# Opinion

## Kentucky laughter

Laughter is the wildflower on the hill. It's the spot of light in a dungeon and the folk story of the meek and lowly. A good laugh now and then can brighten the day or make a trip more pleasant. It's not fuel in the tank, but it is the spark of hope in the waiting.

For starters, there's the story about the eastern Kentucky doctor who "fell into the well and died without a moan. He should have tended to the sick and let the well alone."

This next bit of laughter comes from Boyd County. The story takes place in western Kentucky. An aged man sitting beside his fuel pumps when a car drove up and the driver called, "Hey, Gramps. How long has this burg been dead?" The old man took off his specs, wiped them, put them back on and replied, "Not long, I reckon. You're the first buzzard I've seen."

Be assured, there is a laugh for everyone, for not long ago The Wolfe County News told about a lost preacher. It could have been a lost writer, lost artist or lost traveler from anywhere, but he was said to be a lost preacher from northern Kentucky.

The lost one — physically, not spiritually — asked how he could get to Rant Adams's place. She told him to "go down by Old Speck's nest, then cross the branch, an..." Said the lost one, "But I don't know where Speck's nest is." The old woman looked at him unbelievingly and said. "Then you must be a plum fool. Why, the least youngun on my place knows where Old Speck's nest is!"

Green Trimble told about a friend and customer in his store on the Kentucky River. Bill Hayes, said Trimble, was a tall, fine-looking bachelor who came to his store to purchase a pair of shoes to wear to the

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### Agree or Not

## Courts pay own way

By S.C. Van Curon

Kentucky's new streamlined court system has paid its own way for the first full fiscal year of operation that ended June 30 of this year.

Records in the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Revenue Department tell the financial story.

Jim Pell, director of administrative services for the courts, said the court's income for fiscal year 1978-79 was $37,922,027.20 while $37,670,437.38 was expended.

Voters approved a constitutional amendment setting up the new court system that became effective Jan. 1, 1978.

The new court system did away with county and police courts and transferred their work to the newly created district courts. Kentucky's old Court of Appeals became the Kentucky Supreme Court, and a new Appeals Court was created as an intermediate court between Circuit Court and the Supreme Court.

The new District Courts suffered some organizational problems in the first six months of life in 1978. The problems chiefly concerned finding space for the 114 new courts to operate and to arrive at a satisfactory monetary arrangement with fiscal courts in courthouse across the state.

The expenses included $4,800,000 returned to cities and counties to compensate them, at least partially, for the revenue they lost in fees when police and county courts were abolished.

Before the new four-tier court system was created, cities and counties operated their court systems on the traditional fee and fine basis while all other county offices operated on a fee basis.

But the change set a fixed salary of $27,500 per year for the 114 district judeships created. Under the old county court system, the county judge's maximum salary was set by the legislature. The joker in the old system was that the court had to take in sufficient money through fees if the judge reached his maximum salary limit. Many small counties fell short in collections.

The first six months of operation in the new court system fell in the last half of the 1977-78 fiscal year for the state, and the revenue in this period showed some of the pains of getting the new system started.

In this period the state received $15,378,729.81 in fees, fines and forfeitures as compared to $19,206,721.95 for the first six months of 1979, Mrs. Joyce Morse of the Finance Department reported.

There were several complaints from across the state about the higher fees set when the new court system was established. The 1979 special session of the General Assembly, called by Lt. Gov. Thelma Stovall, reduced two of the costs.

Court costs for prepayable non-speeding traffic violations were reduced from $27.50 to 20.00 and the prepayable costs for speeding fines was reduced from $17.50 to 15.00. The minimum fine was reduced from $25.00 to $20.00. The reduction in fines became effective the first of June this year.

Peel said the figures in his department may not agree with the figures in finance, or those Mrs. Morse reports. Reason is that The Administrative Office of the Courts records the figures when the money is received.

The money is then turned over to Mrs. Morse. She doesn't record the figures until the money is deposited in the bank. There are a few days lag between these two transactions. Thus, money could be received by Finance near the end of the month, or on the last day, and not deposited until the first or second day of the next month.

However, Peel says it all averages out in the end.

Another change in the court system would come about if a bill prefiled by House Minority Leader Harold DeMarcus is passed by the 1980 General Assembly.

The bill would do away with the office of Commonwealths Attorneys and turn the prosecutorial work for the minor courts over to the county attorneys, making them full-time prosecutors at a salary the same as circuit judges.

This would increase costs of operating the courts since there are now only 87 district courts served by 56 commonwealth attorneys and their assistants, while there are 120 county attorneys, plus several assistants.

But, this is another story that space here does not permit.

### Unemployment

Nicholas County's unemployment rate for June was 4.4, more than the Bluegrass average of 3.3 but less than the state rate of 4.8 percent. The national rate for June was 6.0 percent.

State analysts tagged the rise on students seeking summer employment.

Unemployment rates for surrounding counties were: Bath, 6.2; Bourbon, 4.2; Harrison, 3.2; Montgomery, 5.2; Robertson, 7.6; and Fleming, 5.0.

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### Down Memory Lane

## Smith attends youth meeting; Gilley breaks wrist in fall

Thursday, September 3, 1959

Miss Sidney Crouch of Carlisle, was among the some 400 Delta Delta Delta members attending a leadership school on the University of Wisconsin campus at Madison, Aug. 24-28.

Clyde S. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Warren Smith, a student at Eastern Kentucky State College, attended the Disciples of Christ Student Fellowship Conference, Aug. 25-31 near Estes Park, Colo.

Miss Kay and Sue Irvin entertained Aug. 22 with a luncheon honoring Becky Barlow and Ruth Bayne Wilson, who are leaving for college. Other guests were Linda Rye, Beverly Brogan, Patty, Harriet and Ann Clark.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Caswell, Aug. 30, a son in Lexington. — To Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones, a daughter, Deborah Lynn, Aug. 19. — To Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Goddard, a daughter, Regenea, Aug. 31. — To Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wyrick, a daughter, Sept 1 in Paris.

MARRIED — Miss Rose Marie Hughes, Kenton County, to Allen Lee Gaunce, Nicholas County, Aug. 27 at the First Methodist Church. — Miss Constance Barbee, Cynthiana, to Marvin Palmer, Cynthiana, Aug. 29 at the home of Rev. Willie Hammonds.

DIED — Charles R. King, 71, Friday night. — Mrs. Emma Mathers Scott, 78, Aug. 28. — Mrs. Rose Ann Jolly, 64, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Maggie Smoot at Myers, Aug. 29. — Floyd Clayton Price, 52, Wednesday in Toledo, Ohio.

Thursday, August 31, 1939

Adolf Hitler is ready to examine "even halfway sensible proposals" for solving his quarrel with Poland, the German people were told after the Fuehrer sent off his reply Tuesday to "final" British warning and peace appeal.

Silly Gilley, little son of Mr. and Mrs. William Gilley, suffered a fracture of the left wrist Friday when he fell from a chair at the home of his parents on Sycamore Street.

The September term of Nicholas Circuit Court will begin Monday.

H.T. Burgess, custodian of the city school building, suffered a badly bruised foot Friday when he fell from a stepladder while working at the school.

An automobile belonging to W.H. Frey was almost completely destroyed by fire early Sunday morning. The blaze is believed to have been caused by a short circuit in the wiring.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. William Gilley, a daughter, Aug. 28.

MARRIED — Mrs. Nannie Crump and Ed McIlvaine, both of Bath County, Saturday. — Miss Margaret William and Joe Worthington, both of Bourbon County, Saturday. — Miss Frances Earlywine and Lindsey Mattox, Friday. — Miss Louise Green and J.R. Campbell at Morehead, June 14. — Miss Ann Frances Poindexter and Rev. Ralph Rowland, Couey, Monday at Georgetown.

DIED — Mrs. Addie Miller Cox, Friday at her home in Myers. — John M. Brown, 79, Saturday morning at the Old Masons Home in Shelbyville.

## Now comes September

By Nevyle Shackelford

Now comes September which in the words of the late naturalist, Hal Borland, is a "time of pause and slow transition," a transition period between summer and autumn — a situation partaking of the characteristics of both seasons. It is a time neither old nor new when the earth is "beautiful as if new-born with nameless splendor everywhere, and wild exhilaration in the air."

In the southern part of the United States, September is one of the warmest months, and even farther north, hot days are frequent. The nights, however, are likely to be cool and there is often more than a touch of that nostalgic blue haze that is so remindful on the campfires of the Indians.

September is always a very busy time in rural sections for it is the harvest period for many crops — the harvesting of corn, digging of potatoes, gathering apples, and the storing away of many items of produce for the dark days of winter. As another poet said, the "tilled earth naked and yellow from the harvest lies, the tanned farmers labor without slack," to store away the rich fruits of the fields, gardens, and meadows.

Historians record that in the calendar of Charlemagne, that great Frankish soldier, conqueror of the Saxons and Lombards, and later Emperor of Rome, September was the "harvest month," and it still bears that name in Switzerland. The Anglo-Saxons were more specific in their choice of a name. They called September the "barley month."

Reading back into history it is to be found that down through the ages many of the months have undergone changes in their number of days, but not September. Since old Roman times it has always had 30 days but it hasn't always been the ninth month as it is today. Before Julius Caesar revised the calendar, it was the seventh month and its name comes from the Latin work "septem" meaning seven. When the month was shifted in the Julian calendar from the seventh to the ninth month, the name was not changed.

September is the month in which another summer officially comes to an end — the autumnal equinox which falls around or between the 21st and 22nd days and wherein for a brief moment of time the days and the nights are of equal duration. At this time of the year there are usually some turbulent weather conditions, not because of the equinox itself as some old folks used to believe, but because the earth in the Northern Hemisphere is beginning to cool off and there is a change in the movement of the air. The storms, according to meteorologists, are the result of the changes in atmospheric conditions and not of astronomical relationships.

September is the first of the "ember" months when livestock feeding time comes earlier; when shadows lengthen earlier across the land; and when lamplight shines out sooner at evenings. It is, indeed, as Helen Hunt Jackson wrote long ago: "With summer's best of weather and autumn's best of cheer."

## Highway funding critical

Kentucky highway funding has reached a critical level, and the impact is already being felt, according to the current issue of TRANSPORTATION NEWS.

During the next two years some 87 projects will not advance to construction because the state will not have $467 million to meet project costs. The projects are throughout the state. They include 25 primary, eight secondary, 24 urban, and 30 Appalachia projects.

Some $3 billion in additional revenue — an average of $300 million per year — is needed during the next decade to meet identified needs and simply maintain the current system that carries 92 percent of the state's traffic volume.

The problem is that revenue growth is simply not keeping pace with highway needs. Highway revenue will reach $400 million by 1980 but the state will need more than $200 million in additional revenue just to continue present levels of service and maintenance and continue meeting routine construction needs.

Resurfacing — already at a bare minimum and leaving many highways in danger of damage to base and loss of initial investment — will begin to drop in 1981 and be cut by one-half by 1984. Resurfacing by 1988 will be completely impossible.

The Kentucky Department of Transportation projects that the Road Fund will increase by only about two to three percent annually over the period from 1978-90. For the period 1973-78 the average annual rate of growth in the

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## Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

**Just one letter completely changed the sentence's meaning**

That one letter was the lower case "e" which was left off changing the word from note to not. The sentence in part should have read: "Auctioneers note: all of this furniture is in good condition."

We can't win 'em all, but it looks like something this simple would have been caught in proof reading. We can assure you the advertisement in which this sentence appeared has been corrected.

Now one wonders what our next faux pas will be?

—MV—

**Dog it was that died; not Rebel!**

I don't think the dog had anything to do with A.V.'s present plight, since bath tubs are most slippery when damp, all of which resulted in several damaged ribs.

But if I understood the tale correctly, a dog that looked like Rebel chased one too many cars and now has no worry.

After the animal was identified (mistakenly) as "Rebel" the Knapke's pugnacious pooch. Doc was called upon to bury same deeply before the grandchildren got home from school. And bury he did in a corner of the lot behind the Knapke home, even to the point of erecting a small cross to mark "Reb's" grave. Then it happened, as he turned to leave, there stood Rebel—Doc Allison may know who's dog he buried, after all it was the dog that died!

—MV—

**Shoot! there goes another line...**

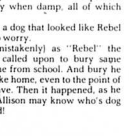
A news release which we're adapting more or less to our use proclaims that hunters sometimes hit more than birds when they aim their sights high.

Among other things, they manage to damage telephone lines as well as power lines.

The article's plea, begs hunters to just be careful of all overhead lines—telephone in particular.

—MV—

**Will wonders never cease?**



An Iowa firm announces a multipurpose building — the Solar hog hut grower — designed to increase profits by reducing stress on the 40-pound pig, increasing feed conversion, reducing death loss, and increasing finishing capacity.

When ever I think of hog houses, I'm reminded of an A-frame type of stucture used mostly in this area for swine housing.

* * * *

Then there's the Pennsylvania outfit with HAHSA (heating and heat storage apparatus). Plans, kits, and assemblies available to cut heating costs by 100% in your home.

If interested, we have addresses for both outfits, plus cost of plans for HAHSA, but no guarantees.

—MV—

**Those who ring us up early...**

Many's the telephone call we get before the office is open in the mornings. Generally we are busy doing something in the darkroom or elsewhere and by the time we can reach a stopping place and get to the instrument, the callers have hung-up!

Callers who persist in calling before 9 a.m. should be prepared to let 'er ring about ten (10) times. Then maybe we can get there in time to answer, rather than be greeted by a dead line.



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| 5 | 0 - 10,390 | 10,391 - 16,200 |
| 6 | 0 - 11,840 | 11,841 - 18,470 |
| 7 | 0 - 13,290 | 13,291 - 20,730 |
| 8 | 0 - 14,740 | 14,741 - 22,990 |
| 9 | 0 - 16,190 | 16,191 - 25,250 |
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## Meal policy told

The Nicholas County Board of Education today announced its policy for free and reduced price meals for children served in schools under the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast and/or Special Milk Program. Local school officials have adopted the above family-size and income criteria for determining eligibility.

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals or free milk. In addition, families not meeting these criteria but with unusual expenses due to unusually high medical expenses, shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of income, special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child, and disaster or casualty losses are urged to apply.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents. Additional forms are available at the principal's office in each school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. A simple statement of income and family size is required, plus a signed certification by the parent or guardian that the information provided is correct.

In certain cases foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for such meals and milk for them, they should contact the school.

If a family member becomes unemployed or if family's size and income changes during the school year, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible for reduced price meals, or for additional benefits such as free meals and milk if the family income falls at or below that shown on the family size and income scale.

Under the provisions of the policy, the school official will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis.

If he wishes to make a formal appeal, he may make a request either orally or in writing to: Donald G. Elder, 395 West Main St., Carlisle, 289-2264; for a hearing to appeal the decision. The policy on file in each school and in the Superintendent's office contains an outline of the hearing procedure.

In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of his race, sex, color, or national origin.

Each school and board of education has a copy of the completed policy, which may be reviewed by any interested party.

[Published as a public service for the Nicholas County Board of Education by The Carlisle Mercury.]

## Book describes days before electricity

By Helen Price Stacy

The carved oak chairs that once seated 12 around the big table in the kitchen now are eagerly sought by today's young marrieds. The oak school benches, some with carved initials yet, are collected for end tables or magazine holders. Even the old pig trough, dug from the mud of a country hog lot, now is used as a book case in a fine home.

If you are one of the many who used these articles years ago or if you are a young housekeeper who wants to decorate with nostalgia pieces, "Six Years Before Electricity," by Howard Fain could be your memory encyclopedia or guide to decorating your home in the eclectic mode.

Friends of Fain know him as a Nicholasville artist whose paintings and reproductions depict life as it was back then. His 175-page book will introduce him as a writer as well as illustrator.

"My parents were farm people," Fain says. "My childhood was shared by Pa, my grandfather, who liked to fish and hunt. I really liked this, being able to go along to run traps, rob a bee tree or hunt squirrels. Pa lived in a cabin on Kentucky River but was with us on weekends to go to church with us."

His childhood school had one room, a coalhouse, two outhouses and a cistern in the back yard. He had the same teacher for all eight grades. As he progressed in grades, he moved closer to two high windows in the room. "When you got over to the windows, you knew your grade school days were about over."

One page of the book is a Fain sketch of the interior of the school, pot-bellied stove and all. Another page shows the school on Valentine's Day.

He also remembers tobacco-stripping days when his Day toted a sack of coal for a fire near the stripping room. "Mom grabbed up a pot which had beans in it and a sack of bowls and spoons and cornbread. It would take all morning for the beans to cook. The morning seemed three days long, especially after smellin' them beans cook. Mom turned the pot lid over and laid the cornbread on it so it would warm up, then after we carried lots of tobacco and stripped it, we'd finally get around to eating. Oh, they sure tasted good."

Another illustration shows the Fain family spring. "I think I musta carried every bucket of water we used. Water to drink, water to wash with, water to can with, water for this and that. About the time I'd reach over to fill a bucket, a doggone frog would leap in and about scare the daylights out of me. We usually kept an empty bean can there hanging from a piece of bailin' wire. Dad always said water tasted better out of an old tin can."

Fain majored in art at the University of Kentucky and later earned a commercial art degree from a Pennsylvania school. He has worked with engineers and as an interior designer. The past four years he has been a full-time artist and owns and operates the U.S.A. Gallery, 302 West Maple, Nicholasville.

"An optimist is always broke." Kin Hubbard

## Sewage treatment said statewide problem—LRC

A research report released by the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) says that sewage treatment and disposal is a statewide problem in Kentucky, and more information is needed to determine what the state's response should be.

"The available information is scattered and primarily based on best estimates," the study says, "However, there does appear to be general agreement that the problem of sewage disposal is not localized but occurs statewide and that sewage disposal is considered to be a problem by professionals and citizens alike."

In 1970, the study says, slightly more than half the state's homes were served by sewers and about thirty percent had septic tanks, according to figures from the U.S. Census. The same figures show the remaining 20 percent use "on-site" sewage processing other than septic tanks or no processing at all.

Estimates by the Division of Plumbing in the state Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction indicate that about 43 percent of the state's households are now served by sewers, the study says.

A resolution passed by the 1978 General Assembly directed a study of alternative on-site sewage disposal systems for rural Kentucky. On-site sewage disposal includes systems such as septic tanks, which do not rely on central processing plants and sanitary sewers.

The LRC report includes a study of alternative systems for sewage disposal and examines the effectiveness and cost of each.

It recommends that the state begin collecting data on sewage disposal in Kentucky; examine the problem of on-site system failures; assign a legislative committee to oversee state policies dealing with on-site sewage disposal; enact legislation to provide for management of on-site sewage disposal and develop techniques for coping with failures in such systems.

The report also details steps the state can take to encourage development of on-site sewage disposal.

The research report "On-site Disposal in Rural Kentucky", was prepared by Peggy Hyland of the LRC staff.

Persons wishing to obtain a copy of the report may write the commission at the Capitol, Frankfort, Ky. 40601 or call its toll-free number 1-800-372-7194.

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