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State road fund in trouble

The Interim Joint Committee on Highways and Traffic Safety reviewed preliminary findings of its study on highway maintenance at a meeting last week.

The study found that state's general fund revenues are increasing faster than the road fund and that the state's general construction and maintenance needs are being "suffocated" by lack of growth in the road fund.

The study said the three major expenditures from the road fund included payment of debt and interest on bonded indebtedness, state revenue sharing on roads and matching federal

expenditures on highway projects. It further said demand for aggregate and asphalt exceeds supply of the materials and that costs are escalating faster than the road fund.

Other preliminary findings of the study included:

— The state purchasing process contributes to delay, and sometimes inferior makes of equipment are purchased when contracts are awarded to the low bidder.

— As much as 25 percent of some particular types of equipment are awaiting repair at any one time.

— The state has a \$1 million to \$5 million parts inventory, much of which is "obsolete."

— Replacement parts costing \$1,500 or more must be purchased through bid procedure, and parts which must be ordered are frequently delivered late.

— The state hiring procedure is "inefficient," salaries are not competitive (with industry and even some counties paying more than the state), turnover is "considerable" and recruitment is difficult.

— There is either a shortage of field mechanics or a high rate of equipment to garage mechanics in every district.

The committee will consider final results of the report at the prelegislative conference in November.

In other action yesterday the committee:

— Gave its approval to a bill that would require motorists to turn their vehicle's lights on in rain, snow or fog.

— Approved a bill that would allow amateur radio operators to get a special license plate through payment

of a \$25 one-time fee and \$12.50 a year regular license fee thereafter. Currently special plates are \$27.50 a year.

— Heard a proposal by the Blue Grass and Louisville Automobile clubs to require covers on trucks with loose loads.

Bob Owen, speaking for the clubs, said currently a law enforcement officer must see debris falling off a truck to ticket the truck. He raised current legislation "unenforceable."

Many members of the committee, however, objected to the proposal

arguing that it would put a handicap on coal trucks to buy the covers which can cost from \$100 to more than \$1,000.

Pop. David Van Horn (D-Lexington) called the proposal "just another bump on the head of the consumer" adding that it would put more money in the insurance company's pocket since they would have to pay out fewer damage and injury claims. He said that insurance companies should pay for covers for trucks.

The committee also discussed a bill

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Maxey Flats is topic of program

Nuclear waste disposal is the subject for "Interim Legislative Report" on

HEAT Monday, October 22 at 8 p.m.

The final meeting of the Special Advisory Committee on Nuclear Waste established in 1978 by the General Assembly was taped Monday, October 15, and edited for the "Bismarck Interim Legislative Report."

Frank Harshar, secretary of the Kentucky Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, will give the committee a final briefing on nuclear waste disposal in the state.

The status of activities at Maxey Flat relating to short term management problems and long term planning for perpetual care and maintenance of the site will be included in the report.

The committee, consisting of legislators, citizens, representatives of executive agencies and experts from Kentucky universities, will also discuss and provide legislation for the 1980 General Assembly before adjourning.

Rep. Marvin L. [Felix] Worthington, Bowling, and Sen. John "Eck" Rowe, Winchester, co-chair the committee on nuclear waste. Other members are Irving Bell, Charles Wickliffe, Jack Wilson, Oscar Gerald, Margaret Heaslip, Douglas Humphrey, Hugh T. Spencer, Charles Brown, Marjorie Denton and Russell McClure.

Contracts inked

Two contracts with Dames & Moore Waste Management were approved by the Personal Service Contract Review Subcommittee last week to plan and manage the operation of Maxey Flats (Fleming County) Nuclear Waste Disposal Site.

Nuclear waste from state medical institutions is taken to the site for disposal.

A \$60,294 contract with Dames & Moore was approved which would allow completion of a study on how much radioactivity is seeping from the Maxey Flats site by air and water.

These contracts were among 145 new contracts, amendments, and 28 deferred contracts reviewed by the subcommittee. The contracts will now be referred to the Legislative Research Commission.

Branch line formally sold

TTI Systems has announced the formal acquisition of the Paris-Maysville branch line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

The line will be operated as Trans Kentucky Transportation Systems Railroad, Inc., an independent common carrier.

TTI Systems is presently cleaning up accumulated debris on the line in preparation for the opening of the entire line from Paris to Maysville. Several mudslides between Carlisle and Flemingsburg have halted traffic on that section of the line.

Customers at Maysville and those between Paris and Carlisle will receive service immediately. Other stations will be served as through service is reinstated.

TTI has also announced a program to upgrade and improve the line, the first such program on this line since the 1920s.

This program will include tie and rail replacement, line cleanup and other improvements. Further details will be announced at a future date.

Trans Kentucky Transportation Railroad, Inc. has a traveling agent based in Maysville with corporate offices located in Lexington.

(A Carlisle resident, Ernest Sosby, has joined TTI in their Maysville office.)

The company expects to make local announcements concerning employment opportunities as their manpower needs require.

Pigeon roost

Nicholas County has its Buzzard Roost and its Pigeon Roost too. The inhabitants of the latter are for the birds.

Though they do have a definite pecking order and occasionally line up to have their picture taken.

—Mercury photo.

RECC rates increase

The Kentucky Energy Regulatory Commission has approved two rate increases for the Harrison County Rural Electric Cooperative Corp.

One of the increases will generate almost \$104,000 in additional annual revenues. This increase, plus one of \$120,000 granted in July, is needed so the cooperative can pay its operating expenses, service its debt and provide an adequate surplus for equity growth.

The July increase was granted on an emergency basis so the cooperative would not violate its loan agreements.

The other increase will generate

\$112,100 in additional annual revenues. It is needed to offset the higher cost of wholesale electricity supplied to the cooperative by East Kentucky Power Cooperative.

Farm and home customers will now pay a monthly consumer charge of \$2.18 a kilowatt-hour will cost 2 cents. The consumer charge and usage rate vary for other kinds of customers.

Harrison County RECC serves 7,900 customers in Harrison, Bourbon, Pendleton, Bracken, Scott, Nicholas, Grant and Robertson counties.

Crime board pays Nicholas man

The Kentucky Crime Victims Compensation Board has awarded \$2,260.98 to a Nicholas County man, Edward Lee Dale, for the medical and funeral expenses incurred by the fatal beating of his son, Johnny Clay Dale, last June in Bowling Green.

Three assailants have since been indicted for the crime, which was witnessed by three persons.

The Crime Victims Compensation Board reimburses innocent victims of crimes or their family or needy dependents for resulting medical expenses and loss of wages. The board cannot reimburse a claimant if payment is available from other sources, such as insurance, disability funds or from the criminal.



Winners

Mrs. Doug Garrett (left) and Mrs. Jimmie George were winners at the District First contest of the Kentucky Federation of Woman's Clubs held Oct. 6 in Louisa. Mrs. Garrett received first place in open class ornaments and Mrs. George received second place in the same category. District winners will compete in the state contest next April in Louisville. —Mercury photo.

Jackets 'come home'; upset Frankfort 36-8

By Kay Conley

The spread was a seven point advantage in favor of Frankfort. The Nicholas County Bluejackets upset that prediction by defeating the Frankfort Panthers 36-8 Friday.

Homecoming '79 was certainly welcome change from the previous year's game when the Fleming County Panthers dropped an 18-17 victory on the Bluejackets at Carlisle.

Once the excitement began in the first quarter it never stopped. Nicholas was sound both offensively and defensively. A fumble recovery by Mike Boykin, after Steve Davis hit the Panther ball-carrier, set up another Nicholas touchdown. The score was a 7-0 yard pass from Sowell to Hatton. The Panther's last score was a 21-yard touchdown bomb from Sowell to Hatton sent the crowd wild. Sowell's extra point kick proved good too and the quarter with Nicholas ahead 7-0.

At first in the second quarter it looked as if Frankfort might threaten the Jacket's ambition here in the previous quarter. The Panther's John Coffey scored on a one yard run mid-way

through the quarter. A successful conversion put Frankfort up by one, 8-7, at the half.

That eight points proved to be the climax of the game. In the third quarter the Bluejackets were just too overpowering. A 52-yard pass from Sowell to sophomore Mike Woolley gave Nicholas another six points. A conversion pass from Sowell to McCaffrey added two more. Sowell also raved 27 yards for another TD. His pass to Barry Bretz completed a successful two-point conversion. A fumble recovery by Mike Boykin, after Steve Davis hit the Panther ball-carrier, set up another Nicholas touchdown. The score was a 7-0 yard pass from Sowell to Hatton. The Panther's last score was a 21-yard touchdown bomb from Sowell to Hatton sent the crowd wild. Sowell's extra point kick proved good too and the quarter with Nicholas ahead 7-0.

In the fourth quarter there was no turning back for the Jacket's. A 52-yard break-through run by David McCaffrey, following an interception by Pat Letcher, was the Bluejacket's last score. Sowell's extra point kick failed to end the scoring and the game with Nicholas winning 36-8. Nothing could have topped off the

1979 Homecoming festivities better than the Bluejacket's victory. It just goes to show that even the critics can be wrong.

David McCaffrey led Nicholas County offensively carrying the ball 17 times for 184 yards. Mike Sowell carried seven times for 32 yards, Keith Williams carried nine times for 32 yards, and Tommy Biddle carried 13 times for 30 yards.

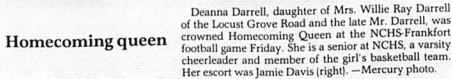
Mike Hatton had five receptions for 79 yards. Mike Woolley had one reception for 52 yards, and Barry Bretz had one reception for three yards.

Pat Letcher kicked four punts for a total of 163 yards.

The Bluejacket defense was led by David Tabbie with 19 tackles. Wilmer Halcomb, Mike Boykin, and Troy Bussey had seven each, Steve Davis and Jackie Wells had six each, Pat Letcher and Mark Taylor had four each, Mike Mattax had three, Mark Vice had two, and Tommy Biddle and Keith Williams had one each.

Nicholas County will travel to take on

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Homecoming queen

Deanna Darrell, daughter of Mrs. Willie Ray Darrell of the Locust Grove Road and the late Mr. Darrell, was crowned Homecoming Queen at the NCHS-Frankfort football game Friday. She is a senior at NCHS, a varsity cheerleader and member of the girl's basketball team. Her escort was Jamie Davis (right). —Mercury photo.

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