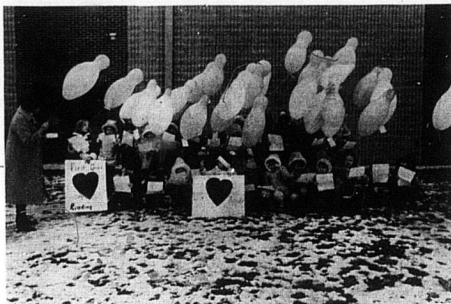


# The Carlisle Mercury

Our 112th year, No. 8

Carlisle, Kentucky, 40311, Thursday, February 22, 1979

20 cents per copy



## Up, up and away

Mrs. Ben Pumphrey's first grade class at Nicholas County Elementary School celebrated "I Love To Read Day" last Wednesday by sending helium-filled balloons aloft. Each balloon carried a card with the child's name on it, asking the finder to return a letter. For more information, see story inside. — Photo by Janie Duncan.

## Burley changes proposed

Several regulation amendments designed to tighten administration of the fluorescent and burley tobacco marketing quota programs, and to discourage farmers from overproducing, have been proposed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Since tobacco producers are now making plans for their 1979 crops, it is important that these proposed changes are fully published.

ASCS Associate Administrator Stewart Smith said the public has until February 23 to comment on the proposals. Smith said one amendment would cancel the provision allowing storage of producer carryover tobacco through marketing agents beginning with the 1979 crops. This carryover provision has stimulated the production of excess tobacco and has put a greater strain on the limited processing facilities during the marketing season, he said. Under another proposed change, tobacco producers will be permitted to plant up to 110 per cent of their effective fluoro-aluminate and still receive price support if they agree not to harvest the four lower leaves. Presently, they could plant up to 120 per cent if they did not harvest the four lower leaves.

\*Please turn to page 10

## City explains deficit

In a called meeting Thursday night the Carlisle City Council voted to hire auditors to begin an immediate audit of the city's books for 1978.

The city has had to borrow about \$100,000 in the past month to cover past-due bills, some from as far back as September of 1978.

In an interview Monday Mayor Bill Power expressed optimism that the audit would find no funds missing, but would reinforce the opinion of the council that certain practices combined to present a misleading picture of the city's finances.

Power gave several examples of practices that have been changed and events that contributed to the city's discovery last month of the overdue bills and lack of funds in several city accounts. They included:

— The purchase of several thousand dollars worth of supplies without authority. Although all the supplies were of items that are used by the city (such as pencils, legal pads, etc.) they were purchased in amounts that gave the city several years' supply of the same item.

— Purchased for gifts. "There is also some evidence that some supplies were purchased in order to obtain premiums and merchandise from the supplying company. This practice, Power said, has been stopped and in many instances the surplus materials have been returned to the companies involved with a warning that the awarding of premiums or prizes for such purchases will be discontinued.

— The transfer of funds from one city account to another through the use of center checks that did not carry the signature of the mayor or the council. Power said this was done by a former city clerk in order to cover checks for bills on some of the accounts. This practice was apparently followed for several months, contributing to the false overall picture of the city's finances. — The presentation of false or misleading financial statements to the council and mayors in past months. This is related to the previous disclosure.

Power said in many cases an incorrect balance was attributed to several funds in order to present a picture of solvency in those accounts.

Gas bills unpaid. Along with these revelations the council discovered that gas bills from the city's supplier (Columbia Gas) had not been paid for the months of September and October of 1978. The omission of these payments meant the city incurred a penalty on the bills, which added to their cost.

— Despite the borrowing of the \$100,000 Power said the city's finances are basically in good shape, noting that no new major expenses are expected in the next two years, with the possible exception of a new police cruiser. Power mentioned the following in support of this stance:

— A new pump at the river, with the motor in the pump station at the river having been removed;

— Extensive work done to the sewage plant;

— A street program has just been completed;

— A new truck and back hoe, along with a sail spreader has been purchased.

## Bloodmobile stop set for March 12

March 12 has been set by the Central Kentucky Blood Center as the next date for the bloodmobile to be in Nicholas County. Sixty-nine units of blood were drawn for county credit in October, 1978. Fifty-eight units of blood were used by persons covered by county donors in October, November and December of last year. If the county residents are to continue to receive free blood when needed during the coming year a total of 190 units of blood must be received in the next two blood drawings (March and July).

— If the county quota is not met only those persons donating and their families will be eligible for free blood. Since many persons on the donor club file have not given for several years and perhaps many county residents may never have been contacted before to give blood a county-wide telephone canvass will be conducted. — Details of the canvass will appear in the next issue of The Carlisle Mercury. The Nicholas County Ministerial Association is the sponsor of the blood donor program. Ministers urge county residents to join the blood donor program so that the county residents may continue to receive free blood as needed.

\*Please turn to page 7

## Last solar eclipse of this century is next Monday

By Robert C. Radcliffe  
National Geographic News Service  
Dogs may wince, automatic street lights may switch on, chickens may settle down to roost, and astronomers may chortle with delight on Feb. 26 when the sun goes out — or briefly seems to.

It's the morning of the total solar eclipse, the last one that anybody will see in North America this century. The next will occur in 2077.

This is one of nature's most spectacular periodic shows, occurring when the sun casts the moon's shadow onto the earth, and it sweeps across the land like a black spotlight.

The eclipse will be seen throughout the United States wherever it is not cloudy the morning of Feb. 26, the National Geographic Society says.

In most places it will be a partial eclipse with the disk of the moon covering only part of the sun, looking today as it did to the ancients — as though a giant bite had been taken out of the sun's edge.

**Total Blackout**  
But to anybody living within a wide bank stretching across North America the sun briefly will be blotted out totally as the center of the moon's shadow, or umbra, streaks past.

Sweeping in from the Pacific, this part of the moon's shadow will first hit the United States at the Oregon-Washington coast, just after 8 a.m.

Then, moving eastward at an average of 120 miles an hour, it will cross the Columbia River valley, across northern Idaho, central Montana, northwestern North Dakota, and into Canada.

The shadow's path — with a maximum width of 185 miles — then will angle northward through Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. At last crossing Hudson Bay, it will sweep over Quebec, Baffin Island, and end at sunset in central Greenland.

Solar eclipses occur when the orbiting earth and moon happen to line up in front of the sun so that — seen from earth — the moon momentarily blots out all or part of the sun.

Lunar eclipses often happen two weeks after solar eclipses as the moon swings behind the earth and into the earth's shadow. Early astronomers were the first to realize that the curved

shadow of the earth on the moon was remote evidence that the earth was not flat but round.

**Shade Misses Earth**  
An eclipse of the sun does not happen every time the moon swings between us and the sun because the orbit of the moon is slightly out of line with the earth's. As a result, the shadow of the moon usually misses hitting the earth and instead stays off into space.

During a year there can be as many as five solar eclipses, or as few as two, but they may not always be as spectacularly apparent as the February eclipse will be to many Americans and Canadians.

During a man's lifetime, he might see a lunar eclipse from his hometown less than once a year on the average, and a partial eclipse of the sun less than every two years.

However, he would have to be very lucky to see a total eclipse, but if one did darken his hometown, another would not be seen there for at least 300 years.

Nobody will see a solar eclipse again in North America until Aug. 11, 2077, when the center of the moon's shadow will streak across much of the United States. However, a total eclipse of the sun will be visible near Honolulu, Hawaii, on July 11, 1991.

Astronomers warn that partial or permanent blindness can result from an instant of looking at the sun with the naked eye, even during a total eclipse. Sunglasses, smoked glass, exposed film, or even dark paper may be dark enough for protection.

The safest way to observe a solar eclipse is not to look at the sun at all, but instead to watch its changing

shadow on a piece of paper — but not a mirror — held in the hand.

**To Study Corona**  
Astronomers, armed with multiple instruments and with eyes suitably protected, will be in for force taking advantage of the eclipse to study one of the sun's most dramatic features, which otherwise is largely invisible in the sun's full glare. It is the corona, the sun's hot outer atmosphere, sometimes showing tongues of flaming gases flaring as much as a quarter million miles into space.

For a few seconds just before total eclipse a sliver of the sun will peek from behind one edge of the moon, the black near shape circled by the sun's corona. At this moment the combined effect is of a giant celestial diamond ring.

Right afterwards, and lasting only an instant, Bailey's beads appear. They are brilliant points of sunlight shining between the mountains on the moon caught in silhouette around the lunar edge.

Eclipses were terrifying to the ancients, except in those few wisps in the ways of sun, moon, and earth. Knowing when an eclipse was coming — and that it would quickly pass — gave enormous power to men who seemed to be able to put things right again just as the sun appeared to be going out and the world coming to an end.

Chinese astronomers once were beheaded if their timing was off in predicting eclipses. Some were charged with the earlier way of ending an eclipse: Shooting arrows into the sky and raising a fearful ruckus to scare off the dragon they believed was eating the sun. It always worked.

## Depot nominated

The Carlisle L. & N Passenger Depot on the corner of Market and Locust Streets has been approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The action was taken by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board, which approved and forwarded

nomination of 18 sites across the state, including seven in the Bluegrass area.

Also nominated in the Bluegrass area were Sacred Home on the Thomas Bedford Road in Bourbon County and the George Heiler House on U. S. 62 near Broadway in Hartwood County.

22 FEB 22