

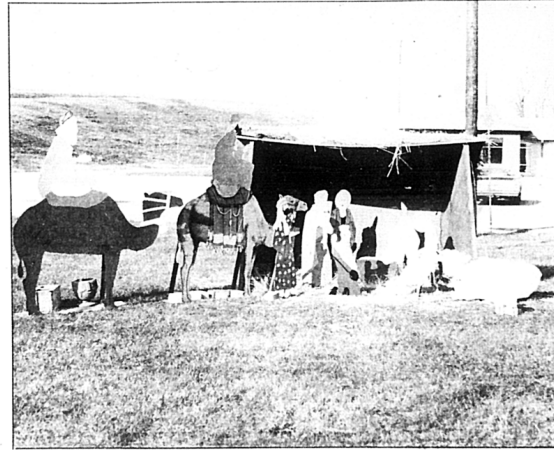
# The Carlisle Mercury

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The nativity scene adorning the grounds of Nicholas County Hospital and Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Rich of Carlisle. The employees of both facilities put hours of their own time into the repair and painting of the figures, which were constructed about 20 years ago. — Dan Rich photo.

## Foster care Nicholas short on availability

By Bonny Faust  
Of The Mercury Staff

With the approaching of the holiday season, people tend to turn toward their families as a focus for comfort and security.

However, many are not fortunate enough to enjoy a stable home environment.

The Foster Home program, administered by the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources is designed to provide temporary homes for children of such families, until difficulties can be resolved or ultimately an adoption arranged.

Many children, mostly teenagers, await placement in Nicholas County and, unfortunately, there are only two approved foster homes in this area.

"We like to have as many homes as possible available, so when a child needs placing, it can be done without delay," said Sherree Combs, recruitment and certification worker with the Department of Human Resources.

Occasionally, children are placed out of the county, in the instance of child abuse or other such threatening circumstances, but it is preferable to locate them close to home and familiar surroundings.

The reasons for removing a child from the natural home are as varied as the children themselves.

Along with neglect and sexual or physical abuse, a child may have a parent with an extended hospital stay, rendering him or her without parental care. In the case of delinquency, sometimes parents find they are no longer able to control their own child.

Before a temporary foster home is sought, social workers try to place the children with relatives, if possible. "We have found that the black community does this in a more informal basis, on their own," said Combs. "They tend to rely more heavily upon friends, neighbors and relatives than do social agencies to help in difficult situations. With the virtual disappearance of the extended family in the white culture, agencies have had to play an increasingly larger role."

Being a foster parent is neither an easy task, nor one to be taken lightly. "It takes a special kind of family to take in foster children," Combs said. "It's not at all like raising one's own children. That is one of the main misconceptions people have."

There are many duties connected with foster care. Taking children to court, getting the kids to doctors, and meeting with outside agencies are only a few of the responsibilities. Sometimes it is necessary to meet with the child's natural parents, as well.

Before being considered as an eligible foster parent, attendance at an 18-hour pre-service training seminar is required.

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### This Weekend Moonlight Madness

This weekend you'll have a chance to shop at home and save on The Carlisle Mercury and several merchants will participate in Moonlight Madness.

On pages 8 and 9 of this week's Mercury a complete list of those participating is available.

Special store hours open until 10 p.m. Friday night, December 19 will be observed.

### Toys still needed

Toys for the needy are still being collected by Richard Gardner, Mark Hughes and Steve Cartwright.

There are three collection points: Gardner's Furniture, Woody's Auto Repair, and the Nicholas County Fire Department.

All donations will go to the needy, and will be distributed Christmas Eve.

Donation may include new toys, used toys in good condition, books, clothing or monetary contributions to the toy season project.

According to Gardner, the collection for Christmas 1986 has already begun, and the group is in hopes the donations will continue to come in.

Anyone wishing to donate, or in need of assistance during the holiday, should contact: Gardner at 229-7228 or 229-7333 or Hughes at 229-2269.

## Power shifts to home

By Bonny Faust  
Of The Mercury Staff

The focus of power is shifting from state agencies and legislatures back to local school districts now that systems for managing and financing results are in place, state Superintendent Alice McDonald told the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents at their annual meeting last week (December 7-8).

Nicholas County Schools Superintendent Donald Elder, although unable to attend the meeting because of local school board obligations, agreed with McDonald's statement. "It is better now that we are allowed to make most of our own decisions about how to best use the money for the kids. Someone in Frankfort would not know our community as well as we who live and work here."

In the early 1980s, when the public began to be newly concerned about the status of the schools, state legislatures gave new authority to local boards of education to enforce higher standards, both for students and teachers alike.

As a result of that legislation in Kentucky, we have in place a good system for state oversight of public education," McDonald said.

The General Assembly will continue to improve funding if it believes it is getting results for its investment.

A basic part of the new management system is the Kentucky Essential Skills Testing (KESST) program. This makes the schools more accountable to citizens as well as to lawmakers.

Kentucky schools are making progress in the areas of attendance, dropout rates, and academic achievement. "Last year (1985) there were 42 school districts with deficiencies, this year there were only 15," noted McDonald. "And all of the deficiencies were related to attendance and dropouts, not to student achievement."

Many programs have been implemented in Nicholas County Schools as a result of increased funding by the state. "More money for our schools can only help us to increase the quality and number of additional programs for our kids," said Elder.

It helps to lower the teacher-pupil ratio by allowing us to hire more teachers and aides. We are also able to offer a wider variety of enrichment activities. Another important item is the Drop-Out Prevention program. In connection with this, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) teacher job skills to students, making them better candidates for job placement.

On the matter of school funding, McDonald said that the overall state budget has had to be cut by about \$9 million. "So far the cuts haven't directly touched local school programs. Both the Governor and I are absolutely committed to no cuts in funds to local school districts," she assured the local superintendents.



The Carlisle Rotary Club hosted a Christmas dinner for school children Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Historical Society Building. Santa Claus paid a visit and distributed presents following the meal. Pictured receiving presents are left, Rodney Mitchell, and right, Robert Lang. The children were accompanied by the dinner by Mrs. Marguerite Ertan, Harry Spickler and Mrs. Brenda Anderson. — Tom Anderson photo.



This Christmas tree, donated by Jacky International, was planted in the courthouse yard last week by the Chamber of Commerce just in time for the Christmas parade Dec. 4. Children in the elementary school made the decorations. Left is Barbara Hopkins, chairman of the parade, and right, Ginny Shroad, a member of the Currier Chequers, who performed in the parade. — Tom Anderson photo.

## Armstrong challenges spotlight decision

Kentucky Attorney General Dave Armstrong is asking the Kentucky Supreme Court to review the Court of Appeals decision striking down a law barring use of spotlights to glare deer and other wildlife.

The Court of Appeals reversed a 1985 Casey County conviction for spotlighting deer on the ground that the law was too broad.

November 9, 1984, Carroll Singleton was observed shining a spotlight across the fields and woods of Long Hollow Road in Casey County.

Conservation officer Ray Floyd, who cited Singleton for spotlighting with a gun in possession, said Singleton has 300 rifle shells in the front seat of his vehicle, next to a cartridge, and clip loaded with four cartridges in his pocket.

The court said citizens have constitutional rights of free speech and privacy, which entitle them to travel Kentucky roads without fear of being charged under the statute.

Armstrong said, "This expansion of speech and privacy rights goes well beyond the U.S. Constitution and serves no purpose other than to protect poachers."

Fish and Wildlife regulations limit the statute to situations where illegal hunting is obviously intended, and no innocent conduct would be prosecuted.

Armstrong emphasized that, "Kentucky's spotlighting law is a vital tool in the protection of our wildlife and it must be upheld."

Spotlighting is often a favorite tactic of poachers because deer and other wildlife stand transfixed and helpless when illuminated by a bright light in their eyes.

Singleton had maintained that he wasn't hunting, but was searching for a deer he had wounded earlier in the day.

Casey District Court and Casey Circuit Court had previously rejected his claims.