

# The Carlisle Mercury

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Intrepid travelers

Undaunted by the blistering north winds that brought the season's first snowfall to the county last Friday, these two daring souls roared down the Gallows Hill Road with thrills held open. — Mercury photo.

## Expulsion hearing calls school board to closed session

An expulsion hearing for a NCHS student sparked a special called session of the Nicholas County Board of Education last Tuesday night. At the request of the parents, in line with KRS §110 (6), the hearing was closed to the press and to the public. All discussion and action took place while the meeting was closed. Neither the student's name, the charges, nor the action of the board were made public.

However, the Mercury has learned that the student involved, a juvenile, is still currently enrolled in classes at the high school.

After emerging from closed session, the board decided that no major changes in bus routes would be made to satisfy a request Mr. and Mrs. Danny Poe made at the Nov. 9 regular board meeting.

Mrs. Poe, who lives near the intersection of the Salwell and Morning Glory Roads, had told the board that the current bus route requires her son to walk some 300 feet and cross a bridge to arrive at the bus stop.

She also said that her son's physical condition (he has asthma) is aggravated by the walk and wait out of doors, as well as by the exhaust fumes from the bus.

At the Nov. 9 meeting, Superintendent Donald Elder and board member Chester Mattox voiced their concerns about changing the routes to accommodate the one child. Mattox said that

the hill on one side of the Poe residence had two dangerous blind curves, and Elder said that the bus driver who mans one of the routes has reported that a grade leading up to the bridge either causes the bus to drag, or the front end to project upward so as to make it impossible to see the road momentarily when driving onto the bridge.

At last week's called meeting, Elder told the board that he had measured the area in question, and that the Poe child had a distance of 150 feet to walk from his gate to the bus stop every morning. Elder said it was 100 feet from the gate to the bridge, and 50 more feet to get across the bridge and to the bus stop.

Mattox said that County Judge/Executive Rose Sneed had told him that the county could probably construct a place for the bus to turn around on the Poe side of the bridge.

However, Mattox, whose district encompasses the disputed routes, said that creating a turnaround at the proposed site would require many

\* See Expulsion, page 11

## Taxpayers still angry Petition seeks removal of fiscal court members and audit of finances

After storming the courthouse a couple of weeks ago and forcing the fiscal court to rescind a 13 cent ambulance tax, a group of disgruntled local taxpayers are now seeking a house-cleaning of the court and a state audit of the county's finances.

A petition is currently being circulated throughout the county that calls for the resignations of County Judge/Executive Rose Sneed and Magistrates Harold Elliott, Melvin Fryman, and Orville Atkinson for their action in passage of an ambulance district tax the day after a similar referendum was defeated in the November general election by 61 percent, 793-487. The petition also calls for an audit "of all tax money that is handled by the fiscal court."

The petition charges that the court members violated their oath of office in voting for the tax in spite of the referendum's defeat.

Clay Fryman, a dairy farmer from

the Myers Station area of the county and a leader in the petition drive, said Monday night that between 1,000 and 1,200 signatures have been collected to date. And Fryman said that copies of the petition are still "all over the county. I just got more out today."

Fryman plans to mail the petition to Gov. Rowen's office when the number of signatures reaches the 200 mark. Fryman, who last week said "We don't feel they're capable of serving the county after they've done what they've done," said Monday that "the main thing we want to see is what's on the books."

"We're not accusing them of anything," he said, "but if everything they do is wrong, then they don't have anything to hide."

Fryman said that he has not yet received a response to a letter he sent to the governor's office last week requesting the audit. He also said that the disgruntled citizens do have an

attorney working with them, but declined to name the lawyer.

County Judge/Executive Rose Sneed said Monday night that he had not seen one of the petitions and that he would rather not comment on the situation.

None of the officials named in the petition have indicated that they're planning to resign.

Magistrates Bob Livingston and Andrew Bretz are not being requested to resign in the petition. Livingston was absent when the vote to impose the tax was taken, and Bretz abstained.

Both were defeated in recent re-election bids and will be replaced the first of the year. Bretz will be replaced by Elms Myers, and Livingston by Earl Lee Plank.

County Attorney Joseph H. Conley said earlier this week that he knows of no legal steps the citizens can pursue to force the officials out of office.

\* See Petition, page 11



Letter time

That jolly old fellow from the North Pole has informed The Mercury that he will be accepting letters from county youngsters via our newspaper again this year.

Letters to be published in our annual Santa Letters section must be in our office no later than Friday, Dec. 11.

\* See Letter time, page 11

## Lexington firm wants job Court set to hear offer to run ambulance service

At our deadline Tuesday afternoon, the Nicholas County Fiscal Court was set to meet Wednesday, Nov. 25 with a private ambulance service from Lexington that has expressed a desire to take over the local ambulance service when both county funeral homes go out of the business midnight, Dec. 31.

"We have a sincere interest and are willing to at least give it a try for a year," said Dick Cooksey of Blue Grass Medical Services.

Cooksey, whose service has been in operation for the last two and one-half years in Fayette County, said that he had heard about the local situation through the Blue Grass ADD, and that he began to look into the possibility of using the county as a springboard into other small county operations.

\* See Court set, page 11

his service already has three could handle most of those calls. "There just aren't enough calls in the county to support a full-time paid service on those calls alone," he said.

And, perhaps most importantly to some ruffled county taxpayers in the wake of the court-imposed ambulance tax controversy, Cooksey said he thought he could provide the service with "very little or no subsidy" from the fiscal court.

"We're willing to look at it for a year, and then go back in and look at our expenses and collection records and then sit down and talk the whole picture over with the fiscal court," Cooksey said.

\* See Court set, page 11

court could allow use of the armory as storage area for the ambulance free of charge.

While several details were yet to be ironed out, Cooksey was expected to propose to the court that he furnish one ambulance in the county at all times, along with one full-time employee. He would augment those with paid volunteers and back-up units from Lexington.

He said all non-life threatening runs to and from Lexington would be handled by his Lexington units. That way, there would always be an ambulance in the county, and the other unit would be on call as soon as the run was completed.

Cooksey said that he would "really like to hire a local person as the full-time employee. You need someone that knows the area and the people in the community." He said that one of his supervisors would also come down initially, to assist in setting up the

\* See Court set, page 11

## County school closed today

The Nicholas County school system will be closed today (Thursday) and Friday in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Classes will resume on the regular schedule Monday morning, Nov. 30.

## Post office sets holiday mail schedule

The local post office has announced a stepped-up schedule of dispatching mail during the holiday season. Beginning Dec. 7, and running through Dec. 21, there will be two trips made between Carlisle and Lexington.

In addition to the usual 4-7:30 p.m. pick up, the holiday schedule will also send all mail in the office and the collection box in front of the post office to Lexington at noon.

A local postal service spokesman said that the earlier in the day mail is deposited, the better it moves. "Customers would help themselves greatly, and the postal service also, if they could mail early in the day," he said.

## Stamler gets President's export award

### Millersburg firm to export \$5 million by end of year

When one thinks of Millersburg, Kentucky, he hardly pictures the quiet, scenic little town as an international business center. But in the mining world, that's exactly what it is.

Last Friday, the W. R. Stamler Corporation, headquartered in Millersburg, joined an elite group of American companies which have been honored with the President's "E" Award. Since its establishment in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy to recognize persons, firms, or organizations who have strengthened the United States' position in world trade, only nine other Kentucky companies have received the award.

"Actually, the award to Stamler should really be an 'F' award," said Bill Stamler, the corporation's chairman and chief executive officer, after the presentation ceremony. "It's 'F' stands for Ignorance. When we began exporting in the late 60s, we really didn't know what we were getting into."

Whether that is a humble exaggeration or not, it really makes little difference. Because by 1978 Stamler had developed the product line to a full ten percent of its total annual revenue, and established itself as the world leader in design and manufac-

ture of feeder-breaker systems and hydraulic roller splitters.

This year, with export markets firmly established in Canada, South Africa, England, Brazil, Australia, Spain and Yugoslavia, Stamler's exports will total over \$5 million for machines and replacement parts.

And Bill Stamler said Friday that an export market of that size translates into a boost to the area's economy at home. He said that exports will account for the employment of 35 workers in Millersburg this year. That means, he says, "the addition of \$70,000 in wages, salaries, and profit sharing paid to those people, and the local expenditure of approximately \$1 million for materials and services."

"Equally important, though," he said, "is the stability that export diversification brings to this company. Exporting has smoothed the peaks and valleys of the machinery business. This stability has enabled us to provide secure employment for our people and, because of this, we have been able to attract and retain an organization which is acknowledged to be the world leader in its product line."

Founded in 1953 by W. Raymond Stamler, the corporation now employs



Bill Stamler (left), the chairman and chief executive officer for the W. R. Stamler Corporation in Millersburg received the President's "E" award in ceremonies at the corporation's Millersburg facilities Friday afternoon. The award recognizes the nation's top exporters who've strengthened the country's position in world trade. Presenting the award to Stamler was Donald R. Henderson, Director of the Louisville district office, The International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. — Mercury photo.