

Dec 20-1980

## Take your pick of sponsors to give treats to forgotten tots

Santa Claus will be coming to Carlisle Dec. 24, 1:30 P.M. To hand out treats to kids, Nursing Home, and Hospital. Sponsored by Brownie Hollan, V.F.W. Post 8666 American Legion Post 17

MISTAKE MADE IN LAST WEEK'S MERCURY SPONSORS FOR THE TREATS TO BE HANDED OUT XMAS DEC 24 1:30 PM WILL BE SPONSORED BY THE CITY CLUB AND VFW POST 8666 and AMERICAN LEGION POST 17

# The Carlisle Mercury

Our 113th year, No. 52

Carlisle, Kentucky 40311, Thursday, December 25, 1980

25 cents per copy

25

DEC

25



### Rehabilitated Owl

Two Western Illinois University graduate students study a barred owl that had the feathers on its right wing replaced using a technique known as imping. The students, David Fischer, left, from 22 Seelye Street, Amherst, Mass., and Robert Given Harper from 219 Chestnut Street, Carlisle, completed the repair process and released the bird back into its natural habitat at the north edge of the WIU campus. — Photo submitted.

### WIU students put owl back together again

Putting Hungry Dumpty back together again was impossible in the fairy tale but Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill., students had better results with a barred owl. The injured bird had its right wing feathers severed and could not fly when it was brought to the university by Hancock County conservation police officer Michael Kennedy.

"Using an ancient falconry technique the students were able to replace the damaged feathers with donor feathers from a road killed owl," explained Dr. Thomas Dunstan, associate professor of biological sciences and nationally recognized expert on eagles and other birds of prey.

"The technique, called imping, requires the student to cut off the shaft of the feather remaining attached to the injured bird. A small bamboo shaft is implanted inside the stubble shaft.

Robert Given Harper of Carlisle and David Fischer, of Amherst, Mass., graduate students in biological sciences at WIU, completed the rehabilitation by using bamboo shafts like pegs and sliding wing feathers from a road killed owl over the shafts.

"The 'donor bird' had been in the department's museum for several years but the wing feathers were suitable for transplant. In order for the imping technique to be effective, the feathers are experimentally reinserted. The feather at the outermost part of the wing of the donor bird is placed at the corresponding location on the injured owl and the process is continued until all feathers are replaced.

By replacing the feathers the bird can be retained immediately back into the wild. New feathers will molt in within a year, Dunstan said.

"After the rehabilitation we kept the owl in our behavior lab for an additional four days to make sure there were no problems," Dunstan said. "It flew with no noticeable problems and was released into its natural habitat."

The owl was turned back into the wild at a site on the Lamoine River at the north edge of the WIU campus. The wooded area is a natural habitat for the owl, with hollow trees for nesting and plenty of available food.

Barred owls usually frequent wooded areas. They eat mice, frogs, small fish and small birds, according to Dunstan. "Sometimes birds that are killed on the highway may be suitable for this purpose."

Owls are one of the birds of prey Dunstan and his students study. They are also involved in research along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers' wintering grounds for bald eagles.

### Basketball shootout for Easter Seals open to students

Boys and girls from six to 18 years enrolled in school are eligible to participate in the shootout which will continue to winning participants in each of the 16 regions who are

**Merry Christmas**  
The Carlisle Mercury office will be closed from noon Dec. 24 until 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, so that our employees may enjoy Christmas with their families.  
Advertising and news copy may be dropped through the slot in the front door or brought to us Saturday, Dec. 27 for inclusion in the Jan. 1, 1981 issue. This issue will feature the annual Baker's reports Inc. forecasts for 1981 and will be in the mail on Tuesday, m Dec. 30.  
Thank you, the Editor

**Health center to be closed**  
The Nicholas County Health Center will be closed Dec. 25 and 26 to observe the Christmas holidays. The Health Center will also be closed Jan. 1 and 2 for New Year's holidays.

**Leudenberg promoted**  
ARMY/AIR FORCE HOMETOWN NEWS — Barbara Leudenberg, daughter of Jane H. Leudenberg of Carlisle, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of senior airman. Airman Leudenberg is a medical service specialist at the USAF Hospital, RAF Lakenheath, England.

### Hopkins is convicted of murder

Robert J. "Buddy" Hopkins has been found guilty of murder and sentenced to serve 25 years in the state penitentiary. Hopkins, of Carlisle, shot and killed Beulah Dale Grayson McCullough Sept. 24 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, 214 South Walnut Street, Cynthiana.

Accompanied by his attorney, David Melcher, Hopkins changed his plea to guilty in Harrison County Circuit Court Tuesday.

Hopkins had entered a plea of not guilty at an Oct. 13 preliminary hearing. Circuit Judge John P. Lair levied the sentence. — The Cynthiana Democrat

**County extension offices**  
The County Extension Offices and the Farmers Home Administration Office will not be open for business from Thursday, Dec. 25, thru Thursday, Jan. 2.



CHRISTMAS offers in 1980 by A. Zevo & Co. of Chicago include a little cut (below) of Santa Claus climbing down a chimney. Illustration on right shows the angels appearing into the shepherds in the fields on the first Christmas.

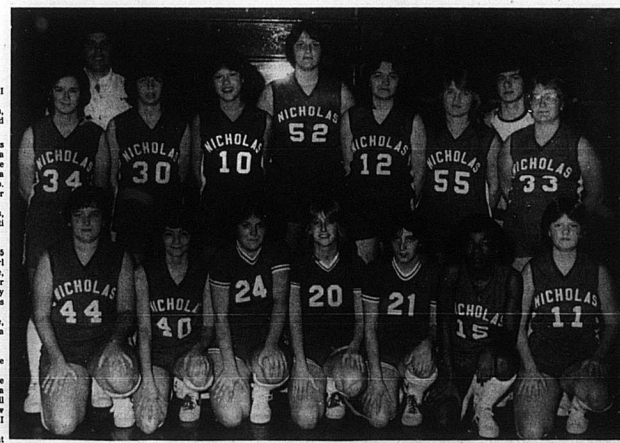
Dear Santa,  
My name is Bradley Wayne Small and I am 4 years old. I have been a pretty good boy this year and I would like for you to bring me a Smokey the Bear's car, a Stumper set wood, Wild Mountain Set and a truck that you can change tires on. I hope that it snows at Christmas so you can drive your sled and readers including Rudolph the red nose reindeer.  
P.S. I will leave you some milk and cake under the tree. Please don't forget my sister — Missy Patricia and brother Donald Lee. We'll be looking for you Christmas night.  
Love,  
Bradley Wayne

Dear Santa,  
I would like to have a calculator. I also want my two front teeth.  
From Danny Gilson,  
8 years old

Dear Santa,  
My name is Cristi Banta. I am 2 years old and I have tried awful hard to be a good girl this year. Could you please bring me a rocking chair, a doll baby, a see and say, and anything else will do. There will be cookies and milk under the tree for you.  
Love always,  
Cristi

Dear Santa,  
My name is Dana Banta and I am 5 years old. I have been a pretty good girl this year. I would like to have a bicycle, a Mickey Mouse watch, a pair of roller skates, a doll and some kitchen play toys. I will have some milk and cookies under the tree for you.  
Love,  
Dana

Dear Santa,  
My name is Amy Hill. I am in the third grade this year.  
For Christmas would you please bring me a Baby Cries For You, a birthstone ring, a Muppet Secret doll house, and some clothes. Also a few nice surprises if you can manage it. I have been a good girl this year.  
Don't forget all my little friends at school and my new little cousin this year. I might be at my Mama and Papa Fencal's in Georgia. Mommy and Daddy aren't sure yet if we're going. I will leave you some milk and cookies under the tree.  
Your little girl,  
Amy Hill



**Lady Bluejackets**  
The Nicholas County High School Lady Bluejackets are pictured, front row from left, Robyn Fryman, Connie Markland, Barbara Payne, Pam Niblett, Marilyn Hamilton, Stacy Young, Penny Baker. Back row, Vickie McFarland, Missy Rawlings, Patricia Small, Stephanie Hamilton, Tammy Markland, Ruth Dailey and Marsha Lyons. Coach Rob Barr is standing, behind to left, and statistician Keith Lyons to the right. — Mercury photo

More Santa Letters Inside The Mercury