

The Carlisle Mercury

Our 113th year, No. 10

Carlisle, Kentucky, 40311, Thursday, March 6, 1980

25 cents per copy

'50's Jackets beat Harrison —and often!

The first call came about 9:30 a.m. Thursday. "You've got in the paper this week Nicholas County hasn't beat Harrison for 31 years. I know they beat 'em twice in 1955 and in 1956."

The second call unraveled the mystery. Due to a typo [which was repeated twice, once in 48-pt. type] the Mercury did report that it had been 31 years since Nicholas beat Harrison.

It hasn't been 20 years. And those callers dredged up memories of some of the best basketball teams to ever play in Nicholas County, including the only Nicholas County team to ever make it to the Sweet Sixteen, the 1957 squad that featured Ned Jennings, a 6-8 player who eventually played his college basketball under the legendary Adolph Rupp at the University of Kentucky.

5 at the break
The Jan. 3, 1957 issue of the Mercury reported that the NCHS Bluejackets were 7-5 at the Christmas break, with losses to Harrison County and Mayville on the negative side of the ledger.

That loss to Harrison County was averaged two weeks later when Jennings sank two free throws with 19 seconds left to preserve a 57-56 victory over the Cynthiana school here in Carlisle.

But the revenge on Mayville was even sweeter as it gave the '57 Jackets a trip to Louisville and the Sweet Sixteen.

The finals of the 10th Region tournament between NCHS and Mayville were entering the last few minutes when Ned Jennings fouled out of the game.

That was supposed to mean the end of the Jackets' hope for a region crown but Bobby Taylor and Donnie Hillcock took up the slack and carried the team to victory.

According to the March 14, 1957 Mercury Hillcock took control of the ball and caused the Mayville team to commit several key fouls.

And Taylor dropped three free throws in the waning seconds of the game to put the victory on ice. But the game was not without some last-second, desperation tactics on the part of Mayville.

Trailing by three, Mayville drove a foul and connected on the first shot, cutting the lead to two.

In an attempt to win the game, Mayville coach Woodie Crum (now head coach at Fendleton County) instructed his player to miss the second free throw and try for a tip-in. But it didn't work and the Jackets had their first, and only, region crown.

Wills remembers
One of the callers last Thursday was R.S. Wills, who was a member of the '57 squad.

"We don't want to take any glory from the boys," he said, "but some of us that played on that team have been talking and we don't want those folks in Harrison County to think it's been that long!"

Wills ranks the 1980 Jackets right up there with three teams from the late 1950s as the four best teams he's seen in the county.

"I think the 1956 team was the best they've ever had even though the one that went to the state got more attention," he said. "Then I'd rank the 1957 team next, and then the 1959 team, which was the last one to beat Harrison."

"This year's team is right behind them, though. I can't think of any others besides those three that are better."

As it so often does the return of tourney time and the article in the Mercury has brought members of the '57 team together again, if only on the telephone. The consensus among the players still around is that NCHS has a good shot at its second region title if they can beat Bourbon in the district.

[Note: The score of Tuesday's game was not available at press time.]

Good chance
"We're all behind them," he said. "I've been to more than half the games so far this year and I think they've got as good a chance as they've had in a long time."

The members of that 1957 '57m were Wills, Ned Jennings, Donald Hillcock, Bobby Taylor, Leo Lyman, Clifton (Ticky) Ritchie, Stanley Rose, Ed Scott, Jack Gray and Marion Campbell. The coach was Charles Finneil.

Wills said most of the players are still in the area. Jennings, who scored 106 points in two games one during the season, went to UK and for a while was associated with the Bundy Tubing Co. manufacturing plant in Cynthiana. Marion Campbell was recently named commander of the Kentucky State Police post at Dry Ridge.

Nicholas didn't do too badly at the state tournament that year. Although they lost the first game, the contest wasn't decided until less than 30 seconds were on the clock and a northern Kentucky school, Dixie Heights, posted a three-point win, 58-55, to end the Jackets' season with a record of 24-9.

It wasn't a bad showing for a team that was a 10-point underdog in the region finals. Mayville had only lost one game that season

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Readers

These Nicholas County Elementary students and teachers were among those who dressed as a favorite character from the world of books in honor of "I Love To Read Week", which was celebrated Feb. 25-29. They were, back row, from left, Margaret Columbia, Kathy Martin, Libby Clark, Phyllis Ramey, Marjorie

Wilson, Wilma Donathan, Linda Herrington, Charity Griffith, Maureen Miller and Harry Spickler. Front row, from left, Les Hardin, Sarah Blount, Lucinda Miller, Mary Susan Holson, Heather Hughes, Rodney Hedrick and Chad (Fonz) Mitchell. — Mercury photo.

21 percent of houses sold in county cost \$35-50,000

According to a report by the University of Louisville's Urban Studies Center, more houses were sold in Nicholas County in the \$35,000 to \$49,999 price range in 1978 than any other bracket. The report shows that 21 percent of the local residential properties sold in 1978 cost more than \$35,000. And only six percent of the residential properties sold that year cost more.

According to the report, no residential property sold in Nicholas in 1978 brought more than \$75,000.

The report, entitled "1979 Housing Report for Kentucky," predicts there will be a statewide shortage of housing units in the coming decade, perhaps as many as 10,000 units over the 10 years.

Partially funded by a grant from the Kentucky Council on Higher Education, the report breaks the state statistics down into five geographic regions, 14 Area Development Districts and by each county.

The expected shortage will be caused by several factors. Among them — A very large group of young people are leaving the state for the War II "baby boom," who have just

entered the market.

— Households have become increasingly smaller, with more people living alone or in non-family households, increasing the demand for housing.

— The average annual production of the state's home builders over the past several years has been insufficient to meet the basic shelter demands of the increased households in the state.

In one statistical category contained

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Blood donor list needs more names

Although Nicholas County has met its blood quota for the past few years age and health requirements have taken their toll on the master list of blood donors. That's why local blood drawing officials are hoping some new faces will show up for the March 10 (Monday) visit of the bloodmobile.

"This year already we have had to remove 43 donors from our list due to age and health requirements," said Rev. Mark Prevo.

"This time as well if we cannot attract new givers. Our active givers list now totals 412. We'd like to see it at 500 or more," Prevo said.

Hours changed
In order to make it more convenient for people to give the evening hours of the drawing have been changed.

"We're moving the starting time for the evening session back to 6:30 p.m. from 7 p.m.," said Rev. Herman Kammlage, who, along with Prevo, administers the local blood program.

"Hopefully this will allow us to process the givers more quickly," Rev. Kammlage said. "This will eliminate the potential long waiting time that was encountered during the last bloodmobile drawing."

Afternoon givers needed
The best time to donate is from 2 to 4 p.m., Rev. Kammlage said. The drawing before Monday, March 10,

through 9 p.m., with a short break so that Central Kentucky Blood Center staff members can have dinner.

If someone is not able to donate next Monday but does wish to donate blood to the Nicholas County program they can do so at the CKBC headquarters on 320 Waller Avenue in Lexington.

However donors at the Lexington site must specify that their donation is to be credited to the Nicholas County program.

And persons who belong to donor groups at work in surrounding counties are no longer helping Nicholas County when they donate at their job. To help the local program they must donate in Nicholas County or at the Lexington headquarters.

BGI part of program
The blood program at Blue Grass Industries is a part of the county program, with blood donated there credited to the county quota. The BGI annual goal is 100 pints, compared to a county total of 96.

BGI employees are encouraged to give to the local drawing if they were unable to donate at the last BGI drawing.

Anyone interested in donating next Monday and who hasn't been contacted should call Rev. Herman Kammlage at 288-5002 or Rev. Mark Prevo at 288-7200 before Monday, March 10.

Tornado test planned

Several state and federal agencies will participate in a tornado preparedness exercise on Wednesday, March 12, beginning at 11 a.m. EST.

The exercise will climax Tornado Preparedness Week, March 9-15, as proclaimed by Gov. John Y. Brown Jr.

The statewide tornado exercise will be initiated by the National Weather Service working in conjunction with the Kentucky Division of Disaster and Emergency Services.

Several communication systems will be tested during the exercise. In cooperation with the Kentucky Broadcasting Association, the state's Emergency Broadcasting System will be tested for the first time.

The initial tornado warning will be issued over the NOAA weather radio system that many citizens now own, the NAWAS system that terminates in all state police posts, the Kentucky Weather Wire Service that many radio and television stations subscribe to and the DES Emergency Operations Center system which connects to the three other systems.

Kentucky state government agencies will also participate in the tornado exercise by activating the Emergency Operations Center, and by manning the center with state department disaster representatives.

State Adjutant General Billy G. Wellman stressed that citizens should not be alarmed about the exercise.

"We are trying to test DES personnel and state and local warning systems," he said.

Some citizens will test local warning systems and perform tornado-drills in schools and hospitals during the exercise.

DES offers hints for tornado season

Kentucky experienced its first tornado watch of the year Feb. 21. It prompted state Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) officials to remind all Kentuckians of actions to be taken during a tornado watch and warning.

"Tornadoes can occur at any time," Wilbur R. Buntin Jr., executive director of DES said. "But we know that they are most common in Kentucky in spring and early summer."

Tornadoes form so quickly and are often so short-lived that the best protection is to plan in advance what steps will be taken when a watch or warning is issued.

It is important to know the difference between a "watch" and "warning."

"A 'watch' is issued by the National Weather Service when conditions are likely to cause tornadoes," Buntin said. "A 'warning' means that a funnel has actually been sighted."

Clear laws
He advised that during a "watch" individuals should determine the best shelter available. Lawns should be cleared of outdoor furniture, trash cans or any other objects that might be blown away. Such items can become deadly weapons in high winds, Buntin said.

A transmitter radio and a non-electric light source should also be available, and matches should be on hand. Residents at the affected areas should remain tuned in a local radio or

television station and watch the sky to the southwest.

Buntin noted that several radio stations in the state have installed radar systems which, coupled with television station radars, provide Kentuckians with improved storm tracking.

When a "warning" is issued, residents should make certain everyone in the household or immediate area is warned and told to seek shelter immediately.

Previously, people were instructed to open windows in order to equalize pressure as the low center of the tornado passes over.

Recent findings, however, have shown that may cause structural weak-

ness in the walls facing the tornado as well as create more danger from flying debris. Also, it has been determined most buildings have enough natural ventilation to handle the changes in pressure.

Don't open windows
Buntin advised people not to waste time opening windows but to take cover immediately when a tornado warning is issued.

A basement or the interior of the first floor makes the best shelter areas. If possible, get under heavy furniture, he advised.

"Wherever the shelter is," Buntin continued, "all pictures, mirrors and other hanging objects should be removed from the walls."

People in mobile homes or vehicles should get out immediately and seek shelter. Also, if parents do not have other low-lying area is best. The head should be covered with hands and arms.

Stay home
Buntin also noted that schools have tornado plans and that parents should not go to schools when a warning is given.

"Parents only expose themselves and their children to needless risk," he said. "In nearly every case, the child will be safer in school than at home."

Buntin reported that additional safety information is available through local DES.