Opinion

Cheers and jeers

Several of our fellow newspapers take time out now and then to reward those people or institutions they feel have done a good job—and single out those whom they think could do a little better.

Some call these acknowledgements "Roses and Thorns" and some call them "Garlics and Lilies". Here are our latest "Cheers and Jeers":

Cheers—for the Nicholas County High School boys' Bluejackets. The Jackets took host Mason County to the mat Sunday before losing their second game of the season in the finals of the Burley Classic in Maysville. Under Coach Mike Kenney the Jackets have improved with each game and sport a fine 8-2 record (as of Monday morning. With this kind of season behind them so far it might be the year for the Jackets to make it to the 10th Region tourney in March.

Jeers—for the Iowa farmer interviewed on the CBS Evening News Saturday. This fellow said he was "disillusioned" by the President's decision to cut off grain sales to Russia in the wake of that country's armed invasion of Afghanistan. It seems this farmer is going to lose some money because of grain he won't sell to the Russians. We say if he's that hot about it let him go over there. At least in Russia he won't have to worry about paying for the farm.

Cheers—to the Cleveland longshoreman interviewed on the same program who supported the President's move. "Even if it hurts your job?" he was asked. "Somebody's got to do something", he said. Cleveland longshoremen have also indicated they might have an embargo of their own with stiffer terms than the President's, as they did recently when refusing to load any shipments bound for Iran.

Cheers—for the American hostages, now that we've mentioned Iran. They aren't being told but we suspect they know that all America is praying for them each day.

Jeers—for the Ayatollah Khomeni, on general principles. He may be Time magazine's Man of the Year but he's no man of any God we know about.

And finally, a big cheer for Mrs. Elsie Snelling who retired last week from the Nicholas County Public Library. The post of librarian is an important one in any town and Mrs. Snelling filled it well. The **Mercury** joins with the community in wishing her well in her retirement.

Agree or Not

Eliminate posts AND $

By S. C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT — Last week Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. had two cabinet posts to fill and a promise to appoint a black. The two open secretaryships are Justice, and Arts and Education.

He also is fulfilling his promise for economy in government by reducing the staff in the governor's office and in eliminating some personal service contracts.

However, don't expect the economy measures being pursued by Brown to reduce the operation costs of government because of inflation and built-in increases, such as annual increments of five percent for merit system employes. These increases have not kept up with inflation and the governor may find it necessary to boost the basic salaries in the classified jobs. There has been a continual upgrading of basic salaries since the term of Gov. Louie B. Nunn who started making government pay equal to private enterprise.

Inflation has continued to gallop beyond the basic increases.

As far as a lot of observers are concerned, Gov. Brown could eliminate the cabinet secretary posts, the highest paying appointive state positions, and no one would miss them.

Supposedly the job is to oversee several branches of state government and report to the governor. But, the fallacy in this setup is that appointed secretaries are sometimes charged with riding herd on a division controlled by a constitutionally elected official. This is the case of the secretary of Arts and Education overseeing the functions of the Department of Education controlled by the elected State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Anyone with a smattering of knowledge about the operations of state government knows that a constitutionally elected official is going to tell an appointed official to "go fly a kite" if the appointed official tries to interfere in his operation of the department.

The seven secretaryships in state government were created by Gov. Wendell Ford in his reorganization of state government and continued by Gov. Julian Carroll. To many observers, this was just another bureaucratic layer on the patronage cake to take care of some political friends. The reorganization was approved by the legislature after Ford installed it by executive order.

Gov. Brown could undo this mess by executive order and ask the 1980 General Assembly to approve his actions.

Nunn and governors before him had assistants in their office oversee several divisions of government. What the secretaryships seem to amount to is creating a title and increasing the bureaucracy. Instead of reducing the staff in the governor's office through reorganization, Carroll almost doubled that of any other governor.

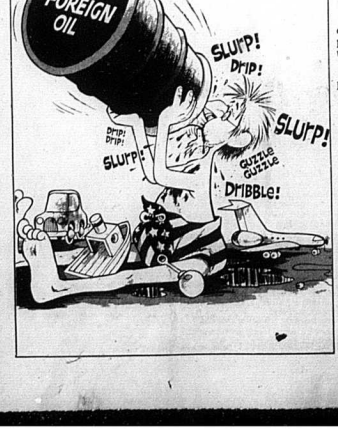
Brown has reduced the staff considerably.

Gov. Brown should take a real hard look at that uncontrollable labyrinth of Human Resources, the largest branch of state government that dispenses the most important services to the people of this state.

Dr. Grady Stumbo has been named secretary of this department and has said he is going to delegate authority to the various division heads to see that services are delivered.

The department worked much better when it was

*Please turn to page 5



Would you believe...

The name chess is derived from the Persian word "shah."

• • •

Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, established the prizes which bear his name under the terms of his will.

Tequila is gotten from the heart of the mescal cactus.

• • •

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Down Memory Lane

Southern Bell celebrates 80th; Mathers will upheld by court

Thursday, January 16, 1930

Cecil Todd, well-known young evangelist among Christian Churches, will speak at the Carlisle Christian Church Sunday, Jan. 17.

A business which was considered by many to be selling a novelty when it first opened the doors, recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. The business is Southern Bell Telephone Company.

The Carlisle Younger Woman's Club met Monday evening at the home of Mrs. Robert Coatney with Mrs. Jack Morrison as co-hostess.

The Women's Auxiliary of VFW Post No. 8666 met Monday night for installing new members. They are; Mrs. Paul Minton, Mrs. Thomas Stevenson, Mrs. Robert Trussell, Mrs. Keith Hardwick and Mrs. Ruth Curtis. Mrs. Estill Walton, Mrs. Lida Mae Wade, Mrs. Frank Stone and Mrs. Enoch Doyle will attend a meeting of the 10th district auxiliaries on Sunday.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Earn Clifton Garrett, Route 1, Moorefield, a son, Jan. 4. — To Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ring, Myers, a son, Jan. 10 in Mt. Sterling. — To Mr. and Mrs. Earl Thomas Willoughby, a son, Mark Thomas, Jan. 8. — To Mr. and Mrs. Ed Post, a daughter, Cynthia Colleen, Jan. 6.

DIED — Vinson Colemon Razor, 88, Thursday. — William Orville Ritchie, 88, Saturday. — Mrs. Alice Sapp Humphries, 73, Thursday. — George S. Carter, 67, Paris, Route 1, Tuesday. — Eugene Wilson, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson, East Union Road, Saturday.

Thursday, January 11, 1940

Affirming the decision of Judge James C. Dedman in the Nicholas Circuit Court, the Court of Appeals Tuesday upheld the will of the late Dr. C.W. Mathers. Principal bequest of the will was $100,000 to provide a trust fund for the education of indigent boys and girls of Nicholas County in elementary and high schools.

John Crepps Wickliffe Beckham, 70, former Kentucky Governor and United States Senator, died at his home in Louisville, Tuesday.

Ewing fairground in Fleming County is to be sold.

Children and grownups have enjoyed two weeks of coasting on the snow covered hills of Carlisle. Chestnut and North Streets were ordered blocked to traffic by the city marshall.

George D. Scott, Carlisle real estate dealer, has been elected a director in the Greater Kentucky Building and Loan Association at Louisville.

County Attorney Bruce Morford suffered a painful injury to his knee Monday night while coasting on the Chestnut Street hill.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Hamilton, on the Pleasant Spring Pike, was damaged by fire Saturday.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Roberts of Dayton, Ohio, a son, Tuesday.

MARRIED — Mrs. Ruth Kerns Burgess and James F. Cummins on Dec. 23 at Owingsville. — Mrs. Laura Hubbard Berry of Lexington and John W. Lawson of Bowling Green at Glasgow on Dec. 17. — Miss Edythe Morgan of Carlisle and Dan Rich of Liberty and Carlisle, Dec. 29 at Paris. — Miss Elizabeth Brayfield of Flemingsburg and Hugh Michael Gallagher of Cincinnati on Jan. 2 at Millersburg.

DIED — Mrs. Harry Brinegar of the Moorefield section last Wednesday. — John M. Clark, 75, Moorefield farmer on Jan. 3. — Mrs. Georgia McCormick Maxey, 64, a native of Nicholas County, at her home in Paris, Saturday. — Mrs. Mollie Saunders, 75, at her home at Concord, Fleming County on Jan. 6. — Arthur Grant Burden, 71, Bourbon County farmer and native of Nicholas County, Tuesday, at Paris.

Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

'Union' onions

Oh, that typo!

In the food marketing Alert, a special update on onions! It says and we quote, "**Unions** will continue in heavy supply during January, say marketing specialists with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service." There's more but why go on, it happens to the best of us — the typo!

—I—

A regular schedule

Someone asked recently when the newspaper would get back on its regular schedule, our editor looked at the calendar and proclaimed ten days hence.

I was prone to hold out for seven days, because after Friday, Jan. 4, 1980 a good portion of what would appear in the Jan. 10 issue would be in photo type, whether it be advertisements or reading matter.

Then some other wit popped-off with a remark — you could become ill — not if I'm around we won't, I'm getting farther and farther behind.

Maybe I can catch up come February, it has 29 days and bless that month, it makes Christmas fall on Thursday instead of Wednesday in 1980 and Friday in 1981.

—MV—

This one I heard in Lexington

Seems there were three hunters, that is rabbit hunters that came to Nicholas County to seek the hare among the briars that are seemingly no more. They, these doctors, brought with them three beagles.

Making a long story short, they saw no rabbits, the beagles started chasing red foxes or the scents thereof, the poor hunters spent four hours rounding up three dogs.

They enjoyed the scenery of Nicholas County in the early morning hours, and who knows, we might get a convert or two for the Carnico area.

—MV—

Pleasant dreams...

I am having a rather difficult time with this column.

The language spoken by more people than any other is Mandarin, by an estimated 68 percent of the Chinese population.

Ibby is not well, that is my Mother, Elizabeth.

Just when Mother became Ibby, I don't recall, possibly some child who couldn't pronounce Eliz'a-beth settled for Ibby and we've all stuck with the pseudo pronunciation.

I can almost embrace the theory of euthanasia, there should be a better more humane way for those of advanced years...

I am reminded of years gone by when as a student we were made to commit to memory the poem THANATOPSIS by William Cullen Bryant which is much too long to print in this space this week. But perhaps a few lines from the last paragraph will refresh one's memory:

"Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

Editor's notes

Psst, psst...

Don't look now but there's a whale of a battle shaping up in the 1980 General Assembly. The issue? Kentucky county clerks want the drivers' license franchise which the Kentucky circuit clerks now have. The county clerks say that the licenses were promised to them prior to the passage of the judicial amendment which took some duties from the county clerks and transferred them to the circuit clerks.

The underlying reason is not the money the licenses generate but the opportunity for political hay. If you think hard enough you might realize that everybody who drives has to get a license and selling those licenses helps you meet the public — or rather forces you to do so.

Of course the county clerks see a lot of people when selling plates and tags and hunting licenses, etc. but one clerk from a distant county told me his batters are madder at the fact that the change was promised, but never realized.

It was a hot topic at the recent conventions of both sets of clerks and will be hotter still in Frankfort. Most people might not realize the advantages of the franchise but you can bet your bottom dollar both groups of clerks do — and they're ready to battle.

Hole-y

Now that winter has us firmly in its grip those of us who sometimes venture on the links can sit in front of our fires and dream that we are Norman Manley.

Who? Norman Manley, that's who. He happens to hold the record for the most holes-in-one. (Or is it hole-in-ones?) Mr. Manley, an amateur golfer, has canned 43 aces in his career, including back-to-back one-shots on two par-four holes at a California course one day in 1964.

Wanna bet his partners didn't ask for more strokes the next time they teed it up?

The most Mercurys?

Morrow Cartmill of Carlisle dropped by the other day for his annual ritual of renewing subscriptions for his brothers and sisters. Mr. Cartmill thinks he might hold the record for the most **Mercury** subscriptions bought at once. We don't know but if anybody buys more, let us know.

Incidentally, Mr. Cartmill says all the subscriptions he buys are birthday presents and all the birthdays occur in January! For the record, they're for Mrs. Ed Paulin, Roy O. Cartmill, Mrs. Opal Hamilton, Mrs. Edison Gill and, of course, Morrow Cartmill.

Excuuuuuuse, me!

In this space last week I referred to my male parent as "Pap". After reading the item he informed me that there must be a better word for his position than "Pap".

Well, Pater sounds a little pretentious and Pop or Pops is in the same vein as Pap. Father doesn't quite fit, since it evokes images of turned-around collars and Dad is a root beer. I could say Doc, because that's what his grandkids call him but I don't think I rate high enough on his scale yet to allow me to be that familiar.

"Don" would never do because that's what his friends call him and he used to tell us kids he didn't want to be our friends because he had enough friends and friends sometimes cost you more money than kids. "Daddy-O" has a certain appeal to me but then he would probably think worse of it than "Pap".

So I guess I'll have to stick with "Sir" because that's how I always addressed him. I don't see that it makes much difference because until I was three years old I thought MY name was "Hey, you."

SB 23: an unacceptable 'alternative'

Continued from page 1

Many reasons were given for this amendment, chief among them being the individual's right to privacy and the possible savings in money to the districts by reducing the amount of information that had to be published.

The Kentucky Press Association opposed the amendment on the grounds that it detracted from the people's right to know. A provision was finally won to the effect that the individual newspapers could continue printing the salaries at the paper's expense. The school district had to supply the information upon request.

Some papers asked for the additional information and printed it at their own expense. Among them was the **Mercury**. What was the local reaction? An administrator of the Nicholas County School System announced the **Mercury**'s request for individual salaries at a teachers' meeting during an in-service day prior to the beginning of the 1979-80 school year. The administrator urged the teachers to let the **Mercury** know how they felt about this unwarranted invasion of privacy.

The letters didn't exactly pour in. As a matter of fact only one person commented on the situation and that person chose to remain anonymous. The **Mercury** was not seeking to embarass anyone, although the level of pay in Kentucky schools can be embarrassing at times. The goal was reader information and we felt that the salary of a public employee was not privileged information. After all, even the salary of the President of the United States is public knowledge.

Not everyone sees it that way, which is why we still have horse races. But it was interesting to note that there was no great outpouring of protest from the Nicholas County teachers, who for the most part are a dedicated group of people. In any event the **Mercury** was operating well within the limits of the law. And you can expect a movement in this session of the legislature to change that law so that the information is privileged, instead of public.

"They are now"

Finally, let's take a look at the effectiveness of mail and hand delivery as pertains to government agencies. For this example we again have to go no further than Nicholas County.

During the final resolution of the Nicholas County Fair Tax Committee's suit on assessments that began in 1977 the Kentucky Supreme Court, in its decision, said that Nicholas County property owners whose assessments were raised in 1977 and who were not notified of the raise by registered mail, as the law provides, were entitled to a reduction of their assessments to the 1976 level.

In other words, some Nicholas County property owners had their taxes raised without any notice, in violation of the law. But when the **Mercury** asked Revenue Commissioner Maurice Carpenter at that time if notices were mailed in other counties to persons whose assessments were raised the reply was **"They are now."**

Commissioner Carpenter went on to say that that was a direct result of the Nicholas County suit: it forced the Kentucky Department of Revenue to obey the law, although it did not do so until it was apparent that the state's courts would mandate it.

The Kentucky Municipal League, the Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA), the Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA), the Kentucky Education Association and no doubt scores of taxing districts across the state will support this bill. And they will hinge their support on two points: one, that the newspapers who oppose the bill do so because they fear the loss of revenue that will be incurred and conversely that the bill will save the taxing districts money by allowing them alternate methods of notification.

While it is true that passage of the bill would result in the loss of some revenue the reason the KPA and the state's newspapers oppose the bill is that it detracts from the public's right to know. They argue that the alternate methods of notification are not as effective as newspapers and that the bill will leave the process of notification open to abuse.

Is first class mail and/or hand delivery an effective way to notify the public? What about the cost of preparing such information, having it printed and put into envelopes, along with the cost of postage or hand delivery? Does it seem logical that a public official can reach the public better than a newspaper, whose sole intention is to provide news and other information to as many readers as possible?

These are questions that the General Assembly will grapple with in the months to come. The **Mercury**'s position is clear, and one with the rest of Kentucky's newspapers: Senate Bill 23 is a threat to the taxpayer's right to know how their money is being spent. Whether that money comes from Frankfort, Atlanta, Carlisle or Washington, it all originates in one place, the taxpayer's pocket.

If you are concerned about this situation, ask your mayor, or county judge/executive or school superintendent and see how they feel about Senate Bill 23. But remember this: a newspaper cannot take your money. You give it freely in exchange for information. Is the cost of providing that information so great that it is crippling government units, who can, and do, take your money each year, and who, it seems, are growing ever reluctant to let you know what they do with it?

(The **Mercury** welcomes comments on Senate Bill 23 and its effects from any interested person. Any comments must be signed in order to be printed in the **Mercury**.)

"Most men admire virtue who follow not her lore."
Milton

Memory Lane

Maysville college sets registration for January 10

Registration for Spring, 1980 classes will be held at Maysville Community College beginning on Thursday, Jan. 10.

Returning students who attended MCC in the fall semester but who did not complete advanced registration will register on Jan. 10 between the hours 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m. Students who advanced registered in the fall for spring classes may complete registration any time by stopping in the Business Office and making arrangements to pay their fees.

New students, those coming to Maysville Community College for the first time, and those who have attended MCC in the past but who were not registered last semester will register on Friday and Monday from 9-11 a.m. and from 1:30-4 p.m. Faculty advisors will be available to counsel students all three days from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.

Night registration will be held on Monday evenings, Jan. 14 from 6-8 p.m. Those wishing to enroll in night classes and those unable to register at other scheduled times may complete the procedure on this evening. Registration for all academic classes will be held in the college student lounge. Formal classes will begin Jan. 16. Drop-add for course changes will also start on Jan. 16.

In addition to registration for regular academic courses, community service courses will also be conducting registration on Monday evening. In all, 24 community service classes ranging from Beginning Guitar to Silk Screen Printing and Refresher Accounting will be offered. Community service course registration will be held in the college library from 6-8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14.

—NOTICE—

The Carlisle Cemetery Co. has completed another year under new board management. Thanks for the donations and help received from interested people. Letters are being sent out for the annual upkeep of graves and also for donations. Included with the letters is a financial statement of the past year. We need your help to keep operating. If you do not receive a letter and have lots or graves in the cemetery please contact some board member.

Please return your payment as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Cemetery Board

Griffin retires

Continued from page 1

The donation also included classical and popular dance music records.

One artifact that did not make it into the collections that were donated, is his trombone which he played for 25 years as a member of the Oleika Temple Shrine band. Griffin has also played with other Lexington-area bands and served as treasurer of the Lexington local of the American Federation of Musicians.

Along with his other interests Griffin has maintained membership in the Masons for more than 50 years, with his 50-year pin presented to him in 1975.

Started in 1925

In 1925, after his graduation from Carlisle High, Griffin went to Cincinnati where he became an agent for the American Bankers Insurance Company of Chicago. Because he held the rank of leading Ohio agent for two years, he was transferred to the Detroit district as assistant manager.

On Jan. 1, 1929 a new district was created by the company in Akron and Griffin was named its manager. In June of 1929 he was appointed state supervisor for Kentucky for the Industrial Department.

In June of 1930 his agency opened new offices in Lexington, where Griffin was transferred and where he has resided since. In 1933 he became a member of what is now the Continental Insurance Company.

Although Griffin has retired from the insurance business, his company will continue its service under his son, John, a 29-year veteran of the insurance business. The third generation of Griffins, William F., joined the agency recently and Mr. Griffin will continue to do consultant work for the firm, which has its offices in the Security Trust Building.

Griffin, an active member of the Carlisle High School Alumni Association, is planning to host his class's 55th reunion next summer in Paris.

He has two sisters currently residing in Carlisle, Mrs. Gladys Bobb and Miss Hallie Griffin.

Real Estate For Sale

45 acres, good house, 2 barns, approximately 2,800 lbs. tobacco.

52 acres, remodeled frame house, 1,800 lbs. tobacco, small barn.

109 acres, 9 bent barn with shed, good house, 2,300 lbs. tobacco.

3 acres, tobacco base 1,169 lbs., with carryover, the 1980 base will be 1,993 lbs. tobacco.

3 bedroom house trailer on approximately 1 acre lot with city water, located 1 mile from town.

2 bedroom brick like new home in town.

5 bedroom frame house, two story, could be used as 2 apartment house. Electric heat upstairs, gas furnace downstairs.

7 room brick home on 82'x300' lot, gas furnace, steam heat.

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