Opinion

A giant step forward

The City of Carlisle took a giant step towards assuring its water-sewer customers safe passage well into the 21st century when council voted to undertake a costly, but necessary, renovation and expansion of its water system and treatment plant last week.

The vote was close, with members of council deadlocked at three each on accepting or declining the offer from Farmers Home Administration to finance a 40-year loan on $997,000 at a rate of five percent. Dissenters, understandably, did not want to create financial hardships on customers who could see 48 and 122 percent increases in their water and sewer bills, respectively, under rate guidelines specified by FmHA to repay the loan.

Those in favor agreed with Mayor Frankie Hughes, whose vote broke the tie. The present, antiquated system had to be upgraded and the capacity increased to meet even current needs. Repeated water shortages and dangerously low flow levels in recent months have been major concerns. At one point a few weeks ago, had a major fire occurred here that night it was feared that there would be insufficient water available to contain the blaze. As stated, this is the present situation.

What about the future? Don Hassall, representing Blue Grass Area Development District and who has long backed the expansion, put it this way: "Additional water is something we will need to promote growth in the community. The project we are about to undertake is something that will benefit our children and our children's children."

Hassall pointed out that the low five percent loan rate will end up saving water users over $31,000 per year over the life of the loan compared to conventional financing. "Carlisle is the only municipality in the BGADD area that was offered a FmHA loan at five percent interest in the current year. Other communities are paying nine percent. And after October 1, no more five percent loans will be offered in the forseeable future. Carlisle qualified for the loan because it met all income/population criteria as required by FmHA.

Mayor Hughes hopes that proposed costs can be adjusted downward and has been assured by project engineers that they will work closely with contractors to exact every savings possible. These savings would be reflected in customer billings.

The project has three major components. 1, it would almost double the amount of water the city is able to pump to Carlisle from Licking River. 2, it would increase by about 80 percent the capacity of the water treatment plant, and 3, it would extend new mains throughout portions of the city to facilitate getting water from the treatment plant to various water storage tanks. The additional lines would improve the circulation of water throughout much of the city.

The mayor is aware that higher bills will be very unpopular and expressed sensitivity in handling situations. He said he had to look at the broad picture and felt he had no choice but to cast a vote iii favor of the city's future. "I had to vote for what I thought was right. If the people don't agree they can vote me out of office in the November election."

As we see it, he had no alternative. Adequate water is an absolute necessity, be it for human consumption or industrial growth. In our situation, both apply. The future, it seems to us, is now. — EAW.

A nostalgic look back

When it was announced that Rev. **Albert Sweazy** would be the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Nicholas County Historical Society, members didn't know what to expect. After all, it was 50 years ago last month that he moved here with his parents when Rev. C.A. Sweazy served as pastor of the Carlisle Methodist Church from 1933-38.

Too, young Sweazy graduated from high school and left for college the year after he arrived, so he could be possibly remember in so short a stay?

Plenty. In fact, from the time he stopped recounting Kentucky's early history as the Dark and Bloody Ground and started on his remembrances of Carlisle and Nicholas County in 1935, his audience was entertained with perhaps the best oral history lesson they had ever heard. Certainly it was among the most enjoyable.

Sweazy began his trip "down memory lane" with a hypothetical

ride through town from the western city limits, recalling the Carnegie Library, junk yard, cemetery, Everett Stamper's Service Station, Sam Simpson's garage and livery station, the Chevrolet garage, the hardware store, jail, **Capt Allen's** residence, Norton's "Dispensary," better known as the Green Basket, Nesbitt's Grocery and furniture store, the Ferback Hotel, **G.T. Gatewood's Confectionary, Sexton's** Variety and grocery store, where he remembers buying bologna for 16 cents a pound, the banks and the A&P store where he worked.

He shed interesting sidelights on a few of the businesses he briefly mentioned on his journey through downtown, including **Tureman-Dreg, Clinkenbeard's, Kirkland's, Metcalfs, I--lford Drugs, Kroger's, C.C. Cole Co., Westerfield&Ada, Seattle's, Bob Mann's** dry cleaners, and the old **Curtis Hotel**, where 50 cents bought a delicious family-style dinner.

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The late "**Walking**" **Bob Waugh** and "**Shabby**" (real name **James Stephenson**, who died in 1942), were among the names Sweazy termed well known characters. For the benefit of newcomers and those too young to remember, Bob used to carry advertising signs for Kruger's and others up and down the streets and highways. He always preferred to walk, turning down motorists who'd offer him a ride as he journeyed between Carlisle and Millersburg or Paris.

"No thanks, I'm in a hurry" would be his stock answer.

Another who "rented" Walking Bob was "**Happy**" **Chandler**, who later told Sweazy it was true he had given Bob a white, double-breasted suit off his back to carry his advertising message when he was running against the late **Allen Barkley**. Happy said it was the best ad promotion he ever had in these parts.

"Shabby" was the fellow who was known to over-imbibe upon occasion. He was famous for selling his watch from a reading at the gas station pump, announcing the time, saluting the pumps (sometimes telephone poles he'd lined up) he called his troops and "dismissing the corps," as Sweazy put it.

Chris Frey was termed Carlisle's first retired citizen, spending his leisure time picking walnuts and hickory nuts in the fall and packaging them in coffee cans for Christmas giving. In the summer months, Sweazy remembers Mr. Frey sitting on a pillow in his yard shipping grass with a pair of scissors. Asked why he cut grass that way, Mr. Frey said "that's the way I like to do it."

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The winter of 1935-36 was a great time for sledding with snow on the ground from Christmas until March. Sweazy remembered some fast rides down roped off streets beginning in Henryville and ending up on Main Street, via North and Sycamore streets.

One particular day, when Emery **Clark Jr.** was just a little tyke, Sweazy and **Billy Davis** were riding double down the hill "coming like 15 at Bourbon County Raceway," Little E stepped in the path of the sled. Reacting quickly, Sweazy grabbed Emery by the collar and flipped him back over his head and onto the backside of his fellow rider, thus saving those gifted legs that were to later run for many touchdowns in the green and white colors of the Carlisle Musketeers.

That was also the winter when Billy's sister, Helen, was involved in a bad sled wreck with a Smoot boy, whose first name Sweazy didn't recall. He just remembered seeing the two lying painfully injured in the street.

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On happier times, Sweazy said he will always be indebted to Carlisle for knowing **Mary Glenn Shearer**, then music teacher at CHS. Mary Glenn is credited with being the person who "reached inside me and pulled out points that I never knew were in me."

Another Nicholas County name mentioned was that of **Tom Payne**, who wrote the news of Pleasant Valley for the Mercury and Nicholas County..Star in the 1940s and 50s. Sweazy said he was in Japan with his Army unit in World War II when he picked up a copy of the New Yorker magazine in a Red Cross day room. Leafing through the pages he came across "The Musings of Pleasant Valley by Tom Payne, which the magazine had quoted from his unique writing style. Tom is best remembered for his short pencil stub and note pad, and the "I don't no what that are true are not" ending to questionable news items he wrote in his column.

"Tom made a unique contribution here," Sweazy told his audience.

So, too, did Albert Sweazy with his memory-jogging, golden anniversary revitalization of Carlisle as he remembered it. A separate article

* See Here Abouts, page 6

Letters. . .

Something new and different here July 4

To The Carlisle Mercury:

On Thursday, July 4 something new occurred in the streets of Carlisle. Something different.

During the early daylight hours of the morning several people were methodically scurrying about preparing for that event. Still, many tasks had to be completed before the event could take place. And many more needed to be completed during and after.

But, there was someone for every task! The event was the first Blackberry Festival 5000. It took place smoothly, with no delay, from the setting up of the registration tables to the background music which was played throughout the morning. Every detail was manned.

On behalf of the Carlisle/Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce and the Carlisle Community Woman's Club, we thank the many volunteers who gave hours of their time preparing for and conducting the 5K....Blue Grass Industries, the sheriff's department, police department, city employees, coaches, cheerleaders, football team, Coca Cola Co., Nicholas County Ambulance Service, medical staff, media staff and countless individuals.

The race would not have been a success without the community's support.

Thank you,
Gayle Kelley and Barbara Hopkins
Race directors