

# Happy New Year

## The Carlisle Mercury

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Silent night, holy night

Here are the players of the live nativity scene December 23 displayed by the Carlisle Presbyterian Church in the Carlisle Courthouse lawn. Left to right are, Heidi Fant, Melanie Crawford, Brad Allison, Nikki Smoot, Whitney Allison and Kyle Smoot. - Heather Mathis Photo

## Using both hands to make words alive

By Hank Hardin  
of the Carlton Mercury Staff  
Lending helping hands is something which comes quite natural to Charlotte Hardin.

It is not quite the same for her, though.

For some lending a helping hand would mean helping someone with housework, or taking someone to the store... or maybe even cooking a meal.

While she may do all of those, she puts her hands to work every Sunday at Carlisle Christian Church signing the deaf.

Along with her work at the church, her ability to bring spoken words to life for the deaf has allowed her other opportunities to share a gift she has for helping people.

Charlotte (Shirley) Hardin is a Nicholas County native. She is a 1967 graduate of Nicholas County High School. Her husband, Paul, is also a native of the county, and the couple married in 1968.

The union has produced two children, Allen, 18, a freshman at Morehead State University; and Jennifer, 14, a freshman at Nicholas County High School.

The entire family attends Carlisle Christian Church, and has for several years.

Paul is employed by Winchester Farms, a dairy operation in Winchester, and Charlotte is a disability examiner for Social Security. She works in Lexington.

Although the job is funded in part by the federal government, she is a state employee.

Paul is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a degree in music education. For a while, he was director of music at Militaryburg Military Institute, a job he left to go into private industry.

Paul is also a major in the United States Army Reserve, a job which requires several weeks a year in service to the country.

Charlotte is a part-time student at the University of Kentucky. She

is pursuing a major in psychology. She is also taking classes, in Hebrew studies, from Christian Institute of Biblical Studies.

There is always so much to learn, she said of her desire to gain more education.

"When we married, I worked and helped put Paul through college and didn't have the opportunity to go to school then. Now that the children are older, and I work in Lexington making it easier to go to classes, I have pursued education as much as possible.

"With the signing, there is so much to learn. It is important to be able to para-phrase in an instant, and the more knowledge I am able to gain the easier that will be."

"I am an interpreter, not a translator. It is the responsibility of an interpreter to para-phrase when possible, where a translator must repeat everything as close to exact as possible."

The actual practice of signing originated with the monks. Since monks take a vow of silence it is necessary for there to be some type of communication... thus sign language.

In the middle 1700s, Dr. Thomas Gallaudet began using sign language to aid the hearing impaired. The practice has continued for Charlotte, though, she said.

"I am an interpreter, not a translator. It is the responsibility of an interpreter to para-phrase when possible, where a translator must repeat everything as close to exact as possible."

Hardin

All in all she is a self-taught. "I did attend a couple classes, but the majority of what I have learned came with a book in my lap and watching others. When I became actively involved was when I found the need to be able to para-phrase. There certainly can not be a sign for every word in the English language. I learned the basics and began to expand.

"Signing is not unlike so many other things," she explained. "The only real way to become proficient is by practice and association with other people using sign. Just plain experience is the easiest way I can imagine."

While the responsibility is great in properly carrying across the spoken word to the deaf, there are many humorous moments associated with that.

The openness of signing makes it nearly impossible for one deaf person communicating with another not to be seen... and understood... by all others understanding the signing.

"Deaf people can't whisper and it is funny at times, when some try to convey a message to me, or someone else, without letting everyone know what is being said."

While she usually sees her abilities in church, she has been called on several other occasions to help other agencies.

"I suppose the most traumatic is signing at a funeral, especially if it is the family members. These are some of the most difficult times I can remember."

"I have also been called on to give rights at the police station to help some sick people explain what's wrong. It has been quite an experience."

Through it all, her family has been very supportive.

"Paul has always been supportive of the signing. In fact, all my family members can sign to a point. We can communicate at times, like at a concert, when no one else can hear."

"I've even been known to flash a quick 'Stop That' in church to one of my children."

Her ability is only surpassed by her excitement for teaching.

"I guess the nicest thing is sign language is almost universal. It is possible to communicate with people who do not speak English at all. To communicate verbally, you must be able to speak, thus learn, a foreign language."

During the recent inauguration ceremony for Governor Wallace Wilkinson, she was in the right place at the right time to use her skills.

"The Governor had arranged to have all of the speeches signed, but during the parade there were some deaf people in the crowd, who could not hear the

## A look back, 1987

Compiled by Ann Shearer and Lisa Glass The Carlisle Mercury Staff Members

### JANUARY

Thursday, January 1, 1987 With this edition, The Carlisle Mercury will celebrate the beginning of its 120th year. The newspaper is one of the oldest, yet one of the most modern weekly newspapers in the state of Kentucky. It is one of the oldest businesses still remaining in Carlisle-Nicholas County.

Nicholas County Board of Education has announced a new educational program, the Nicholas County Literacy Program. Determined that all adult Kentuckians have the personal achievement and the economic boost of a high school diploma, a new organization will launch statewide activities as 1987 begins.

BIRTHS - Kellie Joyce Roberts, December 16, 1986 - Billy Earl Coleman, December 22, 1986 - Patrick Dean Mitchell, December 25, 1986.

Thursday, January 8, 1987 City seeking \$200,000 grant for \$1.3 million water treatment plant project.

In a unanimous vote by Nicholas County Fiscal Court a contract was extended to Ronald McDonald, operator of, the Nicholas County Ambulance Service for six months.

The Nicholas County Board of Education has named Helen Hamilton coordinator of the

Nicholas County Adult Literacy Program.

BIRTHS - Lenora Lezell Mitchell, December 31, 1986 - Christopher Wayne Carlmill, November 22, 1986.

Thursday, January 15, 1987 Blue Licks State Park has given by approximately 50 acres, according to State Representative Adrian Arnold, for expansion of planned facilities.

James Anderson and Herbert Dameron were sworn in Monday night as incoming members of Nicholas County Board of Education.

BIRTHS - Ashton Ray Markland, January 3, 1987.

MARRIED - Miss Lisa Lee Dean and Bruce H. Holt, November 21, 1986.

Thursday, January 22, 1987 Nicholas County Bluegrassians win two games in a row - Nicholas County 56, Bath County 50; Nicholas County 70, Richmond Model 67, overtime.

Nicholas County High School Chapter of the Future Homemakers of America is video taping and fingerprinting first grade students so that parents might have a record of the child's vital data.

Janna Caswell, a familiar health care professional to this area, has taken a position with WEXCO District Health Department as home health nurse for Nicholas County.

BIRTHS - Brandon Scott Feeback, December 18, 1986 - Bethany Anne Smith, December 21, 1986.

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Charlotte Hardin

