

## 'Hope springs eternal'; now read what happened

by Janis R. Dumas

Monday night of Kentucky was blessed with rain instead of snow which seemed to be the standard weather pattern for the past several weeks. Hope sprang to the forefront of Kentuckians that the rain and milder temperatures meant that would melt the snow cover and ice, respectively, before a p.m. when temperatures were predicted to drop and the rain would once again turn into "white fluff." If p.m. came and went with no change, Monday's come and early morning and it looked as though the easterners had recognized the high and low pressure, and cold and warm fronts that somehow might together to form our weather.

There were a few county school closings announced over the radio, with

some counties on a one-hour delay. Then, between 6 and 6:30 a.m., the first signs of white began to appear on the driveway and roads. It started softly and was heavy by 7 a.m. The snow which was high winds gusting to around 15-20 miles per hour, and the snowfall was heavy. Temperatures were in the 30s with the wind chill around zero.

Some drivers were using their headlights. At present around 7 p.m. the roads and snow had not abated. It is hard to judge the amount of snow which has fallen in Nicholas County at this hour because of traffic, so estimated gains is 4-6 inches.

The drifted snow has blocked numerous county roads and there is some traffic on many.

Sheriff Charles Ring reported that

part of Upper Jacktown Road where he lives was scraped at noon, and that by 2 p.m. "it was back to the same old." He also reported that Lovett Crow Road was closed at noon, and that people have gotten hung up, but he's glad there have been no serious accidents.

Blue Grass Industries employees were allowed to go home around 3 p.m., with some employees owning four-wheel vehicles offering assistance in getting home to those who were unable to ascertain about driving on snow drifted roads.

It was also reported around the middle of the afternoon that Ky. 36 from the First National Bank in Morefield was closed for an unannounced length of time.

**FEB  
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Don't go yet!  
Last week's snow removal crew pictured on Locust was clearing the way for predicted additional snow.

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## Council turns down rate increase sought by Centel', asks for more explicit details of 'expanded basic'

Ms. Charlene Gilvin, representative of Centel Cable Television, appeared before Council Monday night to request Council's permission to impose a rate increase on Centel customers in Carlisle and Nicholas County. The \$1 increase will bring basic cable from the current rate of \$9 per month, which was set in March 1983, to \$10 per month. Centel will also adjust the fee for premium services, which are not explained by the city, by 10 per month.

Feasibility study

Centel is also reviewing the feasibility of implementing a second group of channels which would be available, according to the representative, at a reasonable rate. This group is called "expanded basic."

Centel started a 13-channel system in Carlisle in 1981 with 200 subscribers. To date it has 411 with a 36-channel capacity.

Improvements, telephone pole rentals, higher satellite service fees and increased copyright payments were given as reasons for Centel's requested increase.

Opposition to rate increase

The request was met by opposition from several council members. They expressed displeasure with the current system due to poor customer service and poor television disclosure on some of the cable channels. They would not consider the request until the "expanded basic" is explained in detail, covering how many premium channels will be included, the nature of programs and the exact cost to customers. A report will be made by Centel at the March meeting.

State aid for streets

Gayle Vandendriessing, city superintendent, reported to Council that state money now being received monthly by Carlisle to aid in repair of streets could be changed to a yearly, one payment arrangement. The Department of Transit and Municipal Aid under the Department of Transportation is the agency which administers Kentucky cities

## What can be done to improve the beef industry?

by Mike Phillips

County Extension Agent for Agriculture

While attending a beef seminar last month at the University of Kentucky, I found some of the facts presented very startling, facts that made me stop and think about the future of the beef industry. In order to get the most full advantage of the market potential, the efficiency of the beef industry as compared to chicken and pork industries are staggering. Did you realize that with the technology that we have available in today, technology that has already been tried and proven, the chicken industry could only become 10 percent more efficient? The pork industry could increase their efficiency by 20 percent. The beef industry could improve by 70 percent. If the present trends continue and nothing is done, it is estimated by the year 2000 there will be more tons of chicken consumed than beef.

Not only has the chicken industry increased their production efficiency to

where they can get 1.3 pounds of gain for each pound of feed consumed, their marketing has surpassed all of the other meat industries combined.

In order to get those gains earned around, the National Beef Association has recently undergone some major changes to streamline their organization for maximum efficiency. Fewer employees mean additional money for added advertising. This alone is not enough money. Each State Beef Association contributes different rates to the national association. Kentucky has 10 cents per head check-off which is one of the lowest in the nation. At the recently held Kentucky Beef Cattle Association state meeting, a motion was made and passed that Kentucky raise its check-off to 25 cents per head on all KBCA feeder sales.

A request was made to the Commissioner of Agriculture to conduct a referendum to increase the check-off from 10 to 25 cents. Jan. 17, 1985. The commissioner referred this request to the Board of Agriculture Jan. 31 and

official notices will be mailed to all beef producers by March 3. Balloting will be taken between April 1 through 13 if this is passed it will become effective July 1, 1985.

As far as improvements on a producer level we can improve our utilization of forages. Stock larger numbers of head on the early part of spring/summer months and late growth. As the grass grows slow during the middle summer months will instead of the feeders. This can be accomplished by cutting the top end and feeding the remainder until fall. This will help the feeders gain weight and also help the producer to take advantage of some of advanced marketing strategy.

We will have a demonstration model that will be set up on a farm situation where we will intensively graze a large number of animals on a per acre basis. Weights will be kept and a progress report will follow. These models have been successful in other parts of the country. Why not Nicholas County?

## Property tax assessment-sales ratio for Nicholas, other counties noted

The Department of Property Taxation has completed the 1984 property tax assessment-sales ratio study for each county, according to the state Revenue Cabinet. Carried out under provisions of state law (KRS 132.250), this information reflects a comparison of the certified property tax assessments for last year with actual sale prices.

The Kentucky Constitution requires that all property in Kentucky be assessed for tax purposes at its full fair cash value. The assessment-sales ratio is the best available measure of the extent to which real property

assessments meet the constitutional standard. The department compares the ratio for each class of property: residential, farm and commercial. After each class of property, an overall ratio is calculated giving equal weight according to its proportional weight in the county's total assessment.

Care should be used in interpreting the table. While the ratio is the best available measure of assessment based on the market, it is not perfect. The actual sales of property in a county

during one year may not be entirely representative of the value of all other un sold property in that county. This is especially true in small counties and other counties where few sales were reported in one of more classes of property.

The county-wide ratios cannot be applied to the assessments on individual parcels. For example, if the assessment ratio is 95 percent, that does not mean that 95 percent of the property is assessed at 95 percent of its fair cash value. It simply means that the typical

"See Property tax, page 4"

## FLU OUTBREAK visiting hours restricted

Robert Hester Jr., administrator of Johnson-Mathers Health Care Inc., informed The Mercury Monday that due to a flu outbreak that has hit Nicholas County, visiting hours will be rigidly enforced at Nicholas County Hospital and Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home.

Also, according to Hester, only the immediate family members will be allowed to visit patients in both facilities at a time. Immediate family includes parents, brothers, sisters and children over 12 years of age.

For the public's information, visiting hours are 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. daily. These hours will be strictly enforced by hospital and nursing home staff.

In order to protect patients and residents from catching the flu which might greatly aggravate their condition, Hester urges the public's cooperation in

following these rules.

The immediate family restriction will be lifted when the outbreak subsides, and the hospital staff considers the danger past.

Hester further stated that he will post at the hospital and nursing home the names of the Mercury and signs which will be updated when restrictions are no longer required.

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## Commodities to be distributed Feb. 21

The Nicholas County Community center in cooperation with the Cabinet for Human Resources will be distributing USDA commodities on Thursday, Feb. 21, 10 p.m. at the

Community Action Center.

If you wish someone to pick up your commodities please send your card along with the following information: social security number, number in

household, income for previous month, name of person you wish to pick up your commodities and your signature.



See page two for details on pictures