Opinions

Regretfully . . .

(The Bath County News-Outlook)

Regretfully, we will not be attending the big bicentennial bash in Frankfort Saturday night.

This is the Bicentennial Ball and Gala Celebration for those who worked on the bicentennial celebration programs in their communities the past year. Honored guests will be Gov. and Mrs. Ford, Lt. Gov. and Mrs. Carroll and all the Kentucky legislators. It will be held in the capitol rotunda with Gordon McRae headlining entertainment.

You can believe it is going to be a posh affair, with special invitations printed on the Colonial Williamsburg press, and sent to only a select 2,000. It will honor and extend appreciation to those civic-minded folks who gave of their time and money to make the bicentennial celebration click on a local level. At $40 a head, that is.

In order to be appreciated, should you be among those getting invitations, you may show up at 8 p.m. at the capitol with 40 bucks in hand and you will be admitted for appreciation. That strikes us as a pretty stiff price for a pat on the back. If you are looking for bouquets, you could undoubtedly find a better bargain by shopping around.

No one can accuse Kentuckians of being cheap and unimaginative when it comes to celebrating an occasion. The invitations are replicas of ones Lafayette issued in 1774 and we know that party was a real smash—particularly after the 13th toast was downed and things got to moving.

A custom hand-carved wood cut of the American eagle was whittled out by Master Printer Michael Kipps of Colonial Williamsburg. That took a week. Another week was taken up in setting the type by hand and making proofs of the invitation to get it just right. Then the 2,000 invitations were printed at a 200-a-day clip on an old George Washington hand press. The tab: $2,000, or $1.00 for each invitation.

We could have turned out the job for about $60 and made money. Of course, we would have had to print it in Kentucky, on a modern press, with a younger eagle, and factory-mixed ink. We could not have signed it as a "Master Printer" because we have been printing for 30 years and still haven't mastered it.

Forgive us, if it sounds like nit-picking, but if the state bicentennial committee folks have money burning holes in their pockets and have to get ripped off to be happy, it ought to be done by a tax-paying Kentuckian. A reproduction is still a reproduction, it doesn't much matter who does it.

We don't know of any bicentennial workers from our county with $40 in hand awaiting the magic day. Not that we believe for a minute no one will show up for the ball. Plenty of people will pay the price to get to bob-nob with state big-wigs and get in a few political brownie points. And that in itself is a way of life in Kentucky and not all bad.

It is just that we think the good people who worked so hard on bicentennial activities in their counties are getting back-handed for their efforts. And, being still tired and frustrated from the celebration involvement, many are in no mood for this kind of high-handed treatment.

Although promised money and much assistance, about all the counties around here got from the state bicentennial committee was lip service.

The bicentennial money was apparently used to create cushy jobs in Frankfort and to subsidize some university professors, who ground out history mush. Counties were told they would get financial help in compiling and publishing local histories. We know of none who got any monetary help. What was done was done on a local level, with very little help from Frankfort and now the state bureaucrats want to show their appreciation by nicking the work horses one more time.

Did Lafayette charge $40 a head? Did they toast the general 13 times because they loved him, or were they just trying to get their money's worth?

"Dear Santa,
My Master Charge number is 13742 4....."

Agree or Not

by S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT—All elected county officials paid under the fee system in Kentucky will get a manual for a uniform accounting system from the Department of Revenue and under law the county officials will have to install this system for use next year.

The manual will be installed some time in January, a Revenue Department official said. The new law that becomes effective Jan. 1, 1975 was contained in Senate Bill 236 that created a task force in the Department of Finance to review fees in the state and prepare the uniform manual.

House Bill 21, introduced by Rep. Ralph Ed Graves, D-Bardwell, in the 1972 session would have placed all county officials on a salary and all fees would have been paid to the state under provisions of the bill. The bill was defeated 39-54 by the House, but Senate Bill 236 was passed as sort of an appeasement to backers of the House bill.

Before SB 236 was passed, the law said the Finance Department "may inspect and shall supervise the administration of accounts and financial operations" but the wording was changed to shall and SB 236 now reads "shall prescribe and shall install by January 1975 a system of uniform accounts for all counties and county officials."

In recent fee audits in some counties by the State Auditor's office, Auditor Mary Louise Foust has said the audits show some county officials owe their county treasurers excessive fees for back years.

Miss Foust claims she does not have sufficient funds and sufficient personnel to make a fee audit of all county officials every year, but that she tries to audit them at least every four years, doing some each year. The salaries of county officials are established by statute, but under the fee system, the official doesn't make his full salary unless he has enough left over from fees after paying expenses for operation of his office.

No uniform accounting system is now required, but will be after Jan. 1, and in the past books of some county officials have ranged from excellent to very poor and sketchy. Many county officials don't maintain separate bank accounts for their offices. They just deposit the fees they collect in their personal account.

Almost every session of the General Assembly county officials trek to Frankfort to support bills increasing the fees of their offices and are constantly making an effort to get their salaries raised to cope with inflation.

A bill that would place all county officials on a salary to be paid by the state is being studied by a subcommittee of the Interim Committee on Counties. All of the fees would be paid to the state and a strict accounting system would be established.

Indeed, in some of the smaller counties in Kentucky, the officials don't collect enough in fees to pay their salary established by statute, and it is this inequity that the legislature is trying to correct.

Rep. Sam Brewer Jr., R-Irvine, is chairman of the subcommittee that has met only3once, and no date has been set for another meeting of his subcommittee.

Other members of the subcommittee are Representatives Adrian Arnold, D-Mt. Sterling; Ralph E. Graves, D-Bardwell; David Mason, D-New Castle and Glenn White, D-Winchester; and Senators Gerald Huff, R-London; Joe Prather, D-Pine Grove; and William Quinlan, D-Louisville.

Some legislators think this type bill has a chance of passing in the 1976 session although it has been opposed in the past by the county officials associations.

The new accounting system going into effect in January is seen as an encouragement for the passage of the salary bill and collection of fees by the state. The uniform salary system will probably be based on the population of the counties with varying salaries according to the amount of work required.

Mercury Vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

HAPPINESS

by B.A. Nosbig

WHO are the happiest people on earth? This question was asked by an English newspaper, and prizes were offered for the best answers. There were four prize winning answers:

"A craftsman or artist whistling over a job well done."

"A little child building air castles."

"A mother after a busy day, bathing her baby."

"A doctor who has finished a difficult and dangerous operation, and saved a human life."

There are neither kings, emperors, riches nor rank mentioned in the list of answers. The things that makes happiness are honest toil, and the consciousness of making a success of any and every job undertaken. It would be a sad day on earth if only the great could be happy.

Happiness is for everybody who seeks it, and not for a few. We realize exactly the things we have, and despite disappointments that cast shadows over life.

—Reprinted from the Clinton County News
Albany, Kentucky

—MV—

The first streaker was an Indian . . . Running Bare.

—MV—

You never have to take a dose of your own medicine if you know when to keep your mouth shut.

—MV—

Be careful of sharp words . . . you may have to eat them.

—MV—

Parking Meter: An automatic device that bets a dollar to your nickel that you can't get back before the red flag pops up.

—MV—

The reason so many Congressmen are anxious to be re-elected is that they would hate to try to make a living under the laws they passed.

—MV—

Self-discipline is a matter of courage. Anyone can do as he pleases; but it takes courage to do as one ought.

—MV—

Small boy explaining a broken window to a policeman: "I was cleaning my slingshot and it went off."

—MV—

Two cannibals opened a restaurant. In the window, they put up a sign that read: MEN—$1.50, WOMEN—$2.00, HIPPIES—$25.00. A customer went in and asked one of the owners why it cost so much to order a "hippie."

The cannibal replied, "Did you ever try to clean one of them rascals?"

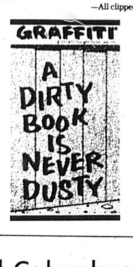
—MV—

A sign in Colorado Springs which makes people think as they approach railway crossings is this message: THE AVERAGE TIME IT TAKES A TRAIN TO PASS THIS CROSSING IS FOURTEEN SECONDS—WHETHER YOUR CAR IS ON IT OR NOT.

—MV—

I recently saw this among other graffiti in my neighborhood laundromat. "Better to have loved and lost than to do 30 pounds of wash each week."

—All clipped



20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, December 23, 1954

Roger Womack was appointed chairman of a nominating committee to select officers at a meeting Thursday of the newly organized Carlisle, Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce. Others serving on the committee are Ralph Shearer, Bob Coatney, Joe Fultz, Elmer Dampier, and William N. Young Jr.

Jackie Randolph took top honors in the FFA, 4-H Club sale of burley tobacco at Cynthiana, Saturday.

Mrs. Wilma Raborn Leamon of Chicago, Ill., sister—of. Hey. W.H. Raborn, pastor of the Carlisle Presbyterian Church, will give an organ recital Dec. 25 at the church.

Charles Rankin Carter, U.S.N., son of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Carter, located at Bainbridge, Md., is home for the Christmas leave with his wife and parents.

Miss Faye Roundtree, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Roundtree, a sophomore at Carlisle High School, has been selected "Student of the Month" in the Musketeer Review issued this week.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. James Donovan, Lexington, a daughter, Jefferson and their six small children.

MARRIED—Miss Patsy Clay Allen, Paris, to Robert Monfort Miller Jr., Cincinnati, Saturday in Martemont, Ohio.—Miss Colleen Roe, Carlisle, to James Crump, Millersburg, Dec. 10.

DIED—Mrs. Rolla Dalzell Bedford, 50, of Alexandria, Monday in Cincinnati.—Mrs. Mollie Bell Collver Judge, 72, Mount Gerald, Monday.—Roy Edward Bussell, 40, last Wednesday, at Avon.—Mrs. Dora Owings Stitt, Tuesday at her home on the Jackstown Road.

Thursday, December 29, 1934

During the past week the Blue Grass Produce Company purchased and shipped more than 6,000 rabbits. An average of 10 cents each was paid for the rabbits.

A residence on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gorham on the East Union Road was destroyed by fire, with most of its contents, about 8:30 o'clock Monday morning. The house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dave Jefferson and their six small children.

Approximately 900 Nicholas county tobacco growers have cast ballots on the referendum being conducted throughout the burley tobacco sections on continuance of production control. It is estimated that 98 percent of the votes cast have been in favor of continuing the program.

Ray Stump has purchased the 40-acre woodland tract of the Charles Martin farm near Millersburg in this county, at a private price.

Billy Conley, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Conley, is one of the tenors of the University of Kentucky Choristers for the caroling season.

DIED—Mrs. Winne Ann Dunn Brayfield, 62, wife of F.W. Brayfield, died at her home in Ellisville, Wednesday.—James C. Blount, 54, died at his home in Sharpsburg, Saturday. —Hugh Schilling, 35, at his home, Berkeley, Calif.—Edwin S. Fee, at his home in Clarksburg, Ind.

Farm and home

County extension agents
Estil J. Noffsinger
Sara Elmer
Mrs. Margie Wilson

Area 4-H Talk Meet

Fourteen 4-H members and parents attended the Blue Gras Area 4-H Talk Meet, which was held on Dec. 8 at the Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond.

Five 4-H'ers presented their speeches at the area event and received the following awards: Brenda McDonald, blue on "People of the Desert"; Kay Conley, purple and Division Champion on "Let's Use Our Common Cents"; Carol Chamberlin, red on "My Beautiful Land of Liberty"; Barry Hitchie, blue on "Wildlife Conservation —Are You Doing Your Share?"; and Charles McDonald, red on "Tobacco—From Seeds to Clothes".

The 4-H'ers and their parents attended a banquet following the talk meet. The awards and publicity were provided by WKYT-TV, Channel 27, Lexington.

Kay Conley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jock Conley, who received an engraved gavel on her winning speech (12 year old age division) will participate at the State 4-H Talk Meet to be conducted on May 17 at the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

The new edition of the "Farmers Tax Guide" is now available in the Extension Office. It contains details to help farmers prepare their tax returns. Stop by and get one. It is free.

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RUSS METZ

Amerigo graffito scuttled Columbus' reputation as a names-dropper

Canadians have begun to assert vigorously that they are not Americans, an editorial in the Christian Science Monitor says. I don't blame them. Who'd want to claim any connection with the mess we're in. And look like Marlon Brando.

"How do we get off calling ourselves Americans like it was our own personal property when other countries on this hemisphere are just as American as we are," one letter writer asked.

Beats me. I guess it is because only the Canadians and us know how to spell it and, since the Canadians don't want it, we sort of inherit the title by default. If any other country in this neck of the woods wants to adopt America as its name, they're welcome to it. But don't blame me if their treasuries go dry.

We could call ourselves United Statezen, or just plan Us. Then we could say, when the chips are down, it's either Them or Us. United Statezer sounds too much like Alka Seltzer. With both trying to cure the world's bellyaches, it could be confusing.

A Spanish greenfly named Christopher Columbus hugged Queen Isabella until she gave him three X-rated tube and told him to buzz off. He left some kind of a peanut hero, as the first nut to sail off the edge of the earth. At that time the world was flat. Everyone knew this because half the sailors who ventured out of sight of land never came back.

But Chris had been reading the Adventures of Marco Polo, Super Sailor, in the latest Spanish paperbacks and, worst of all, believed the stuff. Some historians say he couldn't get any crew members, so the queen asked for volunteers from the best slammers. After a few days on the rack, the cons were anxious to believe Columbus' theory. It was the world's first rehabilitation program that worked. After bobbing around the Atlantic for months with a kook like Columbus, all became model prisoners upon their return home.

There is some question what Chris said when he sighted land. All the mariners of that day were singing out "Land Ho;" so Columbus, being a little strange to say the least, is thought to have come off with "Eureka, I have found it," or possibly "Excelsior, the end of the line."

The first native he met he called an Indian. It is not known what the Indian called him. By the time he learned he was not in India, it was too late. It took him a long time to figure out it wasn't India because he didn't know what India looked like. He suspected he hit the wrong beach when he had trouble locating a wholesaler of gold, spices and underarm deodorants.

While Columbus was beachcombing in the Bahamas, a sharp Italian dude named Amerigo Vespugnacious came into Spain as a wetback and began working his way up. He was pretty sharp as a navigator and navigated himself into the position as license branch manager for ships' captains, which made him a good fellow to know if you wanted to get your own ship.

When he heard Columbus was out discovering new worlds, Amerigo hustled up a boat and followed him out. His navigation wasn't any better than Columbus' because he ended up even farther south of Miami Beach.

Amerigo and Columbus hung around the same bar in Madrid and that's where we got named. Chris wanted to name his new world Columbia because, he said, it was an established fact he was the gem of the ocean.

"No way," said Amerigo. "You blew it on the Indian bit and now they'll be on the warpath when we try to pyp them out of their gold and wampum."

"I discovered it . . ."

"Beginner's luck," Amerigo went on, pouring Columbus another three fingers of grape juice to keep his mouth occupied.

"Besides, my office is next door to the mapmaker, who happens to owe me a favor from the last office party when I introduced him to that cute senorita and then told his wife he spent the night with me," the shrewd Vespugnacious said.

"You must be the pervert whose been writing 'See Amerigo First' all over my toilet walls," Columbus growled. "I knew I should have turned you over to the Immigration Department when you first hit town."

Amerigo ordered a hard-boiled egg from the bartender and took out his magic marker. "Now we know what about half the world looks like from reading those Super Sailor comics, so all I have to do is fill in the blank space with a nice piece of real estate all the way from the North Pole to the South Pole and give it a good name — like America."

"You can't do that," Columbus protested. "It has to be subdivided like here in Europe, according to nationality, climate and language."

"O.K. How about North America, Central America, South America and Little America for starters?"

"Couldn't we name just one after me?" Columbus whined.

"All right, tell you what I'm gonna do. There will be only one district in America and to show you I like you, I'll name it the District of Columbia. Even throw in a bank holiday in your honor."

"Goody . . ."

"Love to stay here all day and bend the elbow, but I have to get over to the mapmaker's and state my broadform claim. There's a Viking sailing behind to establish claim on the new land like the Spaniards did. You could tell they had been here by the dead natives used as trail markers for others to follow.

Following were other Spanish hotbloods such as Ponce de Leiz and Ponce de Leon, a thirsty old man in search of a decent rum collins. He never found it, but did find Florida where old men have been going ever since to find their youth — usually found along the beaches during semester breaks.

They might have continued exploring over here, except they got into a hassle with England and interrupted Sir Francis Drake's bowling night. Drake had just lined up some endorsements and was ready for the pro circuit and this irked him so much he polished off the Spanish Armada with a perfect strike down the middle of the English channel.

That left only the English to ferry new citizens across the ocean and they picked the U.S. of A because the Spaniards had been un-American from the beginning. Then, after the ferry toll got too high, the colonists decided to go into business for themselves and settled on America as their name because no one had claimed it up until then.

The Canadians are right. They are not Americans. Maybe shirttail Americans, but not King James Version Americans. Old Amerigo would have been proud of us. We told everyone: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send those, the homeless tempest-tossed to me." And darned if they didn't do it.

From this wretched mess, we molded a mongrel nation that has fought the English, French, Spaniards, Japanese, Germans, Italians, Indians, Asians, ourselves and the IRS to preserve our good nation. It hasn't been easy, being Americans.

Amerigo, you map-happy old fraud, you got a live one this time.

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LERMANS
GIFT HEADQUARTERS

Program at Home

Christmas program

The Moorefield Methodist Sunday School will present its annual Christmas program, "Characters of Christmas" Sunday, Dec. 22 at 5:00 p.m.

Young graduates

Marine Pvt. Larry R. Young, son of Mrs. Mary E. Young of 117 North Street, Carlisle, graduated from recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

Physical conditioning, discipline and teamwork "are emphasized during Marine recruit training.

Classes include instruction in close order drill, Marine Corps history, first aid, uniform regulations and military customs and courtesies.

Fish, game supper

The Nicholas County Fish and Game Club will hold a potluck supper at the club house on the Hickory Ridge Road Friday, Dec. 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Students of the Carlisle Kindergarten presented their annual Christmas program Thursday morning, Dec. 12 at the Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home.

The Kindergarten, sponsored by the Carlisle Junior Woman's Club, is directed by Mrs. Horace Marshall, with Mrs. Harvey Wilson assisting.—Duncan photo

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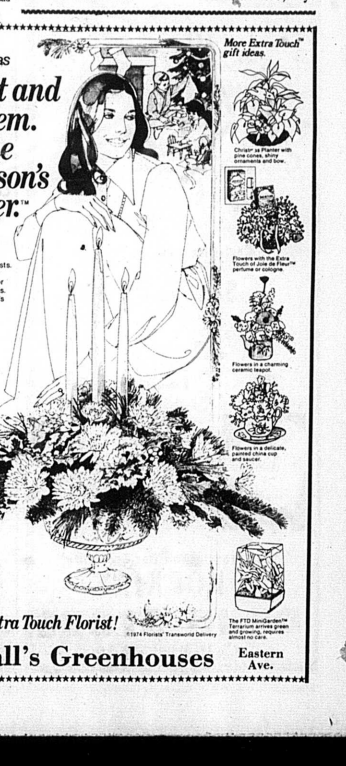

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