

Charles Vernon Preston

A native of Lucasville, Charles was born on May 30, 1917, the son of Robert and Bell Preston. Charles had five brothers and two sisters: Hobart, Thomas, Raymond, Thurman, Robert, Anna and Beatrice. He attended the Valley Rural School District and graduated in 1936. He was a key player on the school basketball team and received a basketball scholarship to attend the University of Rio Grande. The scholarship did not provide for housing, so he lived in the basement of a building where he stoked the furnace to make a little money. He graduated with a two-year degree in 1940.

In 1943 he started teaching in Springfield, Ohio, and continued his studies at Cedarville University. He married Evelyn Preston. They had daughters-Sandra Parmley and Susan Bates. His studies were interrupted in 1945 when he was drafted into the Army where he served as a physical reconditioning instructor helping convalescent patients gain strength and physical stamina.

In 1947 he exited the Army and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in 1951. He returned to Lucasville and taught Math and Physical Education at Valley High School. He coached both baseball and basketball. The basketball team won the 1953 Scioto County Championship against Clay in a game that is still talked about today. The story about that game was such an important part of Lucasville area history that it is included in the book written about the history of the Valley schools titled *Valley: Always Strong on Schools- A Pictorial History*.

In 1954, he returned to Springfield and worked for the local school district; plus, he operated the AAA Club's driver's education school and worked as an instructor at the traffic violator school. Charles was a member of the Masonic Lodge, American Legion, Rotary Club and Optimist Clubs of Springfield. He died October 6, 1989 and is buried in the Lucasville Cemetery beside his wife, Evelyn.