

Flemingsburg by-pass grading, drainage bids to be let

Gov. Julian Carroll has announced that a number of major highway improvements around the state will be included in the Transportation Department's April 20 bid-letting.

The department will open bids on five resource recovery road projects: the Whitesburg By-pass, the Providence By-pass, 2.5 miles of widening on U.S. 42-2-E in Knox County, grading and drainage work on 1.1 miles of the Somerset-London Road (KY 80).

Flemingsburg By-pass and sections of new KY 80 in Knox and Floyd counties. Other projects announced include reconstruction and widening at the Interstate 64-9 interchange east of Lexington, guardrail safety improvements along the Waterman Expressway, four-laning of U.S. 60 between I-24 and Paducah and grading and drainage work on reconstruction of both U.S. 42 in Graves County and a section of the Somerset-London Road (KY 80).

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Pictures

"Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, June, 1973" is one of an exhibition entitled "Mirrors and Windows: American Photographs Since 1960" now showing through May 13 at Louisville's J. B. Speed Art Museum. The show was organized by the Museum of Modern Art, New York City with the sponsorship of Philip Morris, Inc. and the National Endowment for the Arts. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and from 1-6 p.m. on Sunday. —State reproduction.

KEA delegates vote '80 legislative goals

Kentucky Education Association (KEA) delegates have voted to go to the 1980 session of the state legislature with a one-item legislative program: passage of a professional negotiation (PN) law for teachers. The action by the 600-member KEA Delegate Assembly, meeting in Louisville, reaffirmed its April 1978, vote to establish the one-item program. What it means, proponents explained, is that KEA will initiate legislation only on PN.

As a parallel matter, however, KEA leaders will work to ensure that funding increases needed for programs vital to education are included in the Governor's budget for 1980-82.

Delegates listed four items that will be sought through the budget route: —Teacher salary increases that at least equal the cost-of-living increase. —Cost-of-living increases in Teacher Retirement System benefits. These would also apply to teachers who have already retired. —Adequate financing for public education, taking into consideration inflation, the increased cost of living, and the funding levels of the seven surrounding states. —Funds to reduce class size "to some acceptable figure, beginning with the primary grades and continuing at intervals until an acceptable ratio is achieved at all levels" from kindergarten through grade 12.

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Does ginseng have medical value?



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Rocky Young was practicing wheelies Monday after school. For some reason Rocky says downhill wheelies are easier to do — or more fun. —Mercury photo.

ASC urges use of grain programs

As the wheat and feed grain sowing period enters the final month, C. I. F. Vice, chairman of the Nicholas County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee, advises farmers to seriously consider program benefits.

Vice said, "The set-aside enables all producers to work together to maintain or improve crop prices by reducing production. At the same time, it helps protect them from both natural and economic disasters. A farmer needs money to operate. If he gets loans through our program, it will give him time to hold for a better market."

Deficiency payments act as insurance to keep farmers in business, if prices stay below acceptable levels. Disaster coverage provides protection against crop loss.

According to Vice, the set-aside program permits a farmer to grow as many acres of any crop, other than tobacco, that he wants, as long as he stays within his farm's normal crop acreage (NCA).

He said that farmers should not expect to produce corn and wheat for the set-aside and diversion programs to begin balancing supply with demand so that the market will pay a profitable price.

Farm price improvement will depend greatly on the willingness of farmers to participate in the set-aside program. A bumper crop as in 1978 can drop farm prices to disastrous levels.

The ASC official encourages Nicholas County farmers to consider the program in relation to their farm operations, and to visit the ASC's office at their earliest convenience.

by Nevyle Shackelford
UK College of Agriculture

Although druggists say it is not official in any modern pharmacopoeia and in the opinion of many modern physicians its medicinal virtues are all but nil, ginseng is still of tremendous commercial importance. At last report the dried roots of the wild variety of this plant of superstition and legend were selling at over \$100 a pound.

Ginseng, which in Chinese means "first in plants," comes in two species — American and Asiatic. Some botanical authorities say the species are identical. Other botanists equally qualified find the idea untenable, but on one point both sides are in total agreement: The chief value of the plant is in the minds of the Chinese who consider it a dyspeptic to nervous disorders and sexual impotence. As early as 1750, citizens of Peking were purchasing ginseng at the price of seven ounces of silver per ounce of ginseng.

The American species, Panax quinquefolium, grows, or once grew, in rich woods throughout eastern and central North America. Christians or early pioneer here said that it was used to a considerable extent by North American Indians. The Indians employed it in the treatment of asthma, stomach disorders, and to promote fertility in women.

Practicing conservation, the Indians dug their ginseng roots only in the fall after the plant had ripened its berries. After digging them up, they planted them assured continued existence of this valuable wild crop.

Modern "sang" diggers agree with the Indians. Roots that in the fall, they say, retain their plumpness and hand-most highly prized roots have a fine light color that comes from plants that have grown in deep black forest mud.

For generations, collecting ginseng countries has been highly profitable and there has always been a ready market. As a consequence, the plant has been all but exterminated in many areas where it was formerly abundant.

The tendency toward its eradication and its continued high market value has led to its domestication in shaded beds once known as "sang gardens."

There are some ginseng proponents who believe that its cultivation still offers a profitable field to many small farmers. One thing for sure, the demand for this fine article for export is not likely to be exceeded by the supply. Although medical science, as mentioned before, is somewhat dubious of

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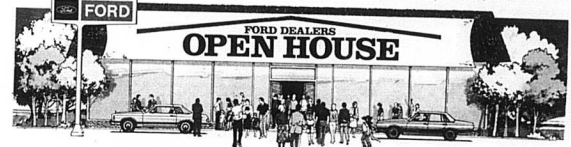
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