Opinion

July 10 an important date to remember

What are you planning to do on July 10? The Nicholas County Ministerial Association is hoping that, whatever those plans are, they will include stopping by the Carlisle United Methodist Church between the hours of 1:00 to 5:30 and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. to donate a pint of blood.

Summertime is usually a busy time filled with plans for vacations, picnics, camping trips and other outdoor activities. Unfortunately for the Central Kentucky Blood Center, many regular donors get caught up in these activities and forget to donate. However, it is during the summer months of June, July and August that there is an increase of approximately 10 per cent in the number of pints of blood transfused. Holidays are specifically rough as industries and schools are closed and donors are on vacation. Because of this, the supply of blood often gets to a critically low level and some surgeries may face possible postponement.

If your plans take you out of the county for July 10, make arrangements to donate before you leave. If you are going to be in Carlisle on that day, plan to save a life by contacting Rev. Kamlage at 289-5005, Rev. Gene White at 289-5295 or Rev. Mark Prevo at 289-7296 and make an appointment to donate.

A jewel made of bricks

In the heart of Carlisle and Nicholas County, there lies one of the best possessions a community could ever have. It is a jewel made of bricks and inside its doors lies the world.

It is the public library. A ruby amid rocks and we are very fortunate that we have one that is of such high standard. Our library has everything a library should have and perhaps a bit more.

One of the most impressive things about our library is that it is QUIET and whether there is one book or one thousand, without a quiet atmosphere there is no concentration. One can not possibly focus ones attention upon a subject while people are gossiping, (no one can avoid listening in on gossip), yelling or generally disrupting one's attention. Thusly, it is a wonderful thing to go to a library and find a quiet and comfortable atmosphere where one may get on to better things — reading — without interruption.

Our library has not only the whole world inside its small doors but it also has little bits and pieces of it. Little islands, ponds, volcanoes everything can be visibly seen through the thin pages of a book. The Nicholas County library has books and books and more books and disregarding the history, periodical room and the current periodicals, our library has books that would delight anyone who happened inside. No doubt he would be dazzled. Unlike some libraries where librarians choose books to suit their own taste, here we find the correct proceedings forever in progress with new books arriving with great variety.

We need to commemorate our library and librarians for the great service that they offer not only well but greatly. This summer will be the opportune time to see the world inside the doors of a jewel.

Trading one thing for another

What happens when federal programs receive less than overwhelming support from local governments? The answer could be less than a few months away if a classic example such as the Senior Citizens Program fails to come up with the $1,000 needed for their $28,000 budget.

To update the conflict, the federal government announced their intention of giving $21,000 to the Senior Citizens Program if the city and county came up with an $8,250 donation. The Nicholas County Fiscal Court agreed to meet the budget and the condition that $1,000 or more be given by the city. The City Council turned down the request for more money and left the program to supply their own $1,000 deficit.

The city most undoubtedly has the right to support what they feel most feasible and although the federal government will probably not let the program fall through, it will certainly be interesting to see what possible action the government will propose as a solution to the problem.

One section of the program that the federal government will not change is no doubt the very one that stirs the opposition is: the program is free to anyone over 65. The problem here would seem to be that although some of the citizens may be able to pay, they are not forced to. The citizens pay as much as they want, when they want and since the program will never be self-supportive, citizens foot the bill both federally and locally with taxes.

With the federal government setting the rules by which this program is guided, it would seem they should fund it all through federal taxes instead of pushing local governments for double taxation.

If local governments supply funds for the program, then they should have the right to govern them and furthermore if the local governments express that they cannot support the funds that the program demands, then perhaps the program should be geared at being self-supportive.

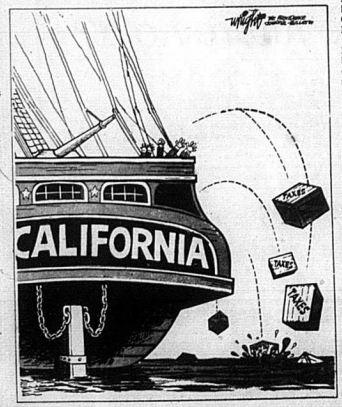
Food stamps, medicare and social security are all benefits given to qualifying senior citizens but what happens when people get too much of a good thing? One cannot help but being reminded of the frog who was cold in the pan of water and then after the heat was turned on he got warm, he relaxed and suddenly realised that the heat was unbearable and finally when it was too late the frog perished. It would seem this is quite the case here. We are footing the bill for these directors to take our senior citizens out of their home and into another for a meal "to keep them out of a nursing home". It would seem that we are just substituting one thing for another. If they (the citizens) can not do for themselves, the nursing home would be the safest place for them. Most nursing homes have game rooms, televisions and companionship which are the things that the directors have stressed they need. They also have constant supervision, nurses, doctors and food! It would also seem that the need is great for self-support instead of reversing the need for the elderly to cook and fend for themselves, we need to urge them to do so instead of giving them a crutch in which to lean on. The words of long ago were "survival of the fittest"yet little did Mr. Darwin know of what taxation can do.

Memory lane

Kay Irvine recipient of Keenland Foundation Award; Local miller offers 62¢ per bushel for wheat

Thursday, June 26, 1958

Miss Kay Allen Irvin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Irvin of Moorefield, is the recipient of the Keenland Foundation Award. The $1200 award beginning with the fall term, was presented by Dr. Adron Doran, president of Morehead State College.



Larry Wayne Crawford, son of Mrs. Edgar George and Mr. Joe Crawford, has received the Linde Air Products Company Scholarship in Chemical Engineering.

Miss Alma Dean Hudnall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Hudnall, who has been home economics teacher in the city school for the past two years, has resigned and accepted an assistantship in home economics at Ohio State University.

Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Gene Hall and son, David Carroll, arrived Friday from Columbus, Georgia. Mr. Hall will resume his position as band director at Nicholas County High School, from where he was granted a leave of absence for military service. Mrs. Hall is the former Kay Rogers Fisher, daughter of A. R. Fisher.

MARRIED — Sandra Branaman of Corbin and Samuel Peter Dozier III of Versailles. — Mary Martha Darrell and M. H. Ruddell, Jr. — Judy Jacobs McCormick of Seaman, O. and Paul Damico of Cincinnati, O.

Thursday, June 30, 1938

Albert Sweazy, son of Rev. C. A. Sweazy, pastor of the Carlisle Methodist Church, will preach his first local sermon next Sunday night.

William Kenney suffered fractured ribs and bruises last Thursday when a team of horses pulling a sled ran away. The sled passed over his body.

Threshers have started threshing the wheat crop in Nicholas County and farmers report a good yield. Wednesday morning the Carlisle Mill and Supply Company quoted a price of 62 cents per bushel for wheat.

One of the hardest rains in several months fell throughout this section Sunday afternoon and caused damage by washing crops and the flooding of low-lands.

Mrs. Minnie Snapp suffered a fracture of the hip, arm and shoulder Saturday morning when she fell at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mike Heflin, in Millersburg, county.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Claude Darrell, of near Miranda, on the 19th, a daughter. — To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce Grannis of Dayton, Ohio, on the 25th, a son.

MARRIED — Miss Mildred Dwelly and Floyd Clark, Sunday at Mt. Olivet.

DIED — Mrs. Mary Ann Sousley, 97, at the home of her niece, Miss Lutie Clay Darnall of Lexington, Saturday night. — Levi Hendrix, 66, last Wednesday afternoon at his home near Myers. — Miss Lula Stone, Saturday night at the home of her brother, Walter Stone, at Moorefield.

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No referendum privilege in state, but wait until the next election

By S. C. Van Curen

FRANKFORT – Kentuckians have noted with interest what Californians did on proposition 13 toward reducing property taxes that had gone sky - high with inflation.

Californians also noted that the state had a surplus of $5 billion, and they wanted some relief from high taxes as property valuations continued to increase and raise their tax payments.

It wasn't taxes alone that bothered the Californians, but they took note of higher postage, higher food costs, and higher prices for everything they buy including a big increase in their social security taxes. They just rebelled at the continued higher cost of living and took out their venom on the one place that gave them the opportunity.

Taxpayers in other states with the referendum privilege are taking a hard look at the California success and are thinking of attacking higher taxes in a similar way.

Kentucky doesn't have the referendum privilege in its constitution, and the only thing Kentuckians can do is complain and wait until next election.

However, taxes in Kentucky are very low in comparison to California and many other states.

The total tax bill on real estate is just barely above one per cent in some areas that Californians designated as the maximum under proposition 13.

Back in 1965 the Kentucky legislature passed the "rollback law" following the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals that said property should be valued at fair cash value for tax purposes.

The rollback law mandated that property would not be taxed any more dollars than it was in 1964, but it did permit taxing districts to raise taxes 10 per cent for the next year and to take advantage of growth (increasing values).

In the 1976 legislature, Kentucky passed the power equalization law that permits the state to collect the first 30 cents of the local tax rate for public education. All profit that is collected by the local school district. The first 30 cents collected by the state and other general fund revenue is then apportioned to local school districts on an equal basis per student or classroom unit. This supposedly equalizes education opportunity for every child in the state.

The only way taxes can be increased in Kentucky is by a vote of the people in the local taxing district. Some school districts have even failed to increase taxes to fully qualify for state school funds.

Before power equalization was voted for the schools, the local districts varied from about 30 cents up to 80 or 90 cents in a few exceptional cases. Most were around the 30 cent level.

The state collects only 1.5 cents per $100 valuation for its share, while county and city taxes range from about 12 cents upward.

Local taxing districts may lower city government, county government, and other special tax rates without a vote of the people if their income exceeds the need of any local branch of government.

For example, the total tax bill for Franklin Countians is $1.115 per $100 property valuation. The county rate is 17 cents, county schools is .349, the state is .315 of which the state gets only 1.5 cents per $100 and the other 30 cents is for schools, and the local library district gets 20 cents for a total tax bill of $1.054 in comparison to the one per cent ($1.00 per $100) that Californians allowed their state government.

Kentucky also has a homestead exemption law that allows $1750 for homeowners for 65 years of age.

The problem is that property valuation administrators are required to keep their assessments current at fair cash value.

Inflation has about taken away the tax exemption for the retired people since it was first instituted at $800. The inflation figure is tied to this exemption, but it doesn't keep up with inflation.

Inflation is the problem in Kentucky, and not the tax rates.

Letters

To The Carlisle Mercury:

As you know the minimum fine for almost all traffic violations in Kentucky increased by $15 effective June 17, 1978. This increase was done about because of a law enacted by the 1978 General Assembly. The purpose of the increase is to generate funds for the 15% education incentive supplemental pay to local police officers' salaries.

The Board of Directors of the Kentucky State Police Professional Association has directed me to write this letter for the following reasons. There has been much said about the $15 increase which has led many people to remark that police officers will soon be working on a "fee" system. The news media has reported on numerous occasions that traffic fines will increase by $15 and this increase will go to all police officers in the state. One major TV station reported it goes to the "state's police officers". This was misinterpreted by many listeners of that report to mean that State Police officers. Since Kentucky State Police Troopers write a high percentage of traffic citations in Kentucky we, quite naturally, will receive most of the criticism. Kentucky State Police officers are provided annual training by our own Bureau and do NOT receive the 15% educational incentive supplement. We are not complaining that we do not receive the supplemental pay, merely that State Troopers do not receive any sort of fee for arrests. We feel that many departments need this assistance to obtain and retain qualified and well trained police officers.

Thank you,
Clyde A. Thomas
Chairman, Board of Directors
Kentucky State Police
Professional Association

from our readers

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Congratulations on your recent accomplishments in the Kentucky Press Association's Spring Newspaper Contest.

I'm sure you are all very proud of your work and your newspaper.

Continued success in the future and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Fred Stewart
Director News Services
Morehead State University

Mercury Vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

A true story

Mrs. S. T. Minton, Route 4, sent us the following short story:

"We were out for a drive, my husband and I and our 10-year-old daughter, Melanie. Just outside of Aberdeen, Ohio, we passed a small airport. Melanie started jumping up and down in the back seat saying, 'Daddy, I want to take an airplane ride!' We pulled into the airport, three very nervous people!

"The pilot seated my husband and daughter in the rear seat and me up front with him. With all seat belts fastened securely we thought we would soon be airborne! After jiggling with the ignition a few minutes (it seemed like eternity) the plane wouldn't start! Finally the pilot said he would have to put us in another plane, and asked us if that would be okay. My daughter was the first to speak up and said, 'Yes, we want one that works!' "

—MV—

I don't understand

Young Brian Elder, age four, who is spending several days with his grandmother, Kay and grandfather, Warn, was asked by a friend the other day what he thought of his new baby sister, whom he hasn't seen. There was a string of questions which I don't remember, but his reply, as related to me was, "I don't understand a thing you are saying!"

—MV—

Are beef prices high?

Not that I can't read grocery prices and know for myself that beef prices are high and getting higher. But Kay almost daily reminds me of that fact.

Larry Jones, extension consumer economist in the UK College of Agriculture points out that "high" is a relative term.

"Comparing rising beef prices to other things consumers buy, we find the cost of beef is not increasing as fast as many other items," he says. As an example, Jones points to the Consumer Price Index, which has risen more than 40% since 1973. In contrast, he notes that the average price of beef in March 1978 was only 16% higher than 1973 prices.

Yes, Mr. Jones, I bet you have a hard time getting that point across to your better half. Then adding insult to injury, the economist says, "Cattle production runs in cycles as do many agricultural commodities, but in the cattle business the cycle tends to run 10-12 years from one low point in cattle numbers to another. This means beef prices should again decline in the 1980's."

—MV—

And oldie

From the June 13, 1901 issue of the Carlisle Mercury was copied by one James C. Smith, the following is as true today as it was in that day, and they ran the item on page one:

Breathes there a man with a soul so dead
That to himself he hath not said,
"My trade of late is getting bad,
I'll try another ten inch ad."
If such there be go mark him well
For him no bank account may swell
No Angel watch the golden stair
To welcome home a millionaire.

To such a man the noisy din
Of traffic may not enter in,
For bargain hunters by the score
Shall pass nor heed his dingy door;
For tho his sign is on the wall
And on some barnyard gate a scrawl,
No people who have cash and sense
Go prancing round to read a fence.

The man who never asks for trade
By local line or ad displayed
Cares more for rest than worldly gain,
And patronage but gives him pain.
Tread lightly friends, and let no sound
Disturb his solitude profound.
Here let him live in clam repose
Unsought except by men he owes.

And when he dies go plant him deep
That naught may breed his dreamless sleep.
Where no rude clamour may dispel
The quiet that he loved so well.
And that the world may know its loss
Place on his grave a wreath of moss.
And on the stone above, "Here lies
A chump who wouldn't advertise."

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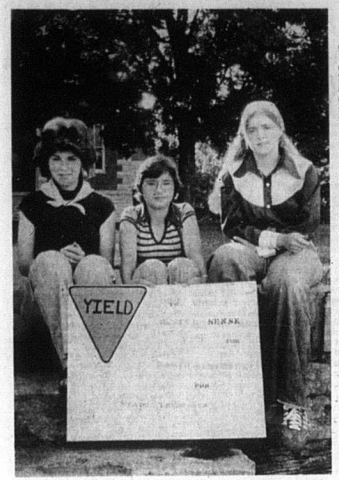

State 4-H competitors

Vicki Bussell, Lynn Judge and Martha Woosley participated in the annual 4-H Week held at the UK campus last week. Miss Bussell left, participated in the style revue, Miss Judge ran for vice-president and Miss Wosley ran for treasurer during the week long program of competition and workshops. — Smith photo

Kentucky reflections ..... by George Street Boone

Does the so-called "tax revolt" in California send any message to Kentucky? One observer called California's almost two to one support of the so-called Jarvis-Gann Amendment the result of the "Cantankerous Factor" whose principal symptom is an acute voter skepticism and assertiveness that says "no" to incumbents, to familiar faces, to the government's way.

While Kentucky does not now have the political device of initiative and referendum, the California experience has drawn attention. "Jarvis-Gann (Proposition 13) is like the two by four you are supposed to use to hit a mule to get its attention," said Senator Alan Cranston of California. Without question, the mule had to hear on election day.

The tax storm from the California vote produced some interesting comparisions of such relative tax burdens. The New York Times reports that on average in 1978, states collected $46 in annual property tax for each $1,000 of personal income. Kentucky collected $22 for each $1,000 of personal income and only three states collected less. Alaska was the highest with $120.

Time reports that Kentuckians in 1976 paid an average of $549 per capita in state and local taxes with seven states paying less. Alaska was highest with $1,896, its per capita average. For the decade 1966-1976, Kentucky's per cent of such tax increased 181%, the highest percentage increase of any state except Alaska which reported an incredible 561%. Indiana's 107% was the nation's lowest.

Public referenda or plebiscites, such as that used to submit the California tax roll-back proposition, are employed for one or more of the following purposes: Ratifying amendments to state constitutions or local government charters; approving the enactment of state laws or local ordinances submitted by a legislative body or directly by the electorate through a petition; authorizing state and local bond issues, and creating or enlarging local governmental units.

Proposition 13 reached the ballot under a type of state constitutional provision which was very popular early in this century. This was a decade or so after Kentucky adopted its last constitution and no such initiative provision appears in our basic charter.

Referenda are alleged to foster "grass roots democracy" and popular control, to provide maximum citizen control over legislation. In fact, it impairs the operation of the legislative process in representative government. Face-to-face consultations, argument and consultation of a town's electorate convened in a single hall and deciding all issues, are characteristics of classic town meetings. President Woodrow Wilson early in this century interpreted the growing use of the referendum as a warning to the legislatures that they had better get back to their proper business of popular (not special interest) representation.

The legislative function is to explore and expose conflicting goals and to examine, modify and amend proposals. Legislators can negotiate viable compromises among a whole series of institutional, parochial, short-to-term and long-run interests. Under a referendum, only a yes or nay, all or nothing outcome, is possible.

Those who oppose the use of referenda have been accused of not trusting the people. It can also be argued that to oppose referenda may, in fact, be an affirmation of the integrity of the legislator's role and of the legislative process.

Certainly the California vote has sent a message. The viability of the democratic system may depend upon our interpretation of the message, and its application to the intricate and difficult problems of our society.

Three attend 4-H week

A record breaking 926 4-H members participated in the 56th annual 4-H Week June 13-16 and among them were Vicki Bussell, Martha Woosley and Lynn Judge of Carlisle.

This year's theme, "4-H — You Light Up My Life," included the state office elections in which Miss Woosley and Miss Judge participated. Miss Woosley was the multi-area nominee for state treasurer but failed to win the election by a slim margin and Miss Judge who was a candidate for vice president also failed to win but reportedly headed a good campaign. Miss Bussell modeled clothing she had for the 4-H revue which included 128 and lost by only a few points.

A special award was presented to Mrs. David Wilson who is the 4-H coordinator for Nicholas County and who chaperoned the girls to the convention. The plaque expressed gratitude for her service as Dean of Women during the week.

THE CARING CORNER

Pray constantly. (I Thessalonians 5:17)

When I was a young boy, my grandparents who lived on a farm did not have the convenience of city water. Instead they had a pump at one end of the kitchen sink. Anytime I wanted a drink, I could always use it to draw a cold glass of well water. Many of you around Carlisle have lived in similar circumstances, you know that when a pump is used frequently the water pours out with the first stroke of the handle. But if it has not been used for quite a while, you have to work the handle up and down many times before you get any results. The glass of water came only after much priming and great effort.

The same is true with prayer. If we talk with God regularly, then words come easily from our hearts. Every occasion no matter how unimportant, becomes an opportunity to go to God and seek His guidance and wisdom. On the other hand, if we neglect to speak with Him regularly, we often find ourselves in moods of gloom and discouragement. The "pump of prayer" will change your life only when you keep it in constant use.

We are dependent on God for everything, and without Him we can do nothing. Our Father cares, so give Him a "call". It's the next best thing to being there.

Join us this Sunday in caring.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Deliver your opinions correctly

This opinion page is open to our readers at all times. If you send your letter to the editor with a hand signed signature before Tuesday of that edition and if you say nothing in your letter that would slander anyone's name, your letter will be published and received by our reading public. On the other hand, if a letter does not comply with these rules, it will probably be either delayed or thrown in the waste-basket.

The opinion page is like any other service, it is designed for your benefit but it must be used correctly.

We welcome all letters and enjoy our readers comments but we cannot publish them at someone else's expense whether it be ours, yours or others.

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