

Opinion

Good work

The employees of the Nicholas County Hospital and the Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home were honored last Saturday night at the health care corporation's annual dinner.

The hospital was never meant to be a complete medical center. Many large cities don't have those. Instead, what it was meant to be, (and what it has become) is a community facility that serves most of the needs of the patients who seek treatment there.

Modern laboratory facilities, emergency rooms, extended care rooms, an x-ray department and nursery are just some of the services offered at the hospital. And hospital employees are offered the chance to further their knowledge in their field by attending seminars and conferences.

All this, plus the good work done at the Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home, is a culmination of a dream that many Nicholas Countians worked hard to see realized. Perhaps they weren't all recognized last Saturday but all of them and all of us can be proud of our health care facilities and the people who work there.

Down Memory Lane
Sue Irvin wins essay contest; meteorite (?) falls on county

Thursday, December 13, 1979 Sue Irvin has been declared the county winner in the Soil Conservation Essay Contest, and she will receive a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond. Miss Irvin is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Irvin, Moorefield.

The walnut kernel plant of Myers & Kenneth Gordon, Dec. 2 in Mt. Sterling. Mulikin in the Blue Grass Co. is in operation and about 20 persons are employees.

A prized purchased English Shepherd stock dog, belonging to Hobble Jones of Moorefield, was killed last week when struck by a tractor on the Lyons' farm. Marie Chapter No. 229 O.E.S. entertained the Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter of Kentucky with a dinner last Tuesday night in the Masonic Hall, Mrs. Brooks Henson, worthy matron, presided at the dinner.

Thursday, December 13, 1979 Mrs. Charles C. Adams, a native of Carlisle and widow of a prominent Washington artist, is becoming famous through publication of a new series of books for children in which sound effects are used. A Mitchell of Parks Hill brought to The Mercury office last week what was believed to be a meteorite which fell near where he was hunting a few days before.

Others weren't suitable for filming. It was in our estimation a horrible printing job. And we are sorry that many of our subscribers received newspapers that either had too much ink or not enough. It was the first time in our memory that we'd been asked for another copy because the one sent was obviously unsuitable for filming.

Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

The old chap didn't make it into the Mercury as has been the custom, but the Santa letters are pouring in just the same. And as usual at this season our employees are chucking over the words and phrases used by the young and not so young writers in their epistles to that patron saint Santa Claus.

Letter Deadline is Dec. 13. Our employees are instructed not to correct spelling or punctuation of the many little gems received. The letters are scheduled to be published in the issue of Dec. 20.

Following that issue, we turn around and will try to have the issue of Dec. 27 in the mail for delivery locally on Christmas Eve. And if that were not enough, the issue of Jan. 3, 1980 hopefully can be produced and printed Dec. 29.

In a way this year the holiday season will be anything but a holiday - to some of us, but next year we can look forward to Christmas Day falling on Thursday which also calls for advance printing and mailing, but not the rush that is in store during 1979.

The issue of Jan. 3 will carry the annual Budget, Business and Financial Forecast for 1980, normally it would have been in the Dec. 27 issue but since that issue has an early mailing date it wouldn't be cricket to release it until that time agreed upon with the publisher of the letter.

Last week we received a card from the Microfilm Center, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington, asking for another copy of the Nov. 29th Mercury. That Mercury along with nearly 2,500

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J-M honors employees



Clyde Purcell, Jean Booth



Lorella Stephenson, Jerry Hughes, Helen Myers



Juanita Ring, Sharon Duncan



Rev. Mark Prevo, S. R. Barlow, Rev. Herman Kamlage

Clyde Purcell was a patient at the hospital recently and was discharged in time to attend the dinner. Employees honored for 10 years of service were Lorella Stephenson, Jerry Hughes and Helen Myers. Employees honored for five years of service were Juanita Ring, Sharon Duncan, E.R. Price and Patti Getz. Rev. Mark Prevo of the First Christian Church was given a special certificate for his work on the new chapel, which was finished in time for

Agree or Not
Will taxes go up now?

By S.C. Van Curen FRANKFORT - While no governor likes to talk about tax increases or prospects of the increased cost of living, John Young Brown Jr. will face that problem during next year's legislative session.

With gasoline prices at one dollar per gallon and more at present, fiscal experts expect a drop in road tax revenue on the present nine cents per gallon tax simply because people are reducing their travel.

Some are forecasting that gasoline may reach two dollars per gallon within another year, thereby reducing travel more.

This must be viewed by legislators and fiscal experts as a need to increase revenue for road maintenance.

It also should be viewed by legislators and the Brown administration as a threat to Kentucky's lucrative tourist industry. This has amounted to more than a billion dollars a year, creating a lot of jobs and producing a lot of gasoline tax revenue as well as boosting the economy.

Another problem legislators are likely to face on the economic front is a request from banks and savings and loan institutions to increase the interest rates.

A multi-banking or a statewide banking bill is also likely to make its appearance during the 1980 legislative session. This idea was introduced in the 1974 session but got nowhere.

A source close to the banking industry told this column that the lending organizations would like to increase the time payment, or add on rate, to their present ceiling of six percent to eight percent.

They also would like to remove the ceiling on interest rates on other loans and let the market seek its own level.

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The problem is Kentucky's road taxes is not generating sufficient revenue to meet the inflated costs of maintenance and new construction. The special task force on transportation has said that Kentucky will need an additional \$300 million per year for the next 10 years to maintain its road system.

The task force has suggested an increase of two to four cents per gallon in the gasoline tax that is now nine cents per gallon. The task force also has suggested that the tax be put on a percentage basis instead of a flat cents per gallon rate. The percentage plan would be designed to keep up with inflation.

The other alternative to increasing the gasoline tax would be to let the people vote on a bond issue to maintain the roads. Brown has mentioned and has been advised by some experts that the state's bonded indebtedness at present is in a very favorable position.

He has not taken, or at least made public, his position on which route he will take. However, he stressed during his campaign for governor that one of his key objectives as governor will be getting Kentucky moving in business and commerce.

He has stressed increasing jobs in the state and selling more of the products Kentucky produces, even to the point of searching for foreign markets.

The highway system is essential to the business and industrial progress.

Brown has also said that it would be poor business and more expensive in the long run to lag maintenance in the face of continued inflation.

Kentucky's interstate system is almost completely only portions of I-24 in Western Kentucky remaining to be completed. However, the federal government does not provide any matching funds for maintenance on the interstate system since this is where the future bond is coming.

ANSWER: INEQUITY

Editor's notes

Hard worker Mrs. Allen Bowles, chosen Most Valuable Employee by the Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc. couldn't attend last Saturday's dinner due to a previous engagement.

The awards were kept secret and all sorts of efforts were made to make sure the winners attended. Mrs. Bowles had to decline since her husband's tobacco was in case and we all know what that means - and where Mrs. Bowles spent Saturday evening.

Back files I hear Rob Hester, administrator of Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc., may use his Christmas present as a down payment on a back brace.

Rob joined the OBI (Old Back Injury) Club last weekend. The culprit was either a large Christmas tree or a concrete filled desk but he recovered to enter the Health Care corporation annual employee Christmas dinner.

In fact, the program was only slightly longer than the grace said before the meal by Rev. Mark Prevo. The omission came when Rob opened his gift from the employees, a gift certificate from a local merchant. And that's when the back brace comment was heard.

Clip or button Speaking of braces, I gave two of my nieces a couple of pairs for their briches the other day. Or perhaps I should say lassies, because they buttoned on.

When I worked in a clothing store many moons ago I learned to distinguish between the two. People who wanted clip-ons asked for brices. Folks who were partial to buttons said lassies. And if somebody asked for suspenders, you know it was their first pair.

I drop my brach out of the drawer recently for a pair of pants that wouldn't listen to a belt. I forgave them this time because they had a watch pocket at a rare time in this days of digital dates.

Skipped one Regular readers of this column might have noticed it was missing last week. I had to lay down some of my duties at work last weeks in the aftermath of a death in my family. My mother died after open heart surgery on Nov. 29, two days after my 29th birthday and two days before her 50th wedding anniversary. It was a sad time for all of us but the thoughts and words of many were with us, including many of my Carlisle friends. They were appreciated very much.

It was also very consoling to know that when blood units for the surgery were needed from the Central Kentucky Blood Center they were there. My brother, my father and I are all part of a blood program and I think now more than ever we have the inspiration to continue in that good work.

Prime ingredient there After the funeral last Monday the family gathered at my father's house, including aunts, uncles, grandmothers and friends.

It's a large family and we had to spread them out throughout the house. One group was in the basement discussing farming. One gentleman in particular was expounding on the changes we would see in agriculture including 500 bushels of corn to the acre and 100 bushels of soybeans.

All this was astounding a friend of ours who is a farmer. He has seen and also read that a man who buys a farm today might be lucky if his great grandchildren can pay for it.

Let's hope it is, because the farm has 100 acres in full bloom. I replied that the American agriculture industry was being revolutionized, including the 500 bushels of corn per acre, etc.

"Well," was the reply. "I'd said there's enough fertilizer down there to do it."

OFF THE WALL

HAPPIEST PEOPLE TODAY: VEGETARIANS STUDYING MEAT PRICES

COFFEE IN ENGLAND IS JUST TOASTED MILK

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