

## WHERE I'M FROM

by TOM FRAZIER  
of Harlan & Whitley Counties

I am from June bugs on threads,  
praying mantises dancing on jar sides,  
snake feeders helicoptering before my eyes,  
yellow jackets dive-bombing discarded apples.

I am the watcher of dogs running  
for cover under the front porch, trying to escape  
pear bombs and the mean, old cat.

The old-man rocker leans top first  
against the old, diseased elm.

I am from blackberry snakes and packsaddles  
in berry briars and corn patches.

I am from river-bottom party line  
on Ms. Johnson's phone.

The show house uptown; movies change  
every two days;  
Tim Holt and Sunset Carson come  
with their careers almost over.

I'm from Punkin' Center and Red Bud,  
old general store, porch leaning,  
carbide steel drums concerting  
during lunches of bologna and commodity cheese.

My place wasn't all that mean

until I left, and people told me mean stories:

preachers thrown through church doors

by those who had;

next town over de-tp-ed after the big game;

twelve chiefs of police in ten years needing shot;

a bucket of snakes at the trestle baptizing;

our high school sold out for a warehouse cathedral.

My place in riverbank dreams is never too far away at night.

## Where I'm From (Crazy Cat Place)

I'm from crazy cat place where the hand sewn quilts and crocheted bedspread smell of cat urine. That way people remember I'm the crazy cat lady with 11 cats and a dog.

I'm from crazy cat place where all the cats and one dog happen to be as yellow as Mammy Gilbert's wedding ring quilt smelling of cat urine and musty cedar chest.

I'm from crazy cat place where 11 cats and one dog greet the Christ Child with gifts as reddish brown as mother's quilt faintly smelling of cat urine.

I'm from crazy cat place where 11 cats and one dog greet the Christ Child with gifts as blue as mother's quilt smelling of cat urine.

I'm from crazy cat place where 11 cats and one dog greet the Christ Child with gifts as brown as mother's crocheted bedspread smelling of cat urine.

I'm from crazy cat place where 11 cats and one dog know I'm the crazy cat lady who loves them.

I'm from crazy cat place.

Sally Hollen  
Corbin, KY  
Whitley County

## Where I'm From

I am from Willow Tree Talks

Dixie Dogs and KFC

I am from locomotive rails and hilltop front porch views

Thunderous, peaceful, scenic, and still.

I am from Concord Grapes,

Plucked plump, purple.

From train rides to E-town

From worry and stubbornness

From Pappaw's pipe tobacco sweetness and TheTimes Ravelings life messages.

I'm from Nibroc reflective walks and Mother's Graham Cracker Cream Pies.

From barefoot strolls near roses and Glads, pungently sweet.

From 'Stay off the tracks!'

I'm from locomotives, thundering past, belching hot cinders which rain on my head and Aunt J's front walks.

I'm from clean, crisp curtains, lifting softly in the cool, summer-morning breeze.

I'm from future hopes,

Wished for dreams,

Faith in God's love for ALL

Where I'm From

Is

Who I am!

by Diane Mitchell--Corbin, Whitley County

## **Where I'm From**

*by Felicia Kelly of Corbin/Whitley County.*

I am from cornbread and sweet tea

And Sunday morning church.

From I-75 meets the Cumberland River

All the way back in the woods.

I am from good ole' boys and sweethearts

And right wing conservatives

From granny has Alzheimer's

Momma is homeless

And daddy just can't find work.

I am from child abuse and drug addiction

And other things to be ignored.

I am from pot roast

And "Amazing Grace"

And trout fishing at the lake

I am from coon dogs and tree stands

And "Janie found a new lover."

I am from cattails and coyotes

From fried chicken and big dreams.

I am from loving families

And caring Christians

Who can't see past their biased beliefs.

I am from cruelty and kindness

Mixed into one.

From beauty and pollution,

Landfills and places untouched.

I am from warfare and desolation in lands far away

Yet they still affect us each and every day.

I am from stars and stripes

And “My Old Kentucky Home”

From farmland and mechanization,

Water towers and county fairs.

I am from peace and from hope.

I am from the Moonbow

And Nibroc in the fall

From Redhound football

And rainy day games

I am from where I am from –

This place is my home.

## **Woven Threads**

I'm from woven threads,  
shades of bright hues  
intertwined to gather  
into works of art much  
like the complexity of  
the human soul within  
our fearfully and  
wonderfully made physical being.

I'm from woven threads,  
shades of bright hues  
designed into geometric  
shapes to create works of  
art much like the complexity  
of the different galaxies  
in the universe.

I'm from woven threads,  
shades of bright hues  
created into works of art  
as beautiful and awe  
inspiring as the ocean  
waves rolling onto the  
beach.

I'm from woven threads,  
shades of bright hues  
molded into a tapestry  
designed to convey  
the majestic beauty  
of our relationship  
with the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

**by Sally Hollen  
Corbin, KY  
Whitley County**