Opinion

Guest editorial...

Report to Kentucky

New coal-fired trains being developed

In the mid 1930s it appeared that everything that could be done to make the coal-fired steam locomotive powerful and efficient had been done. It was mothballed in favor of more modern diesel and electric trains.

But two projects — including one in Kentucky — are using advanced technology of the past 50 years in an effort to put coal-fired locomotives back on the tracks.

I am pleased that these projects are being undertaken because the return of these coal-fired trains would renew one of Kentucky coal's earliest markets. And it would lessen our dependence on foreign oil.

I recently attended a ceremony in Huntington, W.Va., in which one coal-fired steam locomotive, old Engine 614, was placed on the Chessie System line. Its comeback is part of a test conducted by American Coal Enterprises, a New Jersey firm, which plans to run the train for 30 days along the 16-mile stretch between Huntington and Hinton, W.Va.

The 1948 locomotive chugged out of Huntington Jan. 2 bearing a new coat of paint, as hundreds of onlookers cheered and waved. It was equipped with sensors with which the New Jersey firm will monitor the train's operations under a variety of conditions. That information will be used in the development of a locomotive they plan to call the ACE 3000.

Meanwhile, a similar project is being coordinated by the Kentucky Foundation for Energy Technology Development Inc. The non-profit organization received a $1.5 million grant from CSX Corp. for development of its own modern, environmentally acceptable coal-fired locomotive.

I am encouraged that, through both of these projects, technology may allow the return of one of the most important components of our nation's development: the coal-fired locomotive. I believe that successful development of a new generation of locomotives will demonstrate the persistence and promise of American ingenuity. — Sen. Wendell Ford

From: *The word go! I didn't have a chance!*

Go, go, go . . .

Seems today, Monday was another one of those days, do this, do that days where I hardly have time for anything but must accomplish something, at least we manage to get another issue on the news-stands and in the mail by Wednesday.

At supper (dinner, if you wanna call it such) the better-half inquired if perchance I had done this column, to which my response, "How could I, I didn't have a chance!"

We both took off last Thursday morning for the winter meet of the Kentucky Press Association Jan. 17-19 to mingle with other fellows of our craft, to agree and to disagree on the need for a news council and sundry other things. In some ways it revived our desire to continue to publish a newspaper we can be proud of.

Before we left about ten we inquired about roads, etc. and decided that this meet would not be the one we couldn't make because of ice and snow. As someone pointed-out Fisher you've never missed a winter meeting have you? Come to think about it, we've managed to make the last 32 without a break, though our summer record is not so good.

We got to the Lexington Radison Hotel about noon Jan. 17 and returned to Carlisle about noon Jan. 19. By 2 p.m. Saturday I had returned to the old-grind which lasted until 4:30 promising myself that I'd be back the next day after church — I knew that there was bad weather on the way, but minus 23 degrees Sunday morning really brought the facts home. I did however, manage to start the Pinto about 2 or minus 14 degrees and venture to the office. Shortly after 3 p.m. the fire siren sounded. I flipped on the scanner learned its whereabouts, looked out the back doors and decided that pictures would have to wait.

In minus 14 degree cold our thought was to continue typing corrections into a matrix-in-memory on the MCS-5 — the next to happen was a power failure which erased what we had in memory! If the power come back on, it would be start from scratch again (we were on line number 15 in the Deposit Bank report). Oh well, it wasn't so dark that we couldn't see to get the floppy disk out and throw a couple of power switches and grab the camera.

From the top of the Christian Church hill we decided to risk the frost bite and get a few fire pictures.

I never could handle a camera with gloves on and that goes for the old 4x5 on the Speed Graphic. We got the pictures suffering no frost bite, though which were colder my fingers or my toes?

Since the first of the year a new chore has been handed anyone who uses a vehicle for business and/or pleasure by the Internal Revenue Service. So I scribbled the mileage on a piece of paper and sought the warmth of the kitchen where I noted distances from here to there and back again.

—MV—

Neck cramp, anyone?

Nine of the 22 men pictured in the WWI photograph shown on page one of the Jan. 10 issue have been named with one of them a positive identification by Mrs. J. E. Krebs of St. Petersburg, Florida. Maybe the names will jog someone's memory and they will supply us or the Nicholas County Historical Society with a proper listing. If there were enough time, we could search the micro film of the WWI era and maybe find the rest of the names.

—MV—

It didn't happen this time!

Heretofore when there has been a power failure while using the Camex disk it's what on disk is usually lost to the protective nature of the beast, maybe I should say device.

But this time I had just finished the disk I found everything from the June 30, 1983 bank report. [Things that repeat themselves every so often. I save to disk then update].

Even though it wasn't lost as I feared Sunday afternoon, the form of the statement was completely changed so it was set, typed in directly on the CompuWriter 6815 by Mrs. Moss. The old form will

* See The Word, page 2

Letters *from our readers*

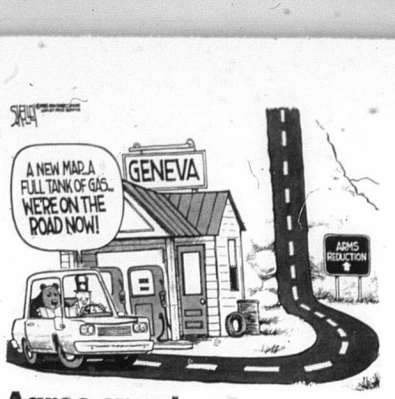
Something on your mind? Write a letter to the Mercury

Corderence of the Permanent Family Project of the National Council of Juvenile Judges. The workshop reviewed legal, procedural and social problems associated with foster care and the need for permanency planning. In Kentucky approximately 5,500 children are placed in foster care annually.

As you know a number of significant decisions have been made in 1984. The case of Hilen v. Hayes eliminates contributory negligence as an absolute defense in tort claims and permits the use of a comparative negligence standard. The tort of outrage has been recognized in Kentucky so as to permit recovery where harassment or extreme emotional distress is related to an invasion of privacy of an individual.

The Supreme Court is responsible for the administration of rules of practice and procedure for the entire system of the Court of Justice, for the conduct of attorneys and judges, and for its own internal rules and regulations. Public hearings were conducted on a variety of civil and criminal rule changes affecting the practitioners of the legal profession. Significantly, substantial compliance has been adopted both by rule and case law so that the public may be better served by the judicial system. The rule concerning damage demands has been changed to control the initial complaint to more reasonably provable claims.

This year I have had the privilege of being the Chairman of the Continuing Judicial Education Committee. Kentucky is one of the first states in the nation to establish mandatory continuing judicial education. Each judge in the system must attend at least



Agree or not

Press is on to sell taxpayers on education needs, columnist says

by S.C. Van Curen

Frankfort — Governor Martha Layne Collins asked the support of Kentucky newspapers Friday to kick off her campaign this week to improve Kentucky's schools.

School Community Partnership Committees are being asked to begin their work at the local level that will involve parents and others interested in improving education.

At least three other groups are involved toward the same goal. The Prichard Committee created Town Forum groups in 140 school districts. A commission created by the legislature with members appointed by the governor is scheduled to report late this summer on the Career Ladder payment program for teachers (merit pay). Supt. of Public Instruction Alice McDonald is chairing this program and two of her staff members are on the committee along with others named by the governor.

Then, Mrs. McDonald has an ongoing committee she created for her successful political campaign. Mrs. McDonald's committee recommended raising the base pay of teachers and increasing the spread in salaries for longevity in the profession. This committee is under the name of New Directions in Education.

Then there is the Council on Higher Education that will be keeping its eye on improving the university system.

The aim seems to be to fashion a consensus plan from all of these efforts to present to the 1986 General Assembly.

All generally seem to agree that more money will be needed to provide the kind of program the people want, but the problem is to sell the people that an increase in taxes is necessary.

The legislature certainly is not going to vote an increase in taxes unless the members are convinced the people are for it.

A study commissioned by the Governor's Committee was released last week showing the people about evenly divided on the question of whether more money is needed or not. About half said education could be improved without an increase in taxes while the other half said it would never be improved without more money.

More money and the career ladder program are the two most controversial points under study. In the past Kentuckians have been willing to pay more for education if they are convinced it will improve the situation, but inflation and recent trends have not been convincing enough since the 1984 legislature refused to raise more for education at the governor's request.

The legislature also questioned the career ladder plan since classroom teachers protested. The legislature then created the committee to come up with a method telling how merit pay would be decided. Classroom teachers opposed principals and superintendents making the decisions.

The Kentucky Education Association, now dominated by the classroom teachers, must be sold on the career ladder program proposal for they are a strong force with the legislature.

Mrs. McDonald also questioned the 1984 proposal and has cautioned that the teachers should look at it very closely.

The job really boils down to selling the taxpayers that more money is needed.

Down Memory Lane

Businessmen's Club sponsors small garment factory

Thursday, January 28, 1965

Nicholas County's 61 retail establishments had $4.1 million in sales in 1963, a decrease of five percent from 1958, the U.S. Bureau of the Census has just reported after tabulating data compiled from the 1963 census of business. Retail trade in the county meant jobs (exclusive of proprietors) for 147 men and women and a yearly payroll of $357,000. In volume of business the county's food stores led with sales of $1.2 million, a decrease of 27 percent from 1958; eating and drinking places had sales of $177,000; gasoline service stations had sales of $363,000.

Teddy Poe resigns his teaching position in the Advanced Science Program of Nicholas County High School, to become effective immediately. Mr. Poe had been employed and had taught in the Nicholas County High School for the past 10 years and had taught in other high schools in Kentucky.

Carol Curtis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Curtis, who won the local VFW "Voice of Democracy" speech contest in December, was awarded a $20 prize in the 10th District VFW contest. Miss Curtis competed statewide with 1,063 other speech entrants, placing 13th with her speech.

Lauren S. Ellington, a freshman from Morehead, is currently serving on the student counseling staff in the residence halls of Morehead State College. Her duties include guidance work in academic and social affairs and serving on the governmental council of residence halls.

Dr. W.R. Kingsolver last week purchased the IGA store building from Lester and Robert Coulter, who have leased the building from Dr. Kingsolver and will continue to operate their IGA Foodliner.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Merril Mitchell, a daughter, Terri Lynn, January 25 at Nicholas County Hospital.

— To Mr. and Mrs. Julian Johnson, a daughter, January 25 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Martha Jane Mann and Dennis Highland.

DIED — Albert Mathers, brother of Dr. Harry Mathers, Paris, in Philadelphia, PA. — Robert L. Castle, three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Castle, January 26 in Lexington.

— Samuel Hiland Moore, 63, January 19.

— Charles C. Chancelor, 93, Huddles Mill Road, January 21 at Bourbon County Hospital.

Thursday, February 1, 1945

A new season's high crop average was established on the Lexington market January 22 when a consignment of 6,092 pounds belonging to W.G. Ledford and Kash Grimes of Nicholas County brought an average of $59.73. Another consignment of 964 pounds owned by Mr. Ledford and Billy Grimes brought an average of $60.74 (consignments under 1,000 pounds are most generally considered crop lots).

Plans are now underway for the opening of a youth center by the American Legion Auxiliary in the old armory on East Main.

The Carlisle High School 4-H Club elected the following officers for the 1945-46 year: Jack Bowen, president; Warren Crockett, vice-president; Jean Pumphrey, secretary and treasurer; Donald Stewart, reporter; Jean Irvin, pianist; Pat Allison, song leader; Nell Wilson and Sue Crouch, pep leaders.

Under the sponsorship of the Carlisle Businessmen's Club a small garment factory is being planned for Carlisle which would employ approximately 200 girls and women ages 18-45. This factory would bring new business to this city and county.

MARRIED — Miss Virginia Bell Smart and Henry Howe Bramblett, Sunday at the First Baptist Church in Mt. Sterling.

DIED — Mrs. Myrtle Vice Grimes, 56, wife of G.W. Grimes, January 27 at home in Lexington. — Mrs. Annie Brierly Skeen, 62, January 23.

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(Mrs.) Katherine T. Fisher.....Managing Editor
(Mrs.) Janie Duncan.....Assistant-to-the-Publisher
(Mrs.) Libby J. Moss.....CompuWriter Operator
(Mrs.) Ann Shearer.....Receptionist

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Op-Ed page

Reach, podnuh, but... *who is whumping the pump for all them thirsty hosses?*

I'm wild about wild westerns. Put one law-abiding cuss in a frontier town full of mean, ornery outlaws and range ponies and I'm right there on popcorn row.

I haven't seen a cowboy I didn't like. I like the hired gunslingers. I even like the town drunk. As a switch, I sometimes take sides with the heavy just so I can get a well-rounded view of all saters. Besides, anymore the crook is likely to turn out the winner, so you got to be broad-minded about westerns.

It never bothered me that, in a shootout, cowboys never need to reload. Any idiot can reload a pistol, as why waste good film on this dull doings. Buck Jones, Hoot Gibson or Charles Starrett never had to. Clint Eastwood and Charlie Bronson wouldn't know how.

There is one thing I have never understood, though. Every western town is full of horses — tired, thirsty horses. And there will be a town pump set over a long, wooden trough, which always seems to have water in it. You don't get laughs from dumping crooks into empty watering troughs, you know.

Now what I want to know is who is pumping the water for all those dry horses? And keeps the tub full of water? Code of the West to leave drawn water for the next wayfarer? Horsefeathers. A genuine, hardened killer is not about to care whether the next fellow's nag has water. He can't afford blisters on his gun hand.

A little back of each bend beside the pump I can see. Every pitcher pump runs dry or needs to be primed. In the winter, a teakettle of hot water and about 40 strokes to build up the vacuum is about the norm.

As the youngest, there are worse things that hand-me-down clothes. The worst thing handed down on the farm is the dubious honor of water pumper. It comes at a time when young boys are developing character and pushing an iron handle up and down for long periods of time tends to warp their personalities.

I complained so much about pumping water every day for a herd of cows and horses, Dad finally gave in and announced one day:

"I'm getting you a new pump."

This carries about the same degree of happiness as telling your wife you are getting her a new axe for Christmas. A little this side of average.

It was a matter of isometrics. Dad noticed I was walking with a deep sway and knew it was time to change body-building exercises. That's when he got me the very latest, a chain pump. This thing draws the water up the well pipe with suckers fastened onto an endless chain. Instead of pumping up and down, it requires a creaking motion on the handle, developing another set of muscles and a new degree of hatred in young boys. It is also very noisy which discourages going to sleep at the pumphandle. I wanted Dad to install an Archimedes screw, but he didn't trust Democrats.

The thing that bugged me most about having to crank the pump 1078 times before the last cow left the trough was the spiteful attitude of livestock. We kept them in a pasture all day and there they could load up on grass and drink all the water they wanted from the creek.

Not our persnickety cows. They gorged on grass, licked great gashes in the block salt and then rushed for the watering trough with their tongues hanging out as soon as we let them into the barnlot. A thirsty cow can hold a tank truck full of water and give only two gallons of milk which isn't much to brag about for returns.

I always carried a hickory club with me to the pump. Horses have atrocious table manners and would bite the cows so they could move in and drink first. This usually brought on a minor stampede and a tipped-over trough. A few cloats in the ribcage area brought order. The club also discouraged dawdling or seconds on water.

Pumping all that water had a mixed effect on my muscles. I got good with the yo-yo, but my high school baseball coach said, although I had a flawless windup, my pitches appeared to be watered down. And girls soon learned not to sit on the right side of me in rumble seats. It's hard to live with a pumphandle complex.

You never see a cowboy hold a gal with one arm and pump water for his hoss with the other. It isn't manly. Neither do you see him draw on an outlaw with his gunhand and keep pumping with the other. A pump handle throws your timing off. It also makes your shirttail slide out of your britches and this can be fatal in courting girls or trying to draw a sixshooter.

It all makes me wonder who is pumping all that water for all those cow ponies. Not little boys. The only time you see them on the screen is when playmates are taunting the son of the hero, or carrying challenges for shootouts, or someone to which the sheriff can say, "You in a heaps trouble, boy," without getting ventilated. Occasionally, a young 'un will get a nickel for holding a hoss just to show its rider is a big spender.

So, if the little boys, the dude, the villain, the banker, the tax'maid, the sheriff or the school marm aren't whumping the pump, then who is?

That old saw about leading a horse to water but you can't make him drink — don't you believe it.

He'll drink. And drink. And drink.

—RM—

With the Christmas deficit in hand — I haven't paid it off yet, it's just in hand — I currently face such mundane problems as how to eliminate the national debt, which group of terrorists or freedom fights to support in Central America, and what to buy my dear wife for her birthday.

I was able to tackle the toughest one first with the aid of a copy of The Robb Report. In case it's not in your magazine rack, each monthly issue of The Robb Report has a couple of hundred slick pages of ads for $175,000 necklaces, $150,000 used cars, $65,000 chess sets, and yachts which, if you have to ask their price, you can't afford either.

It is a magazine that all affluent Americans should get. And a few poor folks like me, who are naive enough to think we have everything we need.

Imagine my delight, then, when I saw that December issue has an article suggesting Christmas gifts for your loved ones. Since they would also sell you the gems as birthday presents, I was so infrigued I thought I'd give my little bride her choice.

"How would you like a 12th Century Bavarian castle near Munich with 30 acres that include a forest, a ravine, waterfalls and a dry moat for $4 million?" I asked her for openers.

Momma shook her head. "The last thing I need is a second home," she said. "You feel that you have to go there every weekend and mow the grass. You have hard enough time getting you to mow our little lawn. Besides, I could never remember which place is running out of sugar."

I nodded. "It's a little pricey," I said. "Let's see, for $200,000 I could get you a hand-made wooden sports car with an Aston-Martin engine that'll do 170 miles an hour."

"Where would you get parts?" she said. "Do they have any wristwatches? My Timex is having two hours a day."

"You're in luck," I said. "Here's a Patek Philippe 'Timeless Timepiece' studded with diamonds and sapphires. And it's a steal. The man's watch is $70,000 and the lady's watch is only $45,000."

Momma frowned. "How come yours costs more than mine? I consider that demeaning to women, sexist and downright cheap. I'll keep on squinting at the time before I'll be a part of that chauvanistic ripoff."

"What would you say to a Cabbage Patch doll with its own monogrammed mink coat for $1500?"

"To cuddle against my nine-year-old possum skin coat?" she said.

"Uh, huh, I guess you made your point," I cringed. "Perhaps, though you've always secretly hankered for a custom-designed aquarium or koi pond worthy of an emperor for a mere $20,000."

"Sure," she said, "and guess who'd have to clean out the tank?"

I just thought you'd like to know about all these decadent luxuries that will be yours as soon as I become a rock star and make millions," I said.

"We'll talk about it when you get back from Dr. Brickley's goat gland clinic and I get rid of all these empty Geritol bottles," she said. Onward, upward.

Need extra cash dribbling in? Call Classifieds 289-2464

Intense smoke

Intense smoke completely obscured houses on Emmert Drive behind Tommy Vaughn's house as firemen fought the fire which started in the attic of the Vaughn residence Sunday afternoon. A chest of drawers saved from the blaze stands in the front yard. — Mercury photo

The word

Continued from page 2

now be killed, that is removed from the disk file and the new one again typed in on the MCS-5 using zeros for all figures. Then come June 30, the changes, only the figures need be inserted, a few names changed and the file transferred [Queued] to the Comp 08.

It is quite a device, and is the front-end for a faster typesetting system some day when my ship comes in!

Grand Ole Opry Tour from Carlisle March 23 and 24

Another fun-filled tour to the GRAND OLE OPRY in Nashville, Carlisle has been chartered by Richard Jett of Campton, for the weekend of March 23-24. The bus will leave from the Nicholas County Courthouse on Saturday morning, March 23, and return late Sunday afternoon, March 24. Carlisle's own Roy E. Clark will drive the bus.

The exciting tour will include complete motel accommodations, transportation by Greyhound, tickets to the world-famous Grand Ole Opry, Roy Acuff Museum, the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Upper Room Museum, the Barbara Mandrell Showcase, even a tour of downtown Nashville and much more.

For complete information on this low-cost weekend excursion, please contact Mr. Jett at 668-6650 or write him at P.O. Box 396, Campton, Ky. 41301.

Saltwell

by Mrs. Fred Hollar

Mrs. Naomi Gaunce spent Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Andrew Grey.

Several from here attended visitation and funeral for Mrs. Bessie Gaunce at Whaley McCarty Funeral Home in Cynthiana on Wednesday by Rev. Kerry Conlee and Rev. Robert L. Anderson. Burial was in Battle Grove Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Snapp Jr. and Melanie of Lexingtih spent Saturday night and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Snapp Sr. Chad and Charity Land, also of Lexington, spent the weekend with the Snapps.

Chris and Tracy Hollar spent a couple of nights the past week with Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stone and Denise, Carlisle.

Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Gaunce visited Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Campbell and Andy Gaunce, Cynthiana, on Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Jennings Mattox spent a day recently with Mrs. Mildred Green and Jimmie, Carlisle.

Mrs. Ramona George and Mrs. Fred Hollar visited Mrs. Pearlie Morris and Mrs. Allie Cordray on Monday and attended the funeral of Mrs. Ruby Rosen at the Baptist Church by Rev. William Jaggers later that day.

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