

The Carlisle Mercury

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Heritage group recognizes Conley

Not only does Conley process all the orders and maintain the inventory and records of the book's sales he also wrote a chapter in it on Carlisle and Nicholas County industries.

Among the things that Conley has helped accomplish for the local society on his own time are the relocating of the historical marker denoting the site of the old Toll Gate House when it was moved and the acquisition of the L&N Railroad Depot, during which Conley initiated and maintained the bulk of the correspondence on the matter as well as search the title and prepare the deed. He was again instrumental in



Heritage award
Nicholas County Attorney Joseph H. (Jock) Conley accepts the public service award from Mrs. E.O. Kelly, Jr. of the Kentucky Heritage Commission. The award is presented annually to an elected or appointive official who has openly demonstrated support of preservation goals in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. — State photo.



Marked marker
Carlisle Cemetery Superintendent John Frederick holds a grave marker that has been printed on one side with a different name from that engraved on the other. The marker was found in the cemetery after the Memorial Day weekend and Frederick is attempting to find the rightful owner. — Mercury photos.

Who is John Bucklee?

The Carlisle Cemetery had lots of visitors over the Memorial Day weekend and one of them left behind an item that John Frederick, cemetery superintendent, would like to return.

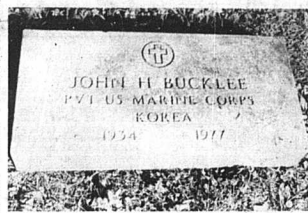
After the weekend was over Frederick noticed that a grave marker which wasn't there before had been placed on the grave of Leonard Morris.

That's not unusual, but the appearance of the marker was.

First, Morris' name and birth and death dates had been written on the smooth side of the marker with red paint. On the other side of the marker there was another name, indicating that it once had been placed over the grave of John N. Bucklee, a private in the United States Marines who died in 1977.

Frederick checked the cemetery records to see if John Bucklee is buried there. He's not, but just where his remains are is a question Frederick would like answered.

"I thought if we put it in the paper someone might see and claim it," he said. "The other grave (Morris) never had a marker on it that I can remember."



Evidently someone related to Morris obtained the Bucklee marker and decided to use it on the Carlisle grave. Where it came from, if it was obtained locally and who put it on Morris' grave are still more unanswered questions.

Meanwhile Frederick is leaving the marker on the Morris grave until the mysteries are solved. It's there a little out of place among neatly engraved monuments, but still doing the job it was designed for.

The question is, who was it designed for and where did it come from?

Maxey Flats closed but work continues

The Maxey Flats Nuclear Waste Disposal Site is closed. Closed, at least, as a site for the disposal of low-level nuclear wastes. The 1980 General Assembly ensured that it will not be reopened without the consent of both legislative houses and the governor.

But Maxey Flats is very much an active work site, in the view of the state Department for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and two commercial firms employed in its maintenance.

The work of ensuring the environmental safety of the 475 million cubic feet of radioactive wastes buried at the Fleming County site between 1963 and 1977 can be expected to continue for years to come — perhaps for centuries.

Jackie Swigart, secretary of the Natural Resources Department, and

Jack Wilson, commissioner of the department's Bureau of Environmental Protection, are the two state officials most directly concerned with assessing the extent of the long-term hazards at Maxey Flats and determining what the state can do to stabilize the site and bring it to a condition requiring only minimal maintenance.

Swigart and Wilson toured Maxey Flats recently to get a first-hand view of the situation and to see steps that have been taken in the past year to control water runoff, repair damage from erosion and prevent contamination of rainwater falling on the site.

Accompanying them were state Rep. Alene Craddock, D-Elizabethton, and representatives of the Legislative Research Commission, James A. Moore and National Waste Management Services Inc.

Day-to-day care
Dunnes & Moore has a contract with the state to stabilize the site and work aimed at "decommissioning" the site — that is, bringing it to a condition where the safety needs can be met by monitoring and minimal maintenance.

National Waste Management Services, a Dunnes & Moore subsidiary, is responsible for day-to-day site management.

The 250-acre site is on a high plateau at the end of a gravel road south of Flemingburg, a town in the Fleming-Rowan county line. The 45 acres, where low-level nuclear wastes are buried, is enclosed by a steel chain-link fence. Aside from small white posts marking the trenches and a series of wooden boxes protecting water-level monitors, the nearly mowed surface could be a lawn or golf course.

250,000 years
But underneath, in trenches approximately 30 feet deep and 45 feet wide, some of them nearly as long as a football field, lay the accumulated nuclear wastes sent to Kentucky from throughout the Eastern United States. Estimates as to how long these wastes could remain potentially hazardous range from 300 to 250,000 years.

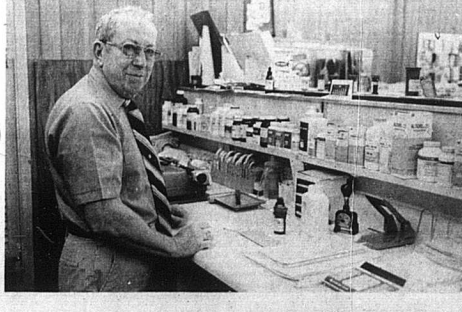
Swigart said the purpose of the tour was to see the present condition of the site. The department faces several immediate decisions related to Maxey

Flats, she pointed out.

"The current contracts for design work and site management expire June 30 and we are in the process of renegotiating those contracts," Swigart said. "We are also looking at possible changes in the purchasing and supervisory procedures associated with site operations here."

In addition to whatever immediate action may be required, the department needs to develop a long-range plan for dealing with Maxey Flats and to determine the time and costs that will be involved in ensuring the future safety, she said. A decision must also be made as to whether the work is to be done by the state or a contractor, she added.

Craddock, who heads the Subcommittee on Natural Resources of the House Appropriations and Revenue Committee, noted that her subcommittee will be responsible for making recommendations on continued funding for the Maxey Flats work.



Taking it easy
Carlisle pharmacist Dan Rich plans to retire June 1 after 40 years of serving Nicholas County with Hopkins Drug Store. — Mercury photo.

Carlisle native near volcano

Spec. 4 Tammy Dawn McClanahan, a staff member of The Ranger, the newspaper for Ft. Lewis, Washington, is on a search and rescue mission at Sakum, Washington due to the volcanic eruption of Mount St. Helens.

Spec. McClanahan called home May 19 to say, "One cannot believe the devastation," she said. "The house and the barn during the tornado helped me to realize that these unbelievable disasters really do happen. Huge pine trees are flat to the ground in hot ash mud. Homes, lakes and whatever was in the path is gone and everything is covered with ash from the volcano."

Spec. McClanahan is the only female on this mission. She said, "The town's people are really treating us well." The soldiers were to spend their nights at the fire house and were being fed by the town's people. They were flown in by heavy helicopters.

"The wind was very strong and one of the helicopters had to make an emergency landing. One of the soldiers got out of the chopper and sank into the volcanic dust and was about four feet tall," she said.

Spec. McClanahan said, "All this is just incredible. It is very, very scary here tonight and no one knows what will happen next."

Spec. McClanahan is the daughter of Mrs. Kathleen (Paris) McClanahan, 1946 Lark Lane, Xenia, Ohio.

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