Opinion

Easter Seal campaign now underway

The 1977 Easter Seal Campaign got underway March 1 and continues through Easter Sunday, April 10. We urge your enthusiastic support of this appeal for funds to help handicapped children and adults in our city, county and state.

Giving is a personal thing. To give—to help—to lend a helping hand to someone in need is an act of purest brotherhood. Yet all too often in this busy world we miss the point. We give to this or that automatically, out of a vague sense of responsibility. Or, often we refuse to give because we don't really understand.

The Kentucky Easter Seal Society returns charity to the personal, human level. To you. Its programs with the handicapped permits you to understand why you give. More important, you have the opportunity to see the results of your gifts in the restored lives, the new hope that rehabilitation brings. There can also be a warm feeling of satisfaction from knowing that you helped. This personal satisfaction is most meaningful, in knowing that you have brought hope for a better tomorrow to the handicapped.

Your gift also becomes a helping hand to the skilled rehabilitation specialists who are employed at the seven facilities of the Kentucky Easter Seal Society. Your gift instills a sense of worth in the minds and hearts of those who are handicapped because of a birth defect, accident or illness.

It is our earnest hope that all of our readers, recognizing the importance of this Easter Seal drive, will respond with a generous demonstration of support, keeping in mind that it is far more blessed to give than to receive.

The 'sue flu' bug

The '70s are seeing the spread of a new kind of epidemic. You might call it the "sue flu." While the malpractice suit started out as a viable mechanism for protecting patients, it is developing into a major malady affecting the efficient delivery of health care.

What are the symptoms of "sue flu"?

At the onset, one suffers from unrealistic expectations. There is the general feeling that modern medicine can do anything and that every doctor is "Marcus Welby." Next, one begins to assume that if something does wrong medically that is no one's fault—one can at least reap some financial benefit. Under these circumstances, when the patient's expectations are not met, the "sue flu" tends to strike.

Of course, many lawsuits do legitimately expose malpractice. But that "sue flu" bug bites far too many people and has an influence on the health care delivery system that is out of all proportion to the actual malpractice that occurs.

Who suffers most from the "sue flu" epidemic?

You, the ordinary patient, going to the ordinary physician or hospital, are the real victim. You suffer because your doctor's bills are higher and your hospital's bills are too. The cost of hospital malpractice insurance has gone up more than 750 percent in the past five years, and the cost to professionals is passed on to you. Your doctor or hospital might even be forced out of business by the high premiums they must pay. And premiums probably will continue to be outrageously high because insurance companies, in turn, are faced with such huge settlements.

You may suffer, too, because members of the medical field today are practicing a kind of "defensive" medicine which can further raise your bills and subject you to unnecessary tests as protection against lawsuits that might develop.

Unfortunately, the epidemic will not be easy to control. Doctors and hospitals must buy insurance in order to avoid a financially catastrophic malpractice suit. Being a good doctor or a good hospital does not mean insurance is unnecessary. Lawsuits these days are filed so capriciously and unpredictably that they have little relationship to competency. Doctors and hospitals realize that an unsatisfactory medical result, which is no one's fault, combined with a sympathetic jury often leads to a successful lawsuit.

The concept of the malpractice suit certainly is a valid one, and genuine malpractice does occur. In these days of aware, thinking consumers, no one would suggest that the malpractice safety valve be turned off. But we can, and must, build up immunity to the unrealistic expectations that can lead to the "sue flu." It's not just a doctor's problem, or a hospital's problem—it's your problem.

20 and 40 years ago

Thursday, March 7, 1957

Year-round observance of Daylight Saving Time may become a reality for Carlisle as well as many other Kentucky cities. Observance will begin the last Sunday in April.

The 106 acre farm of Mrs. Laura H. Pumphrey, located on the Stoney Creek Road, was sold last week to Bernard Dotson, local restaurant owner.

Mrs. Thurman Gaunce of the Hooktown section, is installing equipment in the Abraham building on Locust Street, for the operation of a home laundry service.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harris, Cincinnati, a daughter, Jacqueline Lee, Feb. 26.

MARRIED—Miss Shirley Hamm, to Robert Spears Collins Jr., Bourbon county, Saturday in Millersburg.—Miss Fannie Lee Newby, Lexington, to Henry C. Peters Jr., March 3, in Richmond.

DIED—Bannon Swartz, 75, Brown County, Ohio, Feb. 25.—Miss Mabelle Scott, 94, Sunday.

Thursday, March 11, 1937

The superstructure of the new 75,000 gallon storage tank of the Carlisle water works has been about completed and the tank is being installed. Work has been suspended temporarily on clearing of the site for the new dam and lake.

Earth tremors which were felt throughout the central portion of the United States, shook Carlisle and Central Kentucky about 11:50 Monday night, two distinct shocks, about 10 seconds apart being felt. A number of Carlisle residents reported feeling the tremors. No damage was reported.

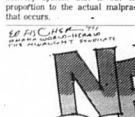
Several hundred sportsmen from Central Kentucky are expected for the field trials of the Blue Grass Field Trial Club to be held on the Sampson farm at Blue Licks Sunday.

Open weather of the past week enabled farmers to do considerable plowing and other work.

Dr. H.H. Buntin, well-known physician of East Union, suffered several fractured ribs in a fall on his farm last Thursday morning.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Booth of Bourbon county, a son, March 1.

DIED—Dr. Charles W. Mathers, 81, at his home in the county on Sunday.—Oscar Nevin Rankin, 85, at his home near Millersburg, Sunday.—David Honaker, 84, of Nicholas county, Wednesday morning when he was struck by a train near Shawan.—Mrs. Nellie Greene Kendall, 48, last Wednesday. —Mrs. Nannie Clark Bowden, 82, Friday night at her home in Mackville, Wisc.—Mrs. Sarah Shannon Crump, 66, Monday, at her home near Millersburg.



NAME THE UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE SEVERE WINTER ENERGY CRUNCH

ANSWER→ SPRING

Agree or not

by S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT—It's too early for emphasis to be put on the 1979 gubernatorial race, but that's what the political writers out of here seem to be doing.

The real emphasis belongs on the legislative races this year, for it is from the 1978 session of the General Assembly that the decision will be made on the state-wide races for the constitutional offices.

All 100 members of the House and half, 19, members of the Senate are up for election this year. Governor Julian Carroll is just half-way through his four-year term. The success or failure of his administration to elect a successor depends upon the 1978 session, although there seems little possibility that the governor won't be in a strong position in 1978 to have great sway in the next governor's race.

Barring accidents, or unforeseen political catastrophe, this administration should have smooth sailing. However, it is on the legislative elections this year that Carroll must depend to hold a tight reign on the next legislative session.

The governor is in a position of having set his program the first legislative session, and the second session is where he sees that it is carried through to its successful conclusion.

Under Kentucky's constitution a governor cannot succeed himself, and this seems a pity in most instances, for it really takes four years to get a program rolling, and then he has to turn it over to someone else.

No governor in recent memory has ever achieved as much as he had hoped when he was running, and he really needs another four years to accomplish the true benefits of his charted program.

You can rest assured that Gov. Carroll and democratic headquarters here are very much interested in the legislative races this year. The governor and his staff are making decisions right now and in the next short weeks as to whom they will support in the Senate and House primary races this May. They also want to maintain their present party-line majority in both branches during the 1978 sessions for this is where much of their political strength comes from in choosing the next Democratic nominee for governor and his election in the fall against the minority Republican Party.

The Democratic Party seems united in Kentucky better than it has been in the last two decades. There isn't the bitter rivalry that prevailed between the Chandler and Clements factions back in the 1950s.

Given this situation, the course to chart now is to keep the party united and avoid any rifts such as the accusations made recently by Congressman Carroll Hubbard that the Democratic Party has been soliciting coal operators for funds to use in the Lexington mayorial race.

There always have been charges and counter charges about force being used on coal operators or highway contractors or some other vested interests for campaign contributions. These charges always have been a dime a dozen. And they probably will continue to be.

There has been a growing resentment in the business community about their names being used in these kinds of political harangues in the press.

Any experienced political writer here knows that the business interests contribute to both factions in the Democratic Party when there is a big split and in the fall they also contribute to the Republicans when there is a semblance of a race.

Some of the business interests have grown tired of the political promises made at contribution time, and then not carried through when the governor gets in office.

I heard a cure recently for this. One wag suggested that the big business interests of Kentucky get together and tell the candidates, "Borrow the money for your race. When you get in office and carry out your promises, we'll make the contributions to pay off the notes."

Now, wouldn't that be something.

Mercury Vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

March didn't roar

So far March hasn't roared-in, but the old lady was sure picking her geese about 6:30 o'clock Tuesday morning. Although everything covered in a mantle of white was beautiful, somehow or other it just didn't thrill me.

The temperature I noted was up two degrees since the night before, displayed before me in half-inch high digits, which (the temperature) are updated every four seconds. At least I don't have to stoop, stretch or squint now that I've finished my electronic thermometer. Of course I am aware it is only as accurate as the thermometer used to calibrate the gadget, it's still a far cry from the old type where depending on one's height the reading could vary by four degrees or more.

—MV—

Up first

Snow drops planted many years ago are up and blooming under the branches of a japonica bush in the back yard. Several days ago I noticed shoots from crocus bulbs were coming through the ground in the front yard, but so far no blossoms.

—MV—

Feb. 28 normal

Temperature wise Feb. 28 was normal if I'm to believe reports from KH41, NOAA doesn't knowingly make untrue statements, but sometimes they confuse me with their reports of heating degree days.

—MV—

NIP PESTS EARLY! STOP WINTERING INSECTS—APPLY DORMANT SPRAY TO TREES AND SHRUBS. PLANS BEFORE THE BUDS OPEN.

February was the time

My two grape vines won't be pruned in February, it will have to be March. The main reason being I just didn't get around to the chore. I've also fallen into wayward ways, there are trees and bushes that should be fertilized, fruit trees sprayed with dormant sprays and all sorts of things one is supposed to do at this time of year.

—MV—

Unexpected changes

Higher energy prices should force some unexpected changes in farming, according to Pierce Fulkerson, Hardin county vice president of the farm machinery dealer's state association.

While the trend over the past decade has been toward more and bigger farm machinery, Fulkerson noted, it's not unthinkable that more acute energy shortages in the future could increase farmers' reliance on manpower.

"In 40 years, we may see a mass return of people to smaller farms, away from the cities," Fulkerson noted. "If fuel prices or availability cause the bigger machinery to be uneconomical, farmers may have to go back to relying more on people to get the job done."

Another long-range problem farmers may have to face involves grain drying, he added. Currently, some 900,000 BTU's of energy are required to produce an acre of corn, but it takes 1.9 million BTU's to dry that shelled corn from 25 per cent moisture to 15 per cent moisture.

"Without a workable alternative to natural gas, more farmers may be forced to harvest corn on the ear, and let it dry naturally," Fulkerson said. "Of course, I'm looking way into the future, but these things could happen."

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Jackets beat Augusta, 76-63

by Jimmy Smith

The Nicholas County Bluejackets avenged two earlier heartbreaking losses to Augusta by handing the visiting cagers a 76-63 defeat last week. The Jackets cashed in on some gutsy hustling play to pick up the victory in their last week of preparation for the District Tournament.

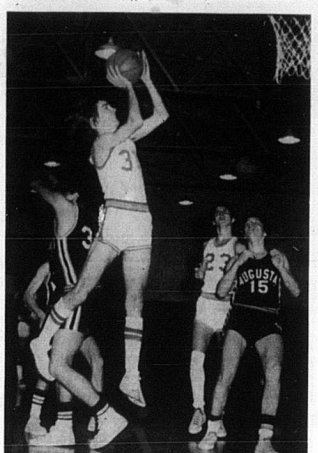
"We just played hard and scrapped," said Bluejacket Coach Bill Anderson after the game.

Greg Letcher provided the opening spark that the Jackets needed in the first quarter. After falling behind 7-2 early in the quarter, the Bluejackets capitalized on some sparkling passes from Letcher to fight back to a 10-9 lead at the 2:36 mark in the period. The game swayed back and forth in the form of one point leads from that point on until Joe Ruddell tied the game, 15-15, with a free throw at the end of the quarter.

Augusta came out hot in the second period and jumped out 21-15. But that was short lived glory as Nicholas County came roaring back and passed the Wildcats by a score of 26-21. The Bluejackets didn't look back from there and earned a 37-33 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Augusta wasn't able to keep up with the Jackets in the second half either, as the Nicholas County cagers just wouldn't be denied a victory. Consequently Augusta never got closer than within four points of the Jackets as the Nicholas County team occasionally spurted out by as many as 13 at one time.

Nicholas County	15, 37, 58, 76.
Augusta	15, 33, 50, 63.



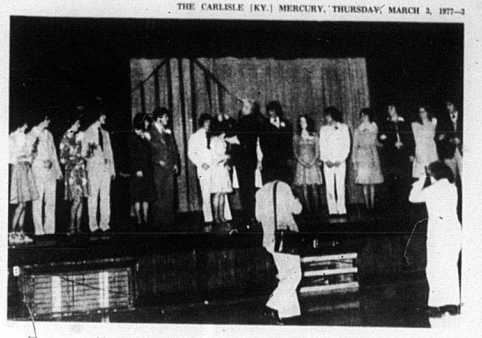
All smiles!

Nicholas County's Mike Anderson puts up a short jumper in last week's victory over Augusta.—Smith photo

Girls lose to Harrison

The Nicholas County Girls' Basketball Team lost Monday night to Harrison County 46-26. The game was the first game in the 37th District Girls' Tournament played at Bourbon County High School.

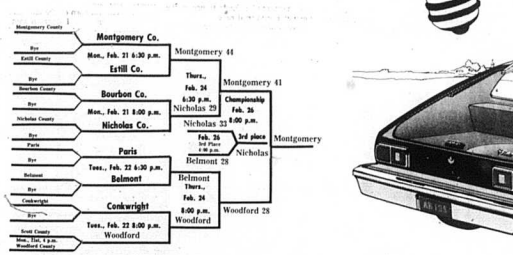
The final game will be played Friday night between Harrison County and Paris.



Homecoming Queen crowned Friday

Shirley Lyons was named the Basketball Homecoming Queen Friday night during the halftime of the Nicholas County-Deming game. The three lower class attendants, the five senior attendants, and their escorts are as follows: Cindy Clark, freshman attendant, and Mike Berry; May Ann Harper, junior attendant, and Jimmy Caswell; Janet Hobbs and Willie Jefferson; Queen Shirley Lyons, being crowned by Nicholas County High School Principal Cobbie Lee, and Mark Ritchie; Sherry White [hidden] and Sammy Vice; Kathy Tincher and Jackie Alexander; Debbie Jones and Mark Hughes; and Brenda Erton and Damon Booth. Not pictured are Joanie Owings, the sophomore attendant, and Rudy Randolph.

Nicholas County defeated Deming 60-54, for its second win of the week.—Kay Conley photo



Eighth graders third in tourney

Nicholas County's eighth grade basketball team defeated Belmont Saturday afternoon 33-28 to capture third place for the second year in a row in the Bluegrass Junior High Basketball Conference Tournament. Montgomery County won the tournament, played in Mt. Sterling, by defeating Woodford County 41-28 Saturday night. Nicholas lost to Montgomery 44-29 in last Thursday's game.

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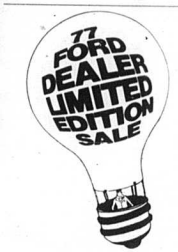

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THIS, THAT and T'OTHER

Writings of the late Warren R. Fisher, Sr.

Up to find the great snow melting under a sparkling sun and a warm south wind, where yesterday it lay dry as powdered glass and rang drum-like under the wheels of creaking wagons. And in the breath of the morning I find a hint of spring, a delicate and faint aroma of plowed fields moistened by April rains. It is but a hint, but a teasing, momentary whiff to the nostrils, yet the song sparrow has felt it and a mocking bird that has fed at my neighbor's bird lunch counter these days of snow and ice is so thrilled by that breath of promise that he sings in matchless mimicry his song of spring. From among the bare branches of a tree, though the fields are blanketed with snow and the air is yet icy chill, this gray-clad songster puts into his repertoire all of the joy of Maytime. He has heard a call I think, whispering in the south wind —a call that teases him, bringing a vague longing, a feel of something forgotten and of faculties lost in the long upward climb of millions of years.

I find a fellow feeling in a writer for the Christian Science Monitor, who has sensed the "Wiff of Spring" when the earth is yet cold with the grip of Winter, He is moved to write as delightfully as the mocking bird sings:

Perhaps, some January day, you will venture forth, armed to meet the sharp, thin, vital air, alert to take the crisp, whipping wind with its pointed crystal touch, and meet instead, sweet scent of patches of thawing ground, that you will know at once what is forward.

That is the wiff of spring, the scent which you will never forget once you have cought it and once it has associated itself with the feel of the first promise of spring. There is nothing like it. It is so primitive, so fundamental, so unhampered, that it appeals, to the elemental in each creature who finds himself akin. It takes men back to their first love of the earth, to the joy of the feel of the earth, to the pleasure of the promise of the earth, to the satisfaction of the fruit of the earth. It is free and it makes him free who breathes it, it is independent of externals, and, for the moment, so is he who takes it in. It is one with the rhythms of the earth, that is why the little creatures can read its meaning, and that is why everyone who loves what the little creasures love, can readit with open heart and listening ears.

It rushes upon you so suddenly, so soft-footedly, that after it is gone you will fall to wondering if it was there at all, or if you only fancied it. Every year it comes a new way. Each time it is as if it had never come before, and were "sign o' spring." That whiff of April a bit shy about coming. It is the first living, breathing messenger from a long blue distance, and for that it is precious. After that, blizzards may blow, winds say rage, snow may pile head ligh but you will know and I will now and every little rabbit will know, that spring has whispered, and that soon there will be more messengers, more signs, but none more sweet than this first venture-some messenger, in the heart of winter.

More messengers there will be right soon and more signs of Spring and right glad I shall be for the coming of another Maytime. In truth, I see one of the old accepted signs; red breast out-puffed and feathers ruffled into a very ball, where he sits disconsolate in a weeping willow while I take my coffee as best I may, what with the reachings and squirmings of the fat little bird that came to join my aviary last May and now dearly loves to perch on my knee at breakfast time.

A lonely robin this fellow seems and no doubt, he is, though there are many of his tribe that wintered with us and that will be greeted soon as "the first robin" and a "sign o' spring." That whiff of April in the wind has wooed him from his winter retreat in some evergreen, and he is not "the first robin" but the "last robin" and he has been with us all winter. Early in January I heard his chattering alarm call one morning and now he bids fair to outlast the snow and join the returning flock next month, a winter hardened veteran.

Soon to walk in the bright sunshine with my young daughter and she much amazed at the icicles and the dripping of water from the eaves and eager to get down into the snow. For her the world is in its spring and all to come—the crocuses and the daffodils of youth, the roses of maturity, the colorful blossoms of contentment, I hope, of life's autumn. So much to learn, so much to feel, so much to suffer, no doubt yet who would not bear these fardels to feel once more the call of spring in the heart, the wiff of spring in the nostrils, to quaff once more the heady wine of youth?

So musing, to walk in the cemetery on the hill despite its sadness. All about us the slate-gray coats of juncoes, slipping in and out of the sheltering evergreens, fluttering their white skirts at our approach. Thin, but plaintively sweet and a very voice of Spring, comes the carol of the meadow lark and soon we find a flock of these birds, the black crescents shining on their breasts. They are more wary of us now than when the lush bluegrass sheltered the speckled eggs in upland pastures. Then they will rise almost underfoot flinging back their swallow-like cry of protest, very different from the fence-top carol of this sweet singer, the rising and falling cadence of which melody are one of the typically sounds of spring. And so it is that the thin, faint carol on this day of melting snow and dripping eaves, of bare and icy branches, opens for me a vista of the spring-time.

Thursday, February 28, 1929