

The Carle Mercury

Our 111th year, No. 28

Carlsile, Ky. 40311, Thursday, July 13, 1978

20 Cents per copy

Fiscal Court / Notes assessment increase



Blackberry Queen
Miss Lore Bretz was recently named the Blackberry Festival Queen at the 30th annual festival held last week in Carlsile. Miss Bretz competed with other girls for the title. She is the daughter of Mrs. Jean Bretz and the late Hubert Bretz of Carlsile. — Photo by Jeff Kerr

H₂O's the ? as posed by CD Director Steve Burns

The Carlsile City Council was visited by the Nicholas County Fiscal Court and Steve Burns, Community Development Director, at their regular meeting July 10 and concluded several items that were pending.

The Council was informed by Mr. Burns, who is in charge of the renovation of Henryville, that after interviewing over 100 contractors in the state he was unable to find a price that would include the much needed water lines in Henryville. Mr. Burns stated that the bids ran \$98,000 over the budget and that in order to construct the water lines which was an amendment to the budget the city would have to give \$25,000 to help meet the expense. After much discussion the Council, who felt they were unable to give that much money, inquired if they could take over the construction of the sidewalks which would eliminate a tremendous amount of the cost submitted by the bidders.

Under the bids given by the contractors the sidewalks would cost \$10 per foot and the curb and gutting would cost \$13.50 per foot. Mr. Burns said that any deletion or postponement would first have to be cleared through the citizens of Henryville and HUD. If the sidewalks were undertaken by the city, the grant money, officially for the sidewalks, could be used for the needed installation of water lines for fire protection and the reduction of insurance cost.

The Council voted to meet with the

The State Department of Revenue's 1978 property tax assessment on Nicholas County real estate totals \$52,472,899 compared to the \$50,233,882 first assessment in 1977 which was thrown out by the Nicholas Circuit Court. The Circuit Court action is being appealed and the State Court of Appeal will hear the 1977 class action case on Aug. 23.

Roger Wozniak presented these figures to Fiscal Court at its regular meeting July 5, and asked that a city-county citizen committee be appointed to see what can be done about the tax situation locally. Judge/Executive Reece Snow appointed all members to the Fiscal Court to meet with Mr. Wozniak and other members of his committee.

Assessment increase notices mailed

Property owners have been mailed notices of 1978 assessment increases by the Property Valuation Administrator (PVA) office. Those who did not receive notices have either not been raised or they agreed with their increase when they reported their property earlier. The PVA office has prepared the 1978 tax roll even though the 1977 taxes are being disputed, because the revenue is needed.

The \$4,232,027 increase over the voided 1977 figure is attributed to the increase in commercial and county residential properties, according to the PVA office, rather than any substantial increase in city residential property.

The 1978 assessment was \$51,261,861 and the 1977 assessment was \$47,029,834. According to Mr. Wozniak, an article in the Courier-Journal in February, 1977, placed the 1978 assessment at 6.9 per cent of the 1977 Fair Market Value. He stated that the 1978 figure, based on this 1978 percentage, is 118.66 per cent.

He added, that in 1978 Nicholas County's 94.9 per cent was higher than Harrison, Montgomery, Mercer, Bath, Bourbon and Fleming — just some of the counties he checked.

County road supervisor petition discussed

At both its called meeting on June 29 and its regular meeting July 5, Fiscal Court discussed the county road supervisor position, presently held by Joe Smart.

Jim Brown, district engineer for the ten-county area including Nicholas, answered questions Wednesday. Accompanied by Allen Justice, also of the Petersburg District Highway Office, he explained that if the county wants to appoint a new supervisor he must have three-years road experience and pass an oral or written exam given by the State Commissioner of Transportation.

Mr. Brown also pointed out that the state road contract with the county is voided as soon as Mr. Smart leaves the position until his replacement is certified by the state. In other words, the state rather than the county would maintain county roads during the interim period as line permits.

When asked the status of the Nicholas County Road Program, Mr. Brown stated that "the condition of roads actually amazes me! I use Nicholas County as an example many times of what a small county can do. Nicholas County is right at the top with the best of them."

He said that it is one of the best county road systems in the district because of a lot of people. He added he is not for or against any person because "he does not want to interfere in county business."

Attorney General's opinion received

County Attorney Jack Conley read an Attorney General's Opinion stating that Mr. Smart was improperly appointed to the supervisor's position because the Fiscal Court had never appointed him according to law. The statute says that the County Judge, with the approval of the Fiscal Court, must appoint a supervisor for two or four year periods beginning in 1974 and 1976, every number years. This has never been done since Mr. Smart was hired in 1967. The opinion recommended that he be appointed now retroactive to January, 1978, to conform to the statute, and that he will hold the position until he or his successor is so appointed.

The matter was tabled until the next regular meeting on July 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Henryville bids opened Friday

Steve Burns, community development coordinator, reported that four contractors say they will submit bids on the Henryville contract. Each bid will include sewer, streets, curb and gutters, sidewalks, and possibly water.

At the June 29 meeting, Mr. Burns reported that because only one bid was submitted for this general contract work, the project was reawarded for bids. The second bids were to be opened at 10 a.m. last Friday, and were to be less than \$200,000.

Mr. Burns stated that about 90 per



Miss Harrison RECC
Miss Rhonda C. Goodman, 18, of August 1314, Miss Goodman is a 1978 RECC at their annual meeting Friday. School and plans to study at the Mayville Community College and the Miss Kentucky Pageant in Louisville, University of Kentucky. — Kerr photo

Donor program goes past goal

The Nicholas County ministerial Association's Blood Donor Program held at the Carlsile Methodist Church on Monday, July 9, was marked by what was a "tremendous turnout for official

Taxpayers / Be Alert

The property tax unrest in the United States is beginning to snowball in every state in the union and is nowhere more apparent than in Nicholas County since the tax notices of an increase in the assessment for 1978 have been received by the appraised taxpayers.

It is a most question to advise the citizens of Nicholas County of the financial strain and impact on their pocketbooks brought about by the continued and unnecessary increases of the tax burden.

It is of general interest of everyone to know that in 1978 our assessment was \$49,901,826 or 94.9% of the required 100%. In 1978 our assessment was \$51,261,861 or 97.43%. It is questionable whether we needed over 2.57% to make the 100% needed for 1977. However, an unusual and shocking assessment was made in 1977 amounting to \$52,233,882 or 110.61%. In 1978 our citizens received another shocker when it was revealed that the assessment was raised to \$52,472,899 or 118.66% of the 100% required or an excess of 18.66%, which is most unreasonable and hard to take. These figures are based on the 1975 percentage figure of 94.9%, which was released by the Kentucky Department of Revenue. The figures do not take into consideration the effect of inflation over the 1975-78 period.

There is to be a called meeting of all taxpayers who feel that something must be done about our tax situation. This meeting is to be in the Courthouse, Friday, July 14, 1978, 8 p.m. This meeting is for the purpose of a general discussion of the cause and effect of the tax predicament we find ourselves in and ways and means to extricate ourselves therefrom, including the necessary immediate action to be taken by the Fair Tax Committee, the organization which represents all taxpayers of Nicholas County. It appears that the motto of the State of Kentucky is very proper at this time: "United we stand, divided we fall." Members of all boards and governmental agencies of Carlsile and Nicholas County are urged to attend this meeting.

Taxpayers are notified that the hearing before the Court of Appeals on the 1977 Class Action suit, which is now pending, will be held before the Court of Appeals, Capitol Building, Frankfort, Kentucky, at 9:00 o'clock a.m., August 21, 1978. It is requested that a large delegation of Nicholas County taxpayers attend this meeting.

Would you as taxpayers be in favor of an amendment to the laws of the state of Kentucky limiting taxing units of the state to an amount or percentage that our homes and other real estate could be assessed as was done with Proposition 13 in California? Send your vote at once to the Carlsile Mercury.

VOTE: YES NO

Rev. Edwards to assume pastorate

The First Baptist Church of Carlsile has called Rev. Robert Nelson Edwards of Waldron, Ind. to serve as their pastor and begin his ministry in the community on Sunday, July 23. Rev. Edwards, a native of Indiana, is a graduate of Georgetown College and holds a Master of Divinity from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Prior to his undergraduate work, he spent 13 years in the U.S. Navy during which time he was assigned to communication stations in Hawaii, the

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