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Voters approve legal sales of alcohol

Opponents blame weather; margin is almost 2 to 1

Nicholas County voters approved legal sales of alcoholic beverages by an almost two to one margin in Saturday's wet-day election. Official tabulation showed voters in favor of the referendum 1,265 to 707. A total of 2,112 ballots were cast, representing a turnout of less than half of the approximately 4,800 eligible voters. Friday's heavy snow of five to eight inches around the county was blamed for the unexpectedly light response from opponents of legal sales. According to spokesman Bill Guthrie, "a lot of the people who oppose this thing are older people, church people, and it's hard to get them out to the polls when it's like this."

The surprisingly easy win for the wet forces will allow sales of package liquor to resume sometime within 90 days to six months and beer sales in 30 to 45 days.

SALES OF alcoholic beverages were suspended here Nov. 25, 1985, when U.S. District Judge G. W. H. Blank refused to issue an injunction which would have allowed local dealers to stay in business pending their appeal of an earlier Kentucky Supreme Court ruling that nullified wet-day elections in Nicholas and Magoffin counties.

Jimmy Shaw, of Carlisle, one of three liquor store dealers forced to close last November, will reply

for beer and liquor licenses this week, he said Monday. The other two — Bobby Bowen and Clay Fryman — are also expected to apply to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for permits to reopen their stores in the Myers precinct of the county. Shaw said that it took six months to obtain his license to open J&J Liquors back in 1983. He said it could take that long again but he had been told by an ABC official that the time frame could come as early as 90 days. Beer applications are processed in about half that time, he said. Shaw said that it is his understanding that Nicholas County is eligible for three package liquor licenses and an unlimited number of beer permits.

The number is based on one permit per 2,500 population. Nicholas County has a population in the neighborhood of 7,100.

THE REFERENDUM does not allow the city and county to have bars, only package stores, restaurants serving wine and beer, and establishments serving beer.

Shaw, obviously pleased with Saturday's outcome, said he felt the vote would be closer "either way it went." He predicted about a 60-plus vote difference instead of the actual 554.

Precinct tabulations

PRECINCT	YES	NO	TOTAL
Headquarters	44	46	92
Bartlettville	57	65	146
Rafferty	100	34	138
Myers	129	22	193
Moorefield	172	78	258
East Union	41	24	65
Mayors Office	173	120	299
Engine House	203	143	437
Methias	144	68	217
City Building	165	62	227
Absentees	25	15	40
Total	1265	707	2112



An unhappy Valentine Day

The new ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Ecton was badly damaged Feb. 14 when a gasoline tank caught fire and exploded in the attached garage area of their home on Headquarters Road.

Fire guts Ecton home Friday

A Nicholas County couple looking forward to attending a tractor pull in Louisville Friday night had an abrupt change of plans. A fire triggered by the explosion of a gasoline tank in the attached garage gutted the new, ranch-style home of Mr. and Mrs. Phil Ecton on the Headquarters Road Friday about 11 p.m.

Mrs. Ecton, assistant administrator at the Nicholas County Hospital, was hospitalized with second and third degree burns on her hands and lower torso about her chin, neck and ankles. She will undergo skin grafting.

Her husband and their three young children — Chris, Michael and Rachel — escaped unhurt. Mrs. Ecton ruled in the snow to extinguish flames when her chinking could fire.

It was described as the worst structural fire in the county. Deep snow which triggered firefighters had melted when this picture was taken Monday afternoon.

THE COUPLE had tickets to the closed garage were ignited by a garage heater. He said while most of the furnishings were destroyed, firemen were able to salvage a few valuables, including a family photograph album. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

Hughes termed it the "worst structural fire we've had in the county." Over 10,000 gallons of water were used. He said the first 4,000 gallons carried on the truck were used up "just to knock down the blaze."

Heavy snowfall which blanketed the area delayed the arrival of the trucks. Firemen were unable to locate water hydrants covered by the deep snow, necessitating several trips to Carlisle to replenish the supply.

RE CHIEF Mark Hughes

State Police investigating 4 robberies

A series of Friday night robberies in Carlisle and Nicholas County is being investigated by State Police detective Robert Duffy.

In the county a robbery occurred at the home of Carl Hughes on the Moorefield Road, where a chain saw and other tools were missing.

Jack Crump reported two guns were stolen from his home on Carpenter Road.

Harold Bassell said his new home under construction on Myers Road was entered but apparently nothing was taken. He said tools and building equipment were stored in the home at the time of entry.

In Carlisle, Lee's Coin Laundry and adjoining beauty shop on Elm Street were burglarized sometime Friday night. An undisclosed amount of cash was taken.

No arrests have been made, an officer at the State Police Post in Dry Ridge said Monday afternoon.

State Trooper Larry Carey investigated a non-injury accident which occurred at approximately 4:30 p.m. Feb. 14, 3 1/2 miles south of Moorefield on state-rte. 47.

The drivers involved were Anthony D. Conin, 31, of Shepherdsville, operating a 1983 Dodge, and Gerald L. Watkins, 51, of Carlisle, driving a 1985 Dodge. No further details were disclosed.

The special election received front page treatment in Lexington and Louisville newspapers and was the lead story on Lexington television stations Saturday night. Several Nicholas County officials were quoted as being surprised at the results. Bad weather was cited as a possible factor by some, but Shaw said Monday he feels that people resented the Supreme Court ruling and that they also could see the difference in the way legal sales were conducted in the past two years as compared to the period between 1937 and 1942 when sales were legal.

He also noted that a check of records in the city clerk's office showed twice as many drunk driving

arrests (84 to 51) in the two years immediately preceding legal sales as during the two years sales were legal here.

DIVY FORCES maintain the "quality of life" will suffer under legalized sales. Although city and county law enforcement officers say alcohol-related accidents declined when liquor was legally sold here the last two years, Guthrie said he was not convinced.

Acting as spokesman for the Citizens for a Better Community, Guthrie expressed confidence that dry forces will petition for another referendum "as soon as possible."

In 1941 when Nicholas County was voted dry, some members of the

community said the reason was because many of the younger eligible voters were gone to war and couldn't cast their ballots.

Some of Saturday's special election costs are expected to be offset by monies derived from license fees to dealers and distributors.

UNDER THE LAW governing legal sales, no alcoholic beverages can be sold on Sunday, a time a number of private clubs have been open for business.

In the past two years, until sales ceased in November, bootleggers operated chiefly on Sundays. Some accepted food stamps and others ran monthly tabs, neither of which is allowable in legal sales territories.



Mitch pays a call

U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell of Louisville was in Carlisle last Thursday morning to hold an informal Town Meeting in the courthouse.

Financial crunch ahead

Residents attending the Town Meeting called by U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell at the courthouse last Thursday morning heard the junior senator from Kentucky make two predictions: 1. Revenue Sharing funds will no longer be available and 2. "some kind" of a tobacco bill will be passed before March 15, when the federal tax on cigarettes expires.

About 20 people were on hand for the informal visit, one of four McConnell made that day. Other stops were in Bourbon, Penderton and Hartman counties.

He told his audience that he's sure Revenue Sharing is gone. He said he voted to discontinue the program, in support of President Reagan's plan to cut deficit spending.

BASED ON current funding from Revenue Sharing city and county governments will lose approximately \$155,432 which is spent

on a number of services. Clerk Mary Tapp said that \$42,612 is budgeted for the city's fiscal year 1986, a drop from \$75,000 in 1985, when the following were funded: Senior Citizens program, \$1,800; library, \$60; fire department, \$2,000; ambulance service, \$6,000; police maintenance and cleaning, \$1,140; MackTopping, \$15,000; supplies, \$2,500; city building upkeep, \$1,000; West End Park, \$2,000; garden program for the elderly, \$200; and a major expenditure of \$25,000 to construct the new Overmyer bridge.

The county's Revenue Sharing Fund totals for fiscal year 1986 amount to \$113,952 which help finance eight major budgeted areas: Landfill materials and supplies at the rock quarry, \$2,450; ambulance service, \$21,500; County Parks and Recreation, \$6,000; Senior Citizens Center maintenance, \$16,000;

janitor's salaries, \$14,000; salary fringe benefits, \$1,000; courthouse utilities, \$21,000, and insurance, \$2,000.

JUDGE/EXECUTIVE Reese Snoot said following McConnell's talk that the loss of Revenue Sharing Funds would be a "great big chunk" to the local government. "I don't know where we'll turn" to make up the loss. The last payments will be received here in October.

Tapp said the city is considering having a payroll tax to offset the loss of federal funds.

On the matter of tobacco, McConnell predicted a farm bill would be passed by Congress prior to budget reform facing farmers later in March.

He said the sale of American cigarettes is being promoted in the countries of Taiwan, Japan and Korea.

Industrial site offered

More ground work has been laid in the ongoing effort to attract an industry to this community.

In the motion of magistrate Elmo Myers and seconded by Floyd Bassell, Fiscal Court has agreed to make available 10 acres or more of land at the County Farm for a suitable industrial project.

This would be a long-term, non-assignable (with nominal consideration) lease.

Community park named for donor

The Community Center Park, located at the old hospital building on School Cross Road will have a new name.

At the request of Mrs. Margaret Hunter, Rural Programs Coordinator for Community Action, the new facility will be named the Adelaide Ashby Shepherd Park in memory of the late Mrs. Shepherd and her husband Walter, who donated the land on which the park is located.

Approval of the park name was made at the Feb. 18 meeting of Nicholas' local court.

The county agreed to contribute up to 10 working days, labor and equipment and to donate 20 tons of work completed within six months.

It was also noted at the January meeting of county fathers that the court would not be opposed to the property being annexed by the City

of Carlisle. The existing house and barn would be removed and the work completed within six months.

THE COURT adopted a resolution supporting "necessary legislative action" by the General Assembly to provide county governments, county officials and county employees with

union, also for \$1 million. The premiums have increased considerably on the policies, but according to City Clerk Mary Tapp, National Casualty is the only company that will insure city government.

Council voted to give Mayor Lee Beets permission to sign insurance papers. V. Allison appeared before Council to ask that the sewer charge be taken off the water bill for the Presbyterian Church parsonage. The exorbitantly high bill was due to a leak caused when the furnace in the parsonage went out, causing a water pipe in the hallway to burst, flooding the basement. The request was granted.

Trash bid awarded to Crump

By Janie R. Duncan

City Council members conducted a closed bid meeting Monday night in order to discuss and make a decision on three issues.

Robert Crump's trash pickup bid of \$2,300 was accepted by Council. A decision on the matter had been tabled at last Monday's meeting. Crump has the current contract for trash pickup in the city.

Two insurance plans for the city were discussed and voted on. Both policies are renewals with National Casualty Insurance Company through M.C. Blair Insurance Agent. One is for liability on law enforcement (police departments) for \$1 million. The other policy is public liability for errors and