

The Carlisle Mercury

Our 112th year, No. 31

Carlisle, Kentucky, 40311, Thursday, August 2, 1979

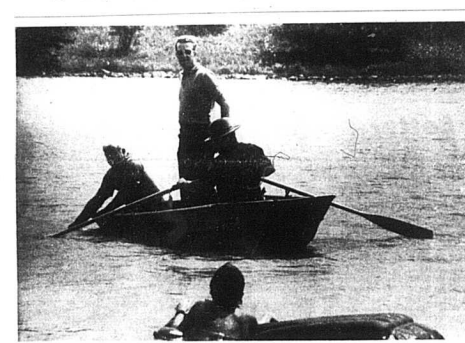
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Every 20 years or so...

A little more than 27 years ago Mercury publisher Warren Fisher arose at 3 a.m. to get this shot of downtown Carlisle looking west. Fisher put camera under coat last Thursday and braved the chaffers to get pictures of the Carlisle Flood of 1952. They can be found inside this week's Mercury.

Flash floods drench county Thursday



Fatal spot

Lisa White shows Nicholas Fire and Rescue Squad Chief Wendie Wilson where she last saw Kenneth Neal, who reportedly drowned Tuesday about noon in Lake Carnico. Miss White attempted to rescue Neal with her rubber raft. Others in the boat are Carlisle Chief of Police Allen Earlywine and Carlisle policeman Frank Hatfield. —Mercury photo

Man drowns in Carnico

(Editor's note: The body of Kenneth Neal was recovered from Lake Carnico Tuesday afternoon by Calvin Denton and Sam C. Reynolds of the Nicholas County Fire and Rescue Squad. Neal's body was discovered about 25 feet from the shore where an eyewitness, Lisa White, said she saw him last. The call was received by the Rescue Squad at 12:10 p.m., dragging operations were underway by 12:20 p.m. and the time of recovery was 2:20 p.m.)
Dragging operations continued Tuesday afternoon for the body of Kenneth Neal, 21, of Jeffersonville in Montg-

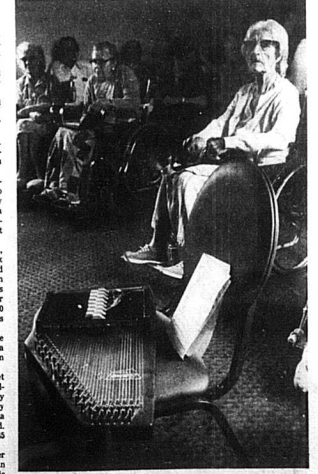
Frankie Davis knew something was up. It was his ice chest, which normally sits in front of his grocery on East Main Street. But last Thursday morning it was bobbing and down the creek as Brushy Fork began to overflow its banks.
"I thought about going outside to see if I could do something," Davis said later. "But it was still raining hard and I realized I was between the creek and the ice machine."
The floating ice machine took off shortly and came to rest later wedged against the Dorseysville bridge. But the estimated three to five inch cloudburst that plucked down on Carlisle Thursday did much more damage than move Frankie's ice machine — although the amount of damage finally reported in town wasn't enough to qualify for any sort of disaster aid.
Perhaps the greatest hit of all were Nicholas County farmers. Every creek, stream, watercourse and run in the county left its bank and flooded low-lying areas, drowning tobacco crops, fattening corn and depositing debris all along their paths.

Meanwhile, in Carlisle, the flash flood that spilled Brushy Fork over its banks and into the streets did some damage but not enough to warrant filing for federal funds to aid in the recovery, according to Civil Defense Director Russell Bell.
Bell said the most damage reported in the city was at Rankin Byrd's house on Walnut Street where water undermined the foundation, causing it to cave into the basement. Other persons reported water damage, Bell said, but no other structural damage was filed.
The storm began in earnest about 7:30 a.m. Thursday morning. Carlisle does not have an official weather station but estimates put the amount of rainfall that hit the town in the space of an hour at 3.5 inches.
By 8:45 a.m. water that had apparently backed up from Brushy Fork past the city sewer plant began spilling into downtown Carlisle. Clay Hunt's Ashland station on the corner of Main and Sycamore was first to experience the flood and soon the Main Street from the post office to the cemetery was impassable.

The influx of water was blamed by Bell on three factors: surface runoff, saturated ground and the city's storm sewers spilling into Brushy Fork. Bell said about 25 homes in Carlisle were ultimately affected by the high waters.
Traffic was diverted from Main Street through the back entrance to the cemetery until the waters receded from the street, which began about 10 a.m. Meanwhile, three men had responded to a call for help and brought in pumps and irrigation equipment to move the water from still-flooded areas. Jim Lower, Doug Hamilton and Keith Hardwick worked with City of Carlisle crews under Gayle Vantlandingham and some county road workers to pump the water.
At one spot near Dorseysville the men were forced to tunnel under the railroad tracks to release a pool of water that had gathered between the railroad bed and the creek. The waters also washed out about 10 feet of track in that area.
Not much warning of what was to come was given. Bell said there was little warning of

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A committee composed by Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Control Service, Farmer's Home Administration and County Extension Office representatives toured the county after the storm and made the following report:
—1,000 acres of tobacco was damaged with the prospect for loss 50 percent or greater;
—2,000 acres of corn were affected with the loss estimated at 40 percent; an estimated \$10,000 worth of hay was destroyed; and
—50,000 rods of fence were affected.
In addition, the survey crew estimated that at least 150 acres of gardens in low-lying areas were destroyed.
County Extension Agent Mike Phillips said the greatest losses seemed to be in the Sallweil and Short Stoney Creek areas. John Soyer, who has a farm on Short Stoney Creek, said Monday water entered his house for the first time in 45 years.
Another Short Stoney Creek resident, Gary Rector, had his pickup truck flooded, living room furniture ruined and a television set destroyed when about two feet of water entered his house. The plot of ground where Rector grew his tobacco last year was about 18 feet under water at one time, Phillips said.
The flooding did tremendous damage to the Nicholas tobacco crop but a combination of situations may have even more.
Phillips said a combination of wet ground, heat and humidity was scabbing the county's crop. At a 26-county meeting last week he said each one, county (Pendleton) reported a greater percentage of the crop affected.
For Nicholas, the final toll may be 40 percent of the county's crop.
Phillips said some of the shorter tobacco might be helped with an application of nitrogen. But there is little that can be done for the taller plants, he added.



Recipe for happiness

An autograph, a feather used to pluck its strings and a rapt audience were among the ingredients at a special program presented last Friday at the Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home. See inside this week's Mercury for more details. —Photo by Jeff Kerr.

Nicholas County Fair starts exhibits today

The Nicholas County Fair begins today and this year's event will feature a new wrinkle.
For the first time an open beef and dairy show will be held. This will be in conjunction with the regular beef and dairy show for FFA and 4-H members from Nicholas County.
The three-day fair begins today at 8:30 a.m. with exhibit registration from then until 11:30 a.m.
Judging will be held after lunch today and the exhibits will be on display from 4-6 p.m.
Tonight will see the track events to be held at the Nicholas County High School track beginning at 8 p.m.
Children up to 12 years old will be eligible for relay and dash events as well as a long jump competition. NCHS head football coach Ben Humphrey and his staff will be administering the events.
Prizes will be given for first, second and third place finishers in the amount of 75 cents, 50 cents and 25 cents. Last year more than \$100 in prizes was awarded.
The fair continues Friday open with exhibits all day at the armory. On Saturday, the last day of the fair, beef and dairy shows will begin at 1 p.m. followed by a lawn and garden tractor pull at 4 p.m.
Bobby Curtatiger is chairman of this year's fair. David Wilson is secretary-treasurer.

Two escape injury when canoe capsizes

Two Alexandria, Ky. youths found out the Licking River was not the place to take a canoe trip after four days of steady rain.
Don Ryan and Bob Hanson, both 17, were rescued from the Licking River between Myers Station and Blue Licks last Saturday after their canoe capsized at the Myers bridge.
Hanson and Ryan had put in the North Fork of the Licking around Merchabon Friday night and planned to be in Palmouth by Saturday evening.
That scenario was altered about 9 a.m. Saturday when their canoe capsized.
*Please turn to page 7

2

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2