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Voting check upsets county jailer's race

A canvass of last week's primary election was conducted last Thursday, and the result was a change in the outcome of the jailer's race. Instead of Charles Lenz winning by a 126-124 margin, Lynn Bowles became the new jailer by a 123-111 count.

The canvassing was requested by Bowles and incumbent District 2 Magistrate Andrew Bretz. Bretz lost his race by only 2 votes to Elmo Myers 111-109, but the canvassing failed to help him. The count in District 2 remained the same.

Bowles called for a canvass after noting a significant discrepancy in the Myers returns. In the preliminary returns, there were only 113 total votes cast in the Myers precinct. But in that same precinct there were 203 votes cast in the Jailer's race.

The canvass showed that Lenz collected only 17 votes in the precinct instead of the reported 71. The loss of those 54 votes was enough to give Bowles the narrow victory.

County Clerk Rose Scott said that what had apparently happened was a

simple blunder. She said that neither she nor the election commissioners suspected any impropriety in the vote counting process in Myers, only a human error.

After the votes in the Myers precinct were recounted, Lenz ordered that all precincts be recounted in the jailer's race. There were no changes in the results in any precinct other than Myers, with the exception that one absentee vote for Bowles was thrown out because of ambiguity.

Following the total canvass, Lenz conceded defeat. While he had talked earlier in the day of taking court action to obtain a recount (vote by vote), or even an attempt to get the precinct "thrown out," he said that after the final results he didn't see where further action would do him any good. "It's just not right," he said, "how anyone can turn 71 around and make 71 out of it, it's just not right."

New Jailer-elect Bowles said, "I feel for him," but Bowles stated that he only did what anyone else would have done under similar circumstances.

News briefly

Burglary suspect arrested

Lee Edward Watkins, 37, of Salyersville, was arrested early Saturday morning by KSP Trooper John Hall and charged with Third Degree Burglary. The arrest occurred after Conservation Officer Herbert Booth noticed some suspicious activity on the property of Heaven II Farms. Booth reported the activity and Trooper Hall arrived

and made the arrest. Watkins was charged with the theft of some tools. He was lodged in the Nicholas County Jail over the weekend, and was to be arraigned Tuesday in Circuit Court. The report of that court proceeding will be carried in next week's Court News section of the Mercury.

Damage figure set

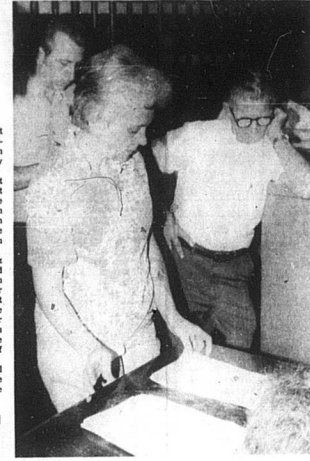
Nicholas County Farm Bureau Agent Cliff Vice said last week that the damage to the Carlisle Wesleyan Church has been estimated at \$1,200. Vice was the insurance agent for Darrell C. Burke, the man whose car crashed into the church after striking a light pole May 31.

The large window in front with a smaller window, and then to simply frame up the remaining area.

Disaster provisions explained

Farmers whose fall-seeded wheat or barley was damaged by winterkill, drought or other disasters may qualify for payments under disaster provisions of the wheat and feed grain program. Eugene Letcher, Chairman of the Nicholas County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, advises farmers not to graze, hay or

plow under their failed acreages because they could destroy evidence of the damaged crop before the acreage is released by ASCS. "Farmers with failed acreages of fall-seeded crops should notify our office as soon as possible," he said. Under the program, farmers may



Canvassing primary returns

County Clerk Rose Scott assists election commissioners in canvassing the absentee ballots from last week's primary election, on Jailer Charles Lenz (left) and new Jailer-elect Lynn Bowles (right) look on. — Mercury photo.

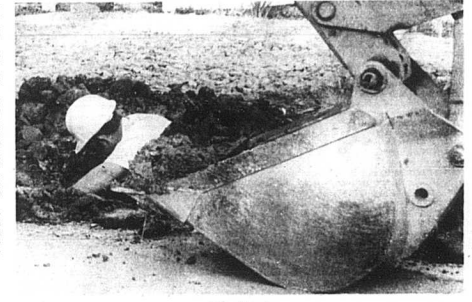
Farm employment up

Kentucky farms employed 103,000 workers during the survey week of April 12-18, 1981, according to the Kentucky Crop and Livestock Reporting Service. This is a 14 percent increase over the 90,000 workers employed during the same survey period last year.

The increase in farm workers was due in part to the favorable weather during the survey week. Farmers averaged 4.5 days in the field compared to only two days last year.

Total employment on United States farms during the survey week April 12-18, 1981 was estimated at 3.66 million workers, up six percent from last year's survey period. Of the total, 2.40 million workers were farm operators and unpaid family workers working 15 or more hours during the survey week. Hired workers at 1.26 million were six percent higher than last year's 1.19 million workers. Kentucky agriculture paid an average of \$1.57 per hour for all hired farm workers during the survey week. This compared with \$1.73 per hour for the southeastern region and \$1.92 per hour for the U.S.

The average rate for all hired farm workers in the U.S. at \$1.92 was 11 cents more than last year.



Gas leak
City employee Frankie Price was up to his neck in work recently, as he attempted to repair a broken gas line on Locust Street. — Mercury photo.

Depot restoration scheduled for completion within month

Juan W. Conley, Director of the Nicholas County Historical Society, said last week that the Society's restoration project for the old L&N railroad depot should be completed in about a month. Mrs. Conley said that the only remaining work to be done before the depot would be open to the public was the installation of a kitchen and some final plumbing.

Once open, the depot will serve as a community center that will be available for all sorts of community and private functions. Mrs. Conley said that the Historical Society hopes to be able to allow civic groups free use of the facility, and to only charge a minimal fee for private functions. She explained that the only thing the Society needs to earn from the building is operating expenses (i.e., utilities).

The restoration project has already cost in excess of \$10,000. Of that, \$11,000 was supplied directly by the Historical Society, financed mainly by the sale of the History of Nicholas County. An additional \$20,000 came in the form of a grant from the Bluegrass Area Development District. Mrs. Conley said the major expense in the renovation has been the repair of the old tile roof. The restoration has been complete, indeed. The old "colored waiting room" has been adapted into a museum and office. The baggage room has been converted into an area for official-entertaining space. The two large rooms in the center of the building, one of which was the "white waiting room," will be used for the community meeting rooms. The old ticket office is a

"colored waiting room" was a totally separate compartment. The Society had to knock out a wall and install a new door to allow access from that room to the rest of the building and the rest rooms. Once the renovation is completed, the Society will be seeking contributions of furniture for the facility, as well as donations to purchase furnishings. The Carlisle Woman's Club has adopted the development and construction of a patio as their community development project for the next three years. The depot building was constructed in 1915 and is one of only remaining depots in Kentucky. There were at one time over 200 in the Commonwealth.

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Shade-tree politicians
The sun finally broke through the rain clouds last Thursday and sent Herbert Bradley, G.C. Terrell and E.C. Stephenson looking for the shade of a tree in the courthouse lawn in which to talk over the results of the recent primary election. — Mercury photo.