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THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1937

The County Health Unit.

Continuance of the Health Unit here should meet with the approval of the majority of our citizens. As The Mercury sees it, the good that may be accomplished by the presence of a health unit here far outweighs its cost to the county.

It is not generally known, perhaps, that Kentucky's State Board of Health is second to none in the union, has been used as a model by other states. Its record in the prevention of contagious diseases and the control of epidemics is sufficient tribute to the high efficiency of its organization. And now that the foolish taboo upon the public discussion of venereal diseases is outmoded, an effective campaign against syphilis—a more hideous scourge than tuberculosis—may be successfully prosecuted.

If a county health unit should do no other work, save to bring to the people the knowledge that there are amazingly large numbers of victims of syphilis in every county; that the disease is the most fertile feeder for our insane asylums; that it can be cured, but not without careful and continuous treatment over a period of three years or more—then will that unit have paid for itself many times over.

A well deserved tribute is paid the efficiency of the State Board of Health by the Richmond Register, which says:

"Did you know that the Kentucky department of health is regarded as one of the most efficient in any state in the union? Dr. A. T. McCormack, commissioner of health, under whose wise guidance the efficient organization has been created, was recently installed as president of the National Association of Public Health Officers. City Health Commissioner in New York city, whose salary is $12,000 a year, was trained for the post under Dr. McCormack, went east from the position of county health officer in Mason county, Kentucky. Two other county health officers went from Kentucky to western states recently, each to become director of the state's public health program, at salaries far greater than that which may be paid in this state under the constitutional inhibition which forbids compensation in excess of $5,000 a year."

Team Work.

The Stanford Interior Journal, in discussing an address made by Lieutenant Governor Keen Johnson recently in Northern Kentucky, pays well deserved tribute to Kentucky's widely popular and highly efficient "second in command." Says the Interior Journal:

Mr. Johnson's summary of what the Chandler administration has done is to some extent at least, an accounting of his own stewardship, for, as president of the state senate, Mr. Johnson has been in a position where he might help or hinder the work of the governor toward the goals set by that splendid young man when he was sworn into office. Mr. Johnson has worked in cooperation with the governor and the majority in the senate at all times and is perhaps as well equipped as any man in the state to render such an accounting of stewardship for the Chandler administration as that he gave in his northern Kentucky address.

Although he modestly refers to himself as "substitute Governor" whenever Governor Chandler is absent from the State and, in newspaper parlance, "writes himself down" in any relation of the accomplishments of the present administration, Keen Johnson has set an admirable precedent of cooperation and team work that future holders of the office will do well to follow.

Eventually—If Not Now.

The Child Labor Amendment, which some of us saw as an honest effort to put a stop to the exploitation of children in factories and sweat-shops and which others feared might result in the "regulation" of the very lives of children under eighteen, has failed definitely of adoption by the adverse action of the legislatures of New York, Missouri and Massachusetts.

Opponents of child labor must begin all over. ... Senator Borah and Senator Brandenburg have introduced new proposals lowering the age ... and sixteen years respectively and ...

AN EDITOR'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

Out of a troubled dreaming suddenly I am awake to the insistence of a sound that is familiar and somehow sweet, though in it there is little music. Just outside my window, in the bare branches of a maple, a robin is sounding his alarm note, voicing his disapproval of things in general like a very human. Yet the bright sunshine is too much for his petulance and presently he is an optimist, timidly piping the familiar "cheerup-cheerup, cheer!" that calls so plaintively to an earth that begins to stir in its chilly sleep. And straightway he opens to me, as always, vistas stretching back into springs that have passed and forward into the spring that is to be. Though he winter with us, this thrush who makes himself at home about our yards and gardens, ever his first forlorn piping holds for me the freshness of an earth reborn, the warm tears of April, the gladness of the perfumed May. With it there comes the heartening aroma of freshly turned earth wet with warm showers, of tiny seeds in the furrows and bees busy with the fraying catkins of the willows; of gaily painted corks that bob on rippling waters and of greening fields pied with the scattered gold of dandelions. Snow may yet blanket the fields, but the plaintive call of the robin reaches the ears of the slumbering Spring.

* * *

The bees are busy with the maple buds and their droning has a restful, soothing sound. They, too, are harbingers of the spring and did we have their wisdom added to our own we might see beyond the horizon of all springs, might glimpse the eternal. Very wonderful are these golden-bodied mites, delving in the pollen dust of bud and flower, working blindly, hopelessly to bring beauty and fruition to fruit and flower and tree; little vicars of Nature these, dying certainly when their ability to work is ended. "There be four things which are little upon the earth, wrote Solomon, but they are exceeding wise:

The ants are a people not strong yet they prepare their meat in the summer.
The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;
The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;
The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

I think that to Solomon's list of "four things" should be added the honey bee. The working of a Purpose, it seems to me, is more apparent in this insect than Nature permits us to see in any of her children.

* * *

On up the street and stop to chat with Fulton, the barber, who tells me he has lived here for the last forty-five years, coming here when he was twenty-one and having lived until that time in Robertson county. So, after talking of this and that, I ask him how many years he spent in Alaska, to which he replies that he spent four years in the Klondike. Interested, I ply him with questions and learn that he likewise spent two years in Kansas, two years in Oklahoma, two years in a circus band, two years in Cincinnati and a year in South America, where he went "to paint a barn." A wonderful man, this Fulton, who being sixty-six years old, has spent seventy-nine years of his life here, there and elsewhere. I think that Solomon should add Fulton to his "three things which are too wonderful for me, yea four which I know not."

* * *

So at this and that, aimlessly, till supper time, for the call of a robin from the bare branches of a maple this morning, the drone of bees busy with the buds of the maples has filled me with spring longing, with the restlessness that is a heritage, no doubt, of all of Nature's children. And I would that I might forget the dull cares of business and drift on sunlit seas and see strange strands, but I know I cannot. And watching a feathered pilgrim against the glow of the red sunset, I envy Nature's winged children, who hearing the vernal call, feeling the urge of spring, harken and obey.

So to supper and to read late. Outside a drizzle of rain falls, ending this day's foretaste of spring. But ever advancing and retreating, her gentle insistence will conquer the grisly chill of winter at last. Inexorable is Nature, cruel too, but very beautiful, with a loveliness that has appealed to the eye and heart and mind of man ere David wrote:

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.
Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

And musing as the glowing embers of my hearth-fire begin to wane, I wonder that man is so often blinded to natural beauty by commercial expediency and the lust for gold. I think of the moonbow arching in the flying mist of a waterfall, of the great trees of the Yosemite, of all pristine untouched natural beauty, and the unmarred handiwork of the Master Workman and I am thankful that there are thousands who see and every year there will be more thousands to realize that "beauty is the gift of God," a gift to be held inviolate.

Out Of Debt By 1939.

(Ashland Independent)

For a state, a nation or an individual, the condition of being out of debt is both rare and highly desirable. The people of Kentucky were therefore pleased the other day when they read in the newspapers a letter from State Treasurer John E. Buckingham to Governor A. B. Chandler declaring that the outstanding debt of the state can be retired by September, 1939.

Declaring that the slogan for the 1938 General Assembly should be, "keep the budget balanced and pay the state debt," Mr. Buckingham's letter adds, "I feel as I know you do that all outstanding warrants should be liquidated during your administration. Then this form of indebtedness can be outlawed so that the state in the future will be limited to the constitutional debt limit of $500,000 unless a bond issue should be authorized by the people.

Which Is Which

50 Years Ago

50 YEARS AGO

(Editor's Note: The files of The Mercury for Thursday, April 14, 1887, are missing. Publication will be resumed in next week's issue.)

20 YEARS AGO

Thursday, April 12, 1917

Miss Nancy Laughlin takes position as bookkeeper at freight depot.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lawrence, of Carlisle, on the 9th, a son.

Died—Infant of Rev. and Mrs. S. L. Moore at their home at Saltwell on the 10th.

A. S. Kimbrough, cashier of the Moorefield Deposit Bank, elected county treasurer by fiscal court.

Residence of Mrs. Mary S. Pott's on the corner of Main and Elm streets badly damaged by fire last Thursday night.

President Wilson delivers message to joint session of Congress asking that war be declared against Germany.

Frank C. Taylor elected trustee of the Carlisle city school to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Dr. G. B. Spencer.

County Judge James Mitchell calls mass meeting of patriotic citizens of county to be held at court house Saturday to discuss the war with Germany.

Married—Miss Amanda Earlywine and Mr. John Mynear, both of the county, on the 11th—Miss Liddie Miller and Mr. James T. Brayfield, both of the county, on the 11th.

FROM OTHER EDITORIAL PAGES

A FIRE A MINUTE

(Union County Advocate)

LIVING COSTS ARE UP

WHAT A BATTLESHIP COSTS

CURES BY FEVER

(New York Times)

Tidbits of Kentucky Folklore

BY Gordon Wilson, Ph.D.
WESTERN KENTUCKY TEACHERS COLLEGE
BOWLING GREEN, KY.

OUTDATED JOBS

When we consider passing institutions, we may remember only the picturesque side of customs that used to be, forgetting that every change in customs threw people out of jobs or else reduced them to a lower social rank. It is well to recall some of these important achievements that once loomed large but are now small or even forgotten. The man under a handstick at a log-rolling does not seem so important now as he did when a strong back was the measure of a man. Who of you could pilot a raft down a treacherous stream, or build an ark, or Kentucky boat? Who knows how to wield a cradle in cutting wheat or a flail in threshing it? Could you carry a corner at a house-raising or make correctly the whole set of rafters for a house or barn? Can you rive boards with a frow or hew logs for a house or other building? How many of you know how to make maple syrup or soft soap? I know that many people have lovingly kept alive the old-time processes of carrying on a house and farm, but most of us have been out of practice so long that we could not be sure of ourselves.

In home industries of all sorts there has been a shift of emphasis until many of the great arts of the world are likely to be forgotten by the average person. Cotton cards are museum things to nearly everybody now living; wool rolls to be spun on the spinning wheel would be a seven-days' wonder to many people under forty. Probably two-thirds of the population of the state at this very moment have never pieced quilts, and almost a hundred per cent would not know how to weave a coverlet. In other times these arts were necessities; today they are not for most of us; but there still lingers around these customs an enchantment that no amount of modern conveniences can quite dispel.

Though almost all of our contemporaries can drive an automobile, the time was, only a few years ago, that a man who could run a steam engine was a wonder. How would you like to be called on to pilot a steamboat down the Ohio or the Mississippi, even though you may have been driving a car for years? Incidentally, wouldn't it be difficult to direct a caravan of prairie schooners across the plains in the style of the Forty-niners? A hundred years ago the clipper ship was just yielding to the steam ship, but very few are left today who could even understand the language of the old sailing vessels. To the average harbor comes occasionally a sailing vessel, often a tramp, a smacking of the old, old times, but as strange to most of us as a raft of logs, such as the two huge ones I saw last winter.

Sometimes there are spasmodic attempts to reintroduce old-time arts, but at best we all know that these attempts are destined to a short life unless they are connected in some way with some permanent institution that can promote and protect them. I miss the sound of the spinning wheel, but I know that there is small likelihood of my hearing it again in the way I heard it as a boy. I like the taste of viands cooked on the fire, but I am content to eat what we cook when we camp out and then depend on the gas stove for the rest. One can become sentimental about these old things without losing sight of the advantages of their successors.

NO DESERT

(Richmond Register)

... the United States. It is too remote to interest even those who take pleasure in plunging into gloom as deep as that caused by a dust storm.

The Bargain Store

Only 14 More Buying Days at The Bargain Store

It Can't Be Long! It Must Be Sold!

Be sure and visit our Furniture Dept. in basement

45-lb, Full-size Mattress at $4.95 each.

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1 Good Used Player Piano
Special Price $17.00

NEWS OF KENTUCKY

Three Episcopal churches in Louisville are to be merged.

By a majority of 1,538 to 463, Garrard county voted dry in a local option election last week.

Roy Absher, 18, who escaped from the prison camp at Frankfort April 2, was captured at Somerset.

The Ninth district spring conference of the American Legion will be held at Russell on Sunday, April 18.

The forty-seventh annual Kentucky Christian Endeavor convention will be held at Louisville April 23-25.

W. T. Anderson, 85, was burned fatally at his home at Dawson Springs when his clothing ignited from an open grate.

Assistant Attorney General W. Owen Keller ruled that municipally owned water and power plants are not subject to taxation.

One hundred deer will be liberated in game preserves in Pike and Harlan counties by the state game and fish commission.

More than 300 delegates are expected to attend the state convention of Christian churches to be held in Winchester May 3-6.

James L. Eaton, 83, the man who named Corbin and served as the first postmaster and railroad agent at that place, died Monday.

The Harlan County Coal Operators Association last week increased the pay of 16,000 miners in that county from 10 to 15 per cent.

Thieves broke into the Monarch Auto Supply Company in Maysville early Saturday morning and stole merchandise valued at $160.

Jesse Lee Marion, 23, died at a hospital in Hopkinsville Sunday from a bullet wound in the head which he told authorities was self inflicted.

The annual convention of the Kentucky Congress of Parent-Teachers will be held at Frankfort beginning next Tuesday, April 20.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has accepted an invitation to attend the dedication of the new high school building at West Liberty on May 24.

A frame house on the grounds of the Bourbon Nursery near Paris, occupied by Paul Craig and family, was destroyed by fire Sunday morning.

Thomas Newton Duff, 49, Tax Commissioner of Montgomery county, died at a hospital in Lexington ...

Rev. Neil Barnette, pastor of the Stanford Christian church, has accepted a call to become pastor of the Cynthiana Christian church and will begin his new duties June 15.

Every drug store, restaurant and other place of business in Maysville in which beer or whisky is sold was closed Sunday under the terms of an ordinance recently adopted.

Robert A. Miller, 32, principal of the Little Rock high school in Bourbon county and a teacher in the school for eleven years, died at a Louisville hospital last week from brain tumor.

Miss Edith Reid, senior at the Little Rock high school, has been awarded a cash prize of $50 as winner in Kentucky for the essay contest on "How I Can Use Art in My Everyday Life."

The second annual meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Lexington-Ebenezer Presbytery will be held at Paris April 22 and 23. Approximately 200 persons are expected to attend.

Mrs. M. H. Highland, Covington, was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Women's Missionary Union to succeed Mrs. Eureka Whitaker, Cynthiana, at the annual meeting at Bowling Green.

Virgil Fryman, of Mt. Olivet, was elected superintendent of schools of Robertson county for a four-year term, beginning July 1, at a meeting of the county board Friday. He succeeds Robert Adkins.

John L. Murphy, 61, WPA worker, who escaped from the Covington jail 17 years ago while awaiting trial in federal court for robbing a postoffice, was arrested at Audubon, N. J., and will be returned to stand trial.

Lewis D. Gosser, 61, employe of the Gentry McConley Motor Company at Versailles, was killed in an unusual accident Saturday. Gosser started a motor and his sweater caught in a belt, resulting in his being hanged.

James Hall, 89, died at a hospital in Lexington last week, bringing to five the number of deaths resulting from a cyclone which struck Clark county March 21. Hall's wife died from injuries sustained in the storm.

M. L. Lail, of Cynthiana, was held up and robbed of $180 in cash by two men at a roadhouse near Cynthiana Friday night. Warrants were issued for Roscoe Diltz and Adrian Gortley, both of Cynthiana, on charges of robbery in connection with the affair.

PLUMP GIRLS FAVORED

DESERTED VILLAGE

(Somerset Commonwealth)

NEW COURSE OFFERED

Dr. George Drayton Strayer, professor of education at Teachers College, Columbia University, eminent authority on school administration, will offer an intensive three-credit course in "Modern Problems of School Administration" at the first term of the University of Kentucky Summer Session which opens a five-week term June 14. Doctor Strayer's class will continue through June 30.

The leadership of this prominent educator is recognized in all fields. He has served as president of the National Education Association, and as president of the National Society for the Study of Education. He is at present a member of the American Council on Educational Research and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

The intensive course which Doctor Strayer will offer at the University of Kentucky Summer Session will be followed by two additional intensive courses in Education, one on problems of "Business Administration" by Ben Herr, business manager of the Lexington City Schools and Prof. Leo Chamberlain, professor of Education at the University, and another on "Extra Curricular Activities" which will be offered by ...

DR. GEORGE D. STRAYER

State To Receive $4,000,000 Above Original Estimate

Moratorium On Omitted Taxes Ends On May 18

James W. Martin, Commissioner of Revenue announced that taxpayers are taking advantage of the moratorium on tax penalties by filing lists of property omitted from assessment with the Department of Revenue.

Property valued at nearly $5,000,000 has already been listed. Under the moratorium granted by recent legislation, the owner voluntarily listing omitted property prior to May 18 is required to pay only tax and interest. This saves the taxpayer an average of approximately 60 cents on each $100 worth of property so listed.

Commissioner Martin also announced that the Department of Revenue has prepared forms and is organized to accommodate all who wish to take advantage of the moratorium.

It was announced that the Department would vigorously prosecute the collection of taxes upon property which was not listed by May 18. After May 18, the statutory penalty (100 per cent of the tax on intangibles) will apply, and an additional 20 per cent must be collected if court proceedings become necessary.

A new section has been organized in the Department of Revenue with a staff to unearth hidden intangibles and prosecute all delinquent taxpayers.

Under the terms of recent legislation, omitted property cannot be listed with the county court clerk. It must be listed with the Department of Revenue. The right to institute suit to collect delinquent state, county and school district taxes was transferred to the Commissioner of Revenue.

Assistant Attorney General M. B. Holifield has ruled that sheriffs may file suit to collect delinquent property taxes until their quietus is received. After the sheriffs' settlements are made all suits to collect state, county and school taxes are filed by the Commissioner of Revenue.

Eligibility Requirements For WPA Employment

Lack of understanding on the part of the public regarding the eligibility requirements and procedure necessary to be followed to obtain work relief employment under the Works Progress Administration in Kentucky has led to considerable confusion. Letters written to President Roosevelt at Washington, to State and District Officials of WPA by persons seeking employment for themselves and others are needless, George H. Goodman, administrator, said.

In order to clarify the situation and to set straight all those whose applications have suffered delay from time to time by the necessity of data transfer through channels, back to the county from which the application originated Mr. Goodman issued the following statement:

"The W. P. A. is a work relief program intended for needy able-bodied persons with previous employment histories who are the normal wage earners of families that are certified as being in need of public assistance. Various other forms of public assistance, such as loans and grants to farmers by the Resettlement Administration and Old Age Pensions under the Social Security program, as well as some forms of direct relief being given in certain communities are available for persons that are not the responsibility of the WPA. It is the responsibility of the certifying agent, appointed by the county judge and fiscal court, to direct applicants to the proper agency.

Old Age Pension Act Is Outlined By Agent

There are at present 20,166 aged and needy people in Kentucky receiving assistance in the amount of $202,320.65 monthly, according to H. D. Fielder, of the Department of Welfare. Nicholas county has 144 on the list, who received a total of $1,249.20 in March.

"When the McCarty-Ramey Old Age Assistance Act was passed by the legislature, signed by Governor Chandler, and became a law, it was to conform with the Federal Security Program, and contained certain provisions that must be complied with," said Mr. Fielder.

"On the contrary, this law was passed as an assistance measure for the aged, needy people of the state to keep them from suffering; to relieve the burden of the county charitable institutions, as well as children of the applicants who are unable to care for their aged parents. The Act was also passed to raise the standard of living among the aged, needy people of the state. The amount of each grant is based upon the need of the person making application for assistance. Much care is taken in determining the needs of applicants, as the health of the applicant must be considered. There are some more physically able to do odd jobs than others. Too, there are some who have children that are able to assist them. An applicant who is not able to work and receives no assistance from any source is in need of a larger grant than one who is able to work and receives assistance from children or other sources.

"There are four main provisions necessary before an applicant is eligible for assistance—age, citizenship, residence and need. Under this law a person must be sixty-five years of age or over, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state continuously for one year prior to making application for assistance, and five of the nine years preceding the enactment of this law.

"An applicant in a rural section, who has a garden, a cow or chickens is in better position to make a living than an applicant of equal age living in a city, as rent, food, clothing and other commodities are cheaper in a rural section. An applicant may own a small home, yet being unable to make a living would have to rely on charity. His need would not be as great as one who did not own anything. These facts must be taken into consideration when need of applicant is determined."

Robert E. McCullough, 18, of Erlanger, and Sam McEldowney, 18 of Vanceburg, students at Transylvania College, confessed to Lexington police that they had broken into half a dozen business places recently. Most of the loot was recovered, part of it from the room of one of the students in Ewing Hall.

Before the discovery of the value of ether as an anaesthetic, it was often inhaled for the exhilarating effects it produced.

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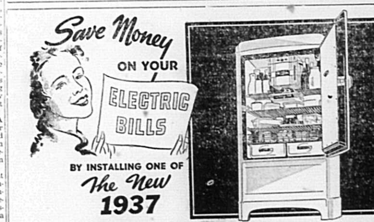

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