

Clyde & Susie Bennett



About 4 years ago, my grandson Blake and I decided, from the encouragement of the late Harrison Mosley, to ride over to College Grove on a Friday night and check out the Bluegrass Music and Dance. I had heard about music in the Grove but had no idea that there was also dancing. Soon after arriving, the music started and several couples began to dance. I noticed one couple in particular, who was on the floor almost as soon as the music started. I could tell by the visiting and fellowship with others that this couple was not newcomers to this weekly event. They seemed to know everyone present and they were really enjoying themselves. I soon learned they were the Bennett's, Mr. Clyde and Mrs. Susie.

The Bennett's are loyal supporters of the County – Bluegrass Music night at College Grove and helped to make a success of it. They estimate in the 12+ years they haven't missed more than 5 times. They have held several different positions in the College Grove event. From helping in the organization to clean-up duty, they are always willing to do what is needed.

When their permanent seats, left side second row, are empty for the night, it's very noticeable. In 1994 when the Blue Grass Association was organized, dancing the two-step was new to Clyde. He had attended square dancing events but never thought he would be dancing the two-step. In earlier days, Susie would often drive her parents and attend community dances but Clyde didn't think that was his "cup of tea". Each week their seats may look empty most of the night but when you look closely at the dancers, you'll see them moving across the floor. Clyde seems to prefer the faster music and Susie has no trouble keeping up.

In addition to the Music night the Bennett family is also loyal supporters of the Peytonsville Fire Hall. They help out in fund-raising and other events, which are very beneficial for the Fire Hall and the Peytonsville Community.

In April 2005 Clyde and Susie added another music night to their busy schedule. They also attend the Eagleville County Music and Dance held once a month at the Eagleville Community Center. Same as College Grove, if they are a little late arriving, everybody is asking about them.

William Clyde Bennett and his twin brother, Thomas Hyde was born February 23, 1926 to Lula and Robert Bennett of the Peytonsville area in Williamson County. Their mother died when they were only 3 ½ years old, leaving their father to care for 6 children. Thomas Hyde died from cancer in 1930 only a year after his mother. Clyde attended Paytonsville School and has lived in the Bennett Hollow area his entire life.

Susie Florence Garner Bennett was born October 13, 1928. Her parents were

Buster and Mary Bennett Garner and they also lived in Bennett Hollow where Susie was born. Although Susie's family moved several times and she attended school at Bethesda, Arno and Peytonsville. She has spent all but 5 or 6 years of her life in Bennett's Hollow. Susie came from a family of 10 children, 6 girls and 4 boys.

When very young Clyde and Susie were attending the Peytonsville School one Christmas. Susie drew Clyde's name for their class Christmas tree gift-giving. She asked her Mother to please get him something special because his Mother had died and she felt sorry for him. Even though times were very hard, her Mother Mary, bought him a big shiny metal truck for his gift. He was so proud of it.

Susie and Clyde married November 29, 1945 in Huntsville Alabama. Clyde has been a farmer all his life, helping his father tend crops and later along with working public work he and Susie continued farming. Clyde worked 20 years in the Moorehead and Seelback Tree Surgery businesses and retired after 20 years with the State of Tennessee Highway Department.

This close knit Bennett Family consists of 5 children, 3 daughters and 2 sons, all whom graduated from Bethesda School. The eldest daughter Brenda King is retired from the Williamson County Registrar of Deeds Office, William "Copper" is a truck driver, Lula Heithcock is employed by McDonalds at Cool Springs, Leola Glenn is a secretary in the Williamson County Sheriff's Department and Richard Clyde "Ricky" drives a truck for Williamson County.

Clyde and Susie are very proud of their family. Five children, fourteen grandchildren and eight great grandchildren make a very big family gathering for birthdays and other celebrations.

Although the Bennett's are very busy with their farm life and family activities, they look forward to Friday nights, a time to visit with their friends and neighbors and enjoy a night of music and dancing.

