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Downtown gas work to be complete soon

The major gas line work in the downtown Carlisle area is nearly completed, City Superintendent Gayle Vandalingham told the Mercury this week.

"The project is coming along real good," Vandalingham said. "We've had a few minor problems, but no major ones and we're happy about that."

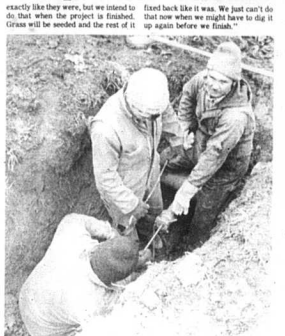
Vandalingham said the main lines in close to town were just about finished and these were the leaky lines officials were most worried about because they carried the bulk of the gas pressure into the city.

"We've got Daneyville left to do and some work on Archdeacon and we hope to have that done by the end of the year," Vandalingham added. "We'll have to play it by ear in January and see what the weather does. As an all-contract contractor like this, the contractor has the option of stopping work whenever he wants to, based on the weather conditions."

In the spring, service lines to residential homes will be hooked up and work will continue on the west end at the Blue Grass Industries factory.

Clean up work
Vandalingham emphasized that all of the cleanup work will wait until the project is finished in the summer.

"We know that people's yards and asphalt and curbs, etc., aren't put back exactly like they were, but we intend to do that when the project is finished. Grass will be seeded and the rest of it fixed back like it was. We just can't do that now when we might have to dig it up again before we finish."



Gas line work goes on

Even in 30 degree weather with a wind blowing, the Gas Line Restoration Project continues in Carlisle. Here three workers from Moreheadville, Ky., chilled by the cold, work on a gas line construction Monday. They are, from left, Randy Carradour, Bob Turner and Kenneth Upphurch. When asked how they liked working in this weather, the answer was "not too good." — Mercury photo.

Appeals Court denies petition

The Kentucky Court of Appeals has denied a petition by Chester A. Rosta and others to stop the local election at Myers Station, according to a legal document received Tuesday by the Nicholas County Judge-Executive's office.

The Appeals Court apparently said the question was now "moot" since the election had already been held. County Attorney Jack Colyer said.

This is the appeal that was filed by the "dry" forces in Nicholas County to stop liquor from going in at Myers.

See Appeal on page 11

Letters to Santa Claus

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. I will leave you a big plate of cookies. Also for Rudolph. I will leave him a big orange I read in E. Dill's Pac-Man game and a dog.

Dear Santa,
Well, it's that time again. How was your year? Mine was OK. I thought I let you know what my sister and I would like this year. I want a record player and whatever you can think to bring. My sister wants a doll. We don't want much this year because of the economy. I want to remind you not to forget the little kids at the orphan home, and don't forget our Marine and Army and Navy men who might not be at home with their families at Christmas. We love you very much, Santa. Chastity Buckler, age 7, and Deane Buckler, age 4

Dear Santa,
My name is Nancy Mitchell. I have tried to be good this year. I would like to have a wooden Shippo, Malibu Barbie and Ken, clothes for myself, Strawberry Shortcake sleeping bag, Strawberry Shortcake miniature and a house for the miniature. Barbie horse Dallas, clothes for Ken, doll treasure chest and a Lite Brite and any surprises you want to leave in my stocking.

Love,
P.S. I will leave carrots for your reindeer and Archway holiday cookies for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Karen Livingston. I am a little girl five years old and I have been a real good girl this year. Please bring me a Betty LaRue doll, a pretty car with groceries, a white sweater and a couple of surprises. Please don't forget all the other little boys and girls.

Love,
Karen

Christmas closing schedule

Many Carlisle retail businesses say they will close around 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve.

The library announces it will be closed both Friday and Saturday, Dec. 24 and 25.

State offices, such as Department of Human Resources and others will close Dec. 24 and 25 and also Dec. 26 and 27.

The post office will be open usual Friday but will be closed Saturday. The lobby will be open Christmas Day as usual.

Sally Watkins, Circuit Clerk, announces her office will be closed Thursday and Friday as well as on Christmas Day.

County Clerk Rose Scott will close at noon on Friday as will the Sheriff's office.

The Soil Conservation and ASCS offices will be closed both Friday and Saturday.

The Carlisle Mercury will close at noon on Friday.

Recognized by Peace Corp

Kenneth Baker, President of the Ecology Club, Wilbert Winkle and Sue Kirby, both sponsors for the club which has 50 members. — Mercury photo

Ecology Club Helps build a school in Nepal

A certificate of "grateful appreciation" has been received by the Ecology Club at Nicholas County High School from the Peace Corp for a \$425.50 gift from the club to a rural school in the country of Nepal. (See story.) From left,

Life in the village is very simple, there is no electricity, running water, gas, industry, or any type of modern conveniences. The village's entire structure is based on rudimentary agriculture. There is very little outside income coming into the village except the few men who work as "Gorkhas" in the Indian and Indian army.

The population of Dolpa is approximately 1000 and it is made up of one ethnic or cast group called Magar. The people of Dolpa are farmers, and are noted for their skill in rock cutting, as can be seen by their houses which are all constructed of stone, and also the cliff side trails along the river all carved from bedrock.

Life in the village is harsh. Every hillside in the village, no matter how suitable have been terraced into fields for crops. Hundreds and hundreds of these terraces have been constructed and many are found on slopes that are almost vertical. Last summer some of the terraces were washed away, and many had to be rebuilt by hand.

Life up the village starts at sunrise or just before. After a snack of tea and sometimes bread, the men leave for the fields while the women prepare the morning meal. The men return from the field at about 4 p.m. and are served "dal bhat" which is rice with a lentil soup. After the morning meal both the men and women return to the fields and work late into the afternoon. At 6 p.m. there is usually a snack of tea and supped over. The men then usually take care of the buffalo and goats. The women prepare the evening meal which is again "dal bhat" which is served at 7 p.m. Work activities conclude with periods of daylight and villagers usually do a deep sleep after supper.

Last year's monsoon was very destructive for the villagers. With so much deterioration and overgrazing the destruction was incredible. At the height of the monsoon, it rained seven inches in a single night causing a major landslide in the village. The ravine left by the landslide was 200 feet long and 20 feet deep. In a few seconds everything was washed away — trees, crops, fields, roads and some rocks the size of cars.

The very next day, women and children from the village were carrying rocks down the mountain to a landing pack called a "doko." They were flinging to rebuild the terraces and fields was both inspirational and depressing.

When the villagers are not working in the fields planting the crop or tending what, mustard, and barley, they can be seen building new houses and repairing the trails leading to the village. When there is no work in the fields many will work as porter loading huge loads up the mountain and down the mountain, and from village to village.

Porters can carry tremendous loads. Most Nepals are just over five feet tall and weigh no more than 120 pounds. Puck animals are not used in Nepal, and

Old time favorites

Stucky britches, corn pudding

The Christmas season is a time for rituals and traditions and Christmas dinner is no exception. In Kentucky, however, foods served at this meal may be a bit different from those in other states.

"Kentucky has many traditional foods, especially for holidays," says Floy Patton, assistant professor of home economics at Morehead State University. "But most states don't."

In colonial days, Kentucky was a "crossroads" to the west," Patton says. "People from England, Scotland and Germany were traveling through, and many of them brought with them the mountain residents then of their homeland. So Kentucky's foods are a combination of these three cultures plus the Indians."

One of the traditional main dishes for Christmas is country ham. Patton says.

"For dessert on Christmas Day, transparent pie is a Kentucky favorite. 'It's like pecan pie without the pecans,' Patton explains. "It originated in the state and the best today are made around Flemingburg and Mayview."

Despite the old time dates that have survived throughout the generations, many "new" foods are making their way onto the Christmas table.

"We're beginning to see more consumption in food, such as cornish hens, and broccoli is making green beans," Patton says. "People are craving more, get ideas from television, and can buy food at the supermarket that just were not available in the past."

Despite these changes, Patton hopes Kentuckians will keep their Christmas dinner traditions.

"We need to keep our heritage, but we also must continue to grow and change, too," she says. "We should keep the best of old traditions, add to it and pass it on to our kids and grandkids."

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Christmas

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