

# The Carlisle Mercury

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## County's tobacco crop falls 40 percent short

Burley tobacco marketing is very nearly completed for the 1979 tobacco crop. By reviewing marketing cards turned into the ASCS office to date, it is estimated that Nicholas County will be approximately 40 percent short of the 1979 crop quota. There are still some marketing cards which have not been returned. Producers are reminded that these cards should be turned in to the ASCS office as soon as they have completed their marketings.

ASCS County Executive Director Anna L. Conner said the burley crop damage last year was not confined to any one area of the county.

"Actually the entire county was hit pretty hard," she said. "Some of the major damage occurred in the Saltwell and Myers areas but it wasn't just crops that were planted in the creek and river bottoms that were hurt."

"A lot of the crops that came up short were planted on the tops of hills where the heavy rain didn't drain. The plants just had too much water and became scalded when the weather became hot."

The 40 percent loss isn't an entire loss for Nicholas County farmers. They

have this coming season to catch up whatever losses they sustained this year.

Under the burley program a grower can carry over the poundage he was short on a crop into the next year and grow his quota plus whatever amount he was short the previous year.

The losses will have to be made up this year since the program doesn't allow poundage to be carried over more than one year.

Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland said until Feb. 1 to announce any changes in the quotas, but has said the quotas will not change. Producer notices of 1980 quotas are scheduled to be mailed Feb. 21. Those producers who have not returned their marketing card by this date will not receive a 1980 quota notice.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, requires that a referendum be held for burley tobacco each three years on quotas to determine if producers are in favor of production controls with price support or wish to discontinue the program. The last referendum was held in 1977 for 1977, 1978, and 1979 crop years. The

tentative date for the burley referendum for 1980 is set for Feb. 25-29, and will be held by mail balloting.

Producers wishing to lease burley quota for the 1980 crop will be permitted

to do so on March 10, 1980.

Questions regarding the burley tobacco program should be directed to the Nicholas County ASCS Office, 346 East Main Street, Carlisle, phone 289-2887.

## City to enforce parking statute

If you're planning to park your car on a Carlisle street you might check and see if there's a parking meter to feed at your space.

Carlisle has about 131 two-hour parking meters that accept pennies, nickels and dimes. The meters are located on Main, Locust and Broadway streets in Carlisle and have been ignored for some time now.

And although the Carlisle police have been reading the meters and writing tickets periodically for the past few years it appears as if an attempt will be made to make meter-feeding a regular habit around Carlisle in the future.

Carlisle Chief of Police Allen Earlywine confirmed this week that he and his men would be reading the meters on a regular basis and ticketing any violators.

Earlywine said that on some days when inclement weather discourages it, the meters probably won't be read. But that's no promise. In the past couple of weeks Carlisle police have reportedly written more than 200 parking tickets.

Each ticket carries a \$2 fine if paid within 24 hours. If not, the fine goes to \$10 and so forth. Those who ignore parking tickets can "expect" a court appearance if their tickets aren't paid.

Another matter that anyone who lives or works in Carlisle should pay attention to soon is a city car sticker.

Due on Feb. 15 the stickers have been raised to \$10 this year from last year's price of \$5.

From discussion at recent city council meetings it appears as if that ordinance will be more strictly enforced this year.

Reason for the city's crackdown? The recent audits that showed the cost of providing services was outstripping the revenues they received caused the city to take a long, hard look at city operations. And city stickers and parking meters were one area where enforcement could be improved.

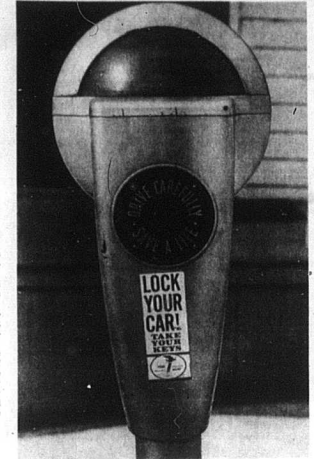
## Food stamp

### workshop Feb. 11

The purpose of the food stamp program is to increase the nutritional level of poor people. Trudy Marshall, regional coordinator of the Kentucky Task Force on Hunger, does not think the program is reaching potential.

Recipients and potential recipients of the food stamp program have a right appearance if their tickets aren't paid.

\*Please turn to page 12



## Feed me, please

Carlisle police will begin checking the city's parking meters more closely soon in an effort to keep the machines fed. Although the city has more than 130 meters a shortage of manpower and council policy has kept them from being checked regularly. — Mercury photo.

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## License sales lag

License plate decal sales in Nicholas County have been almost as cold as the weather recently.

County Clerk Rose Scott said last week about 400 car decals have been sold so far. About 2000 of the county's estimated 2,000 cars will have decals expire at the end of February.

The remainder of the decals are sold under the staggered effect and represent new car sales. Under Kentucky's

new license law new cars are issued decals in the month in which they are purchased and those decals are due a year from the date of purchase.

Truck tags have sold worse than car decals this year. The clerk's office reports that about 110 out of 100 truck tags have been sold so far. Truck owners have until April 1 to purchase their new tags.

## Each Nicholas Countian owes \$988

Nicholas County's bonded indebtedness, or the amount of money the county government, the city government, the school district and one water district, takes on as a whole, one of its major obligations, is higher than any other surrounding county except Montgomery.

In fact, if each Nicholas County resident had to cough up his/her equal share to pay off the debt tomorrow it would amount to almost \$1,000 per person.

The total bonded indebtedness of the county, as listed in a 1979 report from the Commonwealth of Kentucky, is \$6,720,000. The county's population is now estimated at 6,800 (although that may be high) and those figures add up to \$988 per resident, topped only by Montgomery's \$1,159 in a survey taken of the six counties bordering Nicholas.

The \$6,720,000 Nicholas County owes is a total of bond issues from the city, county, school district and the Nicholas County Water District. They're not all due at the same time, of course, but the payments stretch into the next century in some cases.

Up to 2006

For example, Nicholas Fiscal Court has bond issues that will expire in 2002 and 2003. The City of Carlisle has one that will expire in 2004 but it also has one set to expire this year. And the Nicholas County Water District recently refinanced their bonds to expire in 2006.

What are bond issues used for and how do they work? They're issued for one reason, to raise revenue, but they're retired in different ways.

Nicholas Fiscal Court has two outstanding bond issues which were used for hospital construction. (All bond issues in the county are detailed below.)

The fiscal court will retire some of the bonds with revenue from the hospital and some will be retired through tax collections.

The city's bond issues were made to make improvements to the utility system. They will be retired through the money the city's gas, water and sewer systems make.

(It doesn't always work as smoothly in reality as it does on paper. For example, the City of Carlisle's utility systems, in the past couple of years, have been losing instead of making money and the reserve funds of the bond issue were being transferred to cover general expenses. This brought some attention from the people who hold the city's bonds and they, as a result, have as much as a say in establishing the rates for those services as the council does. More, in fact.)

Retired through taxes

The school district's bonds were used for construction and will be retired through tax revenues, since the schools do not generate any income from the services provided.

Bond issues are a government unit's way of borrowing money at low interest rates to finance construction, improvements or maintenance of its services and facilities. The money is available at lower interest rates because it is usually tax-free. The federal government encourages people to buy these municipal bonds to keep the country's cities and towns growing to accommodate the increasing demand on services by their residents.

Nicholas bonds

Four government units in Nicholas County have one or more bond issues in service. They are:

Nicholas Fiscal Court — 1. \$2,305,000 issue dated Dec. 1, 1977. 1979 balance \$2,305,000. Hospital construction. In service 1979-2002. 2. \$475,000 issue dated July 1, 1963. 1979 balance \$380,000. Hospital revenue. In service 1979-2003. Total \$2,685,000.

City of Carlisle — 1. \$550,000 issue dated January 1, 1964. 1979 balance, \$578,000. Gas, water, sewer revenue. In service 1980-1995. 2. \$300,000 issue dated Jan. 1, 1967. 1979 balance \$300,000. In service 1980-2004. (Same purpose.) 3. \$150,000 issue dated July 1, 1969. 1979 balance \$20,000. Scheduled to be paid in full this year. (Same purpose.) 4. \$475,000 issue dated July 1, 1963. 1979 balance \$370,000. In service 1980-2003. Hospital public corporation. Total city bonds \$1,068,000.

Nicholas County Water District — \$249,000 issue dated Jan. 1, 1967. 1979 balance \$141,000. In service 1991-2006. (Refinanced in 1979.) Construction.

Nicholas County School District — 1. \$375,000 issue dated April 1, 1965. 1979 balance \$256,000. In service 1980-90. 2. \$1,510,000 issue dated Dec. 15, 1970. 1979 balance \$1,285,000. In service 1980-96. (Both of these issues were public corporation bond issues used for construction.) 3. \$1,285,000 issue dated June 15, 1972. 1979 balance \$1,285,000. Advance refunding bonds. Total schools \$2,826,000.

## Second in debt, sixth in people

### Debt per capita

1. Montgomery, \$1152
2. NICHOLAS, \$988
3. Harrison, \$721
4. Bourbon, \$581
5. Fleming, \$463
6. Bath, \$154
7. Robertson, \$28

### Population

1. Bourbon, 18,700
2. Montgomery, 17,900
3. Harrison, 14,600
4. Fleming, 11,800
5. Bath, 9,300
6. NICHOLAS, 6,800
7. Robertson, 2,200

(All figures taken from reports prepared by the Kentucky Department of Commerce. Population figures are the latest estimates. Harrison, Montgomery and Bourbon figures do not include industrial revenue bond issues, which are retired privately.)

(Some of the above figures are slightly outdated now. For example, the school district's total indebtedness as of Jan. 1, 1980, was \$2,872,919. The difference between that figure and the one quoted above is the amount of principal and interest paid during 1979.)

Too high?

For government units on the city and county level bonded indebtedness is a way of life, like taxes. Neither can ever be dispensed with completely. But bonded indebtedness is raising a lot of questions on the state level and legislators will be eyeing the state's total the whole time they're in Frankfort this year.

Why? Some say it is too high already. (Frankfort attorney Joseph Leary, who represented The Fair Tax Committee's suit against the state Department of Revenue, warned last year that the state's total debt was too high and the concept of putting future generations in debt may be illegal.) And lawmakers are going to be reluctant to add to it to finance new programs. It might mean a slowdown in funds in Frankfort and the breaking of some political promises.

Whatever you would have to say that bond issues have been good to Nicholas County, on the whole. There is a new elementary school and a new hospital built in recent years from bond issues. Another bond issue brought extension of water lines into some areas of the county.

These improvements and constructions could not have been possible at such favorable terms were it not for bond issues. And while many might take the stance of Mr. Leary, that placing future taxpayers in debt may not be desirable, or even legal, at present there is no other way other than massive tax increases, to accomplish what a revenue bond issue can accomplish.

## News briefly

### Armory hours announced

Jo Anne Corson, recreation director for the Carlisle-Nicholas County Parks and Recreation Board, announces the following hours for recreation activities at the old armory.

Skating will be held at the armory each Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by volleyball from 8 to 10 p.m. Skating will also be held on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

The armory will be open Monday through Friday (except Wednesdays) from 2 to 10 p.m. The center will be open Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 6 p.m. The armory will close on Wednesdays.

### Foxhunters meeting

There will be a meeting of all Nicholas County foxhunters this Saturday, Feb. 7 at the Nicholas County Courthouse.

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. All area foxhunters are urged to attend.