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Sunday earthquake rocks county

Nicholas close to quake center

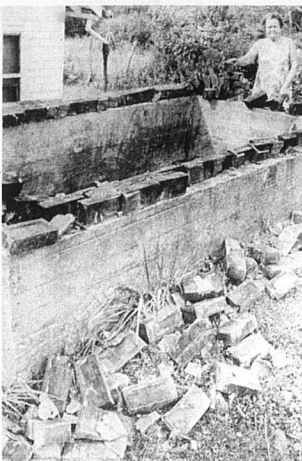
Nicholas Countians had a front row seat for one of the most spectacular events of this century in Kentucky Sunday but it's not likely anyone will want a repeat performance.
An earthquake measured at 5.1 on the Richter scale rolled through the county at approximately 3 p.m. Sunday with a sizable tremor that lasted at least 15 seconds.
Seismologists have placed the epicenter of the quake at several different locations but they all have one thing in common — they're uncomfortably close to Nicholas County.
The Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colorado placed the epicenter 45 miles southeast of Cincinnati and 50 miles northeast of Lexington, which would be approximately the area where Mason, Bracken and Robertson counties meet.

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Tremors shook county in '33

[Editor's note: Earthquakes aren't exactly uncommon around here, they just don't come along every day. Here's an account from the Thursday, June 1, 1933 issue of the Mercury describing a tremor believed to have been centered near Maysville. Mercury publisher Warren Fisher remembers the quake and seeing a table start moving across the floor.]

A severe earth tremor shook houses within a 25-mile radius of Maysville Sunday and frightened many residents.
So severe was the shock that a child was reported to have been thrown from a swing at Ripley, Ohio, about 20 miles below Maysville on the Ohio River. The single tremor, as it caused by the detonation of a huge charge of dynamite, was felt by almost all the populace of Mason, Bracken and Fleming counties in Kentucky and at many points in Ohio. It seemed to be centered in Mason County.
Many persons thought there had been an explosion of a gas pipe line, which crosses the country near Maysville, but investigation failed to show there had been any blast.



Mrs. Joe Reid stands behind her toppled cistern, a victim of Sunday's earthquake.

Nicholas native quake veteran

"My first thought was 'I'm in Kentucky. They don't have earthquakes here. Then I said, 'But it is an earthquake.'"
That's how Phil Woodall, Nicholas County native and California resident since 1958, described his reaction to Sunday's earthquake.
Woodall, who with his wife and two daughters, lives in Santa Rosa, California (just six blocks from the San Andreas fault), his mother, Mrs. Sue Woodall pointed out Monday, has been through several earthquakes already this year never thought he'd come to Kentucky and experience one.
"I thought we'd be safe here," he joked, noting that earthquakes have become a way of life of Californians.
"They have earthquake drills in the schools and public buildings like you'd have fire drills here," he said. "They tell you the best place to be in an earthquake is inside, either under a table or under a door facing. In the schools the kids get under their desks."
"Most people who get killed by earthquakes," he noted, "are killed by downed electrical wires or falling debris."
Since January of this year Woodall and his family have survived several earthquakes although only one was of any magnitude to cause much of a problem.

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Sunday quake solves mystery

By Jeff Kerr
One thing the Sunday earthquake did do for me (two days later) was solve a four-year-old mystery.
One day during March of 1976 Joan Ann and I were walking through Yahoo Falls Scenic Area in McCreary County when we heard a giant boom.
Yahoo Falls is a United States Forest Service Scenic Area about five miles from U.S. 27 in McCreary County. The area around the falls itself contains some of the little remaining virgin timber in Kentucky.

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County tax rolls will be open soon

The Nicholas County property tax roll will be open for inspection from August 11 until August 14, Nicholas County Property Valuation Administrator announced last week.
The inspection period has been delayed due to a suit filed on behalf of the state's 120 PVAs in Franklin Circuit Court. The suit seeks to have Department of Revenue officials, not the PVAs, increase assessments this year.
Mrs. Brady said she attended a hearing July 23 on the suit in which William Seent, attorney for the PVAs, argued that the Revenue Department has no legal authority to approve or disapprove the first recapitulation sent in by the state's PVAs.

Seent argued that the first recap can only be used for estimating revenues and that any increases demanded by the state in local assessments must wait until the local board of appeals meets.

The local board will meet shortly after the inspection period closes. Persons who don't agree with their assessments can appeal them locally, and then to the state level if they are still not satisfied.

Local determination?
This year's assessment dispute began when the first recaps turned in by most of the state's PVAs were rejected because the Revenue Department felt they were too low.

Newly-installed Commissioner Robert Alphin told the PVAs the assessments must be at least 90 percent of market value (as determined by the department) or they would be rejected.

By July 1 all but eight of the 120 first recaps had been submitted. At that time 77 were rejected out-of-hand and 43 accepted.

(Since that time several PVAs have turned in amended figures which have been accepted.)

In Nicholas County, Mrs. Brady was told that assessments on most residential and some commercial property were too low, as much as 30 percent too low.

The PVAs complained that the department was forcing them into issuing blanket raises, which they felt would be unfair. The purpose of the suit filed by the PVAs against the Revenue Department was to (1) force the department itself to issue the blanket increases, and (2) question the method through which the department determines its assessments of a county before the first recap is received.

The department bases its assessment figures for each county on a property sales formula. The PVAs say the past year has been no disastrous in terms of sales, because of high interest rates and tight money, that no increases are needed.

Revenue Dept. must answer
Another facet of Seent's argument in the July 22 hearing was that the Department of Revenue must hold a public hearing with local officials if it rejects the second recap, which is turned in after the local board of appeals completes its work.

The department, Seent said, must explain how much the assessments explain how much the assessments

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Unemployment rate increases in June

Unemployment in Kentucky jumped to 7.5 percent of the labor force in June, an increase of 1.1 percentage points over the May rate, the Department for Human Resources reported.

The June rate is within 0.5 percentage points of the 7.8 percent national rate for the month.
The number of unemployed Kentuckians climbed to 121,800 almost 20,000 more than in May and 37,400 more than in June 1979. Joblessness in the state has exceeded the 120,000 level only once before in the past 10 years.

Last February there were 120,500 unemployed persons. During the 1975 recession unemployment peaked at 119,500 unemployed persons. During the 1975 recession unemployment peaked at 119,500.

Robert MacDonald, the department's chief labor market analyst, attributes 62.3 percent of the June increase to students looking for summer jobs. Of job layoffs caused by the recession, 73.7 percent were in durable goods manufacturing industries, 8.8 percent were in trade industries and 18.7 percent were in service industries.

The June unemployment rate for the construction industry was 11.7 percent; for manufacturing, 9.4 percent; for coal mining, 8.9 percent. All other major industries within the state had unemployment rates of 4.0 percent or less.

There were 1,607,400 persons in the labor force during June, 25,800 more than in May.

CALF to operate heat crisis center

The Nicholas County Community Center will operate a Heat Crisis Center during any extremely hot weather in the coming weeks.

Mrs. Margaret Hunter, center director, said Community Action League-Don-Fayette (CALF) has a approved building for a heat center.
"We'd like to urge all elderly, handicapped and others who may need a cool place to go during hot weather to come and see us," Mrs. Hunter said. "Our normal hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. but if it gets extremely hot again we have permission to keep the center open until 10 p.m."

Available will be several air conditioned rooms at the center, which is located in the old Nicholas County Hospital building on the Moorefield Road.



Here's how

Machine gunner Spec. 5 Tim Maze of Salt Lick is being observed by Sgt. Henry T. Caswell of Carlisle while he practices with movable targets at the Ft. Knox gunnery range. The two are members of Co. D, 201st Engineer Battalion headquartered in Carlisle. The Kentucky Army National Guard unit has been undergoing two weeks annual training and returned home last weekend. — Photo by Spec. 5 Pat Collins, 11 1334 PAD.

Fair starts today

"I hope we have 200 kids out there Thursday night," said Ben Pumphrey of the 4th Track Meet which is part of this year's Nicholas County Fair.
There'll be room for that 200 and more, if they decide to come. And an added incentive would be the more than \$50 in total prizes that will be awarded.
The meet includes 20 classes and four age divisions, from under 6 all the way through 12.
Cash prizes of 75, 50 and 25 cents will be awarded for the first three finishers in each race.
The meet begins tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m. at the high school track. The high school coaches will officiate. The events, with no doubt an eye to spotting some promising young men or lady for

- 2. 7 and 8. 230 yard dash
- 1. 9 and 10.
- 2. 11 and 12. 440 yard relay
- 1. 6 and under.
- 2. 7 and 8.
- 2. 9 and 10.
- 4. 11 and 12. 100 yard dash
- 1. 6 and under.
- 2. 7 and 8.
- 3. 9 and 10.
- 4. 11 and 12. Long jump
- 1. 6 and under.
- 2. 7 and 8.
- 3. 9 and 10.
- 4. 11 and 12. 230 yard dash
- 1. 6 and under.