



**Back-To-School  
Buses Ready  
To Roll!**  
Special Section

**Class Reunions  
Bringing Back  
Memories**  
Social Scene Page 8

**Westward  
Go The Wagons  
Tom Reay Story**  
Front Page

**AUG  
6  
1987**



# The Carlisle Mercury

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## Wagon trip fulfills lifelong dream

By Donna Anderson  
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff  
"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

This is the question Tom Reay's daughter asks him to think about while taking this ride from Boweston, Ohio to Oklahoma, Oklahoma is where his mother and father were born.

"My Mother was born in a two room school and lived there until she was 17 years old."

Reay, 55, with his blue headed horse and two mares, Linda and

Polly, were seen on Morefield Road and later in Carlisle last week. He is traveling in a covered wagon, which he calls his "mobile office," averaging about 20 miles a day after the "girls" (mares) get into condition.

Reay purchased his wagon through an ad in the Smith newspaper, The Budget in Sugar Creek, Ohio.

The wagon "measures three feet by seven feet inside. Big enough for my needs," but not too heavy a load for the horses. He chose it over a larger one to keep his trip "easy" without a lot of extra work.

The larger wagon would require four horses which would mean more harness to "hitch up every morning and tend to every night. Extra hay and oats would be needed also."

Reay has bought only five boxes of hay since the beginning of his journey and the "farmers have helped out along the way. People are nice. They cook for me," Reay says. "I've cooked very few meals even though I packed my own iron skillet."

Reay left Boweston, July 15, 1985 to begin his long, leisurely journey. "I went through seven horses before reaching these two for the trip."

He treated horses out of traffic, or "accidents," as well as strong and healthy enough for the trip. "Horses drink a lot of water. I carry 15 gallons on the side for emergency use."

If there is a stream or pond nearby that is offered, they drink there, "the girls and Birgo," and sometimes from a horse near the barn of some friendly farmer they can have water as well.

After spending the winter months in Fleming County, working at Fleming Homes and living on the Bob Campbell farm, he set out

again last Thursday morning, July 23, to continue his journey. Reay said he was doing this for "no single reason" then went on to list a few.

One of them is a "Family History Reunion." I want to see if I am as good a man as my grandfather was, and I don't think I am.

"Things what my great grandparents did, as they did it." Then he laughs and says "I feel like a kid playing hooky from school every day."

Reay discovered his grandfather was born in Fleming County. His "third great grandfather" lived and is buried outside Flemington just before Titon.

Earlier "I discovered a family in Mt. Sterling, Ohio who spelled their last name the same as mine, which is kind of unusual. Still don't know if we are related, but had a heck of a good time getting to know each other."

Reay went through Carlisle then into Oryokbas as mine the interstate. "Pioneers had Indiana to contend with, I have Indiana."

I think I'd rather deal with the Indiana," Reay says with a smile and chuckle.

It takes days to get as far as you can see on the free day on the interstate.

"I avoid large populated areas out of fairness to the people," Reay explained.

He doesn't want to cause traffic problems and when he hears cars start to gather behind he "looks out the window" and pulls over so they can get around.

He usually "parks close to the road so the rural people can have an opportunity to see these things."

"These things being the horses and covered wagon."

"Some kids have never seen a wagon. Never touched a horse. We are taking care of other of that."

People stopping for a chat, letting the kids pet the horses, see the covered wagon, this makes it all

worth-while. Kids are the most important part of this thing.

When you stop for a chat, plan on staying for 2 while.

This man has some stories total and he loves telling them.

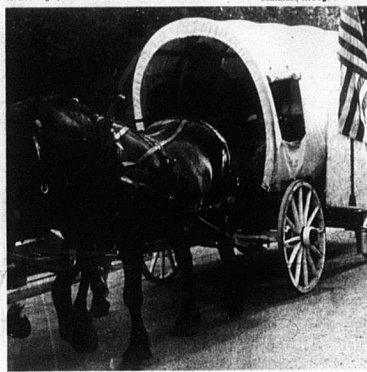
Reay's trip will take him through lower Missouri to visit the Laura Ingalls Wilder farm.

The State of Missouri maintains the farm as a museum.

Continued on Page 4



Tom Reay



Tom Reay and his horses, Polly and Linda, made their way through the streets of Carlisle last Thursday, took road time.

## Water advisory issued

The Nicholas County Water District issued a boil water advisory effective July 28, 1987.

The boil water advisory was issued because of the low chlorine level and the potential for contamination.

Chairman of the board for the water district, Charles K. Watkins, said Tuesday morning (August 4) the advisory was still in effect.

"According to the latest information I have received, the extreme hot weather is reducing the chlorine in the water," Watkins said.

Purchasers are advised to boil water for five minutes prior to consumption.

The Nicholas County Water District is taking chlorine and bacteriological samples daily to monitor this problem, with assistance from the City of Carlisle, where the district purchases its water supply.

"We are feeding as much chlorine into the water as possible, so that our water is safe," said Tommy

Vice, superintendent of the City of Carlisle Water Works Plant.

"The tests on city water have come back from the lab all right," Vice said.

"We took six samples on July 24, and they were all right.

"We took four more samples August 3, and we haven't heard anything from the lab on those, so I assume they were all right," Vice added.

Even though the chlorine levels down in water purchased from Nicholas County Water District, Watkins said no bacteriological problems have surfaced.

The Carlisle Rotary Club, along with all Rotary International Clubs, is attempting to raise \$120 million.

The money will be donated to charities and organizations, which seek to wipe out Polio and five other vaccine-preventable diseases worldwide.

PolioFest will involve 2200 Rotary Clubs in 160 countries.

## Poet Salyers visits Carlisle



Paul Salyers and Betty Salyers

By Janis R. Duncan  
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff  
Have you ever met a Kentucky poet laureate?

It's quite an honor, and one you won't encounter every day.

Paul Salyers of Olive Hill in Carter County is one such honoree.

He and his wife, Betty, recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hamon at their home at 111 West North Street.

He is a youthful man at 57 with a merry twinkle in his eyes, and a credit with such titles as "Voice Of The Hills," "The Poeting Day," "Hounds On The Hill," "Nap With a Spriggin' Hoe," "Thoughts Behind A Fence," "Kentucky Cases," "Corkscrews Of My Mind," "Through My Eyes," "Halfway To Heaven," "My Native Land," "Pardon Me, Emily," "Lones In Oakland," "Mentors To Carter County," "Dixie Will Suffice," "North Of Olive Hill," "Dismantled From Nantagala," "Medicines And Neighbors," and "Big Jakes," "I Thought You'd Never Ask."

As a child, he attended Oakland, a one-room school, for eight years. He had one more school in Carter County closed in 1968, according to Salyers.

Salyers finished the fifth year program at Morehead in 1962, he taught at Oakland for eight years. The school closed in 1981.

The last one-room school in Carter County closed in 1968, according to Salyers.

are recuperating from an accident, surgery or illness.

One girl was blind. She memorized many of his poems, and recited in being able to recite them for him. She calls him often, Salyers said, just to talk.

The Olive Hill Times was the first publication to print Salyers' poetry. That was in 1962. His first book of poetry was published in 1971.

To date he has 18 books to his credit with such titles as "Voice Of The Hills," "The Poeting Day," "Hounds On The Hill," "Nap With a Spriggin' Hoe," "Thoughts Behind A Fence," "Kentucky Cases," "Corkscrews Of My Mind," "Through My Eyes," "Halfway To Heaven," "My Native Land," "Pardon Me, Emily," "Lones In Oakland," "Mentors To Carter County," "Dixie Will Suffice," "North Of Olive Hill," "Dismantled From Nantagala," "Medicines And Neighbors," and "Big Jakes," "I Thought You'd Never Ask."

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Salyers has lived his entire life in Carter County. The mountains around him, and its people have provided material for many of his poems, as well as his own experience of growing up and discovering the life amongst a family of five brothers and sisters.

His parents were Richard and Mary Fern Salyers. His father who was a farmer died in 1944 when Salyers was 15 years old. His mother died in 1968.

## Rotary Clubs seek to raise \$120 million

The money will be donated to charities and organizations, which seek to wipe out Polio and five other vaccine-preventable diseases worldwide.

PolioFest will involve 2200 Rotary Clubs in 160 countries.

The drive will span about five years, and the goal is estimated the minimum amount necessary to immunize all the children of the world against polio.

Although there were only two reported cases in the United States last year, however, the world situation is most troubling. For additional information, contact any member of the Carlisle Rotary Club.

## Telethon is planned

The Nicholas County Home Extension office will hold a telethon, Thursday, August 6, from 1 to 3 p.m.

In addition to Agent Majorie Wilson, Home Economist Bernice Cash of Harrison County RECOS will be on hand to field caller questions.

During the telethon hours, the extension office will also be offering free pressure gauge checks for pressure cookers.

To contact the office, call 285-2312.