

Nicholas County Memories

By L. P. Scott

It has again been my privilege to visit the scene of my childhood and to relive in memory those happy days spent in the ancestral farm-home of my grandfather, Col. Thompson of Parksville, at Parks Ferry on the Licking River.

As I crossed the bridge at the foot of Parks Hill, the Licking was at flood stage from the heavy spring rains, and was "Out-of-banks" and flooding a considerable amount of the bottom land which comprises a major

part of the old Parks farm. The water was yellow from the soil eroded by the run-off in the upper reaches of the river and its tributaries, reminding me of those earlier days when, under similar conditions, log rafts were floated down the river from the mountains to supply the saw mills along the river below.

One of the earliest of these mills was at Parks Ferry, established and operated by James Parks and his sons of whom there were nine. It was their

practice to go in pairs to points up stream where the rafts had been fabricated awaiting high water, and in flood stage down stream to the mill, a man on each end of the raft with a long "dows" by which he could keep the raft in mid-stream thereby avoiding the rapids at the critical river "bends." Reaching their destination, the rafts were split up into smaller "logs" as required, the individual logs might be floated down stream to the "boom" from which they could be drawn up for sawing.

Along with Park's Ferry and saw mill, the Parks family owned and operated a flour and grain mill at Pleasant Valley on Fleming creek, a tributary of the Licking. It was from the two mills that cargoes of merchandise were loaded on flat boats for shipment by way of the Licking, Ohio, and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, where the cargoes and the boats were sold. The boatmen then returned home on foot, or in some cases on Texas ponies or Tennessee-raising horses purchased en-route.

Such a business venture under present conditions might merit some publicity, but could hardly be considered profitable. However, it must be remembered that at the time referred to there were few forms of transportation of merchandise. Consequently, the river itself became the most logical facility for the transportation of people and things. It was a long flat from Parks Ferry to New Orleans and one could be delayed, or mishap or attack by river pirates, or courageous bandits, and cargoes would be at their destination to profitably dispose of their wares and cargo.

The Parks Ferry saw mill and the Pleasant Valley flour mill are family memories, but the Licking like "Old Man River" keeps reminding me and continues to deposit life giving silt on the bottom farm lands new soil on the bottom farm lands along. It's a course as it has done for centuries. It provides the life blood of the communities thru which it flows.

As a specific example, it is a matter of family history that the valley farm land of the Parks farm was in continuous cultivation of corn during the life of Thompson S. Parks for more than fifty years with no additional fertilizer other than the deposit of new soil left after subsidence of high water. Since the death of Colonel Parks in 1898 the same land has continued to produce abundant harvests for the present owners.

The original Parks settlers like the mills, the ferry, and the flat boats they operated, are no longer here, but on the Parks family grave yard near the knoll on which the first Parks farm home stood there are numerous monuments and head stones reminding us of their lives and their contributions to the growth and prosperity of Nicholas County.

The family cemetery has been carefully preserved thru the years and is protected by a well constructed stone wall enclosure. It's location is above the highest remembered flood water mark of the Licking River, and if not desecrated by submergence in the backwash of an unimproved Federal dam, will remain as testimony of the courage and industry of those who pioneered to nurture and preserve the natural resources of this beautiful river valley for future generations.

Federal Land Bank Holds Annual Meet

The Federal Land Bank Association of Maysville held its annual stockholders meeting at a dinner meeting at the Mason County High School cafeteria on Thursday evening, March 23. Approximately 125 persons from the six counties included in the association were present. The association serves a six-county area, Mason, Nicholas, Fleming, Robertson, Lewis and Bracken.

Representing the Federal Land Bank of Louisville was George L. Summers, Kentucky Regional Manager. Addressing the stockholders and spoke briefly on the Federal Land Bank system, how they obtained their money, etc.

The invocation was delivered by Charles Hickerson of Mason County. Following the dinner, Roy Fritz, Manager, welcomed the group and in-

duced special notes. The meeting was then turned over to L.S. Rogers, president of the Board of Directors of the Maysville association, who conducted the business session.

Mr. Charles O. Ashley, office assistant, read the minutes of the 1966 stockholders' meeting. There being no corrections or additions, the minutes were approved by the membership. Mr. Fritz in presenting his annual report stated that as of Dec. 31, 1967, the association was serving 24 loans with an outstanding balance of \$4,273,144.00. He also stated that the board of directors declared a dividend on capital stock during the past year which amounted to approximately \$8,000. This dividend was made payable through the net earnings of the association and this reduces the interest cost to the members.

The association experienced a successful year despite the increasing "tight-money" situation and the high cost of money.

The Board of Directors is composed of the following: L.S. Rogers, May's Lick, O.J. Donovan, Irving D. Alton, Columbus, Dorey J. Dorey, Watkins, Carlisle, Raymond Conway, Hillsboro. A report of the directors' association activities was presented by Raymond Conway, director.

Alvin Rogers was re-elected to serve a three year term.

Commemorative Medal Presented

The Maysville association was the recipient of a commemorative medal presented by Kentucky Regional Manager, George L. Summers. The medal was made available for distribution in recognition of the association's outstanding contribution to American agriculture by authorization of S.J. 155 passed by the 90th Congress.

Principal speaker, Earl Hoffinger, Nicholas County Agriculture Agent, was introduced by Dorey Watkins, Nicholas County Director. He showed slides and spoke briefly on soil conservation and soil usage.

At the organization meeting which followed immediately after the stockholders' meeting, Roy Fritz was re-elected to serve as manager of the Maysville office for the ninth year and Mrs. George Ashley was re-elected as office assistant.

L.S. Rogers was re-elected for his second year as president of the Board of Directors. G.J. Donovan was re-elected for his second year as vice president.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1968

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Stokely Leaf Spinach 10 oz. 2/27¢
Stokely Frozen Brussel Sprouts 10oz. 2/29¢
Stokely Frozen Peas, chopped broccolis, or mixed vegetables 10 oz. 2/35¢
Stokely Frozen Fordhook Limas 10 oz. 2/45¢

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Del Monte Fruit Cocktail 303 2/49¢
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