BELL COUNTY

BELL COUNTY, was established in 1867 and formed from parts of Knox and Harlan counties. It was named from Joshua F. Bell of Danville, Ky. In 1870-71, a portion of Whitley county, about 45 voters, was cut off and added to it. (b) Approved Feb. 28th, as follows: "---all the parts of Harlan and Knox counties lying within and included in the following boundary, shall be and the same is hereby, stricken from said counties and erected into a district or county to be called and known as the county of Josh Bell, to-wit: Beginning at the narrows on Cumberland river, in Harlan county, about one mile above C.J. Calloway's; thence crossing said river and running on the dividing ridge between Wm. G. Howard and Wm. S. Howard, crossing Pucketts creek about 1/2 way between John W. Slushers and Samuel Creech's; thence up the dividing ridge between Pond Mill branch and Bond branch; thence with the same ridge dividing Pucketts creek and Browning's creek to the head of James Howard, Sr., mill creek; thence straight to Browning's creek, at the lower end of Isaac Ely's old farm; thence a straight line South to the Virginia line on top of Cumberland mountain; thence with the Virginia and Kentucky line at Cumberland Gap; thence with the Kentucky and Tennessee State line to the Whitley county line; thence with the line between Whitley and Knox counties to the head of Clear creek; thence with the dividing ridge between Turkey creek and Greasy creek to the Cumberland river, in Knox county, so as to include the Reuben Hendrickson farm; thence crossing the river to the top of the ridge West of Four Mile creek; thence with said ridge to Mulberry Gap; thence with the dividing ridge between Stinking and Straight creeks to the Clay county line; thence with the line between Clay and Harlan counties to the head of Big Run; thence down Big Run with its meanders to the Straight creek; thence a straight line to the beginning. (a)
BELL COUNTY, extreme southeastern part of State, is a typical Eastern Kentucky mountain coal producing county. It is bounded on the N. by Clay, on the E. by Leslie and Harlan, on the W. by Whitley and Knox Counties and on the S. by the States of Tennessee and Virginia; 160 m. SE. of Frankfort, 201 m. SE. of Louisville, 345 m. E. of Paducah, 245 m. SW. of Ashland; elevations to 3,350 ft.; 370 sq. m. (236,800 acres), 43rd in size. Population is 38,747, or 100.9 per sq. m., compared with State average of 65.1, an increase of 146.8 percent since 1900; ranks 12th in population and 11th in population density. There are 1,916 Negroes, or 4.9 percent of the total population, and 168 foreign born white persons, or 0.4 percent; 9020 children of school age, 7 to 15 years; 17,534 persons of citizenship age; 964 persons over 65 years old.

PINEVILLE (1025 alt., 3587 pop.), the county seat, is a fourth class incorporated town situated on the W. bank of the Cumberland River. Population increased 72.2 percent between 1900 and 1930. The town has a water supply system, one hospital, a modern fire pumper and police protection. Middlesboro, the leading industrial city, has a population of 10,550, a gain of 148.7 percent between 1900 and 1930.

STATISTICS: The assessed valuation of all taxable property in 1935 was $19,011,134 or $_________ per capita, and the taxable value of all land and improvements was $_________. County tax rates are as follows: State 0.5¢, county 90¢, school 75¢ and poll $______. The 1935 tax levy was $____ per capita, compared to a $______ per capita levy for the State as a whole. Pineville has a school tax of $____ and a poll tax of $_____. The county has a bonded indebtedness of $824,000 and a floating debt of $49,825. Bonded indebtedness of Pineville is $______ and of Middlesboro $_________.
Automobiles licensed in 1936 numbered and had an average

There are 75.1 m. of State maintained roads and of these 11.5 m. are
reinforced concrete, 5.5 m. graded and drained, 6.7 m. rock asphalt, 51.4 m.
black top; also 140 m. of improved and unimproved county roads.

Banks in the county number at Pineville and
at Middlesboro. Bank deposits total $2,486,180 and building and loan deposits
amount to $527,178.

The county institutions include a court house constructed in 1920 of
brick, marble, stone and concrete and a brick and stone jail building, erected
in 1890. Paupers of the county are cared for on a per capita basis by a pri-
vate individual. In addition to the court house at Pineville, the county
seat, the county has been deeded the second floor of a municipal building at
Middlesboro, where about 25 percent of the county's circuit court's business
is transacted.

TOPOGRAPHY: Bell County is typically mountainous with Cumberland Mountain
bounding it on the SE. and Pine Mountain bounding it in part and traversing
its N. central portion. These two mountains have altitudes ranging from 2500
to 3350 ft. Soils generally are not fertile or adaptable for agricultural use.
The entire county is subject to slight sheet erosion with occasional gullies.
Drainage is provided by the Cumberland River, and a number of small streams
emptying into it.

NATURAL RESOURCES include abundant mineral and timber reserves, hardly yet
touched, and scenic beauty of exceptional merit.

Bituminous coal is the principal mineral resource, although some cannel
coal of excellent quality is also present. The total estimated coal resources
of the Middlesboro basin-Pineville region are 4,314,000,000 tons and to date
less than 100,000,000 tons, or 2 percent of this has been mined. The Middle-
sboro basin, hedged in by high mountain ridges, contains numerous coal beds from
five to seven feet thick. Coal bearing rocks of this field consist of sandstone and shales having a total thickness of about 4000 ft. According to evidence of fossils all these rocks are of the same age as the Pottsville rocks of Pennsylvania.

There are iron deposits adjacent to Middlesboro, which are of the Clinton and Oriskany types that outcrop in Powell's Valley, Tennessee, 5 m. S. of Middlesboro; also to the S. of the southern outcrop near Middlesboro some veins are found but as yet are undeveloped. These extend on both the N. and S. sides of Tazewell, Tennessee, about 18 m. S. of Middlesboro. The three Clinton veins average 2½, 3½ and 4½ ft. in thickness. The Oriskany veins run from 4½ to 12 ft. in thickness. At the least thickness they will yield approximately 9,532,000 tons per sq. m. All these veins extend NE. from Middlesboro for a distance of some 60 m. and SE. to the Birmingham district.

Limestones along the Pine Mountain fault are suitable for general rural building and highway and railroad construction; sand, as transported deposit in stream beds, is available for general building construction, weathered shale and transported clays for brick manufacturing; petroleum is a remote possibility and natural gas has already been produced in one or two isolated wells.

Timber covers 189,448 acres, or 80 percent of the total area of the county, with Chestnut oak, white oak, yellow poplar, red black spanish oak, beech, chestnut, hickory, lynn-basswood, buckeye, birch and maple trees found in large quantities. Other trees include sycamore, pine, hemlock, elm, walnut, ash, black-gum, dog-wood, cedar, sourwood, ironwood, redbud and sassafras.

The scenic views offered lavishly in the county are one of its greatest natural resources and attract tourists from a wide region. Especially striking in aesthetic appeal is the Rhodendron Trail between Pineville and Middlesboro; also are Pinnacle Mountain overlooking Cumberland Gap and Pine Mountain State Park. The forests provide one of the county's major scenic attractions.
AGRICULTURE, which is of secondary importance, is limited to creek and stream bottoms and cleared hillsides and engages 1,815 persons, or 16.2 percent of those gainfully employed. There are 2466 farms, totalling 75,972 acres, or 32 percent of the county's total area, with an average farm acreage of 30.8. Of the farm land 30,654 acres are available for crops including 7002 acres of plowable pasture, 8492 acres are woodland pasture, 1456 acres other pasture, 29,510 acres non-pastured woodland, and 5,765 acres all other land in farms. In 1934 there were 15,809 acres of crop land harvested, 136 acres had crop failures and 7,707 acres were in crop land idle or fallow. The farms are operated by 992 full owners, 198 part owners, 1 manager and 1,275 tenants, of whom 77 are share croppers. Total value of the land and buildings is $1,898,740, with an average value of $770 per farm and $25.03 per acre.

The principal crops are corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes and hay. In 1934 corn on 11,337 acres produced 207,663 bushels; Irish potatoes, 413 acres, 32,364 bushels; sweet potatoes, 278 acres, 19,701 bushels; hay and sorghum, 1851 acres, 2909 tons; oats, 67 acres, 573 bushels. There are a few truck farms, but most of the produce is purchased out of the county.

Raising of cattle and hogs doubled between 1929 and 1934 and the county ranks 67th in number of swine and 106th in number of cattle.

INDUSTRY engages 4058 persons, or 36.2 percent of those gainfully employed, in the extraction of minerals and all but 18 of these in the mining of coal; 1464 persons, or 13 percent, in manufacturing; 261 proprietors and 681 employees in the retail trade; 96 full time and 11 part time employees in the wholesale trade; 72 proprietors, 41 full time and 22 part time workers in service occupations.

COMMERCE: A total of 1,378 tons of coal, valued at $2,250,000, was produced in Bell County in 1934, while the county's all time high output was 2,838,546 tons in 1927. There are approximately 100 mines and the county ranks 6th in the State in coal production.

A majority of the persons engaged in manufacturing are employed in
some phase of the lumber industry, by an overall factory and a tanning company, both of the latter being located in Middlesboro. Also in this city is a factory manufacturing elastic products, a stave mill, a foundry, two armature and motor works shops, a meat packing plant, an ice cream manufacturing plant and a flour mill. The electric light and power used in Pineville, Middlesboro and many of the mines is generated at a privately operated plant on Cumberland River, immediately N. of Pineville. Two grist mills are operated at Pineville.

The retail trade in 1935 consisted of 296 stores, totalling $5,433,000 in annual net sales and $497,000 in payrolls, an increase of 24.8 percent since 1933, when there were 290 stores, with net sales of $4,353,000 and payrolls amounting to $391,000; the wholesale trade in 1933 had net sales of $1,833,000, total payroll of $124,000; the service establishments, net receipts of $174,962, total payroll of $37,113.

Retail establishments are centered largely in Middlesboro and Pineville, but are also numerous in the smaller towns. The trade area extends into Clay, Harlan, Leslie, Knox and Whitley Counties and into the States of Virginia and Tennessee. The wholesale trade area is practically the same as the retail trade area. In addition many of the mining camp stores are supplied by wholesalers in Middlesboro and Pineville.

TRANSPORTATION: The two principal cities, Middlesboro and Pineville as well as various other points in the county are connected by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, which has numerous branch lines to many of the county's coal mining centers. Middlesboro is also a terminus for a division of the Southern Railway extending to Knoxville, Tennessee. Bus service in all directions is available.

HEALTH conditions in the county generally, based on the death rates for significant diseases, are better than in the State as a whole. The county's death rate from all causes in 1912 was 83.0 per 10,000 and 86.0 in 1933, compared to the State average of 129.01 in 1912 and 108.0 in 1933. The tuberculosis death
rate in the county in 1933 was 7.88 against the State average of 8.59; typhoid was 0.5 compared to State average of 1.20; pellagra was 1.5 and State average 0.48; diarrhea and dysentery 2.7 and State average 5.26. Two hundred cases of venereal diseases were treated during the past year.

The county has a full time health unit consisting of one doctor, two nurses, one sanitation inspector, one clerk in Pineville and one clerk in Middlesboro. There are two hospitals in Middlesboro and one in Pineville.

EDUCATION: There are three school administrative units, the schools under the county board of education and the city school systems in Pineville and Middlesboro.

The county schools employ a staff of 216 teachers and consist of 60 one-teacher, 15 two-teacher, 1 consolidated, 1 senior high and 5 local high schools, the last mentioned being located at Henderson Settlement, Pruden, Cabage, Kettle Island and Red Bird. Two of these high schools, the ones at Kettle Island and Red Bird, have gymnasiums. Three of the one-teacher schools are for Colored children. One new two-room and two new six room school buildings are being constructed by the WPA. School attendance is 7862, or 87.2 percent of the 9020 children of school age (7-15 years, inclusive) in these school districts. The county maintains four school buses.

Pineville has two elementary-to-high schools, one for white and the other for colored pupils, employing 27 white and 4 colored teachers.

There are five elementary schools and one high school for white pupils and one elementary and high school for colored pupils in Middlesboro. A total of 482 pupils are enrolled in the white and colored high schools, which employ 19 teachers, and an enrollment of approximately 2550 in the elementary schools, which employ 55 teachers.
RECREATION of various kinds is offered in the county, including extensive athletic facilities at the various schools. Pine Mountain State Park, near Pineville, was dedicated by the State as a permanent playground. Bartlett-Rhodes Municipal Park in Middlesboro has a swimming pool, tennis courts and other recreational facilities. A golf course in this city, the second to be constructed in the United States, is claimed to be the best course in the State. Fern Lake, near Middlesboro, is ideal for boating and fishing, while the famed mountain pass, Cumberland Gap, affords extensive possibilities for recreation. The county is included in the tentative development of the Southern Highland Region being considered by the TVA for recreational purposes.

PUBLIC WORKS activity is restricted to WPA projects, including road construction and repair work, school construction and repair and improving the airport at Middlesboro. Other WPA projects approved at the end of January, 1936 included construction of bridges, a school gymnasium, sidewalks, schools, streets, roads and sanitary toilets.

PUBLICATIONS consist of one daily newspaper, The Middlesboro Daily News, with a circulation of 3763, and three weekly newspapers, The Middlesboro Three States, The Pineville Sun and The Pineville Cumberland Courier, with circulations of 2283, 1790 and 1405, respectively. Circulation of the three papers is principally confined to the county.

ANNUAL EVENTS: The Mt. Laurel Festival is held annually in the latter part of May at Pine Mountain State Park. Ballads are sung, original mountain plays are staged and folk dances given by the native mountain people. From each of the Cumberland Valley towns a pageant, with decorated floats, moves to Pine Mountain State Park, where a stage has been erected in a natural amphitheatre in the park. A queen is selected from a number of college girls from various parts of the State and a coronation ceremony is held, the queen's crown being of Mt. Laurel. The festival lasts two days, closing with a grand ball on the evening of the second day. Three months of preparation are necessary for this
annual affair, which is attended by the Governor of Kentucky and other prominent officials and citizens.

The Middlesboro schools hold an annual harvest festival in November, at which a harvest queen is selected. A floral show is also held in Middlesboro early in the fall.

POINTS OF INTEREST include the coal mines near Middlesboro and Pineville, Cumberland Gap, Pinnacle Rock and Cumberland Mountain overlooking Cumberland Gap, Pine Mountain State Park and the Coal House in Middlesboro.

Cumberland Gap, 3 m. SE. of Middlesboro, is the historic pass into Kentucky used by Dr. Thomas Walker, Daniel Boone and other early explorers and pioneers. In 1928 a slowly ascending road was built from the Saddle of Cumberland Gap to the top of the Pinnacle, this road being named the Skyland Highway. From the top of the mountain, 3000 ft. above sea level, is unfolded a magnificent panoramic view and on a clear day portions of seven different states may be seen; also pinnacle rock, chimney rock and other unusual rock formations, old Civil War trenches, caves and beautiful woodland flowers.

Pine Mountain State Park, 2 m. S. of Pineville, covers 2500 acres of mountain land and is the largest State Park in Kentucky. Clear Creek Springs, a noted religious resort, is situated in the park and here the Mountain Laurel Festival is held annually. The park is noted for its huge and strange rock formations. Pine Mountain towers 2,200 ft. above Pineville. During the Civil War breast works were thrown up on the S. side of the mountain by the Union forces to prevent the Confederates from making their way N.

The building housing the Middlesboro Chamber of Commerce, known as the Coal House, is constructed of huge blocks of coal secured from mines in that region. It has been extensively photographed and publicized. Near Middlesboro in the Cumberland Mountain Section are several caves, among them being King Solomon's, Saltpetre and Sand Cave. King Solomon's Cave has a series of apartments, or smaller caves, leading under and apparently following the comb
of Cumberland Mountain in a horizontal direction. It contains numerous stalactites and stalagmites of unique form and dimension. Although reached through another entrance, **Saltpetre Cave** is probably a continuation of **King Solomon's Cave** and as the name indicates there is considerable saltpetre in the cave. The end to either cave has not been discovered.

**HISTORY:** Bell County, 112th formed, was created in May, 1867 from portions of Knox and Harlan Counties and in 1870-71 a part of Whitley County known as the South American district, was added to it. Its original boundaries were established as "all the parts of Harlan and Knox counties lying within and included in the following boundary, shall be and the same is hereby, stricken from said counties and erected into a district or county to be called and known as the county of Josh Bell, to-wit: Beginning at the narrows on Cumberland river, in Harlan county, about one mile above C. J. Calloway's; thence crossing said river and running on the dividing ridge between Wm. G. Howard and Wm. S. Howard, crossing Puckett's creek about 3 way between John W. Slushers and Samuel Creech's; thence up the dividing ridge between Pond Mill branch and Bond branch; thence with the same ridge dividing Puckett's creek and Browning's creek to the head of James Howard, Sr., mill creek; thence straight to Browning's creek, at the lower end of Isaac Ely's old farm; thence a straight line South to the Virginia line on top of Cumberland mountain; thence with the Virginia and Kentucky line at Cumberland Gap; thence with the Kentucky and Tennessee State line to the Whitley county line; thence with the line between Whitley and Knox counties to the head of Clear creek; thence with the dividing ridge between Turkey creek and Greasy creek to the Cumberland river, in Knox county, so as to include the Reuben Hendrickson farm; thence crossing the river to the top of the ridge West of Four Mile creek; thence with said ridge to Mulberry Gap; thence with the dividing ridge between Stinking and Straight creeks to the Clay county line; thence with the line between Clay and Harlan counties to the head of Big Run; thence down Big Run with its meanders to the Straight creek; thence a straight line to the beginning."
The county was originally known as Josh Bell County, but the prefix "Josh" was eliminated by the Kentucky Legislature in January, 1873. It was named in honor of the Hon. Joshua Fry Bell (b. 1811, d. 1870), a brilliant Kentucky lawyer of Danville, great grandson of Dr. Thomas Walker, the first recorded white visitor to interior of Kentucky in 1760 and of Col. John Fry, of Virginia, commander of the American forces during Colonial days, previous to the election of Gen. Washington; served two years as Repr. in Congress; Sec. of State under Gov. John J. Crittenden; 1850; opposition candidate for Governor in 1859 being defeated by Gov. Magoffin; one of six commissioners to Peace Conference at Washington, February, 1861; zealous advocate of the Union; refused nomination for Governor offered him by Union Democratic State convention; member of Ky. House of Representatives, 1865-66.

The history of Cumberland Gap is intermingled with that of the early history of the State for it was the point through which Eastern and Interior Kentucky was first entered and explored by the English colonists. The first recorded passage of white men through Cumberland Gap was on April 13th, 1750, when a small party of Virginians, headed by Dr. Thomas Walker made a trip of exploration in Kentucky for the Loyal Land Company, London, England. In 1769 Daniel Boone, John Stewart, Joseph Holden, James Monay and William Coole, under the guidance of John Findlay, came through Cumberland Gap. Boone, who made the trip in behalf of Richard Henderson and Company, returned to Virginia in 1771 with a full report to Henderson on the nature of the soil, timber and animal life in Kentucky. He returned in 1773 with his own and four other families for settlement, but this trip was frustrated within 12 m. of the gap by an attack of Indians in which Boone's son, James, was killed. Again Boone travelled through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky, this time as a road blaser for the Transylvania Company. He was accompanied with a party of 36 ax men to connect the Buffalo trails and Indian paths in order to provide the first continuous route through Cumberland Gap. This route for the settlement of Kentucky was opened about 1775. The Daughters of the American Revolution of
the States of Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky have placed a marker at Cumberland Gap as a lasting tribute to Daniel Boone for the prominent part he played in opening up this section for civilization.

Despite frequent molestation from the Indians a large caravan of settlers, headed by Judge Richard Henderson, moved into Kentucky over the trail blazed by Boone. The State of Virginia recognized the need of a good wagon road to their Kentucky County and the Virginia Legislature appointed a committee to cut a highway known as the Wilderness Road over which vehicles could be drawn. The road was started in 1779, but was not actually completed until 1796, after Kentucky became a State. This Wilderness Road has continued to be a main thoroughfare.

Immediately bordering Pineville on the NW. is Cumberland Ford, one of the oldest settlements in this part of the country. It is said to have originally been owned by Isaac Shelby, first Governor of Kentucky, and to have been sold by him to James Remfro, whose family owned it for several generations.

During the Civil War, Cumberland Gap was a great natural gateway between the N. and S. As a point of great military importance it was siezed and held by turns by both contending armies and finally abandoned by both. "Long Tom", noted long range brass cannon, and seven other cannons were thrown from Pinnacle Rock down hundreds of feet among the cliffs by the Union forces under command of Brig. Gen. Geo. W. Morgan, U.S.A., when forced to evacuate the Gap by an advancing Confederate army from Knoxville under command of Gen. Braxton Bragg, C.S.A.
MIDDLESBORO

General Information

TRANSPORTATION. Railroad, L&N. Station two blocks from business center, at 16th St. and Lothbury Ave. Airport, 1 m. on Dorchester Ave. Bus Lines, Southeastern Greyhound Depot 100 10th St. Taxi, any point in city, inclusive of airport, 25c.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS. No R. turn on red. Parking, one hour in downtown area. Business Center, Cumberland Ave. at 19th and 20th Sts. Highway US 25E enters city from S., passes through downtown district on Cumberland Ave., and leaves city, going N., via 25th St.

PUBLIC INFORMATION. Chamber of Commerce, corner of 19th St. AAA, Lunetta Cafe, on Cumberland. Police Station, 18th and Lothbury. Post Office, opposite Police Station (18th and Lothbury).


ANNUAL EVENTS. Kentucky Mountain Laurel Festival, annually, at Laurel-blossom time, usually late in May. Under joint auspices of city officials and business men of Middlesboro and Pineville.

CIVIC CLUBS. Rotary, at Hotel Cumberland, Saturdays, 12:15 P.M. Kiwanis, Hotel Cumberland, 12:15 P.M., Thursdays.

MIDDLESBORO, (1150 alt., 10,350 pop.), is situated in the extreme southeastern corner of Kentucky, on US 25E, in a deep circular valley directly to the westward of historic Cumberland Gap (Page...). The valley, drained by Yellow Creek, was formed by geologic faults that developed both to the eastward and westward, the broken edges of the faults lifting to form the surrounding mountains, seamed with coal, limestone layers, and deposits of iron. This same mineral wealth lies beneath the valley floor, and its presence accounts for the city of Middlesboro, named by its founders after a great English manufacturing town.

In spite of the commercial and military strategic position of Cumberland Gap, and its importance as the gateway through which pioneer migration first poured
into the West, the broken terrain delayed development of this section of the State until, in 1885, a Scotch-Canadian mining engineer, Colonel Alexander Allen Arthur, made a mineral survey of the Yellow Creek basin and the surrounding hills, took note of its location with reference to market distribution, and envisioned a great manufacturing city based upon the steel-making potentialities of the neighborhood.

Colonel Arthur, whose British connections were wide, secured ample capital from that country, bought up a great tract of mineral-bearing lands, and in 1889 began the building of an industrial city in a wilderness. Within a year the vast project was under way, two railroads, the Louisville and Nashville and the Southern, were building their way toward Middlesboro through the mountain ranges that isolated Middlesboro from the outside world, streets were being laid out, hotels were being built, stores were going up, a golf course, the second to be built in the United States, was being fashioned, an artificial lake was under construction, and the former hamlet of fifty souls was already a roaring camp of more than 6,000. A year later, the camp had become a city with fifteen hotels, numerous boarding houses, great and modern buildings, and a population of more than 10,000. Lilly Langtry and Ward MacAllister, of London and New York, came on a special train for the opening of the Middlesboro Hotel, hailed as the greatest in the South, and the last word in 1891 modernity.

The boom roared on.

In 1893 the great London firm of Baring Brothers, bankers, crashed, and the depression of the 'Nineties was on. The British stockholders in the enterprise, which was soundly conceived, had failed to reckon only with such unpredictable factors as the Baring crash with its subsequent years of lean living for the entire western world, and the commercial development of the richer and cheaper ores of the Mesaba. They, of necessity, withdrew their support, and the great planned industrial city crashed. Business houses closed their doors, hotels closed, the city streets became
deserted. Twenty years later, with recovery already well under way, Middlesboro was a ghost-town of but 7,200 people, as compared with its peak population of 15,000 at the time the failure of the Barings brought ruin.

The town, bereft of financial assistance and deserted by the free spenders of its early days, began the self-driven work of recovery. Forgetting the comparatively lean and too costly iron deposits, its business men went after the rich and valuable coal measures -- bituminous and cannel coals that went southward and northward into a wide market. Small business enterprises, small as compared to the grandiose vision of early days, began to give steady employment to efficient local labor. The sound civic planning of the founder was made a municipal asset. The broad streets, the well-made buildings, public and private, echoed to the growth of new enterprise.

Today the stores, theatres, clubs, the private homes, and the general air of prosperity tell of a struggle crowned with success. Again Middlesboro is a city of 12,000 people, a city of modern homes, of up-to-date schools, of churches and clubs and of many small enterprises. But the wealth of the town bases upon the coal mines that fringe the basin in which it lies. This is typified by "The Coal House," built, as the name implies, out of solid blocks of native coal, and home of the Middlesboro Chamber of Commerce, where the visitor, always welcome, can learn of those things of present-day interest most appealing to him.
PINEVILLE

The town lies in a bend of Cumberland River, principally on the south side, and is surrounded by three high mountains so closely that their peaks seem to overtop the town and close it in from the surrounding country. That the Indians visited this region, camped here for long seasons, and left records of their civilization, is evident in many instances. But prior to this hunting life of the Indians, evidences of which were found by Doctor Walker and his party, a race of Indians inhabited this region. A mound, in the present town of Pineville, only a short distance from Cumberland Ford, upon which Dr. W.J. Hodges built a residence a few years ago, was doubtless erected and used by the Indians as a hunting ground. Bones, pots, and other curiosities have been dug from it.
Pine Mountain State Park
(Supplemental to Middlesboro Report)

The land for the Park was donated to the state by the late T. J. Asher and Varilla Asher. At an earlier date the park area was used as a deer preserve.

Pine Mountain State Park contains many points of interest. During the Civil War breast-works were thrown up on the S. side of Pine Mountain by the Union forces to prevent the Confederates from making their way N. Rumor has it that several "moonshine" whiskey stills are now in operation along the streams in the Park.

The Park is noted for its huge and strange rock formations. Chained Rock, formerly known as Turtle-back Rock because of its shape, gets its present name from the fact that it is in reality two huge rocks chained together. Nearby is Rock Hotel, which is a cave under an enormous rock, large enough to shelter about 50 people.

Between Chained Rock and Rock Hotel is Tree Springs, a large, crystal-clear spring flowing from under tree roots. Close at hand is a splendid picnic-ground amid beautiful forest trees. From a vantage point called Flag Rock, legend says that long ago a hunter was buttéd over the cliff by wild goats and killed.

Pine Mountain State Park has been largely constructed and improved by a C.C.C. Camp located in the area.

Reference sources:
Dallas Zody, son of Custodian, Pine Mt. State Park, Pineville.
L. J. Punsifull, old resident, Pineville, Ky.
Flat Creek, now Yellow Creek

"On the 13th of April 1750 Dr. Walker and his companions came to the remarkable depression now known as Cumberland Gap."

--- "The party passed through the gap and to Flat Creek, now Yellow Creek, after having traveled thirteen miles." The Indian road - the great Warrior's path - led down this creek, it was followed five miles. It was evidently in what is now known as Bell County.
Clover Creek, now Clear Creek

On the 15th of April, 1850, Dr. Walker and his companions, although it was the Sabbath, went along the Indian road to Clover Creek, seemingly so called because of the abundance of clover which they found growing there. It is now Clear Creek, no doubt from the clearness of the water.
"THE SKYLINE HIGHWAY"

Officially dedicated June 4, 1929

A road extending from the "saddle" of historic Cumberland Gap to the top of Pinnacle Mountains. Built by private capital, so that automobiles may drive to the peak of the Cumberlands above the gap. The road is 3 miles in length and climbs from an altitude of 1,800 feet at the gap to 2,500 feet. At the top is a tower 100 feet high. The visitor may obtain an altitude equivalent to a half-mile above sea level. During the civil war, the Federals, under George W. Morgan placed the largest cannon used during the war at the top of the pinnacle. It was known as Long Tom. The site on which it was located can still be seen. Also entrenchments thrown up during the war still remain along the side of the mountain.

Lou. Herald - 5/5/29
150 words

Southwestern Kentucky's new "Skyline" Highway is built over Pinnacle Mt., and has been most appropriately named as that section of the Cumberlands is virtually the "land of the sky."

Courier-Journal - June, 1929
The Clear Creek Springs, (Bell Co.) 4 mi. southwest of Pineville, the County seat, are valued highly for their medical properties. Named for the clearness of the water. The water has a taste similar to power, and is thought to be peculiarly adapted to the cure of old sores and ulcers.

Collins Vol. II -
pp. 141-151-290
165 words -
Flat Creek, now Yellow Creek, Bell County.

In looking from Pinnacle into Kentucky in the early days one saw a large level space caused by a Branch. Several other branches flowing into this, made of it a large Creek which Doctor Thomas Waker called Flat Creek.

"This is today called "Yellow Creek." I have reliable authority for stating that it was called from the color of the water."

Pub. Lib.
Just the Little Story of Cumberland Gap
By Lawrence Meredith Vaughn (1927)
Pub. Middlesboro Chamber of Commerce
pp. 7 and 14 - 75 words
King Solomon's Cave - near Middlesboro, first opened by an English Syndicate where a house was built at the mouth, around 1890. There are several large caverns in this cave, and one of these caverns was used by these Englishmen as a "banquet hall." This cavern, having the appearance of a temple, was named by one of these parties. "King Solomon's Temple," and afterwards the cave became known as "King Solomon's Cave."

Lou. Times, Mar. 30, 1925
CLEAR CREEK MOUNTAIN SPRINGS

A major attraction for tourists, in Bell County, is found in Clear Creek Mountain Springs, a recreational center established under the auspices of members of the Baptist churches of Pineville and Middlesboro. The resort is located on the side of Pine Mountain, four miles southwest of Pineville, with construction of a fine connecting roadway now nearing completion. Clear Creek Falls, near the center of the reservation, are of exceptional beauty. The level grounds of the resort are 1,186 feet above sea-level, while the adjacent mountain reaches a height of 2,300 feet. In addition to an auditorium, dormitories, electric light plant and other institutional features, twenty or more private cottages had been erected at Clear Creek Mountain Springs in the summer of 1927, etc.

(Per Comment: I am sure that the name originated from the clearance of the water of the springs.)
Pub. Library - Ky. Resources and Industries for 1929
150 words
FERN LAKE IN BELL COUNTY

"Fern Lake, near Middlesborough, has been described by travelers as equaling the beauty of the lakes of Switzerland. Two and a half miles long. It is a sparkling blue in color and is surrounded by fern covered shores, from which it received its name. "It is a little more than a mile from Middlesborough, and affords boating almost all the year, besides furnishing the city with its water supply."

Pub. Library
Christian Science Monitor 12/19/25
80 words
BELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES

1. CUMBERLAND FORD—(in Knox County) 3/31/1818, Moses Dorton; 12/11/1830, James Renfro; 8/7/1862, Mrs. Susan Renfro; Disc. 7/15/1863; Re-est. 1/25/1865, Rufus M. Moss; 9/28/1866, John Bogane; Into Josh Bell Co. on 12/14/1868 with John Bogane or Bogan as postmaster; 2/17/1869, Wm. M. Bingham; Disc. 3/14/1870; Re-est. as Pineville, 4/15/1870, Peter Hinkle; 9/24/1870, Wm. M. Bingham; 11/20/1888, James M. Pursifull (sic).

2. LETCHER—(in Harlan Co.) 11/24/1831, John Jones, Jr.; 1/21/1835, Wm. H. Green; Disc. but d.k. when; Re-est. 10/14/1836, Charles J. Callaway; name changed to Callaway, 3/7/1855, Charles J. Callaway; Disc. 7/31/1863; Re-est. 6/2/1865, Charles J. Callaway; Into Josh Bell Co. 12/14/1868; Disc. 8/23/1875; Re-est. 1/5/1876, James J. Hollingsworth; 6/26/1876, Ballenger Callaway.

3. YELLOW CREEK—(in Knox County) 2/11/1839, Robert George; 6/22/1841, John P. Bruce; 9/24/1846, Wm. H. Wilson; 8/7/1855, Jefferson Burciull; 1/15/1856, Wm. M. Dickinson; into Josh Bell Co. in 1868; 7/3/1871, John C. Colson, Jr.; 4/8/1879, W.B. Moss; 2/27/1886, Wm. H. Evans; Disc. 1/30/1890 (papers to Middlesborough);

4. CUMBERLAND GAP—(in Claiborne County, Tenn; then to Knox Co. Ky.) 9/12/1846, Wm. Dickinson; Returned to Claiborne Co. 3/8/1851;

5. LAFONTAINE—(in Harlan Co.) 6/30/1846, John M. Pursifield (sic); Disc. 9/14/1861; Re-est. 2/21/1866, Mount Pursifield or Pursiful; into Josh Bell Co. 12/14/1868 with Mount Pursiful still as postmaster; Disc. 4/10/1874;

6. CLEAR CREEK—(in Knox County) 7/6/1855, J.A. Parton; 5/10/1859, Anderson Parten (sic); Disc. 4/15/1863; Re-est. 9/28/1866, Anderson Parten; Disc. 11/7/1867;

7. CANNON—11/17/1871, James A. Green; 12/13/1872, Arch Green; 1/8/1873, James A. Green; Disc. 11/10/1875; Re-est. 3/2/1877, Miss Syntha A. King; Disc. 11/22/1880.
8. RED BIRD- 10/24/1876, Wilkerson Asher; 9/25/1876, Mandy J. Knuckles; name changed to Nuckles (sic), 2/21/1887, Mandy J. Nuckles (sic); 2/10/1890, Wm. R. Knuckles; 11/11/1910, John B. Nuckles (sic); name changed to Beverly, 8/2/1911, John B. Nuckles; 12/22/1913, Myrtle Knuckles;...

9. SLUSHERS MILL- 10/24/1876, Wilkerson Slusher; 11/18/1887, Eliju Broughton; 2/17/1888, Charley C. Knuckles; 5/6/1891, Wm. P. Slusher, order of appointment rescinded; 5/28/1891, name changed to Slusher, 9/17/1894, Lucy Knuckles; Disc. 12/20/1894 (mail to Knuckles); Re-est. 5/12/1899, Wm. P. Slusher; Disc. 5/11/1908, effective 5/31/1908 (mail to Bingham); Re-est. 3/4/1911, Madison A. Carnes; 12/15/1913, Fannie B. Slusher;...

10. HORSE MILL- 12/30/1878, Robert Miracle; Disc. 11/17/1879;

11. CLEAR FORK- 3/27/1879, James Johnson; 10/6/1880, Joseph H. Barnett; 4/18/1888, Joseph H. Barnett; 6/14/1890, John F. Hurst, order of appointment rescinded 3/20/1891; Disc. 1/14/1892 (mail to Cubage); Re-est. 11/16/1910, Wm. E. Turner; Disc. 9/16/1913, effective 10/31/1913 (mail to Colmar);


13. CONANT- 7/15/1881, John M. Conant; 2/29/1886, Preston Henrikson; Disc. 7/9/1895 (mail to Pineville);
14. INGRAM- 7/15/1881, Thomas J. Ingram; 11/23/1896, Dora Ingram...

15. ROOST- 2/2/1883, Cobb T. Berry; 2/1/1888, John C. Kellems; Disc. 6/6/1895 (mail to Pineville); Re-est. 7/9/1895, Charity E. Kellems, not commissioned; 10/5/1895, James A. Edds; 2/19/1898, James A. Green; name changed to Ferndale, 2/29/1904, James A. Green; 12/10/1909, George F. Crawford; 6/4/1912, Hester K. Knuckles... 7/10/1915, Carlow B. Asher; Disc. 8/30/1924 (mail to Meldrum); Re-est. 12/11/1925, T. Hense Wilson; Disc. 11/13/1926, effective 11/15/1926 (mail to Middlesboro);

16. BINGHAM- 7/24/1883, Elias B. Bingham; Disc. 11/15/1915 (mail to Blanche);

17. LOCK- 3/15/1888, Giles J. Hodges; 10/27/1893, Wm. N. Durham... 1/2/1909, Wm. M. Helton; Disc. 11/15/1912 (mail to Gross);

18. RAY- 3/15/1888, John R. Howard; 4/3/1888, Joshua Howard; Disc. 5/25/1888 (no papers sent); Re-est. 9/4/1888, Andrew D. Johnson; Disc. 9/17/1889 (papers sent to Callaway);

19. VANCE- 8/4/1888, John Partin (sic); Disc. 5/16/1889 (papers to Pineville);

20. SUTTY (sic-?) - 8/22/1888, John Powers; Disc. 10/8/1888 (no papers sent);

21. MIDDLESBOROUGH- 9/14/1888, George C. Whitlock; 8/17/1889, Houston Y. Colson... 9/7/1891, Wm. T. Davis; name changed to Middlesboro, 3/14/1894, Wm. A. Cooke; 5/16/1898, Laura V. Colson....

22. CARTER'S- 11/4/1889, Dempsey K. Carter; 12/18/1890, James E. Partin; Disc. 10/3/1891 (papers to West Pineville);

24. WEST PINEVILLE- 5/10/1890, Wilkerson P. Durham; Disc. 10/31/1891 (mail to Pineville);

25. PASS- 3/3/1893, Andrew D. Johnson; 9/19/1898, John R. Howard; 10/6/1901, James C. Gross; 9/27/1909, Nannie G. Howard; Disc. 10/15/1913 (mail to Gross) (could this have been on the site of the old Ray P.O.-No. 18, above?)


27. OAKS- 5/26/1897, Ewing W. Miracle; 2/8/1898, Levi Miracle; Disc. 8/26/1899 (papers to Toms Creek); Re-est. 3/21/1902, Mary C. Bull; 12/20/1904, Mary C. Miracle;

28. WALLSEND- 1/18/1898, Edmund A. Starling; 12/5/1899, Reno Short; Disc. 3/6/1900, effective 4/30/1900 (papers to Pineville); Re-est. 8/27/1900, Reno Short; 8/20/1904, Charles E. Hall;

29. WHITSETT- 2/28/1898, James B. Robinson, declined; 4/4/1898, David B. Whitsett; Disc. 4/5/1899 (papers to Wallsend);

30. IVY- 3/9/1898, Wm. H. Mason; 5/9/1900, Ruthie Moon; 5/1/1912, Mary J. Miracle; Disc. 1/31/1914 (mail to Pineville);
31. TOMSCREEK (sic) - 3/31/1898, Martha E. Campbell; 10/9/1899, James A. Campbell; 1/19/1904, Dora Bingham; Disc. 6/15/1907, effective 6/29/1907 (mail to Oaks);

32. ARK - 4/19/1898, John W. Davis; 5/18/1899, Mollie D. Powers; 8/16/1904, Sherman Jones; Disc. 4/30/1910 (mail to Pearl);

33. FOURMILE - 12/16/1899, Edward L. Shell; 4/20/1903, John F. Slusher;

34. STRAIGHT CREEK - 3/8/1900, Wm. R. Wood; 3/18/1907, Ellen Livingstone;

35. TINSLEY - 4/9/1900, Charles C. Smith; 5/29/1903, Wm. S. Tinsley;

36. EXCELSIOR - 4/27/1900, Wm. Pritchard; 2/3/1903, Mary Kitchens; 5/12/1904, John B. Hudnall; Disc. 3/6/1908, effective 3/31/1908 (mail to Middlesboro);

37. BOSWORTH - 5/5/1902, Adolph H. Rennebaum; 8/16/1913, George G. Veal; 2/5/1917, Joseph F. Bosworth, Jr.; 4/30/1925, Tom Hembree; Disc. 9/21/1928, effective 9/29/1928 (mail to Middlesboro);


39. CONAWAY - 6/14/1904, John C. Howard; name changed to Institute, 9/27/1904, John C. Howard; Disc. 9/18/1905, effective 10/14/1905 (mail to Middlesboro);
BELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (6)

40. BELLJELLCIO (sic) - 5/20/1905, Marvin G. Yingling; 3/30/1909, James D. Marshee; 10/1/1919, John T. Jonston; Disc. effective 9/30/1925 (mail to Tinsley);

41. RALPHE - 7/1/1905, W.T. Murray, declined; 7/22/1905, Wm. W. Huff.... 7/31/1917, Daniel France; Disc. 4/15/1919 (mail to Fourmile);

42. CARY- 12/2/1905, Wm. Burchfield; 8/17/1907, White L. Moss....

43. BLANCHE- 2/14/1906, Wm. P. Gilkeson; 4/7/1911, Jarvis J. Cook....

44. RALSTON- 2/14/1906, Charles D. Shipley; 7/14/1908, Wm. P. Bruce.... 8/20/1924, Aurvin R. Queener; Disc. effective 12/15/1926 (mail to Logmont);

45. FONDE-(late as Ibax in Claiborne Co., Tenn.) 8/18/1906, George P. Morison (sic); 7/31/1918, Roscoe F. Weaver....

46. GRAVITY- 9/25/1906, Charles H. Townsend; 11/26/1906, James W. Wilson; 1/4/1915, Edmund R. Short; Disc. 7/31/1919 (mail to Bosworth);

47. SHAMROCK- 9/25/1906, John W. Dean; 1/15/1912, Charles H. Townsend.... 10/31/1922, Edward Lee Johnson; Disc. effective 7/31/1925 (mail to Hollingsworth);

48. DAVISBURG- 1/26/1907, David R. Morgan; 8/7/1908, Richard R. Williams....

BELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (7)

49. CAIRNES (sic) - 3/26/1907, Clyde Miller; 7/9/1909, Alexander R. Tinley; Disc. 7/31/1912 (mail to Davisburg);

50. PARTON - 5/13/1907, Robert K. Partin (sic); order rescinded 12/10/1907;

51. HANCES - 1/16/1908, Ewing W. Miracle; Disc. 5/31/1913 (mail to Calvin);

52. CALVIN - 4/3/1908, Belle Pursifull; 12/15/1913, Annie Pursifull;

53. LINDA - 4/10/1908, James H. Hamblin; 1/14/1913, Scott Partin; 10/29/1921, acting, 11/21/1921, George S. Maiden; 8/3/1929, acting, 8/28/1929, Hiram M. Frakes; (later changed to Frakes)

54. ARJAY - 2/23/1911, George W. Hairston; 8/18/1911, Robert J. Fulkerson;


56. KETTLE ISLAND - 3/15/1912, Thomas B. Hail; 12/22/1923, acting, 1/24/1924, Wm. S. Elkin;
57. VARILLA- 4/2/1912, James T. Morgan; 7/26/1912, Charles M. Kelly; 11/15/1921, Ray C. Callaway; Disc. 3/24/1930, effective 4/15/1930 (mail to Pineville);


59. HARRISON- 7/9/1912, Alexander R. Tinley; 2/24/1914, George D. Tinley; 1/11/1923, Wm. A. Moody; Disc. effective 11/30/1923 (mail to Chenoa);

60. BALKAN- 12/20/1912, Edwin R. Roberts; 8/11/1925, acting, 11/17/1925, Clarence D. Eubanks; Disc. 1952

61. MELDRUM- 12/27/1912, Hiram H. Dunagan; 1/13/1916, Wm. M. Caples; 6/6/1924, James Kuykendall; Disc. effective 2/27/1926 (mail to Middlesboro);

62. COLMAR- 6/14/1913, Olin W. Adair; 4/30/1914, Fred Holzwarth, Jr.; Disc. 1953


64. PRIMO- 11/11/1915, Harry L. Baird; Not in P&G
65. DEANTON- 11/19/1915, Jesse C. Hoskins; name changed to Hosman, 7/7/1916, Jesse C. Hoskins; 7/20/1917, Wm. H. Collier...
Disc 1932

66. HOLLINGSWORTH- 6/30/1916, James H. Brown; 2/4/1921, James H. Ralston; Disc. effective 9/30/1931 (mail to Middlesboro);

67. KEERANE- 6/15/1918, John A. Stewart;
Did this operate?
not in p+g

68. STILSON- 7/21/1921, Jasper N. Elliott; Disc. effective 4/15/1922 (mail to Pineville);

69. OLEIKA- 8/27/1921, Charles H. Jones; 8/3/1925, Walter Onkst...
Disc 1937

70. IVERDALE- 4/21/1922, Garrett Rice; 3/30/1923, Samuel Wright; Disc. 2/10/1930, effective 2/28/1930 (mail to Pineville);

71. BLACK SNAKE- 6/20/1923, Wm. N. Taylor;
Disc 1932

72. HEYBURN- 1/29/1925, Wm. M. Slusher; 4/9/1925, acting, 5/9/1925, Millard F. Slusher; Disc. effective 9/30/1925 (mail to Blanche);

73. HUTCH- 7/3/1925, John D. Hurst...
BELL COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (10)

74. JAYEM- 12/3/1925, Millard F. Broughton; 1/7/1927, acting, 2/5/1927, Dan Lovett....

Disc 1934

75. IVY GROVE- 7/15/1926, Dink Miller, Jr.;

Disc 1937

76. JENSON- 1/20/1927, Wm. Woolum; 4/15/1931, acting, 4/21/1931, Mrs. Patsy Swartz;

Edna Woolum (1941-6/27/15)

Disc 1983

77. CRATE- 9/21/1929, Lewis Brock;

Disc 1937

78. CAPITO- (1944-1956) - Relocated PO

79. KIELO- (1932-1989)

80. GENAYRE- (1931-1935) \rightarrow ARK Edh. 1936

Disc 1944

81. RELIA- (1932-1954)

82. STONY FORK (1946 \rightarrow APD)

83. CHARLORF (1910-1913)

Org., but not Mr. Check.

(should be clean PO)
7. and 8. **FRAKES and SOUTH AMERICA**: Why called South America? When and by whom 1st settled? When and by whom named this? Is this name still in use? The orig. name of the Frakes po was Linda, est. 4/1908, Jas. H. Hamblin. Why so named? Name was changed to Frakes, 6/1/1936.

9. **CHENOA**: Did this start out as a cannel coal mine? When? (...)

10. **BLACKMONT**: Is this name still locally preferred over Hulen or Felder Sta? Why three names instead of one? Which was the orig. name? Why these other names?

11. **BEVERLY**: Was this first called Sizemore? If not, where was Sizemore? It was never a po? PO est. as Red Bird, 10/1876, Wilkerson Asher...name changed to Knuckles, 2/1887, Mandy J. Knuckles...were these two post offices at the same site?

12. **CALLOWAY**: Or should this spelled Callaway? (po est. as Letcher, sometime before 1831...4/1838, Chas. J. Callaway (sic) became postmaster and the name was changed to Callaway 3/1855 with same postmaster.) Was this actually a change in name or a change in location? Are there any Calloways (Callaways) still living in Bell County?

13. **FERNDALE**: (po est. as Roost, 2/1883, Cobb T. Berry...changed to Ferndale, 2/1904, Jas. A. Green...disc. 11/1926) Was this a change in name or a change in site? Why? Why first called Roost?

14. **FONDEL**: (po est. as Ibax in Claiborne Co. On or before 8/1906, it moved to Bell Co. with Geo. P. Morison (sic) as postmaster)

15. **CALVIN**: Is this also known as Page? Why and by whom? What should it be called or what is it locally called now?

16. **BALKAN**: Mine(s) still there? Whose?

17. **JAYEM**: Also called East Pineville? What's it locally known as now?

18. **YELLOW CREEK**: Was the creek first called Flat Creek by Dr. Walker? Why change in its name?

19. **CLEAR CREEK**: Should this be Clear Creek Springs? Was the creek itself first called Clover Creek by Dr. Walker? Why name change?

20. **SLUSHER**: (po est. as Slusher's Mill, 10/1876, Wilkerson Slusher...ch. to Slusher, 9/1894....) What kind of mill was it named for? Whose mill was it and when was it built?

21. **HOSMAN**: (po est. as Deanton, 11/1915, Jesse C. Hoskins; changed to Hosman, 7/1916, ibid. ...) Was this a change in name or a change in site? Why?