Worker's comp rates are reduced further

Workers' Compensation rates for industrial classification have been reduced an additional 2.6 percent to the 29.7 percent reduction already in effect as a result of the 1980 General Assembly.

Kentucky Department of Insurance Commissioner Daniel Briscoe issued an order on Nov. 26, 1980 which places the total average Workers' Compensation rate reduction at 32.3 percent for at least one year. It is expected that the additional 2.6 percent reduction will save Kentucky businesses $7 million in premiums over an already estimated $75 million. As the order was submitted it does not include classifications for coal mine operators because of the overall experience in this line. Also, the rate decrease will affect only new policies and renewals written following the Nov. 26 order.

The new rates are the result of public hearings held in September of this year. The November order states, "The new figure was arrived at by making various judgemental modifications in favor of the consumer."

The majority of the reduction was the direct result of statutory legislation enacted by the 1980 General Assembly as already stated. One of the important aspects of that legislation was the repeal of the effect of the 1976 Pennington vs. Winburn case. The Kentucky Supreme Court in Pennington gave a new interpretation of the 1972 Workers' Compensation Law relating to maximum benefits. It was the courts opinion that maximum benefits must be based on the workers' average weekly salary instead of the state average weekly wage. Under House Bill 532, as passed by the 1980 Legislature, Kentucky Revised Statute 324.730 was amended to read as follows:

(a) "For total disability, 66⅔ percent of the employees' average weekly wage, but not more than 100 percent of the state average weekly wage..."

(b) "For permanent, partial disability, 66⅔ percent of the employees' average weekly wage but not more than 75 percent of the state average weekly wage as determined by KRS 324.740, multiplied by his percentage of disability caused by the injury or occupational disease as determined by "Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment," American Medical Association, 1977 edition, or by his percentage of disability as determined under KRS 342.020(11), whichever is greater,..."

As a result of the amended section of KRS 342.730 the State of Kentucky made inroads to attract new and allow for increasing industries to expand. Kentucky now has comparable Workers' Compensation rates to surrounding states.

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Charred remains

The burned out remains of a tractor trailer truck sits amidst charred rubble at the corner of Market and Walnut streets in Carlisle, where fire gutted the building housing Kissick's Garage. — Mercury photo.

Vocational teachers to get pay boost?

A proposal on how the Department of Education plans to raise salaries of vocational teachers at state schools won the approval of the Interim Joint Committee on Education recently.

Senate bill 299, passed by the 1980 General Assembly, calls for the department to set beginning salaries of vocational teachers and for teachers at the Kentucky School for the Blind, Louisville, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville at a level "not lower than the average salary paid to beginning classroom teachers" in their areas. Because of the cuts made in the state education budget, the department had not implemented the bill, a fact which has been brought up in earlier meetings of the committee.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Raymond Barber told the committee the proposed plan will:

— Establish a new pay schedule for vocational teachers. Beginning salaries for each pay grade will equal the statewide average for equivalent classroom teachers.

— Bring all teachers' earning salaries below the new beginning level up to that level.

— Provide a 5 percent increase for all other teachers.

— Put all teachers of secondary level vocational students on a 10.5 month minimum pay period and for this school year, give every teacher who wants to work beyond the 10.5 months an opportunity for extended employment. That employment requires the teacher to prepare a plan as to how time will be utilized, and the plan must be approved by the teacher's principal.

The present beginning level salary is $12,576 for 12 months; proposed levels would be $12,737 for 10.5 months or $14,556 for 12 months' work.

"As an administrator, I must look beyond only the new teachers when implementing Senate Bill 299. We share your concern that the 57 new teachers are adequately compensated, but we are equally concerned that we give just consideration to the 210 teachers currently employed (some as many as three or four years) who would make less salary than the newly hired teacher under Senate Bill 299," Barber told the committee.

He also said teachers hired for the 1980-81 school year would receive the new salary retroactive to Aug. 1, 1980. The others would have their raises become effective Jan. 1, 1980.

Barber also said teachers who elect not to take the extended employment would still be covered by state's benefits — health insurance and others — during the period they are not working.

"This will clear up the problem of having the same pay for the 12-month people as for those who work only ten and a half months," Barber said.

He also told the committee this year, the department has contracted with two districts, Ballard and Lewis counties, for those boards of education to operate the area vocational schools in their counties. The teachers became employees of the local district, not state employees. "It's working so well we'll probably do the same thing with other schools next year," he said, but pointed out that this can only work when a vocational school serves students from just one district. "We do reserve the right to monitor the program and if it declines, we can cancel," he told the committee.

Committee members expressed their concern that teachers might be reduced in pay by putting them on a 10.5 month employment basis and wanted to know from where the funding for the program came.

Most of the funding is non-recurring money, Barber said. Money comes from programs which are budgeted for this year but were not implemented — for example, the operational costs budgeted for additions to vocational schools, additions not built because of the freeze on capital construction.

Barber also pointed out his department worked out the new salary schedules last summer and received approval for them from the Department of Personnel before the executive budget had to be trimmed drastically.

Also appearing before the committee was Secretary of Finance George Atkins. "Funding for this program was a problem but Superintendent Barber has done an excellent job of identifying money which might be used," he said. "But it was done with non-recurring funds and no economist likes to do that. In the 1982 session, you'll have to face that and budget for it.

Both Barber and Atkins said the new program will have a ripple effect among other groups of employees, since only teachers' salaries were raised.

Friday accident prone

More traffic accidents occurred on Fridays in Kentucky during 1979 than on any other day. State police records show that 28,407 accidents occurred on Fridays. Saturdays were second worst with 23,632 accidents reported. The fewest accidents (16,299) occurred on Sundays.

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Alfalfa conference to be held in Jan. at two locations

A 9 a.m. conference to help farmers establish stands of alfalfa, grow and harvest the crop will be held at two locations in the state — Jan. 15 at the West Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton and Jan. 16 at the fair grounds at Shelbyville.

Alfalfa, often called the "queen of forages', is making a comeback in Kentucky and across the Southeast, said Garry Lacefield, Extension forage specialist in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. The perennial legume reached its peak acreage in the state in the early 1960s, then declined because of damage to stands by the alfalfa weevil.

"Now, that has changed," said Lacefield. "We know how to control the weevil, and alfalfa is making a comeback." He said acreage in Kentucky is increasing and he is expecting 10,000 acres of new seedings this year.

High prices for nitrogen fertilizer and protein supplement — such as soybean meal also have sparked the farmer's interest in growing alfalfa, according to Lacefield.

The Cane Ridge Shrine, off KY. 537 east of Paris, has a superstructure protecting the Old Cane Ridge Meeting House, a log church built in 1791. It was the first church of the Disciples of Christ, a denomination which now numbers 2 million. Barton Stone was the first pastor.

Kentucky Afield

By John Wilson

Remember when you were a kid and got a new sled for Christmas — then waited and waited for it to snow?

Getting brand new fishing equipment is something like that — except the meteorological effects are just the opposite. That new sled was invariably followed by the warmest winter on record, while a new bass boat, or even a selection of the latest sure-fire lures, is bound to produce three to four months of unremitting blizzard.

But assuming that there is a break in the weather and the lakes aren't completely frozen over, it is possible to catch fish in the winter in Kentucky — and try out that new tackle at the same time.

Experienced winter fishermen sometime bring catches back to the dock that would stop traffic in the summertime, but since the lakes are almost deserted, these hardy anglers and their strings of fish go largely unnoticed.

Don't expect, however, to tie on a surface lure or a fast-running crank bait — no matter how productive it was last spring — and catch fish in the middle of winter. Remember that fish are cold-blooded creatures. This means that both their activity level and their food intake slows way down as the water cools.

The key to successful winter fishing, then, is small and slow. In other words, use small baits and fish them slowly. Slow is a matter of degree and you'll have to experiment to find the right speed, but it will be somewhere between a crawl and absolutely motionless.

Live bait is probably the best bet for just about any species during cold water periods. A minnow or nightcrawler can be left in one spot to do its own wiggling. If that spot happens to be right under the fish's nose, it will probably eventually take the bait.

And you'll have to present the bait or lure to the fish — because of the cold water, he won't be in any mood to chase something down or even move more than a foot or two for his meal, no matter how enticing it appears.

Crappie generally school in large groups during the winter. These schools stay pretty much in the same place, so once you have located a bunch of crappie, you can usually find them consistently until the water starts to warm.

Bass will take up winter residence off steep points and almost vertical banks. If the water is muddy, they will often move right up against the bank and close to the surface, where the water is warmed by the sun. Under these conditions, jigging (or the "new" technique of flippin', which is nothing more than old-fashioned Kentucky jig fishing with expensive tackle) often yields some of the biggest bass of the year.

Another key to successful winter fishing is to remember that some species of game fish remain more active in cold water than others. At 45 degrees, bass are pretty much dormant, but trout are just beginning to feel good. So fishing the tailwaters below many of our major lakes where trout are stocked, or in lakes such as Laurel where trout are present, can offer some fast action.

Walleye and sauger also don't seem to mind the cold too much. These fish are early spawners and start moving into their spawning areas in January and February. As a general rule, look for sauger below dams and walleye in the headwaters of lakes during late winter.

Finally, remember that cold water is dangerous — your survival time in 50 degree water is measured in minutes. Don't go out alone, always wear a personal floatation device, have a change of clothes in a waterproof bag, carry fire starting materials and generally be more careful and cautious than you would be during warm weather.

REFUNDING $$S AND SENSE

by VICTORIA R. FLEMING

Refunding $$$ and Sense

The holiday season is over and many of us are suffering from a severe case of the blahs. So it's a good time for all refunders to clean out files, rearrange and sort qualifiers, organize cashoffs for upcoming store sales, search out refund forms for the new deals, drop postcards to companies whose refunds are overdue and generally take stock. Since the efficient use of time is so important to us, why not also take advantage of the many calendars that manufacturers are offering and really keep yourself on schedule during the new year.

Q. My qualifiers are beginning to take over my home. Any suggestions for keeping things orderly?

A. Remember to peel the cardboard backing off all cartons and flatten them neatly. A fellow refunder uses metal office file cabinet drawers (although box files will do) to arrange small qualifiers. She cuts out the important pieces such as UPC's, POP's, net weights, logo, etc., and staples them to 3 x 5 cards which are then arranged according to product. This is also good for plastic overwraps but I've tried it on all sorts of packaging. And it works!

PICKS OF THE WEEK

PEPPERIDGE FARM CALENDAR OFFER, Dept. ADC-R, P.O. Box 872, West Haven, CT 06516. Lovely high quality 13-month calendar and set of 12 notes and envelopes. Send name, address, 1 ingredient panel from Pepperidge Farm Boxed Rolls and check for $3 postage and handling. (Additional details and illustration on specially marked packaged.) 3/31/81.

1981 CHEX CALENDAR OF CREATIVE COOKING, P.O. Box PI, 14160, Belleville, IL 62222. Send name, address and 8 Chex proof of purchase seals for free calendar (also contains product coupons) or send $2 and 1 proof of purchase. 6/30/81.

The following calendar offers DO require forms but they are usually prominently displayed.

SANKA BRAND 1981 CALENDAR OFFER. Also contains $27.20 of discount values. Send form, 4 Sanka proof of purchases as listed or $1 and 1 Sanka proof of purchase or $1 and 12 Sanka envelopes. 3/31/81.

MORRIS 1981 CALENDAR OFFER. Send form and 35 9-Lives labels for free calendar or $1.95 and 20 labels or $3.95 without labels. Only 1 free per household, other offers unlimited. 3/31/81.

CURRIER & IVES CALENDAR OFFER. 15-month Engagement Book and Calendar. Send form, 1 proof of purchase from Johnson's Baby Powder or Band-Aid Adhesive Bandages, and check for $4.50. 1/31/81.

1981 PURINA CAT CHOW CALENDAR. Send form and weight circles cut from Purina Cat Chow boxes. Each size package has a different point value listed on form. Free calendar for 8 points or send $5 check or money order with no proofs. 5/30/81.

FREE MIGHTY DOG CALENDAR. Send form and 20 labels from Mighty Dog for free calendar or $3 and 3 labels. 6/30/81.

Sales Report
Farmers Stock Yards, Inc.
Flemingsburg, Ky.
Jan. 3, 1981

Hogs Receipts, 627 — Packers 43-; Heavies 42-; Sows 26-49; Boars 29-35; Shoats 2-28.

Cattle Receipts, 506 — Steers 54-75; Heifers 46-63/50; Baby Beeves 54-75; Slaughter Cows 37-48; Slaughter Bulls 50-48; Cows by head 260-1100; Cow and Calf by head 400-875; Stock Bulls 335-540; Stockers 120-310.

Calves Receipts, 111 — Top Veals 84-100; Medium 62-84; Baby 30-180.

Total Receipts — 1044.

Remarks: Special Feeder Cattle Sale Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1981.

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U.S. Choice TableRite Arm or English Roast 1.69 lb

Lean & Boneless Stewing Beef 1.99 lb -Bite Sized Cubes

Fresh Ground Chuck 1.79 lb -3 lbs. or more

TableRite Skinless Wieners 1.09 12 oz. pkg

Fresh, Boneless Boston Butt Pork Roast 1.19 lb

Fischer's Mellwood Sliced Bacon 1.59 lb

Beef, Veal, Pork & Chuckwagon Breaded Patties 1.39 14 oz Pk

Fresh Beef Liver 99¢

GIANT 10 LB. SALE!

Fresh Fryer Breasts..... Giant 10 lb Pack $12.90
Fresh Fryer Legs..... Giant 10 lb Pack $9.90
Fresh Pork Steaks..... Giant 10 lb Pack $11.90
Platter Style Sliced Bacon..... Giant 10 lb Pack $11.90

Charmin Toilet Tissue 99¢ 4 Roll Pack

Final Touch Fabric Softener 1.79 64 oz. Bottle

Pinto, Great Northern, Navy, Mixed Bush Beans..... 15 oz. can 3/$1
White or Golden Bush Hominy..... 14.5 oz. can 4/89¢
Showboat Pork & Beans..... 14.5 oz. can 3/89¢
Showboat Spaghetti W/Tomato Sauce..... 14 oz. can 3/79¢
Bush's Chili Hot Beans..... 15 oz. can 3/89¢
Jergen's Deodorant Soap..... bath size 3/$1
Chopped or Shredded Bush Kraut..... 10 oz. can 4/$1

Although Saturday, January 3rd was the last day to receive Super Saver Coupons, we will continue to offer our Super Saver Specials until January 24th, so you can take advantage of all those Super Saver Cards you have filled.

Sprite, Tab, Coca-Cola 2 Liter Bottle 1.19 Plus Deposit

Wilson Evaporated Can Milk 2/89¢ 13 oz. cans

Save 10¢ Pinto Beans 1.79 4 lb. bag with one filled Super Saver Card

Save 20¢ Liquid Bleach Purex 49¢ 128 oz. jug with one filled Super Saver Card

Save 30¢ Liquid Laundry Detergent Wisk 5.69 128 oz. jug with one filled Super Saver Card

Save 20¢ White Decorator Assorted Designer Bounty 69¢ 1 roll pkg with one filled Super Saver Card

Save 20¢ Reg. Drip, Electric Perk Fine, ADC Maxwell House Ground Coffee 2.39 1 lb. can with one filled Super Saver Card*

Save 30¢ Plain or Self Rising Gold Medal Flour 3.99 25 lb. bag with one filled Super Saver Card

Save 20¢ IGA Grade A Large Eggs 69¢ dozen with one filled Super Saver Card

Save 20¢ Fischer's Lard 9.09 25 lb. pail with one filled Super Saver Card

Minute Maid Orange Juice 1.19 64 oz. Carton

PRODUCE

Head Lettuce Each 44¢

Fresh Broccoli Bunch 69¢

Florida 5 Lb. Bag Grapefruit 99¢

Fresh Red Radishes 3 Pkgs $1

Florida Oranges 5 Lb Bag $1.09

Spanish Onions 4 for $1

Florida Doz Tangerines 59¢

IGA VALUE Carnation Coffee Mate 1.39 16 oz jar

Reynold's Wrap Standard Aluminum Foil 49¢ 25 ft.

Sausage, Hamburger, Pepperoni, Bacon Totinos Pizzas 12.5 oz. Each 1.19

IGA VALUE Paramount Chili with Beans 59¢ 15 oz. can

Dish Liquid Dove 32 oz. bottle 1.39

Jerry's IGA Foodliner

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