

Passing Lane

Commentary on Life in Kentucky

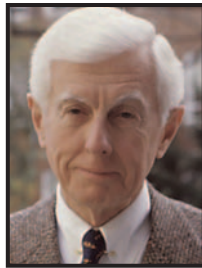
Nunn and Young Leave Kentucky a Better Place

TWO great Kentuckians departed this life in January. Lexington horseman and philanthropist W.T. Young and former Gov. Louie B. Nunn left Kentucky a better place due to the dedication, integrity and generosity they exhibited in the professional arenas in which they spent their lives.

While Young was memorialized in national media as a prominent Thoroughbred breeder or as the inventor of Jif peanut butter, we Kentuckians knew him as something much more. His dedication to bettering higher education benefited many public and private institutions, most notably the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University.

As important as the headline-grabbing gifts Young made to numerous nonprofits was the work and business sense he gave as

a member of their boards. Likewise, the Central Kentucky economy has thousands of jobs that would otherwise be nonexistent if he had not been so astute in business.



W.T. Young



Gov. Louie B. Nunn

In 1967, Nunn was elected Kentucky's first Republican governor since Simeon Willis in 1943. Hailing from Glasgow, Nunn

became a force behind education and culture. Under his watch, both Northern Kentucky University and Kentucky Educational Television were founded. At the same time, he found the state in a fiscal crisis and set things on an even keel.

It's interesting to note that prominent editorialists in this state's media have, in memorializing Nunn's political accomplishments, glorified his modest increase in Kentucky's sales taxes. They ignore the fact that he eliminated all sales taxes on prescription drugs and created fiscal accountability in Frankfort – something that was sorely overdue.

Both Young and Nunn had a knack for getting things done, despite naysayers and pessimists in business and politics. They went ahead with their dreams and maintained their integrity.

All Kentuckians are the beneficiaries of their hard work, wisdom and foresight. Our current leaders in politics and business would do well to study the lives and actions of these two leaders.

When the Good Gets Better

IN his first State of the Commonwealth speech, Gov. Ernie Fletcher had it right. The duplication of services is a waste of money and energy. This is just as true in the world of economic development as it is in government. The old saying, "too many cooks spoil the broth," is especially true. That's why the merger of three economic development organizations in Kentucky's second-largest city is such a good idea.

The creation of Commerce Lexington Inc. as the result of the merger of the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, the Partnership for Workforce Development and Lexington United is a move in the right direction for Central Kentucky. The merger will give more targeted, purposeful and powerful efforts in economic and business development for this crucial portion of Kentucky's economy.

A large crowd of business and political leaders attended the press conference announcing newly formed Commerce Lexington Inc.

taken place, dramatic upsurges in business growth have occurred. The Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Tri-Ed have been a tremendous spark to the economy of Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties. Likewise, Warren County and Bowling Green have had a big boost from the area's united, healthy Chamber of Commerce. Of course, Greater Louisville Inc.'s work in economic development continues to keep that city's growth on track.

Now that Lexington has a united economic development organization, we fully expect the city and its businesses to prosper.

Life in Kentucky

BY BRAD VELEY



"We believe, Dr. Brundage, that to succeed in today's super-competitive global economy, a company must be able to reinvent itself at a moment's notice!"