Opinion

Guest Editorial

We're driving them away

A frightening picture emerges from a survey that shows Kentucky on the bottom of the list of southern states manufacturing growth during last year. Of the 12 states surveyed, Kentucky comes in a poor last, which means this state has not kept pace with the acquisition of new industries, expansion of existing industries and new jobs.

The two biggest reasons we have lost out to other sunbelt states are (1) a ridiculous workmen's compensation law and, (2) the absence of a Right to Work Act.

Kentucky's workmen's compensation costs are way out of line. They are double to triple the cost in sunbelt states against which Kentucky must compete for economic growth. And, unless our governor and the general assembly does something except provide lipservice to this problem, our commonwealth is going to fade away as the place for industrial development.

We cite these examples of lost jobs and lost opportunities for Kentucky workers:

ABS Industries, Inc., parent company of American Cycle, had decided on a new plant for Elizabethtown recently, but went to Clarksville, Tenn., instead. 200-300 jobs down the drain.

Gates Rubber built a new plant in North Carolina rather than expand its Kentucky plant because of workmen's compensation. Another 200 jobs lost that should have been ours.

Toshiba Corporation, a Japanese concern, seemed locked in for Hopkinsville, but built across the line in Lebanon, Tenn., because of workmen's compensation costs. Another 200 jobs.

American Air Filter has announced the winding down of its Shelbyville plant, with production being moved to Texas. The reason: workmen's compensation.

O.P. Link Handle Company was planning to build a new Kentucky plant with 100 jobs. I took them to Alabama instead, because of workmen's compensation.

Murphy Manufacturing Company closed up in Louisville and built a new plant in New Albany, Ind., Management said the difference in workmen's compensation alone pays for its new facility.

Prior to 1972, Kentucky was about average in workmen's compensation. There were problems, of course, even then. The law had grown like topsy over the years. It was incoherent in many respects, administration was loose and it had already become a haven for lawyers who promote excessive litigation.

Then the Coal Mine Safety and Health Act forced states to meet certain standards. This produced many costly side effects including forced coverage of black lung under the occupational disease section of the Workmen's Compensation Act. With coal a big item in employment, heavy costs were dumped on the state from years of accumulation claims. And somehow, there is a silly automatic presumption that anyone who ever worked in a mine has the disease, even if he really does'nt. And a number of lawyers have become millionaires from it all.

There has to be a change, to trim benefits to actual wage losses, to cut down on litigations and to stop payments for minor injuries and give better benefits to the deserving.

This is not an abstract problem facing only industrialists — effects us all. The loss of jobs is felt by everyone in our state. Unless we insist our legislators remedy this, we might as well forget about economic growth in Kentucky. It is not going to happen.

Bath County News-Outlook

Agree or Not

Unusual primary over

By. S. C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT — Not in recent memory have two political parties nominated candidates for governor from the same town.

It also has been a long time since both candidates for lieutenant governor have been from the eastern half of the state.

All four of the candidates can be said fo be from the eastern half of the state because Lexington is about midpoint of the state and its business ties are cluelly with Eastern Kentucky when you get away from Fayette County residents.

Gubernatorial nominees John Young Brown Jr. (D) and Louie B. Nunn (R) are both from Lexington. Martha Layne Collins (D) is from Versailles and Harold D. Rogers (R) is from Somerset.

Kentucky's last two governor's have been from Western Kentucky and far western at that. Wendell Ford was from Owensboro and Julian Carroll is from Paducah.

The Democratic primary was a strange race in which five major candidates waged statewide campaigns and winner Brown got just a little more than 30 per cent of the vote. Four candidates opposed Terry McBrayer who had the support of the Carroll administration. McBrayer ran third and Harvey Sloane ran a close second or just about 26,000 votes less than Brown received.

Brown's job now is to put the fragmented Democratic Party back together. There was strong criticism of the present administration coming chiefly from Carroll Hubbard and George Atkins who dropped out of the race late to join forces with Brown.

Democrats outnumber Republicans in registration roughly 2 to 1 in the state. Republicans have to won many dissident Democrats to win in November. However a large number of voters register as Democrats so they can take part in local primaries, but vote Republican in November.

Nunn's job is to keep Republicans together and attract dissident Democrats and Independents to support him.

This column in past weeks has described certain political tendencies when it comes to the governorship.

No faction of the Democratic Party has ever held the governor's office more than two successive terms.

The Republicans haven't been able to hold the office two terms since the turn of the century.

Nunn was elected in 1967, and is seeking the office again after being out two terms. The state budget has tripled since his last term. It is now $7.6 billion and was only $2.5 billion for his last two years.

There hasn't been a lieutenant governor from Eastern Kentucky since Kenneth Tuggle served under Republican Gov. Simeon Willis, 1943-1947. Tuggle is the last Republican leutenant governor, and Nunn was the first Republican to be elected governor since Willis.

In past columns it also was pointed out that Carroll's administration had become unpopular with the people and that McBrayer had to handle some thorns if he expected to harvest the roses. McBrayer got about 27 per cent of the primary vote, running third.

McBrayer carried his home congressional district, the Seventh, less than 10,000 votes over Brown while Brown was carrying his home Sixth District over Harvey Sloane by only 6,000 votes.

Contributing to McBrayer's downfall was loss of the heavily Democratic First District to Brown by 7,000 votes and to Carroll Hubbard by 17,000 votes. This is Carroll's home District. When McBrayer lost the first and carried the Seventh by such a small margin his hopes were doomed.

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Down Memory Lane

Mercury wins best all-around; Charles Cox receives diploma

Thursday, June 11, 1959

At the annual mid-summer meeting of the Kentucky Press Association at Kentucky Dam Village State Park Friday, **The Carlisle Mercury** was awarded a citation and bronze plaque for placing first in the best all-around newspaper division, weekly division under 1500 circulation.

Bob Coatney, co-owner of Coatney Bros. IGA, left Wednesday on a three-day trip to Chicago where he will reign as national "Tablerite Meat King for '59".

The Nicholas County Board of Education at its regular meeting June 6, authorized the Myers School property sold on June 27.

Edgar Darrell and sons, Emmett and Edgar Allen, will be featured on the "Willing Aches" radio program over WLW, Cincinnati on June 13.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Lester Snapp, a daughter, Victoria Lynn, June 6. — To Mr. and Mrs. John Wood, a daughter, June 6. — To Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Matthews, a daughter, Anneta Kay, June 4. — To Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Godby, a son, Steven Lloyd, June 6. — To Mr. and Mrs. James C. Neisius, a son, June 9.

MARRIED — Mrs. Katherine Whaley Baumstark, to Carl S. Ratliff, Lexington, Saturday. — Miss Linday Berry Caswell, to Glenn Ritchie Jr., June 6.

DIED — William Bryan Reid, 58, Flemingsburg, Monday in Maysville. — J. Richard Collier, 84, Millersburg, Thursday in Paris. — William Rees Worles, 62, Paris, Friday in Lexington. — Cary Broderick, of Sacramento, Calif., 61, May 29. — Donald Wilson Ratliff, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Otis Wilson Ratliff, Lexington, Tuesday.

Thursday, June 8, 1939

The Carlisle playgrounds will open for the summer months on next Monday, June 12. Two sessions will be held daily.

Dr. C.W. Kash has been appointed resident physician for the local CCC camp.

Scoutmaster Roger Womack and approximately 20 members of the local Boy Scout troop enjoyed a weekend at Camp Black Hawk. New steel cots have been purchased and installed at the camp.

Charles Marshall Cox, son of Mr. Foster Cox of Carlisle, who has held a government position in Washington, D.C. for the past three years, received his diploma last Thursday from Columbia School of Law in Washington. Young Cox had the honor of receiving one of the 10 highest grades in the class of more than 200 students.

Taking advantage of local showers during the paist week, farmers throughout the county set out a large part of the tobacco crop. Most farmers report-a plentiful supply of plants.

"Out of town printers pay no taxes here — let us do your printing."

MARRIED — Miss Evelyn Graybill of Maysville and John Harvey McAdow of West Union, Ohio, Saturday. — Miss Geneva Humphries and Joe E. Kelley Jr., both of Paris, Tuesday. — Miss Margaret Bretz and Alvin Edward Mitcheil, both of Pleasant Valley on May 26. — Majorie Ann Purcell and Vernon Frank Trammell, both of Lexington, in Carlisle, April 3. — Miss Mildred Humphries of Pleasant Valley and Burns Webb of Carlisle in Mt. Sterling, May 19. — Miss Jean Miller Campbell and Dr. John Thomas Leslie, both of Birmingham, Ala., June 8.

DIED — David B. Smart, 74, at his home on the Maysville Road Sunday night. — Mrs. Amelia Johnson Palmer, 76, at her home in the western suburbs of Carlisle, Thursday. — Mrs. Annabet Talbert Hopkins, 69, at her home in Lexington, Sunday.

Remember gas rationing? C, D, E and X stickers?

Gasoline rationing is a road Americans have driven down before, a road that only stretched "for the duration" of World War 11, but today may be a road with no end in sight.

It is also a road today crowded by 5.5 times as many cars, trucks, and buses as we had to ration 37 years ago. And last year we drove them altogether 2.5 times the distance the earth travels in its yearly swing around the sun.

American's love affair with the automobile has become nothing short of torrid during the years since our first experience with gasoline rationing began in May 1942, and ended with V-J Day in August 1945.

For Americans in early 1942, the fighting had just begun, and assembly lines were switching from sedans and convertibles to tanks and jeeps.

"This Trip Necessary?"

Ahead lay 40 months of stretching and hoarding gas coupons, holding to the nationwide speed limit of 35 miles an hour, and wearing irreplaceable tires all but right down to the rim.

We became a nation of car-poolers, asking ourselves, "Is this trip really necessary?" and learning to stay closer to home on vacations. A bicycle was a rare prize. Labor Day carnage on the highway was cut in half.

At the time of Pearl Harbor, 27,000,000 motor vehicles ruled the roads. At the end of 1978, Americans were at the wheel of 117,147,000 cars and 31,921,000 trucks and buses, and we had driven 1,516,100,000,000 miles during the year, 77 percent in cars.

In 1941 regular gasoline cost 19.2 cents a gallon including taxes. By the war's end the price had shot up to 20.5 cents. (At the end of World War 1, with relatively few cars and voluntary rationing, gasoline cost 29.4 cents a gallon).

"Gas for GIs"

Allied war efforts soaked up 7 billion barrels of gasoline, four-fifths provided by the United States.

Besides saving "gas for GIs," there was another critical reason for rationing. The Japanese had cut off 92 percent of our normal rubber supplies. There would be no more tires "for the duration."

Today, America rolls on tires of man-made rubber. For example, in automobile radials only about 25 percent is natural rubber, the rest is synthetic. But-and here's the irony-the synthetic is made from crude oil.

Out of every 42-gallon barrel of crude oil, 1.51 gallons goes into making tires and plastics. Gasoline is made from 18.2 gallons.

Driven slower during the war, cars averaged about 15 miles a gallon. Every car rated an "A" windshield sticker, indicating the car was eligible for the basic amount of gas, from six gallons a month early in the war to 24 as victory neared. That was supposed to be good for 1,500 miles a year.

About a third of the cars relied solely on "A" rations. About 60 percent rated "B" rations for driving to their jobs, and "C" rations for those who needed a car in their work, such as salesmen.

"D" stickers were for those with special needs, such as driving to the family victory garden on the outskirts of town or even traveling regularly to a nearby military post to be a volunteer chaperone at USO dances.

"Gas-Sticker Elite"

Most prized of all stickers were the "E" and "X" stickers assuring an unlimited supply of ration stamps to police, firemen, clergymen, reporters and news photographers, doctors, bosses of military construction projects, and morticians, among other members of the gas-sticker elite.

Stickers and the needed coupons drivers had to sign and hand over at gas stations were issued every three months by some 5,600 wartime price and rationing boards run by the Office of Price Administration. The Office of Defense Transportation also issued certificates for the needs of about 5 million vehicles, including more than a million trucks operated by farmers.

Inevitably and despite stern warnings, the coupons were traded around, though they were not supposed to be transferable.

Black markeeering was suspected everywhere, but Paul Porter, OPA administrator for most of the war, says less than 5 percent of the total available gasoline supplies found its way into illegal channels.

However, police say there was 10 times less counterfeit money printed during the war while attention was switched to easier-to-fake gas coupons.

Many people today, trying to figure out the fairest rationing system and, at the same time, remembering black markeeering of ration coupons during World War 11, argue in favor of ration coupons that could be given away or sold legally, in effect creating a new form of currency.

Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Butter peas from the South

Being a mite on the busy side the first of the week and every week for that matter, I passed a gift of seed on to my wife asking that she plant a few in her flower garden. She in turn distributed them to Mrs. Donald Storey and Mrs. Charles Hopkins who have access to garden space — something I lack this year.

The butter peas were given me by Mrs. Shirley Tedder. "They're from my home state of Alabama!" she said. Here's hoping for a good crop year. Anything with butter in its name appeals to me.

—MV—

It takes 20 to 30 hours of fishing

An article by John Wilson of Kentucky Afield has this to say about fishing:

"Every bass fisherman dreams of catching a stringer full of fat and sassy three-to four-pound largemouths, with a couple of lunkers — seven and eight pound fish — thrown in for good measure.

"Although this dream occasionally comes true, the actual situation is quite a bit different. On a national basis, according to figures compiled by the Sport Fishing Institute (SFI) and based on scientifically collected data from the various states, an average catch is one keeper' bass for every 20 to 30 hours of fishing.

"The SFI also calculates that, on the average, every square foot of potential bass habitat is fished at least three times each season."

I know some spots that are fished much harder than that, and in some 40 years of off-and-on fishing I've only landed one bass that nudged the lunker class at six pounds, four ounces, and that was 25 years ago in the City's lower reservoir.

—MV—

And those things that take my yard

...Dandelions have been credited with more food value than tomato juice or spinach, according to the National Geographic News Service.

They have cured warts with the milky juice of their stems. Latex from the stems provided small amounts of synthetic rubber during World War II.

The scientific name for the dandelion — Taraxacum officinale — is Latin for "the official remedy for disorders."

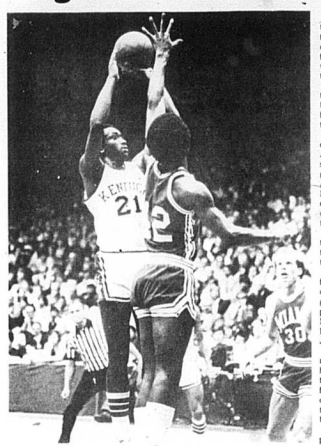
For centuries Europeans have claimed dandelions are good for tired blood, sluggish kidneys, skin disorders, rheumatism, sleeplessness, nervousness, and for toning up the liver, spleen, and pancreas, among other organs.

I've been told the bright yellow sherry-like wine produced from dandelions has helped frustrated gardeners to go along with the thought: "If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em!"

A pound of raw dandelion greens contains about 200 calories.

A family in Wilton, Maine, has been canning leaves since 1896. They have 6.5 acres planted in flourishing rows. Growing dandelions commercially involves one major problem: **keeping dandelions free of a tenacious wee- elsewhere known as grass.**

UK's '78 champs to play against Pan Am all-stars



Givens Back

Former University of Kentucky All-American Jack Givens announced recently he will be available to play on an all-star team comprised of former UK players that will meet the U.S. Pan Am team in Rupp Arena June 22. Expected to play on the Pan Am team is Virginia schoolboy star Ralph Sampson, who ended months of speculation last week by announcing his intentions to play for his home state school, the University of Virginia. *Photo submitted

Basketball fans in and around Kentucky will get a summer dose of their favorite sport being played at its best on June 22 when a standout group of former University of Kentucky players will meet the 1979 U.S. Pan American team in Rupp Arena.*

Kentucky coach Joe B. Hall will lead the Kentucky All-Stars while Indiana University coach Bobby Knight has been named to direct the Pan American team.

The exhibition game will provide competition and training for the Pan American team but will also serve a second purpose. Receipts from the game will be divided between the Adolph F. Rupp — UK Basketball Museum Fund and the Amateur Basketball Association U.S.A. to offset the cost of the U.S. team's participation in the Pan Am Games.

The players comprising the All-Star team and Joe Hall are donating their time and thereby are making contributions to the two worthwhile causes.

Coach Hall is personally inviting the former Kentucky players and is gaining commitments from an impressive group. Among those slated to participate are the four seniors from the 1978 NCAA Championship team — Rick Robey, Jack Givens, Mike Phillips, and James Lee.

The Pan American team includes many of the nation's top collegiate and high school players, including Kentucky's Kyle Macy. Ralph Sampson, from Harrisburg, Virginia, who is considered by many college coaches as the top 1979 high school prospect in the U.S., will also be on the Pan Am team.

The Pan American games are Olympic styled competition involving amateur athletes in the western hemisphere. The U.S. team is supported by donations through the Amateur Basketball Association.

The Adolph F. Rupp — UK Basketball Museum will house memorabilia from the Rupp era as well as depict the on-going tradition of Kentucky basketball.

The game is set for 8 p.m., Friday, June 22. Tickets go on sale at the Lexington Center Ticket Office, Friday, June 1 at 9 a.m.

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Food stamps to increase next month

Most Kentucky food stamp recipients will get more coupons beginning in July as a result of action by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The federal government will increase food stamp allotments by 6.8 percent on July 1. The Agriculture Department adjusts food stamp allotments each six months to correspond with changes in food prices.

Also increased will be income deductions used in determining eligibility. The standard deduction will be increased to $70, an increase of $5. In addition, recipients who now deduct $80 for either child care expenses or shelter costs, such as rent and utilities, will be able to deduct $90 for those expenses.

Announcing the changes, Department for Human Resources official Gail Huecker said that while most recipients will get more coupons, persons receiving Social Security benefits might find a slight decrease in coupons. A scheduled 10 percent hike in Social Security benefits will result in higher income and, in turn, reduced food stamp allotments.

Huecker is commissioner of the department's Bureau for Social Insurance.

Would You Believe...

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