

# Can coal mine bane... be automobile's blessing?

Can today's automobile operate efficiently on the methane gas that is such a hazard in coal mines? The answer may be found in a joint experiment being conducted by the University of Louisville and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

The university's government law center is coordinating the experiment with technical assistance from the Special Scientific School. The project will involve operating 10 state vehicles on methane gas for six months.

Methane, or natural gas, is available from several sources in the state. The gas is present in coal seams and underground faults and is produced from decomposing agricultural wastes. It is the same gas used in gas heaters in

houses throughout Kentucky.

The Transportation Cabinet is voluntarily testing 10 vehicles and \$100,000 for the project.

Some of the vehicles will be fueled with liquefied methane and the remaining with compressed methane.

The six-month experiment will test the vehicles under normal operation on city streets and open highways.

It is the first such test by a state government in the nation.

"We were excited when the university approached us with this proposal," said Transportation Secretary James Hanks. "Methane is plentiful in Kentucky. It has the potential to save us tremendous amounts of money and free us from dependence on imported oil."

In 1980, Congress passed an act encouraging the use of methane as a renewable and clean resource. The Kentucky General Assembly approved a resolution in 1982 directing the Transportation Cabinet to implement a methane fuel demonstration program.

Dr. Dee Akers, head of the university's government law center and city's government development secretary, is overseeing the project.

Akers said one of the sources of methane, coal beds, could help Kentucky's coal industry as well as provide a local energy source.

Methane gas in coal seams has been responsible for numerous mine explosions. By first drawing off the gas, coal mines could be made safer and the fuel could be used for transportation.

Akers has been interested in energy problems since the oil embargo of 1974. As development secretary he played a major role in creating the state's energy research center at Spangley in Fayette County.

He is also secretary of the Interstate Coal Bed Methane Committee, comprised of six states interested in developing coal bed methane as an energy source.

The 10 test vehicles include state pickup trucks, vans and sedans. The university is providing 11 vehicles, including small cars and pickups.

The drivers will fill their tanks at the university. The vehicles will be equipped to use either methane or gasoline to allow the transportation employees to fill their tanks at convenient times.

Akers said methane is ideal for fleet vehicles which fill up at a central location.

Beeth Aircraft Corp. of Wichita, Kan., is providing assistance with the liquefied methane. Advanced Fuel Systems of Kentucky is providing compressed methane systems. Both companies have constructed fuel stations and training in the university.

"Kentucky could play a key role in developing this important energy resource," Akers said. "This state has both the reserves and the distribution system to produce methane in quantity."

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**Locust Grove Church**  
One of the more picturesque churches out in Grove Road, surrounded by the cemetery in the county is the Locust Grove Church on Locust tombstones. —Mercury photo.

## Hopkins announces military academy review board

U.S. Rep. Larry J. Hopkins, R-Ky., has announced the membership of his Military Academy Review Board, which will screen candidates for nomination by the congressmen to the U.S. military academies.

The 10-member review board is composed of business and education leaders, many of whom have extensive military service backgrounds.

"With the help of this outstanding group of men and women on the review board, I want to completely dispel the notion that congressional nominations to the service academies are based on personal or political considerations, rather than individual merit and scholastic achievement," Hopkins said.

At its inception in 1978, when it first came to the Congress, the review process has proven to be a very fair and effective way to evaluate the young people who apply through an intensive recruitment. In fact, the military academies all have expressed enthusiastic support for our concept.

"I'm absolutely confident that the

## Gas restoration project is nearly 46% complete

Mary Tapp, City Clerk, reported at City Council Monday night that approximately 46 percent of the gas restoration project has been completed. Gayle Vandunningham, City Superintendent, said that most of the major lines have been laid. He also projected that the gas restoration would be completed at the estimated cost of \$400,000 or below.

HUD officials make suggestions that Council Monday night that approximately 46 percent of the gas restoration project has been completed. HUD officials were in Carlisle in December to run a check on the progress of the project, and to see that all guidelines were being followed. One of their suggestions was that a new procurement code be drawn up. The revised code was adopted by Council during the meeting. Council also referred Council that on Jan. 18 he would be meeting with the Fiscal Court to discuss a state required solid waste management plan for the county. This plan must be completed by December 1983.

73 percent of residents approve the east end sewer project was again discussed. Last year when this project

## Monthly pay delinquency rate lowered

Kennel L. Seaton, State Director of P a m r s Home Administration (FHA) announced that the delinquency rate for monthly payment housing borrowers has been reduced from 14.4 percent to 13.3 percent during the past 18 months. This has been accomplished by increased collection efforts and initiation of FHA's credit and moratorium in justified cases. Kentucky has a portfolio of 26,800 monthly payment rural housing loan borrowers. Seaton said, "This represents significant program and loan growth."

## Woodie Fryman signs to play

Pitcher Woodie Fryman of Bowling Green has signed to play baseball for another year with the Montreal Expos. He has been with the team since 1978. In 1981, he pitched 69 2/3 innings, with an earned-run average of 4.17. In 1982, he won nine, lost four, saved 12 and struck out 67. Fryman is the winning pitcher in Montreal's 1982 season. He has played a total of 619 games since he was drafted.

## SCB milestone marked

"Jan. 1 marked a milestone for South Central Bell Telephone in its transition to a new telephone company, created to meet competitive demands and began operating according to requirements of a 1981 Federal Communications Commission Order," District Manager Carl Rens told the Carlisle Mercury this week.

"This transition will affect the more than 2000 customers we serve in Nicholas County by varying degrees and it is one that we are committed to accomplishing as smoothly as possible. Least affected will be our present residential service. Our existing service will continue to provide local and long distance service, plus local and repair the phones we provide our customers. At the same time, we will continue to provide customer telephone equipment only to the extent of our current service. As of Dec. 31, 1982, those who had been returned and refurbished."

"The transition will affect new customers and those who want to make significant changes in their present service. Not only will they have more choices and decisions to make about telephone service, but they will also be aware of new procedures in dealing with us. You see, our business has been redefined. We will be longer

## Qualick check under way at C.W.J.M.A.

Richard Hines, area manager of Clay Wildlife Management Area, told the Mercury Monday that 800 quail have been banded for the Nov. 13, 1982-Feb. 28, 1983 hunting season. The bands run 1 thru 800.

Mr. Hines is asking any hunter who has killed or kills quail in this area, Nicholas County or Fleming County, during the hunting season to call him and give the band number and where the quail was killed.

This project is being done in effect at the Wildlife Management Area in 1980 and is done to evaluate the success of quail stocking. All types of wildlife are banded and if any of those are killed you are asked to report it to Clay Wildlife Management Area.

was brought up, a survey was made in the school area with the results indicating that 73 percent of the gas restoration project had been completed. Gayle Vandunningham, City Superintendent, said that most of the major lines have been laid, and of being covered in the city which was a crucial part of the overall plan. HUD money is again available for 1983 by city and county governments for such projects. The deadline for applying for the funds is April 1983. The amount available for the project is \$400,000, as opposed to \$400,000 last year. This amount would include full or partial payment of the hookup fees for documented line income households. The hookup fee last year was estimated to be \$700. Hanks emphasized that the grant money would most probably be awarded to governments showing another source of revenue to cover part of the total cost of the project.

Johnnie new chief enhanced City Volunteer Fire Department has a new chief. Junior Johnson was approved by Council to replace Arthur Buzzard who resigned his post in December. Tom Crawford will be the assistant chief.

Revised transportation award Council approved a \$2,500 request from Mrs. Margaret Hunter, rural program coordinator for Community Action, to cover the cost of gasoline and repairs on the van which transports mentally retarded persons from Nicholas County to school in Paris. It was granted to cover expenses through June, which is the end of the fiscal year for the city. The remaining \$1,250 will be approved at this time to cover the remaining months of 1983.

Breakwater rebuilding approved Council approved a request by City Policeman James Coy to attend a breakwater school in Richmond for a week in February at a cost of \$84.00 plus mileage for one round trip, and 212 hours salary.

There was a request from Nicholas Square Limited of North Street to burn a large pile of trash. Permission was granted. City employees will keep a watch on the pile of trash.

Mrs. Johnson to contact an appropriate office to handle these matters," Hens said.

"Customer walk-in payments will continue to be accepted by the Carlisle & C.W.J.M.A. —SCB staff member, page 1