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Bridge bids coming; opening is Jan. 22

Bids will be let Jan. 22 for the new bridge to cross Brushy Fork at the intersection of Elm Street and the Upper Jackstown Road Mayor Bill Power disclosed at Monday's city council meeting.

Mayor Power said several bids have been received already for the construction of the two-lane structure, which will replace the single-lane bridge there now.

"Although the bids will be let Jan. 22 it has been estimated that concrete for the bridge will not be able to be poured until April 1.

The bridge is said to be the first in the state under a new program. The estimated cost is \$100,000 for the double-lane structure, which will also feature a walkway approximately three feet in width.

Mayor Power said after Monday's meeting that the installation of the new

bridge will not disrupt traffic over the bridge and out the Upper Jackstown Road for a long period of time.

The bridge will be precast and the only time that traffic will be inconvenienced is when the footings are poured. The bridge will be approximately 24 feet in width and will be located at the site of the present bridge.

Council member Carol Sparks asked Mayor Power about the possibility of putting some of the city's reserve funds on six-month deposit in order to take advantage of favorable interest rates. Mayor Power said he would look into the situation. If the city did deposit some of its reserve funds in this fashion they would have to be committed in lots of \$10,000.

Interest rates on such deposits are approaching 9.50 per cent at some area banks.

In other money matters Mayor

Power received permission from the council to renew a \$10,000 note at the First National Bank for an additional three months.

In other business the city: — announced a study of the existing water rates will be made to see if they should be adjusted. The last raise in city water rates was made in May of 1977.

— approved a plan to approach the Nicholas County Fiscal Court to see if they would be willing to pay one-half the expense of the radio operator. The city recently began manning the police radio 24 hours a day; and

— announced that council member Bill Sparks had donated a New Meadows print to the city office. The print is "Kentucky, the Great State" and was Kentucky's official Bicentennial painting.

Optimists plan charity auction

Planning on cleaning out that attic, basement or closet in the near future? If you are, keep the Carlisle-Nicholas County Optimist Club in mind when you gather that pile of odds and ends you're thinking about discarding.

The Optimist Club is planning its second annual Charity Auction Jan. 28 and donations of all types of items are being sought by the local club, according to Optimist president Andy Dudley. What's more, the club will pick those items up at your house free of charge.

Asked what type of material is sought Dudley said, "Actually, we'll take just about anything but clothing. We don't want to get into a rummage sale situation but things like furniture,

tools, clocks, dishes, toys, games, books and just about anything else will be welcome."

The club is planning a three to four hour auction for Jan. 28, with the selling chores to be handled by club member Jewel Vico. Also planned is a refreshment stand for patrons.

The auction is scheduled to be held at the old Armory, which is fitting since the proceeds from this year's event will be donated to the Carlisle-Nicholas County Recreation Department. Last year the auction raised more than \$1,000 for the chapel fund at the new hospital and Dudley expects this year's event to surpass that figure — depending on donations.

The recipient of this year's proceeds is fitting in another sense, that of the Optimist Club's expressed policy of helping local youth. The club is a relatively new one in Nicholas County, having been formed a little more than a year ago.

Local residents are urged to look through their closets and storage spaces for items they no longer need but which would be suitable for the charity auction.

"If they're appliances, they don't really have to work," Dudley said. "We'll plug them in and see if they do not and will have that information available. If they don't, they'll still be offered for sale in case someone thinks they can do some repairs and get them working."

"Last year, for example," he continued, "we had someone donate a clock radio. We plugged it in and it worked and sold quickly."

Persons with items they wish to donate may call any Optimist Club member, Dudley at 289-2251, Nancy Pyles at the old Armory (289-7016) or Steve Mark's (289-7266). Arrangements will be made for picking up the items.

PSC awards

Fleming RECC

rate increase

The Kentucky Public Service Commission has approved a 5.39 per cent rate increase for the Fleming-Mason Rural Electric Cooperative Corp.

The coop sought the increase to cover increased operating costs and interest payments.

The adjustment will result in additional gross revenues of \$22,600.

Fleming-Mason RECC provides electric services to about 12,600 customers in Robertson, Nicholas, Fleming, Bath, Mason, Lewis, Bracken, and Rowan Counties.

Former employee raps hospital administration

by Jeff Kerr

A former employee of the Nicholas County Hospital who was recently discharged from his duties appeared before the Nicholas County Fiscal Court last Wednesday and for more than an hour told the court of situations involving employee-management relations at the hospital that he felt were detrimental to the smooth operation of that facility.

Clarence Cord, a former maintenance employee at the hospital and a member of the Carlisle City Council, told the court that he felt his dismissal was a result of a personal vendetta against him by administrator Ken Urlage and was part of a larger plan to oust him (Cord) and replace him with James T. Vaughn, who is currently overseeing the construction of the new

hospital.

Cord charged that at a staff meeting in December, at which he was not present, Urlage presented the employees with an organizational chart that listed Vaughn in charge of maintenance, housekeeping and laundry, even though Vaughn was not a regular employee of the corporation at the time. Cord further said that when this chart was presented to the hospital and approved by the magistrate, Urlage was reportedly given a two-year contract shortly before he dismissed Cord.

Urlage and Cord were members of the original building committee of the new hospital. In addition, Vaughn was a member of the board of directors of the Johnson-Mathers Health Care, Inc., the corporation that administers the hospital and nursing home.

He resigned his seat on the board of directors of Johnson-Mathers at the May 4, 1977 meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court. At the June 8, 1977 meeting of the court Vaughn was hired as construction supervisor of the new hospital at a salary of \$240 per week.

This salary was not paid until the bond issue for the hospital was sold in December of 1977, after which Vaughn was paid for the previous six months work.

(The Mercury contacted Urlage to see if he wished to answer Cord's charges. However, Urlage said he did not wish to comment on the matter, saying "I don't think I will sanction those statements with a comment.")

Urlage said that after the party he was dismissed — Urlage, who mentioned his presence at the party while on sick leave as "what breaks the case's back?"

He also said that the procedure for employees to approach the hospital board, either in person or by letter, was set up so that no employee could do this without Urlage's approval. Cord also stated there was a "strong feeling" of problems at the hospital and nursing home among the employees.

The former employee also said he had been approached several times in the past few months by Urlage, who reportedly told him that his (Cord's) attitude and work were not satisfactory. Cord also offered to submit a list of names of current employees that the fiscal court could contact if they wanted further proof of his allegations. He declined to name any of them in an open meeting because he didn't want them for their jobs if they were identified.

The magistrates told Cord they would check with County Attorney Jack

Conley, who represents the court on the board, and ask him to check into the situation. Several of the squares commented that they had been hearing about the hospital's problems from several of their constituents and expressed concern over the matter.

Urlage administers the hospital and nursing home under the aegis of the 10-member hospital board, the members of which are selected by the board and approved by the magistrate. Urlage was reportedly given a two-year contract shortly before he dismissed Cord.

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Special session opens

LI. Gov. Thelma Stovall retained a challenge for legislative independence in a Monday keynote address opening an extraordinary session of the Kentucky General Assembly.

In her call for the special session last November during the absence of Gov. Julian M. Carroll, Mrs. Stovall offered several proposals for tax relief including removal of the state sales tax on residential utilities, an increase in the standard deduction on state income tax returns and a freeze on state property taxes.

"After record floods in Frankfort forced a month's postponement of the session, Gov. Carroll advised several other matters to the lawmakers' agenda."

"In fairness, in justice and in mercy we must rearrange the priorities of our government," Mrs. Stovall said in her prepared remarks to a joint meeting of the Senate and House. Despite snow and freezing temperatures in the Capital City, 23 of 100 state representatives and 36 of 38 Senators answered the session's opening bell.

Mrs. Stovall said "thousands of Kentuckians" had expressed deep and bitter resentment against excessive taxation and utilities expenses.

"I think I know the concerns of the average Kentuckian, because I am one of them," she said.

As anticipated, Mrs. Stovall said she would not assume her accustomed position as presiding officer of the Senate. She said she preferred to reserve an opportunity to express her opinions and would relinquish the leadership duties to Senate President Pro Tem Joseph Prather (D-Vine Grove).

Other than Mrs. Stovall's call to order, little was considered or accomplished during the House's opening day of the session. Three minor administrative resolutions were adopted and several tax relief and consumer oriented bills were introduced.

*Please turn to page 12



City of Carlisle employees work last week to chip some accumulated ice from a curve on the Upper Jackstown Road at the city limits. Drainage from private residences gathers so the men and freezes in cold weather. The men are, from left, Bill Mitchell, Cleo Fryman and Vernon Willschlagby. — Photo by Jeff Kerr.

Ice men



Special project

Two classes at the Nicholas County Elementary School recently completed a project on Christmas symbols found around the world. Mrs. Charley Gifford's sixth grade spelling class and Mrs. Marjorie Wain's English class used the school's library to gather information about the different Christ-

mas symbols and then the classes were divided into groups of two, with each group preparing a report and a model of the different symbols which were also used as room decorations. Assisting the children in their projects was Mrs. Wilma Donahoe, school librarian. — Mercury photo.

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