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David Everhardt and Sarah Connors, both carnival workers for the Atlanta Amusement Company that catered to last week's Blackberry Festival, were married Friday at noon on the Nicholas County Courthouse steps. County Judge/Executive Heese Smoot performed the ceremony. — Mercury photo.

Blackberry wedding Couple exchange vows on courthouse steps

Only a couple of the offices in Nicholas County's courthouse were open for business Friday morning because of the July 4 Holiday. But the courthouse was not lacking a busy hum of activity.

Courtney Gurn was meticulously cleaning the front steps. County Judge/Executive Heese Smoot was hurriedly putting on his tie. Deputy Sheriff Ralph Brookshire was filling the soft drink machine to capacity. County Clerk Rose Scott was, strangely enough, conducting business as usual. (Well, almost.)

And in front of the Sheriff's office two young people, grinning from ear to ear, were setting up for a wedding reception. Yep, a wedding reception. Complete with punch bowl, nuts, minis, and the pièce de résistance... the wedding cake.

You see, Friday at noon the steps of the Nicholas County Courthouse hosted an event which turned more than one astonished head from the daily shopping traffic on Main Street. Because Friday at noon David Everhardt, 22, of Indian Lakes, Ohio, and Sarah Connors, 18, of Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania were joined together in matrimony on the courthouse steps.

The couple said that they decided to be married in front of the courthouse because "we just wanted to be different." Both are working for the Atlanta Amusement Company which provided a large part of the entertainment for this year's Blackberry Festival. They said the courthouse was a likely spot anyway. "It's right here where everybody's at," the new bride said.

The newlyweds met only three weeks ago while both were working with the carnival. After only one week, they decided to be married and to spend their lives on the road together.

The couple said they don't plan to go off on a honeymoon until the end of the carnival season. As Everhardt said, "The show must go on." He added that Atlanta Amusement has a "couple of good fairs coming up," and he didn't want to miss them.

Everhardt has been working the carnival circuit "off and on for nine years" and he really loves it. His new bride has only been on the road for "a couple of months." But she concurs with her husband that they are living the good life.

Neither seems to mind the constant travel of their jobs. "I love to travel," he said. "So do I," she said. The thing they really dislike about the business is "rainy weather," he said. "You took the words right out of my mouth," she said. Ah...newlyweds.

Judge Smoot said that he's performed many marriages in his tenure as County Judge/Executive, but never one to match Friday's nuptial ceremony.

"I've married 'em from 82 on down," he said, "but I've never done it on the courthouse steps."

Perhaps Everhardt himself summed up the unique wedding better than any wise sage when he said, "Once a Carnie, always a Carnie."

The couple plans to reside in Everhardt's tractor trailer truck. It has sleeping quarters.

State says it's not responsible for delay in repairs at Blue Licks

Floyd Headower, Director of the Division of Maintenance for the Kentucky Department of Parks, said in an interview at the Mercury office last Thursday that the blame for the slow progress on repairs to the Blue Licks State Park gift shop does not lie with the state.

Headower said that Blue Licks Superintendent Gene Hughes has had the money available to make the repairs since May 20.

Recounting the incidents that have taken place in the attempt to get the porch fixed, Headower said that some of his maintenance men alerted him to the problem with the porch nearly a week before Hughes called about the situation.

He said that two of his men working at the park brought him a description of the condition of the porch, complete with photographs. After Hughes called him on a Friday, Headower had the money available to complete the project by the following Monday.

Headower said that Hughes told him that he could make the repairs if he had the \$1,000, so Headower told him to go ahead and the money would be guaranteed.

Although the official Maintenance Project Report lists Headower's office under the heading of "assigned responsibility," Headower said that he told Hughes he would submit the project in that fashion because it made it easier to get through state channels.

He said that he considered the repair of the porch to be a rather simple procedure, and didn't foresee any problem for Hughes' crew in correcting the situation.

Headower repeated his version of the story to Hughes Thursday in the presence of Hughes' maintenance staff, Headower's Staff Assistant Gene Clark, Director of Recreational Parks Sam Jones, and Mercury Editor Jim Smith. Hughes did not offer opposition to Headower's charges. He only replied, "if there's been any misunderstanding, I apologize."

After Hughes' response to Headower's charges, he was given five

days from Monday to have the porch repaired.

Headower said that there is never any problem in getting the necessary funding for projects like the one at the gift shop porch. He said any problem that directly poses a threat to the safety or health of visitors to the park can be funded almost immediately with a special "emergency" project. "It is our job to see that our parks are as safe as we can make them," Headower said.

Headower said that he is firmly

committed to Gov. Brown's position of "running the state like a business." It is that position that prompted several of his policy changes within the Maintenance Division of the Parks Department.

Perhaps most noteworthy among those changes has been the reduction in the number of maintenance personnel employed by the Parks Department. Headower said that rather than having maintenance men stationed permanently at each park in the state's system, he has taken eight crack-jack

men and moved from park to park as problems arise.

"Why have maintenance on the park when they don't have any maintenance to do?" he asked.

He further stated that he is "only concerned about productivity" and that his employees have "the interest of the park at heart."

"In the past," he said, "there has been too much emphasis on the cosmetic aspects of maintenance. He would rather let the seasonal environment, he has taken eight crack-jack



Floyd Headower, Director of the Division of Maintenance for the Kentucky Department of Parks, is pictured above questioning Blue Licks Superintendent Gene Hughes during a maintenance inspection. Headower conducted last week at the local park. — Mercury photo.

Plumbing destroyed again Inmates set fire to county jail

The Nicholas County Jail broke out in violence again Sunday night as inmates reportedly set fire to their mattresses and pillows and tore up some of the jail's plumbing fixtures.

Details of the incident were unavailable at press time because Jailor Charles Lenz declined to comment on the situation in the Mercury.

However, it has been learned that the blaze broke out shortly after two inmates were lodged in the jail on charges of allegedly trying to cash a forged check at Cadogan's gas station.

The inmates, Robert Curtis, Sexton's Trailer Park, and Robert Hugsten, address unavailable, were arrested around 9 p.m. by Deputy Sheriff Ralph Brookshire. Brookshire said that after the suspects were taken to the police station, Curtis escaped and fled the area. He was found around a half hour later near the Green Valley Apartments.

The fire reportedly broke out around 11:30 and all of the jail's inmates taken to the Bourbon County Jail around 11:30 because of the smoke that filled the cellblock and lingered for nearly four hours.

Jailor Lenz said that the fire caused smoke damage to the jail and that there was damage to some of the plumbing fixtures.

Both men appeared before the Nicholas County Circuit Court Tuesday. Curtis pled not guilty to charges of public intoxication, arson in the first degree, criminal mischief in the third degree, and possession of a forged instrument in the second degree.

Hugsten pled not guilty to charges of criminal possession of a forged instrument in the second degree, arson in the first degree, and criminal mischief in the third degree.

A fire at Cricket and Ganeve Footers early Friday morning is suspected to be the result of arson.

The blaze was reported around 2 a.m. by City Patrolman Terry Trussell when he spotted the trash bin at the grocery

store. — Mercury photo.



Blackberry Queen

Miss Debbie Fryman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Fryman, Houie L. Ewing, was crowned the 1981 Nicholas County Dairy Princess. — Mercury photo.

night in Carlisle. Miss Fryman was also recently crowned a 1981 Nicholas County Dairy Princess. — Mercury photo.

the third degree.

Criminal possession of a forged instrument and arson in the first degree are both felonies.

Arson suspected
in C&G blaze

A fire at Cricket and Ganeve Footers early Friday morning is suspected to be the result of arson.

The blaze was reported around 2 a.m. by City Patrolman Terry Trussell when he spotted the trash bin at the grocery

store. — Mercury photo.

Accident claims life of local girl

The Ohio State Police reported Sunday that a Nicholas County girl was one of five persons who were killed in a one-car accident on Interstate 75 near Piquette, Ohio when their car left the highway, crashed and burst into flames.

Killed in the fiery crash was 18-year-old Eleanor Bell, who lived with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bell, on the Carlisle-Millersburg Road (U.S. 60).

Miss Bell and the other teenagers in the automobile were members of a drum-and-bugle corps called "The Pride of Cincinnati," and they were returning from a performance at Fort Huron, Michigan, which capped a nine-day tour of that state.

Ohio State Police investigators speculated that the driver of the car, Ross Ventus, 47, of Milford, Ohio, fell asleep at the wheel. The car left the south-bound lane, flipped over several times and caught fire, according to the state police. Everyone in the car died in the crash.

Miss Bell's brother, Rusty, was also on the trip as a member of the bugle corps, but he escaped injury because he was traveling with the main group on one of three buses.