Opinion

Grandiose plans for park

Blue Licks State Park may have been in a deep slumber since its seasonal closing last November, but, not so the mind of its manager Bern Devine. He's spent the off-season conjuring up grandiose plans for the coming months.

How about this for starters:

"An Evening at Old Blue Lick Springs" as the theme for a cotillion complete with a catered dinner and dance band, under a large tent, with activities in keeping with what an evening was like in the days of the resort area. Back when the 300-room Arlington Hotel was crowded with well-to-do guests from all parts of the country who came to enjoy the rejuvenating effects of the springs' water.

History tells us the hotel was built in 1857 and destroyed by fire April 7, 1862. A smaller version was rebuilt but after the springs dried up in 1896, so did migration to the scenic town on the banks of Licking River. Local folks enjoyed Saturday night dances there until the 1930s but the chapter of the rich and famous visitors ended, roughly, with the last bottle of Blue Lick Water.

Devine wants to recapture those glory days with a cotillion the latter part of June if any group or individuals will help him stage it. Attire could be costumes of the period, if possible, with decorations in keeping with the times. He'll take care of the tent rental and details but he is seeking help, mental and physical, to get the idea off the ground.

Needed are old photographs, any old history such as a hotel register or names of famous visitors that anyone might have in family scrapbooks. He says that there's a dearth of documentation of the hotel available and any input would be most welcome. Give him a call at the park, 289-0507.

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The cotillion would be a social highlight of the park season, but there's a lot more happening.

For instance, all during the month of April campers will be offered two nights of camping for the price of one...changing exhibits will take place in the museum...continuing workshops (basketry, etc.) will be held...an antique car show is being organized, and of course the August battle reenactment, to name a few.

But to start things off, and to get people involved in the park program, Devine has planned an Area

Here Abouts

...with Emily A. Wolf

Appreciation Day for late April or early May. Admission to the museum will be free and refreshments will be served to visitors. He's hoping to hand a full-time recreation person to help carry out the ambitious slate of activities planned in addition to swimming and miniature golf.

The long-hoped-for lodge may not be in the forseeable future but a special legislative panel has recently recommended, among other things, a budget appropriation of $350,000 for an all-purpose building at the park. Of course, that's subject to change. Devine, never-the-less has great faith in Rep. Pete Worthington's ability to move a few mountains in Frankfort. He's also buoyed by the political heritage you people have in the park area. There's just so much history here to be proud of.

So, the proverbial bundle of energy is going to be the task of getting the park on the front burner of everyone's recreational calendar this season. It's refreshing to find someone who has taken such an interest in our little corner of the world. Now, let's help him out.

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New on the block

Just over five weeks have passed since Calvin and Margie Denton opened C&M Meat Market on East Main, formerly occupied by Home Hardware and Bluegrass Hardware stores. But it was a long time coming.

Calvin got the "itch" for the market while working in the ice house for **Bob Coatney** from 1969-74 and hauling produce for IGA. The Nicholas County native still works in security at IBM in Lexington and in his absence hostess Diane Whitsell of Kentontown (between Mt. Olivet and Cynthiana) presides at the chopping block.

Pete performed at Sparks (now Ken's) Super Valu in Cynthiana for 7½ years prior to joining the Dentons. He must know his stuff. We've tried the hamburger and ribeye steaks and both were very good. As someone in the office said the other day, "their meat is so well trimmed and free of fat."

It's always nice to write about "home town boy makes good." Let's hope he does.

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She remembers big cookies

In our Feb. 27 column Annie Laurie Riley Manseur wrote from New York that she had tried in vain to locate the country home of her late Aunt Annie and Uncle Will Feeback while she was back in these parts in 1976. She said she had such fond childhood memories of Aunt Annie's big biscuits cooked on a wood stove, among other things.

That brought a phone call last week from Mrs. **Anna Mae Feeback** who said the home — near their residence on Dogwalk Road between Headquarters and Hutchison — is long been torn down.

Mrs. Feeback could she remembers big cookies, rather than biscuits that Aunt Annie used to bake. She'd serve them to the Feeback's oldest son, William Earl, then six, when they'd stop in for a visit during the five or six years the families were neighbors on Dogwalk.

Who'd have thought that all those family ties could have been unraveled by the discovering of Annie Laurie and John Irvin last fall in New York? On the other hand, maybe anything to happen where John's involved!

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A first time ever winner

Clyde Sapp, 1823 Concrete Road, winner of the first week's Shopper's Dream promotion being sponsored by The Mercury and 16 participating businesses, said it was the first time he'd ever won anything.

"I sign up at Crockett's all the time, everytime I'm in there, and never have won anything," he told us Friday when he stopped by to pick up his letter advertising him to claim cash or merchandise worth at least $1 at all 16 establishments.

Snapp said he happened to be in Southern States (the only place he registered) getting some rabbit food, saw the box and decided to register, although he said he only so-

* See Here Abouts, page 3

A secure world ...free of sitcoms

written by men in purple body stockings

I am here to review with you the progress of our nation, to speak of unfinished work, and to set our sights on the future.

In the interest of time, please hold your applause to the end. I won't be fielding any questions, but there will be a photo opportunity. You'll need a wide angle lens because Top Shelf will be there too, and to get the both of us in a picture may require special photographic equipment.

I am pleased to report that the state of our union, despite a slight decrease in dues, is stronger than a year ago and growing stronger each year. Just like our federal deficit.

Today we look out on a rising America — firm of heart, united in spirit, strong in pastels and cheaper in air fares and gasoline. That's why I say, America is on the move!

What brought us back? The American people brought us back with unflagging faith that in the land under God the future will be ours as long as it has a non-sinking aircraft and a high tax on booze; with undying faith that the sun will rise on us, too, now that so many of us have VCRs.

Despite the pressures of our modern world — family and community life is the strongest it's been of West Hollywood and downtown Las Vegas — ever in the history of our society. What is true for millions in America is true for the American in the family of free nations. No one wants to deal with the KGB.

History is no captive of some inevitable force. It is made by men and women of vision and determination, not by producers of television mini-series with absolutely no stand for an idea whose time has come: an IRS computer that works.

We speak today of an agenda for the future, an agenda for a safer, more secure world. Few of TV alcoms about family life written by men who jump into purple body stockings at the end of the day and stuff Balivian powder up their noses.

Keeping America strong is as vital to the national security as controlling federal spending is to our economic security. But the most powerful force we can enlist against the federal deficit is an ever-expanding economy. Recently, a $400-limit on Pentagon-purchased toilet seats and a big helping of magic dust.

The American dream is a song of hope that rings through the winter air, like the annual Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue. Vivid, tender music that warms our hearts when the least among us aspire to the greatest things — to venture a daring enterprise, to unearth new beauty in music, literature and art; to discover a new tax shelter.

America believes. America is ready. America can win the race to the future and we shall, although when we get there, we will probably find it has been manufactured in Japan.

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This year the Boy Scouts of America are 82 years old. Not all Boy Scouts. Just the organization.

I am an old Boy Scout, and I can sit around the campfire and tell Boy Scout stories far into the night. A Boy Scout does not lie. He is allowed to stretch the truth a tad when telling fish stories.

As Boy Scouts, we were trustworthy, courteous, loyal and kind. We lived by a good deed every day. I know a Boy Scout who did a good deed for himself every day. He collected all the Boy Scout patches he could lay his hands on. And, if there is anthing a Boy Scout has a lot of, it's patches. Now this ex-Boy Scout has parlayed his collection a 100 pound bulge in his pocket. Nowhere in the manual does it say a Boy Scout has to be a dummy.

One of my favorite good deeds was take my little wimpy neighbor boy to the movies on Saturday. We also helped little old ladies across the street — the ones who didn't scare us or insist they had already given to the Scouts.

We stacked the rocks that spelled messages. "Camp Out!" "Water Fun!" "Help" just to see what would happen.

We tried and start a fire by rubbing two sticks together. Never did get the hang of that. So I always carried a few matches in case of an emergency, which was anytime I tried to start a fire. I wanted to cook dinner and figured that emergency enough.

They taught us how to tie all kinds of knots. Unfortunately, they never taught us to untie them. To this day, I cannot untie a small child's tennis shoelaces unless I use a pocket knife.

"Be Prepared" was our motto. We tried to stay that way although nobody ever told us what to be prepared for.

We stayed prepared anyway, especially for little old ladies with mean glints in their eyes.

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"I have never liked briefcases, so I carry a tote instead," said Atlanta Journal columnist Frances Cawthon.

"Briefcases are hard, mean, narrow, and your peanut butter and jelly sandwich gets so squashed that the impression of your calculator is left indelibly stamped into it by lunch time.

"Men carry briefcases, because men do not like to carry anything — not groceries, not babies, not garbage, not even gold bags, for which they have developed a bunch of cute little vehicles so they won't have to. A briefcase is an next to nothing to carry as I can think of. It is only good for a couple anorexic file folders, that's all.

"However, these days women think they, too, should carry briefcases, that it will make them look more professional (that is, more like men) and therefore more successful.

"I take exception to this.

"Do you know that briefcases lead to poor nutrition? You can never diet, for example, when you carry a briefcase. Have you ever tried to get a tossed salad with low-cal dressing in a briefcase? Ah ha! It is impossible. Or your lettuce leaves come out looking like some 1952 mooney-eyed teenager's corsage pressed in a diary, and you get all sorts of irregular sign spots across the page of important happenings you jot down.

"You also cannot get an extra bite in your briefcase. Men don't have to worry about extra hips, since society says they can use the same old one over and over. But women have to do the Leonardo da Vinci bit, occasionally slathering on an extra coat of Arpzco (known as foundation) and putting in the features with paint and pencil.

"Since business people also travel a lot these days, briefcases must carry them overnight. If you can hardly get your legal briefs in your briefcase, how in the world do you find room for your unmentionable briefs? You might even have to decide between clean teeth and notetaking, because in the most elegant briefcases, if you take your toothbrush along, you are going to have to leave your ballpoint pen at home.

"I say every time give me a tote. It will hold briefs you read and briefs you wear, and both toothbrushes and pens. It will even hold things a man won't carry. And most of all, it will haul a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without sullying its integrity."

Onward, upward.

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

10 years ago

Thursday, March 15, 1976

W. Nathan Young, president of the Deposit Bank, has presented Rev. H. Dallas Sugg, treasurer of the Nicholas County Recreation and Park Board, with a check for $1,000 on behalf of the bank. This money will be applied to the $28,500 which is Nicholas County's half of a $57,700 grant from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation which was granted in December 1971 to landscape and equip the recreation park on East Union Road.

Nicholas County students entering the Eighth District Kentucky Federation of Women's Club Student Art competition at Morehead State University in Morehead March 6 were Susan Vanlandingham, Becky Mysear, first place in pottery, and Vicky Bretz, first in charcoal drawings.

The Carlisle Community Woman's Club voted at a recent meeting to set aside $500 for the Nicholas County Hospital. Mrs. H. Dallas Sugg, president, said that the money will be used to furnish a room in the new hospital if it is built. If the old hospital is remodeled, the club will use the funds to refurnish a room.

Ben Pumphrey, Nicholas County High School football and track coach, announced Friday that the Nicholas County Bluejackets track team will open their season Thursday, March 18 at 4:30 p.m. at home against the Henry Clay Blue Devils from Lexington.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Humphries, a daughter, Dawn Marie, March 12 at Nicholas County Hospital.

MARRIED — Ms. Martha Linville and Gerald Paul, March 6 at Stoney Creek Christian Church.

DIED — Palmer Towles, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 8. — John C. Pettit, 86, Flemingsburg, March 8 at home. — Espie H. Whaley, 82, March 5 in a nursing home in Eustace, Fl. — Randolph Wagoner, 70, Lexington, March 11 at St. Joseph Hospital. — Mrs. Catherine O'Neill Christy, 87, Providence, RI, March 10.

20 years ago

Thursday, March 17, 1966

For a called school board meeting something new has been added. What? A strong arm of the law in the personage of Deputy Sheriff Emery Clark. Why? Because after the close of the March 3 regular school board meeting, some persons forgot their manners and attempted to give the chairman "a rough time."

A contract for construction of a new library was awarded March 10 by the Nicholas County Public Library Board to Gault Brothers Construction of Lexington for a bid of $96,837. Ralph Shearer, board chairman, said the new library would be constructed on the Broadway site previously purchased by the board from the Greater family. Construction on the project will begin immediately and should be completed by September.

Jack T. Morford, M.D., Douglas Court, Carlisle, medical advisor of Local Board No. 77, Carlisle, has received a five year certificate for voluntary service with the Selective Service System. It was presented by Elva R. Kendall, chairman of Local Board No. 77, on behalf of Col. Everette S. Stephenson, state director of Selective Service, Frankfort.

At the first business meeting of the Carlisle Jaycees in March, Bobby Anderson was elected president for the coming year. Others elected were Ralph Taylor, first vice president; Charles Carter, second vice president; Luther Anderson, secretary; H.S. Willis Jr., treasurer; directors, Donald Haney and Norman Duncan, and Henry Peters, state director.

Charles T. Whaley was presented a 20 year service pin last week by Lovell Hollar, chairman of the Nicholas County Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors, in recognition of 20 years of service as a supervisor of the SCD. Norwood Auxier and Frank Henry received 20 year pins two years ago.

The Salvation Army campaign for funds is being organized in Carlisle and Nicholas County, it was announced by Ralph Shearer, chairman. Volunteer workers will make calls in their neighborhoods and turn the funds in to Charles K. Watkins, treasurer, at the Deposit Bank. A part of all funds raised is retained in the county to help the needy. The committee consists of Ralph Shearer, Charles Watkins, David Zachary, Morris Whiteley and James Carter.

Nicholas County High School Soil Conservation Essay Contest winners, who were presented awards, were Gayla Wilson, first in county; Robert Talbert, second in county; Linda Tapp, fifth in county and first in ninth grade; Faye McClanahan, sixth in county; Arlene Hutchinson, second in ninth grade; Susan Neal, first in 10th grade; Jeff Dyer, first in 11th grade; Claudia Marshall, second in 11th grade; Jane Talbert, second in 10th grade.

BORN — To Mr. and Mrs. Clay Mysear, a son, Johnny Keith, March 8 at Nicholas County Hospital. — To Mr. and Mrs. Faye McClanahan, sixth in county; Arlene Hutchinson, second in ninth grade; Susan Neal, first in 10th grade; Jeff Dyer, first in 11th grade; Claudia Marshall, second in 11th grade; Jane Talbert, second in 10th grade.

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