

Burley Festival Nov. 4

The Fifteenth Annual Nicholas County Tobacco Festival has been planned for Thursday, Nov. 4 at the Carlisle Army, Clay Dayton was elected Festival Chairman, Edgar A. Darrell as Vice Chairman and Russell Barlow as Secretary and Publicity Chairman. Several changes were made in the Festival program. There will be no class for tips this year. Premiums will be awarded on Flings, Liga, Bright Leaf and Red Leaf. A cup and \$25 prize will go to the Best Crop and also to the Best Handled Crop in the Show. A sample consists of three hands

Denied gas rate increase

The City has been denied its request for a gas rate increase and, as the federal government would pay \$150,000 or half of the \$300,000 surcharge of an apportioner.

Council voted to purchase a cage for the police cruiser to be located between the front and back seat. The Streets and Alley Commission will inspect lights in Dorseyville and the recently annexed portion of Kennedy Heights and report its recommendation by next meeting. Policemen will have Columbus Day added to their list of holidays by motion of Council. The Special Police number around nine members. Chief Allen Early, who was given permission to call them for work whenever necessary and to keep a record of hours worked. A building permit was granted to Hirschel Howard, 327 E. Main, to build a garage.

Two wrecks keep sheriffs busy

NCEA meets

Abandoned car towed to town

Driver injured as car hits pole

Selective Service calls six men

Locust Grove Baptist Church Centennial celebration

of each grade and the hands must contain two and twenty leaves each. Tobacco samples between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Entries close at 1:30 p.m. Ira Masie, Tobacco Specialist from the University of Kentucky will be on the night program which will start at 7:30. A Youth Judging Contest will be conducted in the afternoon. The festival is sponsored by tobacco warehouses, chamber of commerce, Nicholas County Farm Bureau, Clay's Seed, Eastern KY Production Credit, County AGES Committee and Extension.

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A wreck on the concrete west of Carlisle about 8:30 p.m. Saturday was caused when a car driven by Bobby Robinson, of Dovesville left the road.

Another wreck reported to the sheriff's office at 11:30 o'clock Saturday night on an abandoned road involved Dennis Minton whose car went out of control overturning in the road.

These two incidents took care of the week's work for Deputy Sheriff Reese Smoot.

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The Carlisle Mercury

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Murder trial ends in hung jury

by Joanie Conley

The murder case of the Commonwealth of Kentucky vs Roger Vaughn ended in a hung jury in the Nicholas County Circuit Court on Wednesday, Oct. 13.

It is the first murder trial to be tried in Nicholas County in approximately 20 years.

The jury of 10 men and 2 women, which deliberated for three and one-half hours, reported at 11:50 p.m. that it could not agree unanimously on any of the instructions given them by the presiding Judge, John P. Lair, Vaughn is charged with the murder of Christine Shannon on June 3, 1971 on the farm of Eugene Shannon on the Bald Hill Road.

In essence the Judge gave the jury four choices, guilty of murder, guilty of manslaughter, not guilty by reason of insanity, and not guilty because of self defense. Any decision would have to have been unanimous.

The Court did not announce on which side the jury disagreed, but the jurors unanimously stated that they were unable to reach a verdict. The trial started at 9 a.m. Wednesday with the selection of the jurors. After excusing several potential jurors, both defense and the Commonwealth agreed on the jury members, those were Eugene Hopkins and Gayle Bowen, Pauline Caldwell, Stanley Caswell, William Ray Brunken, Warren Wilson, Fred Forune, Henry Hunt, Helen Flora, Elmer Dampier, Meredith Marshall, and James Boyd. Bowen was elected foreman.

Vaughn, represented by attorney Charles E. Howard, 327 E. Main, and Joe Frank Conley, pleaded "Not Guilty."

Six witnesses were called by the Commonwealth and six by the defense. Louise Vaughn, Vaughn's ex-wife, testified that Vaughn came to the Shannon home on June 3 to get his three girls, ages four, six

and eight, that she refused as he had numerous times before and Vaughn handed her his rifle and said, "Take it and blow my head off." She stated he was highly upset that morning. She handed the rifle back to him and he left the house. She then heard shots and ran outside to investigate.

Eugene Shannon testified that Vaughn came out of the house and he was parking his tractor, and asked Shannon, "Gene, what was getting off his tractor. Then he turned and shot Christine Shannon three times as she was running toward them and the house, Shannon stated that Vaughn then beat him over the head with the rifle.

Corner Ralph Shearer testified that he was called around 12:30 p.m. He had a bullet (exhibit 1) which was taken from Christine Shannon's body.

Sheriff Bill Dollins brought a rifle into Court which was scotch taped together. He said he found it on the day of the shooting in three different places. It was admitted as Exhibit 2. He said that several days later he picked up some other guns at the Shannon home at the direction of County Attorney Charles Cox.

Deputy Sheriff Reese Smoot said he had loaded the rifle for him three days later in a press in the house. He stated that three times because of the shooting that Vaughn was "very cold" and sitting on the porch steps when he arrived.

Dr. Allen Hamon was asked the cause of Christine Shannon's death and he answered that in his opinion she died of an aortic tear due to her lungs collapsing from the bullet when she entered the right side.

Vaughn was the first witness in the defense. He stated that for several days before the shooting he had begged his wife on numerous

occasions to go with him and take the children and "start a new life" in Dayton. Each time she refused. Each time he was told to leave by Christine Shannon—once with a pitch fork and the other times with a gun.

On Thursday, the day of the shooting, Vaughn stated he borrowed a rifle from his sister-in-law in Dayton. Each time he was told to leave by Christine Shannon—once with a pitch fork and the other times with a gun.

Christie appeared with a hammer, loaded pistol and rifle (Vaughn to "get off this place"). He begged her to let him take the children. She refused. He handed her the rifle and told her to blow his head off. She refused.

As he was leaving, Gene Shannon rode up on the tractor. Vaughn asked him "Gene, I came to get your rifle. What do I have to do?" Vaughn said Shannon reached for the tractor and he fired a warning shot. Vaughn told Shannon to stay away from the box the rifle was in the tool box. Shannon kept reaching toward the box so he fired the other two shots.

Dr. Farkas examined Vaughn on the day of the shooting several hours afterwards, and his report that day was that Vaughn was completely responsible for his own actions. Since that time Dr. Farkas has completely rechecked his report and stated that in his opinion, Vaughn was legally insane at the time of the shooting. When asked on cross examination why he changed his mind, Farkas stated he (Farkas) was upset when he heard about the shooting, but since then has seen Vaughn 4 more times and has changed his first diagnosis.

The 15 hour trial was continuous except for three 15 minute breaks and lunch and dinner hours.

The jury members were dismissed after announcing their decision and Vaughn is being held for retrial during the next term of court in February.

Dr. Noll attends Association meet

Dr. James A. Noll of Carlisle, attended the annual meeting of the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association, held at Lake Barkley, near Cadiz, Oct. 17 thru 19. Mrs. Noll accompanied her husband.

Letcher joins FHA staff

James A. Letcher joined the Washington County Farmers Home Administration staff, effective Sept. 13, 1971. William S. Willis, county supervisor, in announcing the appointment, stated that Mr. Letcher would be working in Washington and Marion Counties as his assistant.

Fish, Game meet

The Fish and Game Club will hold a supper and regular meeting Friday, Oct. 22 at the Club House on the Hickory Ridge Road, 7:30 p.m.

THE MERCURY

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Thfts increasing in County

Harold R. Letton on the Carpenter Pike, where a large quantity of helium silver and furs had been taken.

Mrs. Letton, while in the Mercury office Monday, stated that she and her husband had been burglarized in their home on the Carpenter Pike, where a large quantity of helium silver and furs had been taken.

Deputy Sheriff Reese Smoot was called to the residence of Harold R. Letton on the Carpenter Pike, where a large quantity of helium silver and furs had been taken.

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What? more cars than families

The automobile is playing an ever-expanding role in the daily life of Nicholas County residents, a national study shows.

Today, as a result of the steady increase in car ownership in the area, only a relatively small number of local families are now without cars. Many families, on the other hand, have more than one car.

Bearing witness to this growth are the many snappy late-model cars that are being driven on the streets and as well as the additional congestion caused by the increase in the number of them.

Toys and clothing needed

The First Christian Church will hold a toy and clothing drive on Wednesday, Oct. 27 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Local students attend conference

The areas of those people appear on the Church Covenant, the original copy of which is in excellent condition, and may be seen at the annual service this Sunday.

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