

DEC
29
1983

Happy New Year

Anyone know its origin?

Courthouse flag to wave anew

The Carlisle/Nicholas Chamber of Commerce, fresh from the completion of a successful Christmas Parade and Toy Drive, has launched still another project for the new year.

Members have removed the old, one-way, electric flag from its perch atop the steps of the courthouse and plan to restore it, "as good as new," according to John Burke, C of C president.

The flag is thought to have initially waved during World War I, Burke said. He seeks information on its background from anyone who may remember the exact date it was placed here, or any other pertinent facts, he said.

Burke may be contacted at the Kentucky Utilities Co. office, 208-2541.

DONATIONS to the Toy Drive more

than doubled last year's collection, Burke said with a smile. That means twice as many toys and other items were available for distribution by members of the co-sponsoring Lions Club and the C of C.

Homes of under-privileged boys and girls were visited by these "Santa helpers" on Christmas Eve.

The chamber is actively participating with the newly-created Bluegrass Industrial Foundation, which is seeking regional development in a seven-county area, including Nicholas. Twenty-five percent of its dues are earmarked for the chamber's Economic Development Committee, chaired by Andy Dudley, which works closely with the BIF and local government officials to attract new industry to

the county.

LEXINGTON is not presently interested in any more growth," Burke pointed out. "That's why we're so hopeful that we have a shot at any new business which might want to locate around here."

Bluegrass Area Development District figures show that with the existing labor, Nicholas County could easily support a job growth of 15-20 new jobs a year, given the make-up of available housing and utilities.

The chamber is currently operating at a financial disadvantage, due to a drop in membership (loss of approximately \$1,000 in dues), the rain-out of a tractor pull, a major revenue-maker, and the increased cost of staging the

Christmas Parade, because of the added number of entries (80 for that guarantee).

MEMBERSHIP range in cost from \$10 for individuals to about \$50, pooled on the type of business and number of employees. Bluegrass Industrial Inc. is the county's largest employer.

Other promotions during the year which represented a sizeable outlay of money included the 11 Love Caroling and City of Carlisle to an all-effort to attract new business and keep those already here. The dues rates have previously been about \$15.00.

Burke feels the chamber's support of the legislative sale of liquor in the community may reflect the drop in membership. It was the chamber's position that the resulting revenue (an

estimated \$1 million a year in retail sales and taxes), would find its way into the local economy.

BASED ON 1982 economic figures published by the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet, Nicholas Counties have an annual retail income of approximately \$2.5 million, \$11 million of which is represented in retail sales in Carlisle and Nicholas County, Burke figures.

Current officers of the chamber are Burke, Bob Hester, vice-president, and Debbie France, secretary-treasurer. Directors are Doug Garrett, Bill Clark Jr., Jimmy Shaw, George Mitchell, Jimmy Carter, Dudley Vaughn and Trippy Clark.

Burke will step down as president at the group's annual meeting next year. —E.A.W.



New van for Senior Citizens
Mrs. Margaret Hunter, Rural Programs Coordinator for Community Action is pictured handing over the keys to a new 16-passenger van to Mrs. Shirley Vice, director of Nicholas County Senior Center on Main Street. Also pictured is Nicholas County Judge/Executive, Reese Sneed.—Mercury photo.

Burley groups urge 10 percent cut for '84

By Bennett Heath

Burley tobacco growers and their leaders are strongly in record as favoring a 10 percent cut in the legal limit — in next year's national marketing quota, although most of them would prefer a much larger slash.

The 10 percent maximum was inserted in the law last spring as one of many amendments to overhauling the tobacco program. Back then before the disastrous drought it was regarded as a vast improvement over the five percent limit then in effect.

But now with a growing oversupply of pool stocks and the prospect of rising spot-market assessments, some burley spokesmen are seeing the 10 percent cut as outdated in today's fast-changing situation.

Some expressions that all limitations should be removed in cutting national poundage quotas were heard at last

week's USDA hearing at Lexington, also at the December directors' meeting of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association.

WITHOUT EXCEPTION, all growers' organizations, and individual farmers who spoke at the quota hearing were in accord on a crop reduction for 1984, though such action as a 10 percent cut would fall far short of solving the oversupply problem.

The proposed 10 percent cut would reduce next year's basic quota only 40 million pounds, in the face of prospects that with a normal growing season the crop could put another 70 pounds on the market. The 1983 basic quota was 64 million pounds, and 1984 with the 10 percent cut would be 54 million.

The next fear is that next year's crop, even with the cut, could add to present troubles in the form of extra-heavy pool assignments, as farmers

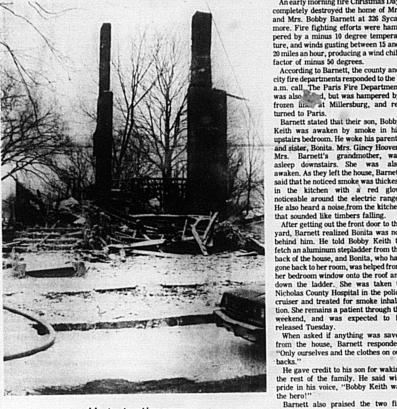
of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association.

WITHOUT EXCEPTION, all growers' organizations, and individual farmers who spoke at the quota hearing were in accord on a crop reduction for 1984, though such action as a 10 percent cut would fall far short of solving the oversupply problem.

The proposed 10 percent cut would reduce next year's basic quota only 40 million pounds, in the face of prospects that with a normal growing season the crop could put another 70 pounds on the market. The 1983 basic quota was 64 million pounds, and 1984 with the 10 percent cut would be 54 million.

The next fear is that next year's crop, even with the cut, could add to present troubles in the form of extra-heavy pool assignments, as farmers

Christmas Day fire destroys home



Mute testimony
Twin chimneys are all that remain of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Barnett Tuesday morning as embers still smolder. The fire which destroyed the structure started about 7:00 a.m. Christmas Day.—Mercury photo.

An early morning fire Christmas Day completely destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Barnett at 285 Sycamore. Fire fighting efforts were hampered by a minus 10 degree temperature, and winds gusting between 15 and 20 miles an hour, producing a wind chill factor of minus 30 degrees.

According to Barnett, the county and city fire departments responded to the 3 a.m. call. The Paris Fire Department was also called, but was hampered by frozen pipes at Millersburg, and returned to Paris.

Barnett stated that their son, Bobby Keith was awoken by smoke in his upstairs bedroom. He woke his parents and sister, Bonita, Mrs. George Hoover, Mrs. Barnett's grandmother, was asleep downstairs. She was also awoken. As they left the house, Barnett said that he noticed smoke was thickest in the kitchen with a red glow noticeable around the electric range. He also heard a noise from the kitchen that sounded like timbers falling.

After getting out the front door to the yard, Barnett realized Bonita was not behind him. He told Bobby Keith to fetch an aluminum fire extinguisher from the back of the house, and Bonita, who had gone back to her room, was helped from her bedroom window onto the roof and down the ladder. She was taken to Nicholas County Hospital in the police cruiser and treated for smoke inhalation. She remains a patient through the weekend, and was expected to be released Tuesday.

When asked if anything was saved from the house, Barnett responded, "Only ourselves and the clothes on our backs."

He gave credit to his son for waking the rest of the family. He said with pride in his voice, "Bobby Keith was the hero."

Barnett also thanked the two fire departments for doing a "fantastic job."

Sunday and Monday night the Barnetts stayed in the house rented by John Burke on Old Paris Pike. They are moving into a home at 128 West Main at the request of Doug Garrett.

Babson: Continued economic recovery in 1984

By Babson's Reports Inc., Wednesday, Mass., December 29, 1983. A year ago the American economy was mired in the trough of a recession which had dealt out severe punishment. The impact upon some regions, particularly on a scale not seen in a half century, independently obliterated the cherished derision concerning the Reagan Administration's sustained bullish views on prospects for the economy was multi-decade, and — save for the professional of the stock market — was public sentiment seemed devoid of hope, not undisturbed by the deep gloom which enveloped the nation. Babson's Forecast indicated that a more hopeful view toward business for 1984 was in order.

The tone of encouragement was predicated upon the handful of vital improvements which had developed during 1983. Chief among the class of improving healthier economy, one were the reduced diminished level of inflation and interest rates. Also, there were benefits to be reaped from corporate efforts to curtail overhead and operating expenses, improve productivity, bring out burdensome

inventories, and rebuild financial strength. The spark was an economy on sounder ground than in a number of years, promising better business in 1984 than was generally perceived in the month of December 1983.

Recovery exceeded expectations. While first quarter 1983 showed betterment along the lines the cautiously optimistic Babson forecast had envisioned, the business upturn seemed tentative and offered no hint of the momentum of economic vitality. During the second 1983 quarter, strength in personal consumption expenditure and home building produced an increase of 2 percent advance in the real GNP. While the pace of the upturn, relative of somewhat faltering, the economy's performance for the year as a whole clearly outstripped expectations.

Confidence and momentum. In viewing prospects for 1984, Babson's Reports tent its case for an optimistic view of the business upturn in 1984 upon three key considerations: confidence, vitality, and momentum. The strength of the final 1983 quarter is on

the order of a five and one-half percent gain. While the distinct deceleration in view with discount in some circles, Babson's feels that the flattening down of the rate of business advance from the July 8.7 percent pace of the second quarter was a good sign. The slower tempo renders the economic upturn sustainable for a longer period of time than might have been the case had the conservative upward vault last spring been succeeded by equally forceful advances. Such a scenario would have meant an overhyped economy with resultant dangerous strains upon the nation's productive facilities, manpower, material resources, and financial structure, a condition dangerous to the vital task of keeping inflation and interest rates tolerable.

Hence, Babson's expects the economy to experience the second phase of its now-viewing cyclical expansion in 1984. One forecast is for economic activity to trend consistently upward throughout the final two quarters of the year. In the third quarter real GNP advanced at an annual rate of nearly eight percent, and an estimate for the final 1983 quarter is on

provided good upturn to the economy. Babson's expects new car purchases to hold up well in 1984, production rates for the year ahead will not show much change, but acceleration from rates which have prevailed this past fall.

Except for a few still pending early in the year, retail trade was an important factor for the climb in business during 1983. This circumstance is a very gratifying display of vibrance as the year drew to a close. However, whereas new home building and auto production seem destined to be bolstering influences for the economy in 1984, consumer spending can continue to generate firm support for business over the year ahead. Additional vitality will likely be contributed by business capital spending, defense expenditures, and business inventory accumulation, although all will be of only moderate upward momentum.

Great national product
Babson's Reports forecasts that the nation's real gross national product (the value of goods and services produced, in 1972 dollars) will trend consistently upward through 1984. —see BABSON, page 1