Opinion

Down picture lane. . .
but not so long ago...

A nice catch...

Overwhere?...*It's a secret, but Yanks are coming covertly somewhere*

Driving down the road the other day I noticed the bumper sticker of the car ahead of me. It read: "Honk Twice If You Want Covert Aid."

So I honked twice and quicker than a Third World nation can lick up a million dollars, the car pulled over, and out popped a jolly gent in a T-shirt which read: "Ask Me About Covert Aid."

So I asked him. "What about a little covert aid," I said, "as I am a trifle on the shorts at the moment?"

"No sweat," the gent said, glancing warily over his shoulder as if he was expecting a summons server to pounce on him. "Follow me to our secret headquarters. It's just around the corner."

We drove around the corner to a sign on the front of a building that read: "Covert Aid and Pork Barrels." Underneath in smaller print was "Covert Aid Here" and "Ample Secret Parking." As we entered, I noticed a sign on the office next door which read: "Overt Aid and Bing Cherries." It also had a "Closed" sign on it and the windows had been spray painted with graffiti saying, "Remember Saigon" and "Overt Aid Is Having To Say You're Sorry."

Inside was a pretty young woman in camouflage walking shorts and a bandoleer of brochures around her neck. She offered free coffee while military music came over the loudspeaker playing "Somewhere". Oh, the Yanks are coming...

I grabbed a brochure. The text began: "Cut red tape! Avoid dreary Congressional hearings! Stop nosey pawnbounds in their tracks! Don't settle for anything less than Covert Aid!"

A man came out of an office. "Hello, my name is Gunghovert Overdone, chief undercover grants-in-aid officer."

"How's business?" I asked.

"Great!" he said. "We managed to give $1 million in Covert aid just the other day to Afghanistan alone."

"How did you manage that when Reagan is stuck on tilt in Nicaragua?"

"That's a secret, of course, but I can tell you we're just processing another real little package for that fellow Savimbi, who's leading the gallant struggle to instrove the Cuban-backed government of Angola."

"You mean the same Savimbi who was trained in guerilla warfare by Moa Tse-tung personally?"

"The same, sweetheart, and I'd say we were lucky to latch onto a fully-trained guerilla fighter like him. Training guerillas costs plenty, you know."

"Wait a minute," I said. "This Moa-trained Savimbi is also backed by the South Africans. What kind of freedom fighter is that?"

"Now freedom is a many splendored thing and you are asking too many sensitive questions." Overdone said. "Don't you know there's covert war going on, Mac?"

"I didn't know," I said apologetically.

"Now you do, and it's a secret," he said. "Remember our slogan: 'Loose lips sink appropriations.' I trust you will sign up to carry a placard in front of the White House in our next big rally."

"Sure," I said. "When is it?"

"It's a secret, but we will leak the date so you can be there. In the meantime, tell your friends and neighbors to save their scrap for the next big covert push."

"You can count on me," I said saluting smartly. "But just whichcovert war are we talking about?"

Overdone drew himself. "You want me to supply top secret information to just everyone who walks in here about whomever it may be we are covertly fighting? How would it look if everyone knew we had lost a covert war."

"But when are you going to tell us taxpayers how much we're spending fighting what enemies in what country for what reasons?"

Overdone threw out his chest and said:

"When we win one."

— RM —

Here's John Shaughnessy's "Consensual Man's Guide to Having A Successful Relationship With A Woman," or "How To Stay Out of The Doghouse At Least 51 Percent Of The Time":

— Surprise her. For some men, this could mean bringing her flowers, for other men this could mean picking your socks off the floor.

— Listen to her. But don't overdo it. Remember the story of a young actor who won his first role. Thrilled, the young man phones his father to share the news: "I play a man who's been married for 20 years." The father replied, "Good for you. Keep up the good work and eventually you may get a speaking part."

— Don't go to bed angry at her, and especially don't go to bed when she's angry at you. Why? At least one woman is known to have dropped a bowling ball on the head of a man who was sleeping.

— Know the meaning of the phrase, "Nothing is the matter."

There are times in a relationship with a woman when she will be angry at you, and you won't know why. You'll ask, "What's the matter?" And, after flashing you a dark glance, she'll say, "Nothing is the matter." Right then, you should call the florist and say, "I need one of those 'nothing-is-the-matter' bouquets."

— Never unfavorably compare her cooking to your cooking or someone else's. The only time you should violate this rule is when you believe it's better to wear the meal than eat it.

— RM —

"The pictures in seed catalogues are so colorful and alluring that if I had the space and the energy I'd like to become an amateur gardener," I said.

"Not me," a friend growled.

"Oh?"

"Not for me. What good will it do me to become an amateur gardener when my whole family is professional eaters?"

— RM —

As a believer in constructive engagement, I'm always dropping in on the president of the Philippines to constructively engage him on one thing or another. The other day it was to congratulate him and his first lady on their stunning coup.

"Hats off to you, Ferd, and you too, Imelda," I said. "Our Congressmen say they have irrefutable proof that you two sly boots have squirreled up $50 million worth of Manhattan real estate, including the biggest office building on Wall Street."

Ferd hesitated. He finally said, "Your Congressmen were saying I should've invested that $250 million in the Philippines."

"What are they talking about, Ferdie, baby? You invested in America!" I clapped him on the back. "You're going to be an American folk hero."

He frowned. "Even though there's some hinting that I diverted those funds from your foreign aid program!"

"Don't be silly, Ferdie," I said. "We sent out billions in foreign aid every year. And you're the first guy I know who ever sent any back."

— RM —

According to instructions to a group of University of Nebraska at Omaha students, their physics discussion class was to meet in Room 534, Allwine Hall.

Donald Shult, professor of physics, said the first suggestion that something was wrong came to him in a phone call from a student.

"Dr. Shult," the student asked, "are we really going to meet in that room?"

No 534, Shult learned, is a men's restroom.

It was a computer error," Shult said. "I hadn't checked ahead of

See Overwhere, page 3

Down Memory Lane ...from the Mercury files of bygone years

10 years ago

Thursday, April 11, 1976

Nicholas County High School will hold its NICO Relays for boys on Thursday, April 15. This is the first invitational track meet to be held at the high school. Six teams scheduled to participate are Pulaski, Bourbon, Pendleton, Owen, Madison Central and Nicholas Counties. Two other teams may enter the meet according to Coach Ben Pumphrey.

Bobby Curtis was the spokesman for a group of Kennedy Heights-Catherine Street residents who voiced their opposition to R. P. Alexander's plans to open a street onto Catherine Street for a new subdivision of about 25 houses. A petition, signed by almost 60 persons, was read by Curtis to City Council at its regular meeting Monday night. The group feels that another outlet should be used. They based their opinion on the experience of the heavily traveled outlet on Mockingbird Lane—even though that street opens at the other end also.

Rev. Larry Clinkenbeard, formerly of Carlisle, and three others from Columbus, Ind. comprise a quartet which sang at the special musical programs Sunday at the Little Rock Christian Church in Bourbon County and the Carlisle Christian Church.

Carla Curtsinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Curtsinger, Benita Dampier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Dampier and Jewel Shaw, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Shaw are attending Kentucky 4-H Older Youth Conference in Washington, D.C. this week.

Mrs. Hope Snapp won first place in the "homemade" Easter Hat Contest Sunday at Blue Grass Industries and Blue Grass Knitting's Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Patsy Klawitter won second with Mrs. Debbie Kerns placing third.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. Billy Ray Sams, a daughter, Christina Jewell, April 7, 1976 at Bourbon County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Dailey, a son, Rex Allen, April 3, 1976 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Preston Townsend, a daughter, Judy Ann, March 30, 1976 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Miss Roxanne Cameron and Paul Christopher Baker, April 9 at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Lexington. — Miss Diane Hung and John Argo Jr. March 6 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson. — Miss Elizabeth Ann Davis and Hugh M. Wilson March 26 at the Carlisle Presbyterian Church.

DIED— Raymond C. Jackson, 60, Covington April 5, 1976.— Roger Franklin Workman, 26, Winchester April 12, 1976 in Lexington. — Roy Steven Current, 74, Lexington, April 8, 1976 at home. — Charles E. Price, 27, April 10, 1976 in a fire at his residence, Bucyrus, OH. — Mrs. Ada Grimes Dorton, 78, April 9, 1976 at Peebles Nursing Home in Cynthiana.— Maurice Glen "Buddy" Brothers, 57, Maysville, April 11, 1976 at home. — Walter Snapp, 77, April 5, 1976 at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home. — Mrs. Ossie Ring, 82, Millersburg, April 3, 1976.

20 years ago

Thursday, April 14, 1966

Thomas and Paul Hardin, twin sons of Mr. and Mrs. V. F. Hardin, Maysville Road, have been awarded music grants-in-aid at the University of Kentucky according to an announcement recently by Department of Music officials. Thomas plays the trumpet, Paul the trombone, and both are presently senior band members at Nicholas County High School. Each of the awards will cover tuition at the college plus $100 per year.

Taxes were not voted to be increased at the April 7, Nicholas County School Board meeting, as was erroneously reported in a daily newspaper last Friday. Dr. A. A. Page, superintendent, stated Tuesday, "No definite or permanent action was taken by the school board on increasing taxes."

Mstgt. Jack Stratton, Air Force Recruiter for Carlisle, whose office is located in Morehead, announces the enlistments of James David Smith, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sterling Smith and Marion Clay Kearns, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Kearns.

Kevin Allen Zachary, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Zachary was presented for baptism by his parents at the Carlisle Methodist Church, Easter Sunday, April 10. Rev. James Norsworthy officiated at the service.

The Nicholas County Chapter of Future Farmers of America took part in the North Bluegrass Federation FFA Day held last Saturday at Woodford County High School in Versailles. Nearly 300 Future Farmers, representing 14 high school chapters in the area participated in the FFA Day contests.

BORN— To Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ishmael, a son, Carl Edward, April 6, at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Gaunce, Glasgow, a daughter, Susan Faith, April 6 at the Community Hospital.

MARRIED— Miss Marilyn Dean Robinson and Everett Richard Becraft, Sunday, by Rev. Frank Simons. — Miss Sally Anderson and Jess Bowles, April 7 in Owingsville.

DIED— B. C. Clark, 81, April 12 at Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home. — Elbert Dorton, 71, April 12 at Nicholas County Hospital. — Marshall Crump, 78, Williamstown, April 11 at Gallipolis Hospital in Covington. — Staff Sgt. Ralph Taylor, 40, April 9 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. — Millard Ledford, 50, April 10 at Nicholas County Hospital. — John Robert "Bob" Emmons, 29, April 10 at Haywood Hospital. — Ben Prathers, 82, April 8.

40 years ago

Thursday, April 18, 1946

Reorganization of the Nicholas County Fish and Game Club is to be effected and an initial meeting for this purpose will be held at the court house here Tuesday night at 7:30, according to Chess Shearer, formerly active in this field in the county. Due to the war and the absence of many persons interested in outdoor life the club has been inactive for some time, but now that great interest is again being manifested, a campaign for membership in the local club is expected to be launched at the meeting Tuesday.

A piano recital will be given by Miss Virginia Lee Cowan, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. T. Cowan, at 10 o'clock tuesday morning in the high school auditorium here. She is a student at Georgetown College.

Verna Stone has sold his grocery business and building on East Main Street to W. H. Phillips who has taken possession. Mr. Phillips formerly operated a store in Paris prior to coming to Nicholas County, and later owned the Arris Wiggins farm on the Maysville road which he sold in March.

At the April meeting of the Carlisle Parent-Teachers Wednesday, Mrs. A.V. Allison was elected president; Mrs. Earl Van Beuer, vice-president; Mrs. Allie Clinkenbeard, secretary and Mrs. C. B. Prull, treasurer.

Following a lead in planning for improvement of the dairy industry in Nicholas County laid several weeks ago, a committee composed of Ovel Day, Lovell Hollar, Edgar Darrell, Sr., Edgar Darrell, Jr., D. L. Baker, Jr., Griffith Booth and Robert Cole met last Thursday night at the courthouse to perfect arrangements to carry out plans.

W. J. Curtis, curator of Blue Nicholas County Hospital. — Marshall Crump, 78, Williamstown, April 11 at Gallipolis Hospital in Covington. — Staff Sgt. Ralph Taylor, 40, April 9 at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala. — Millard Ledford, 50, April 10 at Nicholas County Hospital. — John Robert "Bob" Emmons, 29, April 10 at Haywood Hospital. — Ben Prathers, 82, April 8.

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establishment of a livestock market here and directors of the Farmers Warehouse Company.

Before an audience which almost filled the auditorium of the city school Monday night, an attractive program for colored talent was presented Monday night. Those performing were John Duncan, Joe and Henry Timberlake, Aleta Green, Margaret Ruth Singpson, Walker Williams, Cornelius Hamilton, Scott Turner, Edith Mae Shepherd, John Riggs, Mary Lee Groves, Virginia Johnson, Della Thompson, Stanley and Homer Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Frederick, who reside on the Lower Jacktown Road, narrowly escaped serious injury Monday while returning to their home from Carlisle, when a tire on their automobile exploded, causing the machine to skid on a muddy fill and turn over. The car rolled down an embankment, turning over several times.

Residents of the Lower Jacktown Road have endured many hardships this winter because of the impassable conditions of the road, but the best story told concerns Earl Thomas Hartley, 12 year old student at Parks School. Young Hartley was returning home from school one day last week, wearing a pair of rubber boots. In crossing the road he became mired in the mud and was unable to extricate himself. The lad was forced to pull his feet out of the boots and walk barefoot to a home nearby where he borrowed a shovel to dig out the boots.

Two members of the same family, a mother and her son, will receive their bachelor of arts degree at the commencement exercises at Transylvania College in June. Mrs. Elizabeth Reynolds, M/lersburg who has been a grade teacher for many years and Edward Webster Reynolds, 20, are now seniors at the college and are candidates for the degree.

MARRIED— Mrs. Aleta Henderson Crouch and Robert McClanahan Sunday afternoon at the home of T. S. Redwine at Sandy Hook, Elliott County.

DIED — Walter W. Swartz last Wednesday morning at home in East Union. — Mrs. Nella Jane Trader Ogden, wife of A. F. Ogden, Tuesday at home near Bald Hill. — George

See Down Memory Lane, page 2

The Carlisle Mercury
(USPS 090-820)
Established 1867
Phone 606-289-2444
Published every Thursday at 234 Locust Street, Carlisle, Nicholas County, Ky. 40311-0272. Postage paid at Carlisle

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Grade students recognized

The Nicholas County Elementary School first grade students above received the Principal's Award from Pizza Hut for their participation in the Book-It program. Through this program, elementary students receive free pizza as a reward for reading a given number of books. These students were recognized for having taken part in the program for the full five months which it was offered. Pictured are: (front) Jeff Capps, Jennifer Caswell, Aimee Bartels. Back: Cynthia Dixon, Michael Mathes, George Mitchell, Jamie Liver and Michael Jolly.

Farm profits decline as food prices rise in '85

A study of where American food dollars went in 1985 shows that farmers received 7.2 percent less for their products while grocery stores were charging consumers 1.2 percent more, dropping the farmers share of the food dollar to its lowest level since the Depression.

In a U.S. Department of Agriculture report released through the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, USDA economists said the farmers' share of the grocery dollar dwindled to 31 cents, down 7.2 percent from the 1984 share of 34 cents.

Abundant food supplies and rising food processing and distribution costs combined to drive farm prices down and grocery store prices up.

The share farmers get from each food dollar varies from product to product. The farm share of the beef dollar, for example, is usually about 53 cents. Every dollar spent on poultry in the grocery store returns about 53 cents to the farmer, and 65 cents of every dollar spent on eggs goes back to the farm. Consequently, declines in the prices of these products hit farmers hardest, and soonest.

But Ralph Parlett, a USDA economist, said comparisons of today's farm share of the food dollar with that of the 1920s and '30s do not provide an accurate picture of the situation, however.

Although the 31 cents of the American food dollar that today's farmer is getting is the lowest share since the Depression, what is significant is that it is the lowest share since the early 1960s.

"Since the late 1950s the amount of processing that takes place off the farm has steadily increased. We are buying more convenience food items these days, and these items are the result of further processing which

See Farm profits, page 4

Overwhere

Continued from page two

time with the woman who arranges the classes. Nothing like this had ever happened in the 20 years I've been here."

He arranged for another classroom after he explained to the administration: "There aren't enough seats in there."

Onward, upward.

Memory Lane

Continued from page two

Steele, 82, and his brother, Felix Steele, 80, Monday at home in Salt Well, Bath County. — Robert Shea, 56, Tuesday, at home in the East Union section of the county.

Ky. weeklies to meet Apr. 10-11 at MSU

Computer and laser technology are among the topics to be explored at the Kentucky Weekly Newspaper Association's 1986 Spring Conference to be held at Morehead State University Thursday and Friday, April 10-11.

Dr. Ray Hornback, vice president for public affairs at the University of Kentucky, will be the guest speaker for the annual awards banquet set for 7 p.m. Friday at the Holiday Inn of Morehead.

Opening on Thursday at 3 p.m. with an informal reception at the Holiday Inn, the conference will get underway Friday with registration at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of Breckinridge Hall.

"We expect about 40 publishers, editors and other journalists from our 30 member newspapers to attend," said Dr. Richard Dandeneau, acting chair of MSU's Department of Communications and liaison officer for KWNA.

The group will be welcomed to campus by Dr. Robert L. Burns, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, where KWNA headquarters are housed. He will speak at a noon luncheon Friday at the Adron Doran University Center.

Workshop speakers include Thomas M. Maurina, account executive with Newsfinder, who will discuss wire services for weeklies; Jerry Byrne, circulation manager for Scripps League Newspapers, who will provide tips for improving circulation; Tony Galieti of Apple Computers, who will discuss the latest systems available for newspapers, and Michael C. Finch and Mark Howell, publishers of the Todd County Standard in Elkton, who will share their experiences as the first paper in the state to use a laser printer for typesetting.

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Regular $564. 4 Piece Glider Set. Includes glider settee, round cocktail table and two (2) spring base chairs. Lyon-Shaw fine quality wrought iron in your choice of vanilla, charcoal or antique blue. Our Pre-Season Sale. 4 Piece Set $339. Extra spring base chairs Regular $130. NOW $79.

Others In Stock:
Regular $228. 3 Piece Cafe Set. Mesh wrought iron in charcoal. 29" round table with two (2) side chairs. 3 Piece Set NOW $129.
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When working outdoors...
Look out above for power lines to prevent accidental contact when you're:
• installing or moving a TV or radio antenna.
• painting — particularly if working with a long-handled roller.
• using a ladder or scaffold.
• pruning or cutting down trees.
And follow these other safety hints:
• Never use electric tools outside if it's rainy or damp.
• Use ground fault circuit interrupters.
• Call us before you dig where there may be underground lines.

When playing outdoors...
Respect the power of electricity. Follow these rules:
• Fly kites and model airplanes when it isn't raining. Stay far away from power lines.
• Use dry string—not metal, foil or wire—in your kite.
• Stay away from fallen wires.
• If a kite or airplane gets caught in a power line, don't try to retrieve it.
• Keep out of trees that have wires running near them.
• Never climb utility poles, towers or fences around substations.

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