Estill County, Kentucky, established in 1808, was named for Captain James Estill, an early explorer and pioneer who was killed in a battle with Wyandot Indians on March 22, 1782. The battle is called the "Battle of Little Mountain" or "Estill's Defeat", which took place near present-day Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Captain Estill had previously established Estill's Station three miles south of what is now Richmond, Kentucky, and had made many trips by horseback up and down the Wilderness Road guiding early settlers from the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. Estill County has many places of historical interest and many spots which abound in Pioneer and Indian lore. According to reputable historians, Christopher Gist lead an expedition into what is now Estill County in the early Spring of 1751. Daniel Boone came in 1769 and others, including the McAfees, came into the county within the next few years. The first court was held in the county at Sweet Lick, April 1, 1808. Among the early settlers in Estill County were the following families: Proctor, Todd, Park, Clark, Oldham, Broaddus, Holliday, Miller, Witt, Tudor, White, Friend.

Irvine, established in 1812, was first known as Estill Court House. This county seat town was later renamed Irvine in honor of Colonel William Irvine, Indian fighter and friend of Captain James Estill, for whom the County was named.

Irvine is located on the Kentucky River in a valley where the river leaves the foothills of the Daniel Boone National Forest. The town is approximately 20 miles east of Richmond on highway #52 and was erected on 20 1/2 acres of land that had belonged to General Green Clay of Madison County.
Thomas Todd is said to have been the first settler having built a large log house in 1805 where the River View Hotel presently stands. The house was used as a tavern. Joseph Proctor, also an Indian fighter and companion of Colonel William Irvine and Captain James Estill, was the second settler. He later became a Methodist minister and established two of the first churches in the county. The 1810 census showed Irvine having 91 citizens. Irvine presently has approximately 3,500 people.

The first post office in the county was established in 1813 in a room in the court house with Elijah Broaddus as postmaster. The mail was carried on horseback to Irvine once a week along a route from Lexington, Winchester, and Mt. Sterling. Later postmasters of Irvine were Edmund R. McCreary, Milton G. Mize, Thomas J. White, Elijah Herndon, William J. Clark, Charles W. Friend, James Hinds, Joseph H. Gardner, Martin B. Mosely, William Herndon, John D. Mitchell, Jacob J. Tipton, Benjamin F. Jacobs, June B. Park, Thomas Williams, A. D. Hamilton, Mrs. L. I. Hume, Bert Powell, Thomas Q. Wallace, John L. Carpenter, Lewis C. Wilson, John R. White, Arthur G. Powell, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Smith, and Russell Gilbert. These postmasters were representatives of many of the families of Irvine.

RAVENNA

Ravenna, located on highway #52 south, approximately one mile from Irvine, is the second largest city in the county. The land on which the city of Ravenna and the Louisville and Nashville yards are now located had belonged to the Cockrell and Park, pioneer Estill County families. At the time it was purchased by the L&N Railroad, it was owned by Misses Amanda and Bessie Cockrell and Mr. Frank M. and Lou Park.

The Ravenna Realty Company, incorporated December 27, 1915, had been formed for the disposition of the property acquired by the Company, which was sold in lots to the employees of the Railroad for use in building homes and businesses.
RAVENNA (Continued)

Mr. John D. Sawyer was president of the company and his wife, Mrs. Kate Hudson Sawyer, was secretary. Mr. Robert R. Friend, an Irvine Attorney, handled legal details for the Company. It is said that Mrs. Sawyer is credited with the naming of the Ravenna Realty Company and for naming the City. The Ravenna Realty Company discontinued business about 1930 after their land holdings were sold.

At the January, 1921, term of Estill Circuit Court, Ravenna was incorporated as a sixth class city. G. Hackworth was first Police Judge. Trustees were W. C. Robbins, W. J. McLemore, W. S. Yaden, C. H. Smith, A. S. Marshall, and Dudley Webb. Mae Richardson was Assessor and Dr. E. S. Caywood was selected as Clerk. In November, 1921, S. A. Hume, Roy Agee, William Ballard, C. H. Smith, J. C. Powell and Dr. Caywood, Clerk, was elected to serve two years.

The first census was taken on December 12, 1923, and Ravenna was listed with names of 1,245 citizens.

The post office for Ravenna was established May 12, 1916, with Mrs. Hallie Tudor Vaughn as postmaster. Other postmasters were Rosa Stanley, Kate M. Redmond, Lewis C. Wilson, Jr., James M. Wolfinbarger, Mrs. Hazel Snowden, Miss Maggie Wolfinbarger, and Mrs. Beulah Amerine Foley. Mrs. Foley served from May 15, 1935 to retirement October 13, 1972.

Ravenna post office now serves as a branch post office of Irvine.

PRYSE

Pryse, located on the L&W Railroad about 8 miles south-east of Irvine was named for pioneer David Pryse who had first come to Lee County, Kentucky, with brothers Elias and Thomas Pryse. They came to the United States as immigrants from Wales. David later moved to Estill County where he purchased several hundred acres of Kentucky River bottom land and built a large brick house, one of the first in the county. David married Lucy Ann Brandenburg of Heidelberg, Lee County, Kentucky.
This locality became known as Texola when the Texas Company Oil Refinery was built and was in full operation between approximately 1920-1945. The Refinery offered employment for many of the local residents. Some of the families who live at Pryse-Texola were the Durbins, Kellys, Hamiltons, Fikes, Dixons, Arthurs, Stewarts, Metcalfs, Pendergrasses, Pryses, Wallaces.

The post office was established with Russell Barnes as postmaster June 3, 1924. Other postmasters were Mrs. Lillian Arthur, Mrs. Edna Bach, Mrs. Lucille Arthur, and Mrs. Lelia T. Taylor. Even though the community was later known as Texola, the Federal post office retained the name of Pryse for the post office.

Ola was the name given for a post office located in the South-East part of the County on Big Doe Creek at the foot of Barnes Mountain. According to people who used to receive mail from the Ola post office, the location was named by "drawing names from a hat". The post office was established May 7, 1909, and discontinued July 15, 1919. Mrs. Sarah A. Sandlin was the first postmaster and was followed by Jonah J. Crow, Thomas J. Sparks, Brock Campbell and Mitchell Cole. Mr. Cole was also an Estill County school teacher. When the post office was discontinued residents received mail at Ravenna which was immediately across the Kentucky River. Among families who received mail at Ola were: Marcum, Richardson, Broadus, Alcorn, Sparks, Benton, Canter, Harris, Barnes, Easter.

Witt Springs, located about 5 miles northwest of Irvine, was named by descendants of Elisha Witt, Revolutionary War soldier, for their pioneer ancestor and for a large sulphur spring in the vicinity which furnished water to residents of the area. Elisha Witt, born September 18, 1759, Albemarle County, Virginia, married Phoebe Dodd July 17, 1781, Albemarle County, Virginia.
WITT SPRINGS (Continued)

Early in 1805, Elisha purchased 3,500 acres of land lying on the south side of the Kentucky River in Estill County. Elisha and Phoebe resided on the "bottom farm" for the remainder of their lives, and are buried across the road from the spring. There were 11 children of Elisha and Phoebe and many of their descendants have remained in Estill County. Some other families who have lived in the Witt Springs area are: Richardson, White, Newman, Webb, Winburn families. It is said that in the early days a large spring house or shelter house covered the spring providing a picnic area and social gathering place for those living in the community. The springs could compare favorably with Estill Springs in Irvine.

The post office was established September 2, 1904 in the large general store of Eugene Witt with William L. Witt as postmaster. The second postmaster was Henry T. Hardy, May 29, 1914. William L. Witt served again from August 25, 1920, until his death October 8, 1931. Miller Witt assumed charge October 9, 1931, and continued to serve until the post office was discontinued December 31, 1956, when the people were to receive mail at Irvine.

ALUMBAUGH

Alumbaugh is located on Station Camp Creek about 12 miles south of Irvine on Highway #89. The post office and community was named for Mr. D. B. Alumbaugh and his father, Mr. John Alumbaugh. The late Dr. E. E. Edwards, who also owned property in the vicinity along with Mr. D. B. Alumbaugh and Mr. Albert Arvin, helped to get the Alumbaugh post office established when the Powell Post Office, which had been named for Allen Powell, was moved from the vicinity. The post office was established May 14, 1891, with Mr. John B. Alumbaugh as post master. Other postmasters were Daniel B. Alumbaugh, Albert T. Arvin, Mrs. Margaret Ruth Winkle. Edward T. Arvin was the last postmaster as the post office was discontinued April 30, 1915, with people to get mail from the Wagersville post office.
DRIP ROCK

Drip Rock is located about 13 miles from Irvine on Highway #89 south, not far from the Estill-Jackson County line. The locality received its name from the dripping of a spring located near the old Drip Rock School. The children and many families in the community carried water from the spring. The post office was established when a change was made from Jackson County to Drip Rock on March 4, 1939. Postmasters at Drip Rock were: Mrs. Ethel Harrison, James R. Clark, Floyd Fowler and Geraldine Marcum.

WAGERSVILLE

Wagersville lies about 7 miles due south from Irvine on Highway #89, and was named for Mr. Jonah Wagers who owned and operated a large general store in the community. In the early days mail was brought in on horseback from Drip Rock and the carrier made 2 stops each day at the post office, one in the early morning at the beginning of his route from Drip Rock to Wagersville to Station Camp to Wisemantown and to Irvine and the second on the return of his circuit about 8:00 p.m. According to Mr. Laban Park, who is a descendant of Mr. Asa Park, one of the original settlers of the community, "neither rain, sleet, snow nor knee-deep mud" kept the mail from coming through. The Wagers store and post office was a gathering place for all who lived in the area and waiting for the 8:00 p.m. mail carrier's visit was a nightly social event for the men. Among those receiving mail from the Wagersville post office were the Durbin, Wilson, Flynn, Fowler, Park, Scrivner, Wagers, and Cox families. The post office was established in the Jonah Wagers' store on May 14, 1891, with Mr. Wagers as postmaster, who served two separate terms. Other postmasters were Lewis C. Fowler, Levi H. Flynn, Brown L. McGeorge, Allen Powell, Mabel F. Scrivner, Francis J. Wagers, Wade Park, Miss Daisy Mae Brinegar, Mrs. Bertha Isaacs, Mrs. Nannie Parsons, and Mrs. Daisy Flynn, who served from October 23, 1955, until she retired July 31, 1970. Mrs. Sharon Park was the last Wagersville postmaster when the
WAGERSVILLE (Continued)

post office was discontinued about 5 years ago. Residents receive mail through Route #3 of the Irvine Post Office.

WINSTON

It is thought that Winston received it's name from an early family who owned land in the community for a short time before moving on further west in Kentucky. It is said that Winston was first known as Newman Stand, probably named for Samuel Newman who was listed in the 1850 census there. Winston post office is the last post office remaining in current operation on the west side of the Kentucky River in Estill County. The present postmaster, Mrs. Doris (H. T.) Hardy, with 26 1/2 years of service at Winston, says money order receipts are available that go back to 1898. She says the post office was established in 1865 and was discontinued May 9, 1870, and was re-established February 10, 1871, and has been in continuous operation since that time. Henry C. Smith was the first postmaster. Andrew Tharp served as second postmaster. Other postmasters were Henry G. Witt, William T. Tharp, Elmer Congleton, Mrs. Opal Richardson, Henry Thomas Hardy, Jr., and Mrs. Doris C. (Henry T.) Hardy to present day. Among the families who receive mail at Winston are the Abney, Brandenburg, Congleton, Dozier, Stone, Tucker and Turpin families.

DEERWOOD - "DERWOOD" - CANTRILL

Deerwood Post Office, often referred to as "Derwood" by those who lived in the community of Trotting Ridge, was established January 23, 1906, and remained in operation until February 15, 1913. Mrs. Sarah J. Newman helped to establish the post office for the convenience of the residents of the community which bordered the Estill-Madison County line. The post office was lodged in a room in Mrs. Newman's home and she served as postmaster. Mail came daily into Moberly (Madison County) by an L&N passenger train which ran between Lexington, Kentucky and into the mountains.
DEERWOOD-"DERWOOD"-CANTRILL (Continued)

of Eastern Kentucky. The mail was transported to Waco (also in Madison County) and thence to Deerwood by horseback. Mr. Allen White was mail carrier in the community going by horseback until the Sears-Roebuck Catalog required him to use the buggy to deliver the long awaited catalogs.

CANTRILL - When Mrs. Newman resigned from her position as postmaster for Deerwood, the post office was moved to a new locality only a short distance from Deerwood and the name became Cantrill. Mr. James G. Hendricks was appointed postmaster at Cantrill on August 18, 1914. Cantrill's second postmaster was Mr. Thomas Walker Turpin, who was appointed May 13, 1916, and continued until November 15, 1918, when the post office was discontinued. The people of the Trotting Ridge area were then told to go to Rice Station for mail. Among families served by Deerwood and Cantrill post offices were the Amerines, Hardys, Newmans, Nolands, Raineys, Richardson, Stevens, Stones, Webbs, Whites, Worrells.

It is said that the Trotting Ridge area was so named because the residents moved about at a jogging pace faster than a walk.
Historically speaking, Station Camp is one of the oldest and best known communities in Estill County. It is located approximately 6 1/2 miles south-west of Irvine on Station Camp Creek. Station Camp Creek has been listed in Collins' History of Kentucky among "Stations and Early Settlements In Kentucky". Collins' History goes on to record that "An Indian camping ground on the banks of Station Camp Creek near the mouth of Red Lick Creek, in the early settlement of the state gave name to the creek. It is an understood fact that the Indians procured their supply of lead in this vicinity". Many Indian artifacts have been found at Station Camp. According to legend, Daniel Boone used this area as a station in 1769 when he and several companions explored "the beautiful levels of Kentucky".

Station Camp Creek is also one of the principal tributaries of the Kentucky River, consequently the river and creek bottom land of the area is rich and productive. The community was named for the Creek upon which it is located.

The Station Camp Christian Church is one of the oldest churches in the county, having been organized in 1840. The original building has been kept in excellent condition and regular services have been maintained since the church was organized. The large congregation of olden days has dwindled with the passing of time and with the advent of the automobile which has carried former members into other churches. Present church membership, with Bobby Premberton as pastor, is approximately 25.

Station Camp was also the home locality of Captain John Wilson of the 8th Kentucky Infantry, Union Forces, who with five other Estill County soldiers, planted the United States Flag at the peak of Lookout Mountain on November 25, 1863, during the Civil War. Captain Wilson died in May, 1896, and is buried near his home in the Wilson Family graveyard. The family of Mr. David Newton, Mr. and Mrs. Oakley French, and Miss Senora Newton presently own and live in the home owned by Captain Wilson.
STATION CAMP (Continued)

The Station Camp post office was first established March 27, 1828, with James Scrivner as postmaster. The post office was discontinued September 8, 1843. The office was re-established November 19, 1878, with John Wilson as postmaster. Later postmasters were: Abram Kelley, John W. Wilson, Thomas Henderson, Luther Scott, Allen Wilson, Turner Kelley, Sue M. Scrivner, Mollie A. Flynn, Everett E. Newton, David N. Newton, and Miss Senora D. Newton who assumed charge after the death of her father, David, on May 1, 1950. She served until the post office was discontinued April 18, 1969. Among the families who received mail at the Station Camp Post Office were: John Scrivner, Dr. James Scrivner, Benjamin Warford, Anderson Wagers, Sidney Rice, Allen Garrett, W. A. Scrivner, James Rice, Arch Wagers, S. B. Gumm, David Newton and Ambrose Newton. Mail Route #3, Irvine now serves Station Camp community.

SPOUT SPRINGS

Spout Springs is located on Highway #82, about 9 miles south-east of Irvine. There were several springs involved in the title "Spout Springs Community", but when state road #82 was built it left the largest and most famous one on the property of Sam and Laura Tuttle almost exactly half way between the two county seats, Irvine and Stanton, Powell County. This spring comes out of a hill on which there is no residence, other buildings, or livestock. It is a large stream of never failing, very cold limestone water. It has never in history (white man or Indian) been known to go dry. It is famous over numbers of states as the most delicious water ever tasted. People come there (by permission of the Tuttles) from far and wide and not only get a drink but haul away barrels and barrels of water. First there was a wooden tank to catch the overflow which came out of the hill in split hollowed out cedar logs and in the "horse days" everyone stopped there to water horses. A concrete overflow trough was later built and is still in use.
SPROUT SPRINGS (Continued)

The property was formerly owned by the McKinney family. There is a story, but no one knows the details, that the first Estill County death in the Civil War was at this spring where some soldiers had stopped to drink. The opposing army fired at them from a hill across the road. One man dropped at the spring and is buried in the little neighboring church yard of Jackson's Chapel. He is believed to have been a Southern soldier.

The Spout Springs Post Office was established August 5, 1892, with John M. Elkin as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Washington G. Patrick, Ulysses G. Elkin, James H. Dawson, Richard H. Curtis, J. W. Barnett, Asa Barnett, Henry Winburn, George G. Ware, Franklin Morginson, Thomas S. McKinney, William L. Byrd and Russell S. Christopher served until the office was discontinued November 30, 1937. The residents were to get mail from Irvine.

HARGETT

Hargett is located on Highway #89, about 7 miles east of Irvine. About 75 years ago there was a general store run by Cleveland Sams (now at the intersection of Highways #89 and #82) and in it was the Post Office called Sam's Post Office. About 100 yards or more northwest of the store was the railroad stop called Harg (in honor of Harg Allen) to which they moved the post office and changed its name to Harg. Later it was moved back to the original site at the crossroads. While the federal man was there setting up things a little boy came in the store. When asked what his name was he said, "Hargett Withers", so the federal man said, "This post office will be named for you, Hargett." With some people this has been shortened to Harg (probably since that was originally the name of the station.)

The first post office at Hargett was established September 23, 1915, with Edith Patrick as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Herbert B. McIntosh, Harry Witt, Hickman Patrick, and Mrs. Mary T. Patrick who served until the post office was discontinued effective September 30, 1943. Hargett residents were to get mail from Irvine.
ESTILL SPRINGS

The Estill Springs, half a mile from Irvine, have been celebrated as a watering place and have claim to historic interest that dates by the days of early exploration of Kentucky. The view from the top of Sweet Lick Knob, at the foot of which the white sulphur water gushes out as clear as crystal, is one of the grandest and most romantic known.

A large spring house has covered the springs and offered a place of recreation for people interested in obtaining the white sulphur water, famous through the many years for its health and coolness. Later a large hotel was built, probably in the 1830's, and the area became a well known resort which was visited many times by Henry Clay of Lexington, Major Curtis F. Burnham of Richmond and many other notable Kentuckians, as well as persons from other states.

The first record of the Springs is said to have been written by a Frenchman who, with a party of Indians, marched from what is now the present city of Detroit to the location of Mobile, Alabama. This explorer mentioned it in his Journal. The next record is said to have been made by the McAfee party which camped one night on a route of march from the fort at Harrodsburg to Virginia. It is said that Daniel Boone and his companions often stopped at the Springs during their explorations of this area of Kentucky. The Springs property is noted for the large oak and ash trees, many considered to be at least 300 years old, some of which are still standing.

The original Springs tract remained the property of Green Clay of Madison County until his death. The property was then sold by Green Clay's two sons, S. B. and B. J. Clay to Isaac Mize. The property has had several owners down through the years and is now in possession of heirs of Mrs. David Andrew (Lena) Wallace. Mrs. Wallace purchased the Springs property after the hotel burned December 14, 1924, and constructed a colonial brick home where she lived until her death on November 20, 1956.
ESTILL SPRINGS (Continued)

During the later years in which the hotel and springs were used as a resort, the property was owned by Harvey Riddell, a lawyer, son of the eminent Judge Robert Riddell of Irvine and a brother of Judge Hugh Riddell, also of Irvine. Elliott Riddell, another son of Judge Robert Riddell and his wife, the former Laura Embry, were proprietors of the resort, highly popular under their care. It is said that people came from miles around to attend the parties and dances held in the large ballroom of the Estill Springs Hotel and was always patronized by very high class people. Many love matches were made here.

Estill Springs was the scene of many important happenings. The famed "Old Infantry Volunteers" of the Eighth Regiment was organized there by Colonel Sidney M. Barnes, September 14, 1861, while Colonel Barnes owned the property. Many interesting references to early Civil War happenings at or near Estill Springs have been made.

A Reunion of Morgan's (General John H. Morgan) Men was held at Estill Springs, August 20-22, 1924. Mr. J. B. White, one who attended the reunion was the father of Mrs. Lena Wallace. Mrs. Margaret White, sister of Mrs. Lena Wallace, presently resides in the original home.
COBHILL

Cobhill is located about 9 miles south of Irvine, off to the right, on highway #52, at the foot of the mountain on the way to Beattyville, Lee County, Kentucky. Cobhill is reached by going about two miles up a rather steep hill after turning right off highway #52.

Cobhill was named for Samuel and Henry Cobb, two of the sons of Jesse Cobb, Sr. and his wife, Edith Oldham Cobb. Jesse, Sr. and his family had come with several other families, namely the Oldhams, the Rices, and the Peppers in the western migration about the year 1800 from Caswell County and other North Carolina counties. Henry Cobb, oldest son of Jesse and Edith Cobb was born in Estill County on July 11, 1802, and died in Madison County, Kentucky, August 21, 1857. Jesse Cobb, Sr., was born February 27, 1769, in Caswell County, North Carolina, and died in Estill County, Kentucky, June 1, 1836. His wife, Edith, was the daughter of Richard Oldham, a Revolutionary War soldier who settled in Madison County, Kentucky.

Samuel and Henry Cobb were large landowners of the Cobhill section of the County, and it is thought that Henry moved from Cobhill rather early in life, but that Samuel continued to live there for many years. Apparently, they secured large land grants and farmed the land and worked in logging.

Cobhill at one time was thickly settled. Mining ore to be taken to the Fitchburg smelting furnace offered employment there as did the logging industry. When these two industries ceased to be active, many of the inhabitants moved from Cobhill to the Bluegrass and even to other states to find employment. Now, however, the children of previous inhabitants are moving back to Cobhill, because their parents had continued to own the land and thus they had a place to build new homes or to place mobile homes. They prefer to live at Cobhill, but commute daily to Winchester and Lexington to work in the industrial plants. Approximately 100 families now live at Cobhill.
COBHILL (Continued):

A post office was established at Cobhill March 20, 1898, with Achilles D. Howell as postmaster. Later postmasters were: Ellen Hall, John S. Watson, Albert W. Estes, George W. Hall, Allie Howell, Benjamin Hall, George W. Hall (who apparently served a second term) Mrs. Florence Rogers served from December 3, 1935, to retirement January 31, 1960. Miss Lillie A. Patrick began serving February 5, 1960, and is continuing as postmaster at Cobhill to the present day. Her name was changed to Lillie A. Rogers by marriage December 21, 1962, to Olney Ray Rogers. The post office is located in a small grocery store owned by the Rogers.

The mail is presently brought into Cobhill from the Pryse post office (Estill County) by Hazel Patrick and her husband, John, who serve as carriers to people who have mail boxes along the route. They leave the remainder of the mail with packages, etc. at the post office where stamps and money orders are sold. Among the families who have received mail at Cobhill are Clinton and John Patrick, Andrew and Dillard Patrick, Virgil Rogers, Orlon and Shelby Smith, Flynn Bach, Lonnie Dickerson, Hubert Johnson, Luther Pelfry, Herman Watson, Mrs. Sidney Warmouth, Gainus Rogers, Clyde Hall, Lloyd Hall, Everett Smith, Lemon Stamper, Claude Case, Opal Abney, Floyd Stamper, Roy Stamper, Tom Watson, Lenlie Abney.

PALMER

Palmer is located about 12 miles north-east of Irvine near Red River, not far from the Clark County line. It can be reached by traveling Highway #89. This community is only a short distance from the Cressy and Parvin communities and has been referred to as "down in the forks". It was named for the family of James and Farinda Combs Palmer who came to Estill County from Leerose, Owsley County, Kentucky, in the early 1900's. Palmer has been a farming community, but the residents who have wanted other employment could go into Winchester, Clark County, because Palmer is almost as near to that city as to Irvine.
PALMER (Continued):

The Palmer post office was established December 2, 1914, with William H. Rice as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Wilbert Moores, Jesse C. Thomas and Mrs. Eva L. Thomas, who served from February 4, 1957, to retirement on November 3, 1967, and at which time the post office was discontinued with the residents of Palmer to receive mail from Irvine.

Among the people who received mail at Palmer were: The Henry Harris family, the Dezarn, Fielder, Rice, Frost, Sparks, Vaughn, Moore, and Palmer families.

Mr. Austin Palmer, first postmaster at Parvin was a son of James and Farinda Combs Palmer. Another son, Mr. Simon P. ("Uncle Pete") Palmer moved with his family from Palmer to Irvine in the early 1920's.
MILLERS CREEK

Millers Creek is located about 3 miles south of Irvine on the east side of the Kentucky River. One of the early roads in the county to have been built was from Irvine to Millers Creek. The community of Millers Creek, along with the Creek itself, was named for a man named Miller who operated a grist mill within the vicinity. The Creek was long, being a "Big" and "Little" Millers Creek and played an important part in early industry of the south-east section of the County. In early days, logs were rolled down Cobhill to the Furnace Fork of Millers Creek, then into the Creek and thence into the Kentucky River to float down to the mills placed along the river. According to Collins History in 1870, iron from Estill furnace and the Fitchburg furnace was taken by trainway, 6 miles, to Scott's Landing on Kentucky River near the mouth of Millers Creek.

The L&N Railroad track to Eastern Kentucky runs parallel with the Kentucky River and the track runs through the community of Millers Creek on the way to the mountains. In former days there was a freight depot and the trains unloaded freight and picked up passengers there.

One of the oldest churches in the county was Mt. Tabor Christian of Millers Creek. The building is no longer standing. Approximately 45 years ago, when the building was in need of many repairs, it was abandoned. The congregation then erected a new building on highway #52 going to Beattyville near the present home of the Pendergrass family. They named their new church Mt. Sinai.

Before consolidation of Estill County Schools, the children of Millers Creek attended a one room school. The school building had two stories and the Bibb Masonic Lodge used the upper room for meetings. The Bibb Lodge received it's charter October 21, 1859, and was named in honor of P.G.M. George M. Bibb. This Lodge was active until it consolidated with Irvine Lodge No. 137, May 23, 1947. Members of this Lodge who have been honored with Life Memberships are Garrett D. Tipton, Claude B. Moberly, Nelson McIntosh, Oscar Samples, William Samples, Achilles Kelly and E. B. Scrivner.
MILLERS CREEK (Continued)

A red brick house, one of the first brick houses built in the county is at Millers Creek. It is in good repair and is owned and lived in by the Gilbert McIntosh family.

An early post office was established at the mouth of Millers Creek on August 7, 1839 with Benjamin F. Orlan as postmaster. Edward Stocton served as second postmaster. This post office was discontinued July 28, 1842.

The Millers Creek post office was established November 11, 1850, with John M. Lyle as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Thomas J. Harris, Bowles H. Sale, Achilles Kelly, S. B. Neal, Elisha L. Cockrell, Achilles D. Howell, George W. Cole, Thomas H. West, George W. Congleton, Sid Chatman, James A. West, Harry W. Neal, Walter Roscoe Samples and Mrs. Flora H. Barnes who served until her retirement January 31, 1968. The post office was closed on this date with the people of Millers Creek to get mail at Ravenna. Some families other than those previously named who received mail at Millers Creek post office are the Tipton, Broaddus, Scrivner and Tuggle families.

RICE STATION

Rice Station is located about 5 miles west of Irvine on Highway #52 toward Richmond. It was named for Mr. Charlie Rice who was a large land owner and it is thought that he gave the right-of-way to the L&N Railroad Company for track and the railroad station built there. Mr. Rice's large frame house near the station location is still standing, in good repair and is owned by Mr. James Leonard Rice of Lexington. Neither the railroad track nor the station at Rice Station are in existence at the present time.

Mr. Charlie Rice was married twice, his first wife was Eliza Jane Cox, and his second, Nannie Kate Kirby. Mr. Charlie Rice and his family had lived on Red Lick, Estill County, possibly before moving to the Rice Station area. His father was
RICE STATION (Continued)

John Rice and mother Fannie Rucker Rice. It is not known where the John Rice family lived, but early Rice ancestors came from Virginia to Kentucky.

In the late 1800's and early 1900's Rice Station was a very thriving community, and the L&N passenger trains going from West to East and East to West each day stopped at Rice Station and opened up travel and business to the area.

Mr. William L. Rice, nephew of Mr. Charlie Rice and whose parents were Thomas James Rice and Elizabeth Richardson Rice moved with his wife Louisa Park Wagers Rice from Wagersville (Estill County) to Rice Station in the late 1800's. Mr. William L. Rice and Louisa Wagers Rice were parents of 10 children. Some of the children and descendants presently live at Rice Station and Irvine. Mr. William L. Rice died in July, 1910. His wife lived until September 30, 1943.

Upon moving from Wagersville to Rice Station, Mr. William L. Rice and a life-long friend, Jonah Wagers, also of Wagersville and for whom Wagersville was named, became joint owners and operators of a large general store near the Rice Station railroad station. Many stacks of tan bark and railroad ties, among other freight, were loaded daily on trains by Wagers and Rice.

It is said that the Wagers and Rice Store carried all kinds of merchandise and hardware "from coffin screws (coffins were homemade at the time) to whatever was asked for". The store also carried men's shoes and clothing and women's shoes. Also a large supply of yard goods including silks and satins was also carried. The store was a two story structure and Mrs. Irvine Scrivner drove by horse and buggy from her Madison County home each day and had a millinery shop on the second floor. She is said to have been quite skillful at making and trimming hats. Wagers and Rice bought for sale turkeys from farmers in the neighborhood who would drive the large flocks of turkeys from their respective farms to the store.
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Rice and friends, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Witt owned a large frame houses also located near the railroad station. Mrs. Rice prepared in her home meals for drummers who came to the store. They paid 25¢ per meal. Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Witt, the former Eliza Wilcox, opened their homes to friends and relatives who found it necessary to stop over between trains. While the drummers who had come by train from neighboring cities to Rice Station were in the area, they would rent a team and wagon from Wagers and Rice and one of the sons of Mr. Rice would take the drummers with their ware samples to other such general stores in the county. Thus Rice Station was used as a focal point of economic and business activity in the west central part of the county.

When Mr. Jonah Wagers sold his interest in the store to Mr. Rice, the store then came to be known as the W. L. Rice and Son's Store. The sons involved were Charlie and Earl Rice.

Among other early families living in the Rice Station community were Jim Tom Turpin, John E. Riddell, John R. Cox, Simp Wagers, W. S. Witt, Jim Lanter, and Warren McGowan families.

The Rice Station community has long been served by a Christian Church located on Highway #52. The frame building was torn down about 1927 and replaced by a red brick structure. The congregation has remained constant through the years.

The Rice Station post office for many years was lodged in the general stores owned by various members of the Rice family. The post office was established August 5, 1892, with Mr. John M. Kerby as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Solomon R. Wilder, James W. Witt, Jr., William L. Rice (3-13-1906), William S. Witt (1/30/1911), Louisa P. Rice (1/16/1913), Columbus Edwards, and Miss Nettie Rice who assumed charge December 30, 1933, and served until her retirement approximately 1975.
Fitchburg furnace, a monument to Estill County's great iron producing era, stands on a mountainside in the northeastern portion of Estill County. It is approximately 16 miles from Irvine and can be reached by taking highway #52 from Irvine to Ravenna, continuing on #52 from Ravenna up and down a large mountain on the way toward Beattyville. At the foot of the mountain, 2 rural highways come together immediately off highway #52. One highway #213 leads to Cobhill, the other highway #975 makes a sharp turn to the left leading to Fitchburg. The Aldersgate Youth Camp owned and operated by the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Church is located near the furnace. Fitchburg furnace was completed in 1858. Built at the peak of the iron industry in Estill County, it was the last furnace to be built in the county.

A town was chartered called Fitchburg after the two brothers, Frank Fitch, the general superintendent and Fred Fitch, the secretary and treasurer of the furnace operation. It was owned by the Red River Iron Manufacturing Company with a cash capital of $1,000,000.

For several years, Fitchburg was a thriving little city with mills, shops, school and church, post office and with roads leading to other communities. More than 100 families lived at Fitchburg and employment was furnished to many men. One of the men who came to Estill County to work at Fitchburg was David Bergman of Louisville. He was employed as head bookkeeper for the business operation for the Furnace and met and married here Lydia Moore, daughter of Harry and Mary Moore of Millers Creek, Estill County, September 27, 1870. They lived at Fitchburg for many years and their children were born there. David was born January 9, 1847, and died February 11, 1912. Lydia was born September 21, 1848, and died November 12, 1910. They were the parents of two children, Robert M. Bergman, who owned and operated a large hardware store on Main Street, Irvine, for many years. Mabel Bergman, their daughter, married Harry Milward of Lexington and they reside there. Robert M. Bergman married Miss Minnie West of Frankfort, and they lived in their
Fitchburg (Continued):

home on Main Street, Irvine, until their deaths several years ago. Robert and Minnie Bergman had two children, Weston and Robert Bergman who have continued to live in Irvine to the present time.

Furnace is now a ghost town with only the furnace itself left to tell the story of what has gone on before. There are no stores, nor churches, but several families have continued to reside in the vicinity. Some of these families are the Dellie Shuler, Shirley Rogers, and Bauford Powell families. The men of the families who have continued to live at Fitchburg commute daily to Winchester, Richmond and Lexington for employment.

The Fitchburg postoffice was established September 9, 1870, with Thomas Edgar Parke as postmaster. Other postmasters were: C. R. Fitch, Maggie C. Graves, C. Tipton, J. M. Stewart, B. F. Chatman, James Arthur, and Elma D. Smyth. The post office was discontinued June 30, 1955, with people to get mail at Ravenna.
ESTILL COUNTY
(The 50th erected in the state, was formed in 1808, out of parts of Madison and Clark counties)

IRVINE is the county seat.


WATER SUPPLY. The Kentucky River flows in a northwesterly direction across the county and forms a part of the western boundary. Red River makes a portion of the northern border line. Minor tributaries of the Kentucky drain the southern half of the county.

ESTILL SPRINGS — In days long before the Civil War the resort, now within the city limits of Irvine, was celebrated as a watering place. There are said to be springs of at least five different medicinal waters. Henry Clay was a frequenter of the resort. The large hotel which was destroyed by fire in 1925 was the scene of imposing social functions during more than half a century. The views from some of the hilltops in Estill County are the "grandest and most romantic known," to quote from Collins' History.


(County Maps, Louisville & Nashville R.R.)
Points of Interest spotted on Estill County Map

Evelyn McLemore,
Local Guide Worker,
Ravenna, Kentucky

1. Estill Springs, Irvine, Ky., just at the edge of town coming from Winchester

2. Furnace; Old furnace used to make iron several years ago. Located about 6 mi. off Ky. 52, at top of "mountain". Leaving Ravenna, turn left at top of hill.

3. State Rock. Also located at Furnace. There is a variety of flowers that grow on this rock rarely seen elsewhere.

4. Fitchburg. 3 mi. S. of first furnace, another great furnace where iron was made years ago.

5. Pryce, on Ky 52, 14 mi. E. of Irvine. Large oil refinery.

6. Station Camp, where Daniel Boone camped on his way to Virginia 9 mi. S. of Irvine on Station Camp Road.

7. Spout Springs. Water spouts from under a great tree. Famous picnic grounds, 4 mi. E of Harg; Harg is on Winchester and Irvine road.

8. Mt. Minerva, 19 mi. W. of Irvine. This is where the State Fox Hunters Association had their annual gathering.


10. Ravenna-Beattyville Highway, a drive of unusual scenic beauty, around mountains and along Kentucky River.
Station Camp Creek

The mouth of Station Camp Creek cuts into the banks of the Kentucky River a little above Irvine, in Estill County. Thomas Walker and his party camped at this place. It looks as if the stream received its name from the Walker party, for they found the country so difficult that they were compelled to remain at the place for some time while they built a bark in which to cross the river which was then called Milley's River, but it is generally agreed that it is the same that we now know as the Kentucky River.
After Dr. Thomas Walker's company built a canoe and crossed the Kentucky river, a little above Irvine, Estill County, and turned eastward, Dr. Powell's dog, Tumbler, being killed in a combat with a large male elk, the stream received the name Tumbler's Run.
Estill Co., communities

1. Crawford (dpo) (Le.)
2. Irvine (co. seat) (7)
4. Station Camp (dpo) (com) ()
5. Mouth of Millers Creek (dpo)
6. Preeter (dpo)
7. Millers Creek (dpo) (com) ( )
8. Cottage Furnace (dpo) ( )
9. Estill Furnace (dpo) had been Mountain Spring in Owaley Co.
10. Winston (po and com) ( )
11. Seannah (dpo) ( lambda)
12. Fitchburg (dpo) (com) ()
13. Locust Branch (dpo) (com)
14. Station Grove (dpo)
15. Union Hall (dpo) (com) ( )
16. Same (dpo) had been Woodwards Creek
17. Engle (dpo)
18. Furnace (po and com) ( )
19. Weeden (dpo)
20. Wisemantown (dpo) had been Bluebank (com) ( )
21. Kissie (dpo) had been Sand Spring in Jackson Co. ( )
22. Patey (po and dpo) (com) ( )
23. Hardwick (dpo)
24. Fainville (dpo)
25. Iron Mound (dpo) (com)
26. Fox (dpo) (com) ( )
27. Alumbaugh (dpo) (com) ( )
28. Wagersville (po) (com) ( )
29. Alger (dpo)
30. Rice Station (dpo) (com) ( )
31. Spoutspring (dpo and com) ( )
32. Vogel (dpo)
33. Kings Station (dpo)
34. Cobhill (po and com) ( )
35. Jinks (dpo) (com) ( )
36. Estilco (dpo)
37. Jamaica (dpo)
38. Farvin (dpo) ( )
39. Noland (dpo) (com) ( )
40. Stump (dpo) ( )
41. Ravenna (po and com) ( )
42. Kimbrell (dpo) (com)
43. Shade (dpo) (com)
44. Crystal (po and com) had been Simcoe ( )
45. Cantrill (dpo)
46. Pryse (com. & po) One Tetola ( )
47. Leighton (dpo) (com)
48. Witt (dpo) (com)
49. Witt Springs (dpo) (com) ( )
50. Hargett (dpo, com) ( )
51. Happytop (dpo) ( )
52. Pitts (dpo) (com) ( )
53. Derwood (dpo)
54. Reeves (dpo) ( )
55. Willowtree (com. & dpo) ( )
56. West Irvine (com. & po)
57. Palmer (dpo) (com) ( )
58. Powell (dpo) (com) ( )
59. Ola (dpo) (com)
60. Barnes Mt. (p.o. est. but never in op.)
61. Rages (dpo) (now popr)
62. Audra (dpo) (no com)
63. South Irvine (po)
64. Blackburn (dpo) (com)
65. Doe Creek (dpo) ngbr.
66. Drip Rock (com. & po)
67. Sloan (com)
68. Alexander Sch. Nebr.
69. Bickness (mix) Nebr.
70. Barnes Mt. Nebr.
71. Bogie Nebr.
72. Brandenburg (popr)
73. Calloway Creek Nebr.
74. Calloway Crossing (com) (stump 80)
75. Cane Spring Nebr.
76. Chestnut Stand Nebr. (t+4)
77. Cow Creek (com)
78. Greasy (com) Sand Hill (com)
79. Crooked Creek Nebr.
80. Drowning Creek Nebr.
81. Durbin Nebr.
82. Flenchum Nebr.
83. Granny Richardson Nebr.
84. Greenbriar Nebr.
85. Harg Nebr.
86. Harris Nebr.
87. Lower White Oak Nebr.
88. Lynchtown Nebr.
89. Macedonia Nebr.
90. Marble Hall Nebr.
91. Mattie Nebr.
92. Mt. Carmel Nebr.
93. Mt. Springs Nebr.
94. Mt. Tabor Nebr.
96. Park Nebr.
97. Patrick (poor)
98. Pea Ridge Nebr.
99. Rose Nebr.
100. Sparks Nebr.
101. Sweet Lick Nebr.
102. The Forks Nebr.
103. Thomas (popr)
104. Tickey Fork Nebr.
105. Tipton Nebr.
106. Upper White Oak Nebr.
107. Watson Nebr.
108. Wilder Nebr.
109. Walnut Gap (com)
110. Knob (sic) Lick Nebr.
111. Pilot (com) (po?)
112. Richardson (popr)
113. Friend (com)
114. Allview (com) (po?)
115. Meadow Brook (com)
ESTILL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

An act for erecting a new county (Estill) out of the counties of Madison and Clarke. Approved January 27, 1808. An act supplementary to the act entitled "an act for erecting a new county (Estill) out of the counties of Madison and Clarke." Approved February 19, 1808. Estill County officially became the fiftieth county on April 1, 1808.

The county was named for Captain James Estill, an early explorer and pioneer who was killed in a battle with Wyandot Indians on March 22, 1782. The battle is called the "Battle of Little Mountain" or "Estill's Defeat", which took place near present-day Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Captain Estill had previously established Estill's Station three miles south of what is now Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky, and had made many trips by horseback up and down the Wilderness Road guiding early settlers from the Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. Estill County has many places of historical interest and many spots abound in Pioneer and Indian lore. According to reputable historians, Christopher Gist lead an expedition into what is now Estill County in the early Spring of 1751. Daniel Boone came in 1769 and others, including the McAfees, came into the county within the next few years. The first court was held in the county at Sweet Lick. Among the early settlers in Estill County were the following families: Proctor, Todd, Park, Clark, Oldham, Broaddus, Holliday, Miller, Witt, Tudor, White and Friend.

IRVINE

Established in 1812, was first known as Estill Court House. This county seat town was later renamed Irvine in honor of Colonel William Irvine, Indian fighter and friend of Captain James Estill. Colonel Irvine served as clerk of Madison County and was a member of the Statehood Conventions of 1787 and 1788. He died in 1820.

Thomas Todd is said to have been the first settler having built a large log house in 1805 in what is now called Irvine. The old River View Hotel was built on the site where Thomas Todd's old log house once stood. The old hotel is now owned and used by Dr. Ralph Patterson in his medical practice.

The first post office in the county was established in 1813 in a room in the court house with Elijah Broaddus as postmaster. The mail was carried on horseback to Irvine once a week along a route from Lexington, Winchester, and Mt. Sterling. Later postmasters of Irvine were: Edmund R. McCrea, Milton G. Mize, Thomas J. White, Elijah Herndon, William J. Clark, James Hinds, Joseph H. Gardner, Martin B. Mosely, William Herndon, John D. Mitchell, Jacob J. Tipton, Benjamin F. Jacobs, June B. Park, Thomas Williams, A.D. Hamilton, Mrs. L. J. Hume, Bert Powell, Thomas Q. Wallace, John L. Carpenter, Lewis C. Wilson, John R. White, Arthur G. Powell, Mrs. Elizabeth R. Smith, Russell Gilbert and Virginia Harrison.

RAVENNA

The land on which the city of Ravenna, and now the CSX Railroad yards, (formerly L&N R.R. Co.) are located had belonged to the Cockrell and Park, pioneer Estill County families. At the time it was purchased by the L&N Railroad, it was owned by misses Amanda and Bessie Cockrell and Frank M. and Lou Park. The Ravenna Realty Company, incorporated December 27, 1915, had been formed for the disposition of the property acquired by the Company, which was sold in lots to the employees of the Railroad for in building homes and businesses. Ravenna was incorporated as a sixth class city in January of 1921. The post office for Ravenna was established on May 12, 1916, with Mrs. Hallie Tudor Vaughn as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Rosa Stanley, Kate M. Redmond, Lewis C. Wilson Jr., James M. Wolfinburger, Mrs. Hazel Snowden, Miss Maggie Wolfinburger, and Mrs. Beulah Amerine Foley. Mrs. Foley served from May 15, 1935 to retirement October 13, 1972. Ravenna post office is now a branch post office of Irvine.

To be continued
by Bobby L. and Lorene Rose

PRYSE
This locality became known as Texola when the Texas Company Oil Refinery was built and was in full operation between 1920-1945. The Refinery offered employment for many of the local residents. Some of the families who lived at the Pryse-Texola area were: Durbins, Kellys, Hamiltons, Fikes, Dixons, Arthurs, Stewarts, Metcalfs, Pendergrass, Pryses, and Wallaces. The post office was established with Russell Barnes as postmaster June 3, 1924. Other postmasters were: Mrs. Lillian Arthur, Mrs. Lelia T. Taylor. Even though the community was later known as Texola, the Federal post office retained the name of Pryse for the post office.

OLA
Ola was the name given for a post office located in the South-East part of the county on Big Doe Creek at the foot of Barnes Mountain. According to people who used to receive mail from the Ola post office, the location was named by "drawing names from a hat". The post office was established May 7, 1909, and discontinued July 15, 1919.

WITT SPRINGS
Located about 5 miles northwest of Irvine, was named by descendants of Elisha Witt, Revolutionary War soldier, for their pioneer ancestor and for a large sulphur spring in the vicinity which furnished water to residents of the area. Elisha Witt, born September 18, 1759, Albemarle County, Virginia, married Phoebe Dodd on July 17, 1781, Albemarle County, Virginia. Early in 1805, Elisha purchased 3,500 acres of land lying on the south side of the Kentucky River in what is now Estill County. Elisha and Phoebe resided on the "bottom farm" for the remainder of their lives, and are buried across the road from the spring. There were 11 children of Elisha and Phoebe and many of their descendants have remained in Estill County. Some other families who have lived in the Witt Springs are: Richardson, White, Newman, Webb, and Winburn. It is said that in the early days a large spring house or shelter house covered the spring, providing a picnic area and social gathering place for those living in the community. The springs could compare with Estill Springs of Irvine. The post office was established September 2, 1904 in the large general store of Eugene Witt with William L. Witt as postmaster. The second postmaster was Henry T. Hardy, May 29, 1914. William L. Witt served again from August 25, 1920, until his death October 8, 1931. Miller Witt assumed charge October 9, 1931, and continued to serve until the post office was discontinued December 31, 1956, when the people were to receive mail at Irvine.

ALUMBAUGH
Located on Station Camp Creek about 12 miles south of Irvine on Highway #89. The post office and community was named for D.B. Alumbaugh and his father, Mr. John Alumbaugh. The late Dr. E.E. Edwards, who also owned property in the vicinity along with D.B. Alumbaugh and Mr. Albert Arvin, helped to get the Alumbaugh post office established when the Powell Post Office, which had been named for Allen Powell, was moved from the vicinity. The post office was established May 14, 1891, with Mr. John B. Alumbaugh as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Daniel B. Alumbaugh, Albert T. Arvin, Mrs. Margaret Ruth Winkle. Edward T. Arvin was the last postmaster as the post office was discontinued April 30, 1915, with people to get mail from Wagersville post office.

DRIP ROCK
Located about 13 miles from Irvine on Highway #89 south, not far from the Estill-Jackson County line. The locality received it's name from the dripping of a spring located near the old Drip Rock School. The children and many families in the community carried water from the spring. The post office was established when a change was made from Jackson County to Drip Rock on March 4, 1939. Postmasters at Drip Rock were: Mrs. Ethel Harrison, James R. Clark, Floyd Fowler and Geraldine Marcum.
PLACE NAME SURVEY-ESTILL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

by Bobby L. and Lorene Rose

WAGERSVILLE
Located about 7 miles due south from Irvine on Highway #89, and was named for Mr. Jonah Wagers who owned and operated a large general store in the community. In the early days mail was brought in on horseback from Drip rock and the carrier made 2 stops each day at the post office, one in the early morning at the beginning of his route from Drip rock to Wagersville to Station Camp to Wisemantown and to Irvine, and the second on the return of his circuit about 8: P.M. According to Mr. Laban Park, who is a descendent of Mr. Asa Park, one of the original settlers of the community, "neither rain, sleet, snow nor knee-deep mud" kept the mail from coming through. The Wagers store and post office was a gathering place for all who lived in the area and waiting for the 8:00 P.M. mail carrier's visit was a nightly social event for the men. Among those receiving mail from the Wagersville post office were the Durbins, Wilsons, Flynns, Fowlers, Parks, Scrivners, Wagers, and Cox families. The post office was established in jonah Wagers' store on May 14, 1891, with Mr. Wagers as postmaster, who served two separate terms. Other postmasters were Lewis C. Fowler, Levi H. flynn, Brown L. McGeorge, Allen Powell, Mabel F. Scrivner, Francis J. Wagers, Wade Park, Miss Daisy Mae Brinegar, Mrs. Bertha Isaacs, Mrs. Nannie Parsons, and Mrs. Daisy Flynn, who served from October 23, 1955, until she retired July 31, 1970. Mrs. Sharon Park was the last Wagersville postmaster when the post office was discontinued in 1965. Residents receive mail through Route #3 of the Irvine Post Office.

WINSTON
It is thought that Winston received it's name from an early family who owned land in the community for a short time before moving further west in Kentucky. It is said that Winston was first known as Newman Stand, probably named for Samuel Newman who was listed in the 1850 census there. Winston post office is the last post office remaining in current operation on the west side of the Kentucky River in Estill County. Mrs. Doris (H.T.) Hardy who retired in July 1981 with 32 years service recalls that she had seen money receipts that go back to 1898. She says the post office was established in 1865 and was discontinued May 9, 1870, and was re-established February 10, 1871, and has been in continuous operation since that time. Mrs. Pam Richardson is the current postmaster who obtained that position in August 1981. Henry C. Smith was the first postmaster. Andrew Tharp served as the second postmaster. Other postmasters were Henry G. Witt, William T. Tharp, Elmer Congleton, Mrs. Opal Richardson, Henry Thomas Hardy Jr., Doris C. (H.T.) and the present postmaster Pam Richardson.

DEERWOOD-"DERWOOD"-CANTRILL
Deerwood Post Office, often referred to as "Derwood" by those who lived in the community of Trotting Ridge, was established January 23, 1906, and remained in operation until February 15, 1913. Mrs. Sarah J. Newman helped to established the post office for the convenince of the residents of the community which bordered the Estill-Madison County line. The post office was lodged in a room in Mrs. Newman's home and she served as postmaster. Mail came daily into Moberly (Madison County) by an Louisville & Nashville passenger train which ran between Lexington, Kentucky and into the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. The mail was transported to Waco (also in Madison County) and thence to Deerwood by horseback. Mr. Allen White was mail carrier in the community going by horseback until the Sears-Roebuck Catalog required him to use the buggy to deliver the long awaited catalogs.

CANTRILL
When Mrs. Newman resigned from her position as postmaster for Deerwood, the post office was moved to a new locality only a short distance from Deerwood and the name became Cantrill. Mr. James G. Hendricks was appointed postmaster at Cantrill on August 18, 1914. Cantrill's second postmaster was Mr. Thomas Walker Turpin, who was appointed May 13, 1916, and continued until November 15, 1918, when the post office was discontinued. The people of the Trotting Ridge area were then told to go to Rice Station for Mail. Among families served by Deerwood and Cantrill post offices were the Amerines, Hardysa, Newmans, Nolands, Raineys, Richardson, Stevens, Stones, Webbs, Whites and Worrells.
PLACE NAME SURVEY-ESTILL COUNTY, KENTUCKY

by Bobby L. and Lorene Rose

STATION CAMP
Historically speaking, Station Camp is one of the oldest and best known communities in Estill County. It is located approximately 6 and 1/2 miles south-west of Irvine on Station Camp Creek. Station Camp Creek has been listed in Collins’ History of Kentucky among "Stations and Early Settlements in Kentucky". Collins' History goes on to record that "An Indian camping ground on the banks of Station Camp Creek near the mouth of Red Lick Creek. In the early settlement of the state gave name to the creek. It is an understood fact that the Indians procured their supply of lead in this vicinity. Many Indian artifacts have been found at Station Camp. According to legend, Daniel Boone used this area as a station in 1769 when he and several companions explored "the beautiful levels of Kentucky". Station Camp Creek is also one of the principal tributaries of the Kentucky River, consequently the river and creek bottom land of the area is rich and productive. The community was named for the Creek upon which it is located. Station Camp was also the home locality of Captain John Wilson of the 8th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Union Forces, who with five other Estill County soldiers, planted the United States Flag at the peak of Lookout Mountain on November 25, 1863, during the Civil War. Captain Wilson died in May of 1896, and is buried near his home in the Wilson Family graveyard. The Station Camp post office was first established March 27, 1828, with James Scrivner as postmaster. The post office was discontinued September 8, 1843. The post office was re-established November 19, 1878, with John Wilson as postmaster. Later postmasters were: Abram Kelley, John W. Wilson, Thomas Henderson, Luther Scott, Allen Wilson, Turner Kelley, Sue N. Scrivner, Mollie A. Flynn, Everett E. Newton, David N. Newton, and Miss Senora D. Newton who assumed charge after the death of her father, David, on May 1, 1950. She served until the post office was discontinued April 18, 1969. Among the families who received mail at the Station Camp Post Office were: John Scrivner, Dr. James Scrivner, Benjamin Warford, Anderson Wagers, Sidney Rice, Allen Garrett, W.A. Scrivner, James Rice, Arch Wagers, S.B. Gum, David Newton and Ambrose Newton. Mail Route #3, Irvine now serves Station Camp community.

SPROUT SPRINGS
Located on Highway #82, about 9 miles south-east of Irvine. There were several springs involved in the title "Spout Springs Community", but when state road #82 was built it left the largest and most famous one on the former property of Sam and Laura Tuttle almost exactly half way between the two county seats, Irvine and Stanton, Powell County. This spring comes out of a hill on which there is no residence, or buildings, or livestock. It is a large stream of never failing, very cold limestone water. It has never in history (white man or Indian) been known to go dry. First there was a wooden tank to catch the overflow which came out of the hill in split hollowed out cedar logs and in the "horse days" everyone stopped there to water horses. A concrete overflow trough was later built and is still in use. The property was formerly owned by the McKinney family. There is a story, but no one knows the details, that the first Estill County death in the Civil War was at this spring where some soldiers had stopped to drink. The opposing army fired at them from a hill across the road. One man dropped at the spring and is buried in the little neighboring church yard of Jackson's Chapel. He is believed to have been a Southern soldier. The Spout Springs Post Office was established August 5, 1892, with John M. Elkins as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Washington G. Patrick, Ulysses G. Elkins, James H. Dawson, Richard H. Curtis, J.W. Barnett, Asa Barnett, Henry Winburn, George G. Ware, Franklin Morginson, Thomas S. McKinney, William L. Byrd and Russell S. Christopher served until the office was discontinued November 30, 1937. The residents were to get mail from Irvine.
HARGETT
Located on Highway #89, about 7 miles northeast of Irvine. About 80 years ago there was a general store run by Cleveland Sams (now at the intersection of Highway #89 and #82) and in it was the Post Office called Sam's Post Office. About 100 yards or more northwest of the store was the railroad stop called Harg (In honor of Harg Allen) to which they moved the post office and changed its name to Harg. Later it was moved back to the original site at the crossroads. While the federal man was there setting up things a little boy came in the store. When asked what his name was he said, "Hargett Withers", so the federal man said, "This post office will be named for you, Hargett." With some people this has been shortened to Harg (probably since that was originally the name of the station.) The first post office at Hargett was established September 23, 1915, with Edith Patrick as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Herbert B. McIntosh, Harry Witt, Hickman Patrick, and Mary T. Patrick who served until the post office was discontinued September 30, 1943. Hargett residents were to get mail from Irvine.

MILLERS CREEK
Located about 3 miles south of Irvine on the east side of the Kentucky River. One of the early roads in the county to have been built was from Irvine to Millers Creek. The community of Millers Creek, along with the Creek itself, was named for a man named Miller who operated a grist mill within the vicinity. The Creek was long, being a "Big" and "Little" Millers Creek and played an important part in early industry of the south-east section of the County. In early days, logs were rolled down Cobbhill to the Furnace Fork of Millers Creek, then into the creek and thence into the Kentucky River to float down to the mills placed along the river. According to Collins' History in 1870, iron from Estill Furnace and the Fitchburg Furnace was taken by tramway, 6 miles, to Scotts' Landing on the Kentucky River near the mouth of Millers Creek. The CSX Railroad (formerly L&N Railroad) track to Eastern Kentucky runs parallel with the Kentucky River and the track runs through the community of Millers Creek on the way to the mountains. In former days there was a freight depot and the trains unloaded freight and picked up passengers there. One of the oldest churches in the county (Salem Baptist at Spout Springs being the oldest) was Mt. Tabor Christian of Millers Creek. The building is no longer standing. About 50 or 55 years ago, when the building was in need of many repairs, it was abandoned. The congregation then erected a new building on highway #52 going to Beattyville near the former Pendergrass store. They named their new church Mt. Sinai. Society Secretary Ronald Lutes is presently the pastor at this church. Before consolidation of Estill County Schools, the children of Millers Creek attended a one room school. The school building had two stories and the Bibb Masonic Lodge used the upper room for meetings. The Bibb Lodge received it's charter October 21, 1859, and was named in honor of George M. Bibb. This lodge was active until it consolidated with Irvine Lodge No. #137, May 23, 1947. Members of this lodge who have been honored with Life Memberships were: Garrett D. Tipton, Claude B. Moberly, Nelson McIntosh, Oscar Samples, William Samples, Achillis Kelly and E.B. Scrivner. A red brick house, one of the first brick houses built in the county is at Millers Creek. It is in good repair and was owned by the Gilbert McIntosh family. An early post office was established at the mouth of Millers Creek on August 7, 1839 with Benjamin F. Orlan as postmaster. Edward Stocton served as the second postmaster. This post office was discontinued July 28, 1842. The Millers Creek post office was established November 11, 1850, with John M. Lyle as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Thomas J. Harris, Bowles H. Sale, Achilles Kelly, S.B. Neal, Elisha L. Cockrell, Achilles D. Howell, George W. Cole, Thomas H. West, George W. Congleton, Sid Chatman, James A. West, Harry W. Neal, Walter Roscoe Samples and Mrs. Flora H. Barnes who served until her retirement January 31, 1968. The post office was closed on this date with the people of Millers Creek to get mail at Ravenna.
RICE STATION
Located about 5 miles west of Irvine on Highway #52 toward Richmond. It was named for Mr. Charlie Rice who was a large land owner and it is thought that he gave the right-of-way to the Richmond, Nicholasville, Irvine and Beattyville Railroad Company (later the L&A and then the L&N RR Co) for track and the railroad station built there. Mr. Rice's large frame house near the station's location is still standing, in good repair and was the last known owner was Mr. James Leonard Rice of Lexington. Neither the railroad track nor the station at Rice Station are in existence at the present time.

Mr. Charlie Rice was married twice, his first wife was Eliza Jane Cox, and his second, Nannie Kate Kirby. Mr. Charlie Rice and his family had lived on Red Lick, Estill County, possibly before moving to Rice Station area. his father was John Rice and mother Rannie Rucker Rice. It is not known where the John Rice family lived, but early Rice ancestors came from Virginia to Kentucky. In the late 1800's and early 1900's Rice Station, was a very thriving community, and the passengers trains going Richmond to Irvine and Irvine to Richmond each day stopped at Rice Station and opened up travel and business to the area. Mr. William L. Rice, nephew of Mr. Charlie Rice and whose parents were Thomas James Rice and Elizabeth Richardson Rice moved with his wife Louisa Park Wagers Rice from Wagersville (Estill County) to Rice Station in the late 1800's. Mr. William L. Rice and Louisa Wagers Rice were parents of 10 children. Some of the children and descendants presently live at Rice Station and Irvine. Mr. William L. Rice died July, 1910. His wife lived until September 30, 1943.

Upon moving from Wagersville to Rice Station, Mr. William L. Rice and a life-long friend, Jonah Wagers, also of Wagersville and for whom Wagersville was named, became joint owners and operators of a large general store near the Rice Station railroad station. Many stacks of tan bark and railroad ties, among other freight were loaded daily on trains by Wagers & Rice. It is said that the Wagers & Rice Store carried all kinds of merchandise and hardware "from coffin screws (coffins were now made at the time) to whatever was asked for". The store also carried men's shoes and clothing and women's shoes. Also a large supply of yard goods including silks and satins was also carried. The store was a two story structure and Mrs. Irvine Scriver drove by horse and buggy from her Madison County home each day and had a millinery shop on the second floor. She is said to have been quite skillful at making and trimming hats.

Wagers & Rice bought for sale turkeys from farmers in the neighborhood who would drive the large flocks of turkeys from their respective farms to the store. Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Rice and friends, Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Witt owned a large frame house also located near the railroad station. Mrs. Rice prepared in her home meals for drummers who came to the store. They paid 25 cents per meal. Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Witt, the former Liza Wilcox, opened their homes to friends and relatives who found it necessary to stop over between trains. While the drummers, who had come by train from neighboring cities to Rice Station, were in the area, they would rent a team and wagon from Wagers & Rice and one of the sons of Mr. Rice would take the drummers with their ware samples to other general stores in the county. When Mr. Jonah Wagers sold his interest in the store to Mr. Rice, the store then came to be known as the W.L. Rice and Son's Store.

The Rice Station post office for many years was lodged in the general stores owned by various members of the Rice family. The post office was established August 5, 1892, with Mr. John M. Kerby as postmaster. Other postmasters were. Solomon R. Wilder, James W. Witt Jr., William L. Rice (3-13-1906), William S. Witt (1-30-1911), Louisa P. Rice (1-16-1913), Columbus Edwards, and Miss Nettie Rice who assumed charge December 30, 1933, and served until her retirement in 1975.
COBBHILL
Located about 9 miles east of Irvine, Kentucky, on highway #213, at the foot of Tipton Ridge, off of highway
#52 to Beattyville, Lee County. Cobbhill was named for Samuel and Henry Cobb, two of the sons of Jesse Cobb,
Sr. and his wife Edith Oldham Cobb. Jesse, Sr. and his family had come with several other families, namely the
Oldhams, the Rices, and the Peppers in the western migration about the year 1800 from Caswell County and
other North Carolina counties. Henry Cobb, oldest son of Jesse and Edith Cobb was born in what is now Estill
County on July 11, 1802, and died in Madison County, Kentucky, August 21, 1857. Jesse Cobb, Sr., was born
February 27, 1769, in Caswell County, North Carolina, and died in Estill County, Kentucky, June 1, 1836. His
wife, Edith, was the daughter of Richard Oldham, a Revolutionary War soldier who settled in Madison County,
Kentucky.

Samuel and Henry Cobb were large landowners of the Cobbhill section of the county, and it is thought that Henry
moved from Cobbhill rather early in life, but Samuel continued to live there for many years. Apparently, they
secured large land grants and farmed the land and worked in logging.

Cobbhill at one time was thickly settled. Mining ore to be taken to the Fitchburg smelting
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employment there as did the logging industry. When these two industries ceased to be active, many of the
inhabitants moved from Cobbhill to the Bluegrass and even to other states to find employment. Now, however,
the children of previous inhabitants are moving back to Cobbhill, because their parents had continued to own
the land and thus they had a place to build new homes or to place mobile homes. They prefer to live at Cobbhill,
but commute daily to Winchester and Lexington to work in the industrial plants. Approximately 100 families
now live at Cobbhill.

A post office was established at Cobbhill March 20, 1898, with Achilles D. Howell as postmaster. Later
postmasters were: Ellen Hall, John S. Watson, Albert W. Estes, George W. Hall, Allie Howell, Benjamin Hall,
George W. Hall (who apparently served a second term), Mrs. Florence Rogers who served from December 3,
1935, to retirement January 31, 1960. Miss Lillie A. Patrick began serving February 5, 1960. Her name was
changed to Lillie A. Rogers by marriage December 21, 1962, to Olney Ray Rogers. The post office was located
in a small grocery store owned by the Rogers (the Cobbhill post office has now been discontinued).

The mail was brought into Cobbhill from the Pryse post office (Estill County) by Hazel Patrick and her husband,
John, who served as carriers to people who had mail boxes along the route. They left the remainder of the mail
with packages, etc. at the post office where stamps and money orders were sold. Among the families who
received mail (when this survey was made) at Cobbhill were: Clintons, John Patrick, Andrew and Dillard Patrick,
Virgil Rogers, Orlon and Shelby Smith, Flynn Bach, Lonnie Dickerson, Hubert Johnson, Luther Pelfry, Herman
Watson, Mrs. Sidney Warmouth, Gainus Rogers, Clyde Hall, Lloyd Hall, Everett Smith, Leman Stamper, Claude
Case, Opal Abney, Floyd Stamper, Roy Stamper, Tom Watson and Lenlie Abney.

PALMER
Located about 12 miles north-east of Irvine near Red River, not far from the Clark County line. It was named for
the family of James and Farinda Combs Palmer who came to Estill County from Leerose, Owsley County,
Kentucky, in the early 1900's. The Palmer post office was established December 2, 1914, with William H. Rice
as postmaster. Other postmasters were: Wilbert Moores, Jesse C. Thomas and Mrs. Eva L. Thomas, who served
from February 4, 1957, to retirement on November 3, 1967, and at which time the post office was discontinued
with the residents of Palmer to receive mail from Irvine. Among the people who received mail at Palmer: Harris,
Dazarn, Fielder, Rice, Frost, Sparks, Vaughn, Moore, and Palmer.
Fitchburg furnace, a monument to Estill County's great iron producing era, located in the northeastern portion of Estill County. It is about 16 miles from Irvine and can be reached by taking highway #52 from Irvine to Ravenna, continuing on #52 from Ravenna to the bottom of Tipton Ridge on the road to Beattyville, Lee County, Kentucky. At the foot of Tipton Ridge, 2 rural highways come together immediately off highway #52. One highway #213 leads to Cobbhill, the other highway #975 leads to Fitchburg. The Aldersgate Youth Camp owned and operated by the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Church is located near the furnace. Fitchburg furnace was completed in 1868. Built at the peak of the iron industry in Estill County, it was the last furnace to be built in the county.

A town was chartered called Fitchburg after two brothers, Frank Fitch, the general superintendent and Fred Fitch, the secretary and treasurer of the furnace operation. It was owned by the Red River Iron Manufacturing Company with a cash capital of $1,000,000

For several years, Fitchburg was a thriving little city with mills, shops, school and church, post office and with roads leading to other communities. More than 100 families lived at Fitchburg and employment was furnished to many men. One of the men who came to Estill County to work at Fitchburg was David Bergman of Louisville. He was employed as head book-keeper for the business operation for the Furnace and met and married here Lydia Moore, daughter of Harry and Mary Moore of Millers Creek, Estill County, September 27, 1870. They lived at Fitchburg for many years and their children were born there. David was born January 9, 1847, and died February 11, 1912. Lydia was born September 21, 1848, and died November 12, 1910. They were the parents of two children, Robert N. Bergman, who owned and operated a large hardware store on Main Street, Irvine, for many years. Mabel Bergman, their daughter, married Harry Milward of Lexington and they resided there. Robert M. Bergman married Miss Minnie West of Frankfort.

Fitchburg Furnace is now a ghost town with only the furnace itself left to tell the story of what had gone on before. There are no stores, nor churches, but several families have continued to reside in the community. Some of these families are the Dellie Shuler, Shirley Rogers, and Bauford Powell.

The Fitchburg post office was established September 9, 1870, with Thomas Edgar Parke as postmaster. Other postmasters were: C.R. Fitch, Maggie C. Graves, C. Tipton, J.M. Stewart, B.F. Chatman, James Arthur, and Elma D. Smyth. The post office was discontinued June 30, 1955, with people to get mail at Ravenna.