

Hickory Ridge-old and new

(Note: This true story was written by my mother, Ethel Booth, age 91, and published in "The Carlisle Mercury" in 1960. Submitted by Mrs. Glenn Booth.)
The small community of Hickory Ridge, first called "The Ridge," had

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later known as Hickory Ridge, was located in Nicholas county on the headwaters of Stony Creek. A road, called the New Cut road, opened the Stony Creek Road and the Mayville and Lexington Road. The community was the result of the Civil War when the Negroes were free to leave their masters and settle in communities of their choice, a number of Negro families settled in Hickory Ridge. When circumstances allowed, these families bought their own small farms, built homes, and reared their children. They were industrious, proud people, and were highly respected by the white people in the area.
The men raised their crops, tended their gardens, put out fruit orchards and had many varieties of trees and flowering shrubs growing around their homes. The women kept where to find herbs to use in their cooking as well as pass on.
The ladies kept the church yard and cemetery in good condition throughout the year. There were many flower-



Jet Set

The winners of the Jet Journey Contest held at Custer's U.S.A. are, from left, Doug Tiddler, Greg Rawlings, Terry Doyle and Jennifer Cox. Bob Custer, store owner is standing with winners. The California journey for these youngsters and Mr. Custer starts July 25 from Cincinnati. They will return July 29. Their trip includes trips to Disneyland, Marland of the Pacific, Japanese Village, Kanda Berry Farm, Universal Movie Studio, and a major league ball game.—Duncan photo

shrubs, such as lilacs, both purple and white, lavender, snowball, peonies, and March flowers. Today hand-hewn monuments with names and dates etched in the stone may still be seen in the church yard.
After years of service to the community the church was destroyed by a freak tornado that swept through the community. Over the years many of the older citizens died and the younger ones had left the Ridge and settled in other places. The church was never rebuilt.
The people wanted not only a church, but a school for their children. The county granted them a school of eight grades which was called Hickory Ridge School. Over the years they had several teachers. One teacher, Mrs. Sam Brooks, taught the children of the school for about 15 years. A number of very bright boys and girls came from that school. Again had luck struck the community and the school house burned in 1906. After that the remaining children went to Carlisle and enrolled in the Henryville school with their friends and kinfolk.
In 1935, Aunt Lyle Young, the last of the Negro population on Hickory Ridge passed away. Thus ended the era of the Negro community.
In 1963 Hickory Ridge came to life again. On May 30 Gov. Conlie was on the Ridge to dedicate the North Central 4-H Club Camp. Gov. Conlie was introduced by Nicholas County Attorney, Charles Cox. A barbecued chicken dinner was enjoyed by the Governor and the audience, after which the crowd went to one of the new cabins built there, and watched Rachel Booth, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Booth, cut the ribbon. Soon another upward step was taken when a number of local citizens organized and planned a lake project on Hickory Ridge. There some citizens and other interested people bought into along the six miles of lake shore. Many cottages used for summer homes and also year round homes may be seen dotting the shore line. The lake, known as Lake Carnico, furnishes water for the

dwellers and other local people. For recreation there is fishing, boating, and swimming for the public.
So the old order changed yielding new place to the new. Hickory Ridge continues to serve its people in many ways according to the times, and the need.



Lisa Bishop, Carlisle Freshman, left, and Bonnie Spencer, Carlisle sophomore, register for summer school at Merchhead University. More than 1,000 persons have enrolled for the eight-week term which ends Aug. 1.

Summer sign-up
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It's wise to use electricity...use it wisely!

County honors its greatest philanthropist--Dr. Mathers

by Mrs. J. Vinnet Layton
Dr. Charles W. Mathers, native of Nicholas county, was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati Medical School. After graduation he married Naomi Orr of the Walnut Grove Pike and practiced medicine in Cincinnati until he contracted tuberculosis. He resided in the homes of the Orrs and

W. Mc. Layton, his brother-in-law. He continued his practice in Nicholas county, while living on the farm his wife inherited at her father's death. Later he bought a farm on the Carpenter Road where he was living when he died at the age of 73. After the death of his first wife he married Mrs. Ada Mangler Lee of Carlisle, who survived him. He had

children. The Hospital Trust Fund for Nicholas County (the Johnson-Mathers School Trust Fund for benefit of children in Pike and Butler counties in Eastern Kentucky, and the Midway Female Orphan School and Trust Co. of Nicholas County, Kentucky) was established through his generosity, today honor him.
He was a member of the House of Representatives in Frankfort, and a very successful farmer and businessman. An interesting anecdote is told by Mrs. A.E. Miller, Millersburg, De. Mathers not only called physicians his patients but, in this case, played dominoes with Mrs. Miller's grand-

Development Corp. continuously improves Lake Carnico

The Nicholas County Development Corporation continuously improves this 400 acre recreational area which provides swimming, boating and fishing, camping and picnicking facilities.
In 1973 additional lot owners were added to the lake development making it possible for the corporation to pay the last \$100,000 due on the project, which is now completely debt free. In addition,

the corporation had \$30,000 on time deposit and approximately \$15,000 in checking account.
The corporation enlarged the public beach area at an approximate cost of \$4,000. The picnic area was greatly improved. It planned to erect a cost of \$1,000. Roads and public grounds are continuously being improved through the picturesque Lake Carnico countryside.
The Carlisle County Club An affirmative vote was given in April, 1973, by the stockholders of the Nicholas County Development Corp. (Lake Carnico owners) to lease 46 acres of Lake Carnico land at a nominal fee

for the construction of a country club. Since that time the Carlisle County Club has progressed very rapidly. Fifty members were needed before construction could be begun. In one month of active membership recruitment, the 50 member goal was surpassed, and construction was underway.
Eighty-five families and several individuals have joined at an initial cost of \$800 each. Dues of \$200 and \$100 a year respectively are being collected this month.
Twelve elected directors, and a committee composed of approximately 60 members actively donated work on all phases of the planing and construction of the clubhouse, men and women's locker rooms, snack bar and pre-shop. It has been budgeted \$50,000. Eventually, as the club grows, it is hoped that a restaurant can be added.
The pool course which has been budgeted \$80,000 was opened June 1, 1974.
The swimming pool and tennis court have been budgeted \$40,000 and it is planned that they will be ready for use during this month.

Carlisle Bakery and Confectionery operated in 1882

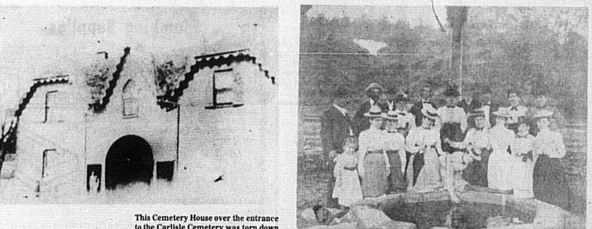
by Marguerite L. Graster
In writing some of the History of Carlisle for the Bicentennial, I will mention one of the oldest businesses of grocery, meat market, bakery and confectionery owned and operated by my father, Fred Graster Sr. in 1882.
In 1882 my father Frederick Graster Sr. built the brick building soon after he came to Carlisle. He purchased the lot from Henry Stewart. His brother, Jacob, was the baker and his partner. My father was in business with another brother, Chris, at Cynthia a short time before.
They came to the United States from Wartenberg, Germany on account of the military rule of Germany under Kaiser Wilhelm, which later proved to be their downfall.
My father was known for his honesty, when he died at the age of 48 in 1910. "The Mercury" stated he was never known to do a dirty trick. A good many

Irish immigrated to Nicholas county at that time, and many would give him their money to keep in his safe until they asked for it.
From a smaller beginning it gradually increased! Four people were employed in the grocery and meat market beside the family, Wood Darrall and Charles King. King was clerks for some time in 1911. John Walker was the wood cutter.
Skilled bakers were hired from the baker's home in Cincinnati. They mostly baked 200 or more loaves of bread a day and 400 small pies, besides fancy food for the cafeteria. At that time a loaf of bread sold for 10 cents a loaf, and made of the best ingredients. About the same size they now sell for 49 cents.
Bread was shipped by car or spring wagon to Bethel and Piquet, Ky. Also to Blue Licks in ventilated boxes to insure their freshness.
At one time 500 loaves of bread were sold for a barbecue picnic held in Braxton. Now sold for 49 cents or more. At Christmas there was a big display of Christmas goods, consisting of toys, dolls, games and wagons for children. Fancy vases were put on wide wooden tables in front of the window in the second store.
In 1914 we rented the grocery and bakery to John Hartman from Coffeyville, Kan. They rented for several years, but were not able to rent the three stores to one party, so began to rent the two separately.
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Caywood operated the grocery for several years. Mrs. Wallace Ledford (Miss Ina Brady) was clerk. Then the bakery and restaurant were sold to Joe Probst, who operated it for some time. James Vice rented, and stayed for the same time. Later R.W. Neal bought the bakery and lunch room. He retained the same

tables. Articles sold there for five and ten cents. Now sold for 49 cents or more. At Christmas there was a big display of Christmas goods, consisting of toys, dolls, games and wagons for children. Fancy vases were put on wide wooden tables in front of the window in the second store.
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Old Bakery and Delicatessen located in the Graster Building around 1922, owned by R.W. Neal. From left children, pictured with Mr. and Mrs. Neal.



Out of the past! Guests around the famous Blue Lick overflow! Submitted by Mrs. J.A. Spring in 1932. The Spring is full to standstill.

Mrs. J.A. Standford has submitted her research on Blue Lick Springs, and Blue Battlefield State Park, for "History of Nicholas County." She has also contributed several family histories and old home histories for the "History."

Blue Licks lineage

Col. Roy Shannon
Commentary by Roger C. Womack

Upper Blue Licks was first discovered in August 1773 by Major John Finlay with a surveying party from Pittsburgh. Lower Blue Licks was discovered four (4) days later by the same surveying party. The other distance was covered by boat or over land, it is not known.
Be it remembered that this Blue Licks territory was owned by England



Miss Marguerite Graster stands in front of the old area used in the Carlisle Bakery, owned and operated by her father, Fred Graster in the early 1900's. The area is at the back of the Graster Building located on Broadway—Janel Duncan photo.

Congratulations Nicholas County

175 YEARS

Allison's Grocery And Antiques