

Opinion

Ornamental lights can be dangerous

Severe fires, injuries and tragedies caused by miniature tree and ornamental lights made Christmas a not-so-merry season for many Americans last year.

The Kentucky Department for Human Resources (DHR) is joining the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission in a project to help eliminate the potential hazards caused by tree and ornamental lights. The project will be coordinated by DHR's Pesticide and Product Safety Branch.

Consumer deputies or volunteers working in the interest of the consumer will work closely with local health departments to screen some 500 stores in the Commonwealth carrying Christmas lights," according to E. Edsel Moore, branch manager.

Moore says that around 500 households in Louisville have volunteered to help retail merchants in Jefferson county check for the light problems.

Cracked sockets. This potential hazard in light strings can be worsened by installation or changing bulbs.

Loose and/or connectors. Used for plugging in additional lights, these inserts can fall out, exposing bare wires. Check the end of the plug or connector for loose or missing and/or inserts.

Exposed bare wires. Check for exposed bare wires where insulation has pulled back. If none is visible, grasp the wire about one inch from each socket and tug. If it comes loose, replace the wire with one in a crank-like fashion to the left and to the right, the wire insulation should not have moved to expose bare wires.

Exposed bulb contacts. Where the filament wires, which serve as the contact between bulb and socket, may be improperly trimmed or extended, presenting a shock hazard. Observe around the socket with bulb in place for these bulb-like wires exposed.

Exposed Socket Contact. Another electrical hazard occurs when the insulated wire at the point of entry to the socket becomes loose and slides through the socket, extending beyond the top. Insert and remove bulb several times to see if this happens when the bulb is removed.

Volunteer groups for conducting the screening procedures are also being established in Corbin, Danville, Hopkinsville and Richmond, according to Moore. Any group or person interested in DHR's screening project should contact the Pesticide and Product Safety Branch, Bureau for Health Services, Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

BETTY COULD USE A FEW MORE DANCING LESSONS

County extension agents **Edna J. Neffinger**, **Sharon Alexander**, **Mary Morgan Wilson**

WHAT DID WE LEARN? Betty could use a few more dancing lessons. The County Extension Agents, Edna J. Neffinger, Sharon Alexander, and Mary Morgan Wilson, were seen at a recent dance in the Nicholas County High School Gym. Betty is seen dancing with a partner.

Farm and Home

Banking is everybody's business

Executive Vice President of the American Bankers Association

On Oct. 28, 1975, an act of Congress formally decreed that all U.S. citizens—both male and female—must have a checking account at a bank, credit union, savings and loan, or other financial institution.

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Agree or Not

A series of bills has been filed for the 1976 General Assembly that would sharply curtail the PEOPLES RIGHT TO KNOW.

While these bills probably were filed under good intentions, they are not in the best interest of the people of this state. They are simply designed to provide more secrecy in government.

The Municipal League and assorted city officials cry that too much money is being spent on statutory required public notices which they say "aren't read." They have made no survey to prove these notices aren't read. They just make the statement and hope the legislators and the public believe it.

The basic intent of the 1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act, which went into effect Oct. 28, 1975, is to make it unlawful for any creditor to discriminate against any applicant for credit on the basis of sex or marital status in any credit transaction. The act and its regulations, completed by the Federal Reserve Board 12 days earlier, apply to all banks, finance companies, credit card issuers, department stores, and other major lenders.

Credit applicants should know, however, that the provisions of the new law will not go into effect immediately. A transition period has been built into many of them to allow time-consuming changes that will have to be made in printed forms, computer programming, and staff education.

Among the major provisions, and their effective dates, are these:

- Questions cannot be asked about birth control practices for childbearing capabilities or intention, effective Oct. 28, 1975.
- Credit-screening systems may not include sex or marital status, effective Nov. 30, 1975.
- When a husband and wife apply for a loan together, the lender must take into account all of the income of the wife, even if it is from a part-time job, at least the job he lists for her, effective Nov. 30, 1975.
- A creditor must count income received from alimony in determining eligibility for a loan as long as the payments are listed on the tax return consistently, effective Nov. 30, 1975.
- When requested by an applicant, creditors must provide the reasons for terminating or denying credit. This may be done either verbally or in writing, effective Jan. 31, 1976.
- To provide a credit history for women, information given to credit reporting agencies will have to be given in the names of both the husband and the wife, effective Jan. 31, 1976.
- In addition, the act provides that individuals who feel they have been discriminated against may file suit in federal court for damages of up to \$10,000.

All of this is not to say, however, that every applicant for credit in the future will automatically be better off. While the Equal Credit Opportunity Act provides for equal access to credit, it also preserves the lender's ability to distinguish, in his or her own judgment, between applicants who are credit-worthy and those who are not.

Agree or Not

of each employee is required to be published.

This lets the public know how the money is being spent and who gets it. For example, in one Eastern state, the county is the largest employer in the county this year, one coach got about \$10,000 for his coaching and several other duties supported by the county. Other coaches in the county, doing the same job, got about \$4,000 each. If the proposed bill passes, it opens up all sorts of methods for a superintendent to play favorites or punish people in his school system.

The uniform salary schedule, adopted several years ago, was supposed to foreclose this possibility, but some will find a way around it if you remove this protection.

The cost of required legal publications under present law is infinitesimal compared to the budgets of governing bodies and in the light of the value to keep the taxpayers informed. Teachers have been coached to parrot that publication of their salaries is denigrating to them. Salaries of all other public officials are known, and that single annual publication of teachers' salaries shouldn't be an exception. They'll appreciate the denigrating publication instead of being at the mercy of a superintendent who wants to play a political game.

As far as the State Journal is concerned, the publication of their required publications isn't of any importance to the total income. What is important is that the people get information about their government.

Second class offers now publish an index of the salaries of all state and local government employees and their dependents and income. This newspaper effect is a good enough and dedicated enough to keep the people informed about their local government.

What about the areas in the state which are not covered by the index? The only source of information to the citizens about the income and expenditures of their local government bodies? The majority of weekly newspapers don't have, and can't afford enough staff to do this job for the taxpayers.

The public has just gone through Watergate and secret workings of the FBI, CIA and other governmental agencies. Secrecy in government breeds corruption. We don't need any laws in Kentucky to encourage more of this activity and corruption.

Urges winter auto checks

"This fall's unusually heavy weather has undoubtedly resulted in more procrastination than ever before when it comes to getting cars checked for winter," said Commissioner Truett A. Hicks of the Kentucky State Police.

Hicks urged motorists to be wise no longer. "We have already been blessed with an extra month of the winter weather mild weather," he said, "and it's important that 'Old Man Winter' will make up for lost time."

In addition to the usual engine check and inspection of the cooling system for dependable starting, Hicks noted that it was equally important to check those items that directly affect the added hazards of winter driving and visibility.

Auto checks with good trends are important throughout the year, good deep treads are especially important on roads that are wet and slick. A little or no tread when stopping on ice or snow do increase pulling ability with an extra month of the winter weather mild weather," he said, "and it's important that 'Old Man Winter' will make up for lost time."

For severe snow and ice conditions, routine in both stopping and pulling ability and that you are prepared to use them.

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, Dec. 22, 1955
Led by the scoring touch of Ned Jennings and the aggressive forward play of Jackie Matthews, the Nicholas County Blue Jackets defeated their pre-champion basketball archrival Monday with a 54-41 victory over the Mayville Bluebirds.

Tred G. Francis, Prestonsburg, and husband of Marjorie Hopkins Branch, of Carlisle, was named as Miss Urs member of the Kentucky Board of Examiners by the Court of Appeals on Friday.

Mrs. Newton House of near 20 years.

20 and 40 years ago

Morefield submitted to surgery on Tuesday at the Bourbon County Hospital in Paris.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Dickey B. Hanks, Hancock, England, a daughter, Debra Dawn, Dec. 6.

MARRIED—Miss Phyllis Ann Truett, G. Francis, Prestonsburg, and husband of Marjorie Hopkins Branch, of Carlisle, was named as Miss Urs member of the Kentucky Board of Examiners by the Court of Appeals on Friday.

Mrs. Newton House of near 20 years.

Mercury vapors

By Warren R. Fisher

A two by four. Yes, the customer wants a two by four in this case it isn't a piece of timber.

The advertisement must be two columns wide by four inches in depth. After all the customer is nearly always right and it's our job to follow instructions.

Now the person or persons who must compose the ad sometimes get a mental block, they just don't see how everything will fit in the ordered space unless they use "itty bitty" text. Rather than use a lot of my trying to convince the customer that it's not possible to do in the space ordered, I bring out a larger sized area and let them fill the new size space to the best of their ability.

This little dodge works wonders! Not only does the ad advance to proper size, the type isn't crowded, and, of course, I had one advantage, I had consulted with my proportional scale and knew that a 20 percent increase would bring the job of type matter back to the correct size. The reduction of the smallest type larger than the Mercury's body type.

One of our employees suggested that they just put the figure on the back of the subscription card for reference. Now, Costa being rather frugal in my mind I suggested that we do it in the ordered size. It should satisfy the customer.

—MY—

Reasonably good bargains appeared this week at local market

Letters

place. And by good I mean those that are juicy and tart instead of pithy and bland.

Just now we experienced a "sweet tooth," this week it's a "fruit tooth," and next week it will be sugar plums dancing through our noggin. An occasional sipping of noggin, a little egg nog, and a little brandy and cognac provided it is properly seasoned.

—MY—

Circulation is up. Last week Mrs. Bobby Duncan and I attended a "Landmark" Community Center. Her circulation is up. I attended a "Landmark" Community Center. Her circulation is up. I attended a "Landmark" Community Center. Her circulation is up.

One of the several things that we retained was that newspapers are everything pertaining to news of their society. They have no place to go but up. With the Postal Department's plan to implement the "new" rate of 17¢ per copy, if money for printing the increase over an eight-year period is not appropriated, even carrier delivery begins to appear to the smaller publishers.

Mercury to a Florida address for three months. One of our employees suggested that they just put the figure on the back of the subscription card for reference. Now, Costa being rather frugal in my mind I suggested that we do it in the ordered size. It should satisfy the customer.

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LERMANS

HERE'S where the BARGAINS are

The Right Gifts at the Right Price-Here!

CALLING LATE SANTAS!

"must-have"

MENS SPORT SHIRTS

Polyester Turtle Neck LONG SLEEVES 6.99

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practical gifts for young fellows

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something lovely she can wear

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For Lounging Comfort Washable Nylon Anti-Static Sizes and Colors ANKLE LENGTH 16.99

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Celebrate the season with the coat you'll be wearing for... pick your favorite

SPECIAL SIZES 8-18 34.99

to sweeten her dreams

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Famous Katz-Movie Star Nylon and Brushed Tricot Long and Short Gowns \$3.99 OTHERS TO 6.99

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PANTY HOSE

Her Favorite shades Famous Name Maker 2 FOR \$1. Regular and Queen Sizes

Her Favorites

Sweaters Make a Hit

One Great Assortment of Bulky Knit Sweaters Reg. 5.98-\$8.99

MAKE DAD GLAD

He's wishing for HANDSOME SWEATERS

Cardigan Pullover Turtle Neck V-Neck Sizes thru X-L \$1. OFF Reg. Price

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Nothing like a gift... **TOWEL ENSEMBLES**

Bath Towels 1.99-2.99 Face Towels 99¢-1.99 Wash Cloths 75¢-99¢

The Famous Haggag \$12 Knit

100% Dacron Polyester Double Knit Machine Washable and Durable Wide Range of Colors

LERMANS

GIFT HEADQUARTERS

SPECIAL \$20.

Men's Leisure Shirts 8.99



The Hawks and Demons play a recent game in the Nicholas County High School Gym.

Jaycee Little League teams play four games Sunday

The Jaycee Little League basketball teams played four games Sunday afternoon, Dec. 14. The scores are as follows:

B Teams: Jets 9, Hawks 6; Jays-Robert Wooley, 1; Billy Spivey, 2; Clark King, 4; Hawks-4; Patriots 0, Raiders 0; Hornets 6, Rebels 6; Hornets-Brian Mattox, 2; Kent Payne, 4; Rebels-4; Colts 2, Demons 0; Colts-David Sadler, 2; Demons-4

A Teams: Jets 15, Hawks 14; Jays-Pat Knipek, 3; Clark Lyons, 2; Troy Bussell, 6; Patriots 8; Hawks-4; Hawks-George Ledford, 2; Mike Howard, 2; Tommy Fryman, 8; Mike Wooley, 5

Raiders 3, Patriots 8; Raiders-Greg Cartwright, 2; Galen Toliver, 4; Mark Taylor, 4; Pat Markland, 6; Kirk Taylor, 2; Billy Smith, 2; Patriots-Steve Myrta, 4; Randy Howard, 1; Mike Curtis, 1; John Myrta, 1

Rebels 4, Hornets 4; Rebels-Mike Webb, 2; Steve Hamblery, 2; Marvin Fredrick, 6; Greg Brett, 1; Steve Anderson, 8; Eric McGuffey, 2; David McCaffrey, 12; Kevin Wells, 4; Vince Wells, 1; Hornets-Billy Doyle, 2; Cliff Tamey, 2; Demons 2, Colts 2; Demons-Joe

Dear Santa...

Whatever you're stuffing stockings with this year, you can find more of at Hopkins Drug, and you can enjoy friendly red-carpet service

Homemakers meet

The Miranda Homemakers Club met Monday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Malcolm Wills for a potluck Christmas dinner. Assisting Mrs. Wills were Mrs. Eugene Stook, Mrs. Carolyn and Mrs. Russell Byler.

Thirty people attended. Mrs. Masley, Mrs. Ruth Vise and Mrs. Ruth Hollar were visitors.

The Christmas program was given after dinner by members entitled "Why the Christmas Range" by Raymond MacDonald and an exchange of gifts and caroling followed.

Business of the evening was plans of the community. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Mrs. Shaw.

The next meeting will be at a local restaurant in January.

Birds have caused state of emergency

Huddleston says

WASHINGTON—Senator Walter D. (Doc) Huddleston says he is "hopeful" that Interior Secretary Thomas Kluge will declare a state of emergency in certain areas of Kentucky with large concentrations of blackbirds that are congregating in large numbers.

Huddleston said Kluge can be used to eradicate the roosts.

Other members of the Kentucky congressional delegation met this week with Kluge to urge his action in the emergency response, which is necessary to avoid lengthy delays while the federal government's impact statement is being prepared.

The Kentucky senator said the presence of the large disease histoplasmosis in areas where the birds congregate is ample evidence of the emergency.

"We have been lucky that no one has died from the disease," Huddleston added.

He also urged Kluge to expedite the environmental impact statement so that a nationwide program of blackbird control can be implemented.

"This is a problem that affects the entire Eastern United States," he said, "and it's not just a matter of 77 roosts, but more than a million birds in this section of the country."

Russell Stover Candles

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Hair Brush Sets

Perfumes

Colognes

Timex Watches

Electric Razors

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Lighters

Billfolds

Cameras

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