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Nicholas would be refuge for 15,000

"Wanted: Housing space for 15,000 people in Nicholas County for a period of up to two weeks at a time. If interested, contact local Civil Defense Director."

Russ Bell isn't going to run this ad in the Mercury but he is counting on the paper's cooperation in helping him with what may be his biggest job ever as Nicholas County Civil Defense Director.

Bell is in charge of finding housing for 15,000 people from Campbell County, Kentucky who would be evacuated to Nicholas County in case of nuclear attack or a nuclear accident such as the recent Three-Mile Island incident.

And although that may seem like an exercise in futility, the Kentucky Disaster and Emergency Service is locally serious.

For example, the Zimmer nuclear power station at Moscow, Ohio, a scant 50 miles away, is expected to go on line next summer and start providing power through nuclear reactions.

And another nuclear power station, Marble Hill, is now under construction between Louisville and Cincinnati.

The existence of these two nuclear-powered

generators means that the surrounding area is a prime target in case of nuclear attack—and a dangerous spot in case of a nuclear accident.

To that end the state DES on a federal mandate is busy drawing up an emergency evacuation plan. The project will include finding emergency housing space for 15,000 people in Nicholas County, all expected from the Campbell County area.

Such influx of refugees would swell the county's population to four times its normal size. And finding food AND housing for that many people is one sizable chore.

"We plan to begin surveys in the near future," Bell said. "A job like this is so tremendous in scope that we will have to have the cooperation of the entire county."

Bell, said he knew the task was coming but according to his information it was farther down the road.

But Monday Bell, Nicholas County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot and state DES officials met at the courthouse to begin preliminary preparations for a plan that is expected to be finalized around March 1.

The reason for the hurry-up? Bell's not sure, but he believes that it has something to do with the fact that

the Zimmer plant will go into operation next summer.

"Obviously the plan is for nuclear attack. But portions of it will be excerpted and used in case of a nuclear accident I feel sure," Bell said.

Although the project is just in its infancy Bell predicts that a major portion of it will deal with available housing space and identifying and classifying that space.

In a community where housing is at a premium it seems strange that state officials could expect room for 15,000 more to be found but the space needed isn't necessarily permanent living quarters.

"We were told that the amount of time could be expected to be two weeks," Bell said. "And we're not talking about house room although that is one facet of the survey. We're also talking about available basement space and other areas where emergency housing could be set up."

A meeting between Bell, the Mercury staff and others involved in the project is expected to be held later this week to set up methods of communicating with the public and obtaining some of the information needed to draft the plan.

Jackets end season with cliffhanger

by Kay Conley

When you bring a possible Class A state champion football team and match 'em up with an underdog team you can expect a blowout. Right? Wrong? The Nicholas County Bluejackets suffered a slim 25-26 defeat by Class A state champion contenders, the Bellevue Tigers Friday night.

The sad fact was that the County's attempt to come back came a little too late. There just wasn't enough time left in the fourth quarter for the Bluejackets' attempt to become effective.

For many reasons it was a sad affair. One, the most obvious, was the defeat. But another, a more sentimental reason, was the realization to the senior players and cheerleaders, statisticians, band members, and fans that this was to be their last high school football game.

The first quarter was one in which Bellevue set the stage for an early lead. A seven-yard score by Mike Sulkamp, contender against Beechwood's Bailey Marledge for leading rusher in Northern Kentucky, gave Bellevue the edge. The extra-point kick proved good.

Jerry Edwards' tackle was the only obstacle that a Tiger ball carrier couldn't overcome when he raced 43 yards giving Bellevue a first down. A 15-yard pass on the following play was good for a TD. The extra-point kick again proved successful. On the second down proceeding the kickoff, Jeff Sprague intercepted a Jacket pass. That interception led to Sulkamp's two-yard score a few plays later.

Bellevue's extra-point kick was good to end the quarter 14-0.

It looked as if the second quarter would bring no change to the Bluejackets' luck. Just minutes into the quarter Bellevue scored again on a two-yard plunge. The touchdown was "off" in the first quarter when the Tiger's recovered a Jacket fumble. The kick for the extra point was good.

Mid-way through the quarter Nicholas started to pull its act together. The Bluejackets pulled together for an 11-yard score. The touchdown was a pass from Mike Sowell to Mike Hatton.

Even the defense began to "pull" together when Mike Mattox recovered a Tiger fumble on the Bellevue 20-yard line. The keen eyes of Bellevue, however, ended the County's attempt at moving the ball when they again succeeded in an interception. This ended the quarter with Bellevue leading 28-7.

The third quarter brought change for Nicholas, but not before Bellevue scored again. Four first downs after the second half kickoff, the Tigers plowed through for a one-yard score. The kick again proved good.

Several completed passes to Hatton gave way to the Bluejackets' score. Sophomore David McGuffey crossed the line for a one-yard score. The pass-conversion play for two points was unsuccessful. Mark Vice and Pat Letcher recovered a Tiger fumble on the Jacket 37-yard line, but Nicholas

was unable to move the pigskin and the quarter ended, with Bellevue still ahead, 28-7.

The fourth quarter marked the County's try for a comeback. Letcher and Jackie Wells sent a Tiger back for a loss of six yards on one play. A completed 11-yard pass from Sowell to Hatton set the scene for McGuffey's 26-yard touchdown run. The extra-point kick proved good.

The oddsies kick at Bellevue was recovered by David Tubbs on the Bellevue 43-yard line. A pass from Sowell to Mike Woolley gained the Jackets 18 yards. Just as the County made way to the six-yard line, the Tiger's intercepted a pass.

That wasn't the end of Nicholas, however, as shown with only 3:25 remaining in the game. Letcher's interception on the Bellevue 37-yard line led to another Bluejacket TD. McGuffey's 23-yard score, with 2:06 on the clock, put scare into Bellevue's hearts. An attempt for a two-point conversion was again unsuccessful.

The time ran out with Bellevue trailing the game by a slim 28-26. David McGuffey led Nicholas County's offense, carrying the ball 17 times for 48 yards. Keith Williams carried nine times for 20 yards. Mike Sowell completed 12 out of 21 passes for 146 yards. Mike Hatton, eight out of 11 passes for 122 yards, Mike Woolley received one out of four for 18 yards.

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All-star cast

These are the inhabitants of the Nicholas County Elementary School spook house which entertained the elementary students (and a few brave adults) last Wednesday. Seated from left are Little Devil (Aaron Judge) and the Scarecrow (James Willoughby). Standing, from left, are the Headless Horseman (Suzanne Davis), Cordelia Smith, the Good Witch (Margaret Columbia) and Fiery Duncan—Mercury photo.

Chamber plans parade

The annual Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade will be held Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. Chamber officials announced this week. The theme for this year's parade is "Christmas At Home".

Santa Claus is dusting off his suit, and chamber members are already preparing for the festivities that will open Carlisle's Christmas season.

Snow Queen candidates are being selected now at Nicholas County High School, and the NCHS marching band under the direction of Charles Canupp is practicing its routine for the parade.

A new feature has been added to the parade this year in order to encourage more participation. Each group or club that enters a float will receive 100 Certificates to be awarded to the first, second and third place floats. Participating bands will receive \$5 each. Immediately following the parade

and selection of the Snow Queen, Santa Claus will be on the courthouse lawn to dispense candy and collect Christmas lists from the children.

Anyone who wishes to enter a float, band, unit, or desires more information on the parade, should contact Nicholas County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot, chamber president at 288-3408 or 288-Carlisle's Christmas season.

Other chamber members who may be contacted for information are: Dudley Vaughn, Bill Power, Bobby Smith, Mrs. Helen Rutledge, Paul Stone, Bill Dono-chamber president at 288-3408 or 288-

Recreation Dept. plans skating at armory

Miss Jo Ann Corson, Nicholas County Recreation Department director, announces that there will be roller skating for children on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the old Carlisle Armory. On Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 noon there will be skating for beginners.

Women's volleyball is scheduled on Tuesday nights after children's roller skating. All interested women are invited to participate—for weight loss and muscle toning or just for fun.



Seniors

When the NCHS Bluejackets started this season only eight seniors were listed on the roster. Friday night they played their last game in a Bluejacket football uniform. They are, from front, from left, Mark Vice, Pat Letcher, Mike Mattox and Wilmer Halcomb. Back row, from left, Jackie Wells, Steve Davis, Phillip Rose and Mike Hatton.—Mercury photo

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