

Opinion

Under the fence

It is hard at times not to dismiss awards that newspaper has with a light hand.

After all, according to one veteran journalist, the best award a newspaper can win is the constant readership of the people it serves. But last weekend at the Kentucky Press Association's summer meeting the Mercury was awarded a first place plaque for its efforts in the Freedom of Information category. And that award may be one of the most cherished ever to grace the Mercury office walls.

Why? Because newspapers and the public's right to know what its government is doing are increasingly coming under attack, and often from people who have sworn to serve the public.

For example, at last weekend's meeting Sen. Mike Moloney of Lexington was an invited speaker. In the past session of the Kentucky General Assembly no one worked harder than Sen. Moloney to erode the power of newspapers to inform their public.

Sen. Moloney did this through an attack on public notices. He wanted to amend severely the laws regarding the publication of such government actions that at present are required to be printed in Kentucky newspapers. This ran the gamut from budgets to bids and one of Sen. Moloney's pet projects was to try to have actions, orders and amendments summarized.

Part of the senator's argument was that Kentucky newspapers are resisting him because of the financial repercussions his bills would cause the industry. Newspapers, as has argued, usually print an explanation of the budget and other ordinances and his reasoning seemed to be why buy the cow when you can get the milk under the fence? — some newspapers print for free what the government should publish by law, but not because they want to. They do it because that is the only way the information will ever see the light of day.

Agree or Not

Assessments knotted

By S. C. Van Curen

FRANKFORT — The class action suit in Franklin Circuit Court challenging property assessments may affect the actions of 75 to 80 counties where the State Revenue Department has challenged assessments as being too low in some categories.

The Revenue Department has classified property in three categories: residential, commercial and agricultural, for all property valuation administrators across the state and has requested that the assessment be 95 percent of fair cash value in one or more of the categories.

Frankfort Attorney Joseph J. Leary has filed a class action suit on behalf of a group of home owners challenging the assessments on



Down Memory Lane

Christian Church buys residence; tobacco setting nearly done

Thursday, June 12, 1980

Miss Sue Irvin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Irvin, was elected first vice-president of the Kentucky Association of Future Homemakers of America at the 15th annual state meeting held at Morehead State College.

The congregation of the recently organized First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has purchased the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Ockerman on Locust Street. After getting possession about September 1, they plan to remodel to provide auditorium, Sunday school rooms and parsonage.

Thomas Abraham, Carlisle merchant, submitted to surgery Tuesday at St. Joseph's Hospital, Lexington. His condition is reported as satisfactory.

MARRIED — Miss Millie Jean Prew in Water Demetrius Abbott Jr., Sunday in Carlisle. — Miss Joan George to Merle McCarthy June 15 at Carlisle Christian Church. — Miss Barbara Stitt to James F. Webb June 5 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. — Miss Janet Sue Mitchell to James Allen Brown Thursday at the Christian Church in Carlisle. — Miss Jane Lee Taylor to Charles Warren Crockett Saturday in Cincinnati. — Miss Mary Lou Gelder to Ned Glenn Jennings Saturday in Ashland.

DIED — Jimmy Wayne Kiser, 22, Thursday. — Jimmy Kelly Gay, 65, Monday at his home in Bath County. — Mrs. Ruth Barbee, 62, Thursday at the home of her brother in Robinson County. — Garrett Small Jefferson, 78, Saturday at the Bourbon County Hospital. — Mrs. A. Douglas Sanders, 78, Saturday at a Lexington nursing home.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Okey Barbee a daughter, June 8 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. George Willoughby a daughter, June 8 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Bretz a son, June 10 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Oberlin, M. Sterling, a daughter, Angela Darlene, June 13 at the Mary Chiles Linn Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. James R. Sapp, a son, June 11 at Nicholas County Hospital.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1980

Blue grass seed stripping has started throughout this section. The yield is reported to be about average. No price is being quoted for the seed.

County Agent M.P. Nicholas, Miss Jeanette Barr, 4-H Club leader, Helen Keene Yeach and Gladys May, Mrs. James R. Sapp, a son, June 11 at Nicholas County Hospital.

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Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Utopian ideas, no PG&E proposals (ZIP)...

This is the story of how one of the largest utilities in the United States approaches what a Kentucky utility declares to be "cost-effective" operations.

In the May issue of PG&E Progress printed out all customers' proposals by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco. The lead article proclaims: Customers in 10 San Joaquin Valley counties will be the first to be eligible for interest-free financing. The customer will choose the saving home improvements, if a plan proposed by PG&E is approved.

The "Zero Interest Plan" (ZIP) would gradually be expanded throughout PG&E's service area in Northern and Central California after procedures, funding and personnel training details are taken care of.

"ZIP could start as early as this summer, after the necessary state and federal approvals are obtained. PG&E estimates that about 5,500 customers may be involved in the test phase."

"Conservation improvements covered under the program include ceiling, floor and wall insulation, storm windows and doors, automatic thermostats, weatherstripping, caulking, conversion to more efficient lighting systems, water heater insulation, and ceiling and electronic devices to replace furnace pilot lights."

The test phase ZIP is expected to save enough energy over the

This ZIP is hlp!

projected life of the improvements to serve 47,000 residential natural gas customers for a year, and enough electricity to save 8,400 residences for a year, says John S. Cooper, PG&E vice president-Customer Operations.

"Here's how the plan will work: A customer first receives a free PG&E energy audit identifying cost-effective improvements eligible for financing under the program.

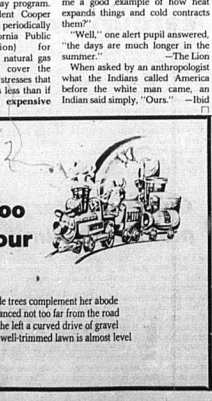
"PG&E will help customers get bids from participating contractors. The customer will choose the contractor he or she prefers.

"Financing limits will be determined by the cost effectiveness of planned improvements. Improvements that result in energy savings greater than the cost of new energy resources would qualify for interest-free financing.

"Money financed through ZIP could be repaid in monthly principal only installments or delayed entirely until the residence is sold."

(There's more to the article and anyone wishing to read it in the whole may do so by stopping by The Mercury.)

ZIP is not a give-away program. As PG&E vice president Cooper says, "the customer will periodically ask the CPUC (California Public Utilities Commission) for authorization to adjust natural gas and electric rates to cover the program's cost. But he stresses that ZIP will cost customers less than PG&E had to obtain expensive



Blue Licks to celebrate Father's Day

Blue Licks Battlefield State Park is planning a big celebration for Dad this Sunday.

Starting Friday, June 13 and continuing through Sunday, June 15 is (Father's Day) the park is scheduling several special events and attractions at reduced prices.

The celebration kicks off Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. with the dedication of the new 90-acre campground area. The program will include the Mt. Olivet String Band and the Dunning High School Band as well as the cutting of the ribbon by Lou Karbo, Commissioner of Parks and other officials from Frankfort.

Saturday will feature the Father/Son and Father/Daughter Games and Competition. Some of the games scheduled are softball, horseshoes, badminton and relay races. Others will be added according to public interest.

On Sunday, from 10 to 3 p.m. there will be a gospel singing featuring the Grayland Quartet from Flemingsburg. In addition, singing groups from other area churches will be invited to participate. The Pioneer Museum will also offer special demonstrations on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In addition, special rates are being offered on that weekend only for admission to the museum.

Groups of 10 or more will be admitted for 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children under 12. The prices will also apply to fathers who bring their sons and/or daughters to the park on Sunday, June 15.

Other attractions at the park include picnic areas, shelter houses, swimming, playgrounds and scenic trails. The museum and gift shop are open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For further information call John Bullington at 286-7470.



Thank you

Mrs. Marjorie Wilson and Mrs. Dorothy Sundrys were honored recently with a surprise party given by their co-workers and the sixth grade at Nicholas County Elementary School. The two are retiring after the 1979-80 school year. — Photo submitted.



Play dedicated

A play written by Sheila Watkins and concerning different countries studied in Mrs. Maureen Miller's social studies class was presented to the entire sixth grade at Nicholas County Elementary School recently by Mrs. Charity Griffith's sixth grade reading class.

Mrs. Linda Herrington helped the students in preparing for the presentation of the play, which was dedicated to Mrs. Marjorie Wilson, who retired this year after 31 years of teaching. — Photo submitted.

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Baby Portrait Special!

Fri. & Sat., June 13-14

8 x 10 Living Color Portrait of your Child

88¢

plus tax

- Babies — children — adults — groups — 1 Special of each person singly \$84 per person. Groups \$84 per person. Limit — one special per child.
- Extras, yes! 8x10, 5x7, wallets.
- Fast delivery — courteous service.
- Senior Citizens Invited

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Hospital Reports

5-16 to 5-22-80

ADMISSIONS: Lettie O'Bannon, Oscar Grimes, Celestine Jones, Edward Mitchell, Justice Barbee, Gladys Bobb, Berrie Papp, Susan Campbell, Mary Guy, Calvin Denton Jr., Charles Myner, Timmy Dale, Diana Carson, Ruth Duller, Carlisle; Stacy Stampert, Paris; Napoleon Fine, Harold McBride, Mt. Olivet. — Discharge: Lettie O'Bannon, Oscar Grimes, Celestine Jones, Edward Mitchell, Justice Barbee, Gladys Bobb, Berrie Papp, Susan Campbell, Mary Guy, Calvin Denton Jr., Charles Myner, Timmy Dale, Diana Carson, Ruth Duller, Carlisle; Stacy Stampert, Paris; Napoleon Fine, Harold McBride, Mt. Olivet. — Discharge: Lettie O'Bannon, Oscar Grimes, Celestine Jones, Edward Mitchell, Justice Barbee, Gladys Bobb, Berrie Papp, Susan Campbell, Mary Guy, Calvin Denton Jr., Charles Myner, Timmy Dale, Diana Carson, Ruth Duller, Carlisle; Stacy Stampert, Paris; Napoleon Fine, Harold McBride, Mt. Olivet.

LERMANS

FOR YOUR "MAN OF THE YEAR"

to Father, with Love

Dad Can Never Have Too Many!

MEN'S 3-PIECE SUITS DRESS SHIRTS

Stunning summer suits for dad. An assortment of solids, stripes, and plaids. Cool summer favorites in 100% Polyester textured fabrics. Regular and Long. Sizes 36 thru 46.

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Values 59.99 to 69.99

SPECIAL! MEN'S DRESS SLACKS

Polyester and textured Polyester. A favorite summer pattern. Sizes 29 thru 42.

ENTIRE STOCK **25% OFF**

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Give Dad His Favorite! **KNIT SHIRTS**

Short sleeves for cool summer comfort.

Reg. 10.99 SPECIAL! Values to 8.99

\$5.

MEN'S MATCHED SETS for Work & Leisure

In colors: Slate, Tan, Spruce Green and Navy; color fast; proportioned fit for comfort.

WORK PANTS

Sizes 29-44 Values to 12.99 **9.44**

WORK SHIRTS

Long Sleeve S-M-L-X Values to 10.99 **7.44**

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