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The Carlisle Mercury

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Smiling contestants

Blackberry Festival Queen Contestants Sandy Caswell and Brenda Tincher shared a little laugh Monday night on the bandstand in front of the courthouse. The crowning of this year's queen is scheduled to take place at 8 p.m. this evening. — Mercury photo.

Magistrates get expense accounts

Fiscal court discusses new proposed budget

Discussion of the proposed 1981-82 fiscal budget highlighted last week's meeting of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court.

And during that budget discussion the Court granted its magisterial members a monthly expense account of $100 each.

The move was spurred by questioning and discussion of why County Judge/Executive Reese Smoot's salary was increased from $13,930 to $15,635 when the Court had decided not to grant any salary increases in the new budget.

County Attorney Joseph H. Conley explained to the Court that state law requires that the Judge's salary be set at a minimum of 60 percent of the maximum allowable salary for a Judge/Executive.

That maximum salary is tied directly to the Consumer Price Index and increases each year with inflation. This year's maximum salary is set at $26,058.

At the conclusion of that discussion, Magistrate Harold Mitchell made a motion that the Court provide a $100 a month expense account to each magistrate. The motion carried unanimously.

Magistrate Orville Atkinson, who chaired the meeting in Judge Smoot's absence due to illness, pointed out that the expense account was something the Court had always been entitled to, but had not taken.

Prior to the addition of the expense account, the Magistrate's $3,000 a year compensation was not increased with the new budget.

The money for the expense account was designated to come out of the County Road and Bridge Fund.

Following the passage of the additional expense account and an adjustment of the projected interest in the Road and Bridge Fund, the budget was tentatively approved on first reading. It must now be approved by the State Local Finance Officer in Frankfort.

In action on other matters the court:

— Authorized the Judge/Executive to pay officers and employees of Nicholas County all of their earnings and to hold in escrow all employee withholding, county's share of social security and county's share of retirement, and to pay deductions at regularly reporting periods.

— Authorized $68,922.86 in General Obligation Hospital Bonds filed and paid to the Kentucky State Treasurer and mailed to the State Local Finance Officer for investment.

— Approved and ordered filed $23,332.50 in school coupons.

— Noted an increase in Blue Cross coverage for County employees. The Court decided to continue paying for single coverage at the increased monthly rate of $39.10 per month, and to pay $98.10 on an employee's family coverage which was increased to $101.80.

— Approved the payment of $2,000 to the Parks and Recreation Board for repairs to lighting and the tennis courts at the recreation park. The money had been allotted to the Board from revenue sharing funds.

— Since $800 budgeted to the library and $1,200 budgeted to Comprehensive Care were not requested by those agencies, the Court decided to carry those funds over to next year's budget.

— Authorized payment of $1145 to pay for the cost of May's primary election.

— Approved a lease entered into by the Senior Citizen's Center and Licha Farah, whereby the building owned by Farah on the corner of Main and Locust would be leased for use as Nicholas County's Senior Citizen's Center at $225 per month. The Senior Citizens have the priviledge of renewing the lease for five additional one year terms.

— Approved settlements for the Court Clerk and Sheriff's Office.

— Noted that the admitting fee at Nicholas County Hospital had increased to $400. The Court said that it

*See Fiscal Court, page 16

Local ambulance service comes to a halt this year

Ambulance service to Carlisle and Nicholas County will cease to be provided by local funeral homes at the end of this year.

In a letter to the Fiscal Court last Wednesday, both local funeral homes informed the Court that they would no longer continue to provide ambulance service for the county as of midnight December 31.

The City Council is scheduled to receive an identical letter at this month's Council meeting.

Under the current arrangement, the local morticians provide the service under contract with the local governing bodies. However, the private funeral homes receive no government subsidy for their services.

As Billy Clark, of Clark Funeral Home, said, "It has been a money losing proposition for years." Clark said that "state and federal regulations" are the primary reason the local morticians were forced to take the new position.

"They're plum out of hand," said Clark. But he hastened to add that all the regulations are beneficial to ambulance service overall. Yet, it is prohibitively expensive for a private mortician to keep up with all the extra equipment, he said, especially without local or state assistance.

Taylor Mathers, of Mathers and Gaunce Funeral Home, said that no one specific reason or situation was responsible for the move, but that it has been "increasingly difficult" over the last few years to operate the ambulance service.

Mathers pointed to the fact that nearly all private morticians are getting out of the ambulance service in the state. "We are one of the last funeral homes in the area to offer ambulance service," he said.

As of now, no plans have been announced for replacing ambulance service locally.

Sheriff reports two-car accident

Sheriff J.W. Ecton reported that a non-injury two car collision took place at 1:30 Sunday afternoon at the corner of Dorsey Avenue and Main Street when a car driven by James Medley, Carlisle, pulled out in front of a car driven by Elsie Earlywine, Route 1, Carlisle.

Medley was exiting Dorsey while Earlywine was traveling west on Main. While there were no injuries, the left side of Earlywine's car received extensive damage. Medley's car suffered only slightly in the accident.

Moving day

It was moving day Monday for the Nicholas County Senior Citizen's Center, as several of the seniors moved their chairs to their new building on the corner of Main and Locust. — Mercury photo.

U.F.O.?

This unidentified flying youngster seemed to be having the time of her life Monday night as she whipped through the air on one of the children's rides. — Mercury photo.

Suicide indicated in local death

Deputy Fayette County Coroner Bill McCarney told the Mercury Monday that the results of a medical examiner's autopsy on a local minor who died last week as result of a gunshot wound indicates the wound was self inflicted.

McCarney said the report from a Louisville medical examiner seems to conclusively point to suicide in the case. He said the bullet entered the right temple and exited through the left temple and that there were powder burns found inside the wound.

However, Trooper Steve Roy said Monday that the Kentucky State Police investigation of the death has not yet been officially closed.

Trooper Roy said the minor was wounded at approximately 6:50 p.m. last Monday on the Carpenter Pike. He was discovered by Danny Hardwick, Route 1, Carlisle, who immediately went for help. Hardwick returned with Cliff Shamale, Fareed Koury and Dan Short, and they rushed the minor to the Nicholas County Hospital. The minor was then taken to the St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington where he died last Wednesday.

The Fayette County Coroner's office handled the autopsy, but because they do not currently have a licensed medical examiner on staff, the body had to be sent to Louisville for a detailed pathology check.

News briefly

Mail to run later

Postmaster John Anderson has notified the Mercury that local mail customers will receive their mail approximately 30 minutes later than usual in the future.

The delay will be due to the combination of the "Star" route which serves Carlisle directly from Lexington, to include Georgetown, Paris and Carlisle. The new route will arrive in Carlisle at 6:55 a.m.

Stove causes fire

Fire Chief Woody Wilson reported that a fire broke out Monday in the home of Roy Blount on Shepherd Hill when an electric stove short-circuited.

Chief Wilson said that the stove was extensively damaged but the house was relatively unharmed.

Moorefield needs postmaster

Applications are now being accepted by the U.S. Postal Service for the vacant postmaster position at the Moorefield, Ky. Post Office.

Individuals interested in being considered for appointment must, on the date of this announcement, reside within the delivery or service area of the Moorefield Post Office. They must be able to give their personal attention to the management of the office, and they must be at least 18 years of age.

Additional information and application forms are currently available at the Moorefield Post Office. The deadline for applying is July 9, 1981.

Tax list published

Delinquent tax lists for both county and city may be found on page 6 of this week's Mercury.