"That's what the Depression was," Williams said. "Stretching your money over a long period of time."

Williams said some people would boil the same coffee over and over again. Her family would buy Oleo margarine, which they had to mix and cut themselves, because butter was too expensive. Williams quickly tired of Oleo.

"After we graduated from high school, I got a job in the dime store, and I said, 'I'm going to quit buying Oleo; I'm going to buy butter! I don't care if it does cost money,'" Williams said.

People left their hometowns in search of jobs. Some people from here headed north to Illinois.

"Most everybody had somebody who had already left," Keltner said. "A young man here, in this area, that lived on a farm, would go to Illinois in the fall of the year as soon as they got their tobacco cut."

Some young men would bring their money back home after a few months, but others never returned.

When Holmes was old enough, he began traveling towards Illinois to find a job. But before he and another man left town, they stopped at a gas station to get a new tire and the owner provided Holmes with a different opportunity.

"He took me behind the station there and said, 'I'll give you a dollar a day, give you half a day off (Sunday) every other week,'" Holmes said.

Holmes took the job and the other man went on alone.

The people who stayed pitched in together to help each other out. Holmes said there would be some fights, but everybody still took care of the sick, watched each other's children and shared food.

Keltner's mother made clothing for people. He remembers one time she sewed a dress for a baby who had passed away.

Even though the times were tough, some of Keltner's favorite memories come from that era.

"Some of the best memories I have are at the country school up on Bull Run," Keltner said.

By James D. McIntosh Jr.  
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*(If you know of someone interested in participating in future articles reflecting the nation's history, contact James McIntosh at 270-384-9454 or james@adairvoice.com.)*



At their home in Mell, George Keltner and his older sister Mary stand behind their Uncle George, who has their younger brothers Jess and Carl on his laps.

# Silent City Tour

The Adair County Public Library hosted the seventh annual "Silent City" Cemetery Walking Tour Monday through the Columbia City Cemetery in celebration of October being Family History Month. The tour was sponsored by the library and the Adair County Genealogical Society. During the tour, actors portrayed historical members of the community in front of their graves.

Photos by James McIntosh



Michael Watson portrays Capt. W.W. Bradshaw, a captain in the Civil War and a missionary who established Sunday schools in several states, including Kentucky.



Barry Loy portrays the role of his great uncle, Noah Loy, who was school superintendent.

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