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Space specs sought

How many underground basements are in Nicholas County and what is their total square footage?

That's the question the Carlisle-Nicholas County Disaster and Emergency Services committee needs to answer before going any further on the nuclear evacuation plan requested by the state.

The plan, which is designed for implementation during a nuclear holocaust, will relocate some 15,000 residents of northern Nicholas County. Preliminary work on the project began last fall but the local DES needs to know the basement information before it can assemble the rest of the plan.

"What we're looking for, basically," said local DES director Russell Bell, "is the number of basements underground in the city and county and their square footage. Then we get some idea of where we could put these people."

The plan goes on the assumption that Cincinnati would be a major target area in the event of a nuclear war. It calls for a massive relocation from Cincinnati and northern Kentucky to points south in the state.

Bell said the preliminary work has almost been completed by H.J. Welch, the state DES official assigned to Nicholas County. Welch is the Plans,

Operations and Training Coordinator for Nuclear Civil Protection in the DES office. Her final report is expected sometime in April and May.

Although state DES officials want to downplay the association it is thought that the evacuation plans, once completed, will be used to write similar plans for use in case of nuclear accidents at the atomic power plants now being built along the Ohio River.

Persons wishing to help with the plan can let Bell and the local DES know about their basement and the size of it by writing to Carlisle-Nicholas County Disaster and Emergency Services, Box 132, Carlisle, Ky., 40311 or by calling Bell at Carlisle Manufacturing, 288-0679.

Biological monitoring
Bell said the local DES is also sponsoring a radiological monitoring

seminar on Feb. 22 and 23. The seminar, which will instruct attendees in the use of Geiger counters to measure radioactivity in the air, will be held from 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 22 and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 23.

"Persons completing this course will receive a certificate," Bell said. "We've got representatives from the city and county fire departments, the city police and the hospital already entered."

No site has been set for the meeting yet, Bell said, since the DES wants to see how many people are going to attend the course first.

"Anyone who is interested is urged to contact Bell," he said. "The more people we have involved the better our chances are for receiving more monitoring equipment. We only have one unit now and that's at the hospital."

Maxey Flats re-opening measures are approved

Editor's note: A similar measure to that described below was passed in the State Senate Friday, Jan. 25

by a 36-0 vote. That measure was introduced by Sen. John "Eck" Rose of Winchester and Sen. Nelson Allen of Bellefonte.

A bill that would require legislative approval before Maxey Flats nuclear waste disposal site could be reopened was passed 73-22 by the House of Representatives last Friday.

House Bill 88, sponsored by Rep. Pete Werhagles (D-Boeing), would also prohibit the governor or state agencies from relinquishing state ownership of the site without majority approval of the House and the Senate. In addition, it would direct the Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection to proceed toward stabilizing and decommissioning the site.

In order to reopen the site at Maxey Flats the bill would require that the secretaries of the Human Resources and the Natural Resources departments declare the site safe; that there be a public hearing in the county it is located; and that a majority of both houses of the legislature and the governor approve the proposal.

The bill would also require that expenditures for the site be set out in the executive budget as a line-item expense. This would, Werhagles said, document how much the state is spending on the site. Any emergency expenses under the bill would come out of a fund for necessary government expenses.

The bill arrived an amendment that would have deleted the requirement for legislative approval and a motion to commit the bill to the Appropriations and Revenue Committee for a fiscal vote. The amendment sparked a lengthy debate and resulted in one of the closest votes in the session thus far. The measure was defeated 54-41. Rep. Lloyd Clapp (D-Wingo) argued

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News briefly

White named Chicago council officer

Carlisle native Orlando White has been named executive vice-president of the Chicago Urban Affairs Council, Inc.

The Chicago Urban Affairs Council, Inc. is a 50-year-old organization consisting of men and women executives and managers representing major corporations and agencies who are specialists in the fields of communications, community and public relations, government and urban affairs, personnel and industrial relations.

In addition to serving as a forum for discussion of urban policy issues the council provides a bridge between the corporations and the community, promoting mutual interests and helping to resolve areas of misunderstanding.

White is manager of Urban Affairs for WGN/Continental Broadcasting, Radio and Television.

Millersburg gets ANI

Millersburg and North Middletown customers of South Central Bell have had their long distance dialing simplified with the addition of Automatic Number Identification.

The new equipment identifies by machine the number from which the call was made, where it goes, what time it starts and what time it ends. All the information is transferred to a tape which is used in preparation of the bills.

Persons who receive a wrong number under the system should call the operator immediately after hanging up so a note can be made of the date and time, after which the wrong number call will be deducted.



Honored

Mercury publisher Warren Fisher received the Kentucky Press Association's Freedom of Information Award at the association's annual winter meeting in Owensboro last weekend. Fisher was also awarded a plaque in honor of his 20 years of service to the KPA board of directors. (See story, page 10)—Mercury photo



House burns

Carlisle and Nicholas County Fire Departments fought a fire at the home of Browne Hollar on Spring Street last Wednesday. The blaze was believed caused by a gas furnace.—Mercury photos.



Hollar home burns

Carlisle's version of a two-alarm fire saw volunteers from both city and county departments battle vainly to save a residence on Spring Street last Wednesday morning.

A frame house belonging to Donald B. (Browne) Hollar burned most of the afternoon after firemen were pulled back from the crumbling building.

The fire call was received at the city office between 9:45 and 10 a.m. Wednesday. Shortly after city firemen were at the scene they called for the county truck.

The two departments tried to contain the blaze, which was billowing white smoke into Daneyville, aided by a strong crosswind. But the extent of the fire, the structure of the house and equipment problems all frustrated the men's efforts to contain the damage.

Harrison NKCC Manager Ernest Skinner said Tuesday that service was appointed by the city council when former chief Bobby Barnett took his seat as a council member, said this week that firemen had to pull out from the interior of the house when the floor began to give way and then from the roof when it began to collapse.

Berry's brother James was slightly injured when the floor in the living

room of the house fell through to the basement. After that, Berry said, he had to pull his men from the inside of the house.

Attempts to contain the blaze from the roof were also unsuccessful, due in part to the structure of the house.

"It was really a house within a house," Berry said. "About 18 inches under the main roof there was another roof, only it was metal."

Berry theorized that the fire began near the furnace in the basement and

swept up into the roof through a chert in the living room.

"It seemed the hottest right over the furnace in the living room," he said.

"That's where James fell through to the basement."

Berry said the distance of the house from the bottom of the regulator and on the side," he said. "We notified Sheriff (J.W.) Ercton about the incident but I doubt that we'll ever find out who did it."

"We have enough problems with normal wear and tear and lightning without this," Skinner commented.

Service was restored to the 140 customers between 7 and 7:30 p.m. Sunday.

Bullet causes outage

A misplaced — or on-target — rifle shot meant an hour and a half without electricity for 140 Harrison NKCC customers in the Rose Hill area.

Harrison NKCC Manager Ernest Skinner said Tuesday that service was interrupted to the area about 5:30 p.m. Sunday when someone fired a high-powered rifle bullet into a voltage regulator.

The regulator was mounted on a pole in the Rose Hill Church area. The shot pierced the frame of the line by two foot device and caused oil inside to leak. Skinner said the bullet was still in the