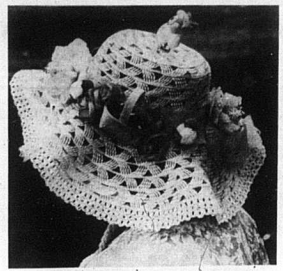
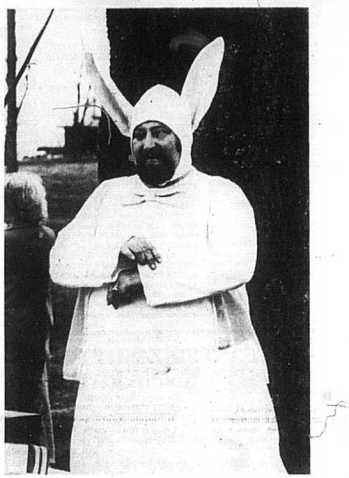
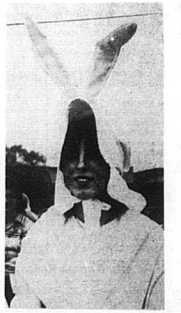
BGI Easter Egg Hunt 1979



(See story on page 4)





Photos by Jeff Kerr

Nicholas included in nuclear disaster emergency plan

Officials in the State Department for Human Resources are drafting emergency plans that detail government action in the event of an accident at a nuclear power plant.

Although there are no nuclear power plants operating in Kentucky, there are four plants under construction or in the planning stages in neighboring states, within 50 miles of Kentucky's borders.

Human Resources Secretary Peter Conn explained, "The recent accident at the Three-Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania underscores the importance of comprehensive planning in the event of a nuclear accident. At the direction of Governor Carroll, we are preparing plans that will protect Kentuckians living in the path of radioactive fallout from power plants on our borders."

The four plants going up in nearby states are the **Marble Hill plant near Madison, Indiana; the Zimmer plant in Moscow, Ohio;** the Hartsville plant northeast of Nashville, Tennessee; and the Phipps Bend plant west of Kingsport, Tennessee.

Conn says a recent recommendation from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission suggests that state and local governments should have emergency plans for areas lying within a 50-mile radius of a nuclear power plant. Using the 50-mile standard, the two proposed power plants in Tennessee are being considered in Kentucky's plans for the first time, Conn said.

Kentucky's plans for a nuclear emergency will consider three "emergency planning zones," Conn said. Zone one, the Inner Zone, is the area lying up to about three miles from the nuclear power plant. This area would face the most immediate exposure to high radiation levels, and would require immediate emergency action in case of a nuclear accident.

Zone two is that area lying within three and 10 miles of the power plant. Radiation levels in this area would be lower and take longer to affect the area. Emergency procedures could be taken more deliberately and with more complete data.

Zone three is the area lying between 10 and 50 miles of the power plant. Emergency action here would involve measures to prevent radiation damage through the food chain — for example, radioactivity settling on grass, grass eaten by cows, cows giving contaminated milk.

"Kentucky state government has a general plan for action in emergencies, which is coordinated through the Division of Disaster and Emergency Services in the Department of Military Affairs," Conn said. "But this general plan does not contain detail about procedures to be used in a nuclear accident such as the one at Three-Mile Island."

The Human Resources Radiation Control Branch, which would have primary state responsibility in a nuclear emergency, also did not have a specific plan for responding to a nuclear accident, Conn said.

Chuck Hardin, Manager of the Radiation Control Branch, said he expects to submit a draft of an administrative plan for State Government, and an operation plan for the Radiation Control Branch, within a month. In addition, Hardin is drafting guidelines that county officials can use in preparing their own nuclear emergency plans — especially those counties closest to the nuclear power plants.

Part of the Department for Human Resources' responsibility in radiation control involves reviewing the emergency plans prepared by nuclear plant operators.

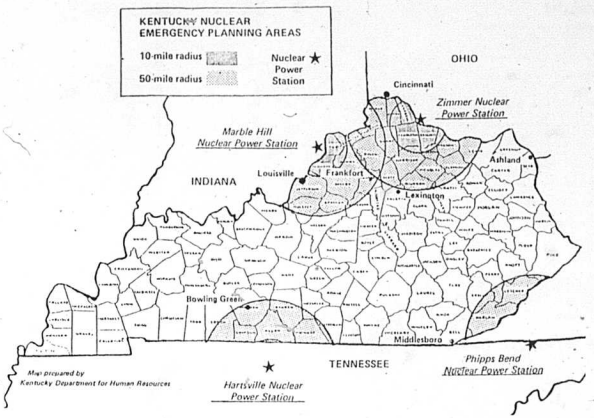
The emergency plan prepared by Public Service Indiana received an unfavorable review by DHR in January, because the Department found the company's proposed emergency procedures "confusing and conflicting," and questioned company plans for response time and ways of measuring radiation levels in an emergency.

A revised emergency plan for the Zimmer plant now is under review by the Department. Conn rejected last year the first plan submitted by Cincinnati Gas and Electric for the Zimmer plant, saying it did not adequately cover the effect of an accident on adjacent Kentucky counties, and did not include sufficient provisions for disposing of nuclear waste.

Department for Human Resources officials also will review the emergency plans for the two proposed nuclear power plants in Tennessee that lie near Kentucky, Conn said.

Current plans call for the Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company to begin loading fuel into the Zimmer plant this summer, and to have the plant operational by early next year.

The Hartsville nuclear power plant is expected to be operational in 1982; the Marble Hill plant in 1983; and the Phipps Bend plant in 1984.



4-H Achievement

Winners of achievement awards at the annual 4-H Awards Night were, top picture, front row, from left, Nancy Judge, five-year leader; Kevin Zachary, Electricity; Cathy Curtsinger, Teen leader; Lynn Judge, Teen leader; Martha Woosley, Teen leader; Tony Smith, Teen leader. Back row, from left, Mark Prevo, one-year leader; Willa Faye Mathes, one-year leader; Anita Dampier, five-year leader; Martha Cox, one-year leader; Jane Watkins, one-year leader; Benita Dampier, Teen leader and Dairy award; Gerald Watkins, 4-H Alumni Award. Bottom picture, front row, from left, Lisa Hinton, Food Preservation Champion; Vida Vaughn, Food Preservation Champion; Mary Ann Hollar, Arts and Crafts Champion; Melissa Jones, Junior Courier-Journal Award and Foods Champion; Derek Zachary, Arts and Crafts Champion. Back row, from left, Tony Smith, Conrad Feltner, Leadership Award; Andy Judge, Junior Beef Champion and Courier-Journal Award; Vincent Vaughn, Junior Electricity and Woodcraft Champion; Whitney Mathes, Senior Horse Champion; Lynn Judge, senior Clothing Champion; Cathy Curtsinger, Teen leader and Martha Woosley, Courier-Journal Award, Senior Food Preservation and Junior Leadership Champion. — Photos by Brenda Phillips.

Comment

Get your program for the governor's race

by Jeff Kerr

Robert Penn Warren, native Kentuckian and the only writer ever to win the Pulitzer Prize for both fiction and poetry, once described a party primary in his seminal novel on southern politics, "All The King's Men", as "hell among the yearlings".

That more or less describes the status of the race for the Democratic nomination for governor of Kentucky. There are nine candidates for the Demo nod and six of them are termed "major" candidates, meaning that no one laughs aloud when they think of them. (Crying is a different story.)

For two years the candidates have been shaking the hustings and trying to lay up support. Most of them think they have a chance to win in a race that stresses charisma more than candor and character — and their public statements support this view.

In fact, after the latest entry, that of John Y. Brown, each of the others was asked if Brown's announcement would hurt their campaign. In an amazing display of Kentucky solidarity not seen since UK traveled to St. Louis to win the NCAA, each one said Brown's candidacy would help them and hurt the others, creating a credibility gap not measurable with known instruments.

The Mercury refrains from endorsing primary candidates but we do feel you should know who they are, not an easy feat in itself. Below you will find listed in alphabetical order all known Democratic candidates for governor, along with some observations on each. Not an explanation of the issues since that is the one thing everyone seems to have forgotten, but of the candidates and some of their strategy. With so many in the race, it will not take a tremendous amount of votes to gain a plurality, and some candidates are taking a regional stance, concentrating on some areas while writing others off. And now, with no further ado, here they are:

George Atkins — George Atkins has been running for governor for so long now most voters might be wondering what he'll do if he loses. Atkins was elected state auditor last time around, a relatively safe job in previous years in the administration's eyes but Atkins turned his sinecure into a white horse and began looking for fiscal hijinks in state government. He found plenty, which was not difficult and he's been able to capitalize on some of them. But Kentuckians are so jaded about misuse of public funds at the state level it began to appear as if the electorate was stifling a collective yawn and saying, "What else is new?"

Atkins has courted the press assiduously, making appearances at press conventions and dropping personal notes into the mail. For a while it appeared as if he and Thelma Stovall would join forces but both want to be governor at once, which is impossible under Kentucky's constitution. Atkins' assets are his public image, his looks, his record in the state auditor's office and his service under Adolph Rupp.

John Y. Brown — John Y. Brown has become afflicted with the Jimmy Carter Syndrome, which induces the stricken to say things like "I'm a businessman and I have no connections with the 'ins' and we need a businessman in Frankfort." Whether or not the voters will respond to this as well as they will respond to the new Mrs. Brown remains to be seen. Brown will have no trouble financing his campaign but on the negative side of the ledger he is not exactly a stay-at-home Kentuckian. However, his experiences with selling encyclopedae and Kentucky Fried Chicken franchises have introduced him to a lot of Kentuckians, many of whom remember his father's races for Senator. He, Harvey Sloane and Thelma Stovall seem to be relying on a good showing in Jefferson County, rightly thinking that with as many candidates in the race as there are it won't take much for a plurality.

Carrol Hubbard — Carroll Hubbard is using the exact reverse of the Brown-Sloane-Stovall strategy. He believes he can get a few votes here, a few there and slip in under the wire. Hubbard has been using television almost extensively to get his message across which is "Let's clean up Frankfort and get the moneychangers out." Unfortunately that is construed as an attack on the Democratic party and as one savvy pol remarked recently "You don't do that". You don't buck the party and expect to win. Even if Hubbard manages to garner enough Western Kentucky Democrats to get the nomination, expect the party regulars to throw him to the wolves in November. Better a devil you know than one, etc.

Terry McBrayer — Terry McBrayer has a big handicap and a big asset and they are both the same; he is the party regulars' choice. Ordinarily that would be enough to get the nod in May but the Democratic Party in Kentucky is split so many ways this election many old regulars are sitting back and, while openly backing McBrayer, are studying alternatives. A primary such as this one tends to nurture a feeling that the old regime can be ousted and a new coalition formed.

McBrayer has gotten a lot of publicity over the past few years, especially when he was Commerce Commissioner. For a while the state Department of Public Information could have been called "McBrayer for Governor" headquarters as the administration used every press release they could to get McBrayer's name before the public.

McBrayer has tried to put some distance between himself and Gov. Julian Carroll, which, considering the size, speed and range of the governor's air force, is difficult. Carroll's choice as successor is McBrayer. Whether or not he will win the nomination will tell us a lot about Julian Carroll and the state of the Democratic Party in Kentucky. McBrayer, incidentally, is the only candidate to visit Carlisle and he's been here twice. On the minus side of his ledger is the embarassing mailing sent by his staff to newspaper publishers asking for donations to buy radio and television time. The gaffe was compounded when two different stories about how it happened were relayed to the miffed publishers. It is interesting to note that the medical problem (high blood pressure) that forced McBrayer to drop out of the last lieutenant governor's race hasn't been mentioned this campaign. Of course, the thought of having to spend four years watching Thelma Stovall run for governor would give any aspiring pol high blood pressure. Still, McBrayer is the one to beat.

Harvey Sloane — Harvey Sloane has a silk-stocking image, which doesn't mean that he wears pantyhose but that he is generally regarded as a rich man in politics who gets his rich and beautiful friends to help him, such as the fund-raising dinner that former Kennedy aide Arthur Schelsinger gave him recently in New York. But John Y. Brown's entry into the race sort of negated that problem on the basis of onesupmanship.

Sloane evidently realized his image might give him a problem in rural areas, whose voters might look askance at a wealthy physician mayor of Louisville wanting to be governor. To combat this he walked across Kentucky and made a lot of new friends. Sloane's strengths lie in his intelligence, his looks, his distance from the current administration and his wife, who is active in the Kentucky Heritage Commission and [illegible] such has rubbed elbows with many influential Kentuckians.

His strategy seems to be get as much as he can in Jefferson County and hope his walking tour in the hinterlands pays off. The way the current mayor of Louisville has been faring recently Sloane's former constituents might try to write him in as mayor this May.

Thelma Stovall — The big question here is whether or not Kentucky is ready for a lady governor. Stovall has union support but that means only money in these days. When the rank and file file into the voting booth they may not vote the way the union boss says — and the union boss may not say what he thinks. Stovall's union debts have been gathering for years and now that she's collecting she may find inflation has left her short. She is strong in Louisville, has many friends in state government and Carroll can't stand her, which is three plusses in her favor with many voters.

Whether Stovall can overcame the whispering campaign about her health, the attitude of Kentucky voters toward women in office (other than clerk's offices) and the rap that she would be the best bet to get Louie Nunn elected remains to be seen. But she is tougher than many people think and gained a lot of national publicity with her ERA veto recission and her call for a special session.

Doris Shuja Binion, John J. Welkel, Lyle L. Willis and Kermit the Frog — Which of the above is NOT a serious candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor? Answer: all of them.

That's it. One candidate, Ralph Ed Graves, has withdrawn in favor of John Y. Brown. The rest are off and running. **May 29 is the big day and there will be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth everywhere but in one campaign headquarters? Which one? Right now, it looks like it might be Louie Nunn's.**