

# Annie's Travels & Treasures

**Parkway Restaurant** is known for their home-style cooking that affords the comfort factor diners love. They are conveniently located close to many of the Dale Hollow Lake marinas. Kelly and Joann (Jo) Jones have owned the restaurant for five years now. They love to serve their guests. It is truly a family affair with Jo's sister, Lucy, serving customers and friends



—and occasionally you will have their sweet grandchildren, Taylor and/or Roger, wait on you or clear off your table. The food is what keeps customers coming back for more. Their catfish is out of this world! The breading is simply divine. It's a meal that is sure to fill you up. Kelly and Jo's loyal clients will travel some distance to enjoy some of the best catfish around which is accompanied by sides of homemade coleslaw, hush puppies and fries. Some folks make the drive just to meet the couple that fell in love online several years ago. They started off as online friends playing poker. Soon after, Kelly moved here from Canada, and then they took a leap of faith and bought the restaurant. Jo has worked in the restaurant business most of her life. They have worked hard to build an excellent reputation for great food, consistent quality, service and great ambience. Kelly and Jo exude happiness and passion. You can tell they enjoy what they do by the "love" they put into their cooking and in their level of service. Kelly is always cooking at the grill making sure that every dish comes out perfect. Now, "Annie"/ I can tell you that you do not leave there hungry. They always serve up generous portions! My favorite continues to be their western omelet. This omelet hangs over the plate; chock full of meat and fresh vegetables that are sautéed before adding to the egg mixture alongside their hand shredded hash brown potatoes. Their hamburger steak platter, a favorite of my son Blake, is hand patted ground chuck from the local butcher – fresh daily. Blake licks is so happy when he can sit down and bite into this copious platter. This is a favorite of his for breakfast – and he is not a breakfast person. A new addition to their Saturday menu is their melt-in-your-mouth BBQ baby back ribs. No knife is needed for these ribs! The meat falls off the bones. Make sure to ask for plenty of napkins. The scrumptious secret BBQ sauce generously covers the meat. The rib eye and Sirloin steak special also runs on Saturdays. These steaks are seasoned just right, tender and cooked to perfection. The flat iron steak special runs every day and fresh pot roast served with all the trimmings is on Thursdays. They have recently added grilled salmon and blackened grouper to their menu. Everyone loves these new additions! Some say it is the best they have ever eaten. This is the type of place that you want to come to with your friends and family. Many come daily for their favorite meal. Come to Parkway Restaurant and feel like you are at home with mamma's cooking! Say hello to Kelly and Jo and make sure that you tell them that "Annie" sent you. Bon Appetite! (931-823-9414)

**Christmas in the Country** is a wonderful four week celebration in the picturesque downtown square of Livingston, Tennessee. The Livingston-Overton County Chamber of Commerce and the downtown Merchants Association have over the years lovingly transformed the square into a showcase with lighted lampposts, brick sidewalks, a veterans



memorial, fountain and lots of bustling shops including antique and gift stores (together with the nostalgic Overton Department Store and E.B. Gray Jewelers that have been in the same families for generations). There is even a "happening" dance studio for children and adults that offer the popular Zumba dance program which transform ladies figures while having fun dancing to some sassy music. The spirit of Christmas is ignited as the big live tree is proudly placed on the courthouse lawn and all the lights are turned on and the Christmas carols are sung. The merchants stay open late for the four Friday evenings prior to Christmas. Along with the later shopping hours, there are hot chocolate, seasonal cookies and lots of Christmas cheer. The small town atmosphere is a delight and the festive holiday spirit is infectious. First Christian Church in Livingston set up their Praise and Worship band on the square the first Friday evening to share Christmas songs and to give away coats, scarves and mittens to those in need. The blessings overflow and the true meaning of Christmas is shown through the simple act of giving from the heart. Christmas parades are big in Livingston and this year's Christmas parade was no exception with over 250 floats, cars and horse entries. The crisp air and clear blue sky made a perfect backdrop for the day. Everyone loves a parade! Whether you are sitting or standing on the sidelines watching or marching in the Livingston Academy marching band, sitting on a church float, riding in a classic car waving to the crowd, or riding your decorated horse, smiles are abundant. The First Christian Church again set up on the square with their band signing Christmas carols. The ladies of the church made dozens of homemade cookies and hot chocolate to pass out to those watching the parade. The coat, hat, mitten and blanket drive was in full swing where the lovely June and Brandy Martin were helping folks find that perfect coat or accessory to keep them warm during the winter months. Little Grant Burekhard saved his money to buy a fifty pound bag of popcorn kernels to pop popcorn in his popcorn machine (that Santa brought a few Christmas's ago) so he could give away free popcorn and holiday cheer. Livingston is one of those idyllic American towns full of life, character, and good down home values. Come, enjoy the magic of Christmas sometime and see Dale Hollow Lake through all the seasons. Cabins are plentiful, many with fireplaces to stay toasty warm. There is little that is better than curling up next to a nice warm fire in the country, reading a book, resting and taking a long walk through the countryside. Enjoy the true meaning of Christmas with us next year and see folks giving from their heart spreading the yuletide cheer. For more information about the events year round, contact the Livingston-Overton County Chamber of Commerce by phone at 1-800-876-7393 or by



visiting their website [www.overtenco.com](http://www.overtenco.com).

**J&B Stuff** is the place at Dale Hollow Lake to go to furnish your new home, renovated home, cabin or houseboat with home furnishings, antiques, collectibles and more. Bonnie Besecker, owner of J&B Stuff and husband Jack love antiquing. They been offering an excellent selection of

merchandise for many years and you could say that "antiquing is in their blood". They have a passion for finding great antique pieces and displaying them in their over 5,000 square feet store located conveniently on scenic Hwy. 111 just north of Sunset Marina and Byrdstown's downtown district. Their assortment is superb and Bonnie continues to add to the collection, including a large selection of *Tervis*. For those of you who love *Tervis* as much as "Annie" does, their nautical and lake assortment is huge, including anchors, bass fish and many other logos. *Tervis* has a lifetime warranty and they make excellent gifts and are great mugs/cups to drink warm or cold beverages. Bonnie and Jack love Dale Hollow Lake. When they bought their lakeview home in Byrdstown several years ago, they decided that they needed to make this their business home as well and set up shop in Byrdstown. Their store is well organized and one can find some awesome home furnishings from the largest selection of lake and cabin wooden signs, to their new canvas signs with country and inspirational quotes that would go well in any setting. Their new wrought iron collection of garden décor, home décor and boat décor is the largest that "Annie" has ever seen. Bonnie has a large selection of glassware (cups, fiesta, cookie jars, plates, pitchers, saucers, etc.). It is amazing and they also have a wide assortment of antique and refinished furniture - with some primitive pieces. J&B Stuff has a huge selection of metal signs with all different motifs, perfect for your "Man Cave" or other home décor needs. They will also be offering a large selection of "Tilly" hats and a special Dale Hollow Lake ornament with a bass fishing boat that every Christmas tree should have. These make perfect stocking stuffers. One of "Annie's" favorite sections of the store is the linens. Bonnie always has a wide assortment of tablecloths with matching napkins, handkerchiefs, aprons and linen towels. In addition, they have a large selection of knives, tools, farm implements, vintage jewelry and pins and so much more. If you are out for a day trip, love to shop or are decorating your home or boat, come and visit J&B Stuff and tell them that "Annie" sent you. J&B Stuff is located at 8814 Hwy. 111, Byrdstown, TN and can be reached at 931-864-5225 or 931-704-0178. Happy Shopping!

**E. B. Gray Jewelry** is a lovely family owned jewelry shop in the revitalized historic Livingston courthouse square. Started by E.B. Grey in 1914 and continuing through four generations, this family has continued the tradition of offering fine quality jewelry to the soon to be engaged couples, those celebrating anniversaries and birthdays, gifts for children to commemorate a birth, baptism and other special occasions. They pride themselves in offering

personalized service to their clients. Ms. Virginia Grey is always gracious greeting her clients with her lovely smile. She cherishes the families and clients that they have had the opportunity to serve over the years - for the gift to her of being allowed to share their happy times and to listen during sad and challenging times. The jewelry business has changed over the years.

What used to be a predominantly gold based business has shifted to more silver, platinum and costume jewelry. A lot of the new higher end costume jewelry has been designed to be flexible and the stones to be changed out to personalize necklaces, bracelets and rings with different beads, stones and motifs. Ms. Virginia feels like their family business has been able prosper in this lake community, in part, because of the high level of service they offer, and their alliance with national buying groups that allows them to get the best prices while keeping up with the latest trends and fashions just like the "big box" stores. E.B. Grey has a huge selection of engagement rings, lovely diamond settings in gold, silver and platinum. They offer rings, bracelets, gold chains and charms and a large selection of trendy costume jewelry to accessorize any outfit. They also have a large variety of children's keepsake boxes, charms, bracelets and crosses for all ages. E.B. Grey is proud of their large selection of *Fossil* handbags, watches and clocks. You can custom order trophies, desk ornaments or special custom jewelry items from one of their many catalogs.

E.B. Grey also offers excellent jewelry and watch repair. Over the years, they have invested in a laser welder that allows them to repair just about anything. "Annie" loves her Swiss watches and is happy to know that E.B. Grey can fix her "Tag" watches and her "Bucherer" that she bought while living in Europe in the 90's. Hometown shopping is so rare these days; however, the Merchant's Association in Livingston in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce has been able to capture and preserve the downtown shopping experience in Livingston, one of the communities surrounding Dale Hollow Lake. Making it one of the most inviting shopping experiences that anyone could ask for. Visit Ms. Virginia and her family at E.B. Grey and buy your loved one a precious gift that will be cherished for years for that special occasion or a "just because" moment. They will be happy to help you and get to know you. Happy shopping! Tell Ms. Virginia that "Annie" sent you.

**Ollie's Place** is the place that makes you feel like you are right at home with Mama cooking for you. Ollie and his wife, Janie, have been serving up good ole home cooked comfort/soul food for four years at this location. The restaurant has a warm, homey feeling, like that found in your Mama's kitchen. Ollie's is a bit off the beaten track in Celina, TN, yet close to many of the marinas on Dale Hollow Lake. It is easy to find with the larger than life elephant "Topsy" greeting you in front of the restaurant. The day that "Annie" went to visit Ollie, the elephant had a large "Happy Birthday" banner hung from his neck like a bib. Ollie said that



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they were celebrating one of their waitress's birthdays. This is a must visit restaurant when you are at Dale Hollow Lake, taking a road trip down one of the scenic highways that surround Celina - or after church on Sunday. Ollie's has been compared to the legendary Loveless Café in Nashville, TN. Folks flock from all over to meet Ollie and eat and their establishment.

Ollie's fun loving personality comes through on his menu with some tantalizing menu items such as the "Tippy" burger - a three pound hand formed burger. Want something a bit smaller; try the "Elephant Burger" or any of the many other menu options. Ollie's has a full menu and some awesome specials on the weekends. They are open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and their breakfast brings the local crowd in for their piping hot coffee and breakfast specials. Ollie's has fried bologna, a southern favorite, or city ham and eggs. Ollie's introduced the "elephant" sausage with eggs and country fried potatoes. One of "Annie's" favorites is the homemade soups and chili's, served with grilled cheese or a BLT. These homemade items can warm up almost anybody in the winter/fall months both inside and out. The weekend specials have folks coming from all over to enjoy. How does fried chicken and country ham sound with all the southern fixins? Saturday offers all you can eat catfish, ocean perch and frog legs with some yummy sides such as stewed potatoes, green beans, pinto beans, fried apples and corn. Ollie also serves a mean Rib eye steak that is to die for. If you like meat, this is the place. Don't forget about desserts - they are all homemade and the homemade pies adorn the counter. The selection included caramel and chocolate pies the day that "Annie" visited, piled sky high with fluffy meringue. Ollie's has plenty of room for family reunions, church groups, business meeting, special occasions, larger parties and they have a multipurpose room that seats about 50-60. Getting married? Let Ollie take care of your small group wedding and catering. While you are waiting for your order, the bucket of fresh roasted peanuts on your table are there to nosh on and "Tippy" the elephant always hopes that one of their guests will come out and feed him a peanut or two! "Tippy" the elephant has even been known to give out a happy yelp, smile or wink, so say hello to "Tippy" while you are coming in to Ollie's or exiting. Ollie's Place is worth the drive to Celina and will become one of your favorites. While there, don't forget to visit their downtown antiques district, that is chock full of antiques, gifts, and more. Check out Ollie's daily or weekend specials by phoning Ollie or Janie at 931-243-6363. They are located at 710 East Lake Ave. in Celina, TN. Make sure that you let "Ollie" know that "Annie" sent you. Bon Appétit.

**Ain't That Nice** is a wonderful antique shop in downtown Celina offering high quality antiques, furniture, estate jewelry and so much more. Their primitive furniture is very reasonably priced and there is a great selection of pie safes, custom cabinets and many museum quality pieces. Many of the furniture pieces are adorned with collectibles, which they have a large selection of. Jody Walters and her husband, Tim, have been collecting antiques

since they were children. They have turned their passion into a business where they can share their love with others and the unique pieces that they have collected along the way. Sometimes they like to keep the pieces, but here lately, most of the pieces are sold in this very busy store. After selling their businesses in Indiana a few years ago, they decided to come live at the lake they fell



in love with - Dale Hollow Lake. They treasure the fishing and the small town life. At that time, downtown Celina was in the process of revitalizing and reinventing themselves following the demise of the textile industry. Antiques and collectibles seemed to fit nicely in the historic downtown area. "Ain't that Nice" opened in the fall of 2009 and has been serving clients from all over the country for two years now. This building has tremendous character with beautiful hardwood flooring, pine-lined walls and the original ceiling. The business continues to be a hobby for the couple, and if the lights are off, they are closed while going on road trips to find more treasures and exploring new areas of this great country. A perfect day for Jody and Tim is to find an estate sale in a small town or visit yard sales and auctions in some off-the-beaten track places. Jody loves primitives. This is evident with her eye for unique quality pieces. One of "Annie's" favorites is the piece in the front of the store which holds many different types of grain and/or seed. It is just a fun piece that they use for their check-out/multipurpose counter. Ain't that Nice also has a great selection of antique fishing lures and tackle. One of the activities that lured them down here was Tim's love of fishing. Tim loves to sneak out and catch some fish and just relax on the soothing, pristine waters of Dale Hollow Lake. Jody and Tim continue to do what they love, and share it with others. Come to Celina and take a road trip to the Ain't that Nice and other antique stores in the square. Ain't That Nice is located at 306 Dow Avenue and it probably is a good idea to call ahead to make sure that they are open. They can be reached at 931-243-6444 or by appointment, 765-425-7075. Happy Shopping!

**Farmhouse Restaurant** in Byrdstown, TN, (minutes from many of the marinas) is undoubtedly one of the most popular restaurants on a Friday or Saturday night due to their scrumptious catfish, hush puppies and fresh garden salad bar. This is a family friendly country restaurant, owned by Retta and Steve Reagan, and their beautiful daughter Grace Ann. They offer daily specials, and delicious menu items, six days a week (closed on Sunday). "Annie" and the Burckhard family love the Farmhouse Restaurant and this is a special treat when we get to indulge ourselves in the Friday night special of catfish, breaded shrimp and all the fixins. "Annie" loves the garden



salad with the fresh selection of romaine and mixed lettuces, scrumptious broccoli and cauliflower salads, potato and macaroni salad and more. A lot of the produce on the salad bar is grown in the Reagan's garden or other local farms. The bar also includes homemade soups, chili, fresh fruit cocktail and some homemade desserts, such as banana pudding. Retta and Steve are one of the hardest working couples that I have ever seen. They personally built the restaurant, sanded the pine that lines the cathedral style ceiling and worked lovingly to create this very comfortable, cozy atmosphere. The Reagan's are true community servants and are God's hands and feet in the community that they live in and serve. They work tirelessly in helping those in need, bring a dish to a sick friend, client or a church friend. They also serve on various committees and have spearheaded many of the events, including the Pickett County Fair which has become a very popular venue in the county and is loved by many. Retta and Steve have also been very instrumental in nurturing the Pickett County Horseman's Association and the many events that are held throughout the year. They also open their doors on Christmas Eve to serve those less fortunate a full Christmas dinner at no charge. Retta and her helpers served up hundreds of meals last Christmas and Steve and his elves delivered over a hundred meals to shut-ins. Their leadership skills and selfless ways show the true meaning of a Christian lifestyle. They have trained and provided employment for so many and this is a true family environment. Steve and Retta don't like the limelight, but they are two special people that bring light into many people's lives with the little things that they do for others, day in and day out. They will tell you that they are blessed with a beautiful daughter, great friends and family and the love of their church family and God. The Reagans can be reached at the Farmhouse Restaurant which is conveniently located on scenic Hwy. 111, just south of Static/and the TN/KY state line and by the Wolf River. If you have a catering need, family function, celebration or business meeting, make sure to call Retta to accommodate your needs. They can be reached by telephone at 931-864-4070.

**Sunset Restaurant** on Dale Hollow Lake is the premier lakeside dining restaurant offering gourmet and eclectic food with attitude. Chef Zoom has had the helm of the restaurant as manager and head chef for nine years now. He has a passion for creating some delightful dishes. He specializes in seafood, Cajun and Creole cuisine and cooking with bourbon and crème. His dishes, many of them daily specials, express his personality and tantalize your taste buds. As "Annie's" son says, "the flavors dance on your tongue". Chef Zoom loves to cook with bourbon (not whiskey). He brings this expertise from his previous years of cooking at



Dagwoods in Bardstown, Kentucky while under the tutelage of the late Chef John Hall. Some of his favorite signature dishes include Shrimp Louise and Shrimp Baton Rouge. "Annie's" favorite is keeping room for dessert and having some warm Jack Daniels Bread Pudding a la mode with some vanilla ice cream and a cup of coffee.

Some other favorites are the grilled steaks, succulent pork and chicken dishes, as well as the Kentucky hot brown sandwich. If you love salads, this is the place to come for a great salad topped with their homemade dressings. Of course "Annie" is partial to the homemade balsamic vinaigrette dressing on a bed of fresh mixed greens, fresh produce and grilled chicken. The floating Sunset Restaurant has a great holiday feel. Vacationers pull into the Sunset Marina dock and tie up their boats to enjoy breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. Some nights the outside patio is open for business and occasionally on those nights you might find live music on deck including the possibility that Chef Zoom might be entertaining by playing a few tunes on his guitar for his guests. Chef Zoom and "Chumley" of the ship store love to pick and play. Chumley (the manager of the ship store) has written a tune about Dale Hollow Lake that can be listened to on the [www.sunsetmarina.com](http://www.sunsetmarina.com) website. Their lunch menu is great, including delicious hamburgers, grilled chicken sandwiches and one of my favorites is the delicious Reuben sandwich with pasta salad. Sunset Restaurant is very kid friendly and has an awesome children's menu that can be colored on or used as a game of tic-tac-toe. One of "Annie's" favorite events of the year is the Crab Boil that is held at the end of summer. This is an amazing night of all you can eat seafood that includes crab, mussels, clams, shrimp, catfish, and other seafood, cooked many different ways including Creole and Cajun. There are great fixins and homemade desserts by their pastry chef, too. The night is also filled with live music. This is a fantastic summer event and the food is superb. It is a must attend event at Dale Hollow Lake. Make sure to reserve early, as the tickets sell out fast. Sunset Restaurant is a great place to have a special meal. Be sure to talk to Chef Zoom about your reception, reunions, bridal and baby showers or corporate functions. Many weddings have been held at this beautiful restaurant and there are million dollar views for pictures and great memories. Sunset Restaurant is adorned with a great nostalgic antique neon light that illuminates the night sky, but the name is fitting for the restaurant, as the sunsets are gorgeous. Many a night, you will see folks rocking in the "Cracker Barrel" type rocking chairs looking out across the waters while savoring scrumptious "Blue Bell" ice cream hand-dipped from their ice cream station – while waiting for the sunset. Children love to take bread scraps from the restaurant that Chef Zoom saves for them to feed the fish. They love it. In the evenings, the fish dance through the lighted waters, giving the children lots to do! Sunset Restaurant is the place to be on Dale Hollow Lake. If you are vacationing, looking for a romantic getaway or a great day trip, this is the place to come. The Obey River Campground is adjacent to Sunset Marina and Resort and Restaurant property and it makes for a good place for a long walk. There is also the very family/kid friendly Obey River beach that has a great sandy roped off swimming area for the children to swim and enjoy a hot summer day. Sunset Restaurant is located right off of Hwy. 111, just south of the bridge in Byrdstown, TN. Their schedule, list of events and specials can be viewed online at [www.sunsetmarina.com](http://www.sunsetmarina.com) or subscribe to their regular e-newsletters for up-to-date information and specials. They can be reached at 931-864-3146.