

Opinion

County fire runs costly

Nicholas County Fire Chief Woody Wilson informs us that there were 14 fires run in the county (city not included) during March. This is the second highest number of fires since the Fire Department was formed. Most of the 14 fires were caused by carelessness in burning trash. Wilson says that if you burn trash, put it in a container with a mesh top. Don't burn where there is a trash on on the ground.

It costs \$100 every time the fire truck is called out—even if it is a false alarm.

If the large number of fire calls continue, Wilson says that the town could force a tax increase in the future. The most logical answer to this problem is to be careful, especially when burning trash.

'Volunteer Recognition Week'

Mayor William Power and Nicholas County Judge Midland Clark jointly signed a proclamation naming April 24-30 "Volunteer Recognition Week" locally.

And in so doing, they called on all the citizens of Nicholas county to help to reward and sustain the spirit and vitality of this great nation by constituting a portion of their time—however small it may be.

in addressing the needs of our community through voluntary action. Citizens are being urged to lend a hand and recognize the activities of public and private individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty to improve our community.

There are so many areas locally, and we are sure, in other parts of the country too, that cry for helpers. So many things that need doing. So many people that need help. So many worthwhile organizations lacking workers.

Coal conversion Kentucky to play role

by Kevin Mullahey

Scientists and technicians in laboratories and at small demonstration plants (some of them resembling miniature refineries) are working to convert some of the nation's huge reserves of coal to synthetic oil and gas.

Some oil companies—all well as non-oil firms and government agencies—are experimenting with ways to turn coal into synthetic oil and gas, economically and on a large scale. Many of the experiments are just laboratory tests, but they are "practical and economic ways to turn coal into oil and gas, they'll largely be "out of business" when crude oil and natural gas supplies run out.

liquidation production will occur before 1980, at the earliest. Nevertheless, the search goes on, with many private companies and the government looking to find ways to produce oil from coal economically.

Synthetic gas from coal can be converted to gas by feeding the coal into a high-temperature reactor. By then injecting steam, a chemical reaction results that produces raw synthetic gas.

In 1971, a group of 14 American companies—some oil, some non-oil—joined together to develop a coal gasification plant in Westfield, Kentucky. Oversees the project were two engineers from Continental Oil Company and an engineer from the British Gas Corporation. The plant was completed in mid-1974. At that time, some 50,000 people in the rolling countryside of Scotland became the world's first consumers of substitute gas made from coal.

Chemically, coal can be liquified by applying heat and pressure in the presence of a catalyst, with the addition of hydrogen gas. It's been done in the laboratory, and one plant (in South Africa) is actually turning coal into liquid oil on a commercial basis. It's a costly and relatively inefficient process.

The quest to crack coal thermally and crack the problem of turning coal into liquid fuel economically has occupied the time and talents of scientists for at least 30 years. Right now, Ralph E. Bailey, of Conoco estimates, synthetic liquid petroleum would have to sell for around \$29.25 barrel (42 gallons). That's nearly double the world price of crude oil, and close to three times the U.S. government-regulated composite price of crude oil produced in this country.

That's only part of the economic problem. It's been estimated that, based on current technology, it would cost about \$14 billion to build the coal liquidification plants needed to replace just ten percent of the nation's petroleum consumption.

It's not likely, the Federal Energy Research and Development Administration (FERDA) believes, that any

Here in the U.S. various oil companies, some non-oil companies and the Federal government are all working to perfect coal gasification processes. As with coal liquidation, synthetic gas from coal is not yet economically practical. The processes now being tested in pilot plants would require a price much higher than the price of natural gas—at least twice as high as the free-market price of natural gas produced and sold within the same state; and three to four times higher than the price regulated by the U.S. government for natural gas sold interstate. And, to build a commercial gasification plant—one 25 to 28 acres—would cost more than \$1 billion, and close to three times the U.S. government-regulated composite price of crude oil produced in this country.

In time, hopefully, both the technical and economic problems associated with converting coal to synthetic oil and gas will be overcome. It will take the skills and know-how of many people in many kinds of companies—today with huge amounts of money—to solve the problem. Hopefully, too, all those with the skills, financial resources and interest will be encouraged to contribute their efforts to help meet the future oil and gas needs of American consumers.



20 and 40 years ago

Agree or not

Thursday, May 4, 1957
 Miss Rebecca Barlow, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. W.G. Irvin, a sophomore in Cardinal High School was selected "Miss Nicholas County 1957." Friday night at the 4th Annual Homecoming Banquet, a University of Kentucky law student, from Carlisle, has been pledged to PMA Alpha Delta, honorary legal fraternity.

The senior class of Carlisle High School will present a play, "Come Out of the Closet" May 21. Cast members are Carlisle Gilley, Patricia Clark, Betty Vice, Sylvia McCarty, Faye Donovan, Faye Henderson, Ray Spivey, Ray Cannon, Arthur Hickey, "Buck" Saunders and Ted Lanko.

MARRIAGE—Mrs. Edith Barber of Covellville and W. Jesse Dotson of Carlisle, April 13 in Cedarville.

WEDDINGS—Mary Martin Stewart, 78, Monday at his home in Paris—Mrs. Dixie Snapp Brockman, Lexington.

Funerals—Mrs. Annie Doris Hays, 70, Monday, April 28—Mrs. Ronald Charles Gates, infant son of Trigg, Charles A. and Margaret Holmbeck Gates, Sunday at Lockhart AFB Hospital in Louisville.

Thursday, May 4, 1987
 County Judge D. Curry last Friday appointed Bruce Morford as County clerk in Nicholas county to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Foster V. Cox.

The tax levy for county purposes for the year 1977 was fixed at 86 cents on each \$100 of taxable property.

Farmers throughout the county report that cutworms are damaging their tobacco crops badly.

MARRIAGE—Miss Ethel G. McFarland of Both county and Oliver M. Steering, April 28—Miss Mary Newman, Manchester and William H. Harman, both of the county on Sunday.

Miss Estella Harkin Caldwell and Meredith L. Marshall, Sunday at Danville—Miss Dottie Garswood and T.C. Starnes, Sunday at Danville.

Dr. J. J. Waggoner, Jr., Friday afternoon at his home at Bardonia—A.J. Lyons, Jr., Monday night at his home on the John L. Kern farm—Mrs. Betty Berry Hainiff at her home on Chestnut Street, Sunday.

SLAPSTIX

A run-down battery is free of charge

Zero-based

We've been seeing a lot in the news of late about recharged, budget-busting, techniques, which if we understand correctly, means, is the program justified.

The means of publicity that come from many sources, state, federal, etc. overhaul one word of which (the president) they are trying to put in the basket. So one wonders, will ZBET be applied in this case?

—M.V.

Senator Dee Huddleston

REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE OF KENTUCKY

Costly gas

The other day at lunch someone wondered about coal conversion to synthetic gas, did we have such in America? There might be, but I just place an article in Petroleum Today. I stated there was such a plant in Scotland.

Assuming that others could be interested in such articles, the Coal Conversion article appears on this page.

—M.V.

The Carlisle Mercury

Established 1867
 Phone (606) 289-2464
 Published every Monday at 232 N. Locust St., Carlisle, Nicholas County, KY. 40311
 Publisher: W. B. Fisher, Publisher (Mrs.) Katherine J. Fisher, Managing Editor
 W. Conley, Editor (Mrs.) Janie Duncan, Assistant-to-the-Editor (Editor) Maryne K. Slugg, Computer Operator and Mrs. Linda Conley, Book-keeper.

Subscription Rates: One year in Kentucky, \$6.30, sales tax included; Out-of-state, one year, \$8.

MEMBER: Kentucky Press Association
 NATIONAL NEWS PAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION
 ADDRESS: 232 N. LOCUST ST., CARLISLE, KY. 40311
 MEMBER-1977

LERMANS

COMPLETE FAMILY DEPT. STORE
 Fabulous Assortment, Mens
SHORT SLEEVE SHIRTS
 Custom Fitting by Block
 Solids • Patterns
 Permanent Press
 Budget 6.99
 Prices
 SIZES THRU X-L

SUITS for Summer!
MENS 3 PIECE VEST SUITS
 The Fashion Spotlight is on Vested Suits—Select from Year-around Fabrics in favorite colors
COMPARE 45.95
 Men's 2 pc. Suits... \$25.

The Famous HAGGAR KNIT
 100% Dacron Polyester Machine Washable Solids - Plaid, 29.42
 7.00 others to 16.00
Men's SPORT COATS
 Reg. 24.99 Now 19.99

Men's Polyester DRESS SLACKS 3 qt. Antique Pewter
TEA KETTLE 3 qt. Antique Pewter
 Reg. 24.99 Now 19.99
 Special 4.45

Levable SUMMER VACATION SALE

710 710
 No. 710 Full figure poly cotton Bra—Shoulder comfort pads 3 Section Cup for soft lift - Stretch Sections under cup (B) 36-42 (C) 36-46
 No. 781 Cross-over Styling, Frost Fit and true full contour cups (B) 32-36 (C) 32-40
 Reg. 2.59 Now 1.99

Summer Sandals Teens & Ladies
 5 1/2-10
SLIP-ONS, THONGS WEDGE STYLES
 RED BLUE 4.99 and up
Men's & Boys Tennis Shoes 8.88
 "Northern" Hair CURLING WAND
 Special 5.88

PORTABLE MIXER or CAN OPENER 8.88
3 HP Briggs Stratton 20 in. POWER MOWER Steel Deck, 4 cycle Motor
 69.99 Compare 89.95
 if full Bolts to 1.29
POLY COTTON Fabrics & Others Solids & Patterns
2 YDS. \$1.

Special Purchase Famous Make PANTIES, BRIEFS BIKINIS
 Reg. 1.49 \$1.
GIANT AUTO INDUSTRY

M is for the many gifts we have for Mom

MOTHER'S DAY • MAY 8

WAZ CARNIVAL

extra special savings throughout

GREAT GIFTS to make Mother happy

SUMMER DRESSES

Complete Her Summer Wardrobe at real cool savings!
 Choose from a fabulous array of bright new styles
 Big selection of Fabrics - in Prints, Solids and Plaids

Exciting New DRESSES

Pretty prints... all in new colors
 Sensational jacket Dresses...
 Set 2 pc. suits in many styles
JR., PETITE, MISSY & WOMEN'S SIZES
12.99 others to 29.00
Mother's Day Special
PANT SUITS Reg. 8.99 \$8.
100% Polyester MISSY AND WOMEN'S SIZES

Save Energy - Reduce Utilities
DRAPES
 63 in. LONG 7.99
 84 in. LONG 8.99
 Ladies Ass'l. Colors
KNEE HI HOSE
 Special 5/1.00
LADIES' DUSTERS
 Easy-Care Fabrics Solids & Prints
8.00
 Denim Fashion LADIES JEANS
 Sizes 5-15 12.20
14.99 up
PANTY HOSE Mom never has enough!
 Regular Sizes - Ass'l. Shoes and Quality 8.50, Stripes - Queen Size - Ass'l. Shades - 1/4" - 1/2" Support Panty Hose Reg. Size - 1/4" - 1/2" Quality
1.49 3/2. 2/5.
GIFT WORTHY - SUMMER PURSES
 Favorite Colors - Fabrics all great values! **3.99** up

Mom will love these... we have all her favorites
Famous "Movie Star" PEIGNOR SETS Lavishly Trimmed Gown and matching Robe
WHITE & 10.99 COLORS
 Elegant "Movie Star" SLEEP GOWNS Ass'l. 4.99 up
Sizes SMALL THRU X-L
SPECIAL PURCHASE Famous Label CAFTANS Multi-stripe Poly-Nylon One Size fits all
Reg. 14.99 \$8.
Special Purchase Famous Make PANTIES, BRIEFS BIKINIS
 Reg. 1.49 \$1.
GIANT AUTO INDUSTRY

Repeat of a Sell-out
WINDOW FASHIONS
 Cape Cod Curtains White, Gold, Bronze 24" 30" 36" Choice
\$2.00
 Matchline Cape Cod Valance... 1.79
 Made to Sell to 27.95 if perf.
ROOM SIZE RUGS
 Polypropylene Olefin Pile
APPROX. 18.88
9X12 18.88
 Heavy-weight, non-slip die

LERMANS

COMPLETE FAMILY DEPT. STORE