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# The Local Legacy Times

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In Memory of Lawrence George Rowell Jr.

January 27, 2019

## UK fan, friend honors Rowell in special way



### WEARS GEORGIA BULLDOGS LAPEL PIN

Alex Butler is an avid University of Kentucky fan but this week, he is trading his UK lapel pin in for a Georgia Bulldogs pin in honor of Larry Rowell.

Butler, 29, met Rowell in 2014 when his fiancé, Abigail, began working as a staff writer at The Casey County News.

Over the years, Butler and Rowell enjoyed many lively sports debates and quickly became close friends.

Butler said he will miss Rowell's enthusiasm and love for the Georgia Bulldogs, but more than anything, he will miss his friendship.

As a pastor and personal faith-mentor to Butler's fiancé, Rowell was set to marry the couple this year, before he fell ill. Butler said the couple plans to honor Rowell's memory during their wedding ceremony on Oct. 12.

## A MENTOR TO MANY

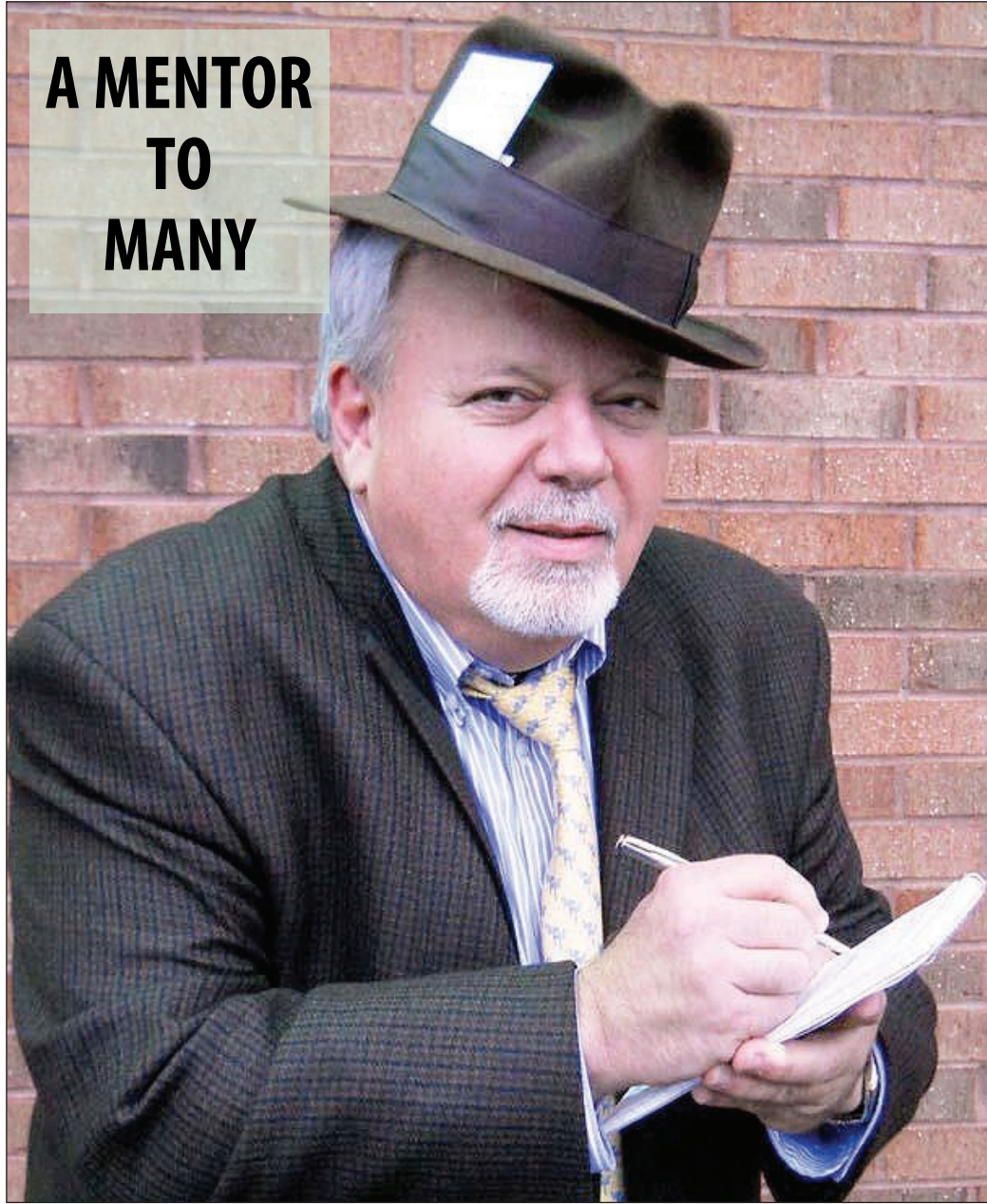


Photo contributed

Rowell mentored countless people during his time as Editor of The Casey County News.

## Former CCN staff writer reflects on 'profound' impact Rowell had on her career, life

By Abigail Whitehouse

"Abs, if someone somewhere isn't pissed off at us, then we ain't doin' our jobs right."

Larry would always say that as I sat in his office, my head in my hands, after an angry reader had just finished telling me off.

"You were fair. You wrote the truth. You've got nothin' to be sorry for."

He helped me grow a thick layer of skin – one that would shield my feelings and allow me to continue to do the important work, no matter what.

As time passed, and I

became an editor myself, I would return the favor when Larry called to tell me about a man who threatened to sue him or someone who made a physical threat against him.

"You were fair. You wrote the truth. You've got nothin' to be sorry for."

We needed each other. I still need him. Larry always knew what to say.

Larry epitomized the true meaning of Community Journalism. In addition to being editor, he sat on local boards, participated in local plays and helped judge many

community contests. As editor, Larry was everywhere.

He taught me that a good weekly newspaper goes beyond any other source and tells the whole story – from start to finish. "It's up to use to get it right," he'd say.

You could always tell when Larry had a big scoop, just by the way he came through the door.

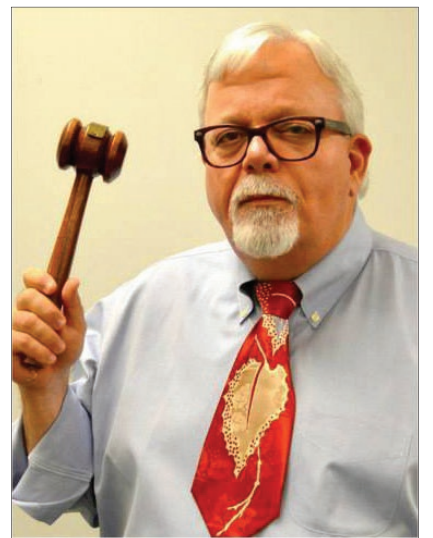
Grinning ear-to-ear, his eyes twinkling mischievously...he practically skipped to his desk.

"If we can keep a tight

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## Local library will miss Rowell's 'witticisms'



**Boss Dawg,  
Mayor of newly  
incorporated Yosieburg  
(Larry Rowell)**

The Casey County Public Library, unfortunately, loses many of its wonderful patrons each year.

This year we have to say goodbye to a patron who was very involved in the library and its plays – former Casey News editor Larry Rowell.

An avid reader and library fan, we will miss Larry and his many witticisms.

Thank you for being part of our library family, Larry, and sending sympathy to your family and friends. You will truly be missed.



Photos  
contributed

Rowell portrays a mayor, above, and a member of the press, right, as he participates in several community plays.



# Local columnist writes 'Requiem for Rowell'

By Joberta Wells

This is not an obituary — please understand that right up front. This is a requiem, a remembrance, of somebody not born in Casey County but who came here and made himself an indelible part of the county.

Our dear friend and former editor of The Casey County News, Larry Rowell, departed this world for whatever lies beyond a little after midnight on Friday, January 25. He succumbed to a particularly vicious form of cancer.

Larry was a good old Georgia boy who came from a town named Moultrie. He was proud of his Georgia background and was proud of any athletic team the University of Georgia put out on a field or court. He could get downright obnoxious about the Georgia teams but he always supported the University of Georgia as long as they weren't playing the Bulldogs.

Almost everybody who knew him knew that he was a Southern Baptist minister in addition to being our

**"He didn't force his faith on you;  
he just let it wash gently over you."**

—Joberta Wells

editor. That wasn't all there was to Larry, though. He almost had more college degrees than a coon hound has fleas. He had a Masters of Religious Education degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a BS degree in Criminal Justice from Valdosta State College (Georgia), and a BA in Journalism from Western Kentucky University. I suspect

that last adventure in a Kentucky college is what led him to us. In fact, I'm sure of it.

Larry and Edwina, his wife, were missionaries to Burkina Faso, one of the poorest countries in Africa, for several years. Before going there they spent time in France learning French, the language of Burkina Faso. Larry took a lot of kidding about French being spoken with a Georgia

accent but I am sure he made himself understood in Africa just like he made himself understood in Casey County. That Georgia accent traveled well!

Larry came loaded for bear when he started working for The Casey County News. It would be safe to say that he knew half the citizens of the county and they knew him before he had been here two or three months. He got involved in every activity held, not just because he was a writer and the editor of the paper. He was

genuinely interested in the people of this county and made friends wherever he went.

Larry's sense of humor, well honed as it is, was a delight to me. He was such a sneaky reprobate when it came to some of his humorous takes on things. I loved it! I will always remember it!

Roger Coffey can tell you a story about the time he and Larry bought one of the country hams cured and sold by a 4-H Club member. The bidding

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## MENTOR

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lip, we’ll break this one,” he’d tell me.

As a weekly newspaper, breaking a big story is a difficult task. Usually by the time we went to press, a nearby daily paper or TV station had already sniffed out the story.

But we tried anyways, and sometimes we did break the big ones.

Larry gave every story he wrote sincere, dedicated attention. He treated sources with compassion, but he never avoided the tough questions. I can still hear him now yelling at an attorney at 8 p.m. on a Tuesday night, “It’s a simple question. If I were you, I’d answer it before tomorrow morning.”

I’ll never forget the day I had to tell Larry I was leaving The Casey County News to become the editor of

a neighboring newspaper. I had stressed over the conversation for days because I knew my departure meant many more long nights for him. And I knew it meant leaving his side and his close-by advice.

But Larry never left me. In fact, I ran to him over and over again when faced with difficult editorial decisions. “Would you write it?” I’d ask.

“Bust their butts girl!,” He’d say.

Larry’s impact on my life goes far beyond my journalism career. After so many late nights in the newsroom, we quickly went from colleagues, to friends, to family. There was one particular activity that Larry and I enjoyed the most together, though, and that was dove hunting.

I will never forget the day that a man called the Casey News office

and invited Larry and I to join him and his friends in their dove field. I had written a column the week before about how much I love opening day of Dove Season.

It had been years since Larry had been dove hunting and he couldn’t have been more excited. We rushed that morning to get our interviews done so we could skip out of the office early and hit the field.

I can still hear Larry yelling across the field, “Nice shot, Abs!”

All of these memories sting like a swarm of bees now, as I am forced to accept a world without him – a world in which I can’t just pick up my phone and ask him what to do.

But Larry is a part of me, a part of everything I do, and I know that if I ask myself, it’s Larry who will answer.



Photos by Abigail Whitehouse

Above, Rowell poses for a photo after a very successful dove hunt in Lincoln County.

Right, Rowell and Whitehouse pose for a quick photo before heading out to the annual dove hunt.



# Friends, colleagues remember Rowell on Facebook



Al Cross ► Edwina Rowell

Yesterday at 8:00 PM • 🌐

Edwina, I have known thousands of journalists and hundreds of newspaper editors, and few of them approached their craft with the gentle care that Larry showed. I hope his example can be followed by many more.

Deva Hair So very sorry for your loss. Casey County loved his time here and his dedication to the Apple Festival ! May all his family have strength and peace during this time. He will truly be missed

Richard Phillips Larry was a great man. This community is better off for having him as part of it.

Leslie Bailey McLendon I am so sorry. Mr. Larry was a wonderful, sweet, and kind man. I remember the day he married my mom and dad. He was a great pastor. Sending many hugs and prayers during this time.

## REQUIEM

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got higher and higher and although the price was stratospheric, they bought the ham. Ask Roger — he tells the story better than I!

Larry was an avid dove hunter and loved eating them. He was also a connoisseur of good fried chicken although he and I disagreed heartily about the proper fat in which to fry it. I said “lard”, Larry said

“peanut oil”. I think that was about the only thing over which we ever disagreed. By the way, if you want a really good recipe for Thanksgiving dressing, contact me because I have Larry’s.

Many of us older ladies in Casey County provided Larry with home-canned treats. I took him jars and jars of dilly beans (pickled green beans) and pickled okra. There were usually several other little jars from his other



little old lady friends in the kitchen at the Casey

News office, too. Larry was on the

local board for foster children while he was editor of the paper. After his retirement he continued to be active with the board. His love and compassion for these children never ended and we were blessed to have him.

Those who knew Larry knew of his deep faith in God. As minister at Beech Grove Baptist Church he shared this faith with his congregation but he also shared it with

anyone who was interested. He didn’t force his faith on you; he just let it wash gently over you.

So, my dear Moultrie boy, my pickled okra boy, my dilly bean boy, my boiled peanuts boy, my best turkey dressing recipe boy, my poor deluded boy who cooked fried chicken in peanut oil instead of lard, my darling friend — I cherish my memories of you and I will never forget you. You were a hoot!

# Lawrence George Rowell Jr., 63



Lawrence George Rowell Jr., 63, of Campbellsville died January 25, 2019 surrounded by family.

Born in Moultrie, Ga., Larry was the son of the late Lawrence George Rowell Sr. and Earlene Wilson

Rowell. He never met a stranger and had friends around the world.

He was a licensed real estate broker and past president of Rowell Realty and Auction Co. He became a minister in 1978 and served as associate pastor of Beargrass Christian Church in Louisville and pastor of First Baptist Church in Lyons, Ga. He and his family were missionaries in Burkina

Faso, Ivory Coast and Nigeria. After returning to the states, he was minister of education at Campbellsville Baptist Church and pastor of Beech Grove Baptist Church in Black Gnat.

Larry was a staff writer and editor of the Casey County News in Liberty and interim editor for the Greensburg Record Herald in Greensburg. He

was also involved in the community through Kiwanis and was a chaplain for the Campbellsville Taylor County Rescue Squad as well as serving on the Taylor, Adair and Casey County Foster Parent Review Boards.

Survivors include his wife of 40 years, Edwina Mills Rowell; son, Parker Rowell of Elizabethtown; brother, Tommy Rowell (Julie) of

Moultrie, Ga.; sister, Becky Rowell (Uli Keller) of St. Simons Island, Ga.; brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services will be January 28, 2019 at 11:00 am at Campbellsville Baptist Church. Burial will be in Ekron Baptist Church Cemetery at 3:00 pm. Visitation is 5:00 – 8:00 pm, January 27, 2019 at Campbellsville

Baptist Church and after 8:00 am, January 28, 2019 also at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

Expressions of sympathy are requested to be donations to Beech Grove Baptist Church or Baptist Global Response and may be made at Parrott & Ramsey Funeral Home.

Parrott & Ramsey Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.