



Ralph G. Anderson

Reflections on the loss of our friend

by Margart Lane, Chair KAHC Board

In this Issue

Executive
Director.....2

Ag Development
Fund Day.....2

Mr. Anderson's
19 Points.....3

KAHC Mission Statement

The Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center is to create an environment for learning, reflecting on the past, showcasing the present, and fostering the advancement of Kentucky agriculture.

Many people realize success in the office...in the world of business. Some embody the definition of success that involves being revered by those who know and love them most...family and friends. Others receive the world's accolades for their generosity and philanthropy. But few succeed in all three realms of life. Ralph G. Anderson was one of those rare individuals. The Mercer County native's life was guided by solid character, strong intuition, visionary action, and grounded philosophy.

He was devoted to his wife of 58 years,

daughter, son-in-law, three grandchildren, and extended family. Ralph's friendships were many and long lasting as he kept in touch with childhood friends and business associates, many for decades.

Operating by the 19 Points of good business practice, Ralph Anderson earned the respect and admiration of associates, evidenced by Belcan Corporation's team of brothers (and sisters) who had forged a mutual trust with their leader during decades of success at the nationally-ranked, award-winning company. An accomplished engineer himself, Ralph Anderson led Belcan



Mr. Ralph Anderson

through decades of innovative production, pioneering inventions, and visionary practices.

Not only did Mr. Anderson support important projects and purposes, but liberally shared his wisdom, knowledge, and inspiration with those he knew. Belcan's owner was a devotee of motivational books and tapes, and for years produced a daily inspirational quote emailed to thousands of employ-

Continued on page 2

Executive Director **Virginia Flanagan**

The Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center has lost a great friend and benefactor with the passing of Mr. Ralph Anderson (see Chair Margaret Lane's tribute).

Mr. Anderson has been an irreplaceable part of this project. His enthusiasm and insight have helped to bring this project along.

And it is coming along. With a small light at the end of the tunnel of this economic turndown, we are seeing promise in securing the final phases of funding that are needed to begin construction on the Center.

Our Federal representatives have led us to potential sources of support and we are aggressively pursuing those and private foundations too. Hopefully we will be able to announce a groundbreaking date in the near future.

This year's slate of office for the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center board include Margaret Lane, chair; Sam Moore, vice chair; Dr. Oran Little, secretary/treasurer; with Mark Haney, funding committee chair; Lewis Furnish, audit committee chair; David Sparrow, governance committee chair; Jim Naive, communications committee chair; George Martin, nominating committee chair; and Lois Mateus, facilities committee chair.

These Kentucky Agriculture leaders along with the 11 other board members and members of these committees make up the leadership for the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center project. These folks have worked tirelessly for years on this project and deserve our thanks and support.

Although there has been a lot of snow and ice this winter the Kentucky Ag-



Mr. Anderson has been an irreplaceable part of the KAHC.

riculture Heritage Center staff has been busy. We have had displays at the North American International Livestock Exposition, National Farm Machinery Show, Kentucky Ag Expo, Kentucky Poultry Association Training meeting, Kentucky Burley Tobacco Expo, and Kentucky Commodity Conference.

Spring is here and there is no more beautiful place than Kentucky in the spring time. We look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your support of the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center project.

KAHC Board

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Ag Development Fund Day is April 26

Gov. Steve Beshear has proclaimed Monday, April 26, 2010 Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund Day in the Commonwealth. This

day marks the 10-year anniversary of the landmark legislation that launched Kentucky's historic agricultural diversification effort.

In 2000, Kentucky lawmakers invested in the future of Kentucky's agriculture and rural communities by committing 50 percent of the

Continued on page 4

SAVE THE DATE

**KAHC Next
Board Meeting**

June 16, 2010

Mr. Ralph Anderson cont...

ees and a multitude of friends. Innumerable are the individuals who were inspired by Anderson wisdom during an office chat or a phone call.

Ralph Anderson will be remembered with gratitude by those organizations and individuals to whom he had been so very generous. I once asked him why he contributed to this project or that one and he answered, "Because it's important." A multitude of philanthropic endeavors and good works supported over the years illustrates his intuition for knowing what was 'important.' Close to Ralph Anderson's heart was preservation... of his communities in Kentucky and Ohio, of historical buildings, and especially of Mercer County land.

Ralph Anderson was a true agriculturist. Born in rural Mercer County, the country boy grew up gaining life's experiences working on the farm, learning basic lessons from nature, and determining to turn most negatives into positive opportunities. Few land owners approach their purchases with the care

that Ralph and Ruth Anderson exhibited while amassing 7,000 acres of Mercer County farmland. The first step was a study of soil maps, and then evaluation by historical and archeological experts, careful observation of the lessons of the terrain and nature's elements. Decisions were guided and inspired by the land. Farm buildings and homes were renovated and family cemeteries carefully restored, preserving the history of scores of early local families. Fortunate was the visitor who climbed into the owner's shiny black Mercedes and enjoyed an Anderson Circle Farm tour, speeding (indeed!) past miles of black plank fencing and hundreds of Angus cattle.

Ralph G. Anderson's personal philosophy closely reflected that of one of his visions, the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center...Respecting the past, enjoying every minute of the present (Have fun with life!) and envisioning a better future for all who depend on the soil. The heritage of Kentucky farm life will be enriched indeed if the next



Ralph & Ruth Anderson

generation can employ a small portion of the philosophy that was Ralph Anderson's...that of life and land, a lasting legacy for this exceptional man and a project close to his heart.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and friends of the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center, we express our sincere sympathy to Mr. Anderson's daughter Candace; her husband Mike McCaw; three grandchildren, Jason, Matthew, Amanda; his Belcan comrades; and devoted Cincinnati and Mercer County neighbors. A generation of man too soon gone, but not forgotten, our 'tre-mendous' friend will indeed be missed.



Mr. Ralph Anderson at the 2007 KAHC Dinner.

Mr. Anderson's 19 Points

Over the years, the Belcan family gathered a series of quotes by Mr. Anderson that epitomized his perspective on life and work. In 2010 we will highlight the down-home wisdom of Ralph's 19 Points. Here are the first six:

1. If you have a problem, it's because of how you think. And the only way that you can ever fix a problem is to change your thinking.
2. If you have a choice of being right or being kind, always choose kind. You ALWAYS have a choice.
3. Be part of the solution, not the problem. If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem.
4. There is no stress, it is the way you process it in your mind.
5. Trust in your intuition.
6. Negative thoughts tear you down; positive thoughts build you up.

ADF 10th Anniversary cont...

dollars received from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF). To date, Kentucky has invested more than \$296 million in more than 3,500 county, regional and state projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable new farm-based business enterprises, since the inception of the program. These investments have touched almost all 120 counties in the Commonwealth.

All across the Commonwealth, KADF has fostered a renewed

entrepreneurial spirit and empowered a new generation of agricultural leaders.

The fund has helped expand existing enterprises, such as cattle, forages and vegetables; and nurtured growth in new enterprises, such as goats, vineyards and agritourism. Kentucky's premiere branding program, Kentucky Proud, is also supported by the fund. Additionally, KADF has provided farm families and agribusinesses access to capital through the Kentucky Agricultural



Gov. Beshear signs the proclamation declaring April 26 Ky Ag Development Fund Day.

Finance Corporation.

KADF's programs and initiatives continue to evolve as the needs and issues facing Kentucky agriculture change, such as programs supporting the increased emphasis on agriculture as a source for renewable energy.

For more information about the KADF, visit agpolicy.gov.

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