

The Family Room

By Dr. Don Whitehead

Three Strikes and You Are Out

I love baseball. It is my favorite sport. The basic rule of baseball is "three strikes and you are out." I have discovered that the same is true of marriage.

Norm and Vera (fictitious characters) have major problems in their marriage. Vera was determined to save the marriage and went to counseling. They have been married twenty-one years, and this is the fourth counselor to whom Vera has talked to in those years.

"I try but I don't seem to get anywhere," Vera told the counselor. "Norm won't listen to me. Maybe you can talk to him and get him to change."

"I doubt that I can make him change, Vera," the counselor advised. But tell me what it is he needs to change."

"Norm spends too much time drinking with his friends," she answered. "Every day after work he goes straight to his friend's house and they drink. Sometimes he doesn't get home until after midnight."

The counselor thought to himself, "Strike one." The abuse of alcohol and other drugs is a definite factor in the loss of many marriages. The one who abuses alcohol is not able to function effectively in the relationship. The alcohol affects his mental

and emotional state so that he cannot be a good partner or parent. Norm's drinking was the first strike against this marriage.

"So Norm's drinking is the main problem?" the counselor asked Vera. "It was until a few months ago," Vera continued, but then I found out

he has been having an affair. I found a note from a woman in his truck, and I made a few phone calls. Turns out he has been seeing her for six weeks at least. He finally confessed to it."

The counselor thought, "Strike two." An affair is a violation of trust in the relationship. "I feel betrayed," Vera added. "How could he do this to me?"

"Has he ever had an affair before?" the counselor asked.

"Maybe," Vera reluctantly admitted. "I have heard before that he had been out with someone. Each time he denied it and I believed him. Now I feel foolish."

"His affairs and his alcohol abuse are going to make it very difficult to save the marriage, Vera," the counselor told her. "Are there any other problems in your relationship?"

Vera was silent for a while, then she said, "Sometimes he gets really mad at me. I try not to make him mad, but no matter what I do, I seem to provoke him."

"Has he been abusive to you?" the counselor inquired.

Vera was again silent. "Not too much," she finally replied. "When he is drunk, he hollers at me, and a couple of times he has pushed me up against the wall. Once he blacked my eye. Afterwards he says he is sorry and that it won't happen again. I always forgive him. I guess I am being foolish, aren't I?"

The counselor thought, "Strike three." To Vera he said, "Alcohol

affairs and abuse make for a devastating combination in marriage. There are not many marriages that can withstand those problems. I must tell you that it will be hard to save your marriage. It will take a willingness to change on the part of both you and Norm."

The odds that Vera and Norm's marriage can be saved are slim. Three strikes (alcohol, affairs and abuse) may mean that Norm and Vera are out.

except the Phase II Tobacco Settlement funds from state income tax, and significantly cut unemployment insurance taxes. The cut in unemployment insurance taxes is extremely important because it helps create the kind of business-friendly environment that will bring more jobs to Kentucky. The tobacco fund exemption will help the thousands of tobacco farmers, quota holders and

growers who have already taken a 65 percent cut in their quotas since 1997.

I hope this explanation provides answers to questions you may have about the current state budget. As always if I can provide any additional information, please let me know. You can call me here in Mt. Vernon any time or call the toll-free message line at 1-800-372-7181.

Legislative Update

By State Rep. Danny Ford
Family Budget versus

The State Budget Because it includes funding for every state agency, program and initiative, the state budget is the most significant piece of legislation considered by the General Assembly. Since they effect our pocketbooks, bills to increase taxes are the most controversial pieces of legislation faced by the General Assembly. In this year's session of the legislature, the Governor proposed a number of tax increases to balance his proposals for increased spending in the state budget. As a legislator, my first priority has always been to ensure Kentuckians have the opportunity to balance their family budget.

Prior to this year's legislative session, the Governor began floating ideas for possible tax increases: higher gas taxes, an income tax increase, higher phone taxes and adding sales tax to services. The Governor's proposals came after he realized the current budget would pale in comparison to the 1998 budget when we had a sizable surplus. Instead of working to make state government more efficient, Patton began proposing tax increases like his seven-cent a gallon gasoline tax that would have increased the current tax on gasoline by almost 50 percent. Another last ditch effort to increase revenues, which would have extended the state sales tax to such services as automobile repair and dry-cleaning, would have raised an additional \$333 million over two years. While the tax increases would have made it easy for the Governor to fund his programs, it would have created a hardship for the average Kentuckian.

As if to validate his wish to increase taxes, the Governor's tax proposal would also have exempted several thousand lower-income Kentuckians from the state income tax. No one can argue that doing so would eliminate a heavy burden on

families who already face difficult financial problems. However, if the Governor's plan had passed, these families would have actually paid more in taxes than they do now. They would have paid more at the pump for the gasoline that fuels their trips to work and school; they would have paid more to the mechanic to have their automobile repaired; and they would have paid more taxes on their telephone bills. Instead of helping lower income families, the Governor's plan would have actually put them further behind.

Instead of the Governor's plan, the General Assembly worked to pass legislation that ensures that the cost to taxpayers of providing state programs does not outweigh the benefit of those very programs.

When is a cut in state spending really a cut? Since the General Assembly adjourned in April, you may have heard that we cut funding for several programs, including education. These claims don't match up with reality. Not one single program received less funding in comparison with the 1998 budget. In actuality, we were able to fund all education programs, including the "Bucks for Brains" Program, at the request level. Other state programs were given enough to continue providing services at their current level. Yes, we reduced the amount of new spending requested by the bureaucrats, but every agency has more money under this budget than under the last budget.

It took hard work and some creativity to make sure the budget we enacted was properly funded. That Senate package of tax revisions that actually reduces taxes over the two years of the current state budget was approved by an overwhelming majority of House members in the final hours of the 2000 session. By applying the same six percent tax that we pay on in-state calls to out-of-state calls we were able to fund the budget.

Hale/White Family Reunion

Sept. 16, 2000 • 12 noon

Come early and stay late. Park does have a campground.
Boonesboro State Park • Shelter House #2
Boonesboro, Kentucky

Steve Anglin and his band will be there. Plan on lots of good music. Please bring a favorite recipe and/or story. We would like to try to put together a family cookbook.

Perry White *father of:*

b. August 2, 1868
d. July 4, 1948

married Rebecca Rice 1893
b. January 29, 1878
d. May 15, 1929

William Harrison 1895
Mary Leona (Stiles) 1898
Jenny (Van Winkle) 1905
Dexter (Anglin) 1907
Tennessee (Hick) 1907

Wilson 1908
Theodore 1910
Frank 1912
Bertha (Torbas) 1917
Samuel London 1919

Wading Barefoot in Copper Creek
Rockcastle Co., Kentucky

Photographed by his grandsons,
Charles, Stanley, Allen

Grand Opening Faith's Family Footwear

25 West Main Street • Mt. Vernon

(Former Smith Shoe Store Building)

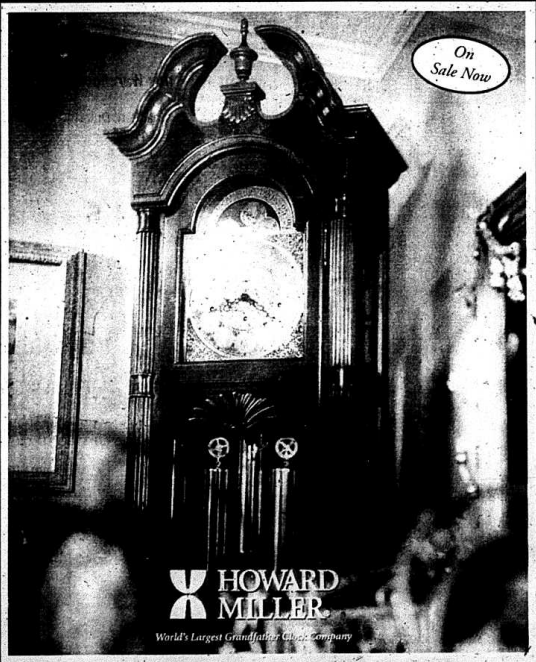
Opening Sat., Sept. 2, 2000

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New and Used Brand Name
Shoes at Discount Prices

Dennis & Faith Payne, Owners

Hays Furniture



On Sale Now

HOWARD MILLER
World's Largest Grandfather Clock Company

591 WEST CHESTNUT ST. BEREA 986-4144 OR 986-8004
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

ABSOLUTE

Auction

of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Collinsworth's

Two Commercial Lots

Sat., Sept. 2, 2000 at 2 p.m.

Renfro Valley, Kentucky



Location:

U.S. 25 just past the new site of the Kentucky Country Music Hall of Fame. An Auction Sign is posted.

Due to health reasons, Mr. and Mrs. Collinsworth have decided to sell a portion of their land in Renfro Valley for the absolute high dollar.

The owners reserve the right to sell each lot separately and then together, selling in the manner which reflects the most favorable results.

Lot 1: Measures approximately 100 feet along U.S. 25 x 210 feet deep.

Lot 2: Measures approximately 135 feet along U.S. 25 x 210 feet deep.

Both lots have city water and city sewer available.

Auctioneer's Note: If you're looking for a commercial site in the heart of Renfro Valley, then mark your calendar to attend this absolute auction on Saturday, September 2nd at 2 p.m.

Terms: 20% down day of sale, balance in 30 days.

Announcements day of sale take precedence over printed matter.

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