

LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE  
*The People News*

- HEALTH.... B J Armstrong
- TONYA'S TALES.... Tonya Brantley
- SPECIAL REPORT.... Alexandra Edwards
- MOCKINGBIRD.... June Griffin
- IT'S A PERSONAL VIEW.... Mel Griffith
- HUMOR COLUMNIST.... Ned Hickson
- SPORTS.... Jerry Keys
- COLUMNIST.... Joe Kirkpatrick
- MATTER OF FAITH.... Joel Lawler
- JENNIFER'S CORNER.... Jennifer Martin
- ASHLEY'S AVENUE.... Ashley Murphy
- FEED BAG.... Pauline Murphy
- WW II SECRETS.... Cecil Owen
- READ ALL ABOUT IT.... Pettus Read
- plus
- JOKES
- CROSSWORD
- EDITORIALS
- HUMOR
- LETTERS
- LIVESTOCK PRICES
- POLITICAL CARTOONS

Advertising Design - by Greenrain Graphics  
www.greenraingraphics.com



Managing Editor  
Tonya Brantley



Media Assistant  
Ashley Murphy



Publisher  
Pete Edwards

Editor's note: The views expressed by the independent columnists or letter writers in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of THE PEOPLE NEWS publisher-editor, staff or our advertisers. Any comments "for or against" should be addressed to -

The PEOPLE News P.O. Box 3921  
Cleveland, TN 37320-3921

(423)-559-2150

FAX 559-1044

e-mail: Thepeoplenews@aol.com

website: www.thepeoplenews.com

For ADVERTISING

Information Call

559-2150

2009 Copyright

## Our Time

*The following was sent to The People News by a reader. The author is unknown.*

A young man learns what's most important in life from the guy next door. It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, girls, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact, Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him.

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days. "Jack, did you hear me?" "Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said. "Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him, he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him. "I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said.

"You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said. "He's

the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time. Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture.... Jack stopped suddenly.

"What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked. "The box is gone," he said. "What box?" Mom asked. "There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said. It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it. "Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better

get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read.

Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside. "Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most

in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch. Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! Harold Belser."

"The thing he valued most...was...my time."

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days.

"Why?" Janet, his assistant asked. "I need some time to spend with my son," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet... thanks for your time!"

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away."

Thank you for your time.

## MOORE JEWELERS

Trusted Over 50 Years

IN STORE REPAIR

Jewelry and Watches

Jewelry Appraisals

Also, We Buy Gold

141 Inman St. • 479-4127

J.J. Moore Goldsmith Willis Moore Gemologist

Bill of Rights  
Congress of the United States

THE OPEN EXPRESSION OF VIEWS  
AND OPINIONS IN THE CONTENTS OF  
THIS PAPER ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY  
THE CONSTITUTION  
AND  
BILL OF RIGHTS  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**S & S TOURS** to **HARRAH'S** Cherokee, NC Day Trip  
Scenic Views 6 Hrs. Play Time

Clean Motor Coach, Non-Smoking Trips, Ride in Comfort

Weekly Trips Wed., Thur. & Sat. **\$30 R-Trip** Receive \$20 at Casino

★ **SPECIAL** ★ Pay \$20 Bus Ride Receive \$20 at Casino  
**FREE RIDE** Every Saturday \$0 = FREE RIDE

CALL ABOUT OUR WEEKLY TRIPS TO COUNTRY CLASSIC CASINO IN **JASPER, AL**

FREE TRIPS - Pay for 9 Trips Get 10th Trip FREE  
For Resv. Call 423-624-2043