



Aboard the sternwheeler Betty Blake

Blue Grass Industries entertained the Thorobred Club members and their guests Oct. 11 aboard the Betty Blake Riverboat. The Cincinnati sternwheeler is named after Carlisle native Betty Blake, former president of Delta Queen Steamboat Company. The excursion vessel was chartered from noon to 5 p.m. for the luncheon cruise. Betty Blake joined the Thorobred members on the cruise.

(1) On board are Wayne Shumate, Carrie Shumate, Bernice Whirls, Thorobred president, Clifford Shumate, Don Haney and Betty Blake.

(2) Betty Fay, Sara Fryman, Edgar Hawkins and Charles Fay enjoy chatting with Ms. Blake on the Thorobred cruise.

(3) Steward Allen Rizzo and cruise director Maud Peters serve Elizabeth Mastin and Betty Barbee lunch aboard the Betty Blake. — Photos submitted.



Wendell Ford sets goal for coal industry

Senator Wendell F. Ford, D-Ky., has set a goal to reverse the boom-bust cycle from Kentucky's coal industry and make coal the nation's major source of energy for the future.

Senator Ford, who is seeking reelection to a second term, made the comments Friday night to more than 500 persons related to Kentucky's coal industry at a dinner held in Lexington in his honor.

In a speech interrupted numerous times by applause, Ford said Kentucky leads the nation in coal research and stated coal would be the nation's key to energy independence.

Senator Ford said Kentucky was the first state to take the initiative in developing more ways to use coal, which started the state's energy research program for coal development which started in 1972 during Ford's term as governor.

"After years of trying," Ford said, "at last we're beginning to see some progress. The best ideas, the most promising technologies are being structured together to gradually wean America from its dependence on imported energy."

"Right now there are at least nine synthetic fuel plants on the drawing board for the state," Ford explained. "If they all become reality Kentucky can become the undisputed synthetic fuels capital of the nation."

Increased coal exports to nations overseas could also help the coal industry, Ford said. Currently only about 15 million tons of coal are being exported. Senator Ford said this figure could be increased to between 80 and 100 million tons over the next ten years.

"It's frustrating for me to hear that Russia is working on a contract to supply West Germany with coal when we have hundreds of thousands of tons of coal stockpiled on the ground just begging to be burned," Ford stressed.

"For three days this week the Senate Energy Committee held hearings at my request to find ways to help this country realize the full potential of increased export opportunities, instead of excuses of why we cannot do it."

Senator Ford said he preferred to see the United States use the coal to help its current energy problems, but increased exports would reduce the trade deficit alone, he emphasized.

"Coal can and must be the weapon we use to free this country from the threat of embargo and blackmail — from hoodlums like the Ayatollah Khomeini," Ford stated. "We're currently sending \$20 billion overseas for oil alone."

Ford promised to continue stressing the importance of increased coal production and coal use. He said he would fight "not just for the good of Kentucky, but for the good of a nation where future security and independence depend on it as well."

**'CAPTURE THE MOMENT':**  
Cameras Have Changed From Olden Days

If you're in the market for a new camera for the first time since you bought that old Brownie for \$5.97, you're in for some surprises. Both good and bad.

First, the bad: You're going to have to spend considerably more than \$5.97 for a quality camera today.

Now, the good: Today's cameras are remarkably sophisticated machines designed to produce the best results with the least amount of trouble. That means that, unlike in photography's Days of Yore, you have to try awfully hard to turn a roll of film. In fact, the degree of sophistication built into today's cameras is awesome. Here are some of the things you can expect to find when you go camera hunting.

**Exposure Automation.** Once upon a time, determining the right exposure was a suitable work for a retired mathematician. Today, it's literally child's play. That's because more and more adjustable cameras hitting the marketplace feature some degree of exposure automation. Thanks to computer-age technology, many of today's cameras not only calculate the amount of light passing through the lens, but also set lens aperture, shutter speed, or both automatically for a perfect exposure time after time. Good for good as the days when a photographer had to stare at the sky and then guess at the proper settings on his camera.

**Faster, More Accurate Metering.** Not too many years ago, the camera featuring an external light-sensitive metering cell for determining exposure was considered the ultimate. Today, all 35mm single reflex (SLR) cameras feature at least one metering cell, and some utilize as many as three for providing accurate light readings as quickly as possible.

Other cameras, too—from tiny 110 cartridge cameras to large medium-format devices—offer built-in metering capabilities.

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**Burley production costs up 20 percent since 1978**

Kentucky tobacco producers have been spending about \$13 more per acre this year to grow their crop than they did in 1978, said Robert MacIn, economist in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture.

Production costs have increased 20 percent in the last two years, and have outpaced returns, which have risen about 15 percent, he said.

"The farmer may not have seen exactly a 20 percent increase in production costs and 15 percent in profits in the last two years," MacIn said. "He just knows he's getting less money."

The tobacco producer also knows overhead and operating costs have gone up significantly. Higher interest rates are responsible for much of the increase in overhead, MacIn said. Interest rates will average about 12 percent this year, when in 1978 the average was eight percent.

Increased construction costs of barns and stripping rooms have also boosted overhead costs, MacIn said. "But, of course, farmers who haven't needed new buildings haven't had the expenses of new construction," he added.

Along with interest rates and construction costs, the dollar cost of insurance has also risen, he said.

Higher labor, fertilizer and fuel costs have filled up operating expenses. Labor costs, for both hired and family workers, are up 15 percent since 1978. MacIn said. The increased costs of fertilizer for the field have pushed the price for field preparation up about 20 percent. "For example, 6-21-8 fertilizer has gone up from \$150 to \$190 a ton, or 30 percent," he said.

Fuel prices have jumped even higher in two years. "Farmers paid around 50 cents a gallon in 1978, and now it's around \$1, a 50 percent increase," MacIn said.

But, as with overhead, the most significant increase in operating costs has been in higher interest rates. MacIn said the four percent hike in interest rates translates to a 60 percent increase in the cost for production money.

The increase in all expenses add up to a 20 percent hike in production costs, he said. That means Kentucky farmers now spend \$124 to grow an acre of burley tobacco, up from \$129 in 1978. Based on a yield of 2,700 pounds per acre, production costs are now \$1.46 per pound, up from 90 cents in 1978, said MacIn. Costs for tobacco in Fayette and Jefferson counties, since they are metro areas, MacIn said, change the costs per pound. "The farmer who is more efficient will get more profits, of course," said MacIn. "Good weather and good management could lead to a yield windfall, say 3,200 pounds instead of the 2,700 'typical' level. That would lower per pound costs and raise per acre profits."

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**New state lending agency boosts business in Eastern Kentucky**

In the world of finance, \$5,000 is small change. For Keith Harmon of Fleming, it means being able to start a small business.

Harmon recently obtained an \$8,000 loan from a state development agency. The money, coupled with a conventional loan of a similar amount and his own money, enabled Harmon to start a company called Poured Walls and Other Concrete Structures.

For state development officials, the loan represents another step toward vigorous economic growth in Eastern Kentucky: a small step, but a step nonetheless.

Jimmy Jones, assistant director of the Kentucky Development Finance Authority, figures the small steps add up. It was the finance authority that loaned Harmon the \$8,000, through a revolving loan fund created with \$500,000 in Appalachian Regional Commission money.

Since the fund was set up earlier this year, the authority has approved three loans, including Harmon's.

The size and nature of a business is not relevant to eligibility, Jones said. "We're looking for a business we think will be stable, that plans to stay in a community," so far the finance authority has approved loans totaling \$6,000. The program covers the 49 counties in Kentucky's Appalachian region, Jones noted.

The authority, which is the financing

work of the state Development Cabinet, arms of their other development organizations in seeking applicants and arranging financing. For the Financing Authority, the Mountain Association of Community Economic Development in Berea took part in putting together the financial package. The conventional loan came from the People's Bank of Fleming County.

Jones said he is encouraged by response to the new program. "These loans have a lot of potential to help get things moving in Eastern Kentucky," said Jones.

**The Dairy Queen is Closing Sunday, Nov. 2**

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Lake Cumberland Park is scene this weekend of Fishing Unlimited!

Plenty of lines will be dropped Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 at Lake Cumberland State Sport Park's Fishing Unlimited weekend.

Friday and Saturday evenings will feature fishing equipment demonstrations by factory representatives. Door prizes such as lures, lines, reels, rods, a tackle box and other fishing equipment will be presented those nights.

Safety programs on water use and lure displays, at which a representative will answer questions, will be conducted throughout the weekend.

Trophies will be awarded for the largest bass, largest crappie, largest bluegill, largest sunfish, largest string of bass and the largest string of crappie.

The annual fall fishing derby is open to everyone. Either the derby entries visitors to two nights' lodging, six meals and the derby entry fee. The total cost is \$48.80 per person (double occupancy).

The derby begins at noon Friday and ends noon Sunday. Fishermen should bring their own equipment. A fishing license can be purchased at the park, and boats can be rented at the dock. The park is about 70 miles south of Lexington in Russell County.

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