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Nursing home to observe national week

[Editor's note: The week of May 13-20 has been designated as National Nursing Home Week and Mayor William Power and County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot have extended the observance to Nicholas County. The John-Mathers Nursing Home has scheduled a week of events culminating with the dedication of the new Nicholas County hospital Sunday, May 20. The following is a statement from both officials and a list of the week's activities.]

"The week of May 13-20 is National Nursing Home Week. There will be many activities in your local nursing home during this week. We wish to invite the citizens of Carlisle and Nicholas County to visit their friends and relatives during this special week. This is a special time for us because the week ends on the dedication day for our new hospital. We wish to proclaim the week of May 13-20 'Nursing Home Week' and a special proclamation

authorizing May 20, 1979, as 'Hospital Day' in Carlisle and Nicholas County."

The activities scheduled for National Nursing Home Week are:
 Sunday, May 13 — Mother's Day church service and reception, 2:30 p.m.
 Monday, May 14 — Head Start children will visit the nursing home at 1 p.m.
 Tuesday, May 15 — Country music, 7:45 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 16 — Exhibits, 1:2 p.m.
 Thursday, May 17 — Sing-along with Geneva Allison, 1:30 p.m.
 Friday, May 18 — Bake sale 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Saturday, May 19 — Yard sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Award winners

Winners of the Jaycee awards this year were, from left, Mike Kenney, Educator of the Year; David Tipton, Farmer of the Year; C. T. McFarland, Jaycee of the Year; Henry Peters, Boss of the Year and Rev. Mark Prevot, Pastor of the Year. Jaycees (Junior Chamber of Commerce) are an organization for young men 21-35. — Mercury photo.

Blue Grass to celebrate personnel appreciation

Blue Grass Industries will celebrate Personnel Appreciation Day on Friday, May 11. That day will be observed by a free lunch in the company dining room, as well as receive a personal appreciation gift. On the same day 33 people from the Carlisle Plant will be honored for 15 years of service with the company and join the Blue Grass Thorobred Club. Donald Haney, president, will present each with club blazer and service award.

Those being honored are: Jessie S. Darrell, Ellen Laffield, Bertha Workman, Edith Walton, Shirley Donathan, Norma Bean, Shirley Henderson, Jeanetta Watkins.

Betty C. Fay, Dorothy Jean Allen, Elizabeth Earlywine, Faye Lecher, Edith V. Tolson, Vada Goodpastor, Dorothy Matthews, Mary D. Vice, Margaret Liggett.

Sandra Anderson, Glenda J. Feeback, Tom G. Hunt, Ruby M. Morris, Linda Morris, Faye Purcell, Betty Workman, Loreta McCarty, Shirley Root.

Bernice B. Whirlie, Naomi Gancee, Beanie M. Hunt, Iva Sanders, Donald S. Markland, Jimmy Walker, Jimmy Allen Shaw.

In separate ceremonies 18 other non-members of the Thorobred Club will be initiated at Mt. Sterling, Paris, Cynthiana, and Maysville.

In addition, Geraldine Becker, Sue Lester, Louise Thompson, Mildred Mitchell, Mabel Bretz, Rosemary Kinler, Patsy Cox and Jane Ellen Booth

will join three other Thorobred members who will receive a gold blazer and service award in recognition of completing 20 years with the company. Gloria Garrard, Norma Mastin, Elsie Earlywine, Ruby F. Morris, Thelma Toud and Josephine Flora will be honored for 20 years of service along with five other members. Mayne Clark will be recognized for

30 years of service. Members of the 20, 25 and 30-year groups will tour all six Blue Grass operations that day.

On Saturday evening, May 12, the 302 member Thorobred Club will hold its annual banquet and business meeting at the Lexington Center Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Hotel in Lexington.

Little League Parade Saturday

The Little League-Minor League Parade will be held this Saturday, May 12 beginning at 10 a.m.

The parade will begin at the Nicholas County Elementary School and all participants are asked to be there at 9:30 a.m.

Following the parade three Little League games will be played. The games will be preceded by the opening ceremonies and the throwing of the

game balls by the sponsors. The Blue Jays will meet the Flyers, the Dodgers will tangle with the Royals and the Cubs will battle the Reds.

Also included in the parade will be the queen candidates. League officers this year are Gerald Watkins, president; Helen Goby, vice-president and Charles Rose, secretary-treasurer.

Road fund totals \$202,761

The state Department of Transportation has announced a \$202,761 allocation to Nicholas County for rural secondary road maintenance and improvements in fiscal year 1979-80.

The funds will provide maintenance along 48.7 miles of rural secondary roads. Transportation Secretary Calvin Grayson said.



Nicholas Elementary principal Edward Wilson (right) was wiser than framed he was treated to a rendition of "This Is Your Life," sponsored by the Nicholas County Elementary PTA. Family and friends gathered to honor Wilson on his retirement after 29 years in the Nicholas County schools. Among the gifts: a "Super Principal" tee shirt and a framed portrait. For more pictures see next week's Mercury. — Photo by Jeff Kerr.

I've been framed

Straw's pear tree discovery brightens White House lawn

[Editor's note: This story is reprinted from the Thursday, April 26, 1979 edition of the Walton (Ky.) Advertiser.] Heavy rains have now taken their toll, but for the week preceding and the week following Easter Sunday, "Memory Lane" in front of the Independence Christian Church, 323 Madison Pike, was a sight to see.

Bob Kramer, a member of the church's board of directors, told the Advertiser last week that the line of seven trees which runs parallel with the highway is unofficially called Memory Lane by those who know the story behind it. It is a heart-warming story. Each of the trees stands there in memory of a loved one who has died. Those left behind, members of the Independence Christian Church, donated the money for the trees to become a living memorial.

As Kramer pointed out, this is the first year that the trees were at the height of their glory for the Easter holiday.

And glory is a good way to describe the spring blossoming of the Aristocrat Pear tree.

Kramer, 11 McMillan Dr., sees special significance in this particular tree being used for the church's living memorial. After all, the tree was discovered by an Independence native, William Straw, 47 McCallum Pike.

Straw, who served as Kenton County Extension Agent for Agriculture from 1936 to 1971, almost destroyed this one in a million tree. If he had, there would have been no way to duplicate it, for the tree is a chance mutation of nature.

It was in February of 1969 that the story began. Straw, owner of Carlisle Nursery, had decided to get rid of a grove of Caliper Pear trees. This particular tree of tree is not a fruit tree, but rather an ornamental. The price of beauty is high, however, as the tree is covered with tough, sharp thorns.

Straw went to work with a power saw, toppling over tree after tree. He made it a habit to check out the branches around him before he started the saw, to make sure that he would get no thorns in his neck or arm.

His blade, less than an inch from the trunk of what he thought was just another thorny pear tree, he once again looked up to check for thorns.

And then did a double take, for this particular tree had no thorns!

From near death, ten years ago, this mistake of nature has gone on to beautify locations in over forty states of the Union. The Florence Mail boasts a tree being used for the church's living memorial. After all, the tree was discovered by an Independence native, William Straw, 47 McCallum Pike.

Straw, who served as Kenton County

lawn, with a plaque underneath identifying this new breed, and the discoverer, William T. Straw. That particular tree is the parent of 50,000 other trees.

The Aristocrat has certainly changed Straw's life.

"We have had a fantastic time with this tree," said Straw last week, as he stood in the shade of the tree that he discovered. "The tree has turned out to be better than I ever expected or hoped." Success has certainly come with the tree. The 25 licensed growers who supply the Aristocrat Pear around the country are often unable to keep up with the demand.

One of the reasons is that the tree cannot reproduce itself. The seeds from its berries will produce thorny pear trees. The only way to produce an Aristocrat is to graft part of an Aristocrat to a thorny pear.

Straw's eyes crinkle with good fun as he remembers the early years with the tree.

"My wife (Irene Straw) named the tree," recalled Straw. "We raised four sons and we didn't have as much trouble naming four sons as we did one tree." Aristocrat was the name that seemed to fit best, after much discussion and thought, and that is the name on the patent that Straw received in May of 1972.

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4-H winners

Winners in the recent 4-H Talent Show were, from left, Heather Mathes, Susanne Jones and Tim Fooks. — Mercury photo.

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