

The Carlisle Mercury

Our 114th year, No. 39

Carlisle, Kentucky 40311 Thursday, September 24, 1981

25 cents per copy

Court takes action on county tax rates

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court set the hospital tax rate at 21.5 cents per \$100 property valuation during last Wednesday's regular session meeting. The Court also decided to hold a public hearing October 8 at 10 a.m. for the purpose of setting the general county rate.

In setting the hospital rate, the Court took the compensating rate of 21.5 cents per \$100 property valuation as the county's rate of 21 cents. That 21.5 cent tax is expected to generate \$20,779 in revenues (before Sheriff's fees and uncollected taxes are subtracted).

The maximum rate allowable for the hospital tax after public hearing would be 23 cents. That would generate the maximum four percent increase as stipulated under House Bill 44, and produce \$21,361.

The Court will need \$171,545 next year to meet the retirement schedule on the bonded indebtedness for the new hospital.

That would be a 2 cent (two-tenths of one cent) increase over last year's rate of 13.1%.

The four percent increase in revenues would bring the county's income from the tax to \$21,145 (before fees and uncollected taxes). Last year's rate of 13.1 cents produced \$21,969 before the deduction.

The compensating rate for the county this year would be 13 cents. That rate would theoretically gross the county \$127,806.

But with \$10,284 in uncollected taxes last year add \$120,000 in tax receipts

already committed to this year's budget, the court was afraid that even the four percent increase could leave them in financial trouble. If the same amount of taxes go uncollected during this fiscal year, the court will be \$28,529 short of its budget before subtracted fees) even with the four percent increase.

Magistrate Harold Mitchell said that "it doesn't look good (asking for a tax increase), but we have to have the money. We're talking about \$5,000 more in revenue and we've just made a \$3,000 deal here" (referring to the

Court's hiring of janitor Clay Sapp discussed later in this story).

Magistrate Bus Atkinson stressed that the increase "won't take up what Sapp could get more accomplished by coming in later in the afternoon when traffic through the halls was slower, and when the offices were empty."

Discussed two burials paid for by county funds that totaled \$100. — Heard from Jailer Lynn Bowles that he was having a problem with "mice, rats, roaches and ants" at the

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...All the live-long day
A cool drink of water provided a pleasant pause for this TTI employee as he and fellow workers continued repairs on the railroad tracks near Carlisle Monday afternoon. — Mercury photo.

Court proceeds with plans to run ambulance service

Even if the ambulance tax question gains passage on the November ballot, revenues from that tax will not be available for operation of an ambulance service until late in 1982. As of midnight, December 31, the local funeral homes will no longer provide ambulance service to Nicholas County.

It was with these facts clearly in mind that the Fiscal Court discussed plans for the operation of a county-run ambulance service at last Wednesday's regular session meeting.

Magistrate Bus Atkinson urged the Court to formulate a clear-cut plan of action for the service before the November vote so local residents could have some idea of what they are voting for. County Attorney Joseph H. Conley concurred with Atkinson's sentiments.

"People are interested in what they will be paying for," he said. "I would inform the Court that he and County Judge Executive Tom Snoot were scheduled to meet with representatives of the Blue Grass Area Development District Tuesday to discuss a grant application from the county for funds to purchase an ambulance. Results of that meeting were not available at press time.

Magistrate Harold Mitchell informed the court of his inquiries into the subject and said that he had checked purchase prices of their ambulances. He said that the ambulance owned by Mothers-Guance could be bought for between \$10,000 and \$12,000. He reported that Billy Clark of Clark Funeral Home had asked \$8,000 for his vehicle.

Mitchell also said that City Councilman Frank Hughes had been in contact with the University of Kentucky and that UK spokesman Austin Carter had said there would be "no chance" of the university setting up classes for the training of EMT's in Carlisle.

Hughes said recently that he had received a good response in his survey of the county for potential volunteer EMT's. He reported that 19 persons were very interested, but that the number would rise if a school could be set up in the county for the necessary training.

Magistrate Mitchell said after the meeting that he plans to check into the feasibility of leasing local persons to and from an EMT class. He also said he would check and see if the Department for Human Resources could contract the classes locally. Mitchell also has been in contact with the Legislative Research Commission in Frankfort on the regulatory aspects of running an ambulance service at the county level.

Something for everyone Foxhunters cookin' burgoo

The air around the Clay Wildlife Management Area will be filled with the sounds of bound and hoof next week when the Central Kentucky Foxhunters Association holds its 48th annual Bench Show and Field Trial near Carlisle.

The event, which will run from Monday, September 28, to Thursday, October 1, will feature something for just about everyone.

For hunters, the entire week will be full of action-packed excitement. For non-hunters, the Old Fashioned Kentucky Burgoo Supper Tuesday night, and the Square Dance Wednesday night should prove to be the highlights.

The burgoo supper, beginning at 6:30 at the CWMA equipment shop, will feature one of Kentucky's most famous traditional dishes. In the same manner as it was prepared years ago for barbequing and political rallies, the Phossant, duck and squirrel will be checked full of meat and vegetables.

Events at the CWMA will get underway Monday with the entire morning and afternoon reserved for registration and marking of bounds. The day will be topped off by the 7:30 p.m. Bench Show at the equipment shop.

The hunting will get underway early Tuesday morning with the first cast of bounds at daybreak. After the day's hunting, the Burgoo supper will be accompanied by a Horn Blowing Contest for ladies and children. Wednesday will feature another full day of hunting with the final cast of derby bounds and the second cast of all-age bounds at daybreak. The Square Dance will cap the day. It will begin at 8:00 at the Carlisle National Guard Armory.

Thursday's activities will conclude the event with the traditional final cast at daybreak. The presentation of trophies and awards will be held at 10:30 a.m. at the CWMA office. For further information, contact Samuel C. Reynolds at 285-3282, or Roger Worman at 285-2111.

Disaster application now in Washington

Representative Adrian Arnold said last week that he and Senator Ed Ford had been working with state officials on the application filed by the local Emergency and Disaster Board August 17 to have Nicholas County declared a disaster area, and that all of the state channels are now cleared and the report is on its way to Washington to await federal approval.

"We're hopeful," said Arnold, "the chances look good" that the application will be approved.

AGSC's County Executive Director and member of the Emergency Disaster Board Arna Conner said in an earlier interview that when all of the losses are added together, they amount to around one-quarter of the county's total agricultural gross.

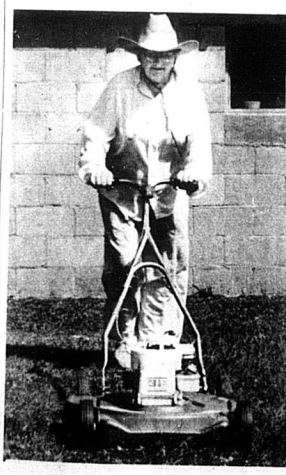
Bluejackets fall to Beechwood

"We played a good team," said Nicholas County Football Coach Ben Pumphrey of a Beechwood team that defeated his Jackets 34-14 Friday night in Carlisle, "and they played well."

"They earned their first two touch downs, and then they did some awfully fine things to get their three. We had people in the right places and they did some awfully good things," Pumphrey said after viewing the game film over the weekend.

"We're not making any excuses," the veteran coach commented, "we got whipped. Pumphrey feels that his team will have to come back from the loss and play better than they did in the season's opener to emerge victorious in Friday night's Homecoming rematch with Fleming County. The Jackets defeated the Panthers earlier this year 21-6.

"They'll come to play," Pumphrey said of a team that he feels has been staked bitten so far this year with a kick for losing games that are closer than the score would indicate. "They have some people who can play. Their lack is bound to change someday, and I hope it isn't Friday."



Mowing time
When the thermometer eased back up into the lower 80's Monday, Mrs. Ella Ritchie came out into her lawn on East Main Street for a sunny date with a lawnmower. — Mercury photo.

Merchants to meet Friday afternoon

The Kentucky Retail Federation will sponsor a meeting for all local merchants on Friday, September 25 to inform retailers of several recent issues and changes in laws and regulations both at the state and federal level. Also, legislation anticipated to be considered by the 1982 Kentucky General Assembly will be discussed.

Mark J. Morgan Jr., President of the Kentucky Retail Federation, said the session will be held from 2-3:15 p.m. at the Deposit Bank on Main Street and that the meeting will be free. All retail merchants are invited and encouraged to attend.

...oops!

Due to a typographical error, a story on the front page of last week's Mercury mistakenly reported that Nicholas County Superintendent Don Eskler plans to ask the Board of Education to levy a two cent increase on the special voted tax for the new elementary school at a public hearing in two weeks.

Eskler will ask the Board for an increase of 2 cents (two-tenths of one cent) per \$100 property valuation. As reported, that increase will raise the tax rate from last year's 1.65 cents to 1.71 cents. The compensating rate (the tax rate which would yield the same amount of revenue as last year) is 1.5 cents.

The bonded indebtedness for the new school's construction runs around \$100,000 per year. Please note inside this week's paper that the notice for the public hearing changes the date from October 13 to October 9. The hearing will begin at 6 p.m.