

1879

Bowling Green and the Twelfth Kentucky Press Association

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BOWLING GREEN

And The

Twelfth

KENTUCKY PRESS ASSOCIATION

19th, 20th and 21st of June, 1879

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Clipped From

THE INDEPENDENT

Greenup, Ky.

8447

Tendered to the citizens of Bowling Green, in thankful remembrance of the pleasant days of the Twelfth Kentucky Press Association, with his compliments, by

K. B. Grahn,
Editor of the Independent.

BOWLING GREEN AND THE K. P. ASSOCIATION.

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The happy days of Bowling Green are over, the editors, together with their wives and their sisters and their cousins and their aunts have returned to their homes and are again pushing their pencils into the local history of their surroundings. Hard enough indeed will it be to many of us, to again enter the sober duties of professional labor, after the glorious days of the Twelfth Press Association!

Beautiful Bowling Green! Nestled amid the fruitful, wavy, wood tufted lands of the Barren river! Handsomest of the towns of the Blue-grass region! Home of the largest hearted hospitality of the Union! Cradle of the fairest daughters of our Commonwealth! Thriving town, whose continuous and future growth are secured by the enterprise, virtue, taste, and industry of your citizens, who will yet succeed to make you the most thriving city of this and adjacent States!

Bowling Green was settled in 1800 by emigrants from Virginia, who named the newly founded village for the one of like name in their old Virginia home.

The capital of Warren county, Bowling Green has a population of over 6,000 and extends over a large space, -- most all the dwellings being surrounded by flower yards, lawns and shade trees, and the streets and sidewalks perfectly graded and paved.

The original Court-house fell a prey to indentiarism several years ago, and when a new hall of justice was erected to take its place, it was located two squares from the old Court-house yard, which was presented to the city as a public park, and the citizens have rendered this heart of their city comparatively more attractive and beautiful than any we have ever beheld. The park is surrounded by a tasteful iron railing and this by a flagstone side-walk. Its center is a beautiful water reservoir with a fountain of exquisite design. Four statues, representing the seasons, stand around it amid the rich shrubbery, ornamental trees, flower beds, lawns, walks, iron seats and resting places; there is also a stand for a music band, composed of home talent, which here frequently gives evening concerts, when the illumination of the park, most tastefully designed, renders it a true realization of oriental fairy traditions.

The new Court-house is a large and handsome structure (indeed excepting that of Louisville the handsomest in the State). Its cupola rises to a higher altitude than the pretty steeples of the thirteen churches (nine white and four colored) all of which combined, when viewed from College Hill, where the city's water reservoir is located, give the place a graceful appearance, a variety which attracts the observer the more as the

eye wanders over the landscape for miles about, across the rolling, rich farming lands, dotted with plantation residences, clusters of forest trees, and intersected by the serpentine course of Barren river, smooth turnpike roads and the railroad track of the L., N. and G. W. railroad.

This is a panorama never to be forgotten, especially now when heaven's peace hangs over the whole--different from what it was but sixteen years ago when these very plains and valleys were dyed with the life blood of the youth of the Nation, when Generals Buckner and Sidney Johnson erected, on this very College Hill fortifications, whose outlines are yet apparent. Fire and shells were then sent from here to slay our fellowmen--while now the pure and crystal waters of Barren river are forced into the large 1,000,000 gallon reservoir, constructed in the very midst of the mementoes of past warfare and, hence conducted by a system of five miles of pipe into the peaceful habitations below.

The Water Works, readily recognized by their tall eighty-five feet high, round brick chimney, situated 5,800 feet from the reservoir, which is 237 feet above the river's low water mark, by means of two--(450 gallon per minute)--pumps. The reservoir, lined with brick and cemented, the water works and three miles of six and four inch pipe, constructed in 1868-9 by T. B. Wright, who is still in charge of them, represent an original cost of \$75,000 and are owned by the city. Since that time, however, the length of piping has been doubled and additional improvements have been made, which altogether place the present cost of the works at \$125,000. The charge for water is \$6 per year for three rooms, \$2 for each additional room up to fourteen, and beyond that number at a reduced rate.

The immense value of these works to the citizens, aside of their sanitary influence, etc., are the more perceptible if we mention the three fire companies which, supplied with hose reels and life saving apparatus, render the city secure from extensive inroads of the fire fiend, without the use of fire engines.

The Gas Works of the city are owned by a corporation presided over by Geo. Lehman, president, and E. L. Motley, secretary; they own 7 miles of pipe; their gasometer has a capacity of 12,000 cubic feet of gas, supplied by 6 retorts. The charge per cubic foot is $3\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Two weekly newspapers, both of democratic persuasion, are published here: the Democrat, by R. S. Evans, and the Green River Pantagraph, by E. H. Porter. They are interesting publications; the job work capacity of these offices is likewise very fair.

There are three banks. Two of them: Potter, Vivian & Co. and Nazro & Underwood are private banks, whose capital stock and deposits we failed to ascertain. The third, the Warren Deposit Bank, managed by C. G. Smallhouse, cashier, chartered by the State, was organized in 1871, and enjoys a highly flattering reputation, as appears from the fact, that its deposits, when your reporter interviewed them, amounted to the snug sum of \$122,287,56. Their capital stock is \$150,000. They have an excellent vault and a burglar proof safe provided with a Sargent & Greenleaf time lock.

The Police Organization also seems to be quite satisfactory. The force consists of ten gentlemen, and only too truly can we call them so, for a more polite, efficient and obliging body of public officers we have never met.

The Jail is a solid two-story rock building, 24 X 36 in size, the upper story being inhabited by T. B. Jones, the polite Jailer, and his family, while the greater part of the first floor, consisting of four large iron cells and four dungeons, is used for the safekeeping of prisoners. It is well ventilated, supplied with water from the water works and kept very tidy and clean. Four auburn lads were confined in it, awaiting their trials of petit and, grand larceny, of which, of course they told us they were entirely innocent, and that if they could only get out of their present troubles, they would never, never do so again.

The educational advantages of the city, the private and public schools, the two female colleges--should all be separately mentioned. We can only refer to one of them, the Boys' College of the place, not only because of its excellence and the renown of its instructors, but for the sake of R. W. Ogden, the benevolent man, who by willing three valuable farms and a private fortune of \$150,000 to this laudable institute has erected for himself a monument which even generations from now, will not cease to reflect on his name the halo of progress, knowledge and true liberty,--to be fostered by his legacy--more valuable than all the riches and honors of this world.

The Fairview Cemetery embraces a thirty acre tract, tastefully laid out and well taken care of, and is doubly attractive from the fact that all its monuments represent that delicate sense of beauty which seeks to excel in designs of simplicity, rather than by those swaggering accumulations of marble and granite, which in the shape of "hundred thousand dollar" monuments are disgracing the homes of death of purse-proud aristocrats in many of the older and larger cities.

Another point of attraction are the Fair Grounds, owned by the Warren County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, which, however, we failed to see; the grounds embrace 40 acres. Instead of visiting them, we joined a congenial and pleasant party to explore the famous Lost River Cave Mill, situated near the Louisville and Nashville pike, three miles south of Bowling Green, one mile from the Memphis railroad junction. Lost river, as it was called by the U. S. soldiers in 1863, or better known as Cave Mill Creek, arises from the ground without apparent sources, but appears on earth like a foundling, runs among rich shrubbery and forest trees (150 feet wide) a distance of 1,000 yards to underneath a cave (90 feet high and 126 feet wide) in which it soon disappears, not to see the light of day again mysterious course into Barren river.

The fall of the water towards the cave is so rapid that in 1818 a man named King first erected a water mill at this point; in 1823 S. Riles replaced this by another one, which remained in paying operation till 1846,

when the whole property went to waste. In 1875 John L. Row came here, purchased the place and by spending \$23,000, built a strong sixteen feet high rock dam across the mouth of the cave, thus obtaining a force of water of fifty horse power, (while the water continues running, which it does except in the very hottest part of summer, when a boiler and steam engine supplies the same force.) The roof of the cave, where the main mill shaft transects it is 42 feet thick. The mill itself a three-story building stands on top of the cave, perpendicularly over the water wheel. Its capacity is 75 barrels of flour per day of a quality not surpassed by any mill in the State.

The whole county nearly is underlaid with the subcarboniferous formation and its general surface is level or gently undulating, except in the Northern part, where the conglomerate and sandstone rock appear, causing knots and hills of considerable altitude. The leading source of support of this county is agriculture,--grain, tobacco, vegetables and fruit hardly ever failing to turn out good profitable crops; and the Warren county livestock trade is likewise of considerable importance.

The Auditor states the average value of land per acre in this county, as reported to him last year, as \$11.17. As to the value of its horses it is the fifth county in the state and the third as regards its mules. The total valuation of its property, \$6,056,393, ranks it as the eighth richest county of the state. In 1878 this county reported the following crops to the Auditor's office:

4,405,130 pounds of tobacco,
1,747 tons of hay,
1,147,990 bushels of corn,
132,408 bushels of wheat.

The center of so bountifully blessed a county, Bowling Green is especially designed to become a manufacturing town of considerable importance ere many years, because of the abundant and cheap supply of many who prefer to invest their surplus means in the fostering of manufacturing establishments rather, than in bonds or superfluous blooded stock.

The Bowling Green Manufacturing Company, superintended by S. S. Potter are makers of all kinds of woolen textures, such as jeans, cassimeres, flannels, blankets, linseys, etc., producing 340,000 yards of these goods per year and using annually 200,000 pounds of wool in their manufacture. Incorporated in 1866, they have a paid up capital of \$62,000, work 5 sets of cards, 1,400 spindles, 52 narrow and 1 broad loom, and employ sixty-five hands, paying out (aside of material) \$2,000 cash per month for wages. The main building, with iron roof, is quite an imposing frame structure. Their produce readily sells in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana,

Illinois, Ohio and New York. In their extensive sale room a curiosity was shown us in the very piece of jeans which supplied to Governor Blue Jeans Williams his famous Blue Jeans electioneering suit.

The Bowling Green Limestone Works, situated not far from town, utilize the famous limestone ledge which has given this locality quite a far-famed reputation; the ledge is 30 feet solid in thickness, 500 feet wide and 5 miles long. It is used for building and monumental work in this and adjacent states. When first quarried it is easily workable, but hardens quickly after having been exposed to the influence of the air.

Mr. James Woolworth, of Sandusky, Ohio, located here some four years ago the Bowling Green Handle Works, whose agent, Mr. J. W. Durkee, a Massachusetts man, informed us that their capacity is 2,250 long or 5,000 short handles per day, all varieties of tool, axe, pick, hatchet and sledge handles being turned out in the rough and shipped hence to Dayton, Ohio, where they receive the finishing touch and whence they are shipped all over the world, even to Australia. (Only a few handles for local supply are here finished and sold directly from the works.) One half of their raw material comes by rail and the rest by steamboats and teams. About 25 cords are used per day and are paid for at the average rate of \$5 per cord,--for the very timber, which is of no earthly use to the people for any other purpose,--and distributing among them means of subsistence, without which many of them would be suffering. (In this connection we must not fail to mention an innovation introduced in timbering by this firm, consisting in the exclusive use of saws for the felling and cutting of trees, whereby the loss of wood caused by the old fashioned manner of chopping it, is avoided; the cutting is also done as close above the ground as possible, so that but very short stumps remain.) Thirty hands, five lathes, four siding saws, etc., are steadily kept in operation here.

Aside of this factory the same concern operates three others (one 4 miles from Scottville, Allen county, one 4 miles from Palmyra, Tennessee, and one at Woodbury, Butler county), and at the same time takes the product of another factory not owned by it, at Scottville, giving employment altogether to 300 men and 75 teams, all of whom earned last year not less than \$80,000 in cash.

T. J. Sullivan, John Getty and C. S. Allen are the proprietors of the Kentucky Stave and Heading Factory, situated immediately on Barren river, manufacturing staves, heading and sawed shingles. Their steam derrick unloads 100 cords of wood from a barge and elevates it on the bank in about eight hours. All their timber is furnished by Warren county. The daily capacity of the works is 18,000 staves or 10,000 pieces of heading. Thirty hands are employed here and about \$2,000 are expended by the firm for wages and material each month.

Judge W. H. Payne had just sold his extensive saw and shingle mill property, situated opposite the fore-mentioned Stave and Heading factory, to the Bowling Green S. and H. Co. It employs twelve men and cuts 20,000 feet of lumber per day.

The Bowling Green Sash Factory, which formerly employed 25 men, is idle, the question of ownership unfortunately being tested in the courts.

We further noticed a steam grain mill, a machine shop and other private enterprises, all of which minutely to inspect, we lacked the time.

The Louisville and Nashville railroad intersects the county from North-east to South -west, it being 112 miles from this point to Louisville and 73 miles to Nashville. At Memphis Junction, five miles from this city, it branches, one arm running to Nashville, and the other to Guthrie, Todd county, and thence to Memphis.

This important Trunk-line is of eminent special importance to Bowling Green; this place being the Junction of the Second and C Divisions, the transportation force (conductors, engineers, firemen and brakemen) change trains, are living and receive monthly from \$15,000 to \$20,000 cash for wages at this point. A like amount is paid here by the railroad company each month to their force of mechanics employed on the repairs and rebuilding of locomotive engines and cars. The new large brick round house (175 feet in diameter) with sixteen stalls, the old one now mainly used for a wood work and repair shop, the adjoining machine shop (with six lathes, three planers, one jumper, one shaper, one bolt cutter), the blacksmith shop, (with five fires, a four ton steam hammer and a cold rail saw), the sand dry house, supply store, office, coal bins, wood sheds and other buildings form a busy settlement. They are in charge of master mechanic W. W. Adair, assisted by J. H. Wilkerson, to whom we are indebted for acts of courtesy.

But this railroad is not the only facility which enables this locality to obtain cheap raw materials and merchandise, and to ship hence its products. The Barren and Green rivers, slack watered as they are, afford water shipping and transportation all the year around to and from the Ohio river, near Evansville, Ind., a distance of 200 miles by river,--100 miles by land.

As early as 1838 one Mr. J. R. Skikes originated the idea of constructing four locks in Green and one in Barren river, and strange to say our old granny Commonwealth entered into his plans, and bringing them to a successful completion spent the sum of \$900,000 in the building of these five 150X36 feet locks and the necessary dams, all of which were built in an excellent manner. Yet owing to the course generally pursued by Government authorities in the administration of canals, etc., this intended improvement soon grew to be a burden to the State and a real incumbrance to the development of the country, until some eight years ago, the Green and Barren River Navigation Company, consisting of C. G. Smallhouse, President, W. H. Paynes, J. N. Sproul, S. W. Combs, E. B. Seeley, J. A. Robinson, C. J. Vanmeter and W. S. Vanmeter, leased the locks of the State for a period of thirty years, giving a \$500,000 bond, and agreeing to return the improvements at the expiration of the contract time

in as good condition as they were when the company took charge of them. This is the only consideration; but the company are bound not to charge a higher rate of tollage than that expressly stipulated in the contract. The management of this company has been so circumspect and liberal that ever since their taking charge of these improvements their use has grown continuously more beneficial to the people and their interests. The G. and B. R. W. Co. have expended not less than \$300,000 in their own improvements, which consist of a fleet of 27 (6,000-10,000 bushel) coal barges, two tow boats, two elegant passenger and freight boats, a (140X34) dry dock for their barge and boat repairs, and their 50 feet--two bucket--perpendicular--steam--coal elevator of a 5,000 bushel hoisting capacity, as well as their wharf, both one mile from Bowling Green. This company employs about 200 men, 100 of whom reside near Bowling Green, and their monthly earnings of about \$2,000 handsomely swell her circulating medium. The two packets, which also carry the U. S. mails, make six trips to Evansville each week, and even when in summer navigation grows to be quite troublesome and business slack they never raise their usual rate of freight or passenger charges.

Aside of these interests this company have purchased a tract of coal lands in Butler county, and there, 3/4 miles back of the Green River, (connected with it by a mule propelled tramroad,) the coal mining village, Mining City, has been created, whose improvements represent a first cost of \$25,000. Here a 48 inch vein of solid semi cannel coal is mined, at a price of 3 cents per bushel for digging. From 50 to 75 miners find steady employment here. The present capacity of the mine is a little over 2,000 bushels per day. The product of this mine, together with that of other coal banks in Butler and adjacent counties, aggregating about 5,000 bushels per day, is shipped by this company to Bowling Green, there elevated from the barges up to the railroad track and sold, which is just 5,000 times as much coal as that shipped here previous to the time when this company took hold of the locks.

At this season there are but about 3 feet of water in the shoalest places in Barren River, which has a general width of 250 to 300 feet; yet during the spring and fall freshets the stream often rapidly rises to 35 feet, and in 1875 it even got up to 47 feet, playing sad havoc with the lowland farms.

There are four livery stables in Bowling Green, with a total stabling accommodation of 700 stalls. Its four hotels, the Ritter House (Bill Winaus), Merchants' Hotel (Busset & Armstrong), Morehead House (Mrs. J. Herdman) and Potter House (Jas. Clark) enjoy a fair reputation, especially well deserved by the one first named.

These, gentle reader, were the surroundings, the scenes, where the K. P. A. celebrated its twelfth birthday. But if you would imagine that its events were as dry as the recital of these stolid statistics, I fear

Winaus

you are not acquainted with the true inwardness of editorial genius, whose leading characteristic is not by any means a dry and sober contemplation of practical realities.

You should have cast a glance into one of the railroad cars, hospitably placed at the K. P. A.'s disposition by the liberal managers of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, when on the 18th, after midnight, the Bowling Green train left Louisville. A more wide awake crowd was never observed. There was Lexington's only Smith, the shootist, who never tired of rattling his dry bones, and whose final warm reception in that heated zone whence no traveler returns is but a question of time. You should have heard the glorious Johnsonian ode to liberty,

"We will do what we (bla-ank) please," etc., indefatigably shouted in various notes with a zeal not worthy of a better object.

You should have seen Craddock, the sire of us all, as he with a melancholy drooping brow and mustache, contemplated the 1,000,000 gallon water reservoir--a bigger quantity of water than had ever been set up before him any where else. Yes, was not the tacking of the very water-works unto Stoddard Johnston's oration to the craft, a leaning in the same direction?

You should have been there later, when the beau ideal of Kentucky journalism, Emmett Logan at last arrived, and others and the Newport Local ditto! Mein Gott, what a polking of fun and things there was in the private office of the Bowling Green, set aside for bar and other similar revival gatherings! The pressure on der language von Hans Breitman and lager beer rose to 2,500 pounds auf den quadrat zoll, so that one of the high contracting parties had to wrap himself up in an empty dray, giving his promise to pay \$100 for a five cent cigar, which, i.e. the \$100, still remains just and due and unpaid.

Governor Underwood, who seemed to be the soul and main spring of all the indefatigable committees, assigned us together with Captain Havens, of the Mt. Sterling Sentinel, Capt. Allen, of the Princeton Banner and Colonel Bowman, State Agricultural Commissioner, to the handsomest residence in Bowling Green, that of Mr. Albert Mitchell, with whose amiable family and pleasant household we spent some very happy hours, and to all of whom --way from the hills of Eastern Kentucky--we now send our most cordial greetings.

Instead of worrying our readers with a tedious long drawn description of the doings of the Association, we simply attach the following synopsis of the interesting exercises and princely entertainments:

Thursday, June 19th, 1879.

ODEON HALL,

Address of Welcome.....Hon. C. U. McElroy.
Response.....Hon. J. Stoddard Johnston.

2 o'clock P. M.
 Business Meeting of the Association.
 8 o'clock P. M.
 Music.....Eichhorn's Orchestra.
 Annual Address.....Mr. G. C. Mathews.
 Music.
 Poem.....Mr. Len. G. Faxon.
 Music.
 FOUNTAIN PARK
 10 o'clock P. M.
 Promenade Concert.....Great Western Star Band.

Friday, June 20th, 1879.

9 o'clock A. M.
 From Odeon Hall Drive to Places of Principal Interest in the City.
 PARK SQUARE
 4 O'clock P. M.
 Display of Water-works and Fire Department. Music by Park City Band.
 GETTY'S HALL.
 9 o'clock P. M.
 Grand reception Ball.....Thomas' Orchestra.
 ODEON HALL.
 Midnight
 Complimentary Banquet.....Eichhorn's Orchestra..

Saturday, June 21st, 1879.

8 o'clock A. M.
 From Odeon Hall Drive to Double Springs Wharf.
 9 o'clock A. M.
 Embark on Steamer Bowling Green and Pleasure Boat Cleopatra for
 Excursion on Barren and Green Rivers.
 Music by Eichhorn's and Thomas' Orchestras.

The Excursion returned in time for guests to take the evening train to join the Tennessee Press Association at the Mammoth Cave.

Mr. McElroy's address of welcome was by all means the speech of the Association, and we regret not to have space to reproduce it in toto. Its following closing sentences will suffice to give to our readers not only an idea of the talented young orator's genius, but also an expression of the sincerity of the hospitable welcome extended to us:

"We feel proud of the sterling vigor of that young manhood in whose bright catalogue there is no such word as fail, and which, unsubdued by the hard decrees of an adverse Fate, rises superior to opposition and disaster, and fights it way to recognition and success. *****

"And upon this happy occasion, with no criticisms not born of kindness and charity, and with no thoughts which come not of pleasant things, we can, and do, remember naught of you save virtues such as these, and so remembering, to you all, no matter whence you came--whether from city with its garrish light and stiffling heat, or village far away, 'knee deep in meadow grass and half hid in roses,' to all--upon this gladsome day in June, amid the aroma of incense-bearing flowers, again and again I bid you welcome. To the fair strangers who have honored us with their presence, I have no fit words of greeting to extend--for the language of prose knows but little of the minstrelsy of the heart's rich poesy."

The business meeting was of much interest, especially as regards the selection of Ashland for next year's place of meeting, an honor accorded Ashland at the instance of John Means, Esq.

This will give our Southern and Western Kentucky friends and excellent opportunity, to inform themselves of the fact that there is such a country as Eastern Kentucky, and to learn what our people here are doing towards developing the resources of the Commonwealth and how we are advancing civilization.

The following were elected officers of the Association for the ensuing year:

Col. J. STODDARD JOHNSTON, Frankfort Yeoman, President.
ELVIS PORTER, Bowling Green Pantagraph, Vice President.
THOMAS G. STUART, Clark County Democrat, Secretary.
Col. E. POLK JOHNSON, Louisville Evening Post and News, Treasurer.
Major LARUE THOMAS, Danville Advocate, Orator.
Mrs. NELLIE MARSHALL MCAFEE, of Louisville, Poet;
and a committee was selected to prepare and urge the passage through the Legislature of legal advertising laws.

The two star performances of the concert were "Song of the Sea Shell," by Miss Lily Hughes, a young lady of unusual talent, and "Chimes of Normandy," which was rendered better by Eichhorn's Louisville Band, than we have ever heard it before.

The Annual Address, by G. C. Mathews referred in an interesting manner to the duties of reporters, and was undoubtedly a masterpiece of composition.

But the most enjoyable part of the first day's entertainment was the promenade concert, equal in magnificent splendor and joyful animation to those of the leading metropolis of Europe. It was something not soon to be forgotten; even the country people from a radius of many miles had driven to town to see the glorious sight.

The Ball on the following day and the subsequent Banquet displayed an unusual array of beauty, style, taste and a really princely lavishness. In-

deed we don't think there is a city in this or any other Commonwealth that could outdo Bowling Green in this respect.

The third day's excursion on Barren river, extended to the Association by the Navigation Company, was participated in by over 400 invited guests, who literally crowded the two handsome packets and a barge supplied with a dancing floor and overspread by a large awning, especially arranged for dancing. Here a band of auburn musicians furnished the music, to which, some times forty couples at once were enjoying the Terpsichorean art,--while Eichhorn's band was playing popular airs on the deck of the Bowling Green. On this steamer were also set the tables, loaded with a rich and abundant repast.

The excursion extended down the tortuous course of the romantic Barren river to the first lock, returning in time to enable those wishing to visit the Mammoth Caves to take the evening train to Cave City and thence to reach that grandest of this world's wonders by stages, near midnight.

We wish we had the space to describe this wonderful creation of Nature's work, and also in a more detailed manner to speak of all the interesting events of all the four festive days. Still more do we regret not to have that command of a language,--not native to us,--to be able to refer in befitting terms to the boundless hospitality of Bowling Green's citizens.

As it is, we can only say, and we feel that all the other 250 fair and unfair newspaper representatives heartily join us:

THE LORD BLESS BOWLING GREEN!