Opinion

Bicentennial of 1976

Our Bicentennial Year of 1976 will come to a close Friday at midnight. This time also marks the beginning of a new year—a time to renew old friendships and make new ones.

The Carlisle Mercury staff wishes to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and friendship during the past year, and to ask your continued help and good will in the coming year.

Because we are a small staff putting out a newspaper in a small community, we experience a closeness with our readers which we know is reciprocated by the majority. We know this because many readers are kind enough to tell us so.

Some tell us when we do something wrong too! And, when we do something wrong, we try to correct it.

We try to promote worthy causes whenever we see one locally. We try to inform our readers about all the happenings in Nicholas county. We realize that we have limitations in this area because we are small and, therefore can't be everywhere. But, with the continued help of those who assist us, we will continue to cover most of it.

As this New Year begins, we pledge our continued friendship to our readers through the weekly Carlisle Mercury. We pledge to do our best to inform you about our community. And, we pledge to support our community in every way we possibly can.

To this end, may we join with all our fellow readers in wishing all of you a "Happy New Year."

The mirage of tax reform

President-elect Jimmy Carter has promised to make tax reform a high priority of his administration, and to close some of those so-called tax loopholes. Although this has considerable appeal to many taxpayers, who have visions of seeing their own burden lessened as the rich are soaked with heavier taxes, in truth it's not that simple.

First of all, what is one man's "legitimate deduction," is another's "loophole." For example, Carter was charged in the campaign with wanting to do away with interest deductions on home-loan mortgages (a charge he quickly denied). Citizens who don't own homes may well regard such deductions as "loopholes," while millions of home owners obviously would disagree. And so it goes with other deductions.

Some cool-thinking analysts have cut through the rhetoric of tax reform to conclude that when and if the great majority of such "loopholes" are finally eliminated, the burden to the average taxpayer will be increased, not decreased.

A recent publication of American Views, for example, notes that in 1972, 53 percent of personal income in the U.S.—about $500 billion—evaded the Federal income tax net.

"To begin with," notes the Sept. 13 issue of the publication, " . . . $155 billion of tax-free income in 1972 consisted of the personal exemption at $750 a head." Although this is a deduction every taxpayer enjoys, it is by far the biggest "loophole" in the law.

Now, no one is really suggesting that the personal exemption be eliminated. But what about these other expensive "loopholes" in 1972: $93 billion worth of "social" deductions (Social Security, welfare payments, veterans' benefits, etc.); $70 billion worth of standard deductions (utilized mainly by low-to-middle income persons in lieu of itemizing deductions); $36.2 billion for state and local taxes; or $27.3 billion for interest payments.

It is true that there are a very small number of wealthy Americans who pay no federal income tax, e.g., 112 citizens with a gross adjusted income of $200,000 or more in 1970. But even if they together had contributed another $100 billion to the Treasury—a ridiculously high figure—they would have given Uncle Sam only enough to run the government for about 45 minutes.

The real road to a lessened burden on the average American taxpayer lies not through closing tax loopholes, but through decreased federal spending. And if Mr. Carter persists in saying otherwise as President, he either will continue to be badly misinformed or will be politically captive to that small fraction of low-income citizens who alone might benefit from having the overwhelming majority of Americans taxed harder.

Be good to your eyes

Reading the printed page—just as you are doing now—makes the most intense demands on the human eye during a normal lifetime. There is a right way to read and a wrong way to read, and the way you choose may determine just how long your eyes will allow you to read without tiring.

Know that your eyes are physically capable of reading. The Kentucky Society for the Prevention of Blindness recommends that vision should be checked regularly by an eye doctor. "This is particularly important for the child before entering school, or the adult 40 and over who is susceptible to the various eye ailments and problems that go with aging," says Elinor Zollinger, executive director of the Society.

"Next to proper eye health, correct lighting is the key requirement for good reading vision," she continued. This includes the proper amount and quality of illumination, freedom from glare, and the posture of the reader.

When reading, do not limit the lighting to your book, leaving the rest of the room dim. Sharp contrast between the bright page and the dark background is tiring on the eyes, so be sure the room is evenly lighted while you read. This is especially true when reading in bed.

After reading for a prolonged period of time, give your eyes a rest by closing them briefly or by looking at a more distant object.

For free information on better eye health and safety, write to Prevent Blindness, Box 132, Louisville, Ky. 40201.

'You're lucky, pal; I've been here ever since some clown vetoed the jobs bill.'

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, January 3, 1957

Miss Judy Galbraith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Galbraith, student at Carlisle High School, has been named Nicholas county winner in the Soil Conservation Essay Contest and will receive a $25 Savings Bond. Lillian Riggs, student at Nicholas County High School, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Riggs, won second place.

The Carlisle Deposit Bank began the 91st year of service to Nicholas county Wednesday with resources totaling $3,141,735.63.

Emery Clark Jr. qualified for the fall quarter Dean's List at Alabama Polytechnic Institute. He is a student in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Sorency Lyons Jr., a daughter, Dec. 15.—To Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Hamilton of Barterville, a son, Paul Noel, Dec. 20.—To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Duncan, a daughter, Sharon Eleaine, Dec. 22.—To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones, a daughter, Evelyn Sue, Dec. 30.

MARRIED—Miss Naomi Watkins to J.R. Hatton Jr., both of Sharpsburg, Dec. 29 in Mt. Sterling.—Miss Ann Fryman to Harry Miller, Maysville, Dec. 24 in Lawrenceburg, Ind.—Miss Jo Ann Alexander, Cowan, to Thomas C. Price, Licking, Dec. 24.—Miss Marylene Watkins to Johnnie G. Fryman, Sunday at Saltwell Methodist Church.

Thursday, December 31, 1936

John Coborn Tureman, 69, for more than 40 years a druggist in Carlisle, died at the Johnson Memorial Hospital Sunday following an illness of five days with pneumonia.

Six hundred sacks filled with candy and fruit were distributed among children of Nicholas county by the American Legion.

The young ladies of the town have issued invitations for a Leap Year dance on Wednesday night at the city school gymnasium.

The warmest December weather in years has prevailed in this section during the past week.

Prying loose a window thieves broke into a barn of Sam Smith near town Tuesday night and stole a quantity of tobacco. This was the second time within two weeks that tobacco has been stolen from the barn.

MARRIED—Miss Lucy Ellen Guy and Harold Jones, all of Bethel on Dec. 24.—Miss Hazel Smith and Nelson McCall, all of North Middletown, Dec. 28.—Miss Kathryn Lester Gibson and Joseph Frank Conley Wednesday morning at the home of the officiating minister, Rev. Father John Dant, pastor of St. John's Catholic Church.

SENSING THE NEWS

by Anthony Harrigan

A STORY OF ENTERPRISE

The story of American enterprise needs to be told and retold. Moreover, new chapters in this epochal story are discovered from time to time. One of these new chapters concerns the development of the automobile.

The automobile changed American life. It ended isolation for millions of people on farms and in small towns. It opened up new horizons and opportunities. Some commentators say that Americans value their automobiles more than their homes. No doubt that's an exaggeration. But it is the automobile which gives Americans their extraordinary mobility for work and pleasure. The price of gasoline will have to rise very high indeed before Americans will abandon their personal cars and return to the rigidities of mass transportation.

The history of the development of the automobile is the history of business innovators in our society, pioneers on a technological frontier. One of these pioneers, whose story should be more widely known, is John William Lambert of Ohio. Though the Duryea Brothers are usually credited with building the first successful automobile, John Lambert was driving a gasoline-powered automobile on the main street of Ohio City, Ohio, a year earlier than the Duryeas produced their vehicle.

Antique Automobile published the full story. In 1885, Mr. Lambert was a successful businessman in Ohio City. He owned the local grain elevator, an implement store, the town's opera house, the town hall—even the town jail. In 1890, he applied for a patent on a stationary, three-cylinder gasoline engine. He designed a three-wheel buggy with a view to powering it with the gasoline engine. He issued a sale brochure describing the vehicle, which was mailed during the first part of February 1891. Later that month, America's first automobile was in operation on the streets of Ohio City.

While Mr. Lambert's pioneer effort didn't get into all the history books, his business boomed. He built stationary engines and a variety of motor vehicles. In 1902, the Union Automobile Co. was formed, and production soon reached a rate of 10 cars a month. In 1905, Mr. Lambert formed the Lambert Automobile Company of Anderson, Ind., and commenced the manufacture of automobiles, trucks, fire engines, and farm tractors. By 1910, the company was producing 3,000 cars and trucks a year.

After the first world war, the Lambert Co. realized that automobile production had to be conducted on a very large scale. Therefore, it moved into other areas of manufacturing. However, the Lambert Co. continues to exist today, with factories in Ohio.

It is fascinating to realize how the great automotive industry in the United States began with creative individuals with tremendous inventiveness and a determination to overcome technical problems. In the case of John Lambert, as in the case of so many other enterprising Americans, one finds a combination of engineering and business interests and talents.

John Chamberlain,—the economic historian, has observed that many anti-business theorists attempt to drive distinctions between engineers and businessmen, "with the idea that productive and money-making have little in common, and that a price system lives and flourishes only through planned sabotage of fecundity."

The career of John William Lambert shows that the free enterprise system flourished in the United States because the risk-taking enterpriser was often the inventor and technician.

Agree or not

by S.C. Van Curen

Legislators probably have learned more about the actual earnings of county officials through the fee system this special session than they have ever known before.

Reason is, under the new court system that is being established, provisions must be made in a special budget to pay the salaries since the new court system will take all of the fees and fines that now go to the local courts and redistribute part of it back to the cities and counties.

Circuit Court Clerks were able to stop a strong-arm move initiated by county court clerks to take the issuance of driver and boater licenses away from the circuit clerk and put it in the county court clerks' offices. There is a fee for the issuing office.

County clerks had argued that they would lose a large amount of fees since the new district court bill takes all judicial duties away from county judges. This means fewer fees and less income for the county clerks, and they wanted to make up this loss by stripping circuit clerks of the driving license fees and boating fees.

Circuit clerks will have the duties of waiting on district courts, circuit courts, and the Court of Appeals when these three member panels sit in their counties. They will get their pay from the state and not through the fee system.

When it came to setting the salaries of circuit court clerks, this was when the big revelation was made of how much the clerks are actually making from their offices now. To get an insight on what they were earning the legislature went to the county employes retirement system to see how much each clerk was making, for they pay a percentage of their income to the retirement system.

Several circuit clerks went to the legislative committee handling this bill and to the leadership of the legislature to ask for larger salaries than the retirement system showed they were reporting.

Some clerks in the past have stoutly maintained that they were not making as much in salary from fees collected by the office as the statutes allow them for salary.

The plea that "I make more in salary than the retirement system shows" raised some legislative eyebrows. This raised to the surface suspicions held by some legislators that not all county officials are returning all the fees they are collecting through their offices.

Not the top salaries of all county officials through the fee system are set by statute, but not all county officials earn the top limit for their offices don't collect sufficient money.

However, in many counties the officials are earning the statutory limit.

Through the years the state auditor's office finds a wayward county official who is not reporting collections above the expenses for operating his office.

Some experienced legislators are now beginning to think that the new court system will collect more in fees, fines and forfeiture than was estimated by the state when trying to learn how much the state might be able to return to the counties and cities to replace in part what the new court system is taking away.

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Carlisle and Nicholas County

Carlisle Drug Co.

Cowboys who teetotal . . . should not buy tight-fitting boots

"Why are you limping?" I asked a buddy of mine as he came hobbling down the street with one foot in the gutter and the other on the curb. "Did a wild cayuse throw you or those crazy boots you got on lead you down some primrose path?"

He was wearing a pair of fancy cowboy boots so self-respecting cowboy would wear to a hog-killing. Made him look like he was walking on Christmas trees.

"I'm heading up a lynching party to go back up to Ohio and string up the dirty dog who sold me these things," he growled. "They don't fit."

"I figured as much, but you do have to admit they make you authentic, like a crippled up drug store cowboy," I tried to tell him.

My old buddy had gone up to Ohio to freeload off some of his prosperous relatives, who had left the hills to make it in the big city. There he ran into this place where a genuine ex-cowboy was selling genuine hand-made cowboy boots at a genuine steal.

The cagey peddler had claimed he had ridden with Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, which would have made him 100 years old, by any stretch of fifth grade arithmetic if any of his customers were smart enough to figure it out.

Anyway, when my friend tried on the $85 boots, he complained they felt a bit tight. "Cowboy boots are supposed to fit tight, like a glove," the old geezer told him.

That should have been a clue as to why so many cowboys die with their boots on, but blisters later when he took the boots back, the man refused to refund his money. "You didn't break them in right," the man told him.

"How were you supposed to break them in?" I asked.

"Like a cowboy when he bought a new pair of boots, he said."

"How's that?"

"He'd put them on and walk into the nearest bar and order two glasses of water and a bottle of redeye," he said. "Then he'd pour a glass of water down into each boot and the whiskey into his hide. By the time he sobered up, his boots would fit."

"I'll get a rope," I told my buddy.

Getting your money back is often the rub. I know another fellow, who ordered a gizzwhizz through the mails from a company that advertised "Money back if not satisfied."

The item was a piece of junk and the chap sent it back and demanded his money back. No way, the clip-joint told him.

"We advertised, money back if not satisfied," they told him. "We are satisfied with your money and therefore are keeping it."

--RM--

Another one of those times in life that tries men's souls is when he gets a questionaire from a high-powered outfit which indicates he has finally received the recognition he knew all along he darned well deserved. They want to put his name in a Who's Who.

The first reaction is one of high elation that the world has finally come around to realizing what you knew all along: that you are strictly high octane and the world never would have made it without your contribuiton.

Then it all begins to fade as soon as you get down to the nitty-gritty of filling in the blank spaces on the test sheet. You can think of a million things you've done that ought to elevate you to saintHood until you try to list them. It is shattering when you suddenly realize that you have spent the last 30 years doing nothing worth writing about.

It doesn't help much that you were tall-twister of the Lions Club for 27 years. Who hasn't been? Or that you served as chariman of the Dad's Committee on Pencils and Teacher Cruelty. Who hasn't?

All these things just don't seem fitting to an august character such as you. Then you begin to see where you went wrong. While you were busy hustling up the beans and bacon for the brood, your more illustrious friends were carving niches for posterity or wherever they store niches.

That year you turned down the chance to head up the Barred Rock Backyard Poultry Growers' Association because of bursitis, the time you were slated for great things in the Black Jacket Bicycle Club and your front tire went flat on the way to the election meeting.

You had the healthiest petunias in town, the cleanest car and your screens down before the first snow. But while you were doing your duty on the homefront, your eager-beaver buddies were racking up the marks for Who's Who status. Public image is the thing Who's Whos are made of. And a pinch of egotism thrown in.

About twice a year, we are tapped for a Who's Who. The selective organizations tell me they can't wait to get my dynamite biography—plus $35 to cover cost of printing the book and supporting the publisher's living style. A crisp 100 bill will automatically insure me full-page status, generally reserved for only the VPIs.

I once knew an old coot, who spent a lifetime building up a small factory into a world leader in its line. He didn't realize how important he was until he got suckered into a Who's Who trap. The day his copy arrived, he retired and spent his declining days studying the volume of the mutual admiration society and wonder how in common sense those other clods could be considered on the same plateau with him.

Who's Who leaves me cold. Somehow I get the idea the cat putting it out already knows about me. He just wants to see how far I carry a joke. Aside from trying to put everybody on the road west, Horace Greeley put out another choice piece of advice to a likely Who's Who candidate.

A congressman said to Greeley, "I am a self-made man."

To which old Horace replied, "That sure relieves the Almighty of a great responsibility."

I have always wanted to fill out one of those questionaires with a description of my wife being the 32nd lineal descendent of Beowulf's monster.

What makes me chicken out is that they might trace it out and ruin a perfectly beautiful friendship.

Onward, upward.

Wells Produce

Economic activity can be sustained in '77

Continued from page one

the 1973-1974 peak range. Year-ago comparisons in 1977 will reveal more limited gains, but the net result for the full year should be an increase of about 4% over 1976. This will not match the expected climb in the real GNP because the production index does not include services—and make-work programs to reduce the jobless ranks will doubtless emphasize service-type employment. Still, industrial production will move into new high ground, at least during the first half of the new year. Among the stronger lines should be autos and trucks, motor vehicle parts (both original and replacement items), aluminum, fabricated metal products, lumber and forest products, computer and peripheral equipment, home furnishings, and minerals extraction (assuming no protracted coal mine strike).

CHANGE IN INVENTORY POLICIES?

During parts of 1973 and 1974, businessmen unwisely stockpiled inventories in anticipation of higher prices and possible shortages, and at a time of already brisk demand. This demand sustained business at a peak level some six months or so, but when the inevitable correction arrived, virtual panic liquidation precipitated the painful recession of late 1974 and early 1975. Since then, inventory policies have been wary. Until recently there has been little incentive to do much in the way of forward buying. After all, consumer demand has been indecisive and spotty, prices have ruled on the weak side, and there has been more than enough productive capacity for most items. But some inventory accumulation is likely, much of this in steel and ferrous-based products as a hedge against a possible steel strike. Stronger consumer demand and the upturn in industrial commodity prices will also encourage forward buying, though we doubt that inventory accumulation will be carried to excess.

MORE SUPPORT FROM CAPITAL SPENDING

Economic observers who have been skeptical of the lasting power of the current business recovery point to the lack of vibrancy in business investment for new plant and equipment. This is not an abnormal development, however, during the early-to-middle phase of an economic cyclical expansion. At such a time, the fact of ample underutilized productive capacity forces management to focus on the activation of existing facilities. Not until the surplus productive capacity diminishes will budget allocations for new capital equipment become markedly more liberal.

While there are still differences of opinion as to how much surplus productive capacity actually exists in the economy, the rate of industrial output has certainly reached a level where management thinking turns increasingly to the matter of hiking capacity and making overall operations more efficient. The fact is that 1976 has experienced some pickup in orders for capital equipment, though on a spotty basis. During 1977 we expect business capital outlays to advance approximately 10% over the 1976 average. Much of this will be the result of purchases of new equipment rather than large-scale construction of new plants or additions. Environmental protection requirements will continue to capture a significant share of business capital expenditures. So, there is little likelihood that 1977 will see a capital spending boom of the type that nurtured the periods of economic upsurge in the 1950s and 1960s, even though President-elect Carter's game plan for revitalizing the economy will likely incorporate some measures to stimulate business capital investment.

CORPORATE PROFITS

Business profits in 1976 scored a sizable increase over the year before. This reflected generally favorable raw materials costs, selected price increases, and high levels of operations. We anticipate another good increase in 1977, but the 10% of advance will doubtless be considerably slower than that of 1976. On the strength of the projected further climb in business, a 9% gain in business profits for 1977 over those for 1976 should be attained. This will appear pale compared with the estimated 25% rise for 1976, but there will be plenty of room for more liberal dividend disbursements in the coming year now that corporate liquidity has been materially improved. It is more than likely, however, that the biggest year-ago gains in corporate profits will occur in the first two quarters of 1977.

ANOTHER BUSY LABOR YEAR

With the spotlight on the steel industry's negotiations over new union contracts, 1977 promises to be another year of brisk activity on the labor front. Though not quite as numerous as in 1976, major labor pacts expiring in 1977 will still involve close to 3 million workers. In addition to steel, other sectors facing contract talks include communications, aluminum, clothing, and facets of the construction field. There could be trouble in the coal fields again, with a repeat of the wildcat walkouts of 1976. And in fighting for the top spots of several unions could produce some unwanted work stoppages.

Despite labor's support for President-elect Carter in the 1976 presidential race, there will probably be a strong appeal from the White House for moderate, noninflationary demands in contract talks. But union negotiators will almost certainly press for all the traffic will bear in direct wage increases and a wide variety of fringe benefits, spurred by the inflation-eroded purchasing power of take-home pay over much of the past three years and goaded anew by fears of additional inflationary spasms in the years just ahead. At this time, however, re-imposition of wage-price-profits controls does not seem likely, though the threat of such action might be subtly used to fashion peaceful and moderate union settlements.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

From a low point in early 1975 of a seasonally adjusted annual rate of well below a million units, new private housing starts commenced a recovery which continued during 1976. The climb was erratic and fell far short of the feverish peak range in excess of two million units marking parts of 1971-1973, but the late summer and fall weeks of the past year experienced notable strength. With mortgage mo-

*Please turn to page 4

The New Year comes into the world young and fresh, and bursting with new opportunities. We're winging our way to you with thanks and high hopes for a bright future.

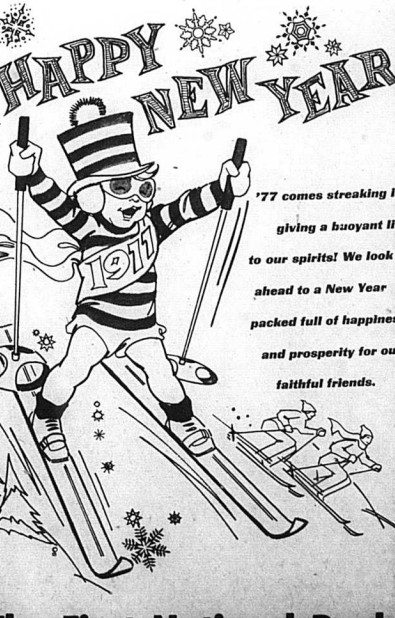
Reese Smoot, Sheriff
J.W. Ecton, Deputy
Karen Dotson, Clerk

As '77 makes a grand entrance we wish you happiness today, tomorrow and throughout the New Year.

Carlisle Drug Co.

We hope every month, every week, every day, every hour of the New Year brings you good fortune and contentment.

Baker's Dept. Store



The First National Bank
Carlisle and Moorefield

Let's give a big hand to the new arrival as he appears with our special message for you...
"A New Year bright and merry from beginning to end!"