



A SELECTION FROM THE BOOK OF HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS
OF CALLOWAY COUNTY

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Gerry Reed

In 1981, the Calloway County Public Library volunteers began copying old photographs and collecting genealogical information on the subjects in the pictures. This activity generated so much interest that eventually we decided to publish a book of photographs.

As people came to the library to have their old family heirlooms copied, they shared stories from their background related to their pictures. In time, we decided to publish some of their anecdotes in the book, as well. Subjects include: the Cherokee Trail of Tears, Jesse James, Kit Dalton, several Civil War stories, a dinner which had dog meat as its entrée, the U.S. Marshall D. Nix of Oklahoma Territory fame, and many others.

We choose the title, **Photographic Pot-pourri of Calloway County**, for two reasons. First, we did not propose to publish a formal, chronologically arranged history with appropriate space assigned according to "importance" of family position. We wanted to be very inclusive! We encouraged everyone to participate, believing that everyone who has lived here had laid down part of the fabric that held the society together. They all contributed toward that special quality that sets Calloway County apart. We hope we have captured the essence of this place - the fragrance, if you will, that makes it unique. Secondly, we wanted this project to be one that could be enjoyed by the whole community and entered into without reservation. We are delighted with the response. It has proven to be exactly that. Members of the Murray Camera Club have copied the photographs. Members of the genealogical society have located families and information, a great number of clubs, institutions, and individuals have worked these six years with a fund raising, "Spring Pot-pourri of Art" which has funded our basic needs such as film, mounting board, postage. Nine different women's groups have been involved in those and in the design and sewing of a quilt which was raffled. Other pre-publishing expenses have been earned through the sale of home baked breads.

Part of the income from the sale of the book will provide special display and storage equipment for these collections. Over five hundred books have already been sold. Profits from additional sales will be shared with the Friends of the Library to purchase new carpets for our floors.

We have stirred up considerable interest in history through the anecdotal contest which we sponsored and the daily televised retelling of those tales. All of this information has been stored on computer and is being cross-referenced for public use. This file and the photograph collection will continue to expand and we anticipate its expanded service to the library patrons as well.

I once likened this work to that of making stone soup. We started with nothing but an idea - But as everyone in the county shared the bit they had stored at home, the end result has become a richly flavored meal for all. It has been a gratifying experience to have been entrusted with these treasures, expecting us to present them in a creditable way. We believe that we have done that.

We are urging those who wish to have a copy of this book to place their order now since only a limited number of extra copies will be contracted for. This hard bound, 8½ x 11 inch book containing over two hundred pages of selections from our collections of one thousand photographs can be ordered by making a check for \$25.00 to Old Photo Collection and mailing it to: Gerry Reed, 710 Main Street, Murray, Kentucky, 42071. A numbered certificate will be returned to you, designating the numbered book which has been reserved in your name. You will be notified when the books arrive from the publisher in May.