# Opinion

## Two good steps

The City of Carlisle took two major steps Monday night to regain the confidence some of its citizens may have lost after the financial irregularities of the past three years.

The first was to hire the Maysville law firm of Fox, Wood and Wood to act as city attorney. Due to an unusual set of circumstances the city has been without regular legal counsel for almost three years now and has had to obtain legal services on a piece-meal basis.

The new arrangement will mean that a qualified attorney will be present at all regular meetings of the council and will be available for telephone consultation.

And although it may at times be awkward to have the city attorney 30 miles away the Fox, Wood and Wood firm is a highly-respected group who will offer expert counsel, which is something the city has been sadly lacking lately.

The second step was to approve and agree to publish the most recent city audit. Under Kentucky law cities of the fourth class like Carlisle are obligated to report once a year to its constituents on its financial status.

This law has been ignored for three years despite its clarity. After the constant revelations of the first nine months of 1979 of irregularities involving city funds the **Mercury** offered to print the city audits last November free of charge, although the law clearly states a statement must be published.

Those audits told a woeful tale of fund juggling and massive deficits in some city funds. After the audit the city took steps to improve its bookkeeping system and over the past year many improvements have been noted. What the most recent audit has to tell will be revealed within the next few weeks.

"A city government has the responsibility to its citizens to use their tax money wisely, to report its uses and to have legal counsel available. This has not always been done in the recent past but if Monday night's meeting was any indication it may be done in the future.

And that's a course of action that can only benefit all involved.

## Down Memory Lane

# Morford to attend Jamboree; guard gets new motorcycle

**Thursday, July 21, 1960**

Jay Morford, son of Dr. and Mrs. J.T. Morford, left Sunday night for Lexington where he boarded the Boy Scout Special train to attend the World Jamboree of Boy Scouts to be held in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Ministerial Association met July 13 to make plans for the traditional welcome service for the new Methodist minister, which will be July 24 at the Methodist Church. The Rev. Robert Raborn will preside. The Rev. I.S. Pineur will give the evening sermon.

Bob Fryman, Broadway, has accepted a position with the Litton Mercury Sales of Flemingsburg.

Mrs. Luther Thompson presented to the Moorefield Christian Church Sunday a communion set in memory of her sister, Mrs. June Blount. Dedication service was given by Mrs. Allie Jones.

The Carlisle-Nicholas County Junior Chamber of Commerce is assisting the Nicholas County Hospital secure more blood donors. Thursday night, July 21 at 7 p.m. they will conduct a town canvass to secure a list of volunteer donors.

The Rev. Delbert Butts resigned Sunday as pastor of the Carlisle Baptist Church and announced that he had accepted a call to the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in Mt. Sterling, effective Aug. 1. Mr. Butts has been pastor of the local church for the past three years.

**BORN** — To Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ritchie Jr. a daughter, Glenda Diane, July 16 at the Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. T.C. Price a daughter, Barbara Lois, July 15 at the Nicholas County Hospital.

**MARRIED** — Miss Joan Estelle Weissinger to Joseph Houston Conley Saturday morning at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Lexington.

**DIED** — John T. Barton, 85, of Flemingsburg, Friday at the Nicholas County Hospital. — Tilford Burns Hinkle, 58, of North Middletown Road, Saturday morning at the Bourbon County Hospital. — Mrs. Iva Brierly Clinkenbeard, 74, Paris, Sunday at the Bourbon County Hospital. — Mrs. Bell Stone McVey, July 15 in San Leandro, Calif. — Bobby Ray Garrard, 19, July 12 at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati.

**Thursday, July 18, 1940**

The lot of the Farmers Warehouse Company on East Main Street was sold at public auction Saturday afternoon to S.T. Cameron of Myers for $680.

A new motorcycle with sidecar has been received by Troop A 122nd Q.M. Squadron, local national guard unit.

A much needed rain fell throughout the county Monday night and Tuesday. Crops in some sections were reported suffering from lack of rain.

Reports from various sections of the county indicated that the blackberry crop will be much shorter than usual.

The old redryer building is to be used as a skating rink.

**MARRIED** — Miss Geneva Rawlings of Cynthiana and Harry Herrington of Millersburg, Monday. — Miss Virginia Gates and Russell Brown of Ashland, Saturday. — Miss Mary D. Shields, of Springvalley, Ohio and Kash House of Moorefield, in Maysville, July 10. — Miss Kitty Thornton Hamm of Lexington and Arno Looney, July 6.

**DIED** — Mrs. Bessie Walden Lee, 53, at her home in Cincinnati Tuesday. — Fred J. Hatterick, 67, Friday at his home in Headquarters. — Mrs. Alice Darrell Wills, 63, Tuesday. — Harold Bowen, 9 years old, at the hospital in Cynthiana Saturday following injuries suffered Friday when he was struck by a truck.

## Agree or Not

# Will state pay rent?

By S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT—Gov. John Young Brown Jr. has been receiving a lot of criticism for use of the new state helicopter to travel from his home in Lexington to the Capitol in Frankfort. But there's one potential perquisite that he won't be criticized for, according to Finance Commissioner George Atkins.

Under the state constitution, the state must furnish the governor a home during his term of office. Since the mansion was recently condemned by the state fire marshall, the governor and his family have been living at Cave Hill, the Browns' farm home in Fayette County.

If he had chosen to live in Frankfort, the state would have been forced to rent or lease a home for his family. Technically, Brown could charge the state rent for Cave Hill because it has been designated the official residence of the governor by Atkins.

However, when the mansion was condemned, Atkins said Brown would use Cave Hill as the official residence of the first family, but would not charge the state anything in the way of rent for use of the premises.

The state will pay for food, servants, telephone service and utilities and all other services that the state provided for the governor's mansion in Frankfort.

The state will not pay any permanent improvements or additions to the home or grounds or for any landscaping, Atkins set out in a written notice to the governor and filed in Finance as a guideline for expenses at the governor's home.

When the mansion was first condemned, two or three homes around Frankfort were offered on a rental basis to the state as a temporary official residence for the governor and his family.

Atkins said the agreement with Brown is saving the state considerable money.

There has been considerable speculation around Frankfort that the governor would draw rental money for Cave Hill, and that the taxpayers would contribute a lot toward the purchase price during the four-year term. Technically, under law, the state could pay a rental fee for the use of Cave Hill.

Nobody seemed to doubt that it would be legal to pay the governor to live at Cave Hill. The question seemed to be just how much would the state pay per month.

Atkins settled this last week in a telephone interview. He pointed out that the governor has taken a lot of flak over the use of the helicopter instead of using the state limousine to travel between Lexington and Frankfort. The limousine is driven back and forth daily so it will be handy in case the governor wants to use it.

Atkins said it seemed unfair for the governor to be criticized for use of the helicopter when he was furnishing Cave Hill free to the state as the governor's official residence.

When this reporter called Budget Director Robert Warren, he laughed uproariously at the question of how much the state planned to pay rent on Cave Hill. He said he had never heard anything of the idea. A similar reaction came from Dee Maynard, director of management services in the Finance Department. She handles all the official expenses of the governor's mansion or official residence.

The average Kentuckian doesn't agree with the governor's daily use of the helicopter between Lexington and Frankfort or that the small amount of time saved is worth the cost. The governor seems to think otherwise because he has flatly said he is going to use the plane as he sees fit in business matters and he thinks the time is worth saving.

His attitude is creating the same adversary attitude with the public that Julian Carroll created on his comments about the use of state planes.

This puts Atkins somewhat in the middle. He criticized Carroll, but seems to approve of Brown's use of planes.

**OFF THE WALL**

**Would You Believe...**

Among some American Indian tribes, a wife could end her marriage by throwing his belongings outside the lodge.

* * *

Don't try climbing a tree to escape a bear since almost all bears can climb trees.

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## Letters from our readers

**To The Carlisle Mercury:**

We have received several reports that the news media in the State of Kentucky published a release which incorrectly gave our toll-free number.

The Veterans Administration has counselors available for callers throughout the State of Kentucky, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Eastern daylight saving time. Our telephone numbers are:

Louisville — 584-2231.
Lexington — 253-0566.
Statewide — 1-800-292-4562.

If your newspaper incorrectly published our number, we would appreciate a correction. We are interested in providing the best possible service to veterans, widows and their dependents through the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,
Craig M. Stover

**To The Carlisle Mercury:**

I would like to express my thanks and commend the persons who came to my aid and through their effort and hard work saved my tobacco barn when it was struck by lightning and set afire on Wednesday, 2 July 1980.

First, I want to express my gratitude to two alert, thoughtful and considerate Nicholas County citizens, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Feeback, who, while passing on highway 68, saw the fire and took the time and effort to awaken us and inform me of the fire so the fire departments could be called. In addition Mr. Feeback went to the barn, drove a tractor from the barn and pulled a power from the barn to prevent them being damaged.

Second, the Millersburg Fire Department under Fire Chief Hobard Crump arrived promptly and controlled the fire and prevented it spreading, getting out of control and by so doing saved the barn.

Third, the Nicholas County Fire Department under Fire Chief Woody Wilson arrived on the scene just in time with additional water and put the fire out saving the barn and for the roof and limited additional damage. About an hour after their departure some undetected smoldering shingles began to glow and caused me to recall the Nicholas County Fire Department, which arrived promptly and extinguished the fire for good.

It is impossible to really express my gratitude and thanks to all these civic-minded, dedicated, hard-working and professional people for a job well done and for saving a barn that it would have been impossible for me to replace.

We are indeed blessed to have such civic-minded, thoughtful and dedicated citizens as our neighbors and friends.

James B. Leer

**To The Carlisle Mercury:**

I am writing this in response to the recent editorial appearing in your paper supporting Governor John Y. Brown's announcement concerning the financial situation at the Kentucky Horse Park. I wish to take exception to this editorial.

There appears to be some confusion regarding the purpose of the horse park, since many seek to compare it to the various units of the state park system. It is my observation that the purpose of most state parks is to provide a drawing card for tourist dollars to stimulate the local economy. Never is comment heard concerning the proposed lodge for Blue Licks, for example, that this is not given as primary justification. No more clearly is the lack of regard for higher, educational purposes of the state parks evidenced, than by the emasculation of the historical exhibits at Blue Licks under 'renovation' plans conducted under the Nunn administration.

The horse park, on the other hand, provides a unique opportunity to preserve and promulgate skills and knowledge that might otherwise be lost. The farrier shop and the harness repair shop offer opportunities, but which are now sadly missing. The International Museum of the Horse provides an opportunity to study the manifold ways the horse has contributed to the health, livelihood, and pleasure of man throughout the world.

Your editorial stated that interest in horses in Kentucky is a limited concern. Many of us here in Nicholas County own and enjoy pleasure horses of various breeds. Breeding programs range from modest one-horse concerns to the thoroughbred program at Forest Retreat. Further, the Kentucky Equine Education Program conducted at the horse park, offers at reasonable cost, the possibility for the youth of Kentucky to receive the training required to gain employment within the industry.

I find the idea that all this might be sacrificed; that the intent and scope of the horse park might be changed and commercialized for short term economic gain, quite distasteful to contemplate.

Sincerely,
David R. Ritchie
Carlisle

**To The Carlisle Mercury:**

After reading the editorial which appeared in the Sunday, June 1, 1980 **Lexington Herald-Leader**, "Fair Market Value Assessments: Allphin is Right, PVAs are Wrong", I resolved to do something which I have never done before: write the newspaper and ask for equal space to give my citizen viewpoint.

First — The heading of the editorial is incorrect. Section 172 of the Kentucky Constitution says: "All property, not exempt from taxation by this constitution, shall be assessed for taxation at its Fair Cash Value, estimated at the price it would bring at a Fair Voluntary Sale".

## Assessment assessment

Second — It is a strange coincidence that this editorial should be mailed to Property Valuation Administrators in 120 counties on June 2, 1980, extolling its virtues.

Third — Quoting from the case of Milton Z. Russ, et al vs James B. Luckett, et al, Reported in 391 South Western Reporter, 2d Series, Page 694, "It is apparent the situation [Disparity in Tax Burdens] is bad from almost any standpoint, is becoming worse, is unfair, is administratively inefficient, and gives Tax Commissioners an unwarranted and arbitrary control of the tax base". So what do we do about it? We substitute the Commissioner of Revenue and the Department of Revenue of Kentucky as this person and agency which knows the Fair Cash Value of each parcel of property in all 120 counties, whether they be strictly rural areas or more urban areas. It is doubtful if Solomon himself could perform such a miracle.

Fourth — Again quoting from the aforesaid law suit: "Nothing in this CASE suggests any uncertainty, impracticality, or inequity in either the purpose or the plan in assessing property at its Fair Cash Value"; and "That the mandatory directions have been flagrantly violated for a long time is unquestionable"; and "The law today is just as vital and enforceable as it was the day it was written into the constitution".

Fifth — The Assessment Date for all property, except motor vehicles and trailers is January of each year per Kentucky Revised Statutes, 132.220. We know that the Department of Revenue with its statistical wizards and now computers can obtain detailed information about values but let me remind you that the information must relate to the January assessment date of each year. To base 1980 assessments on 1979 or 1978 or earlier figures is a farce. A local real estate dealer in Nicholas County has had exactly one sale in 1980. Neither the Commissioner of Revenue nor the Property Valuation Administrator can ignore the law and any assessment on property on January 1, 1980 means just what it says — January 1, 1980, and any assessment for January 1, 1980 predicated on the most highly inflationary values known in Kentucky which occurred in 1979 are not proper statistical guidelines.

Sixth — Since January 1, 1966 when the Kentucky Court of Appeals stated all property should be assessed at its fair cash value, great improvement has been made. Credit for this must be given to the Department of Revenue and the Property Valuation Administrators. Surely 120 tax representatives know their county property values better than someone behind a desk in the state capital. Likewise, the statisticians in Frankfort can more adequately determine that as little disparity as possible occur between counties. Would not everybody be benefited if the 120 local representatives and the department worked together more as a team in arriving at true Fair Cash Values on January 1, of each year instead of being dictated to by a succession of political appointees, all of whom have a Solomon complex.

Seventh — The statement that the protests of the PVAs do not stand up is not necessarily true. For example in 1977 the PVA of Nicholas County was advised that property in the City of Carlisle was too low. Being a new appointee, the PVA said she was not equipped or able to make the

* Please turn to page 12



## 2,500 attend Harrison RECC annual meeting

Winner of the Miss Harrison RECC 1980 beauty pageant at the co-op's annual meeting was Lisa Kern of Brooksville (top picture, center). Runnerup was Sherri Kim Hillman of Cynthiana (right) and at left is Julie Martin, 1979 queen. Door prize winners from this area were, second picture, from left, Mrs. Vaughn Mattox of Carlisle, O.C. Lemons of Harrison County ("just over the Nicholas line," Mr. Lemons said) and Douglas Jolly of Sharpsburg. In the bottom picture the Boothroyds, an European comedy act, entertained the 2,500 members attending. — Mercury photos.

**Laugh Out**

Six-year-old Mary awoke about two in the morning and asked her mother to tell her a story.

"Hush, dear," said the mother. "Daddy will be in soon and tell us both one."

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75 Buick Century, 2-door HT, P.S., P.B., air, 350 engine . . . . 1995
75 Camaro LT, P.S., P.B., air, stereo, new radials . . 2695
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74 Nova SS, 2-door, headers, cragers, air shocks . . . 1695
74 Monte Carlo, P.S., P.B., air, AM/FM, swivel seats, "red" in color . 1895
74 Buick Electra 225, 2-door HT, P.S., P.B., air, stereo, nice . . 1895
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