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Hospital occupancy up

With less than a month before the annual report of the Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc. is due the results of the past year look good, according to administrator Robert Hester.

The health care corporation recently turned over \$30,000 to the Nicholas Fiscal Court to be applied on the bond principal. And occupancy is up, indicating that more people are using the hospital than in the past year.

"Our occupancy rate is about 70 to 75 percent," Hester said recently. "That's compared to about a 55 percent rate last year."

Another area where the corporation has made gains is the payment of bills that were carried over from the old hospital.

Hospital usage in Nicholas County dropped in the year before the new hospital was completed. This downturn in occupancy created some financial problems for the facility, which still had expenses and payroll to meet even though the number of people using

the hospital dropped.

But the opening of the new hospital and expansion services has contributed to a healthier picture than in the past few years.

Hester, who became administrator of the hospital and nursing home in April of this year, points to the X-ray department and lab as one area where local residents can find services that previously were available only in larger hospitals.

"It helps them (the patients) because they can get at home what they had to go to Lexington for," Hester said. "And it helps us because these services are an integral part of the hospital system and help pay the way."

A clearer picture of the progress made will be available after the first of the year when the annual report will be given to the board of directors, Hester noted.



Report given

Blue Lick Battlefield State Park Study Commission presents the final report on expansion for the park to Gov. Julian Carroll. The commission held 10 meetings throughout the year, organized public hearings which drew crowds of up to 300 and produced a feasibility study on the Blue Lick State Park development. Giving Gov. Carroll the report are

Rep. Adrian Arnold (D-Mount Sterling), left; Mrs. Andrew Duke, Mayeville; Mrs. Joan W. Conley, Nicholas County; Gov. Carroll; Mrs. Marjorie Montgomery, Mt. Olivet; Rep. Pete Worthington (D-Ewing); Mayor Earl Linville, Mt. Olivet; and Dr. Allan Worms, deputy commissioner, Department of Tourism - State photo.

Panel submits Blue Licks report

Blue Lick Battlefield State Park can be developed into a resort park of national interest and importance, according to a study released by the Blue Lick Battlefield State Park Development Study Commission. The study, entitled "The Potential of

Blue Lick Battlefield State Park," was prepared by the Department of Tourism and contains a consultant's report, an economic analysis prepared by the Development Cabinet and the commission's conclusions. The primary purpose for developing

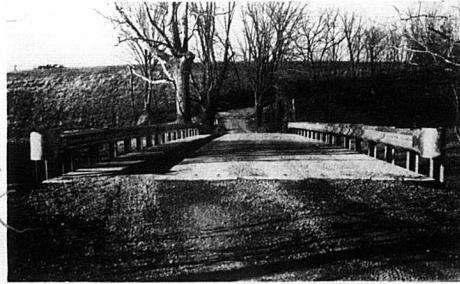
the park is to preserve and interpret the abundant cultural, historical and archaeological resources in the park, the study concludes. Prehistoric remains, the Revolutionary War Battle of Blue Licks and the area's reputation for mineral spas

during the mid-1800s make Blue Licks rich in heritage, says the consultant's report from Dr. Clare Gunn, a professor in the department of recreation and parks at Texas A & M University. Gunn's report recommends the construction of a restored village representing the Blue Licks settlement during the mineral spa era. Major buildings would include the historic Arlington Hotel, a post office, copper shop, bottling house, blacksmith shop and courthouse.

The commission's study states that the proposed park would serve as an economic stimulus to the Blue Licks region. Construction of a lodge would boost growth in the region's private sector, which has an inadequate supply of overnight lodging, the study reports. The economic analysis estimated that park expenditures and revenue from a lodge with a dining room and gift shop could range from \$506,000 to \$1,620,000, depending on the size of the lodge and occupancy rates.

Total in-state expenditures by park visitors this year are estimated to be \$171,845.

In September 1978, Gov. Julian Carroll authorized the commission to study the park's potential and report its findings. In addition to the study, the Governor's Commission on State Parks Development sponsored a public meeting on Blue Licks in September. It was attended by more than 300 persons. Those attending the meeting expressed overwhelming support for the proposed park, according to the study.



Ready to go

The Fishback Bridge on the Nicholas-Bourbon line has been completed and is open for traffic. The bridge crosses Hinkston Creek. This view is from the Bourbon County Line. — Mercury photo.



MVE

Mrs. Allen (Tommiel) Bowles, left, was named Most Valuable Employee by Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc. at the annual employee appreciation dinner last Saturday. Mrs. Bowles was selected from the 1979 Employee of the Month winners. Congratulating her on her honor is Melanie Gifford. — Mercury photo.

ASC election results told

Results of the Dec. 6 election of ASC Community Committeemen for 1980 were announced by Eugene Letcher, chairperson of the Nicholas County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) Committee.

Farmers elected to the committee were: Community A - Headquarters: Chairperson - Bobby Brady, Vice-Chairperson - E.V. Delaney, Regular Member - Clyde Miller, First Alternate - Dickie Grimes, Second Alternate - Bobby Webb.

Community B - Ellaville/Myers: Chairperson - Clay Mann, Vice-Chairperson - R.M. Hildreth Jr., Regular Member - Carl Letcher, First Alternate - Phil Hillcock, Second Alternate - Sterling Jackson.

Community C - Moorefield/East Union: Chairperson - Herbert Duncan, Vice-Chairperson - Cliff Vice, Regular Member - Roland Boyd, First Alternate - Parks Stone, Second Alternate - Kenneth Stephenson.

Community D - Carlisle/Parks: Chairperson - Lovell Hollar, Vice-Chairperson - Harold Letton, Regular Member - Chester Ockerman, First Alternate - Quinton Moreland, Second Alternate - Glenn Ruchte Jr.

Letcher also announced the county ASC Convention will be held Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Nicholas County ASC Office, where Community Committeemen will elect by ballot, farmers to fill vacancies on the County ASC Committee. Letcher said convention delegates will also select a County Committee Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and two alternates to the Committee for the coming year.

The regular elected ASC Community Committee Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and regular members automatically become delegates to the County Convention, Letcher said.

Matching gift made to MMI

Millersburg Military Institute has been granted a \$250,000 matching gift over the next five years as part of a new program to establish a school endowment.

According to Col. James B. Leer of Carlisle, MMI Trustee in charge of Development, an anonymous donor is granting MMI \$50,000 a year for each of

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News briefly

Arnold, Ford, here Saturday

State Rep. Adrian Arnold of Mt. Sterling and State Sen. Ed Ford of Cynthiana, Nicholas County's representatives in the Kentucky General Assembly, will be at the Nicholas County Courthouse for a public meeting Saturday, Dec. 15, beginning at 10:30 a.m. The two lawmakers will be here to discuss proposed legislation for the 1980 General Assembly and to meet with their constituents.

Post Office open Dec. 15

Carlisle Postmaster John Anderson has announced that the Carlisle Post Office will be open Saturday, Dec. 15 until 4:30 p.m. for the convenience of its customers.

Anderson also said the post office will remain open Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 31. The post office will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

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