

Big John's still going 'Strong'

Continued from page 1

At fifty-eight Big John still shrives on the daily battle and battle of life on a tented circus. "Never was anything like this show," he muses. "Never will be either." Everyone in the business learns that you spell "circus" T-R-O-U-B-L-E. He reflects on the hard times, injured performers, recalcitrant animals, trucks wrecked in the icy blizzards of the winter. "The circus always the wind," John relates. "In 1973 a freak gale outside of Denver destroyed my whole tent. That gave me an excuse to get a brand-new one custom-made." The new big top, purchased in 1977, was constructed by hand by the world-famous Leaf Tent And Sail Company in Sarasota, Florida. It is eighty feet wide and one hundred and fifty feet long of heavy water-and-fire-proof canvas stretched to thick steel cable. Big John insists that the circus he's been in every morning for over thirty years.

When Big John says "going on" he means exactly that. Before the circus season is over his show will have more than thirty-five thousand miles, never staying in one place for more than two days in a row. The circus has been on a way of life; two shows everyday, seven days a week, load the trucks and drive off to the next town. "Among circus people, everyone pitches in when the going gets rough," Big John recounts. "If I wasn't for that attitude I could never have stayed in the business for over thirty years."

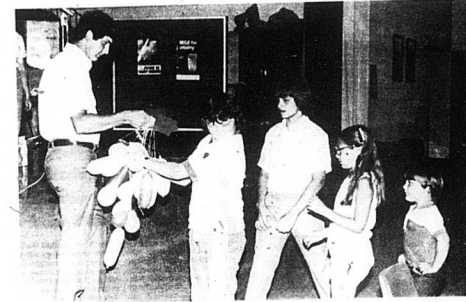
At his age, has he started to think about retiring? "Oh sure, I think about it," he says, "but every time I see those young fellows on the tent crew starting their way up the circus ladder, well, they inspire me and I know that this is my life. You've got to love the circus to be it. This is where I belong, I'll go 'til I die."

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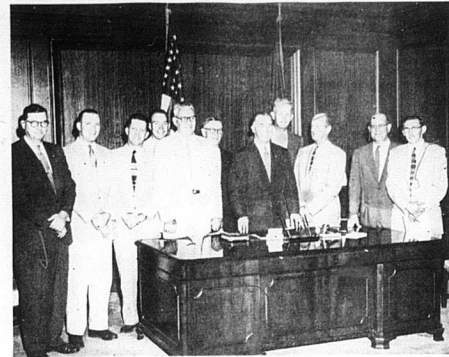


Dairy dinner

Highlight of the June Dairy month celebration in Nicholas County was the dairy dinner, held June 21. The dairy dolls (top) entertained the crowd, children present took part in games (popping balloons, below) and prizes were awarded. (The identity of Grandpa Moo Moo was concealed by hand) and the winner of the contest was Karen Jefferson—Mercury photos.



Down Memory Lane



This group represented the Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce at a meeting with then-Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler 23 years ago. They were meeting with the governor to discuss industrial development in Carlisle and Nicholas County. They were: from left, Morris Wintley, Custer Blair, William Power, W.H. Hantin Jr., Lew Feyer, Gann Hunsan, Chandler, A.V. Allison, Emory Clark Sr., Roger Womack and Paul Smoot. (Photo courtesy of Custer Blair)

Back when

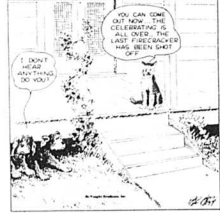
Poe water line foreman; Morehead flood toll at 60

Thursday, July 9, 1959
The City Council meeting Monday night, Councilman William Harp proposed that the tax rate of 75 cents on each hundred dollars valuation be adopted. It was passed by the Council. City Council voted to hire Teddy Poe to supervise the laying of the eight-inch water line from the water works plant to the site of the new Giffen Manufacturing Company. County Clerk J. Berry Burnaw and Mrs. Leda G. Galbraith attended a recent three-day course at the University of Kentucky on the newly enacted Kentucky Commercial Code. Council voted Monday night to authorize Oliver Vice, water works superintendent to purchase a new cholorator for the sum of \$1,257.70. Thomas T. Wilson, 56, has been named editor of the *Lab Cabin*, Cynthiana weekly newspaper. BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Harvey Wilson, Moorefield, July 2 in Paris. — To Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Peters Jr., a daughter, Theresa Susan, July 6. DEED — Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Cox, 86, last Wednesday in Lexington. — Frank M. Mann, 80, at his home in Blue Licks Saturday. — Mrs. Gertrude Crump Simmons of Booneville, Mo., June 25.

to 60 cents per water bucket. Ben Alexander has taken a position as clerk at Square Deal Grocery. BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Griner Phillips, a daughter on July 3. — To Mr. and Mrs. James A. Boar, a daughter on July 1.

MARRIED — Miss Beas Horican of Nicholas County, and Ernest E. Merz of Cincinnati, Friday at Cincinnati. — Miss Loretta Miller and Kenneth Stephenson, both of the county, June 28 at Louisa.

Memory Lane



Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

"What is to be, will be" and "one of these days it might be!" I know three people that headed for the basement Friday evening and none of them had to be asked a second time. Of course our basement is a much cleaner place that it was years ago, and rightly so, one never knows when it might be safer there than above ground. Anyone who can read, hear the radio or tv should since the rash of tornadoes in April 1974, know that Kentucky is pretty much in "tornado alley". We have advocated since 1974 a rather simple solution to determining if the siren that is sounding is bad weather or a fire, namely the possession of a WeatherAlert[®] or similar device that responds automatically to tone activation. One just might not have the radio or tv on. Sometimes when the device responds I become mildly annoyed in the middle of the night when it turns out to be a flash flood warning, etc., but having been in one extra high wind (I'd call it tornado), one hurricane and two typhoons, I have nothing but respect for winds of any force. Then when I hear people make the remark, "I'm not about to go into no basement!" I am reminded of the saying, "The file you SAVE, may be your own".

Opinion Tornado!

The word has taken on new meaning in Kentucky in the past five years. Killer tornadoes struck most of Kentucky in 1974 and each year since then Kentucky has been visited by at least one tornado. The tornado is nature's most destructive force and most capricious. The very mention of the word is enough to terrify many people and when tornadoes seem imminent, as they did last Friday night, it takes cool heads to avoid mass hysteria and keep an emergency plan in operation. Although Nicholas was spared Friday night when tornadoes swirled in the over central Kentucky it could have easily been the other way. But thanks to the concerted efforts of many local officials and volunteers, Carlisle and Nicholas County were ready and waiting if such a disaster should occur. Not only were local emergency preparations well under way when official word of the warning and tornado sightings was received but local volunteers and citizens continued to establish communications between the state emergency operations and the town of Mt. Olive, left isolated when telephone service was disrupted by the storm. Local Civil Defense Director Russell Bell said Friday's activity was a good exercise for the local

Agree or Not

Two budgets in '80?

By S. C. Van Curon
The appropriations and Revenue Committee took another important step toward legislative independence last week when chairman Joe Clarke announced it will present a state budget during the 1980 legislative session. While the State Constitution, requires that the governor present an executive budget, there is no reason why the legislature cannot submit one as a guideline for the membership. The legislature has the power to amend the budget presented by the governor. The next governor takes office in December and must present his budget to the legislature that convenes the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January. The budget, under a new governor is usually presented in February. Thus, there is less than two months for the new governor to prepare a budget. True, departments of state government are now beginning to compile their budget requests to present to the governor, and the Revenue Department is continually preparing income estimates. But this does not give the legislature sufficient time to study and evaluate the executive budget when it is presented to them. The legislature has an interim committee studying income and expenditures, and is trying to get a better understanding of fiscal affairs. The one problem the A & H committee faces is that there is no law requiring the various departments of government to submit their requests to the legislative committee. One of the first orders of business of the 1980 legislative session should be introduction of a bill requiring the various departments of state government to submit the same information to the legislature that they submit to the governor in their budget requests. Then, the A & H committee will be in a position to explain the budget to other legislative members. Another facet Clarke and his committee are investigating is the vast amount of money spent by the Carroll administration on personal service contracts, more than \$40 million encumbered. Clarke thinks this figure is too high and that

emergency team and showed just how quickly the county could switch from a period of normalcy to a full stand-by alert. Single out by Bell were the Carlisle Police and Fire Departments, the Nicholas County Fire Department, the Nicholas County Sheriff's Department, Mayor Bill Power and Judge Reese Smoot and the staff of the Nicholas County Hospital. All combined to prepare Nicholas for the storm that didn't come this time. Next time it might be different. Nicholas might not be so lucky as to escape damage but if and when there is a next time, it will be reassuring to know that our emergency team is ready and waiting to swing into action when needed. You, the citizen, can help by being prepared well in advance of a storm, by purchasing and using the weather radio that automatically switch on when a storm warning is issued and by following the instructions given in an article elsewhere in this week's Mercury. As Bell said, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. In this case Carlisle and Nicholas County were prepared for the storms that thankfully passed us by.

some of this work at least should be done by staff members of the various departments. Lawyers, architects and engineers and other services are procured under personal service contracts. Some legislators have been critical of the Carroll administration on this score. At the end of the 1976 session of the General Assembly, Senator Mike Maloney, D Lexington, said from the Senate floor in criticizing personal service contracts that it was used as a device "to fill up the barrel for Julian Carroll." Maloney believes the system has been abused as a device for political patronage. It is also taking a serious look at the capital construction fund, Clarke said there should be more control over this fund. Under present procedures a lump sum is usually appropriated to the governor's executive budget. The governor then, with the consent of the buildings commission, can allocate the funds for specific projects, some which are not approved by the legislature. Clarke's thinking is that the legislature should have more control over this money. The legislature just doesn't have sufficient time now beginning to compile their budget requests to present to the governor, and the Revenue Department is continually preparing income estimates. But this does not give the legislature sufficient time to study and evaluate the executive budget when it is presented to them. The legislature has an interim committee studying income and expenditures, and is trying to get a better understanding of fiscal affairs. The one problem the A & H committee faces is that there is no law requiring the various departments of government to submit their requests to the legislative committee. One of the first orders of business of the 1980 legislative session should be introduction of a bill requiring the various departments of state government to submit the same information to the legislature that they submit to the governor in their budget requests. Then, the A & H committee will be in a position to explain the budget to other legislative members. Another facet Clarke and his committee are investigating is the vast amount of money spent by the Carroll administration on personal service contracts, more than \$40 million encumbered. Clarke thinks this figure is too high and that

OFF THE WALL

YOU CAN'T FOOL ALL THE PEOPLE ALL THE TIME -- EVERY FOUR YEARS IS ENOUGH

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