

The Carlisle Mercury

Our 113th year, No. 48

Carlisle, Kentucky 40311, Thursday, November 27, 1980

25 cents per copy

The rain came!

Tobacco stripping proceeding at slower pace than last year

By Mike Phillips

And the rain came! That was what many farmers in Nicholas County were saying about the rain we received Nov. 17. Although much of the tobacco never came into real good handling condition that day, farmers were able to get some down late that afternoon and early the next day.

Tobacco stripping is progressing at a slower rate than in past years, due to the inability of farmers to get it taken down from the barn.

This has added another problem for the tobacco farmer to have to worry with this year. Problems this year started in plant beds and continued throughout the entire growing season. If black shank didn't hit, blue mold made its presence felt. In some cases, tobacco seemed to almost refuse to grow. No amount of additional fertilizer seemed to help; it merely increased the expense of growing this year's crop.

Local farmers were remembering the excessive rains the year before and in some cases would like to have seen a little more rain at times this year. Last year's crop had left many farmers with a very small amount of tobacco to sell. The county was nearly 40 percent short for last year's crop. Plans were made

this year to recover last year's loss and still have a full crop this year. Best laid plans sometime have ways of going astray. This appears to be what is happening once again to tobacco farmers of Nicholas County.

Due to the dry growing conditions that we experienced this past summer, tobacco never achieved its normal height. Adding to the problem was a very short leaf. You can see there was going to be a shortage in weight when it makes its way to market.

With the market opening Nov. 24 very little tobacco has been received on the warehouse floor. Speculation and anticipation runs high in hopes that all will not be lost in this year's crop. The shortage in this year's crop is as certain as last year's short crop, and probably will approach the same magnitude.

This alone is enough to turn away most men, but today's tobacco farmer has the same make-up of yesterday's pioneer, with the technology of today's is not OK down on the farm but then again I can never remember a time when it was.

We have always had crops planted, crops harvested, and some come and some go, but someone will be there next year to do it all again.



Mathers Portrait Unveiled

The portrait of Dr. Charles W. Mathers was unveiled at dedication ceremonies Friday, Nov. 21 in the Nicholas County Courthouse. Those participating are pictured from left back row, Magistrates Andrew Bretz, Lovell (Bob) Livingood, Orville (Bus) Atkinson, Melvin Fryman, County Judge/Executive Resce Smoot, County Attorney Jock Conley.

Senator Ed Ford, Attorney Joseph F. Conley, David Turner, representative of First Security National Bank and Trust Company, and Magistrate Harold Mitchell. Standing beside portrait from left is Mrs. J.S. Wilson, Mrs. Lovell Hollar and Miss Ducca Tilton, niece of Dr. Mathers. Not present for picture is Rev. Bob Gipson. — Mercury photo.

Dr. Charles W. Mathers' portrait revealed to public in ceremony Friday afternoon, Nov. 21

The portrait of Dr. Charles W. Mathers, Nicholas County philanthropist, was unveiled Friday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. in the big courtroom in Nicholas County Courthouse. Mrs. Lovell (Bobby) Hollar, who has administered the

selection of the recipients of the trust funds set up by Dr. Mathers since their inception in 1940, spearheaded the project of having Dr. Mathers' portrait painted, and organized the unveiling ceremony. She was helped in her efforts

by Magistrate Harold Mitchell, the entire Fiscal Court, Mrs. J.S. Wilson and Miss Ducca Tilton, Millersburg, niece of Dr. Mathers.

On the program were Roger Wornack and Joe Frank Conley, who recalled their childhood recollections of Dr. Mathers; Charles Cox, who gave a biographical report of Dr. Mathers and account of the establishment of the trust funds, one for education and financial aid to children of Nicholas County up to age 18, one for Nicholas County Hospital, and one for a nursing home; David Turner, a representative of First Security National Bank and Trust Company in Lexington and a native of Millersburg, who gave a financial statement of the trust funds; Rev. Bob Gipson, minister of the Carlisle United Methodist Church, who gave the invocation and benediction.

Mrs. Hollar read two letters from recipients of the trust funds who recalled how the financial help they had received as children had enabled them

to prepare for the future. The two were Mrs. Irene McElfresh Dillard of Louisville, niece of Mrs. Dora Hammonds, and Phillip Lowe, son of Mrs. Edna Grimes.

A tea was served by the Nicholas County Homemakers following the ceremonies.



Two Queens

Miss Deanna Darrell, a freshman at Transylvania University in Lexington and 1979 Queen, crowns the 1980 Nicholas County High School Football Homecoming Queen, Miss Kathy Mathies, during before-game ceremonies at the Nicholas County-Maysville game Oct. 31 at Nicholas County High School. — Photo submitted.

Tax bills may make it before Jan. 1

Commissioner of Revenue Robert Alpha has announced that the Department of Revenue will not at this time appeal the two Kentucky Court of Appeals orders in the Alpha vs. Butler case. Therefore, the Department of Revenue will not appeal the mailing of tax bills but will pursue its case on the merits.

The orders, issued Monday, Nov. 3, require the Department of Revenue to certify the county clerk's recapitulation of the tax roll so tax bills may be prepared and mailed.

The signed certification was received locally on Nov. 8.

This does not mean that the original lawsuit is over, however, bill allow property tax bills for 1980 to be prepared.

The first step in this process is for all taxing authorities in Nicholas County to set their tax rates for 1980. Then all the figures will be turned into the computer service that Rose Brady and Rose Scott have contacted to print the bills. Hopefully the bills can be printed and ready for mail in December.

This will give taxpayers the opportunity to pay their bills in order to deduct them from their income taxes for 1981. However, if there is a delay, the bills will be mailed in January.

The commissioner pointed out that all transportation property owned by railroads in these counties will have to be factored downward by the prevailing

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CALF names Lang trainer for Weatherization program

Robert E. Lang has been selected as supervisor trainer for the Community Action Weatherization Program in Nicholas, Harrison and Bourbon Counties.

Mr. Lang is a native of Mayslick, the son of Charles T. Lang Sr. of Washington, Ky., and the late Martha Warner Lang. He is married to the former Vanessa Williams of Carlisle. They

reside at 110 Pickeral Street, Carlisle, with their children Layola, Robert Jr. and Shawndale.

Robert is a graduate of Mason County High School and attended Portsmouth Interstate Business College, studying business administration. An honorably discharged veteran of both the United States Marine Corps and the United States Navy.



The Ghost of Christmas Past, played by Ashley Tyece, rattles his chains to awaken Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Brad Sorrell. In the background two other members of the cast observe as Scrooge writhes with fear.—Poline photo.

Tickets for 'Mr. Scrooge' are available

Tickets for "Mr. Scrooge", the Christmas program that will be in Carlisle on Dec. 13, are now available. Advance tickets are being made available as a service to all by Abraham's, Carlisle Drug, Carlisle 5 & 10, Carter's, and Hopkins Drug. Admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1 for young people (high school and younger).

"Mr. Scrooge" is a lively musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' well-known "Christmas Carol". The production offers all of those favorite characters who have received increasing popularity since the original play was written in 1843. The "bah, humbug Scrooge" continues to make life difficult for others. The Cratchits, including Tiny Tim, still manage to count their

blessings and see the goodness in everyone. And the three spirits — Christmas Past, Present, and Future — reveal the true meaning of Christmas and show that it can endure throughout the year.

"Mr. Scrooge" will be part of our Christmas 1980 through the auspices of the Nicholas County Historical Society. When the curtain rises on Dec. 13 we will travel back to that earlier Christmas of Tiny Tim. Many of the performers of the Little Theatre of Mt. Sterling, dressed in their costumes of Victorian London, will be on stage.

They will bring us the songs, tears, laughter and joy of "Mr. Scrooge" — all of which promises a memorable and enjoyable evening for everyone.

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