No one will own up!

Glynn R. Wilson

Mr. Wilson new conservationist

CYNTHIANA — Glynn R. Wilson, a 16-year veteran with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service (SCS), has assumed his new duties as area conservationist for Northern Kentucky.

Wilson joined SCS in 1961 following a short tour with the U. S. Navy. He is still active in the Naval Reserve. The Texas A & M graduate has worked in Arkansas as a soil conservationist and district conservationist. Before moving to Cynthiana, Mr. Wilson served as the project coordinator for the East Arkansas Resources Conservation and Development Project, Forrest City, Ark., from 1975 until this month.

As the Cynthiana area conservationist he will be responsible for supervising SCS activities and assisting 17 conservation districts in Nicholas, Robertson, Carroll, Gallatin, Harrison, Pendleton, Bracken, Fleming, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Scott, Mason, Bourbon, Lewis, Grant, and Owen Counties.

The Wilson's have two children and will reside in Cynthiana.

FRANKFORT — The WATS line in the Division of Water Quality is constantly being used during the wee hours of the night and no one will own up to it.

That's because a computer system is using the WATS (wide area telecommunications service) phone line. A Storet computer continually receives water quality readings from monitors on Kentucky streams. Every hour the temperature, amount of dissolved oxygen and electrical conductance is sent from the Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, Cumberland, Green, Big Sandy and Kentucky rivers by phone. If an overabundance of any of these factors appears on the read-out, there is a possibility that the streams are carrying pollutants.

According to Shelby Jett, an engineer for the division, by detecting an increase in the amount of conductance in the Kentucky River a few weeks ago, large amounts of chlorides were found. With the help of Storet, the presence of chlorides was traced to an oil spill, possibly from a plant located on the river. The division can now further its investigation by researching all plants near the oil spill to trace its origin. This process which would normally take weeks to accomplish manually will take hours with the help of Storet.

Storet is also helpful in issuing permits for plant construction on river banks. By reviewing data concerning the stream characteristics, engineers can tell how much treatment would be needed in order to protect it from extreme organic loading. According to Mr. Jett, this takes "busy work" away from the engineers.

There is a close link between the divisions of water resources and water quality in determining whether or not a plant can be constructed in a river basin. The Stream Mile computer system used by the Division of Water Resources contains facility numbers for all dams and water plants located on Kentucky streams. By feeding data from the Stream Mile system into the Storet system, engineers can be sure that the organic loading of a facility will not interfere with water plant intake.

Mr. Jett said the computer also can be helpful in keeping a facility file. Complete data can be stored on every waste facility stating who owns the facility, who operates the facility and whether or not the operator is certified.

In the future, Mr. Jett hopes that the Storet system can be programmed with Land Stat data from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Land Stat provides satellite photographs of river basins indicating the type of soil available and its use. In studying the type of soil and vegetation in each basin, various organic elements in the streams can be detected.

Mr. Jett would also like to see the Storet system being used in administrative work dealing with bookkeeping, employee statistics and purchasing. However, this operation depends on whether or not the program would be economically feasible.

Regardless of the numerous ways computers can be used for maintaining statistics and calculating technical problems, Mr. Jett, like many other computer operators, holds the theory that they are merely helpers in his work.

"Computers don't do the job for us, they just do the computation," said Mr. Jett.

Scientists cast nets for drugs from the sea

By Barbara S. Moffet
National Geographic News Service

WASHINGTON — Long, dripping seaweed pulled from the Atlantic yields a substance that fights certain types of leukemia cells. The queen conch of the Caribbean contains materials that appear to inhibit diseases such as polio and influenza.

These are just two of the discoveries scientists have made since they began tapping the sea for drug compounds about 15 years ago.

"Some of these substances may result in useful medications that have not been discovered in land organisms, or may replace those that have lost their potency as a result of bacterial resistance," said a University of Mississippi pharmacognosist, a scientist who deals in natural raw materials for medicine.

Divers Gather Samples

Along with the usual diving gear, research divers carry long knives to slash tangled vegetation and smaller knives and scissors to snip tissues from soft corals and other marine life. For moving targets such as fish, they carry spear guns that can measure six feet.

Plants and animals fished from the sea show promise in treating heart and respiratory ailments, gastrointestinal troubles, tumors, or other ills, writes Lonnelle Aikman in "Nature's Healing Arts: From Folk Medicine to Modern Drugs," published by the National Geographic Society.

Sea cucumbers, for example, contain toxic chemical compounds that are being studied for their effect on the nervous system and their activity against cancer. Toxins from goatfish have been found to combat schistosomiasis, suggesting potential psychiatric applications.

Some medicinal products from the sea are already available. A plant, kelp, yields sodium alginate, which can remove from the digestive system the dangerous Strontium 90, present in fallout from nuclear explosions.

A fungus found in sewage off Sardinia goes into a semisynthetic antibiotic used against infections resistant to penicillin. And a fish, the puffer, gives a toxic nerve-blocking substance that in tiny, supervised doses relaxes muscle spasms and eases pain.

Oklahoma Goes to Sea

Work in this field is now going on in countries from Japan to Sweden, from Mexico to Uganda to the Soviet Union. In the United States alone, more than a score of colleges of pharmacy and medical schools are engaged in undersea research. One of the leaders is the landlocked University of Oklahoma.

The University of Hawaii is screening Pacific sponges that show activity against the highly infectious bacteria Staphylococcus. The University of Miami School of Medicine is looking into a group of beautiful sea animals, the tunicates, which appear to be resistant to cancer, especially leukemia.

Several drug manufacturers around the world have set up underwater research branches, and prestigious organizations in this country also are active in seagoing pharmacology.

"We've by no means dropped our search for biomedical compounds from land plants and animals," said a professor at the University of Rhode Island at Kingston, whose college of pharmacy was one of the first in the country to cast a net for drugs from the sea. "But we're now devoting our energies chiefly to meeting the challenge of finding drugs underwater."

Takes a special kind of person for museum work

FRANKFORT—"It takes a special kind of person to do museum work," according to Bill Long, curator of the Kentucky Historical Society History Museum.

Bill became interested in museum work while selling art for a Baltimore gallery. "After working with a number of curators, I found that I liked the museum environment and the people who worked there," he said. Later Bill moved to Frankfort and assisted in restoration of the Old Capitol. After the project was completed in 1975, he joined the staff of the Kentucky Historical Society as curator.

"Museum work at the historical society is a team effort," Bill said. "We share ideas and responsibilities." He works closely with Elizabeth Perkins, the co-curator and Nicky Hughes, curator of the Kenzucky Military History Museum. "Our work also encourages adaptability. We never have less than five or six projects going at the same time," Bill continued.

One of the most recent projects completed is the Victorian Room. The new attraction is one of seven rooms in the Old Capitol Annex to be completely redone during the next two years. The exhibits are being changed to better use the historical society's collections.

"Eventually, we will add an Empire Room, a room with Kentucky made furniture, one with folk arts, and one featuring the dynamics of change in the 19th century, as well as others," Bill said.

While working on this long-term project, Bill also helps Elizabeth plan exhibitions for the Changing Exhibits Gallery in the museum. In addition, he is responsible for exhibitions and depicting early 20th century art in Kentucky.

Restoring and preserving museum pieces is another part of Bill's job. Along with this task, he constantly checks the temperature, humidity, and environmental conditions of the museum and the storage area.

The curator also assists the registrar in cataloging new items donated to the museum and handles the volume of correspondence which comes from other museums, historical societies and individuals.

"It really helps to be a carpenter and electrician in this business," added Bill. "We all pitch in and do whatever needs to be done." While he and other staff members have history majors, they use a variety of skills. For example, when mechanical or electrical problems occur, such as showcase lights going off, Bill is called to remedy the situation.

But regardless of the many duties and endless hours of research, a museum curator must have time for people. "People are what museum work is all about. We are trying to present the people of yesterday and their activities to the people of today in a manner that is both interesting and educational," Bill said.

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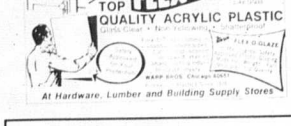

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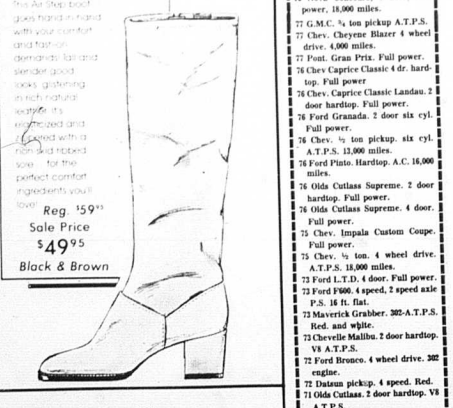

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Vocational Education head updates personnel knowledge

FRANKFORT — When Billy R. Howard, head of the state Bureau for Vocational Education, decided to update his knowledge on personnel development, he participated in a program administered by his bureau, the vocational staff/industry exchange program.

"This venture had a two-fold purpose," said Howard. "I would receive first-hand experience with the staff/industry exchange program and I would learn about the personnel development and improvement programs of a large corporation."

Howard spent several days in Franklin Lakes, N. J., at IBM's Career Development and a day at IBM's plant in Lexington.

"I am interested in industries' staff development programs, particularly IBM's, because the bureau is in the process of assisting the regional staffs — the employees out in the state — to develop their own personnel development programs," said Howard. These programs teach the skills needed in management and supervision and other techniques in personnel improvement.

These workshops are important to vocational regional staffs because many have backgrounds in education or in the area of their teaching specialty and have had little experience in supervision or management, said Howard. He wants the regional staffs to develop their own personnel improvement programs instead of the programs originating out of the state office in Frankfort. "We want the regional people to have a feeling of ownership in the personnel development program."

"My participation in the staff/industry exchange program has reinforced my conviction that this is an effective way for vocational teachers and administrators to upgrade their knowledge and skills," said Howard. So far more than 500 Kentucky vocational personnel have taken advantage of the program.

INDUSTRY EXCHANGE — Harvey Tudor (left), management development manager of the Lexington IBM plant, shows Billy R. Howard, head of the Bureau of Vocational Education, tye typewriter assembly section. Howard participated in the bureau's staff/industry exchange program, updating his knowledge of personnel development programs.

Howard explained the staff/industry exchange program allows vocational teachers and administrators to exchange work stations with skilled technicians and supervisors in business and industry, or health agencies and institutions, where vocational students are being employed or may find employment. The teachers then revise their courses to include the new information to help make occupational education more relevant to their students.

But business and industry can profit too since they usually save the time and money which otherwise might have been spent in retaining new employees. Also, they can be confident that students hired from the vocational schools are skilled and knowledgeable about current technology and business practices and, consequently, more likely to be very productive employees. This, plus the personal contacts established through the program, also increases the students' employment possibilities.

Along with new skills, the educators also provide their students with a socio-economic report of the exchange site. Descriptions of working conditions, salaries, employee benefits and educational opportunities to social and recreational opportunities, shopping areas, schools and churches are included. Such information not only helps the student decide where to apply for employment, but it also helps reduce his adjustment time once he is employed.

The staff exchange isn't always on a one-to-one basis, but businessmen and industrialists do participate at the schools. This direct contact enables them to provide input on vocational courses, identify information which needs to be taught and acquire teaching techniques which they can use in their own training programs.

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Questionaire accompanies VA checks

November checks going to 1.2 million Veterans Administration pensioners will be accompanied by a questionnaire on income to assist them to qualify for continuing VA pension payments. Pensions — unlike compensation for service-connected disability or death — are based on income.

Questionnaires also will go to 28,000 parents receiving dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) checks.

Completed questionnaires must be returned to the VA by Jan. 1 to insure continued receipt of benefits.

Pensions are paid to needy veterans who are totally and permanently disabled from nonservice-connected causes, or to their widows. Amount of the monthly stipend is based on the annual income of the recipient.

Annual income also governs amounts of DIC payments to certain parents of veterans who died of service-connected causes.

With some exceptions, pensioners are required to file income questionnaires annually. Those 72 years of age or older, who have been on the VA pension rolls for two consecutive years, are exempt from filing. However, these people must report income changes as they occur.

Some beneficiaries who normally are exempt will receive questionnaires because of cost-of-living increases in annuities. Prompt return of the questionnaires will avoid suspension of monthly checks in 1978, a VA spokesman said.

Those failing to return the completed questionnaires before Jan. 1 will, in lieu of receiving their January pension check on Feb. 1, receive a letter from the VA explaining why their pension payments have been suspended.

Full information on the VA pension program is available from any VA office or veterans organization service officer.

Mr. Mangeot named acting Commissioner

FRANKFORT — Daniel A. Mangeot was named today as acting commissioner of the Department of Public Information by Gov. Julian Carroll. The appointment is effective immediately.

Mr. Mangeot, who has been deputy commissioner of the department, succeeds James C. Vernon whose resignation as commissioner became effective Tuesday.

Mr. Mangeot previously served as an executive assistant to Mr. Vernon. Prior to that appointment, he was executive assistant to the director of the state's Bicentennial Commission.

A Covington native, Mr. Mangeot is 38. He, his wife, Diane, and their three children live in Frankfort.

Say You Saw It In The Mercury

Army ROTC scholarships available

MOREHEAD — High School seniors interested in Army ROTC four-year scholarships should contact Morehead State University as soon as possible.

The scholarships pay tuition, books and lab fees and a $100 monthly allowance for 10 months per year. Recipients must serve four years of active duty in the Army.

To be eligible, a student must be a U. S. citizen, at least 17 years of age by October 1, 1978 less than 25 on June 30, 1982, and must have had the SAT or ACT tests no later than November, 1977.

The deadline for applications is December 15. Additional information and applications are available from Maj. William Stanley, UPO 1361, MSU, Morehead, Ky 40351.

Receives grant

MOREHEAD — Dr. Stuart Sprague, professor of history at Morehead State University, has received a three-month research fellowship from the Newberry Library of Chicago.

The grant, which consists of a monthly stipend of $1,500, will deal with the revitalization of the teaching of state and local history in colleges and universities.

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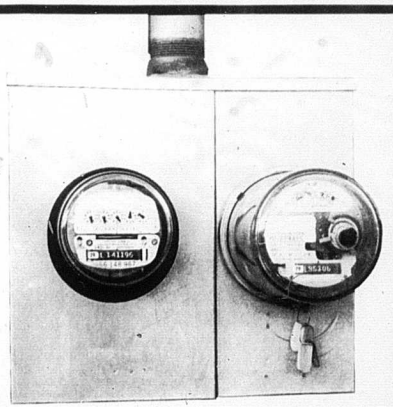

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