The Carlisle Mercury
Established 1867

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Entered as second-class matter at the post office in Carlisle Ky., under act of March 8, 1879.

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Publisher

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Subscription Rates In Kentucky
One Year $2.00
Six Months $1.25

Outside Kentucky
One Year $2.50
Six Months $1.50

(Payable In Advance)

Member Kentucky Press Association

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1948

Hope Springs Eternal

It is with a touch of sadness that we note the passing of another year albeit we look hopefully to the future with the expectation of better things for all concerned.

It is our desire that in the new year the world will adopt a code of international brotherhood without which there can be no survival of humanity. It is our desire that atomic energy will be developed as a means of promoting the welfare of mankind rather than remaining in our midst as an instrument of destruction.

We are hopeful that bigotry and racial hatred will reach a new low during 1948 and that the new year will bring with it an era of broadmindedness and better feeling to all mankind regardless of their color, creed or religion.

Kentucky begins the new year with a new governor at the helm of the ship of state. The commonwealth can advance just as far as the thinking of each individual can progress during the year. If the masses are content with matters as they stand advancement along cultural, industrial and political lines will be no better than they have during the past years.

Kentucky rightfully belongs among the leading states of the nation and only by progressive thoughts by the individual can this cherished position be attained.

Nicholas county has made great strides within the past year. One of the most notable improvements has been the passage of the hospital bond issue which will assure, in time, adequate hospital facilities for all residents of the county. Progress has been made in agriculture and current market prices of burley tobacco indicate that farmers of this locality are enjoying an era of prosperity that has not been evident since the teens.

Other important events of the past year are reviewed pictorially elsewhere in this issue of The Mercury. Yet it is not enough to look back upon past events. Plans for the future must be formulated. Agricultural developments must be made within the county which are best suited to the terrain of the territory. The farmer must look to other sources of income in addition to his burley crop. Dairying has been proposed as being a vital source of income locally and yet with the exception of a few scattered examples no concrete evidence has been submitted that Nicholas county has made any attempt to utilize this division of its agricultural resources.

The Mercury is hopeful that as a newspaper it will continue to offer its readers the very best product that it is capable of presenting. It's desire is to mirror the progress of the county as a whole rather than dictate the plans of its people.

With this in mind we extend to you our very best wishes for a most happy and successful New Year.

Mistaken Comparisons

It may be human nature to compare current commodity prices with those prevailing in 1939 or 1940 and conclude that we are now being robbed. But it isn't sound economics. It would be equally sensible to compare 1940 prices with 1840 prices and conclude that costs have been extortionate for decades.

Another fallacy is to compare the conditions which followed World War II with those which followed World War I or some previous conflict, and to attempt to draw exact parallels. As one of the greatest historians said, "Nothing is permanent but change," and what happened in 1920 and the succeeding years won't necessarily happen again. History may repeat itself in principle, but not in detail.

Everybody passes the buck on prices—just as everybody wants a low price when he buys and a high price when he sells. This blindness to the facts of life has clouded the whole price problem. The workingman wants cheap food and clothing—along with all time record wages. The farmer wants machinery at prewar prices—along with a record price for crops. Of course, such a Utopia is an impossibility, and those who dance must finally pay the piper.

Prices are high. But that doesn't mean they are artificially high. The major retail systems, both chain and independent, report lower unit profits than they realized seven years or so ago. Many manufacturers report a similar operating experience. Both production and retail distribution are more efficient and less wasteful than ever before. The present price level is the inevitable result of many forces, and is a perfectly natural development regardless of what the trend may be in the future.

Rationing Would Not Produce More Oil

The proposal for the government to again be given authority to ration and fix the price of gasoline would in no way alleviate oil problem and would, to the contrary, intensify it. That opinion was recently expressed by the top executive of one of the country's principal oil companies. He said:

"No matter how well-meaning they may be, government efforts to 'divide shortages fairly' will not produce a single extra gallon of oil. They will only discourage the normal processes of free competition in which 34,000 oil companies are now vying with each other trying to keep up with the greatest demand for oil products in all history."

The magnitude of the oil industry's achievements is not as widely known as it deserves to be. The end of the war, instead of bringing the expected decline in demand for oil, brought an ever-increasing demand. The industry is producing more oil products—and better quality oil products—than ever before. The shortages which have occurred have been relatively minor, have been spotty and short-lived in nature, and have been in large part the results of transportation and storage difficulties, which, in turn, are caused by shortages of various kinds.

So far as prices are concerned, the increase in oil prices has been moderate, and generally below that of other commodities. The government's own index shows that petroleum still costs less than in 1926—while the price level for all commodities recently was at 153.6 per cent of 1926.

Even now, the oil company executive said, "The margin between demand and supply is small and could be erased by only a little voluntary effort by consumers to hold down their needs while the industry works furiously to provide more facilities to enlarge the supply." Rationing would be a ruinous mistake in the case of oil or anything else.

With Dignity And Confidence

The sole threat to the peace of the world lies in the deterioration in relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the inability of these two powers to reconcile their policies.

That problem will not be solved by "tough talk"—nor by implications that we can be just as war-like as Russia. And it will not be solved by building up among our own people, an almost pathological fear of Russia.

Within their limitations, the Soviet leaders are realists. They are impressed by deeds—not by words. And that is true of all the European countries which sooner or later will have to make a choice between a totalitarian government and some form of democratic government. The influence and prestige of the United States will grow in direct proportion to what we do rather than what we say.

We must, of course, maintain our military strength. We must also show by demonstration that our system can out-produce any other system. We must prove beyond the shadow of a doubt our faith in free enterprise at home before we hope to "sell" the merits of free enterprise abroad. We must deal with all powers, Russia included, with dignity and confidence. That is the only reasonable road to a peaceful solution of world problems.

Is not that the truest gratitude which strives to widen the horizon of human happiness and to share our fellows sharers in that which has gladdened us?—H. C. Potter

It is another's fault if he be ungrateful, but it is mine if I do not give. To find one thankful man, I will oblige a great many that are not so.—Seneca

Nothing is more simple than greatness; indeed, to be simple is to be great.—Emerson

Tidbits of Kentucky

Dr. Gordon Wilson

Our Fidelity folks were musical, not in such a way that outsiders who had had training would have noticed it, but down deep inside where no snooping eye or ear can see. And we had our musical instruments, too. The world of modern orchestras and bands was far away, but we could make music anyway and enjoy it.

Large or expensive instruments were few. Some old-established families had pianos, big square things that were pretty to look at, but they had not been tuned since the Civil War or since they had been put together; consequently, the noise they made was rather tinny, but we could usually have drowned out a dozen such instruments when we sang. Considering the relative poverty of Fidelity neighborhood, there were a good many organs, very elaborate things, as all old-timers will recall. Every organ was a sort of community instrument, at we would gather round it and sing on all sorts of occasions. I am still ambitious enough to enjoy singing round the organ with young and old people.

A good many men and boys had fiddles, a few had banjos, one or two had mandolins, and there was at least one bass fiddle in the neighborhood, which was used in "Doodle" Daniel's fiddling band. The typical evening music was a duet or trio consisting of a fiddle and a banjo or a guitar or both. We often sang with these instruments, songs that varied from the "quick and devilish" kind to church hymns. Sometimes a fiddler but more often a banjo picker would sing and accompany himself on his instrument.

Aside from these regular instruments there were French harps, which nearly every boy could play. In fact, it would have been a mark of great lack of skill not to be able to play such a simple instrument. We early learned how to cup our hands and thus vary the sounds of our French harps. The colored boy on the radio who does such marvels with his harmonica with a gourd attachment would have been welcome in our section, for he had improved on plain hands by adding a permanent feature that can give all sorts of wails and whoop by proper use of the hands on the mouth of the gourd.

A few boys could play a jew's-harp, but that is a skill that I never acquired but always wanted to have. Of course, nearly all tunes on the jew's harp sound alike, but it takes a certain amount of skill to keep the buzzing sound going without hurting your teeth or getting your tongue caught.

It was not necessary to have fashionable musical instruments in order to make music. I early learned to blow tunes on my hands and can still do so. I did not feel that I was at all unusual until I saw this same skill highly advertised in a great university glee club, where one of the boys amused large audiences by his skill. When everything else failed, there was a comb and some tissue paper. Four or five children with different sized combs and different sized voices can evoke plenty of noise and near-music from combs. Orfeo I feel lost in reading lilt-ing verses written in England and Scotland, for the little ways of living over there differ greatly from ours. But in Stevenson's "Child's Garden of Verses" I felt immediately at home when I found this line:

"Bring the comb and play upon it."

He, too, little Scotchman that he was, had played just as I used in Fidelity, which is and was a "fur piece" from Scotland.

Given a desire to make music, anybody, can become a musician of parts. We could have used Fidelity the elaborate instruments that we had read about but rarely seen; since we did not have them, we did the best that we could by making music in our own way. It gave me a great thrill in 1939, when I made the commencement address at Fidelity, to find that the children and grandchildren of the boys and girls I used to know were real musicians, not only from our limited Fidelity point of view but recognized as such by capable judges in regional and state contests. Who knows how much of their skill may have been aided by our long, long practice on the few instruments that we had?

If a man has a right to be proud of anything, it is of a good action done as it ought to be, without any base interest lurking at the bottom of it.—Sterne

SOUP BOWL CLASSIC

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
Central Press Writer

"ON, COMET!"

AUSTRALIAN astronomers report sighting a comet. This is not the Comet, however, which is No. 3 reindeer on Santa Claus' team.

! ! !

The new comet has a tail which is 14,000,000 miles long, which makes it look like a celestial snake.

! ! !

The earth might pass through the comet's tail—but don't be alarmed. A comet's tail is thicker than a schoolboy's excuse.

! ! !

In approaching the sun or some other stars, a comet's tail switches around and becomes a board. This makes a comet something of a quick change artist.

! ! !

Astronomers are always finding new comets, but like the weather, no one seems to do anything about it.

! ! !

The new comet can be seen only in the southern hemisphere. So, for the time being, we'll just have to put up with the old comets we have.

! ! !

Zudek Dunkopf says he heard a broadcast about the latest news in astronomy. The fellow who talked, Zudek says, was a pretty fair comet-ator.

In By Gone Days

January 6, 1898

John M. Campbell and E. A. Ratliff appointed deputy clerks by County Clerk S. A. Ratliff.

—50—

Walker Harney and mother move to Maysville, where Harney will open a tobacco warehouse.

—50—

James M. Howe returns from Mexico, where he has been engaged in business for the past two years.

—50—

B. F. Adair sells his interest in the furniture store of Howard Dinsmore & Adair to Taylor Mathers.

—50—

Hanson Kennedy and John I. Williamson form law partnership and lease offices over Breslin & Lee's store.

—50—

Drs. M. Dills, H. Munger and D. D. Howe appointed by Governor Bradley as members of Nicholas County Board of Health.

—80—

MARRIED—Miss Nannie L. Sparks and Peter Henderson, both of the county, on December 30. —Miss Pickett Porter and James B. Thomas, both of the county, on January 2. —Miss Hettie Woolums, of Carlisle, and Mr. Will Viley, of Lexington, on January 4.

DIED—James H. Gifford, 50, at his home near Ellisville on January 4. —Herbert Ennis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Day at their home in Carlisle on January. 2. —Andrew Smith, 68, at his home in the county on December 24.

—50—

January 7, 1886

Pyles Campbell leaves for Paris to take charge of bus line for Fletcher Mann.

—62—

Rev. M. W. Harkins, of Carlisle leaves for Ripley, Ohio, to conduct revival meeting.

—62—

Col. Hanson Kennedy and Sheriff Baxter move their offices to rooms over the City Store.

—62—

Forty-eight couples attend the annual hop given by the Mozart Dancing Club Friday night.

—62—

James T. Boyd buys interest of Solomon Robertson in the clothing store of Robertson & Mann.

—62—

Residence of Robert L. Talbert in county destroyed by fire with most of its contents.

—62—

Harry Green, of Carlisle, elected clerk of the Senate and G. R. Keller, of Carlisle, elected clerk of the House at opening of state legislature.

—62—

Fire originating in saloon of B. F. Summers near depot destroys building and building occupied by Ishmael & Reed's butcher shop and John Brown's barber shop.

—62—

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Fitch Williams, of Cassity Creek, on January 2, a daughter.

A man of a grumbling spirit may eat a very poor dinner from silver plate, while one with a grateful heart may feast upon a crust. —F. P. Brown

Men are sometimes accused of pride merely because their accusers would be proud themselves if they were in their places.—Shenstone

THE OLD HOME TOWN — By STANLEY

hail the NEW YEAR 1948

★ As Father Time closes the book on 1947, places it on the shelf with its predecessors and gingerly turns the fly leaf of 1948, we pause for a moment to express the hope that the New Year will shower all its blessings on you, that health, happiness and prosperity will be yours in unbounded measure. Drop in and see us any time.

Hamilton Service Station

Greetings Friends 1948

1947 with its joys and sorrows will soon be part of the past, and 1948 will soon be here! We join in the celebration to ring out the old year and ring in the new, and now voice the hope that 1948 will be crowded with many golden hours for you.

Buntin's Garage

1948 HAPPY NEW YEAR

★ Janus, the ancient Roman deity who presided over all beginnings, was represented by a double head that looked both ways.

★ At this beginning of 1948 we voice the hope that good fortune will come to you not from two ways alone, but from every direction!

Stewart Moore Trucking Service

SEASON'S GREETINGS

GOOD NEWS FOR THE NEW YEAR

IF WE HAD OUR WAY ABOUT IT, 1948 WOULD BE A BIG BUDGET OF GOOD NEWS FOR YOU. ACCEPT OUR BEST WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPINESS IN THE YEAR TO COME.

Standard Oil Company
Earl Van Bever, Agent
Robert George *Sam Curtis*

Good Luck to all 1948

☆ Barbershop quartets and handlebar mustaches may be out of style, but hearty good fellowship never goes out of date. In this friendly, jovial spirit we wish you the best of luck the coming year.

Bill and Myrtle

1948 a PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR to all

SEASON'S GREETINGS!
To our Faithful old friends and our valued new ones we send these greetings of the New Year.

Maurice King's Electric Shop

Try A Classified Ad Today.

James S. Henry
SERVICE & REPAIR
Household Appliances
Stoves—Furnaces
Washing Machines
Irons—Toasters
Phone 249 357 W. Main
25 Years Hardware Experience

A Complete Market Service For Your Livestock
Cattle-Sheep-and Hog Sales
Mon., Tue., Wed., and Friday at 1:00 P. M.
A dependable market for your shoats and butcher hogs—buyers from several states. Major order and packer buyers represented to assure top market prices for all classes of cattle, hogs and sheep. A new and modern enclosed sales arena.
BLUE GRASS STOCKYARDS CO.
Phone 3835 Lexington, Ky.

In character, in manners, in style, in all things, the supreme excellence is simplicity.—Longfellow.

MATHIAS INSURANCE AGENCY
JOE MATHIAS, Agent
Phone 249 Carlisle, Ky.

CARLISLE, ROUTE 1

Mr. Loyd Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. James Whils and son spent Christmas day with Mr. Ben Wagoner and family.

This neighborhood mourns the loss of their friend and neighbor, J. J. Wilson and extends its sympathy to his widow and sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sapp entertained with a turkey dinner on Christmas day. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Herrin, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Herrin, Mrs. Clara Earlywine, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Blake and family, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Asbury, Mr. Wilson King, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Love and family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard McIlvain of Paris; Miss Evelyn Cullahan of Midway and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wasson.

Mr. Loyd Hughes, Miss Evelyn Cullahan of Midway and Douglas Sapp spent Saturday in Anderson, Ohio.

The Kentucky Flying Farmers are planning to attend the annual Farm and Home Convention at the Experiment Station, in Lexington Jan. 27-30, according to Robert H. Giltner of Eminence, president of the organization. A color and sound picture will explain the use of airplanes in agriculture, and David E. Postle of the Bell Aircraft Corporation will speak. Plans include having a helicopter on display at the convention.

CANE RUN

Mrs. Floyd Harney spent one day recently with Mrs. Allen Bromagen.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ring and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis were in Williamstown, Ky., Saturday to attend the funeral of Mr. B. C. Payne.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pryor spent Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Clark.

Mr. and Mrs. Everette Watkins and little son and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hopkins were in Cynthiana last Monday.

Harrison George and family spent one Sunday recently with Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bromagen.

Everette Allison and family spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Gum and son and Mrs. Clarence Hopkins spent one Sunday afternoon recently with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Gum.

Earal Cotton of Lyon county had a litter of 12 baby to a total of 2,514 pounds in 185 days.

New Equipment Reduces Housework

Housework is going to be easier for some of the women in Barren county who are outfitting their homes with the newest and best in labor-saving equipment. Members of the Jefferson Homemakers Club told Home Agent Mildred Dunn they have bought five electric stoves, six refrigerators, two ironers, three water heaters and an electric pump for a bathroom. Several kitchens have been re-arranged to give more convenient work centers requiring as few steps as possible.

Members of the Hiseville Homemakers Club report having bought four electric stoves, two refrigerators, three water heaters, two washing machines, one ironer, two kitchen sinks placed in built-in kitchen cabinets, an electric sewing machine and equipment for two bathrooms.

Cove City members said they had installed new built-in cabinets, refrigerators, a deep freeze unit and an electric stove.

Safeguard Your Future With A
Federal Land Bank 4% Loan
No Application Fee—No Appraisal Fee
Inquire At
National Farm Loan Association
Loraine Kinney In Carlisle
Sec.-Treas. Every Tuesday

1948 HEALTH·HAPPINESS·PROSPERITY 1948

Once Again we greet the New Year in the traditional manner—with pealing bells, with fun and gaiety, laughter and music.

Despite his ingenuity, man still persists in "watching the old year out and greeting the new year" in almost the identical manner of his forefathers.

Blue Grass Produce Company
M. T. RUDDELL, Manager

Good Luck NEW YEAR 1948

We extend to you and yours a cordial greeting for the New Year. May some of the happy spirit of New Year's Eve be parceled out through the long stretch of days as 1948 doles out the Good Luck we wish for you.

The Fightmaster Real Estate Agency
Stop In For a 1948 Calendar

To OLD FRIENDS and NEW 1948

Another year has rolled around . . . 1948. As we see it, this is another opportunity to make new friends, and to serve our old ones even better. May we offer you our best wishes for a truly Happy New Year.

Lerman Bros.
INCORPORATED

OLD Fashioned Greetings 1948

★ A New Year looms before us. Our wish for it is that happiness will bless our homes and contentment reign among our families—that friendship will continue to grow in our community from day to day and in its afterglow come the serenity of good will to each and all.

KENTUCKY UTILITIES COMPANY

BEST WISHES for the NEW YEAR 1948

We can look back a long way . . . back to years that were better . . . back to years that were not quite as good; left always, as we look back, we see the smiling faces of a multitude of loyal friends.

At the threshold of 1948 we renew our pledge to you of service and cooperation. We reaffirm our faith and confidence in our community.

HARPER'S GARAGE
1915-1948

GREETINGS NEIGHBORS NEW YEAR 1948

★ BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MADE THE MOST OF EVERYTHING . . . MADE EVERY GOLDEN MINUTE COUNT. WE HOPE THAT YOU, TOO, WILL MAKE THE MINUTES COUNT IN 1948, AND THAT EVERY ONE OF THEM WILL ADD TO THE SUM TOTAL OF YOUR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS.

Scott's Produce

. . . and may the Year 1948
be streamlined to your wants and chock-full of blessings!
Thanks a million for your patronage during the year 1947.

STANLEY GALBRAITH & SON

all aboard! THE NEW YEAR

Have you been waiting for that "ship" to come in? It's coming in now, loaded to the gunwales with good wishes from all of us for your health and happiness for 1948.

Musketeer Inn

HERE IS HOPING 1948

As the years come and go we can count our friends in ever increasing numbers. We like to think that neither luck nor chance accounts for this, but that the answer lies in public recognition of our determination to give our customers superior service and value at all times. Here is hoping that you may all enjoy

A MOST HAPPY NEW YEAR

Beulah M. Hughes
Circuit Court Clerk

The NEW YEAR 1948 is HERE

You wouldn't be thinking of painting the town red, now, would you? Anyway, there's reason aplenty for feeling happy and carefree and confident as the New Year of 1948 approaches. May this New Year bring happiness to you and yours.

Ben H. Pumphrey
Distributor of Gulf Products