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I'm thoroughly disgusted!

Nearly a week after the issue of Jan. 29 was taken to the Carlisle postoffice — those missing newspapers destined for Lexington 405 were found!

It wasn't the Lexington postoffice's mistake, nor their carriers, we're glad to know that we have such loyal readers and regret that an error of ours was at the bottom of all the inconvenience.

The supply of newspapers held back for such emergencies had been exhausted when the publisher stumbled over a sack supposedly filled with mail sacks.

Upon investigation it was found that all the cussing and discussing of the postal service, only **The Carlisle Mercury publisher** was to blame.

It's good my shoulders are broad — this is a bit of Murphy in its worst sense.

March 1 is deadline for listing property

Kentucky Department of Revenue Commissioner Robert H. Alphin recently reminded Kentucky property owners they are required by law to list their property with county property valuation administrators, or PVAs, before March 1.

The requirement applies to owners of real estate, automobiles, trucks, boats, mobile homes, campers and other taxable property owned by individuals and businesses on Jan. 1.

If taxpayers fail to list their property and its value with the PVA, PVAs have the authority to assess it using information from public records and other sources.

Alphin reminded businesses that the department is auditing PVAs this year in assessing business inventories. In a spot check comparison of business inventories listed on state tax returns and those listed with PVAs, the department found substantial evidence of under-reporting of business inventories and equipment to the PVAs.

As a result the department has been providing PVAs with the results of its audits of business inventories. This procedure has resulted in substantially increased assessments in some cases.

March 1 is also the deadline for

property owners to apply to PVAs for the homestead exemption for Kentuckians 65 years of age or older and for a farmland use assessment.

Persons who are 65 or older or who will become 65 during 1981 are eligible to apply for the homestead exemption of \$12,000 on their principal residence. If the exemption is approved, owners will not be required to pay property taxes on the exempt amount.

Persons who have been declared eligible in previous years by the PVAs do not have to file again this year.

The farmland and horticultural use assessment law allows farmland to be assessed at its agricultural or horticultural use value instead of at its higher fair market value as potential development property.

To be eligible the land must have been used continuously for farming or horticultural purposes for the past five years and meet other legal requirements.

Farm owners are also encouraged to list and value the residential portion of their agriculture value separately.

PVAs in each county have the necessary forms for filing for both the homestead exemption and for the farmland use assessment.



Jails surface as critical issue

Rep. Adrian Arnold, Dotti Sterling (center) and staff joined other legislators studying Kentucky's growing jail problems, for a hour of county jails in the Bluegrass area. Financial shortages are paralyzing county governments' attempts to meet stringent federal requirements. Arnold is chairman of the legislative Subcommittee on Jails charged with sending recommendations and proposed legislation to the 1982 General Assembly. — Photo submitted.

Assessment-sales ratios are given

The Department of Revenue has provided the 1980 property tax assessment-sales ratios for every county in the state under the provisions of state law (KRS 132.250). This information reflects a comparison of the certified assessments for last year with actual sales. This issue carries a table listing the assessment-sales ratios of adjoining counties.

The Kentucky Constitution requires that all property in Kentucky be assessed for tax purposes at full fair cash value. The assessment-sales ratio is the best available measure of the extent to which property has been assessed according to that Constitutional standard.

The department computes the ratio based on actual sales and assessments in each county. Information on actual real estate sales from county clerks' records in every county in the state is collected each year. Each sales price is then compared with its corresponding assessment and a ratio of assessment to sale price is computed. The assessment and sale information as reflected in the individual ratios is used to compute the percentage of the fair cash value achieved by assessments in the county. In compiling the averages, the ratios for the three classes of real estate (residential, farm and commercial) are calculated separately. Then an overall average is figured, giving each of the three classes its proportional weight according to its percentage of the county's total.

Care should be used in interpreting the table. While the ratio is the best available measure of assessment based on the market, it is not perfect. The actual value of property in a county during one year may not be entirely representative of the values of all other years of property in that county. This is especially true in small counties and where few sales were reported in one or more classes of property. However, more classes of property.

Please turn to page 10

Local Scouts to observe Scout Week Feb. 8-14

All local scouts will attend the Carlisle Christian Church Sunday, Feb. 8, in observance of Boy Scout Week Feb. 8-14.

The present troop has been active for three years and includes 10 registered scouts.

Bobby Barnett, scout master, is in need of four assistant scout masters. Persons interested should contact Mr. Barnett at 289-2425.

Scouting builds character, leadership skills and skills in camping and outdoor life.

Libraries receive funds from state

Gov. John W. Brown Jr. recently presented checks totaling \$472,529 as the state's share for projects involving energy conservation and construction at 22 libraries across the state.

The funds represent the state's share (65 percent) of the construction projects, which must be matched by 35 percent at the local level.

Of the total, \$19,282 is for pilot projects at three library regions in the state.

Brown said the grants will help the libraries meet the increasing demands of the public, some of which are related to the state's economic development efforts.

"Corporate management demands a good quality of life for their employees and they recognize the importance of a state library system that serves both as a local resource for learning as well as recreation," Brown said.

Counties receiving the grants are: — Bluegrass North and South Region (Eggle, Fayette, Jessamine, Lincoln, Mercer and Nicholas Counties), to monitor room, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning maintenance in six county libraries, \$7,707.

Migrant Program parents to meet

The Nicholas County Schools Migrant Program Parents' Advisory Council will hold its second meeting of this school year on Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. in the Migrant Room at Nicholas County Elementary School.

The parents will see the Migrant facilities at the Elementary school and be given opportunity to discuss their children's progress in school. All interested persons are invited to attend. For further information contact Bill Galtine, Migrant Program Coordinator, Nicholas County Board of Education.



Board members
At the annual meeting of the Johnson-Mothers Health Care, Inc. held Jan. 27 new trustees and officers were named. From left: Edgar Allen Darrell, chairman; Woodall, treasurer; Betty Lynn Conrad, secretary and Robert Hester, administrator. Absent when picture was taken, Jimmy Carter, vice chairman.

Burley quota raised 7 1/2% after two short crop years

By Bennett Beach
With burley tobacco markets winding up sales of the 1980 crop, growers this week were greeted with announcement of a 7 1/2 percent quota boost for their increasing 1981 production.

The USDA decision to allow such a sharp increase, largest in many years, gives growers the go-ahead signal for their task of replenishing burley supplies, now at their lowest point since 1960.

Talk of a worldwide burley shortage has been reflected all season in the record high market with its "one-price" actions. All through the current market from beginning to end, averages of \$1.60 per hundred pounds have been recorded for practically all offers.

The 7 1/2 percent increase means a USDA-projected 63 million pounds over last year's national quota of 615 million. However, for the past two years growing conditions and other factors

have caused the crop to fall 60 to 75 million pounds below the quota.

Stocks are now about 100 million pounds under the reserve supply level.

The increase was generally in line with the hopes and recommendations of growers and the industry. The Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association board had submitted a majority report asking for a raise not to exceed 5 percent, and a minority call for 7 1/2.

The 7 1/2 percent raise projects a 1981 crop of 660 million pounds, about 5 percent above 1981 use. With a 10 percent margin for "effective" quota, production in 1981, with favorable growing conditions, could mean a crop upwards of 700 million pounds, due to the increased allotment and improved yields.

Joe McDaniel, president of the Burley Growers Association, welcomed the new quota. He said that the crop's board of directors has viewed the burley shortage with increasing concern, and added, "We have no present fears of over-production."

"Pool stocks now are empty, and if production should exceed demand the Association could easily handle up to 150 or 200 million pounds," said McDaniel. "The Association prefers having some tobacco on hand as a reserve supply. It is a healthy situation for the growers and the tobacco program."

Preparing for the 1981 crop under the expanded national quota, the State and local ASC committees are working to complete individual farm poundage allotments by March 15, the earliest date that adjustments can be made to reflect over and under-allocations.

As the market wound up its eighth week of sales, and with over 95 percent of the crop sold, the Burley Association reported no tobacco taken under loan the past two weeks. Alvin H. Beckley, executive secretary-treasurer, said only 18,422 pounds have been received all season, compared with 8 million last year, and 30 million the year earlier.

Sharpsburg Water District meeting re-scheduled

The meeting of the Sharpsburg Water District has been changed to meet the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be Feb. 11.

Carlisle marks 80th year of phone service

Carlisle marks the 80th anniversary of telephone service in the community this year, according to Mac Starone, district manager, South Central Bell.

"According to our earliest records, telephone service began in Carlisle in January 1901. There were only 118 telephones in operation," Starone said.

"Today there are 2,126."

"Carlisle's telephone system was one of the earliest established in Kentucky, starting just 20 years after the first telephone service came to Kentucky," he said.

The number of telephones grew from 1,188 in 1950 to 1,363 in 1960, Starone said.

Telephone growth in the past five years has been steady. In 1975 he had

1,329 telephones here, since then we've grown by 13 percent," he said.

"We are now planning facilities which will allow for the upgrading of all four and eight-party stations and future growth at East Union, Moorefield, Sneed, Myers Station and Stone Creek Road. These facilities are the latest in technology, a SLC-66 carrier system, which allows us to obtain 96 subscriber lines from about six of our central office lines. The project will be completed by September 1981 at a cost of over \$1.5 million.

In the spring of 1981 we will begin placing SLC-66 carrier systems near Headquarters, Bartlettville and along the Mayville Road. This work will be completed by October of 1981 at a cost of \$250,000.