

Christmas Parade is Dec. 9 at 2 p.m.



The Carlisle Mercury

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Snow plan told

Kentucky 22 and Kentucky 36 from the Carlisle city limits to where those roads intersect with U. S. 60 have been designated as Priority 1 roads for snow removal this winter.

That information was contained in a news release from the state government that outlined the different priorities for snow removal on state-maintained roads.

The roads are divided into four priorities. Priority 1 is used for interstate highways, parkways, selected urban expressways and bypasses and any

other roads that are considered to be of major importance to the state.

Priority 2 roads are those that are considered to be of secondary importance to the state.

Priority 3 roads are those that are considered to be of tertiary importance to the state.

Priority 4 roads are those that are considered to be of quaternary importance to the state.

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Area burley marts record top averages

Nicholas County's 1978 burley tobacco crop, estimated at 8,200,716 pounds, is playing a large part in establishing two nearby markets as the top-averaging floors in the 1978 selling season.

The Cynthiana market with a weekly average of \$136.84 topped the 60-market, eight-state burley belt for the first week in sales. Cynthiana sold 2,667,774 pounds last week for a dollar total of \$3,671,813.

Second in the eight-state belt was the Paris market with a weekly average of \$134.95 for 1,650,376 pounds and a dollar

total of \$2,277,921.

Kentucky burley tobacco markets captured the top nine spots in the 60-market belt, with the lone out-of-state contender the New Tazewell, Tenn. market which sold 2,375,320 pounds for a \$134 average.

The belt-wide average for the first week of sales was \$122.61. During the first week a total of 123,600,288 pounds were sold for a dollar total of \$175,847,269.

Kentucky's pounds sold for the first week totaled \$2,327,386 for a dollar total

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Sale day

Franklin Abner, center, checks some of his 1978 burley tobacco crop before the buyers move down the rows. With Abner are Kenneth Maddox, left and Kewell Whitaker, both of the Lillian Tobacco Warehouse in Cynthiana where the sale was held. The Cynthiana

tobacco market topped the eight-state belt for the fifth straight day this season Monday with an average of \$136.84. Abner raised 14,000 pounds this year with Jimmy H. Whitaker on Hawthorne's farm near Hartsville. — Photo by Jeff Kerr.

In his debt

Carlisle native befriended young Edgar Bergen and his dummies

By Jeff Kerr

Time broke up the vaudeville team of Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy this year when Bergen died just after a scheduled performance in Las Vegas and A. V. "Doc" Allison could be excused if he was a little sadder than the rest of us.

Allison once lent Bergen enough money to get his laundry out of lock and participated in a different sort of "peppy raid" with the famed comedian.

Both Allison and Bergen were members of the renowned Redpath Chautauqua, one of many traveling entertainment caravans that crisscrossed America before television, radio and talking movies.

Allison was a crew manager in charge of setting up some of the many tents used by the traveling show and Bergen was a young, struggling performer in the Hoarling Twenties. The Carlisle Mercury of June 21, 1923 proclaimed the coming of the Redpath show to Carlisle featuring Edgar Bergen, who "is a very clever ventriloquist and cartoonist".

Considered a pioneer in his art and his famous dummy, Charlie McCarthy, would be headed for a home in the Smithsonian Institute when death finally silenced Bergen's voice and broke up

the team.

But beginning in 1921 and until 1925 Edgar Bergen, Charlie and Laura McCarthy and Doc Allison were contemporaries in America's most popular form of entertainment.

Doc Allison grew up in Carlisle watching the chautauquas come and go each summer with their star-studded casts. When another Carlisle boy, A. R. Fisher, got a job with Redpath the way was paved for his friends to follow.

Allison remembers sit in all, including himself and Fisher, who traveled the central United States for several years in the 1920's. Along with the two were Robert Tunn, Everett Smith, John

Willie Hutchins and Sterling Kearns.

In his first year with Redpath Allison met the troupe in Brunswick, Ga. There with the company was a young man fresh out of Northwestern University who had a different kind of act.

At first Bergen used several puppets for a modern Punch-and-Judy show. As time passed he honed his act to just himself and Charlie McCarthy, the wooden dummy who always had the last word and the last laugh.

There was another McCarthy, Laura, but she disappeared when Bergen found he couldn't reach the high notes needed to give the impression of female speech.

Mortimer Snerd, Bergen's other dummy, was still part of a tree somewhere during the days of the Redpath.

Allison stayed with Redpath for five seasons, from 1921 to 1926. Although he says it "was the best job I ever had", when he married in 1925 that was the end of his association with the chautauqua and his days on the road.

He remembers Bergen as a performer who wrote all of his own material, was a deft cartoonist using a chalk board and one who pioneered ventriloquism as a performing art.

Other sides

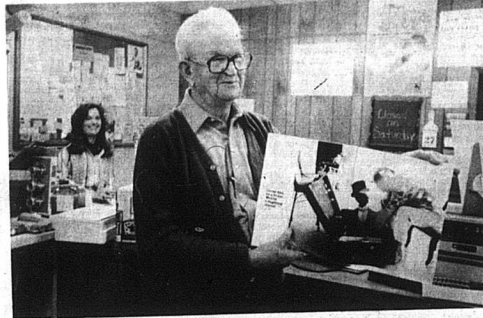
But there were other sides to the man who would carry his career to the top and making the names of his dummies, wooden people who lived only when he gave them life, household words for generations of Americans.

Once, in Savannah, Ga. in 1921 Bergen needed some cash to pick up his laundry and his new friend, Doc Allison, came through.

And when a certain performer in the light Opera "Robin Hood" fell into the unwholesome habit of wearing the same pants from the opening show well into the season it was Allison, Bergen and others who relieved the tedious mounting among the troupe by abducting with the trousers and burning the evidence.

Allison remembers Bergen sitting around with the boys, the ever-present Charlie McCarthy on his lap, making the remarks that Bergen alone would

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Last bow

A. V. "Doc" Allison holds a life magazine with the last picture ever taken of his old friends Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy. Doc and Bergen were members of the same chautauqua show in the 1920's and the famed ventriloquist performed in Carlisle on at least two occasions during that time.

[Pam Stacy, background, brought on Doc's smile by telling him she'd never seen him without his hat.] More than 50 years after traveling the central U. S. with the Redpath Chautauqua Doc still puts in a full day's work. — Photo by Jeff Kerr.



A young Edgar Bergen with Charlie and Laura McCarthy



A. V. "Doc" Allison (second from right) during his days as crew manager of the Redpath Chautauqua