

Rural Route 4 To the New Year



Phillip Burgess

2022. A new year. An infant. Full of hope. And optimism.

What happened to 2021? Where did the time go? For that matter what happened to the last decade? Or even the last quarter century? I know it is not true, but it seems the older I get the faster time passes.

Dr. Seuss, that beloved author of children's books, notes this about time: "How did it get so late so soon? It is night before it is afternoon. December is here before it is June. My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"

Last month, my high school class had its 50th reunion. Fifty years. Half a century, and yet I can remember most of my classmate's names. That is the thing about time; it passes quickly but leaves an imprint we never forget. While we may not remember where we put the car keys earlier in the day, we can vividly recall events in previous years that are indelibly seared into our brains.

It seems only a little while ago that I paused in the cotton field in front of Pa Burgess' house and looked upward to see an endless line of helicopters flying over. America and Russia were on the verge of war, and for a 9 year-old kid, it was hard to understand what was going on. I can still hear the "whir" of the helicopters.

And how could I forget that terrible day when my classmates and I were on the playground at recess and our teacher gathered us around the monkey bars to tell us that President Kennedy had been assassinated? Schools were dismissed for his funeral, and Daddy Grand and Mama B tried to explain to me the significance of what had happened.

Remember staring breathlessly at your black and white television screen as Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon? I stayed up well-beyond my bedtime to watch and listen to Chet Huntley and David Brinkley give updates.

(Continued on back)

Way to Go Wildcats!

The Tullahoma High School football team completed an historic season in December — they were undefeated from the first game to the last and claimed the Class 4A State Championship.

Congratulations to the 2021 Champs and to outgoing head coach John Olive!

Never miss a play. The **lightTube** Sports Network carries every football game—home and away. Subscribe today!



We want to hear from you! Rate your TUA service online.

Write a review on Google or tell us what you think on Facebook.



Watts Happening

(Continued from front)

And what were we doing in 1976? Celebrating America's bicentennial! Our 200th birthday. America rejoiced. Patriotism was at a fever pitch. Communities, families, and entire neighborhoods celebrated in unique ways. As young newlyweds, my wife and I celebrated by adopting a kitten and naming her Betsy Ross.

Father Time introduced a new century, and with it came concerns that computers worldwide would fail because they were designed to recognize only two digits in dates. New Year's Eve found me in a television studio in Montgomery, Ala., reporting on what had become known as Y2K. Thankfully, the computers did not fail, the big ball dropped in New York City and the world celebrated. Remember?

We watched in horror in 2001 as the twin towers in New York were hit by airliners, causing the massive structures to collapse. More than 2,000 were killed. Another plane hit the Pentagon and a third crashed in Pennsylvania. We were stunned. And very angry. The war on terror began.

These and other events, some significant and others not so much, are forever in our collective memories, with most of us able to recall where we were and what we were doing when they happened. And 2022? Who does the new year hold? What will we remember about the next twelve months? I do not know, but if I had my way, the pandemic would end, politicians would again work together, and a bright new day would dawn in America.

Regardless of what happens though, one thing is sure: Time will march on.

Philip Burgess' book, "Rural Route 4, The Good 'Ol Days Were Never Better," is available on Amazon.

Cold and Hot: Winter Safety Tips

Winter weather can cause potentially dangerous situations. Stay safe with these tips:

Electric and heating:

- *Get your heating unit ready with a tune-up and new air filters for maximum efficiency.
- *Make sure wood or coal stoves are properly installed with a chimney or flue, and keep a fire extinguisher handy.
- *Use fuel-burning heaters as directed with proper ventilation. They can produce carbon monoxide and can cause suffocation.

Want to use a portable generator?

- *Have it installed and inspected by licensed electricians.
- *Never connect a generator to your home's main wiring circuit. Disconnect your home from the power system before hooking up a generator. If you don't, electricity may flow backward into power

lines, endangering you, your neighbors, and linemen working to restore power.

- *Don't exceed recommended generator wattage.

Water pipes and freezing:

- *Disconnect hoses and consider covering outside faucets to prevent freezing.
- *During below-freezing temperatures, let indoor faucets drip, and open any cabinet under sinks.
- *Shut water off immediately if pipes freeze. Open faucets completely to relieve water pressure and prevent a rupture.
- *Use a hair dryer to thaw pipes, not an open flame.
- *Operate your water shut-off valve to be sure it works.
- *Winterize irrigation systems, and remove backflow prevention devices to prevent damage.

Stay away from downed power lines. Note the location and call TUA immediately at 455-4515.