

Opinion

An editor's random thoughts...

By Warren R. Fisher, Sr.

Tip helmets for me, and for a Sunday morning, and find the day as drab and gray as any December can bring. Overhead the sky, a misty pall, gives no hint of a sun our faith must wait still shines. Nature rests in naked agony, uncovered by the white, warm blanket of the snow.

And 'tis less than a fortnight till Christmas—Christmas with its riot of man-made color that will bring for a brief season a semblance of life to a dying year—Christmas which will bring to spirits that plod down the drab leagues of life's westerling slope, a fleeting glimpse, if they be so wretched, of memories warm and rejuvenating. And if these be doubly fortunate, tiny fingers and golden heads and little flying feet will lead them back over the rocky slope into the golden sunlight of Yesterday, the hushed, blissful anticipations and gay delights of Christmas that were.

Heh! there is much to do, ere the sombre grayness of this cheerless Sabbath is transformed into the gaudy reds and greens of Christmas in full flower; much to be done in stuning hearts, as well as much to be hoped for from the weather and the purse. In which latter regard I find myself, as always, lacking.

So, s'more as the weather and seeking to find a drop of color, as I take my morning coffee, yet cannot. Even the red topknop of the downy woodpecker is absent from the stump upon my maple tree and his much-busied wife, perch-wretch, snatches her breakfast in nervous haste. I must take down my martin's house and refurbish it against the coming of another April.

This morning it perches atop its dripping pool in my gray garden with all the pathetic desolation of a housewife with nobody in it. And it is painting the ground in shades of gray! Outside all is gray, sooty, colorless, cold and lifeless. Nature rests, yet her rest, cold as that of a shivering, wretched child pauper on the pallet of rats. There is no warmth without and the cold lean light creeps indoors and starts us peaking fires. We will have need of Christmas greens and holly and white berries of the mistletoe, of the flame of poinsettia and the gaudy reds of toy trumpets and little wagons in

our homes, if Nature stays in these weeping doldrums. *

At night to write a bit and read much and long after all sensible folk are abed to sit by the dying fire and dream. To dream somehow of Christmas: to turn over again in my mind with relish the thought that I am to see once more the unfolding of a beautiful being in the mind of a child. In the stillness a gust of rain patters. "and then in a twinkling I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of each little hoof". beautiful legend of Saint Nicholas, that some top-tofty and bad-boiled moderns term a "silly myth". Do you remember, old timer, how real the picture painted by that poem seemed?

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced through their heads.

Do you remember the warm safety of your bed on the night before Christmas, the shadows are bed by the flickering freight, dark in the corners of the room, going out, coming back, everything quiet, through the house.

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

Do you remember the stockings hung by the mantle, the cakes left on the warm hearth for Old Santa?

Stockings were hung by the chimney with care, And all in silence, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.

The sense of delicious drowsy anticipation of tomorrow, do you remember that? The desire to stay awake a little longer—going a distant inn-land of sleigh bells...in the mind's ear, or did one really hear them?...in a falling ear, should one not be sleeping?

But I heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight, "Merry Christmas to all and to all a goodnight."

So, after a while, with many pleasing drowsy memories, to sleep.

Down Memory Lane City attorney swallows small nail

Thursday, December 22, 1980

Three Nicholas County 4-H members sold their tobacco at the District 4-H Tobacco Show and Sale, Jimmy Letcher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Letcher, had the high crop which averaged \$65.98 with a weight of 924 pounds. Second was Paul Dempsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dumas and third was Larry Jolly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Jolly.

Mrs. Billy Vaughn received superficial burns of the face and arms Sunday when she attempted to light the oven of her gas stove and it exploded in her face.

A blanket of snow greeted the eyes of hopeful youngsters this morning cancelling school activities and practically asuring a white Christmas.

The 198 acre farm of the late Mrs. Lida Parker Hamm, including a two story brick residence, located on the lower Jackson town, was sold at auction Thursday to Henry Clay Caswell for \$170 an acre.

Curtis Jones, son of Rev. and Mrs. Curtis Jones, has been selected to play in the Kentucky High School All-State Hand program at the University of Kentucky, Jan. 12-13.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones a daughter, Dec. 18 at the Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Forsythe a son, Paris a son, Clay Thomas, Dec. 20 at the Bourbon County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Patty Page Woodford and James Bradley Logan, both of Paris, Nov. 26 in Fairmount.

DIED — Sam Dennis, 84, Sunrise farmer, Wednesday at the Whalen Nursing Home in Cynthiana. — J. M. McIntire, 80, of Flemingsburg, Thursday at his home.

DIED — Rosa Anne Guthrie Feaback, 32, native of Carlisle, of Tucson, Ariz., Sunday. — Clarence

Wasson, 74, Millersburg, Monday at the Bourbon County Hospital.

Thursday, December 19, 1980

Sheriff L.B. Barton has received dog license tags next year. The law requires all dogs to be licensed by Jan. 1 and owners failing to obtain licenses are subject to arrest.

Most farmers in Nicholas County have about completed stripping their tobacco crops, but only a small part of the crop has been put on the market. Farmers are using only a very portion of their crop, hoping that the market will be stronger after Christmas.

Cly Attorney Roger Womack is able to be out after several days illness at his home, all of which started when he swallowed a small nail. Although Mr. Womack attributes his illness to flu or cold, his friends say it was mostly fright. The unusual accident occurred when Mr. Womack was attempting to hang a calendar in his office. He was standing on a step ladder with the small nail in his mouth. The ladder rocked and Mr. Womack suddenly opened his mouth and down slipped the nail. With visions of the surgeon's knife being used to recover it, the attorney immediately went home and went to bed. The moral to be learned is to use caution when the nail is recovered without the use of surgery.

MARRIED — Harlan Skeen of Nicholas County and Madeline Thompson of Nicholas County on November 3 at Crab Orchard, Ky. — Oren LeRoy Collins and Miss Rose Wood, both of Lexington, Thursday at his home.

DIED — Otha Thompson Payne at Hazelwood Sanitarium in Louisville.

Agree or Not

Continued from page 2
that the state is not "fully liable for revenue bonds."
The intent of the recommendation is to save the state money, by removing the limit and letting the legislature approve general obligation bonds.
The important point is that the changes cannot be made without approval of the voters.
Kentuckians generally know which road is paved with good intentions.

Kentucky afield

By John Wilson
"Right now, it looks like Kentucky's duck and goose hunts are in for a good season," says Vernon Anderson, the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' waterfowl biologist.
Goose populations are about the same as last year, Anderson says, but a lack of food and water farther north should force more geese than usual into Kentucky.
Duck populations are down, but the same conditions which will give us more geese should also give us a lot of ducks into the commonwealth this season, Anderson believes.

The late fall food and water farther north is the result of the summer drought and afforestation of several million acres. The breeding areas in Western Kentucky were affected, causing lower than normal production in that area this year.
However, the eastern portions of the state escaped the drought. The dry weather and duck reproduction from there looks good, according to Anderson. Ducks from both Western and Eastern Kentucky to the Mississippi River should show up in Kentucky this year.

The second phase of Kentucky's split duck season runs from Dec. 3 through Jan. 20, 1981. Goose season, which opened Nov. 12, will close around February 20, 1981.
Duck hunters will again use the point system to determine bag and possession limits. Under this system, each species of duck is assigned a "point value" and the hunter reaches his daily limit when the point value of the last duck added to the total equals the number of other ducks taken during that day, reaches or exceeds 100 points.

Point values are 100 for point for each duck. For example, a Canada goose is worth 100 points, a mallard is worth 50, a redhead is worth 20, and a wood duck is worth 10. A single mallard or wood duck is worth 100 points, two mallards are worth 200 points, and so on.

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Letters

Dear Mr. Fisher:

My husband and I were married in 1954. We have three children and a grandchild. We are now 55 and 58 years of age. We have a beautiful home and a comfortable life. We are grateful for the care and attention of the staff at the nursing home.

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Agree or Not

Erasing constitutional limit on general obligation bonds may save State money

By S.C. Van Curen

FRANKFORT — A recommendation to erase the constitutional limit on general obligation bonds that has been issued by the state has the intent of saving the state money (interest) over a long period of years.
The recommendation was made by the staff of the legislature's Committee on Program Review and Investigation last week.

Dean Kiernan, assistant director of program review for the Legislative Research Commission, said the committee has not yet accepted the recommendation. Rep. Buddy Adams, Bowling Green, committee chairman, said no action may be taken for several weeks.

Under present constitutional restriction, the state may not go into debt (general obligation bonds) by more than \$500,000 without a vote of the people.

The recommended constitutional amendment would remove all restrictions on the amount that could be issued but would require a three-fifths vote of each house of the General Assembly to approve the issuance of the bonds.

Kiernan said the state could save

from one-half to one percent if it issues general obligation bonds in lieu of revenue bonds as it has been doing in recent years to pile up state debt to meet current capital construction needs.

The state has not issued any general obligation bonds (roads and parks) since the administration of Gov. Edward T. Breathitt that ended in 1967. Before that the people voted a limitation on bonds during A.B. Chandler's administration for the former

road system and another \$112 million during the administration of Bert T. Combe for the roads and parks.

Kiernan did point out that it will be up to the people to approve or disapprove changing the constitution to eliminate the debt limit on general obligation bonds. "We would remove," Kiernan explained "if we did not permit us how the state can have money on bonds as well as the fact that the people may have the chance to make the decision at the polls."

He also said the state could continue to turn revenue bonds as it does now. Any limit could be set on general obligation bonds and the amount of money that could be paid each year.

Financially, revenue bonds are not backed by the full faith and credit of the taxing authority of the state while the general obligation bonds are, the report pointed out.

Kiernan said, "The state has a direct and overriding interest in protecting the integrity of its authorized revenue bonds."
This is just a note of saying the state is obligated for all bonds or use its credit, although some of the politicians like to mouth that phrase.

HELP THOSE IN NEED
DING! DING! DING!
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and
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The Carlisle Mercury
(USPS 09-820)
Established 1867
Published every Thursday at 224 Locust Street Carlisle, Nicholas County, Kentucky 40311. Postage paid at Carlisle.
Warren R. Fisher, Editor and Publisher
(Mrs.) Katharine T. Fisher, Managing Editor
(Mrs.) Janie Duncan, Assistant-to-the-Publisher
(Mrs.) Libby J. Monson, Comp. Writer/Operator
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Nicholas County, one year, \$6.30, taxes included
Other Kentucky Counties, one year, \$7.35, taxes tax included
Out-of-State, one year, \$9.00
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Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Two people have written my column these past few articles. They came in too late for the Footy Edition and very early for the next one. Since they haven't had their hands full of misplacing things, sometimes going so far as to lose them, here they are.

No Room in the Inn
It was the crowded city, Bethlehem dark and old; Joseph beset for pity, Mary and the babe that was born; And that was the night and cold.

But angels sang out the sweet story,
The first Christmas morn;
Christ the King of all glory,
Christ was the baby that was born.

He is coming again, We know not when,
I pray now, sinner,
There will be know room in the end.
Kydle Allison
—Be—

To Be Thirty-Three
I have turned thirty-three, big deal you say since you have already or are going to be thirty-three.
Thirty-three holds little or no importance whatsoever which you're a Vietnam vet and

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