Opinion

Oral History interest seems lacking in county

Only four organizations were represented at the Nov. 17 Oral History meeting held at the Nicholas County Library. Representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Nicholas County Historical Society, the 4-H and FHA attended the meeting as Margaret Price, assistant secretary to the Kentucky Bicentennial Oral History Commission, explained the statewide project.

The Kentucky Bicentennial Oral History Commission was created earlier this year by the General Assembly. Chairman Al Smith, a Russellville newspaper publisher, and president of the Kentucky Press Association, said the commission was formed to preserve the unwritten history of the Commonwealth by taping conversations with prominent and influential citizens as well as older citizens of the state.

Miss Price explained that every county library has been equipped with recording equipment and a training program has been carried out to enable the county library staff to assist local people in conducting interviews in their counties.

The problem is that nobody seems to want to chair this project locally, nor does any group of people seem interested in forming a committee to oversee this project.

It seems to us that one representative from each organization could be assigned to a committee so that Nicholas county can participate in this historical project without too much work for any one person.

We have just published **The History of Nicholas County** and it may be that since this book is now available, we feel we don't need any more history—especially that we don't want to get into another mammoth historical project so soon after this one has been finally finished.

But, the Oral History Project could become invaluable locally. If used as it is planned, much of the information which is not included in the History could be recorded orally.

All of the equipment is being furnished free by the state. Two hundred blank tapes are available at the local library for this purpose. The Forest Retreat dedication was taped and is the one and only tape that has been recorded in Nicholas county.

Are there any of you readers who think that this project is a worthwhile one? And, if so, are you willing to help with it?

Surely there are some history buffs in the county somewhere who might have a little extra time to devote.

Any interested persons are asked to contact Mrs. Taylor Snelling at the library.

A peek at the new congress

It's too early, of course, to predict with accuracy what the philosophical makeup of the newly elected Congress will be. There were many turnovers among the 435 members of the House, and 37 of the 100 Senate seats will be held by newcomers when the 95th Congress convenes in January.

What is apparent, however, is that the political balance of Congress remains about the same. That is, Democrats enjoy a margin of 62 to 38 in the Senate, and a cool two-to-one majority in the House. In the statehouses, meantime, Democrats likewise have overwhelming strength of about three governors for every one GOP governor.

Many observers regard the 94th Congress which ended last month as one of the sorriest on record. Filled with a huge freshman class of Democrats elected in 1974 in the wake of Watergate, the 94th will be remembered for its profligate spending—including a pay hike for itself cynically tied henceforth to the cost of living—and repeated scandals involving violations of both personal and public trust. It was the Congress that fiddled while the nation's most serious problems, including energy, continued to burn out of control.

The stalemate that persisted, with a spendthrift Democratic Congress on one hand and a determined Republican President on the other, was by no means ideal government. It was better, however, that the national bankruptcy that some irresponsible members of the 94th seemed determined to bring upon the country.

We now shudder a bit to contemplate the fact that a similarly balanced Congress will be faced by fellow Democrat Jimmy Carter in the White House. Whether he will have the desire or courage to check the excesses of Capitol Hill remains to be seen.

On a positive note, Americans concerned about the nation's solvency and its defense posture couldn't help be pleased by the defeat at the polls of some very liberal members—such as New York's Bella Abzug and Hawaii's Patsy Mink, who lost in the primary, and Democratic Senators John Tunney, Vance Hartke and Frank Moss who lost in the general election.

We can only hope that the men and women of Capitol Hill, regardless of their political affiliation, will put such differences aside and act responsibly over the next two years for the best long-range interests of the nation as a whole.

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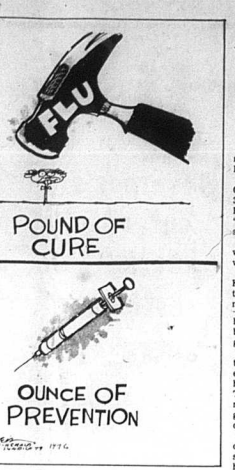


20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, December 6, 1956

Roy Hutchison, Nicholas County Guidance Counselor, recently presented the first hand of "Tobacco for Polio" to J.T. Hammonds, president of Nicholas County F.F.A. Joe F. Conley is March of Dimes campaign chairman for Nicholas county.

Nellie Crump reports on the departure and arrival of Mr. and Mrs. E.N. Grieve of County Cork, Ireland to Carlisle. They are the parents of Mrs. William E. Woodall.

Miss Thelma Cook entertained Sunday with a birthday dinner in celebration of her mother, Mrs. Anna Bell Cook's birthday.

Dr. Wendell Kingsolver has opened temporary offices in the second floor apartment over the First National Bank Building on Locust Street, for the practice of his profession.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Alton Barlow, Moorefield, a son, James Alton, Dec. 2.—To Lieut. and Mrs. Jack Bowen, Washington, D.C., a son, James Douglas, Dec. 3.

DIED—Mrs. Elizabeth Maud Hunter, 84, at her home last Wednesday.—Charles Wise (Jack) Colliver, 67, at his home in Sarasota, Fla., last Thursday.—George Woodford Shrout, 63, Myers, Tuesday.

Thursday, December 3, 1936

The largest sale of lambs in several years featured sales by the local livestock market Tuesday when 466 sheep and lambs were sold. A total of 1,056 head of livestock was sold.

Glenn Clay left last Saturday for Chicago where he will attend the National 4-H Club Congress and the International Livestock Exposition. He was awarded a free trip by the Bourbon Stock Yards Company of Louisville, which was first prize in an essay contest.

J.C. Cartmill and Reynolds Green were picked for the All-Central Kentucky Conference football team. The two are members of the Carlisle High School Musketeer team.

Mrs. J.W. Burns is repairing her home on Broadway, which was badly damaged by fire a month ago.

The Carlisle water works lake is again becoming low, and citizens are urged to conserve water.

Dr. J.B. Shannon of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, purchased the 78-acre farm of the late T.D. Campbell Saturday at public auction for $61 per acre.

Hunters report rabbits as being scarcer than at any time in several years. Dealers are paying $1.50 to $1.80 per dozen.

MARRIED—Miss Lucille Pumphrey and Clay Richey, both of the county, Thanksgiving Day.—Mrs. Elizabeth Rankin Bell and Reuben M. Fitch on Friday, Nov. 27.

Agree or not

by S.C. Van Curon

Coal will assume a more important role in the education program in Kentucky beginning Jan. 1.

Under a new law passed by the 1976 General Assembly, the state will put a 31.5 cent tax on coal reserves under House Bill 4, the bill known as the "power equalization bill" for public school financing.

Heretofore, coal reserves (in place) were taxed at 1.5 cents per $100 valuation.

According to the current issue of the Kentucky Coal Journal, the state and the coal industry are facing a monumental task in locating and listing all the coal reserves for taxable purposes.

Kentucky's estimated reserves are 30 billion tons, minus what's recoverable. The Revenue Department seems to believe that not all reserves are now listed for taxable purposes since the very small tax was left up to local property evaluation administrators and they don't have the machinery to search out and record all reserves.

The coal industry is being called upon to help in getting the coal reserves on the tax rolls of counties.

Last year, mineral owners declared the value of coal in-place at about $100 million. At the low rate, the state collected $15,000. At the new rate on the same basis of evaluation, the state stands to collect $300,000, but this was not estimated as income in the present budget.

All coal operators who pay severance tax to the state will be asked to help in locating the reserves, whether they own the coal or not. Operators will start getting forms from the state shortly to help in the task: to identify all coal reserves, and to identify who owns them.

First off, the reader should understand that there is a vast difference in value of coal in-place and mined coal. The mineral really has no value until it is mined and placed on the market. It becomes valuable then, but it does have

*Please turn to page 4

Letters

To The Carlisle Mercury:

I hope that I will be allowed to impose upon Warren and the good Mercury to express an opinion. I understand that it is an unwritten law more or less that one has a right of opinion though anyone doesn't have to agree.

Any way, the only sour note to Kentucky's victory over Tennessee was a picture of 'Happy' Candler of Handler or whatever his name is, having the game ball saying Curci had given it to him and that he, Happy, would carry it back to Kentucky and most probably give it back to Curci.

I guess that's o.k. but I'm positive there were some very true, ardent and eligible Kentucky alumni that could have been given the honor, not a Transylvania former student. I have nothing against Transylvania, the greatest of the great schools in my opinion.

I did not take the opportunity to go to college—just some night work—and sometimes I feel very fortunate not to have gone for "a little education can be a dangerous thing!"

It's just a fine "how do you do!"

Very truly,
Bob George
207 W. Third St.
Corbin, Ky. 40701

Mercury Vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Sees a lot of use

Our copy of Webster's New Collegiate dictionary sees a lot of use, but when your eye fails to stay on the proper line and a big head in an ad comes out with "cxlender" instead of calendar, my face becomes a mite red.

—MV—

Brr cold

Was talking to my better half the other evening and she allowed as how she'd like to come home, and when was I planning to fetch her. It wasn't that she didn't like the summer climate of Florida, but I do believe she's missing being home.

Hopefully when I do manage to journey toward the warmer clime, one

can only pray that the weather wasn't like it was this morning (Monday) as shown in the Janie Duncan photo herewith.

—MV—

Now that I've got it

Things digital of the electronic variety have fascinated me since I got a good workout with the CompuWriter nearly five years ago. So it's only logical that sooner or later I would succumb and purchase a kit called a digital electronic indoor/outdoor thermometer.

If and when I get it constructed and calibrated I can have my temperature in Fahrenheit or Celsius, there won't be anymore straining to read the old mercury type in the early morning hours.

They've even promised, if I'm to believe the printed page, an accuracy of plus or minus 2° from minus 30° to plus 20° and plus or minus 1°F from plus 20° to plus 120°F. At the moment there's one thing I'm beginning to doubt they call it a "fun-to-build kit". Well we shall see.

—MV—

A stomach full, 57 dozen oysters

It only took Vernon Bass of Osprey, Florida, 1230 seconds to gulp down 684 oysters, beating his old world record of 568 oysters set last year. The contest held annually at Walt's Fish Market and Restaurant, Sarasota, attracted 15 contestants and 200 spectators. His nearest competitor ate a mere 30 dozen oysters.

Then less than three hours after the contest Bass ate a supper of steak, rice and gravy, rolls, two glasses of iced tea, a glass of milk, cake and ice cream.

The above information was gleaned from an article appearing in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune written by Jeff Stanfield.

To Washington . . . with love and other Southern-fried goodies

"The last time there was this much clicking of suitcase locks in Atlanta was when Mr. Sherman came to town," a Georgia wit said the other day. 'And the time it is Johnny Reb who is going to cut a wide swathe through Yankeeland.

Most of them have been to Washington before—with their high school senior classes. Only this time they will be met by land peddlers instead of tour guides and get some choice real estate laid on them at prices that would curdle a peach cobbler.

But shoot-fire and hot-dang. They have been picked by the greatest grinner since Rhett Butler drove into Tara with his glimmers on bright. And they will be filling a plum pudding cooked up by a good old country boy from the peanut patches around Plains showing those northern carpetbaggers the South is about to rise again. This particular plum pudding is made from a 139-page government recipe with 2,200 ingredients ranging from such common condiments as secretary to such a rare spice as Secretary of State.

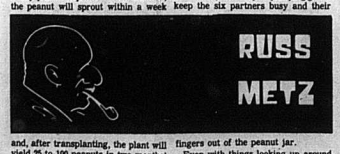
Atlanta is burning again—this time fired by the ambition of a whole passel of the chosen ones making an exodus to the promised land where the streets are paved with gold, marred only by shoe sole scuff marks from people scratching off from muggers. It is a scene straight out of Holywood, with Charlton Carter commanding the GOP Sea to part so he can lead his people out of bondage.

"I told you I intended to win," he had said. Just like Moses told the Egyptian administration. This is no indication the Lord burned any bushes to let him know he was the chosen one, but somebody up there must have liked him, to show him the way to the pork barrel.

Meanwhile back at the ranch... George Washington Carver may have voted for Jimmy Earl Carter, but it is doubtful he would have been amused by the ways his peanut is being palmed off on the public. Carver invented the peanut to give poor young black children peanut butter sandwiches at night so they wouldn't have to go to bed hungry.

Now that the silly season has set in, promoters are trying to capitalize on the Peanut Prince with such gimmicks as "Grow Your Own Goobers" and "Peanuts from Plains."

Peanut Power, one of them, offers a 69-cent card bearing one raw peanut in a tiny plastic capsule. When watered, the peanut will sprout within a week



and, after transplanting, the plant will yield 25 to 100 peanuts in two months' time. Just in time for watching spring baseball practice.

But the good old boys from around Plains have tied up their possum hounds, redone a filling station and, with Jimmy's brother, Billy, supplying the seeds from his warehouse, opened "peanuts from Plains."

For $3.50 you get a mail order kit, complete with seeds, pot and recipes for the finished product. The boys will also peddle a few pine cones, pecans and local firewood to make ends meet. They will keep on pumping gas to keep the six partners busy and their fingers out of the peanut jar.

Even with things looking up around this Georgia village, one family is moving out. He's found work up north and the family is not sure what they should take with them on the truck.

"I'm like to take my leather work boots," said Jimmy. "They have been on every manure spreader in Dixie and might get as famous as Adlai Stevenson's holey sneakers."

"Not unless I can take my clogging shoes," wife Rosalynn said. "I just can't wait to walk on Ronald Reagan's toes the first time we have a hoedown in the Blue Room."

"Can I take my Raggedy Ann doll, Mommy?" little Amy chided in.

"Of course, if there is room after you have packed your Aunt Jemima doll and your Bionic Puerto Rican set."

"But Mummy, I don't play with those anymore."

"Where you are going to school, honey, they are not playthings. It's more of a survival kit."

"Maybe I'll take my blue ribbed sweater to give the Oval Office a down-home look," said Big Jim.

"Be sure to load up my wicker rocking chair," said Miss Lillian. "I want to sit and rock and gab with the neighbors that pass by. Maybe pick up a few good rumors to bring back home."

"I want to remember to take my loaded softball bat, too. It's the only way I can get even with the Press Corps," Jim said.

"Mummy, can I take my Alice in Wonderland cutout book?"

"You won't need it, honey. Your old daddy will bring home some weirder characters than you have in that book. Then he'll play with you and we'll cut them out and nail them to the wall and throw darts at them. You gonna like this fun game, honey child," Rosie said.

"And my girlie spy-glass, the one Hugh Hefner gave me of all the Playboy center-fold cuties last year. Maybe I can trade it to an Arab for an oil concession."

"I'd kind of like to have a CB radio to modulate with those good old Georgia boys who come humpin' their 18-wheelers past our house up nawth," Rosie drawled. "And I have an idea just where I could pick one up, with a handle I can live with."

"Climb aboard, gang, we're off to the big city," JEC told them.

"You done us proud, Jim boy," Miss Lillian said. "Folks around here are going to remember you for a long time."

Onward, upward.

RUSS METZ

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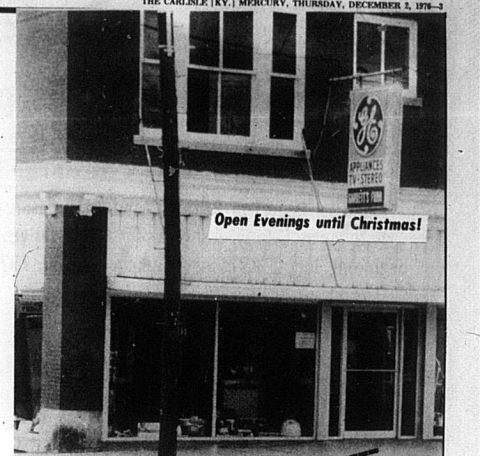

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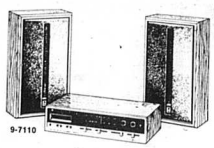

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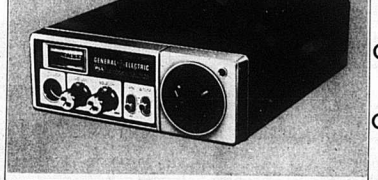

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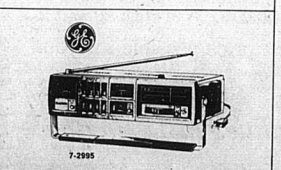

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