

JAN

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## Frigid cold wave cripples county

A deadly blast of arctic air raved into the county over the weekend and left local residents shivering in the icy jaws of one of the coldest periods in Kentucky history Sunday.

According to the National Weather Service at Blue Grass Airport, Sunday's low was 11 below zero. If that weren't enough, northwest winds gusting to 20 mph and drove the wind-chill factor down to minus 50 degrees in many areas of the state.

At the Mercury's deadline Tuesday afternoon, warmer temperatures in the upper teens brought little relief as a water alarm warning was issued by the National Weather Service. The storm, which was heading for the Ohio Valley from west Texas, was predicted to drop from three to five inches of snow on the Bluegrass area Tuesday night and Wednesday.

The storm temperatures left their mark on virtually every aspect of daily life in the county. It was nearly impossible to find a plumber in Carlisle Monday. Pipes and burst water pipes had the workmen swamped with calls for help. Local plumber Clay Myers wouldn't even make an estimate as to the number of calls he answered early in the week. He only wearily said "there are a lot of people freezing."

The demand for heat has caused a transformer near Morefield to burn out Sunday morning, and overworked transformers in Carlisle melted down

and left residents of Orisk and Catherine Streets without electricity "for an hour to an hour and a half," according to local K.U. Manager John Burke.

Burke said that the situation could have been corrected sooner, but one of the K.U. trucks was in the garage and another wouldn't start because of a frozen fuel line.

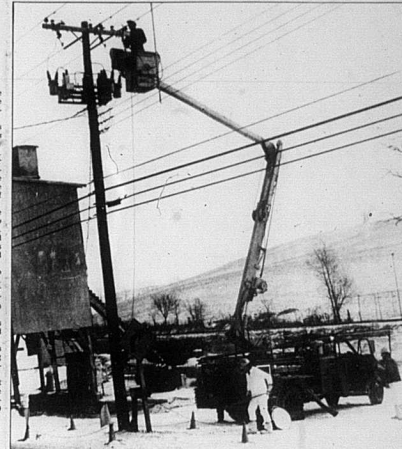
City Superintendent Gayle Vansandwich said his crews had replaced five frozen water meters as of Monday afternoon. Vansandwich said the greatest danger to city pipes lies in the possibility of a warming trend followed by another period of subzero temperatures. He said the warming would lower the frost line, and a subsequent freeze could reap havoc on the city's water supply lines.

Local mechanics had their hands more than full early this week with cars that would not start because of frozen batteries and icy fuel lines.

While no total figure was available for Nicholas County, Prob Officers of A.A.A. Blue Grass Auto Club said Monday morning that "probably 75 percent or more of the cars in Lexington won't start."

The Courier-Journal reported Monday that the Louisville AAA chapter received 1,000 calls from motorists with stalled cars between 8 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Sunday.

Nicholas County schools were canceled Monday and Tuesday. According



Workers for Kentucky Utilities were busy on East Main Street Monday repairing a transformer. Heavy loads due to the extreme cold weather kept KU crews busy in the first part of the week repairing over-worked transformers. — Mercury photo.

## School board gives route back to local bus driver

W.C. Jefferson was reassigned his Morefield area bus route Monday night, as the Nicholas County Board of Education reached a final decision in his case. Jefferson had been temporarily moved from his county route to a home route after a group of angry parents appeared at last month's board meeting and charged the driver with discriminatory and excessive disciplinary practices.

The move came after board members discussed the amount of support they had received for Jefferson. According to board members' statements, the support came from both parents on Jefferson's route and other bus drivers in the local school system.

Superintendent Don Elder read a letter to the board signed by two parents on Jefferson's Morefield route which called the board's action in removing the driver from their area of the county "unfair and unjust."

The letter asked the board to reconsider its position in the matter and stated that there are "many parents" on that route who would stand beside Mr. Jefferson.

Board Chairman William Hunter said during the discussion that he felt the situation could have some serious long-term effects on the local system. "If we change every driver that somebody doesn't like," he said, "we'll end up with trouble."

Board member Chester Mattox urged the other board members to consider only the "facts of the case."

"If he's guilty of anything," Mattox said, "and he's not fit to drive this bus (the Morefield route), then he's not fit to drive any bus."

Mattox continued, "But if he's not guilty of anything, then we should not have taken on the route."

After the question arose as to whether the final decision should be postponed until next month's board meeting to allow more time for thought, Elder asked the board to take some action immediately. "The facts won't change in 30 days," the superintendent said.

After a show of hands, Elder said that the bus driver would be willing to go back on the Morefield route, but said Elder, "he ought to would still have to maintain discipline."

Elder told the board that Jefferson may refuse to transport a child on a bus after other disciplinary channels have been pursued.

On the motion of Mattox, with a second by Herbert Duncan, Jefferson was reinstated to his former route.

A permanent move to the city route would have cost Jefferson \$50 per month in salary.

Prior to the vote, both Duncan and James Anderson questioned if the other driver had been on the Morefield route long enough for the board to get an adequate feel of the situation.

The incident with Jefferson arose after the Dec. 14 board meeting, in which parents charged Jefferson with prejudicial administration of punishment, and with physical and verbal abuse.

At the December meeting Jefferson admitted to "smacking" one child and "shaking" another. But Jefferson maintained that his disciplinary practices were necessary for the safety of the kids "on the bus." "I just try and

## Sen. Ford and Rep. Arnold The county's legislators will be in town Saturday

Nicholas County's representatives in the 1982 General Assembly will be visiting on the second week of this legislative session. That special "message line" is available locally by dialing 1-800-372-7211.

Two additional bill-free lines should help make finding the legislative session easier for citizens around the state. A "bill status line" at 1-800-372-7209 may be used to follow the progress of specific pieces of legislation.

A "newsletter" service, updated twice daily, counsels citizens to topics summaries of daily activities and a schedule of the next day's events. The "newsletter" number is 1-800-372-7611.

Sen. Ford will be the state capital for anyone wishing to communicate with an individual legislator. That special "message line" is available locally by dialing 1-800-372-7211.

The pair of state legislators will be available to discuss action in the General Assembly and its effects on the local community, as well as to field questions from local residents.

For those local persons who cannot make the Saturday morning meeting, a toll-free line has

## Chimney fires still dominate fire report

Heating one's home during subzero temperatures became a dangerous affair for two county families, as chimney fires called out county fire crews twice Sunday.

According to a report from county Fire Chief Woodrow Wilson, the fire department responded to a call at the home of Joyce Smith on the Leavel Grove Road Sunday morning.

Wilson said the fire, which occurred around 10:40 a.m., was caused by a faulty chimney flue.

The Fire Chief also said that damage to the Smiths home on the Jesse Darrell farm was estimated at between \$1,000 and \$1,500. There were no injuries reported in association with the blaze.

A second call Sunday sent fire fighters to the home of Ed Dale near

## Arnold takes leadership role in 1982 legislature State's crumbling county jail system could be hot topic in his committee



Rep. Adrian Arnold, pictured above during the 1980 General Assembly, has been selected to chair the house committee on counties and special districts. — Mercury file photo.

that of reforms for the state's crumbling county jail system.

"Kentucky is one of only five states that has not adopted standards" for their county jails, Arnold said. And he hopes at least that much can be accomplished in this session.

The reason the standards are needed is that without them, stricter standards mandated by federal courts could force many small counties into financial trouble. The state's situation also leaves local government agencies wide-open for lawsuits from prisoners.

Arnold said that such long-term solutions to the problem as going to a regional jail system and eliminating requirements for individual county jails, or of large-scale physical renovation, probably won't come from this legislative session, but he does believe that the groundwork can be laid for substantial jail reform by the 1984 session.

"I really don't see any immediate relief in sight," Arnold said a couple of hours before the Governor handed his

budget proposal to the legislature. "The budget is so tight, and it's going to be such a big fight for funds."

Arnold said that he will receive attention this session in relation to county jail areas but he is not sure if the system which requires jailers to have a bond court for reimbursement from the state, the setting of basic legislative standards for jails, and the required training of jailers. Kentucky is the only state in the nation that has an elected jailer for each county.

There could also be a movement, Arnold said, to increase certain fees by 10, with the increased money going to county jails for maintenance costs.

If the groundwork gets laid during this session, Arnold feels good about the possibilities of some positive, comprehensive jail reform coming out of the 1984 session.

Another area of legislation that is coming through Arnold's committee concerns a proposal to allow counties to invest county funds for 30 days in order

to earn additional revenue in interest, while providing stimulation to the credit market of a county.

One thing that Arnold definitely wants to see during this session is an early agreement on restructuring. He said he hopes that the legislators can "get restructuring out of the way so it won't get involved in other legislation."

Restructuring promises to be an especially tough area for legislators from Jefferson County and Northern Kentucky who are scheduled for big changes due to population declines.

Arnold said that he "can't foresee any changes" in his district, and that at most he would only be forced to give up 1000 constituents.

Arnold said that he is particularly pleased with the fact that that this year's group has gotten off to a good start. He feels the legislature is opening up to the people of the state more and more.

He cited features like toll-free telephone lines and press days as examples.

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