

Opinion

Congratulations ahead of time

Carlisle participated in the state judging of the AS-Kentucky City Centennial of the AS-Kentucky City Centennial, Dec. 11. And, although the judging is not over until January, we feel that Carlisle will give the honor of first to our opinion, "AS-Kentucky City" by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

We say this for several reasons, the main one being that Carlisle-Nichols is a forward marching community. We have many outstanding people here that other communities are lacking. Look around you and see how much has been done locally because of the ingenuity of many of our citizens.

We read the entry, compiled and submitted by Carolyn Dutton. How well did the entries of the other cities measure up to the standards of the AS-Kentucky City judges? It is hard to say, but we think that Carlisle is an excellent example of a city that is making a name for itself in the state.

A side presentation accompanied the written entry, and was given at both the district judging in November and the state judging last Wednesday. This presentation will be made available for viewing by school children, civic organizations, and the like. However, one of the most important ones they will be made of this summary of the advantages of living in this community, is to attract new doctors to the area. Instead of trying to secure a prospective physician all the way to the county to show him what a nice place Nicholas County is, the side presentation will give him a glimpse of the county.

"Congratulations, Mrs. Dutton," at a head of time. We are convinced that the hard work you have done will pay off as Carlisle is named an "AS-Kentucky City" in January.

Fatalities go up in December

According to State Police Lt. Ernest Bivens, December is traditionally the second highest month of the year for traffic fatalities in the state. And, State Police are urging people to drive carefully.

Holiday shopping, trip, bad weather, and parties all contribute to making December one of the most dangerous months of the year for traffic deaths. Only July has a higher rate.

Last year 75 people lost their lives on Kentucky roadways during December, and the New Year weekend was the worst since 1961. Lt. Bivens said secondary roads will be one of the primary concerns since 56 of those that died were on rural roads.

The death toll so far this year is 874 compared to 799 at the end of November 1976.

All of us should do our part to turn these statistics around. Observe the speed limits at all times, be particularly careful during periods of icy or snowy weather. And, whatever you do, do not drink and drive.

Many parties are scheduled during this month. A lot of fun will be had by a lot of people during this festive season, but don't let the fun end for you that day. If you are going to party, be becoming one of the fatalities that are becoming one of the statistics for this month.

Urge other members of your family to be especially careful, also, during the holiday season. Then, all of us can truly have a "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

Christmas come

(Editor's Note: This editorial from the Dec. 11, 1967 Christmas Special Member referred to the Berlin crisis through one can easily substitute the Mid-East crisis and the nuclear war we are trying to avert.)

Like the "other world man" — the one in the Henry Van Dyke story who never got to Bethlehem — the Christmas idea moves among us all the year, perhaps unidentified but always effective. It gives us lift, helps heal a hurt. It moves work busily, with no sense of monopoly or virtue. It is quite willing to suggest, to suggest, to suggest a good example from a Samaritan.

For many of us our celebration of Christmas seems like sudden awakenings to our obligations, as well as being a creative and spontaneous expression of participation in a sort of collective joyousness. In the Christmas season we concentrate on the active expression of our love, as distinct from an often rather indifferent participation of it during the rest of the year.

One result is an overlaying of the Christmas idea with attractive, glittering, colorful symbols of our regard for

Senator Dee Huddleston

I met last week with President Carter and Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland to discuss the nation's tobacco program and actions by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare aimed at combating smoking and the growing of tobacco.

President Carter gave us a commitment of his "full support" for the tobacco price support program, which is the key to the viability of 600,000 farm families that grow tobacco — including about 200,000 in Kentucky.

Many people, apparently including persons in H.E.W. labry under the mistaken impression that this program constitutes a major subsidy to the tobacco grower, contend that this program should be eliminated because of the alleged health hazards of smoking.

But as Secretary Bergland told the President, during the 40 years the support price program has been in existence it has cost the government less than \$100 million, both because the market price has exceeded the support price, and because the tobacco that does go into the program is sold generally is resold at little or no loss to the government.

The elimination of the price support program would neither eliminate the growing of tobacco or its sale. In fact, the program is so small that the program is that it would probably drive many small farmers out of business and only the larger growers would survive.

This would place thousands of small farmers on welfare at the very time we are trying to reduce our welfare rolls.

I also told President Carter that he would be well advised to follow the advice of Dr. Peter Bourne, his White House health advisor, who has recommended greater emphasis on research to develop a safer cigarette rather than launching another anti-smoking campaign.

The fight within Congress to maintain the price support program, and to ward off other anti-tobacco proposals, will continue to get tougher. But we will be helped by the President's renewed pledge to maintain the growers' support program intact.

Letters

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are you sure you're a piano tuner?

The Economy
James S. Wright of Carlisle, suffered a fractured skull when he slipped on the street last Tuesday in Carlisle.

James S. Wright of Carlisle, suffered a fractured skull when he slipped on the street last Tuesday in Carlisle. He was one of the firm of three employees of the R. Lee Cassel Dry Goods in Lexington who purchased the business Monday, Mr. Collins, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Collins, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Collins, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Collins.

Coal strike tax loss estimate \$3 million per month in state

By B.C. Van Caren
FRANKFORT — The effect of the coal strike on the state revenue picture remains mostly on the article entered in second week, Revenue Commissioner Maurice Carpenter said last week in an interview.

Industry spokesmen have estimated that the state will lose about \$3 million per month in coal severance taxes, but Carpenter says he can't put a definite figure on it. He says there are some variables involved.

"A lot of people don't strike, we won't lose much, if any," he says. "The loss of income and sales tax probably would be greater because of a short strike, but a prolonged strike would cut heavily into the severance tax."

He pointed out that the 4.5 percent coal severance tax produced \$1,750,000 for this November in incomplete returns as compared with only \$7,800,000 for November of last year. "This indicates to me that a lot of stockpiling was done by utilities and other consuming firms," he said. "Of this \$14,750,000, about \$3 million of this was in back taxes that has to be allocated to other parties." Carpenter explained.

Carpenter was quick to point out that coal production will have to start catching up with the mines returns to their normal reserves if the strike is prolonged.

"You just can't make up for income tax losses," Carpenter said, "for that time the same holds true for the sales tax."

The normal growth in Kentucky's economy this year as related to state revenue has held at a steady 10 percent, Carpenter said. This apparently means the state's budget for the next biennium.

The fear that fiscal experts in state government hold, as well as members of the coal industry and those who rely upon it in supportive industries, is that a prolonged strike will mean a big overall loss to the economy of the Eastern coal fields.

The fear is that the Western coal fields of Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, Colorado and others will fill the need if coal isn't produced in the Eastern segment of the nation.

The United Mine Workers have had the most to lose from a strike. It is the mostest loss part of Christmas.

Oren A. Carter, Saturday at the Carlisle Christian Church.

DIED — Mrs. Louise Jane Fowlkes, at her home in Radville, Mo. — William Edward Hughes, 70, Tuesday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. William Clark, Lexington. — Roy L. Hornback, 70, Thursday in Louisville. — Stetson Hamilton at his home in Florida.

Rains over weekend fail to help Carlisle water works supply

THURSDAY, December 13, 1977
An ambulance rushing a patient to a Lexington hospital from Carlisle was involved in an accident on Main Street on Paris. The driver, Ralph E. Shearer, 34, only stopped long enough to survey the damage and then sped on to Lexington.

Louis DeKorman, W. M. of Dougherty Lodge, Number 60, P. & A. M. has announced a called meeting Dec. 27 for work in the third degree.

Mrs. Gertrude Myner, Carlisle, a student at Midway College in Midway, has been placed on the local honor roll.

BOON — To Mr. and Mrs. Byron Fryman, a daughter, Deborah Lynn, Dec. 12. — To Mr. and Mrs. Lynn B. — To Sgt. and Mrs. Agnes Nolan, a daughter, Cynthia Ann, Nov. 18 in Beaufort, N.C. — To Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Peters Jr., a son, John Edward, Dec. 12.

MARRIED — Miss Betty Lou Vico, to James A. Carter, Saturday at the Carlisle Christian Church.

DIED — Mrs. Louise Jane Fowlkes, at her home in Radville, Mo. — William Edward Hughes, 70, Tuesday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. William Clark, Lexington. — Roy L. Hornback, 70, Thursday in Louisville. — Stetson Hamilton at his home in Florida.

OFF THE WALL

CONCEIT IS GOD'S GIFT TO LITTLE MEN

THE BIRTH OFFICE IS THE MOTHER-IN-LAW OF INVENTION

Mercury Vauborns
by Warren R. Fisher

Beleagued
Seems like this year more than other years, that hardly a mailing that comes to the Mercury has been a letter. I have been reading a trade journal the other evening and couldn't help but notice that some Congressional folk had proposed a tax on all paper products, and when paper products are mentioned that always includes newspapers.

I clipped from the Harrison Post another \$20 per ton on all paper products, and when paper products are mentioned that always includes newspapers.

I don't make the acquaintance of "Openly Arranged" of Labor, but I wonder should they tax the hot air in the vicinity of Washington — they would have a gold mine.

A town of friendly people.
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I don't make the acquaintance of "Openly Arranged" of Labor, but I wonder should they tax the hot air in the vicinity of Washington — they would have a gold mine.

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District Court replaces lower courts Jan. 1

(Editor's Note: This is part two of a six-part series on the structure of Kentucky's new judicial system, whose implementation will be completed Jan. 1, 1978. The first story is based on an interview with Chief Justice John Palmer and the Kentucky Supreme Court.)

FRANKFORT — In a few weeks, Kentuckians will receive the services of a new court system that is designed to restore "faith, trust and confidence" in Kentucky's judicial system, according to Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice John Palmer.

The new system of courts will be fully implemented in January, after the district courts replace the present district courts of police, county quarterly and magisterial courts. In November 1976, Kentucky voters approved an amendment to the state Constitution which re-structured the court system.

"Before the judicial amendment, the district courts, which were the principal trial courts," explained Justice Palmer, who recently replaced Justice Scott Reed as chief justice. "Above the circuit court was the Court of Appeals, which is now the Supreme Court. It was in this court that all appeals were taken. Below the circuit court were the county courts, magistrates' court, police court and county court, which is also called quarterly court in some counties."

"In place of these courts, we now have a four-tier system, consisting of the circuit court and the lower courts, Supreme Court and the Appellate courts," Justice Palmer explained.

Justice Palmer said the advantages of the new system are already becoming apparent. The new appellate courts have already received the backing of cases "tremendously," he said. "When I first

came on the Court of Appeals, now the Supreme Court, I would say the court stayed between 14 to 18 months behind, anywhere from 1,300 to 1,400 cases backing up... it was an ever-growing monster. We were able to get out 700 to 800 cases per year; so the backlog kept

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