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On '81 crop losses Farmers to attend meeting



Baptist Church gets trimmed

A team of volunteers descended upon the trim at the First Baptist Church of Carlisle on a beautiful day last week. Up top is Stanley Casswell and below on the ladder is Ethel Smith. They are brother and sister. — Mercury photo.

Representatives of the Farmers Home Administration will hold a meeting at the Nicholas County Library Friday, May 7, to get documentation from Nicholas County farmers on the severity of crop losses due to bad weather. In an effort to qualify for interest loans to help recover part of the losses, Mike Phillips, Nicholas County Extension Agent, has told the Mercury.

"Every county around us in the Sixth Congressional District has already qualified," Phillips said, "yet our '81 crop losses are greater than theirs. There's a bottleneck in Washington somewhere."

The meeting is to be held at the library beginning at 10 a.m. on Friday, May 7, in the time for farmers to bring whatever paperwork documenting their losses before them. In the ward can be carried back to Washington, Phillips said.

"The problem connected with why Nicholas County hasn't been declared a crop disaster area from weather-related losses is in Washington," Phillips told the Mercury. "My guess is that the people making the decisions on last year's crop losses are using a three year average of our crop values to see how far down we might have gone last year and show the loss that way. The problem with that is we've had severe losses for the last three years. Phillips said in 1979 some Nicholas County land was flooded twice and some land three times.

"That was the year we had water in the basement of the post office in Carlisle."

"In 1980 we had diseases as a result of the flood waters of the year before. In addition, we had the mild." Then last year it got wet early and then we had no rain at all in the summer."

Yearly average
In order to properly show the loss of the last three years, Phillips said it would be necessary for the people in Washington to look at a ten year average of crop values in Nicholas County, not just three years. "That would show the losses of the last three years."

FHIA representatives scheduled to attend the May 7 meeting are the State Director of the FHIA, the Farm Program Coordinator for FHIA and the Assistant District Director.

"If we are ever to get a break on these losses, then the farmers will have to show up at this meeting and give depictions on their crop losses last year as well as any paperwork proof of their losses."

Hasn't
"It's not like we're asking for a handout from Washington," Phillips said.

Jury checks
Jury checks are now ready to be picked up, Nicholas County Circuit Clerk Clark Watkins reports. They may be picked up anytime through May 12.

New Chamber... Adopts dues schedule

The newly organized Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce has begun a drive to recruit members, in order to fund a series of activities including economic development in both the city and the county, according to a chamber organizer John Burke.

Among the areas where the new chamber promises to be active are economic development, government involvement, agriculture, sales promotion, developing a map of our city and county, sponsoring a scholarship, annual Christmas Parade, purchasing new Main Street decorations and promoting youth recreation.

A letter mailed to area businesses and signed by the interim board of directors, composed of John Burke, Bill Clark Jr., Doug Garrett, Jimmy Shaw, Herse Sasso, Dudley Vaughn and Larry Wilk, says, "no you can see from the below list, the Chamber plans to be active during the coming year, but we cannot accomplish these goals without your support and active involvement. Please join us in planning a

secure future for our community. The next paragraph reads, "our Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce dues are due." And they're tax deductible too.

Burke said merchants and businesses will find the dues to be higher than they were in the old chamber.

"The problem we had before was we were always running in the red and we didn't hardly do anything," Burke told the Mercury.

Burke said the interim board checked into the chamber dues charged by surrounding communities and adopted the schedule being used by Paris, but lowered the fees from what Paris is charging.

"We think these new dues are compatible with what nearby communities of our size are charging," Burke continued.

Burke said he hoped people would write their checks after they receive the letter, but that if they didn't they would be visited by members of a

"See Chamber on page 12."

Bell rate hike would be 71%

Rates for home telephone service in Carlisle and Nicholas County will go up by 71 percent if the rate increase asked by South Central Bell Telephone Company last week becomes law.

Business rates would go up by 74 percent. At the present time, local access lines here are \$10.92 a month, according to a Bell spokesman, and would be increased to \$18.73, a raise of \$7.81 a month. Business lines are currently \$27.30, according to the spokesman, and would increase to \$46.00, or a difference of \$18.70 a month.

The hike, based on past rate requests, that it might take until next fall to argue this case and get a decision before the Public Service Commission," Carl Hertz Jr., Bell District Manager told the Mercury.

"So the company has asked for an interim increase to take effect right away of \$1.2 a month for home lines and \$2.50 a month for business telephone."

"We expect a decision on the interim increase by the end of May," Hertz said.

Court applies for East End water/sewer grant

The Nicholas County fiscal court has passed a resolution authorizing the application for a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$407,000 to provide sewer and water service to a possible 90 prospective customers on the east end of Carlisle.

The action was taken at the court's rescheduled meeting last week, after Don Hassall, Director of Community Development for the Bluegrass Area Development District, revealed that 71 percent of those surveyed door to door in the affected area were for the project.

Hassall said 84 residences were polled with a questionnaire (published in the Mercury last week). Forty-nine persons voted for the sewer and water

improvement project, 20 were against and 25 were either vacant houses, had no response or no opinion. Several of these, it was pointed out by Hassall, refused to answer the questionnaire because of a question that referred to level of income.

Total value of the project is \$668,000, with \$130,000 cash being committed to the fiscal court, \$300,000 in the form of a bank loan by the City of Carlisle and the remainder to be provided by the Community Action, Lexington-Fayette agency, and \$238,000 in assessments to the residents in the affected area.

The cash of \$130,000 toward the project is for part of the funding to update the water system, estimated to cost \$3,000. Funds for this are included in the grant, since BEAD found out it was an eligible expense for which a grant could be sought.

The \$3,000 in local assessments would be broken down in the following manner: if the grant money is received. Those in the affected east end area now on septic tanks and without sewer would pay \$500 per tapout. Those now on county water, with no hydrants, would pay \$100. Those now on city sewer by their own method and also on county water will pay \$100.

Hassall also pointed out that 12 new fire hydrants will be provided with the funding. No one residence would be more than 300 feet away from a hydrant, Hassall said, and water lines through the hydrants would be at least 700 gallons per minute, sufficient for any fire in the area. This would qualify the area for a Class 7 fire rating.

Hassall went on to say that all is dependent upon receiving grant approval, which may be forthcoming by July.

Part of the agreement made by the fiscal court is that if the project becomes a reality, the county would donate the present water line in the affected area to the City of Carlisle. The city is designated as the body who will administer the water and sewer project, subject to annexation of the area.

Annexation by the city was not

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The information gathered at the meeting must support Nicholas County's claim, Phillips said.

Phillips said this meeting will probably be the last chance Nicholas County farmers will have to get their statements in so "we might qualify as a crop disaster area for 1981."

Phillips said the man in charge of the federal crop insurance program holds the losses in Nicholas County were greater than in any other county in the state of Kentucky. "More money was paid out on a per acre basis, in other words," Phillips said.

"We just can't figure out what's happened. We know that we qualify. The paperwork documentation has got to be turned up somewhere and we

can't seem to get to the bottom of it."

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Almost a lost art Hammer dulcimer is seldom practiced in modern days, but Marti Williamson of Harrodsburg keeps it alive.

Ms. Williamson shared the Nicholas County Homekeepers at their annual meeting last Thursday. She played this instrument, a regular dulcimer and the harp. She also conducted a sing-along with the group. Her husband is the superintendent of schools at Harrodsburg. — Mercury photo.

discussed by the fiscal court, although Mayor Frankie Haghea was in attendance. The only reference made to annexation was by one fiscal court member who asked Hassall if there was a question on the survey form asking about annexation. Hassall's answer was "no."

Prior discussion of the water and sewer project was based on the idea that the county would apply for the funds and the city would take the project over upon annexing the area.

Most of the objections to the project were voiced by those against the idea of annexation at a public hearing held earlier this month.

County's money
During discussion of where the fiscal court would get the \$130,000 to donate to the project, it was revealed that the water district fund had \$11,000 left, and the court, upon being advised by County Attorney Jock Cooney that he knew of no reason why those funds could not be used, voted to use them as part of its contribution, expected to be due by next year, if the project becomes a reality.

The court also discussed using revenue sharing to provide the balance of \$4,000.

"The folks in the East End area should realize that they will be getting about a \$200 increase in the value of their property," Fiscal Court member Harold Mitchell pointed out, "for an

"See Court on page 12."



Do you recognize the view?

If you've lived in Nicholas County for a while, you probably know where this picture was shot. If you don't, take another look, for it is a familiar place well known to most of us. If you live alone or near Ky. 32 at the Fleming County

line, you'd better know where this picture was shot. The cameraman stood atop the hill and looked back along Pleasant Valley for this splendid scene of trees, grass, water and cattle grazing. — Mercury photo.

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Applications taken again for cheese

Community Action will be assisting the Department for Human Resources by taking applications for USDA surplus cheese at the Community Center on Tuesday, May 4, and Tuesday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone receiving cheese from other agencies during the past 30 days is not eligible.