

The Carlisle Mercury

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1981: The year in review

A look back at the first year of a new decade through the headlines of 'The Carlisle Mercury'

In Carlisle and throughout the nation, 1981 brought surprise after surprise. Some pleasant, some tragic. We have made it through a local election year, the attempted assassination of a newly inaugurated President, the threat of no local ambulance service, and a tax uprising that forced the fiscal court to remove a 3.5 cent ad valorem tax, and on and on.

Join us for a few minutes while we look back over the events that made headlines in Carlisle during 1981.

January
1981 was destined to be an earth-shattering year from the beginning. An earthquake registering 1.2 to 1.8 on the Richter scale rumbled through the county on New Year's Eve.

Dr. Ronald Street, a seismologist at the University of Kentucky, told the Mercury that the minor earthquake was "felt or heard" in East Union, North Middletown, Mt. Sterling and Sherburn.

The Jan. 8 Mercury carried a report of the roasting blaze marred with several explosions that destroyed the building at the corner of Market and Walnut Streets that housed Kiskadee's Garage.

A proposal was offered by the Gateway ADD that would have alleviated the long-standing problems of the more than 100 county residents who are customers of the Sherrillburg Water District.

The \$75,000 project called for laying into the Bell County Water District's lines, and purchasing water

from them.

A roll call vote of the city council Jan. 4 lifted Carlisle's tax rate by 1.8 cents per hundred, to 25.7 cents. The increase was expected to net the city around \$65,000.

Rep. Adrian Arnold announced his intention of seeking re-election to a fifth term in the General Assembly.

February
Carlisle marked its 80th year of phone service. Phones were introduced in 1901 with 118 units installed.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture increased the 1981 barley tobacco quota by 7% percent.

The city retired two revenue bonds that were issued in the 1960's. The retired debt totaled \$187,000.

Sen. Ed Ford and John Switzoff kicked off a hotly contested state senatorial race. Ford was the one-term incumbent, and Switzoff a challenger with past credentials that included a stint as House Majority Leader.

The Nicholas County Historical Society set up a \$200 scholarship for a high school senior or college freshman who writes the best essay about some aspect of county history.

Mrs. George Scott was struck by a car in front of her home on the Moorefield Road about 11:20 a.m. Friday, Feb. 13.

The Licking Valley Protective Association launched a final campaign to de-sanitize the Falmouth farm property.

The county native Horton Campbell, a 17-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police force, was appointed



Mrs. Ernest Gray was only one of several local persons who found themselves in the spotlight of television cameras when a taxpayer revolt swept through the county in November. — Mercury photo.

state police commissioner by Gov. Brown.

A photographic exhibit entitled "Folk Art in Kentucky" was on display for two weeks at the Nicholas County Library.

Joe Frank Conley retired as chairman of the library board after serving that body for 23 years.

After nearly 50 years in the Carlisle grocery business, Gene and Powell Neal sold their Main Street Kentucky Poo Store to Bruce Barnes.

The Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities gave the local John-Matthews Nursing Home an overall mark of 4.8 on a 5-point rating scale. The high mark was obtained from surveys of relatives of local patients.

Kentucky was selected as the first state in the nation for implementation of a diabetes control program administered through the local health department. The program was designed by the National Center for Disease Control in Atlanta.

The final report from the Census Bureau showed that the county's population increased by 10 percent in the last decade, while the city grew by 11 percent. The population of Nicholas County was set at 7,197, and the population of Carlisle as 1,157.

Blue Grass Industries closed down its Mayville factory. BGI cited "economic distress" as the major factor contributing to the shut down of the firm's newest plant.

City gas users got word of a 10 percent rate hike that was set to go into effect in April.

Kentucky Utilities asked the Public Service Commission for a 12.4 percent rate increase. The hike was projected to amount to \$9.2 million in increased revenues for KU.

President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest as he left the Washington Hilton Hotel around 2:30 p.m. Monday, March 30. The gunman, John W. Hinckley Jr., 24, of Evergreen, Colorado, was seized and arrested at the scene by secret service agents.

Three other persons were wounded in the assassination attempt. They were Willie Holton, Press Secretary; Tommy Hodge, named salaried; and...

Rev. David Shaver, pastor of the Carlisle Baptist Church, was named chairman of the county blood drive.

Production and maintenance employees at Blue Grass Industries voted down membership in the Teamsters Union by 338-66 margin.

May
The school board approved a \$120,000 across-the-board pay raise for county teachers during the 1981-82 school year.

James C. Smith assumed the position of editor at The Carlisle Mercury.

Sandy Caswell was named administrator for the NCHS class of 1981. Tommy Hodge was named salaried.

Video registration for the county policeman Thomas Delahanty.

The county blood donor program was rubbed in the top ten in the area by the Central Kentucky Blood Center.

The clock stop the courthouse received a complete restoration by C.F. Jackson of Danville, Fla. The clock showed the correct time and chimed the hour after the repairs.

Assistant Harrison County Attorney Jack Arnold announced his candidacy for the 18th Judicial District seat that was held by incumbent Wayne Fitzgerald.

The Democratic Primary began shaping up as 35 candidates filed as candidates for the May election.

OWC Telecommunications bought the Carlisle cable television franchise from KLI Cable.

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DEC

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1981

\$90,855 appropriated Fiscal court budgets revenue sharing

\$90,855 in unappropriated revenue sharing funds were earmarked for disbursement Monday night by the fiscal court. The county quarry received the lion's share of that money, as the court added \$40,000 to its fiscal budget.

A breakdown of the allocations made after the revenue sharing hearing shows the quarry's \$40,000 was followed by allocations of \$10,000 to courthouse utilities, \$5,000 to court-house repairs, \$5,000 to jail repairs, \$5,000 to repairs on the armory, \$1,500 to the Senior Citizens' program, \$4,000 to the general home relief fund, \$300 to the Community Action program, \$115 for the purchase of a radio for state trooper John Hall, and \$18,740 placed in the contingency fund.

The court unanimously approved the appropriations with passage of the first reading of a budget ordinance. Magistrate Bob Livingston was not present at the meeting. The court intends for money in the contingency fund to be allotted to cover under-funded accounts as the need arises. Funds for the

changeover expenses incurred in the sheriff's department will also come from the contingency fund.

The court heard requests for funding from Shirley Vies, John Hall and John Burke. Vice requested \$5,000 for the Senior Citizens' program. The court awarded her \$2,500.

Trooper Hall asked the court for funds to purchase a new radio for his cruiser that would allow him to utilize the new two-channel radio communication system in the county. Without the new unit, Hall would have no direct contact with city and county radio communications.

The radio he now has from the county was purchased for just that purpose to provide a direct link with local law enforcement and emergency communications, but the recent updating of the local system has made his equipment obsolete.

The radio he asked the court to buy has a retail sales tag of \$615. But Hall said that with trade-in of the old radio and a discount from the retailer, he could obtain the unit for \$215.

That unit would tie him in with local police, sheriff, and constables' communications, as well as with ambulance, fire and wrecker dispatches.

Judge Reese Smoot advised the court that the purchase was a sound investment. He said that without the radio the way of contacting Hall would be through the KSP Dry Ridge Post.

Smoot said that based on his experience with the sheriff's department, radio communications with Dry Ridge are less than reliable from him. He said that the purchase of the \$215 purchase price, "We would spend half of that on long distance calls to Dry Ridge."

While Magistrate Bus Atkinson wanted more time to study the request, the rest of the court was in favor of the project.

"Anything to show up police protection in the county, I'm all for," Magistrate Harold Mitchell said.

The court also heard a request from John Burke, local KU manager, to

establish an Industrial Authority to promote and eventually bring new industry into the Nicholas County area.

In a letter to the court, Burke asked that the Authority be set up and staffed with volunteers from the community, and be given a \$5,000 budget from revenue sharing funds to cover expenses of marketing the county to industry.

The court did not fund the request, but indicated a willingness to hear the county road crew may be funded later from a portion of the \$40,000 earmarked for the county quarry.

The expenses associated with the changeover to the sheriff's office, such as lights, radio, equipment and uniforms will be paid from the contingency fund.

The \$900 to the Community Action organization will be for the purchase of a radio for the sheriff's office.

NEW MAGISTRATES
TO BE SWORN IN
Magistrate-elect Earl Lee Plank and Elmo Myers were both in attendance at Monday night's meeting.

Judge Smoot told the pair that they would be sworn in as members of the county road crew may be funded later from a portion of the \$40,000 earmarked for the county quarry.

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AMBULANCE CHANGEOVER
Judge Smoot told the court that all that was left to be done was to set up the ambulance service, Dec. 30, Wednesday morning, Dec. 30.

Judge Smoot and County Attorney Joseph H. Conley told the court that the

county road crew may be funded later from a portion of the \$40,000 earmarked for the county quarry.

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Santa paid a Christmas Eve visit to Carlisle Thursday and passed out bags of treats between conversations with local youngsters. The visit was sponsored by the local American Legion and VFW posts. — Mercury photo.

Court asked to form industrial authority

The fiscal court was presented with a request Monday night from local Kentucky Utilities Manager John Burke to set aside \$5,000 of the unappropriated revenue sharing funds to underwrite the expenses of establishing an Industrial Authority for the county.

Burke said in his written proposal that the development of an Industrial Authority would give the county access to funds through the Bluegrass Area Development District and also the state's Industrial Revenue Bonding Authority.

He asked that the Authority be set up with a staff of selected volunteers from the community. Its goal would be to promote and eventually bring new industry into the Nicholas County area.

Burke suggested in his letter that the \$5,000 be used to "provide promotional literature, sell the county to industry, and to pay expenses needed to attract new industry."

Burke said that the benefits of the project would come "in the form of an increased tax base in both the city and county, increased employment opportunities, and therefore an increase in money spent in the businesses of the community."

Inside . . .
The county's financial statement is published inside this week's Mercury, as reported by KSC 40. For a look at the fiscal court's disbursements over the last fiscal year, turn inside to pages 4, 13 and 14.
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