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## Death of an athlete who was a friend stuns Bourbon High

(Editor's note: This article, which appeared in the Saturday, April 19 issue of the Louisville-Courier Journal is reprinted with that paper's permission.)

Ronnie Masie was special. Starting quarterback, regular pitcher, good student, member of the church choir, a 16-year-old sophomore at Bourbon County High School who made friends everywhere he went. That was evident in Paris yesterday as those friends streamed to the Masie home to mourn the death of Ronnie, who was killed Thursday night in a freak accident at school.

Apparently Masie was electrocuted while sitting in the hot water of a whirlpool bath, treating his pitching arm after a baseball game. "He died peacefully," his brother Rob, 19, who was there, said. "He didn't have any pain. He's with the Lord now."

The death stunned Bourbon County High where Ronnie's dad had been a teacher and coach, and where his two older brothers had been athletes.

"Our school has never been so quiet," one student said yesterday. Ronnie had started every game as quarterback of the football team last year. He was a regular pitcher, outfielder and good hitter (two home runs this year) on the baseball team.

He didn't go out for the basketball team last year, but he helped cheer the Bourbon County team all the way to the state tournament, his friends said yesterday.

In the regional tournament, Ronnie painted his face in the team's colors and led them out of the dressing room onto the floor, whooping and cheering all the way.

"He was bigger than most of us boys," said his friend and baseball team member John Atkins, 15.

"We always looked up to him for leadership. He played by the rules, too. He wasn't a sore loser or anything."

Ronnie's brother Rob agreed. "He was a hell of a person. He did his best at everything he did."

His other brother, Rick, a freshman walk-on football player at the University of Kentucky, said the death was very hard on his parents.

"Ronnie was their special son," he said.

Rick, 20, said he planned to play in the Wildcat Blue-White game Saturday. "I'm playing it for him," he said. "He'll know I'm doing it. He'll feel it somehow."

The Bourbon County High baseball team met yesterday and decided to cancel its game yesterday, one today and one Monday.

Principal William Case said some of the team members wanted to cancel the whole season. But Rick and Rob said Ronnie wouldn't want that, Case said. So the team decided to dedicate the rest of its games to Ronnie and to retire his jersey number — No. 10.

Rick said that Ronnie was 5-foot-11 and weighed 182 pounds. He had speed, too. He held the junior high record in the 100-yard dash.

Ronnie's life revolved around sports, his friends said. Besides playing, he coached a Little League team and umpired games. He was also a regular at the YMCA where his dad works now.

The accident occurred Thursday about 7:25 p.m. when Ronnie and John Jacoby, another pitcher on the baseball team, were sitting in the whirlpool bath, according to deputy coroner Joe Wells.

When the shock occurred, the two screamed for help, saying they were paralyzed and couldn't get out. Baseball coach Larry Conrad, rushed from a nearby room and pulled the plug.

Both boys then got out of the tub. Jacoby was all right, but Masie slumped to the floor. Conrad performed artificial resuscitation, and ambulance crews attempted to get his heart going through other techniques.

Doctors at the Paris Hospital worked more than an hour attempting to revive him, Wells said.

An autopsy was performed yesterday, but the results won't be ready for several days, Wells said. He said all the signs pointed to electrical shock as being the cause of death. Doctors, however, didn't understand why the resusc efforts failed, he added.

The cause of the accident had not been determined yesterday. The state fire marshal's office was investigating.

Ronnie was a member of the First Baptist Church in Paris.

Survivors, besides his brothers, are his parents, Jack G. Masie and Patricia Dodson Masie, a teacher in Nicholas County.

## Local merchants join together to fight inflation

Carlisle and Nicholas County stores have joined with The Carlisle Mercury in a fight against inflation that begins this week.

Part of the arsenal is a 10-week promotion by Nicholas County area Carlisle stores featuring their best buys and give the customers the best buys and service.

The promotion consists of a two-page display inside each week's Mercury featuring ads from 21 local businesses along with an inflation-fighter poster that will be displayed prominently in each store.

This promotion is an effort to keep businesses in Carlisle by informing the people of the many good buys and special items available locally.

It takes the form of a guide to values in Carlisle and Nicholas County, arranged together over two pages in each week's Mercury with the values of the week contained in each individual advertiser's message.

And each business will be featured in



Tree doctors

Jackie Glass (shown above) and Jerry and David Wiloughby spent Monday trimming trees on Main Street. They met several people stopped and asked them if they wanted any more tree-trimming jobs. — Mercury photo.

## Robertson man wants control of park hiring

By Jeff Kerr

A Robertson County man ran last Saturday for precinct committee member in a Robertson County precinct on a platform that included making the employment of Blue Licks State Park composed of 10 percent Robertson County residents.

The man, Dana L. Haynes, named a slate of candidates in a statement in the Robertson County Review last Thursday. The statement also included Haynes' plans to discharge two employees that were recently hired at the park on the grounds that they were not Robertson County residents.

Haynes' bid for precinct committee member was shot down by a 5-1 margin in his home precinct. But an chairman of Gov. John Y. Brown's campaign in Robertson County last year Haynes still retains some political clout in Robertson County.

"What his last Saturday in precinct elections did was insure he could not be named Democratic county chairman or sit on the county executive committee. Only precinct committee members are eligible for the county posts, to be decided this Saturday in co-precincts around the state at 2 p.m.

But who is not to be considered now is the effect Haynes will have on hiring at the park this summer.

At present, according to park manager Gene Hughes, there are nine employees at the park. One is from Nicholas, one from Mason and the rest reside in Robertson County.

But 12 more people will be hired between now and the first of June when the pool at the park opens. Hughes said

decisions on hiring are made at the park, using the available applications.

Traditionally, the winning candidate's campaign chairman in a county becomes what some call a "contact" man and others a "patronage" man.

How the county's contact with the administration and in many cases has a direct influence on the hiring and firing done on state jobs within the county that are not covered by the merit system.

Brown's win may have changed that since one of his campaign promises was to root out the old politics. Some observers have predicted that this Saturday's precinct elections would see a coalition formed between the old guard of the Democratic Party, which by and large supported Terry McBrayer in last May's primary, and the new people Brown attracted into politics and who found themselves on the winning side in November.

The text of Haynes' statement follows:

TO THE OPEN MINDED AND HONEST CITIZENS OF ROBERTSON CO.

You have the right to vote by secret ballot if you'll just stand and say so 4-19-80.

## Don't worry about sewage city is told

The Carlisle City Council, in its ongoing quest to finish the daily capacity of the sewage treatment plant on Brushy Fork, was told last week that it was 20,000 gallons a day.

Paul Woods, from the Division of Water Quality, Department of Natural Resources, said the plant rated in his files at 200,000 gallons per day. When shown information from council member Bob Paul obtained from the city's consulting engineers, Howard K. Bell of Lexington, that pegged the plant's capacity at 100,000 gallons per day Woods studied the document and then said, "I'll have to talk with Howard K. Bell. This is confusing information."

Later, Woods said of the firm's design specifications, "For 30 years they've been doing that. I have to read it several times to find the design capacity." But Woods said he stood on his statement that the plant was rated at 200,000 gallons per day.

After he left, council member Clarence Cord said, "I don't care what anybody says, they'll have to prove it to me some way. Every time somebody comes up here about this we get a different story about what that plant will handle."

Woods had told the council not to worry about the practice of discharging raw sewage into Brushy Fork when the system gets overloaded during wet weather.

"Don't worry, everybody does it," he said. "You have a sewage system without a pump station so you naturally have to be a low point to collect it. We are aware but not excited about your condition. We understand you are in the process of applying for upgrading your system."

Not bigger, better?

That started the debate about the design capacity of the plant. But Woods told the council that upgrading does not necessarily mean enlarging.

The plant is at its now capacity reduce

ammonium nitrogen in the sewage it treats. The 201 facilities plan which deals with the sewage system will, when completed, improve the quality of the effluent.

Woods stated that the plant could handle an extra 15,000 to 20,000 gallons per day in dry weather. That, he said, is based on the average of 320 days without rain in the year.

"When it rains, forget it," Woods said. "There isn't a small town in Kentucky that doesn't overflow in wet weather."

That prompted a remark from Paul that the plant overflowed in dry weather.

Woods replied, "If it does then it's the most unusual situation I've ever heard of." He suggested checking the pump capacity at the treatment plant to see if they were operating efficiently and check the pipes to see that there are no obstructions.

Woods appeared at the request of Bluegrass Area Development District officials to discuss the plant's capacity. BGDAD is trying to get the City of Carlisle to build a sewer line out the East End toward the old hospital.

Woods said the system could handle 15,000 to 20,000 more gallons per day at its present capacity. However, he said whether or not the city would want to add that load should depend on the financial feasibility of the East End project.

Council members were told by Howard K. Bell officials that a large part of the overflow problem at the treatment plant is caused by underground and surface water entering the system. City Engineer Gayle Vandlandingham has been checking out the city's water and sewer system in the past few weeks in an attempt to discover the entry points of outside water entering the system.

## Boys take second at Bellevue Relays

By Kay Conley

Spring sports are active once again at the Nicholas County High School. Saturday, May 19, was an extremely busy day for both the NCHS boys' track and basketball teams.

The Bluejacket sluggers split a doubleheader Saturday afternoon against Rowan County there. They were defeated 9-6 in the first game but came back to hit out a 13-6 win in the second game. Kirk Mattax was the winning pitcher and he topped his record to 4-0.

Robert Sosby hit three out of four from homeplate in the first game and Mark Vice, Mike Hatten and Pat Letcher each pounded three hits in the second game. Dean Hinton had the only walk in the afternoon.

The Bluejackets' win placed them 7-5 on the season.

Trackers place

The NCHS boys' track team placed second out of 11 teams at the Bellevue Relays last Saturday, a meet in which Bluejacket runners set three new school records.

View marks were recorded by Mike Sowell in the 200 yard hurdles (40.5 seconds), Jerry Edwards in the mile (16:42.7) and Mark Duncan in the two-mile run (11:21.3). Sowell finished first in the 100 low hurdles with his new school record.

Those members of the team who placed, their events and times were:

Jimmy Dale, shot put, 29 feet 10 inches; fifth; Mike Sowell, long jump, 18 feet eight inches; fourth; Donald Markland, long jump, 18 feet seven inches; fifth; Keith Williams, triple jump, 38 feet 11 inches; fourth; David McClellay, triple jump, 39 feet four inches; fifth.

Jerry Edwards, high jump, five feet 10 inches; third; Tony Howard, pole vault, nine feet six inches; fifth; Barry Brett, 200 yard dash, 24 seconds; third; Paul Quinn, 300 yard low hurdles, 4:11 seconds; fifth; Donald Markland, 400 yard dash, 5:1 seconds; fifth; Brett Tulliver, Sowell, Williams, 800 relay, 1:38.8 minutes; third; McClellay, Edwards, Quinn and Markland, mile school record, 3:43.6 minutes; third.

The order of finish for the 11-team meet was Bellevue, Nicholas County, Carroll County, Frankfort, Dayton, Paris, Ludlow, Grant County, St. Henry, Blount, Brossart and Walton-Verona.

## Elementary PTO to honor teachers

PTO, Mayor William Power of Carlisle and County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot are expected to issue proclamations naming May 24 a Teacher Appreciation Week in Carlisle and Nicholas County.

Officers named

Night during which teachers and members of the community will perform a variety show.

Other activities planned for that week include a tea May 8 honoring teachers, which will also be sponsored by the

PTO. May has also elected officers for the 1980-81 school year. They are: President, Mrs. John Galbreath; Vice-president, Mrs. Michael Buckner; Secretary, Mrs. John Hall and Treasurer, Mrs. Ronald Smart.

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