

Up, up and away!

Joy, and a sense of deep patriotism was evidenced by the shouts of Nicholas County High School students as they released red, white and blue balloons Monday morning during a program honoring our 52 returning American citizens. — Mercury photo.



Proudly also

Nicholas County Elementary students, teachers and aides were part of the program Monday at the high school honoring our returning Americans from captivity in Iran. The flags they held and their attentive faces revealed that they too were proud of America and its efforts to free the hostages. — Mercury photo.

A criminally romantic bit

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was produced — remember the "bath-tub gin" of Prohibition days — the newest Nicholas County vintage was being called "Food Stamp Whiskey." Yep, that's right, "Food Stamp Whiskey."

It seems the young turks, so to speak, had kept in the spirit of the progenitors of liquid corn distilling and were casting in their lot stamps for the cracked corn and sugar necessary to produce their famous (or perhaps infamous) yield.

But who's to blame? It seems only obvious that with the cost of overhead these days, it would hardly prove profitable for these eternal entrepreneurs who gross only \$10 a gallon for their labor, if they had to buy the corn and sugar.

This newest development, humorous as it is, while still remaining a sad commentary on today's welfare structure, merely accentuates the innovativeness which has accompanied man's eternal thirst for a heart-warming nip. Why, some even say that God wasn't so unhappy with Adam and Eve for taking the apple, it was what they did with it.

The history of distilling spirits stretches back far into world history. There is evidence that the ancient Mesopotamians fermented their own strong drink as early as 6000 B.C. Virtually every civilization on the face of the earth has left documentation of their fondness of the "little brown jug."

Cultures like those of the Egyptians, Babylonians, Greeks, Romans, Germans, Celts, Tartars, Vikings, et al., have all been notorious for their hearty indulgence in rowdy drinking exploits.

It is only natural then that among those early Americans bent on founding a city of light, a few would produce Ben Franklin and provide their own unique energy source. In fact, moonshining was probably America's first chemical industry.

The first American to produce corn whiskey in large quantities were small farmers. Since they couldn't afford to transport large amounts of corn to the marketplace in such an age of underdeveloped transportation, they naturally followed that now famous line of American ingenuity and found that liquid was a much easier to haul...and much more profitable to sell.

With the failure of European wine

grapes in the colonies and the high cost of imported molasses for making rum, the corn whiskey trade found itself a bull market in America. And when Alexander Hamilton decided to tax distilled spirits (an incident which led to the famous Whiskey Rebellion in 1791) many innocent inhabitants fled the area around Philadelphia for the relatively safe "dark and bloody ground." Interestingly enough, the President at that time wasn't too fond of the whiskey tax himself — George Washington was a well known distiller in his own right. But since the end of the 1700's, the hills and hollows of Kentucky

have served to produce some of the most famous intoxicating beverages in the nation.

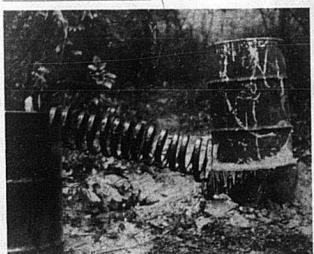
There are a few accounts of whiskey production in Kentucky prior to the mass influx of distillers following the Whiskey Rebellion. In Louisville Evan Williams was running a pretty neat operation by 1783. And Wattle Boone, a cousin to Daniel, had a big-time still cranking out moonshine on Cox's Creek in Nelson County in 1789. One of the most interesting early moonshiners was Elijah Craig, a Baptist minister, who was the boss of Georgetown as farly as 1786. It seems only likely that

family name, and chances are I have caught a moonshiner by that name." But the reputation of the moonshiner emerged quite tarnished after the smoke of the Prohibition era rolled away. The romantically inebriated fellow dressed in overalls, a floppy fed hat and sporting a corncob pipe had been transformed into a full-fledged criminal by his unlikely association with the pin stripe garbed, wain case toiler city slicker.

While one life-long resident of Nicholas County recalls the day that one could approach any of 50 or so local men and walk away with a quart jar of shine, today's home brewed corn whiskey is much scarcer. Those who know about such activities report that there may be only one active still left in Nicholas County.

For those County residents who can't seem to get over their partiality to home brewed moonshine, the words of the old Merle Travis song may soon ring all too true:

"It's a long way to Harlan, It's a long way to Hazard, Just to get a little brew, Just to get a little brew."



Wormy Juice — Photo submitted

those first Kentuckians who founded Harrodsburg in 1774 raised the palis of Indian fighting with an occasional Bacchanalian crack of the bottle.

Despite the unrefined legitimacy of his trade, the moonshiner in Kentucky led a very respectable life as a rather harmless homebased free spirit...until the days of Prohibition. That infamous period in American history changed the entire scope of the moonshiner's trade.

No longer were the rolling hills of the Bluegrass his favorite export market. But cities like New York and Chicago were crying out for a hit from the hills of the Kentucky dog. The Kentucky

moonshiner soon found himself supplying a large part of a thirsty nation.

This change of scope and increased production gave rise to many a careless ban. Conditions such as "jake leg" paralysis, and blindness resulted more than once from a hastily prepared jug of shine.

Following the repeal of Prohibition, many of the illegitimate whiskey producers used their newly acquired bank rolls to open legal distilleries. As one seasoned reversionist is supposed to have said, "Name one of those famous brands of whiskey that carries a

Saving gas by trading at home leaves more cash in your pocket

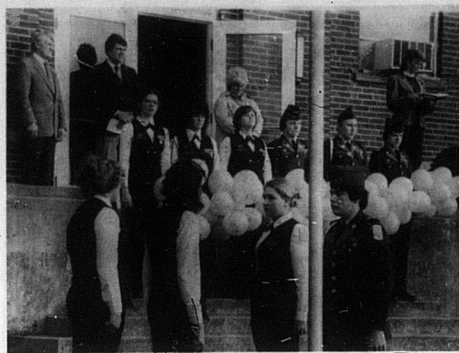
And when we trade with our neighbors in business they can help more with our area tax load, hire us or trade more with us, and help to keep values up on our property while filling our needs when emergencies confront us.

A healthy community is a mutual aid society wherein its prosperity and growth depend on how consistently its members support it by trading within it.

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Bell program urges parents to teach emergency procedures

A child's use of the telephone can help prevent an emergency from becoming a tragedy.

Consider these facts. More than three million serious accidents occur in the home every year. In many cases young children are the only other people around when a parent or grandparent needs help. And with more working parents, more children are at home alone after school.

The majority of children in second grade and below do not know how to use the phone in an emergency, according to Nancy Chamberlain, South Central

Bell educational representative. That's why Bell has introduced "Phone for Help", a new program to encourage adults to teach their children how to call for help during an emergency.

The 20-minute program, available at no charge, includes the film "Emergency". The film suggests that parents explain what an emergency is to the child. Then, with the telephone's cradle button held or taped down, practice dialing and giving emergency instructions.

"Practicing with the child should include teaching him or her to listen

until someone answers and then describe what and where the emergency is," Chamberlain said. "Be sure the child knows the entire street address including the community name."

For more information or to schedule the program, contact your Bell educational representative Nancy Chamberlain at 606-744-9183 (call collect).

Honor 52 freed Americans

The Pledge of Allegiance is being recited Monday morning as ROTC members stand at attention. The 52 yellow balloons represent the 52 freed Americans. In the background one school superintendent Don Elder, high school principal David McMillan and Mrs. Pat Massie. — Mercury photo

Attention Businessmen

Inventory & accounts receivable need to be reported to P.V.A. by March 1.



C & G

Banquet (8 Varieties), 5 oz. **Cookin' Bag 2/79¢**

Chicken, Beef & Turkey 8 oz. **Banquet Pot Pies 3/\$1.00**

No. 303 cans **Larsen Veg All 2/79¢**

Maxwell House 10 oz. jar **Instant Coffee \$3.99**

Pretite 1 lb. can **Pink Salmon \$1.89**

8 pk. 16 oz. W/Btl. **R.C. Cola, Diet Rite \$1.49**

Charmin Toilet Paper 4 Pk. White & Colors **99¢** (limit 1)

Five Star **Boston Butts .lb. \$1.29** (Pork Steak lb. \$1.49)

Fischer's Smoked, Center Cut **Pork Chops .lb. \$1.99** (1/2 lb. pkg. \$2.19)

Del Monte Sale!

Catsup 24 oz. 79¢
Sliced, Chunk & Crushed 15.25 oz. in own juice
Pineapple 59¢
Yellow Ching, Sliced & Haves
Lite Peaches 59¢
Pineapple 16 oz. 59¢
Prune Juice Quart 89¢
Lite 16 oz.
Pear Halves 69¢
Lite Chunky 16 oz.
Mixed Fruit 69¢
Whole Kernel & Cream style 17 oz.
Golden Corn 2/89¢
Peas 17 oz. 2/89¢
Cut & French Style 16 oz.
Green Beans 2/89¢
46 oz.
Pineapple-Orange Juice 79¢
46 oz.
Pineapple-Grapefruit Juice 79¢

'Canned' Bargains!

- Patridge Frontier Ham lb. \$1.79
Fischer's Mellwood Bacon lb. \$1.49
Fischer's Wieners Reg. & Jumbo lb. \$1.49
Fischer's Bologna Reg. & Thick Slice lb. \$1.59
Fischer's Bologna Reg. & Thick Slice, Garlic & German lb. \$1.59
Tennessee Pride **Country Sausage** lb. pkg. \$1.69
(2 lb. pkg. \$3.29 — 12 oz. Patties \$1.49 — Heat & Eat Sausage & Biscuits \$1.49)
- U.S. Choice Beef Boneless Bottom **Round Roast** lb. \$2.39
U.S. Choice Beef Boneless Bottom **Round Steak** lb. \$2.39
U.S. Choice Beef **Cubed Steak** lb. \$2.79
- U.S. Choice **Eye of Round Roast** lb. \$2.79
U.S. Choice **Netted Chuck Roast** lb. \$1.99
U.S. Choice **Short Ribs** lb. \$1.39

Ground Chuck lb. **\$1.69**

Head Lettuce **59¢**

— Produce —
U.S. No. 1 Round **White Potatoes** 10 lb. **\$2.29**

Fresh Green Cabbage lb. 29¢

8 oz. green onions & **Red Radishes** 2/49¢
Red **Rome Apples** 3 ea. 89¢

Mrs. Filberts 1 lb. pkg. **Golden Quarters 59¢**

Jumbo Roll, White **Gala Towels 59¢**

Joan of Arc 15 oz. cans **Kidney Beans 2 For 79¢**

Caronation 2 lbs. **Crinkle Fries 89¢**

Soft White, 60-75-100 Watt **G.E. Light Bulbs 4/139**

Glad 3 Ply, 30 Ct. **Trash Bags \$2.99**

Purina 25 lb. bag **Dog Chow \$6.49**

Kraft Unsweetened 1/2 Gal. **Grapefruit Juice \$1.39**

Joan of Arc 15 oz. can **Chili Beans 2/79¢**

2 1/2 oz. Dough **Onion Roll 8/89¢**

Smucker's 18 oz. jar **Strawberry Preserves \$1.29**

Betty Crocker 15.5 oz. box **Brownie Mix 79¢**

Banquet Pies Allge & Peach 20 oz. 79¢
Mrs. Paul's 8 oz. **Fried Fish Fillet \$1.19**
Mrs. Paul's **Fish Sticks \$1.19** (8 oz.)
Kraft Unsweetened **Grapefruit Juice** 1/2 Gal. \$1.39

Food Storage, 25 Ct. **Baggies 69¢**

Laundry Detergent **Fab** 49 oz. box \$1.69

Laundry Detergent 64 oz. **Dynamo Liquid \$2.89**

22 oz. Bottle **Palmolive Liquid 99¢**

Kraft 1/2 Gal. **Orange Juice \$1.39**

Caronation 12-1 ounce pkgs. **Hot Cocoa Mix \$1.39**

Also: 70 Calorie Rich & 70 Calorie Marshmallow