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First graders salute the Christmas season



First grade classes at Nicholas County Elementary School presented their annual Christmas program in two performances — first to the student body during the day and then to the public — on December 7. In the picture at left, Terra Herrington and



Patrick Sparks appear as Santa and Mrs. Claus; center, Steven Hopkins magically comes alive as Frosty the Snowman, with help from Bruce Buckler, inserting the traditional pipe in his mouth; right, Jason Minton portrays Joseph and Shawna Vice is Mary.



Mrs. Virginia Lee Conroy provided piano accompaniment for the program which was under the direction of first grade teachers Yveta Pumphrey, Charlene Harris, Linda Simoes and Joan Spickler. — Photos submitted.

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Federal grant approved to renovate playground

Uncle Sam sends Christmas gift to local kids

It's official. The long-anticipated approval of matching funds to renovate the Nicholas County Parks and Recreation Board's east end playground operation was given federal go-ahead last week in Washington. The office of 6th District Congressman Larry Hopkins was notified Dec. 14 that the National Park Service agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior is releasing \$17,577 in matching funds for the renovation. A total of approximately \$17,000 is the responsibility of the local Parks and Recreation Board.

AN OFFICIAL announcement from the Kentucky Dept. of Local Government, which applied for the grant, is expected here this week. Among the improvements to be made are a new foot bridge over Brushy Fork Creek, new lights for the ball field, new bleachers and resurfacing of the tennis court area. Kenneth Baker is Parks and Recreation Board chairman. Some \$1,000 of the funds needed on the local level have been committed by the Carlisle/Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce.

IN A RELATED matter, the C of C also expects to help develop a proposed County Fairgrounds at the County Farm on land given the Parks and Recreation Board two years ago. Fiscal Court donated the land which must be developed within five years, according to John Burke, C of C president. Plans under consideration call for a horse show arena, a tractor pull site and adult ball fields, among other things. The ball field at the east end playground is not adequate for long ball-hitting adults, Burke said, noting that playing fields are at a premium during the peak summer months. It is hoped that construction can be started next year.

A memory-filled doll collection

by Jack R. Dumas
How many of us remember the very first doll Santa left under the Christmas tree? Not more specifically, how many of us still have that first doll, or any of the dolls we received during our childhood, whether at Christmas, birthdays or other special times? Well, Betty Barton has one such doll which she calls Faith, that her aunt, the late Mrs. Mayne Mann, gave her for

Christmas when she was 12 years old. The dress and bonnet, which the doll wore, were worn by her father, the late Frank Haddosen, when he was a baby. The apron was worn by another aunt in her infancy, Mrs. Susy Brown of Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home. Faith is the first, and only one from her childhood days of a large collection of dolls, some of which are 30-40 years old. Many of them she has acquired at

flea markets and yard sales, paying anywhere from 50 cents to \$5. Some she has received from family and friends. MANY TIMES she has tried to discourage little girls from selling their dolls at yard sales, hoping that they will save the dolls for a collection that will mean so much to them when they are grown. But if all else fails, Betty is more than glad to add them to her collection.

Her most recent acquisition is a lovely 17th century doll bedecked in a handsome dress of tulle and velvet. She has named her Carol because she bought her so close to Christmas. Carol is the only doll she has purchased new from a store; and is the highest priced one she owns at \$45. Her collection consisting of minia-



Betty's dolls
Mrs. Betty Barton, seated right, is pictured amid her collection of dolls, arranged around her Christmas tree. Her favorite doll is seated in the child's rocking chair at left of the tree. The Santa doll referred to in the story, is front center, and her latest acquisition is the tall doll on the floor in front of Betty. Each has a story, which Betty loves to tell.—Mercury photo.

'Wonderful two days,' says Hughes

Racing Commission appointment voided

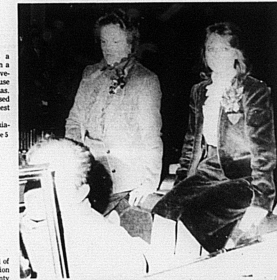
What has to be the shortest period of service in State Racing Commission history belongs to a Nicholas County man.

B. Gail Hughes, manager of Forest Retreat horse farm operations, was appointed to the commission by Gov. John Y. Brown Jr. Monday night shortly before leaving office.

Thursday morning Hughes received a call from the commission voiding the appointment. There was no specific, he was told, since the expected resignation of Tom Gentry did not take place.

Sorry. "It was a wonderful two-day honor," Hughes told the Mercury last week. "I just hope his (Brown's) faction of prisoners worked out better than my appointment signed by Gov. Brown which he intends to frame for posterity."

Sort of like being King for a Day, but Gail?



Snow Queen candidates

Snow Queen candidates in the Christmas Parade, who were not pictured in last week's Mercury, include Marsha Hunt, left, and Diane Ritchie. Driving the convertible is Doug Garrett, a member of the Carlisle/Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce which sponsored the annual parade. Marsha and Diane are seniors at Nicholas County High School. Stephanie Ockerman was crowned the 1983 Snow Queen. — Photos submitted.

Mercury office closed Monday

The Carlisle Mercury office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, to observe the Christmas holiday. The City office will close for the Christmas holidays at noon Friday, Dec. 23, reopening Dec. 27. The office will also be closed Jan. 2, a legal holiday.