Opinion

Guest editorial

The public interest vs. seamier politics

Something even bigger than 189,000,000 wasted dollars was lost last week in the House of Representatives when Congressman Gene Snyder repulsed an effort to oust the infamous Falmouth Dam from a water-projects bill. The image of Congress as a responsible body was on the firing line. Mr. Snyder and 196 of his colleagues shot it full of holes.

Not that the image wasn't already tattered — often as not by those who, like Mr. Snyder, pose at election time as champions of the downtrodden, tax-weary "forgotten man." Congress, the bedrock institution of representative democracy, already was in public disrepute, as many polls have indicated.

But Falmouth Dam was an unusually clear-cut test of the House's ability to choose between the public interest and the seamier kind of special-interest politics. Many congressman ducked the challenge by not voting at all. Of those who did, a majority chose to heed Mr. Snyder's pointed hints that he would use his powerful position on the Public Works Committee to veto projects wanted by his opponents.

Hardly anybody bothered to argue that the Falmouth Dam is a reasonable way to spend public money. Not even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — legendary for its generosity in such matters — makes such a claim. The dam would offer a bit of flood protection, mostly for the small Pendleton County town of Falmouth. But the occasional flood relief would be outbalanced, by permanently flooding 25,000 acres of mostly excellent farm land.

So the only way to get the dam built was to exempt it from the normal rules for federal water projects. That's what Mr. Snyder was trying to do, and what Sixth District Congress Larry Hopkins courageously tried to stop. Mr. Snyder inserted language into the water projects bill declaring, quite falsely, that the benefits of Falmouth exceed its costs. It also would exempt the state of Kentucky, which opposes the project, from paying the normal state share of the cost.

The theory of such boondoggles is that the small number of people who benefit from a project will be suitably grateful at election time, while the majority who are hurt won't notice. But the theory could get a strong test this fall. The Falmouth case is unusually blatant. Is it possible that Mr. Snyder has forgotten that "forgotten man" once too often for his own good? — The Courier Journal.

This 'dam' thing is a joke

Congressman Gene Snyder of Louisville has never been one of my favorite people. Not when he first sought his present seat representing the 4th Congressional District. And not now.

He got off on the wrong foot with me when he made an uncomplimentary remark about the religious and political background of my employers at the Jefferson Reporter, Lewis and Dick Coons, while campaigning at a gathering of women in a suburban Louisville community covered by our newspaper.

I was enraged at the time and told him so, in front of the gals. He got the message but not the reason that day, even though he later apologized by phone.

Now he's championing the cause of proponents of the off again, on again Falmouth Dam, which would inundate 25,800 acres of land, including a bunch here in Nicholas County. Of the overall acreage to be forever flooded are 9,000 acres of prime farm land, nine miles of state highway, four miles of federal highway and countless miles of county roads, according to a spokesman in Cong. Larry Hopkins' office.

Hopkins and Snyder went at it hot and heavy on the floor of the House two weeks ago when the House approved the dam by a vote of 196-148. The Lexington Herald account called it "a feud between two Kentucky Republicans...the all-Kentucky confrontation which has been simmering for several months."

The Falmouth Outlook, in a front page story in its July 6 issue hailed the decision in four tribute pictures of Snyder and words that read: "It was a bloody fight and lasted for about two hours and left Congressman Larry Hopkins laying prostrate on the floor."

Sorry I missed it. Mr. Snyder must have improved his political jabbing ability quite a bit since last we met some 25 years ago.

Never-the-less, while Hopkins insists the project will never be constructed because, in his words, "Congress doesn't want to increase the federal deficit by another $189 million," it did vote to spend some $300,000 for more planning and study. This is on top of about $900,000 already spent along these same lines since 1936, when the "dam thing" was first proposed.

The Corps of Engineers has to justify its involvement. Its existence hinges on just such projects as the often discussed, often defeated Falmouth Dam. As you've heard, politics makes strange bedfellows.

If the tobacco program folds and the folks in Myers, Pleasant Valley, Blue Licks and points in between want an alternate way of making a living, then maybe the Falmouth Dam would be their answer. To those who are opposed to losing their land, a letter to Kentucky Senators Dee Huddleston and Wendell Ford would seem to be in order. You can bet they'll receive favorable mail from Falmouth and Pendleton County.

I wouldn't trust Gene Snyder as far as I can spit. And that isn't very far. But as the ranking Republican on the House Public Works Committee he's in a position to wheel and deal with obviously a great deal of influence.

Please let us hear your feelings, one way or the other. We'll be happy to forward them on to Washington, if you like.

*****

Speaking of Dee Huddleston, the incumbent Democratic senatorial hopeful was the guest of local party pols-type at Carmico County Club Thursday night, prior to his appearance in the parade.

Swapping small talk between bites of beef were his hosts **Kimball Booth**, County Democratic party chairman; County Judge-Executive **Reese Smoot**, Sheriff **Charles Ring**, County Attorney **Jerry Insley** and **Dan Kraus**, County Road Department foreman.

At least one topic of conversation was the Falmouth Dam controversy, which the senator said he was quite aware of.

*****

Faces in the news — The front page of the July 5 Courier-Journal carried a picture of **Julie Wills**, a Nicholas County High School senior-to-be who is the daughter of some 572 high school students selected to attend Eastern Kentucky University campus as part of the Governor's Scholars program this summer. Hopefully, Julie will have a full report for The Mercury when "school is out" early next month...

If the Robert McGowan featured in the July 5 Lexington Herald looked vaguely familiar, it's because the newly-elected chairman of the University of Kentucky's board of trustees was born right here in Carlisle, when his father Willie was with Standard Oil Co. He is the grandson of the late Bob McGowan of Oakland Mills and nephew of **Walla, Tom, Jim, John** and **David McGowan**, all of Nicholas County, if I've correctly relayed the information supplied by **Earl Hamm**, the "mayor" of Oakland Mille.

Robert stayed in the oil business, but with a different company. He's currently vice-chairman of the board of Ashland Oil Inc., his employer since graduating from UK in 1961.

Nicholas County was represented in at least two beauty pageants at the Ewing-Fleming County Fair this week. Seeking the "Miss County Fair" title

See Here Abouts, page 3

Letters from our readers

Hopkins praised for dam opposition

To The Carlisle Mercury:

Thank you Larry Hopkins. Thank you for standing up for the taxpayers of this state and nation. (In opposing the proposed Falmouth Dam) you stood up and fought for the farmers of the Licking River Valley. You fought for every small business and every working man in your district..

The very thought of throwing away 189 million dollars this nation doesn't have. They have to borrow every cent and pay prime rate to build a dam less than 10 percent of the people want. It would take 300 farms, destroy the entire Licking River Valley for 110 miles, it would displace 2,500 people, also it would wipe out the small communities of Milford, Claysville, Myers, Sherman and Wyoming. It would cover 45,000 acres, much of this prime farm land, take millions of dollars out of our economy, and replace this with a tax supported dam.

It is incomprehensible to me how elected representatives of the people of this state and nation can stand in the halls of Congress and get away with this, when worthwhile projects go unfunded. Even the dam builders, the Corp of Engineers, has said this dam would return 60 cents for every dollar spent. Anyone in his right mind knows they made a higher estimate than any business would. Cave Run Dam is begging for developers yet and no takers, I might add.

This dam project would not only hurt the economy of nine counties, it would destroy part of our Kentucky history at Blue Lick Springs. It would destroy the only wildlife management area (Clay) we have in North Central Kentucky. The people that want to go to a lake can use one of the 75 we now have. Every citizen in this state can drive to a major lake in one hour's time from his home. We have a smaller tax basis than many states. Yet, Gene Snyder, Harold Rogers and William Natcher want to change all this...

These men want to force this Pork Barrel project down the throats of the farmers, and business of the Licking River Valley. Can the majority rule or are we going to let three Congressmen, a newspaper, a mayor and a few uninformed destroy an entire way of life? How can this be, in a free country?...

Tom Hensley
Route 1, Box 414
Ewing, Ky. 41039

Agree or not

Schools need news specialists

by S.C. Van Curen

Frankfort — Gov. Martha Layne Collins may have reached the ultimate last week in appointing a new education committee to study committee reports.

It may not be such a bad idea at that since no comprehensive plan has been adopted to improve the total picture of education in Kentucky. Seems like every legislative session the universities get into a squabble with primary and secondary education over who gets what from the biennial budget.

It's an adversarial relationship that has been going on for decades and should be stopped for the good of all. A unified program should be created and efforts united to promote educational needs and to explain these needs to the public.

As the essayist said, "The study of mankind is man," and I assume the corollary is true that "The study of education is education." But what is so disappointing in Kentucky's case is that the people generally don't seem to understand the vernacular of their educators. The educators have done most of the talking. What seems to be needed is to get the laymen organized to leading the campaign to convince the people that improvement is needed and is indeed a very sound investment in the future.

IT COULD BE a good idea for the governor's newly appointed committee to go back to the 1950s and make a study of how the Minimum Foundation Program was sold to the people. I say sold advisedly because a majority of the people voted for it under Gov. Lawrence W. Wetherby. Talk about lack of money. In those days extra dollars were almost non-existent. Gov. Wetherby found a little additional money by putting additional taxes on wine.

But, it remained for Gov. Happy Chandler, the next term, to fully fund it on its meager demand. Since that time Kentucky has been running hard trying to keep up with adjoining states, but with little success.

Gov. Collins' committee goes under the name of Governor's Council on Educational Reform while Supt. of Public Instruction Alice McDonald's working committee has the title of New Direction in Education. The Council on Higher Education has completed a study in that field and there are others.

This should not develop into a contest to see who gets the credit or whatever.

THE TACTIC LACKING here in these seems to be a method used in the MFP campaign of the 1950s. Grassroots committees were formed in every school district. Parents were asked what they wanted in the way of education for their children.

PTA's worked on it through their local meetings in the communities. When the costs were tallied for what the people wanted, the price tag was told to them and then they were asked how much they were willing to pay. It was a good sales job.

The best suggestion I've seen so far comes from Rita Strange of Munfordville, a member of Mrs. McDonald's committee. Ms. Strange has suggested that each school district appoint a community-education and public-relations director to work on community involvement. Ms. Strange said in some districts educators are bogged down in other work and forget the news media.

TO BE BRUTALLY frank, too few educators know anything about the news process or how to use it, much less what newspapers will use.

A full-time experienced news person should be hired by every school district that can possibly afford it. Most could if they tried.

An English teacher or an educator isn't qualified for such a job and should stay in the classrooms. The teachers should explain their work to the newsperson and let this method get information to the public. Classroom work, results, pictures and programs should be used to tell the local education story. People are interested in their own and will be willing to pay more if they can see results.

We need to sell education, not new fads and new machines. Let's build the foundation before we put on the roof.

Down Memory Lane

Potts elected bank president

Thursday, July 16, 1964

Dr. Edie Asbury, prominent Cincinnati surgeon, member of the Kentucky Jockey Club Board of Directors and owner of Forest Retreat Farms in Carlisle and Paris, will serve as chairman of the opening day charity operation at Latonia Race Course, Sept. 4 when the newly reorganized and refurbished racing center ushers in.

Charles K. Watkins, chairman of the Nicholas County Recreation Council, announces the opening of the Nicholas County Recreational playground at the Nicholas County High School.

Miss Judy Hopkins of Calhoun, Ky. has been employed by the Nicholas County School Board as a home economics teacher in the Nicholas County schools.

Local Democrats Saturday selected six persons as delegates to attend the State Democratic Convention in Louisville on July 18. They are A.V. Allison, Dorsey Watkins, Joe Smart, Emery Clark, Maurice King and William Dollins.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Hughes, a son, Matthew Winter, July 9 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Jackson, a son, Robert Wayne, July 11 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. John Hattler, Sharpsburg, a son, July 12 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spencer, Versailles, a daughter, Connie Sue, June 10. — To Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Weil, Huntington, WV, a son, Benjamin Richard, June 20.

MARRIED — Miss Betty Lou Darnell and Arthur Davis Magee, July 11 at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Fayette. — Miss Terie Ann Dickens and David Coleman Marshall, at the First Church of God in Latonia. — Miss Betty Faye Wood and Ronald T. Curry, June 27 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.B. Gott.

DIED — Robert Lee Broderick, 54, July 10 at home in Barberville. — A.A. (Red) Smith, 52, July 14 at home on Upper Jacktown Pike. — Clarence Stanfield, 59, Hillsboro, July 13 at Fleming County Hospital. — Hargis H. Banta, 69, Monday at home.

Thursday, July 20, 1944

Work has been progressing for the past several days dismantling the interior equipment of the Farmers Bank building preparatory to remodeling the building to be occupied by the Hopkins Drug Co.

The Rev. E. Hampton Barnette of the Methodist Church accompanied by 10 young people left Monday for a four-day stay at Christian Adventure Camp at Ruggles Campground in Lewis County. Those attending are Nancy Helen Booth, Gaylord Caswell, Sue Church, Dorothy Huguss, Gayle Bowen, Katie Whaley, Robert Allen-Palmer, Susie Crabb, Betty Wood and Donald Cameron.

E.E. Pfantzlel, former superintendent of Carlisle High School, has accepted the position as chief purchasing agent of the Department of Highways and will enter upon his new duties Monday at Frankfort.

At a meeting of officers and directors of the Carlisle Deposit Bank Saturday morning, Henry M. Potts was named president to serve the unexpired term of the late Judge Innes B. Ross. Alice Ross was named a director in Mr. Ross' place.

The board of directors of the Carlisle Cemetery Company have named James Parker, cashier of the Deposit Bank, as president of the Cemetery Company to serve the unexpired term of Judge Innes Ross. Forrest Dalnell was named vice-president and Miss Jimmie Henry secretary-treasurer.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Roy A. Helton, a son, July 6 at home in Hopkin, VA. — To Mr. and Mrs. John M. Wasson, Bourbon County, a daughter, Carol Ann, July 4 at Massie Hospital, Paris. — To Mr. and Mrs. Odis Curtis, Myers, a daughter, Wednesday.

MARRIED — Miss Mary Annette Bradley and Eugene Fox Collier, July 8 in the Naval Chapel, Washington. — Miss Mary Alta Burden and Frank Young Wilson, June 30.

DIED — Elmer Carlos Dotson, July 10 at home in Richmond, VA. — Mrs. Elizabeth Burdon, Sunday at home in Louisville.

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Op-Ed page

Frankly, Scarlet ...*I don't give a damn if your Living Bra died in the Atlanta fire*

Major studios are now offering to display manufacturers' products in their movies for fees of up to $40,000, reports Arthur Hoppe in the San Francisco Chronicle.

Okay, gang, lighten up. Let's get quiet on the set. We're going to run through this remake of Hamlet from the top. First we dolly in through the two golden arches to the battlements of Elsinore.

And here comes the ghost of Hamlet's father through the swirling fog. Hold it! Not so much swirling fog. I'm not picking up the "Yves St. Laurent" on the ghost's designer sheet.

That's better. Then the scene with the King and Queen. King, could you turn a little more sideways? We want to see the stripes on those Adidas.

Fine. So they leave and, Hamlet, you look into the camera and give that soliloquy. You know: "O! Tha this too too solid flesh should melt..." Good, but would you mind holding the can of Diet Pepsi a little higher?

We're doing just great, gang. Now we come to Polonius' advance to Liertes. That's the stuff the audience laps up. Okay, Polonius, you step forward and...No, turn a little more this way so we catch the alligator on your cape. That's it.

Now this script has to be changed. Strike that opening about "Neither a borrower, nor a lender be." It won't fly here. We're negotiating with a bank and two savings and loans. And all that bad-mouthing borrowing sure isn't going to help the deal any.

Just go straight to that part about "to thine own self be true." And it must follow, as the night the day. Thou canst not be false to any man." That's great Shakespeare, Polonius. Put your heart into it.

In a way, it kind of leads us into your big "to be or not to be" bit. "Whether 'tis nobler to suffer the slings and arrows of acid indigestion or to take Pepto-Bismal against a sea of troubles. Shakespeare (buddy) have said it better."

Now, calm down, Hamlet, baby. There's no sense tearing up your script into little pieces like that. We've had to rewrite a lot of lines to bring this old potboiler up to date and I don't think you ought to quibble over a few words. After all, we haven't changed a comma in that graveyard bit. Go ahead, you want to run through it?

That's it, you hold up the skull and say, "Alas, poor Yorick..." What do you mean, it's hard to hold up the skull with one hand? But, Hamlet, you know you need the other hand for the bottle of Head and Shoulders.

Now, wait a minute. I wouldn't expect for one minute that you, a celebrated actor, would make a commercial endorsement. Look at it this way. You're not coming right out and saying that Head and Shoulders cures dandruff. It's what we call subliminal suggestion.

Okay, gang, all out for the grand finale! Queen, you drink from the poisoned cup. Tip it a little more so we can see the writing on the bottom. That's it: "Things Go Better With Coke."

Beautiful! Believe me, gang, we've got a winner here. This little flick is going to gross an easy mill. And that's not counting the box office.

— RM —

RUSS METZ

I picked up a newspaper the other day and there was a story inside it that said cabooses are rapidly riding off into the sunset and soon won't be needed on America's automated railroads.

One railroad, the Union Pacific, is already donating its cabooses to a state park. They will be used for cabins.

Freight trains needed a caboose so that a crewman could sit inside and watch behind the train and keep an eye up front for any potential problems.

Railroads have computers now that do all that. So some cabooses will become cabins in state parks. Others will wind up as fast food restaurants featuring the Caboosehurger, and mothers won't read "The Little Red Caboose" to their children anymore. Besides, their children had rather be playing a video game anyway.

But how do you wave at a computer?

Onward, upward.

Births

SMITH

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith announce the birth of a daughter, Mary Beth, Friday, July 6, 1984 at Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington. She weighed five pounds 14 ounces.

PRATHER

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Prather, Carlisle, announce the birth of a daughter, Pamela Marie, June 28, 1984 at Harrison Memorial Hospital, Cynthiana. She weighed five pounds four ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ben Glass, Carlisle.

Paternal grandparent is Edith Selby, Carlisle.

WILLOUGHBY

Mr. and Mrs. Richey Willoughby, Carlisle, announce the birth of a son, McKenzie Thomas, June 27, 1984 at Harrison Memorial Hospital, Cynthiana. He weighed eight pounds six ounces.

Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Larry Jolly, Billy Woosley and Mrs. Nancy Willoughby.

McHONE

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Ray McHone of Mt. Olivet announce the birth of a daughter, June 22, 1984 at the Nicholas County Hospital. She weighed eight pounds four ounces and has been named Donna Faye.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Earl Adams of Mt. Vernon.

Paternal grandparent is Lula Alexander of Mt. Vernon.

PETTIT

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Joe Pettit of Carlisle announce the birth of a son, June 23, 1984 at the Nicholas County Hospital. He weighed six pounds 14 ounces and has been named Anthony Duane.

Maternal grandparents are Judy Vaughn of Carlisle and Robin Vaughn of Amelia, Ohio.

Paternal grandparent is Ella Swebilius of Maysville.

McCARTY

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Dean McCarty of Carlisle announce the birth of a daughter, June 28, 1984 at the Nicholas County Hospital. She weighed eight pounds 15 ounces and has been named Elizabeth Faye.

Maternal grandparents are the late Mr. and Mrs. Jack Howard of Paris.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ivan McCarty of Paris.

GREENE

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wayne Greene of Carlisle announce the birth of a son, July 1, 1984 at the Nicholas County Hospital. He weighed five pounds nine ounces and has been named Donald Wayne.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robertson of Carlisle.

Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Greene of Mt. Sterling.

McCOY

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Raymond McCoy of Carlisle announce the birth of a daughter, July 3, 1984 at the Nicholas County Hospital. She weighed seven pounds and has been named Emily Dawn.

Maternal grandparent is Ralph Chapman of Wurtland.

Paternal grandparent is Mike McCoy of Raceland.

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas George and Mr. and Mrs. Dovolee Ritchie have returned from a vacation in Cave City, Bardstown and Nashville, TN.

Olympics

Continued from page 1

expensive prices of silver and gold jewelry. He purchased a pair of sterling earrings for $2, for example. At Clauss winery in Patras a good bottle of wine could be purchased for $5 cents a bottle...A dinner for four, including three large pizzas, salads and drinks cost $10...Rugs, sweaters and furs were beautiful and reasonably priced...The ice cream was fresh and delicious. In fact, "Greek food is good, I liked it." People were pleasant and nicer than he expected. Most everyone spoke English.

THE FLIGHT BACK included a view of the Swiss Alps, which Robert Kincaid said "Whether 'tis nobler to suffer the slings and arrows of acid indigestion or to take Pepto-Bismal against a sea of troubles, Shakespeare (buddy) have said it better."

With all the splendor surely there was a drawback?

"Yes. All Greeks drive small cars and they drive like maniacs," he confessed.

Here Abouts

Continued from page 2

was Denise Highland, 17, also a contestant for queen of the Blackberry Festival here.

In "Junior Miss" competition were **Diana Renee Catchings**, 12, and **Michelle Lyn Mattus**, 11. All three were pictured in last week's Flemingsburg Gazette.

*****

Craft-related gift items are getting bigger and bigger, bureaucrats. Latest to open a shop to dispense interesting goodies are Mona Clark and Linda Hatton next to Clark's Tastee-Freez at the western city limits. It's called the Gingham Goose.

While there prior to last week's grand opening, we were given a quick tour of the building. Quick, because my strawberry and chocolate ice cream cone was melting faster than I could lick it.)

Particularly impressive was the old barn paneling on the walls and a many-limbed cedar post in the center of the room. Just enough of each limb had been left to hang items for display.

I like ingenuity. Also Clark's homemade ice cream. Next time I'll try butter pecan and chocolate chip, if there's any left.

A Special Thank You. . .

Unfortunately, as with any large undertaking, the people that really deserved credit for its successful completion are usually overlooked. This is the case in restoring the flag on the Nicholas County Courthouse. Several individuals and groups put forth both their time, effort, and money to see that God's country once again waved on the courthouse steeple, but were not mentioned at Wednesday night's dedication.

A very special "Thank You" should go to Cortnell Lester. He is the individual who headed up the fund drive to finance the restoration work. It it had not been for his dedication and willingness to approach the many contributors, the project could not have been completed. Not only did he spend a considerable amount of his time in raising the necessary funds, but he also dug into his own pocket to insure there was enough money to complete the project.

Doug Garrett, Bill Clark, John Hamilton, Jeff Tyrer, Mike Dotson, Proc Blair and Jim Barnes need to be praised for taking time out of their busy schedules to provide the physical labor and expertise to both remove and install the flag and the cupola. Those individuals worked in less than desirable conditions on a task that was unique to their normal occupations and performed admirably.

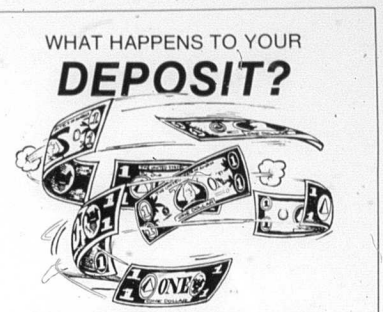
Finally, the many financial contributors to the project should be thanked. Over 20 different individuals and groups provided the money to pay for the restoration work. The unity exemplified by our nation's flag was shown by contributions from both local governments and every civic organization in town, plus many individual contributions. Their contributions are to be kept for posterity on a brass plaque in the courthouse steeple.

I want to thank each and every individual and group for their participation in preserving part of the heritage of Carlisle and Nicholas County and would like each reader to stop these individuals and show them their appreciation for a job well done.

Thank You.

John R. Burd

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR
DEPOSIT?



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