Opinion

An editor's random thoughts...

The 'Fires of Autumn'

By Warren R. Fisher Sr.

"Now Autumn's fires burn slowly along the woods,
And day by day the dead leaves fall and melt."

Now are the woods aflame with the robes of Summer's passing; now is every common bush "afire with God." But through the dreaming noons, through the nights grown strangely still of the high piping of little folk that sing from leaf and blade and burly bark, the leaves drift silently to earth. It is the end, yet it is not the end. Inconceivable to the finite mind is the tiny part played by these dry, drifting phantoms of a Summer that is past in fertilizing the earth from which came their existence; from which flowed the life-giving chlorophyll that made last Spring the fresh green woodland collonades of God's first temples; infinitely small their part, yet infinitely important in the never-ceasing cycle of perfection that carries on the movings of that Purpose, which some call Nature and some call God.

Soon the winds will blow chill from the icy wastes of the North and soon stark, bare limbs will rattle in the blast and only the glow of a hearth-fire seen through the window panes will bring to mind the glorious fires of Autumn. Yet along those bare, grey limbs are twigs of tight-wrapped buds, snug against the killing blasts and the pounding of icy rain. The cycle goes on; the fires of Autumn wink out; the darkness of Winter comes. Still is there the spark, the divine spark, unseen to human eyes, yet burning brightly in tight-wrapped bud and delving root, secure in the certainty of immortality, the fulfillment of beauty in another Spring.

"I trust in Nature for the stable laws
Of beauty and utility. Spring shall plant
And Autumn garner to the end of time."

It is a comforting thought, as the flaming woods grow pale and Winter creeps on apace.

Agree or Not

Rather than put our state employees down, Kentuckians should cheer Commission efforts

By S.C. Van Curon

FRANKFORT — Gov. John Y. Brown Jr., who ran and was elected on the proposition that Kentucky state government needed a businessman at the helm, lost little time in trying to bring a business outlook to state government. Early this year, within only months of taking office, he created the Governor's Executive Management Commission, made up of 92 largely Kentucky business and industry executives whose firms donated several weeks of their time to study and evaluate state agencies, their practices and methods of operation with the aim of making recommendations about more efficient and less costly operation.

The results of the commission's study were released last week. It cost $239,000 to prepare, a small expense when compared to the million-dollar consultant contracts that state agencies hand around. The commission report is contained in two volumes of nearly 350 pages and 815 separate recommendations that cover every facet of state government. Many of the agency evaluations and recommendations also contain comments from the agencies themselves, some of them in agreement with what the businessmen found and others objecting to specific items in the commission report.

Admittedly, the average Kentuckian will likely have little interest in what the Governor's Executive Management Commission has to say, or how state government reacts to its recommendations. But, in many areas — especially those that call for better accounting procedures and stricter accountability for programs and personnel, the recommendations can mean an improvement in the cost and quality of state services that the people of Kentucky receive.

Of particular interest here in Frankfort are recommendations concerning state personnel policies, some of which may not necessarily please all state employees. Yet, on the whole, the commission's recommendations are aimed at a better trained, more professional state employee work force in which merit raises are granted for meritorious work and promotions and merit system job security are based on a uniformly fair system.

Specifically, the report recommends:

— Establishment of a uniform, automated payroll and personnel information system to replace the six payroll systems now in existence.

— Review the personnel classification and compensation system to reduce the 2,400 classifications for state government jobs.

— Reduce the number of non-classified jobs outside the merit system presently 1,024 employees — and make only men and women at the top of the organization, cabinet secretaries and commissioners, non-merit.

— Consider changing the 37.5 hour work week to a 40-hour work week with an equitable granting of compensatory time and overtime pay.

— Eliminate the automatic annual increment and establish a uniform system for granting merit pay increases. "Merit pay increases for excellent performance...are distributed inequitably, if at all," the report says.

— Post promotional opportunities so that all state workers know about and have the opportunity to seek promotion into higher paying jobs when they become available.

Many Kentuckians — too many in fact — have a less than flattering picture of the average state employee. For that reason especially, Gov. Brown's much-publicized reduction in overall state employment, however poorly managed and frequently cruelly carried out, has met with widespread popularity outside Franklin and surrounding counties where most state employees live.

It is important for all Kentuckians to remember, though, that it is the state employee who makes certain that essential state services work. By and large, those of us who have watched Kentucky state government for many years know that the vast majority of state workers give a full day's work for the comparatively low pay they receive. It is a state employee, after all, who intervenes on the part of the consumer in Utility Regulatory Commission hearings; a state employee who processes state income tax refunds; a state employee who works with disturbed children; and a state employee who fills the potholes in Kentucky's highways.

Rather than putting state employees down, Kentuckians ought to be cheering efforts like those of the commission to improve the conditions under which state employees work. After all, it is an old business adage that a happy employee is a good employee. And that, of course, is good for business, whether it sells fried chicken or provides state government services.

Letters ... from our readers

To The Carlisle Mercury:

The vine in a recent issue of the Mercury is no oddity at all. It has been in this area since I was a child (51 years ago). My father in-law had it planted around the porch for shade.

Old timers called it Cinnamon Vine or Potato Vine. I do not know the botanical name for it. When it blooms it has a refreshing cinnamon aroma.

However, it can be a nuisance, since the vine is covered with potato-like seeds. Many of them always sprout to make new plants which are perennials. The roots grow very deep and very, very hard to get rid of, almost impossible.

I am sending a leaf and a potato. I am sure it is the same thing.

Mrs. William F. Warrix
Prestonsburg, Ky.

To The Carlisle Mercury:

I enjoyed my visit back to Carlisle in August, and I appreciate the good article about the University of Louisville's Distinguished Alumnus Award which they gave me.

My wife, Aire-Maija, wants to know who "Hazel" is? Fortunately it has not caused any domestic problems (I never even knew a Hazel), as my wife has a great sense of humor.

It would be nice, however, if you could print a short correction in the Mercury about three things:

1. Aire-Maija, not Hazel.
2. My father's name was Henry W., not William.
3. My father's name and mine was spelled with one 'n' — Schwan. While I was

*Please turn to page 4

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(Mrs.) Katherine T. Fisher ..... Managing Editor
(Mrs.) Janie Duncan ..... Assistant-to-the-Publisher
(Mrs.) Libby J. Moss ..... CompuWriter Operator

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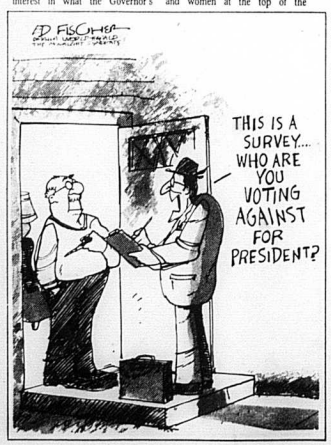


Down Memory Lane

Carpenter Pike rights-of-way to be sought

Thursday, October 27, 1960

The 1959 Census of Agriculture conducted in Nicholas County last fall counted 1,039 farms. Total land in farms was 112,678 acres. The average size of farm was 108.4 acres and average value of farms in the county was $14,117.

William Conley, a Carlisle student at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, recently pledged to the Delta Tau Delta fraternity.

In order to comply with fire insurance regulations, the city of Carlisle began this week the installation of automatic pumping controls at the city reservoir, which turn on the pumps at the filtration plant if the pressure in the city water lines falls below a predetermined point. This assures plenty of water and pressure for fighting fires.

Charles K. Watkins has accepted a position at the Deposit Bank and has assumed his duties.

The Carlisle High School student body has chosen Gladys Ruth Clinkenbeard as their candidate for queen of the CKC football play-off game. John Straw was chosen as her escort.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Gallenstein Jr. of Maysville a son, Eugene Paul, Oct. 21 at Hayswood Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Billy Kokendoffer of Paris a son, Oct. 22 at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Lexington. — To Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stone a son, Edward Allen, Oct. 20 at the Nicholas County Hospital. — To Dr. and Mrs. Jack J. Early a daughter, Judith Ann, Oct. 14 at Mitchell, South Dakota.

MARRIED — Marilyn Kay Duncan and Marshall B. Luther Oct. 17 at the Carlisle Christian Church.

DIED — Mrs. Ella Money Gill, 84, Thursday at Johnson Memorial Nursing Home. — Mrs. Sophia Bell Stewart, 92, Sunday at the McDowell Nursing Home, Mt. Olivet. — Mrs. Dessie G. Miller, 66, of Lexington, Monday at a Lexington nursing home. — Donald Edward Ethington, 26, of Lexington, Saturday at Salt Lake City, Utah. — Mrs. Thomas Metcalfe, Tuesday in Cincinnati.

Thursday, October 24, 1940

James W. Miller, S.T. Cameron and E.R. Kendall were appointed to draft board for Nicholas County. Dr. B.F. Reynolds was named medical examiner for the board and B.S. Stephenson named appeal agent.

Richard Dean Squires, 62, former superintendent of the Carlisle City Schools, died of a heart attack Friday at his home near Crestwood, Oldham County.

In the final cast for all-age hounds last Thursday, Happy Sis, owned by Blount Brothers of Moorefield, was the winner at the annual field trials held at Flemingsburg.

Quail and rabbits are reported to be numerous in various sections of the county.

Ratliff Bros. Co. Tuesday was awarded the contract to furnish scaffold lumber for the new armory.

Billy Conway purchased 179 acre farm of Mrs. Charles Linville on the Myers Road.

Ladies of the Presbyterian Church will hold their annual Halloween carnival Oct. 31.

State Highway Department authorizes and directs the county to obtain rights-of-way for construction of Carpenter Pike between U.S. 68 and Ky. 13.

DIED — William Isaac Curry, 46, Saturday at his home near Sharpsburg. — Edward Lee Herrin, Bourbon County farmer, Wednesday night. — Mrs. Sarah L. Duncan, 89, Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Smoot, Upper Jackstown Road. — Turner Woodward Vickers, 58, retired Paris barber, Tuesday at Paris. — Mrs. Mattie Barr George, 72, late Wednesday afternoon at her home on the East Union Road. — Ezekiel Laughlin, 74, farmer of the Bald Hill section, Saturday afternoon.

Mercury vapors

by Warren R. Fisher

Cinnamon or potato vine

The cinnamon vine may have to take a back seat to the "snake gourd" pictured on whatever page we have with room enough to show it off in all its glory. And hopefully that will be page three.

Our Compuwriter operator, Libby Moss, came in last Wednesday morning before the rest of us, and upon turning on the light in back shop started to make a hasty retreat until she realized that the coil of green on the makeup stand was nothing but a plant. I had left it on the white paper so that I could take its picture and I hadn't planted it there to scare anyone!

Of course I may never know whether the plant is edible or just something of a curiosity.

— MV —

Backed up traffic

Sunday after a light lunch, I cut what may be the last three roses in the garden and the better half and I set out to visit my mother at Mt. Sterling.

It wasn't that we both didn't know "Court Days" were in progress; it's just that we hadn't had the privilege of being in a traffic jam such as the one we found ourselves immeshed in. Our usual route is via Moorefield to Ky. 11 to the south side of Mt. Sterling and Windsor Drive. Such was not the case Sunday. We spent better than a half hour getting from US 460 to where we could turn into I-64 West. From there to several miles into Clark County before I spied an exit to US 60 and told Kay that I would try US 60 East until either the traffic again became unbearable or we reached the Ky. 11-US 460 junction in downtown Mt. Sterling.

We just had two blocks of heavy traffic from the junction since we were going out of town. Incoming traffic was stacked beyond Studio Cinema.

Mother perked up for a few minutes enjoying the roses and recognizing me, then she slipped into that world that's all her own.

The better half and I eased out of the room and took up our task of trying to go around all that mess downtown. One of the roads we chose ran into the Mt. Sterling by-pass and enabled us to get back to US 60 West, then I-64 West to Winchester and the Paris pike, across Ky. 57 to North Middletown, to the Stringtown pike, then the Jackstown road home.

We both enjoyed our circuitous route home, though it used up more time than I had planned on.

— MV —

From time to time

From time to time we get letters that are either much too personal for the "letters from" column or there will be a postscript such as "please do not publish".

Well, we all thank you all for your kind words; we will continue to strive to give you a good weekly paper, and we will of course keep your anonymity.

— MV —

Gadget books

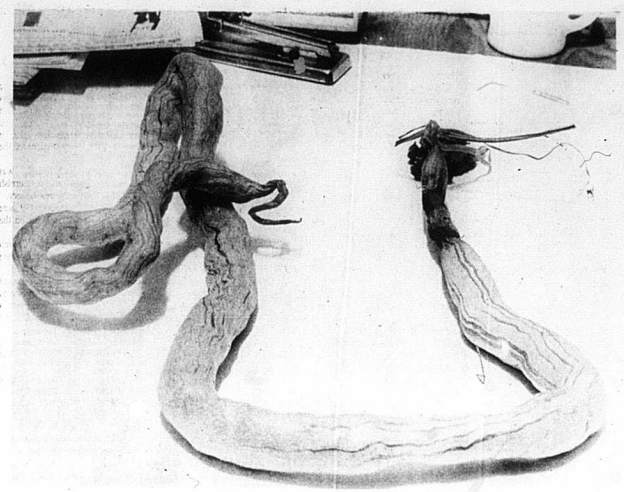
Kay was reading to me Saturday about a pen that had a lighted point when you took the cap off the point and put it on the end or the barrel. That would be a good gadget for my nocturnal thoughts, when I have 'em.

— MV —

A correction

The cinnamon vine will be my undoing. Last week in the second blurp, second paragraph, I stated Alice Marie (it should have been Feeback), but that isn't what I put down. Anyway I hope this corrects the error and additionally I would like to add that last week was Mr. and Mrs. Martin Feeback's eighth anniversary.

The longest commonly performed opera is Richard Wagner's "Die Meistersinger" which usually runs for 5 hours, 15 minutes.



Looks like the real thing

Last Tuesday afternoon Cindy Miller brought this "snake gourd" to the Mercury office. Needless to say it has been more than just a conversation piece. Some people have not waited for a second glance. The gourd was grown by Miss Miller's grandfather, Hanson Ellington. — Mercury photo.

Legislative Report

By Adrian Arnold
State Representative

Now that study is underway on issues and recommendations affecting Kentucky's citizens, I shall report to you on the work of the committees on which I serve as your representative voice in Frankfort and other major areas that concern us.

During the months that the General Assembly is not in session, committees and study groups comprised of members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives hear the views and comments on subjects which need our attention. We act on these matters as necessary to compile data, testimony and insight in order to prepare appropriate legislation or amendments to existing regulations.

This Interim Committee meetings system was initiated in 1968 and has become vastly more productive in recent years. It is designed to provide legislators time and knowledge to work on and formulate proper conceptions of proposals, programs and problems of the state.

Legislators meet with experts in the matters studied and citizens concerned with these areas. They hear testimony, receive data and correlate facts and figures which provide them with a working knowledge of the issues before the next session of the General Assembly.

Prior to this valuable program, no bill was ever considered or discussed until the start of the session during which it would be voted upon and either passed or defeated. Needless to say, during the short sixty-day legislative sessions, it was impossible to give many bills presented proper study and investigation. This system has tremendously improved the quality of legislation that is enacted in Kentucky.

During this interim period I have been appointed to the Interim Joint Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and serve as co-chairman of the Joint Committee on Counties and Special Districts. I also serve on the Program Review and Investigation Committee and the Special Task Force on Small Business.

The County Finance Subcommittee, formed at the request of the Committee on Counties and Special Districts, will examine county financial problems — a matter of great concern in this district. Rep. Marshall Davenport of Somerset, who has extensive experience as a county clerk, will serve as subcommittee chairman. I serve as ex officio member of this subcommittee.

Inflation and recession have brought financial difficulties to county governments, and dealing with this effectively requires learning the cause of the problems.

The County Finance Subcommittee will examine problems at the grass roots level by talking directly to county officials. It plans meetings on a regional basis throughout the state. County officials will be notified of meetings and asked to present data and information on county finance directly to the members of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee will specifically examine inflation coupled with limitations on local taxing power, effect of recession on fee income, financial implications of necessary county jail improvements, impact of state mandated programs, and adjustments to the new method of distributing road funds. Members are also interested in other financial problems which local officials experience. The matter of delinquent tax collection is one of great concern to this subcommittee, and you may expect some comprehensive study in this area.

The Task Force on Small Business has the potential to make great strides in aiding and supporting the small businessman, including farmers. In the past the General Assembly, although not ignoring small businesses, has not given this area the attention it deserves. This Task Force will study matters of concern, collect information and form recommendations for the next legislative session.

Public hearings are being scheduled by the Task Force on Small Business in several areas of the state. I shall keep you informed of the dates and locations of such meetings in our area.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and Program Review and Investigation are just beginning interim organization. I shall report pertinent information to you in these areas as studies progress.

Information and suggestions from you are welcome and helpful as we begin this interim study period. You may contact me at Route Three, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353 or through the State Capitol, Frankfort, KY 40601. My phone number is 498-3034. Thank you for your input and concern in matters which need my attention.

L.P. Dwelly elected

L.P. Dwelly was recently elected president of The Central Mutual Fire Insurance Association at their annual meeting held in Hillsboro.

Mr. Dwelly, who lives in Lynchburg, Ohio, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Dwelly, Route Three, Carlisle. He is a native of Nicholas County and was educated in the Nicholas County schools.

Halloween - Ghoulies

By Helen Price Stacy

In ancient times, Celts celebrated and honored their dead with a festival Nov. 1. Christians eventually participated in the festival and during the ninth century set Nov. 1 as a day to honor all saints — All Hallows Day.

When the Scots and Irish brought their jack o'lanterns to the New World, little did they know the import. In the old countries it was common belief that fairies, elves, witches and warlocks flew about (in the form of cats) on All Hallows Eve.

At those long-ago parties in the hovels of Europe and in the castles, youngsters threw apple peelings over their shoulders or gave names to nuts and threw them into the fireplace to determine which burned longest, thus identifying a true love or a future mate.

Tassels from corn were placed over the door in a neat row by young women. Each tassel was given the name of a sweetheart or intended husband. The first man to enter directly beneath his name would become the husband of the girl who named it.

In the husband-wife game, the couple would name two candles, then see which burned longest to determine the most faithful.

For festival parties witch's cakes were baked, and the insides of the cakes were stuffed with tiny gifts. A ring in a slice meant a wedding; a miniature knife in a slice implied the recipient would be forever separated from a true love; a strand of wheat or grains of corn tokened there would be many children; a small bag of cornmeal meant years of hard work, a bag of sugar signified happiness and a life of leisure. Bags containing nothing meant old maids or bachelors.

In medieval times cats were feared because they were supposedly favored with nine lives. Yet for practical purposes, cats were kept in abundance about the castles or in the crowded shacks of peasants. As varmint killers, cats were honored; as hitch-hikers on broomsticks traveling autumn sky trails and as bearers of evil luck (spirits) — especially at All Hallows Eve — they were feared.

If a black cat crossed your path, you backtracked several steps. If your cat washed her face, you looked for bad company. If your family moved to another castle or took the house plunder to another hut, you did not take your cats with you. To do so was to take bad luck along.

During the Halloween season medieval families knew not to burn firewood that had been struck by lightning lest their houses be struck. They did not carry hoes and other cutting tools in the house or they would sever good fortune. They did not use sassafras wood in the fireplace for fear of a jealous lover or husband. Nor did they turn a chair on one leg, open an umbrella in the house, cut fingernails or toenails, change a garment if first put on wrongside out or step from bed on the left foot.

Curses were made on a rooster crowing at midnight on All Hallows Eve, a hound that wailed at the moon or a whippoorwill near the front door.

These and many other superstitions sailed the blimey deeps with early immigrants, took up residence in coastal American homes and later crossed mountains with settlers into Kentucky to be brought from the corners at Halloween and incorporated into witch's brew and ghost tales.

"Be thou a spirit of health or a goblin damn'd?" asked Shakespeare in "Hamlet," telling us there are some good things flying around in an invisible world as well as things that go bump in the night or rattle chains on curved stairways.

'Pride and Predjudice' premieres on KET

"Pride and Prejudice," a five-part dramatization of Jane Austen's satirical classic, premieres Sunday, Oct. 26 on KET. The "Masterpiece Theatre" presentation begins at 9 p.m. (ET), 8 p.m. (CT).

Dramatized by novelist Fay Weldon, "Pride and Prejudice" is what "Masterpiece Theatre" host Alistair Cooke calls "a parody of a romantic novel," in which the author turned her keenly observant eye upon a pretentious 19th century society that offered young women two choices — marriage or ignominious spinsterhood.

In the series, Elizabeth Garvie plays Elizabeth Bennet, Ms. Austen's witty, ingenious heroine who can't quite go along with the tenets of that society. David Rintoul plays the apparently unbendable and very rich Mr. Darcy. Priscilla Morgan is Elizabeth's mother, who has five daughters to marry off; Moray Watson is their father; Osmund Bullock is the Bennets' socially desirable neighbor, Mr. Bingley; and Marsha Fitzalan is his catty and haughty sister Caroline.

"Pride and Prejudice" was produced by Jonathan Powell for BBC-Time-Life. It is presented on public television by WBGH, Boston.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We have examined the statement of assets and liabilities resulting from cash transactions of Nicholas County Fire Department as of June 30, 1980, and the related statement of revenues collected and expenses paid and fund balance for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the recorded cash transactions of Nicholas County Fire Department for the year ended June 30, 1980, on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Roberts, Pitman & Co.
Certified Public Accountants
September 23, 1980

NICHOLAS COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES RESULTING FROM CASH TRANSACTIONS
JUNE 30, 1980

Assets:	
Cash in Checking Account — Deposit Bank	$ 7.573
Cash in Checking Account — First National Bank	7.968
Certificate of Deposit — Deposit Bank (5½%)	1.000
Certificate of Deposit — First National Bank (6.60%)	3.000
Certificate of Deposit — DeBoit Bank (7.75%)	10.000
Cash in Savings Account — First National Bank (5.25%)	3.111
Total Assets	**$32,652**
Liabilities and Fund Balance:	
Fund Balance	$32,652

STATEMENT OF REVENUES COLLECTED AND EXPENSES PAID AND FUND BALANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1980

Revenues Collected:		
Tax Collections		$30,932
Rent		440
Interest on Certificates of Deposit and Savings		915
Donation		60
State of Kentucky		1,626
Other		35
Total Revenues		**$34,008**
Expenses Paid:		
Paid to Firemen for Fire Runs and Meetings	$4,995	
Salary — Fire Chief	1,320	
Salary — Assistant Fire Chief	720	
Salaries — Fire Department Committee	1,050	
Repairs and Maintenance	1,517	
Fire Truck Gas and Oil	536	
Supplies and Firemen's Equipment	887	
Insurance	1,208	
Utilities	705	
Telephone	625	
Audit Fee	300	
Treasurer's Bond	50	
Miscellaneous	19	13,932
Excess of Revenues Collected Over Expenses Paid		20,076
Fund Balance, July 1, 1979		12,576
Fund Balance, June 30, 1980		**$32,652**

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