

The Courier News

75¢
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

April Hackler's newspaper of choice in Clinton, Tennessee • Volume 131 Issue 24

RAY VARNER
CLINTON, TENNESSEE

Starting
The New Year
With A Sparkle!

Close-Out on
All New 2017 Models
In Stock!

865-457-0704
www.rayvarnerford.com

A 'personal' history lesson not soon to be forgotten

According to the City of Norris web site <http://www.cityofnorris.com/>, "The City of Norris has been called a planned community, a model town, a garden city, and even a utopia."

That's because Norris was all those things to its founder, Arthur Ernest Morgan.

Barry Thacker has been asked for the last few years to teach Coal Creek and Norris history to eighth graders at Lake City Middle School.

The Coal Creek history class teaches them to take pride in their heritage, whereas the class on Norris teaches them about the history and

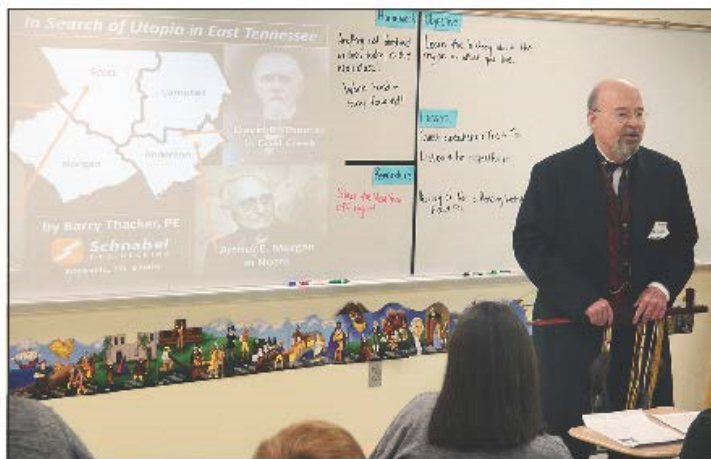
heritage of students they will meet when they attend Anderson County High School.

He has also been asked to teach Coal Creek and Norris history to Norris Middle School eighth graders.

While telling the story of the Utopian Communities founded in East Tennessee — Scott and Anderson Counties — Thacker included the story of Norris and its founder, Morgan.

Morgan was the latest in a line of visionaries to come to East Tennessee in search of utopia.

Tennesseans remember him as the first Chairman and



Barry Thacker teaches about the origins of Norris to Norris Middle eighth grade students in Jim Corrigan's class. — Ken Leimart

Chief Engineer of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), but that was just one of many achievements in his illustrious career.

To appreciate the history

of Norris, you must understand the life of Arthur Morgan, who was one of the most influential and controversial figures of the 20th Century.

Eighth-graders at Nor-

ris Middle School learned that through Morgan, their heritage is linked to that of George Washington, Herbert Hoover, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman,

John F. Kennedy, Mahatma Gandhi, Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers, the Seneca Indian Nation, Johnny Cash, the education system in India, and the Inca Empire.

Foremost, Arthur Morgan was the father of modern flood control dams. He pioneered the first use of reservoirs to control flooding after the 1913 flood of the Great Miami River in Dayton, Ohio, at a time when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers viewed reservoirs as providing insignificant value in reducing flooding according to its "levees only" policy.

In 1921, Morgan accepted the presidency of tiny Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, where he revitalized the college with a cooperative education program saying, "The world needs more engineers

See **LESSON**, Page 8A



Lesson

from 1A

able to talk about things besides engineering and baseball.”

Morgan’s purpose was wholeness; his aim was the creation of broadly educated, technically proficient, socially conscious professionals who would act as agents of human betterment in society.

He published the periodical, Antioch Notes, to share his philosophy on education and social development, building a subscriber list of 20,000 that included Herbert Hoover and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Morgan said that Human-kind was a small community animal.

All the cherished human values—honesty, morality, responsibility, ethics, and kindness—originate and are fostered in intimate, face-to-face relationships such as you find in small communities.

Members of such communities have a duty to replenish those cherished human values in both their small communities and in larger metropolitan areas where cherished human values are often lacking.

He viewed small communities as where experimental, utopian ideas could be tested as a means for society to evolve.

While at Antioch College, Morgan also served as chief engineer during design of the Muskingum River flood control dams in Ohio. That is until 1933 during the Great Depression when Franklin Delano Roosevelt told him, “I like your vision” and selected Morgan to lead the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Morgan accepted on condition that hiring would be based on merit with no political appointments.

A primary objective of the TVA Act was, “To improve the navigability and to provide for the flood control of the Tennessee River. Dams built to address flooding and to provide for navigation, would also allow the Tennessee Valley to be electrified from hydroelectric power plants built with the dams.

Morgan saw the Tennessee Valley as, “The first place in America where we can sit down and design a civilization.” For him, the City of Norris would fulfill his lifelong dream of building an experimental utopian community during construction of Norris Dam.

He named the town and the dam to honor Sen. George Norris, who sponsored the TVA bill.

Morgan recruited former associates who were educated in his “Conclusive Engineering Analysis” method for important roles within TVA.

They then recruited the best and the brightest by selling them on Morgan’s vision for the Tennessee Valley. An example is the hiring of land planner Earle S. Draper, who based the design for the City of Norris on the English garden city movement of the

1890s with winding roads following the contour of the terrain and open green spaces.

Although Morgan recommended the appointment of the other two TVA directors—Harcourt Morgan (no relation) and David Lilienthal—they initially opposed his plan to build the City of Norris to house workers building Norris Dam.

They called Morgan’s community and social development endeavors akin to “basket weaving.”

But Morgan was appalled by the 126 deaths that occurred during construction of Hoover Dam, which he attributed largely to fatigue.

He told the other TVA directors that a high fatality rate during construction of Norris Dam would embarrass the Roosevelt administration, so they approved his plan to build the City of Norris.

Yes, the City of Norris was built to house workers building Norris Dam, but if not for Hoover Dam, there would be no City of Norris.

Did Morgan post “Help Wanted” ads to recruit the workforce to build Norris Dam?

No, he was not going to populate his experimental utopian community with random people hired using “Help Wanted” signs.

Instead, he sent recruiters to small communities to recruit workers with high moral character and “cherished human values” willing to relocate to Norris.

He allowed no saloons, gambling houses, or brothels in the City of Norris, saying that a sober, healthy, and well-trained workforce is a safer workforce.

Workers and their families lived in permanent two-bedroom houses, ate in dining halls, and worshipped together in non-denominational Sunday services in a community center. All workers were required to attend safety training classes, but Morgan also provided classes on a variety of subjects so workers



Students in one of Jim Corrigan’s eight grade class pose for a photo after Barry Thacker’s presentation of Coal Creek and Norris. Thacker led the students throughout the history of East Tennessee Utopian Communities — from Rugby to Norris.

could learn new job skills.

Norris School became the first school in the world to be fully electrified with lights turned on by an automated electric-eye. He provided mobile libraries so workers and their families could advance. Many workers who came to Norris as unskilled laborers became lifelong, skilled TVA employees from the training they received.

To reduce fatigue and provide more jobs during the Great Depression, laborers worked four, 6-hour shifts per week. Absenteeism was low; morale was high; and efficiency such that Norris Dam—which Army engineers had estimated would take four years to build—was completed in less than two and a

half years.

Morgan said that utopian writers who were one step ahead of the crowd were leaders, while those who were two steps ahead were visionaries.

But if utopian writers got too far ahead of the crowd, they would be considered fanatics.

Fortunately for Morgan, Tennesseans had a unique way of keeping his feet planted in reality as illustrated by the letter sent to him by Tennessee Senator Nathan Bachman that said, “I do resent, on the behalf of my people, the suggestion that we are in need of a new cul-

tural civilization, which you continuously advocate in your addresses. A people whose forbearers went with Sevier to Kings Mountain, destroyed Ferguson and forever broke the yoke of British domination in this country, and later under Jackson annihilated Pakenham at New Orleans are surely in no need of intellectual or sociological admonitions in the pursuance of their welfare.

They are of a breed that helped make these United States and will help save them in their hour of travail.”

Norris was the first of 21 tributary dams whose reser-

voirs stored flood waters during wet seasons of the year and then discharged the water to augment flow of the Tennessee River during dry seasons of the year. Nine dams on the Tennessee River were equipped with locks to make it navigable for the first time in history.

Re-Elect
JEFF COLE
County Clerk

PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE

Master Dry
FOUNDATION & WATERPROOFING SPECIALISTS

WE REPAIR SETTLING FOUNDATIONS!

BEFORE **AFTER**

Is your foundation settling?
Call today to learn the ideal solution!

866.664.5963 | GetAFreeInspection.com

MENTION “TPS” TO RECEIVE THIS SPECIAL OFFER!

\$250 OFF
ANY FOUNDATION REPAIR SYSTEM

Cannot be combined with any other offer. Coupon must be presented at time of estimate. Not valid for prior work. Maximum discount 5%. Expires 1-31-18.

FACTORY INVOICE SALE

NEW 2018 FORD FOCUS
Auto #C6657
\$19,830 MSRP
\$3,250 Rebate
\$653 RVF Disc.
\$15,927
Ford Factory Invoice Pricing After Rebate

NEW 2018 F150 4X4
#T5393
\$35,565 MSRP
\$2,250 Rebate
\$1,728 RVF Disc.
1,000 Certificate
\$750 FMCC
\$29,837
Ford Factory Invoice Pricing After Rebate w/FMCC Financing

2018 ECOSPORT 4X4
ECOBOOST #T5560
\$22,675 MSRP
\$500 Rebate
\$515 RVF Disc.
\$21,660
Ford Factory Invoice Pricing After Rebate

NO ADD-ON STICKERS!

PRE-OWNED HEADQUARTERS

2015 LINCOLN MKC AWD Reserve, Loaded! \$27,900	2014 NISSAN MAXIMA 3.5 SV, Leather, Moonroof \$17,777	2014 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE Auto, Leather \$16,950
2016 FORD FUSION 22K miles, Local Trade \$14,555	2014 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM 4x4, 2.0 EcoBoost \$18,890	2015 FORD EXPLORER FWD, One Owner \$19,550
2017 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED 4x4, Moonroof, Navigation \$34,777	2014 FORD FLEX AWD, w/EcoBoost, Loaded! \$27,888	2016 F-350 CREW CAB 4x4, Dually, Lariat, 14K miles! \$54,900

2026 N. Charles G. Seivers Blvd.
Clinton, TN
(865) 457-0704
www.rayvarnerford.com

RAY VARNER
CLINTON, TENNESSEE