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New hospital dedication May 20



Story time

Hameed Khoury (left) gets the proper reaction from Tim Finks during a practice for this Friday's performance of "Story Theatre," the MHS senior class play. The 8 p.m. performance Friday is open to the public. The play consists of eight stories and fables from the Tales of the Brothers Grimm and Aesop's Fables. Cast members shown are, from left, Khoury, Fooks, Chris Baker, Shelley Gabriel and Kay Conley. Also in the cast are Tony Smith, Kathi Lyons, Kathy Mathes and Trudy Parsons. — Mercury photo.

Nicholas Co. Lebanese plan church services

In the past two years four families have immigrated to Nicholas County from the western country of Lebanon due to the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Licha H. Farah and Mr. and Mrs. Ignatius

Koury. Since this time, these families have been learning the American ways and the English language. One aspect of importance in their lives is their religious worship, being of

the Maronite Rite of the Catholic Church, the worship of the Roman (Latin) Rite of the Catholic Church of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe which they attend, has been another

hurdle for them to adjust to. With this in mind the Farahs have arranged for the Rev. Messenger Joseph Abood, pastor of the Maronite Rite Catholic St. Anthony of Padua Church in Cincinnati to celebrate a Maronite Rite Mass in Arabic and English for the Lebanese community of Nicholas County and the Lebanese-American of the Blue Grass area on Saturday, April 28 at 7 p.m. in Carlisle. Magr. Abood is bringing some of his chair for the occasion.

Rev. Herman B. Kamlage, pastor of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Lebanese cordially invite all their friends to join in this worship service of their native land so that they might become more acquainted with their language, worship and customs. The present families of Lebanese origin were not the first of this nationality to live in Nicholas County. Prior to the closing of the tobacco market and the depression of the 1930s, it has been said that there were approximately 25 families of Lebanese origin living in Nicholas County. Because of these economic factors they were forced to seek employment in the larger cities of the north, as did many other Nicholas County residents.

The present Lebanese population can be traced back to Thomas Abraham who rode horseback from Mt. Olive peddling dry goods sundry items. In 1937 his daughter opened Abraham's Department Store, and he moved to Carlisle in the 1940s.

Licha H. Farah, present proprietor of Abraham's, came to this country in 1946 and married the late Christine Abraham. After reemigrating, to Miss Rose Marie Hagley of Lebanon, deceased of Belmont, N.C. in 1964, Licha brought his sister, Taras Koury and her family over in 1969. That began the influx of the present Lebanese community who today number families (28 persons) of whom 11 as yet, do not fully know the English language. They are Mr. and Mrs. A. M. (Matti) Molock, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Turbey and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Antonia (Chalk), Mrs. Hannah L. Farah, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Joseph and six children, and Mrs. Charles (Marina Farah) La Fontaine of Frankfort.

New blood center

Rev. Mark Prevo watches a technician at the Central Kentucky Blood Center check donated blood for irregularities and disease. Prevo was among several representatives of the Nicholas County blood drive who toured the center's new home in Lexington last week. — Mercury photo.

Dedication services for the new Nicholas County Hospital will be held Sunday, May 20 beginning at 1 p.m. An open house will follow the dedication ceremonies from 2:30-3 p.m.

The dedication ceremonies will mark the completion of the \$2.3 million facility, mandated by a revenue bond issue passed by Nicholas County voters in November of 1976.

The issue was sought after a study showed that renovation of the existing hospital on the Moorefield Road, to comply with state and federal regulations, would entail as much cost as a new building.

A committee was formed to study the matter and then present it to the voters of the county. The question was on the ballot in 1976 and passed 1707 for to 361 against.

The \$2.3 million facility was constructed adjacent to the Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home on the Paris Road. The new location of the hospital will make it possible for all facets of Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc. to be housed under one roof, instead of being three miles apart.

The hospital was designed by the Cincinnati firm of Sullivan, Bode, Runck and Associates. The architect in charge of the project was Reno Runck III, a Cincinnati resident with many local ties, including a weekend residence in Nicholas County. Construction supervisor for the project was James T. Vaughn, a Nicholas County resident and former member of the hospital board.

Vaughn coordinated construction activities among the various contractors. He has said the approach of having a local resident as construction supervisor made it possible to let bids for the various areas of the new building

individually rather than letting all bids to a general contractor and having them subcontract the work. This also allowed a considerable savings in the overall contract.

Dedication speakers
Speakers for the dedication will be William S. Com, Jr., executive director of the Kentucky Hospital Association;

Tony Goetz, executive director of East Kentucky Health Systems Agency and representing Gov. Julian Carroll, Commissioner Robert Slaton of the Kentucky Department for Human Resources. Ribbon-cutters will be Goetz, Com, County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot and Edgar Allen Darrell, board chairman of Johnson-Mathers Health Care.

A special open house will be held May 19 from 7:30-9 p.m. for staff members of the hospital and nursing home and their families and for health care auxiliary volunteers and their families.

Those on the dedication and open house committee are Pam Anderson, Edgar Allen Darrell, Phyllis Darrell, Elizabeth Ellington, Robert Hester, Virginia Kingsolver, Mary Catherine Knapske, Catherine Smart, Reese Smoot, Kenneth Urlage, James T. Vaughn and Rev. Herman Kamlage, succeeded Kenneth Urlage, who was administrator for 1975 until April 23, 1979. Urlage, who has accepted a position as director of a Cincinnati area nursing home and retirement village, has been assisting the present administration in the transition period.

Hester said plans for moving the old hospital equipment and patients are being finalized now and a committee is already at work seeking volunteers to help with the move. The date of the move will be announced in a future issue of the Mercury.

The Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home was opened in 1963 on land belonging to the Nicholas County Fiscal Court (known as the Forest Daniel farm) and named for Hugh Johnson and for Dr. C. W. Mathers, who had long been a champion of health care for the aged and sick in Nicholas County.

Two combined
The two facilities were combined into one organization in 1969. Previous to that year they had been operated as separate institutions with separate administrators and separate boards. Now they were combined under the direction of one board and one administrator.

Completion of the new hospital signals the coming together of the two institutions under one roof, a move that both past and present administrators say will add greatly to the efficiency of the corporation. Along with the building of a complete, new 52-bed hospital several parts of the nursing home have been enlarged or remodeled, including the construction of a new chapel sponsored by the Nicholas County Ministerial Association.

Administrators of the health care corporation is Robert Hester, succeeded Kenneth Urlage, who was administrator for 1975 until April 23, 1979. Urlage, who has accepted a position as director of a Cincinnati area nursing home and retirement village, has been assisting the present administration in the transition period.

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Almost there

James T. Vaughn (left) construction supervisor for the new Nicholas County Hospital and Robert Hester, Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc. administrator, examine one of the lights for the surgery in the new building, which will be dedicated May 20. Typical of the sophisticated equipment in the new facility is the light's bulb which is changed with a special tool and never touched by human hands. — Mercury photo.

Blue Licks group to meet

The Blue Licks Battlefield State Park Study Commission, recently appointed by Governor Julian Carroll, will hold a public meeting at the Nicholas County Courthouse, on Monday, April 28, at 7 p.m.

The commission is asking for area citizen ideas and suggestions concerning improvements needed at the park. The collected ideas will be considered in the study to be submitted by the commission to the Governor by Dec. 1, 1979.

Citizens from Nicholas, Robertson, Macon, Bracken, Bourbon, Harrison, Fleming, and Montgomery are being asked to submit ideas.

Anyone unable to attend this meeting, but who has suggestions to submit, may do so by contacting one of the following commission members: Representative Curtis Worthington, chairman, Fleming County; Representative Adrian Arnold, Montgomery County; Mrs. Joan Conroy, Nicholas County; Mrs. Andrew Duke, Macon County; Mrs. Marjorie

merce and Mayor Earl Mack of the Governor's Commission on Kentucky State Parks Development are helping the Blue Licks Commission with the study.

Time waits for nobody Sunday

Your first chance this year to be an hour late or an hour early for something comes this Sunday.

On April 29 at 2 a.m. our time zone will switch to Daylight Savings Time and the birds will be singing an hour later than usual. Before you go to bed Saturday night turn your clock ahead one hour to avoid embarrassment at church Sunday — or to avoid missing church altogether!

A witty little ditty to remember what to do twice each year when the time changes goes like so: "Spring ahead and fall back." This means that we gain an hour in the spring and lose an hour in the fall.

If you're still confused, don't worry, so is everyone else. You'll eventually adjust to the new time schedule about the last Sunday in October when it switches back.

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