COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

At home, working in other homes

By Bonny Fant
Of The Mercury Staff

Being a homemaker involves much more than simply preparing meals, dusting the coffee table and sewing on an occasional button.

Although these tasks may be part of the overall picture, today's homemaker has the opportunity to learn about aspects connected with home, garden, and family life.

Margie Wilson, Nicholas County extension agent for home economics, has been coordinating and educating homemakers groups in Nicholas County for 30 years. This is only one part of her responsibilities as agent.

"We are not a craft-oriented organization; our purpose is to teach basic home economic skills to adults," said Wilson.

"Anything you could want to know about the home, yard or garden, we either have the information in this office or know where to get it. We are largely a community resource center."

Nicholas County Cooperative Extension Service also includes 4-H and farm services.

A branch of University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, there has been a farm agent in Carlisle since 1924.

According to Wilson, the first agent for home economics was sent to Nicholas County in 1944.

Originally housed in basements of offices of the Carlisle Post Office, they moved in the early 70s to the courthouse basement.

Educational programs supervised and directed by the extension service are sponsored jointly by county, state and federal funding.

The county portion is 17 per cent of the total needed to operate services.

The county budgets money from federal Revenue Sharing, placing the funds for the extension service in the same jeopardy as several county agencies, which will need alternative financing when that money runs out June 30, 1987.

Federal Revenue Sharing funds have been completely eliminated beginning next fiscal year.

Wilson, a graduate of Sue Bennett College in London, Kentucky, did her graduate work at the University of Kentucky.

A native of Pulaski County, she moved to Nicholas County in August 1951. She taught in Nicholas County Schools before working for the extension service.

"I've always been interested in home economics," Wilson said.

"When I got out of high school, I thought I knew all there was to know. It wasn't until I graduated from college that I realized there would always be more to learn — and I'm still learning."

All agents attend workshops for in-service training as part of their continuing education.

A significant part of Wilson's time goes into the planning and nurture of eight homemakers clubs in Nicholas County. Carlisle West, East Union, Ellisville, Headquarters, Miranda, Moorefield, Parks and Sunnyside are communities which have their own clubs.

According to Wilson, the clubs (and all activities and services provided by the extension service) are open to everyone in Nicholas County.

"We don't discriminate against race, sex, creed, age or any other group of people," said Wilson.

"Anyone who is interested in what we have to offer can make use of our service."

Each month, the clubs have a main theme to discuss, information for which is provided by the home economics division of the extension service.

"We discuss a wide range of topics from clothing and nutrition to home furnishings and family life," said Wilson.

Among topics covered last year were decorating your home with the country look, party ideas, home canning, famous Kentucky women (a very popular lesson, according to Wilson), textiles and fabrics, and strengthening your self-discipline.

Money management for the home will be discussed at the February meetings of each club.

"One of the big things the program does is train people to be leaders. We supply the information and experience, but the women take it from there," explained Wilson.

Except when bad winter weather is prohibitive, meetings are usually held in private homes, members taking turns hosting the gatherings.

"These women are usually involved in all areas of their community, in addition to their participation in homemakers. As far as I'm concerned, they are the cream of the crop," boasted Wilson.

However, women are not the only members of homemakers clubs.

A young boy who had participated for some time had learned to crochet quite well — so well, in fact, he brought his grandmother to the group and showed her how to make an afghan.

"The work we teach is good therapy for people, especially the older ones," Wilson said. Several students have become accomplished quilt makers as a result of the training homemakers has given them.

Chair seating and refinishing, for example, became more than a hobby to one Carlisle man who found his training beneficial in earning an income after retirement.

Homemakers clubs, though definitely the largest part of the home economics extension service, are only one of the ongoing projects offered.

According to Wilson, special workshops are also available to anyone wishing to attend, the only requirement being advance notice of attendance.

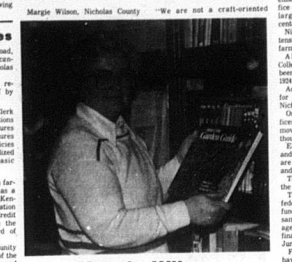
"We just need to know how many people to expect so we have enough materials on hand," said Wilson. There is no charge for the sessions, but participants must pay for the materials they use.

One of the workshops held regularly is a needlecraft class held Tuesday nights. Also planned is an instructional session on microwave use.

"Last summer we were even asked to teach classes for the Cultural Arts Camp which was held at the 4-H camp," Wilson said. "As you can see, we are involved in all areas of home economics."

Nicholas County Extension Service, part of the larger Bluegrass Area, will have its annual meeting in October, with speakers, exhibits, and displays of work.

"Anyone can use homemaking skills," said Wilson. "You don't have to be a housewife to benefit from our instruction."



Margie Wilson

Tipton announces

David Tipton, Sugar Creek Road, Carlisle, has announced his candidacy for the office of Nicholas County Circuit Clerk.

He has recently passed the required eligibility test ordered by state legislation.

The five-part Circuit Court Clerk Examination consisted of questions taken from the General Procedures Manual, the Accounting Procedures Manual, and the Personnel Policies Manual, as well as a standardized reading test and a basic mathematics test.

David is currently engaged in farming, but has been employed as a branch manager for Eastern Kentucky Production Credit Association and as a loan officer for Farm Credit Services. He also served on the Eastern Kentucky PCA Board of Directors from 1983-1985.

He has been active in community affairs; he is past president of the Carlisle Chamber of Commerce and the local Farm Bureau. He is a member of Blue Licks Lodge Number 695.

David is married to the former Doris Harrell of Nicholas County.

They are the parents of a daughter, Tamara, who is a second grader at Nicholas County Elementary School.

He and his family attend Carlisle Baptist Church.

David Tipton

Price Index shows drop

An across-the-board drop in meat prices sent Kentucky's retail food price index down 3.4 per cent in January, erasing virtually all of a two-month price surge that had closed out 1986 with a marked increase.

Kentucky Farm Bureau's marketbasket survey pegged the cost of 40 selected food items at $60.91 in January, down from $63.07 in December and $62.01 in November.

Twelve of 13 meat items on the survey moved lower in price during the month, declining an average of 6 per cent.

Amonth the meats, rib eye steaks fell 35 cents to $4.54 a pound, pork sausage was down 80 cents for a two-pound package at $3.84, and chicken breasts dropped 22 cents a pound, costing $1.84.

Most other food categories were also cheaper on average in January. Dairy products dropped 1.4 per cent and the fruits/vegetables grouping was fractionally lower. Only grain-based foods registered an increase — that a modest 1 per cent.

With major price action centered at the meat counter, analysts were divided on future price prospects for beef and pork.

Farin prices for beef cattle in Kentucky actually increased during January, while hog prices continued a two-month price decline.

Most farm forecasters say that depressed grain price levels, and resulting lower livestock feed costs, will eventually attract larger supplies of meat and cause prices to fall.

But in the short term, prices could run up again, especially for beef and poultry, they said.

Greenup checked in with the lowest local marketbasket average in January while Elizabethtown claimed the high spot.

Overall, volunteers working through Kentucky Farm Bureau Women canvassed retail food costs in 23 Kentucky communities.

Those local averages were Greenup, $3.47; Morehead, $4.11; Salyersville, $7.06; Glasgow, $7.44; Jackson, $8.07; Scottsville, $8.82; Henderson, $9.96; Hopkinsville, $0.27; Lexington, $0.87; Dry Ridge, $1.06; Somerset, $1.46; Georgetown, $1.49; Louisa, $1.46; Grayson, $2.83; Shelbyville, $2.99; Louisville, $3.35; Owensboro, $3.43; Kevil, $3.47; Hampkinsville, $3.86; London, $4.46; and Elizabethtown, $6.78.

For 10 year program

Farmers may sign-up

Farmers who want to bid to enter their highly erodible cropland into USDA's 10-year Conservation Reserve Program may do so during the program's fourth signup period from February 9 through February 27.

Secretary Richard E. Lyng has also announced a one-time, one-year "bonus" for the 1987 crop to be paid in the form of an increased annual rental payment.

The bonus payment will be equal to $2.00 times the farm program payment yield for corn, times the number of acres of corn base designated for enrollment in the CRP. This "bonus" will be payable in the form of generic commodity certificates when a 1987 CRP contract is accepted.

In subsequent years, the annual rental payment will be only that amount specified in the CRP contract.

Since a paid land diversion is in effect under the 1987 Feed Grain Program to restrain further buildup of corn stocks, this rental payment is being offered to encourage highly erodible, excess corn acreage into long-term conservation use.

Producers who have already enrolled in other 1987 production adjustment programs and received advance payments in cash and generic certificates may cancel their contracts and enter into the CRP. Payments already received would have to be refunded.

During the signup period, producers will be given the option to enter into a CRP contract beginning with either the 1987 or 1988 crop year.

The Conservation Reserve Program is one of the new conservation initiatives contained in the Food Security Act of 1985 designed to reduce soil erosion.

Under the CRP, owners and operators of highly erodible cropland agree to cease production on the highly erodible land for a 10-year period and to devote this land to conservation uses.

USDA will establish maximum acceptable rental rates after signup ends and bid data is evaluated.

Operators interested in the program may obtain more information from the ASCS office across from the IGA.

Social Security Update

Q. My husband died last month. Can I cash the Social Security check that arrived this month, or am I supposed to return it?

A. No benefits are payable for the month of death. For example, if the beneficiary died in October, the check dated November 3, which is payment for October should be returned unless the check is made out jointly to a husband and wife. In that case, the survivor should ask at a Social Security office whether to cash the check.

Q. When my first child was born, I quit my job as a bookkeeper. Now that all the children are in school, I've decided to return to work. Were the social security credits I earn in my former job taken off my record when I stopped working?

A. No. Any social security credits you earn, regardless of when you earn them, remain on your social security record. Of course, if you stop working before you have enough credits, no benefits will be payable on your social security record. But, if you return to work, you can earn any additional credits you need to get benefits.

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SPORTS

Fleming, Bourbon prevail

Jackets drop two, now 5-11

CARLISLE - Nicholas County saw its record fall to 5-11, dropping two home games last week.

Tuesday night, the Panthers of Fleming County paid a visit and went home with a decisive 80-61 win.

"Fleming County is a team that is not all that quick," said Lee Cruse, NCHS Head Basketball Coach, "but they do have that big Pullitt (Matt) kid in the middle and he makes a big difference."

The Jackets battled evenly in the first eight minutes, and the first quarter ended with the score knotted, 16-16.

In the second quarter, Nicholas County jumped out to a seven point lead and gave the local faithful something to cheer about.

"We were patient with the ball, and went down and set-up the offense," Cruse said.

"We appeared to really be running our offense the way we would like early in the second quarter."

But, good fortune and execution turned to bad, and Fleming County rallied to overtake the Jackets and post a 27-30 lead at intermission.

"About midway through the second quarter, we got out of our routine, made a couple bad passes, and turned the ball over, and that sort of hurt us.

"We're really an unselfish team, but at times we don't take the shots in the offense we should, and try to force the ball inside, and that causes us to turn the ball over.

"It's a matter of not playing that way," Cruse continued. "We have to work the ball in our offense the way we do in practice and then make good decisions on the floor.

"Part of the problem is mental errors, and we can't afford those."

Fleming County was able to effect the change in the second quarter with a ballcourt trap on defense, and Cruse said the trap wasn't really the problem.

"We were able to get the ball into front court, but then we would take shots out of the offense, and we didn't hit them."

Fleming County continued to pick up steam in the third and fourth quarters, and went on to post the win.

"We just made too many mental errors," Cruse said.

Nicholas County had 19 turnovers to 10 for Fleming County and the visitors won the battle of the boards 43-37. Fleming County had 14 steals.

"We did some good things, but we're not getting that fine edge you have to have to win. Playing time together has helped the team, but we're just going to have to learn to work the ball and find what we want."

Gannon Bryant and Todd Day had 16 points each to lead Nicholas County.

Kelly Brookshire had a team high 11 rebounds, while Bryant had eight and Day seven.

Bourbon Co. 81
Nicholas Co. 42

Although Bourbon County has been struggling nearly all season, with only six wins to date, the Colonels spurted to a 25-16 lead at intermission and coasted to a 61-42 win.

"Russ (Hay-Bourbon County coach) moved a couple sophomores to guard and gave the team some more quickness. I feel like the team (Bourbon County) is better than the record indicates," Cruse said.

"I'm happy with the way we played and I feel like we have worked hard. We just continue making mental errors and don't execute the way we should."

Bourbon County extended the lead to 39-24 at the end of the third quarter, and went on to the 19 point win.

In the fourth quarter, Bourbon continued to add pressure.

"They went to a man-to-man on defense, and played us tough," Cruse said. "We're just going to have to work on being patient."

Day led the Jackets with 13 points, while Danny Wells had 11 and Brookshire 10. Brookshire also pulled down a team high 11 rebounds, while Day had six.

The Jackets were scheduled to play Bracken County at home Tuesday, play Estill County, Friday, and have a make-up game with Jessamine County, Saturday night in Nicholasville.

In relays

EKU runners set marks

Three of Eastern Kentucky University's women hurdlers beat the NCAA qualifying mark of 8.86 in the 60 meter hurdles during Mason-Dixon Games in Louisville.

The trio will advance to the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, March 13-14, in Oklahoma City.

All-American Jackie Humphrey finished in first place with a qualifying time of 8.61 followed by Gracie Brown; fourth, with 8.76, and Karen Robinson, fifth, at 8.79.

EKU's women also brought home four new school records. The sprint medley relay team of Humphrey, Robinson, Charmaine Byer and Pam Raglin finished first with a record of 4:00.1.

In the 800 meter relay Eastern's Humphrey, Robinson, Byer and Brown placed second to Tennessee with a record of 1:41.90.

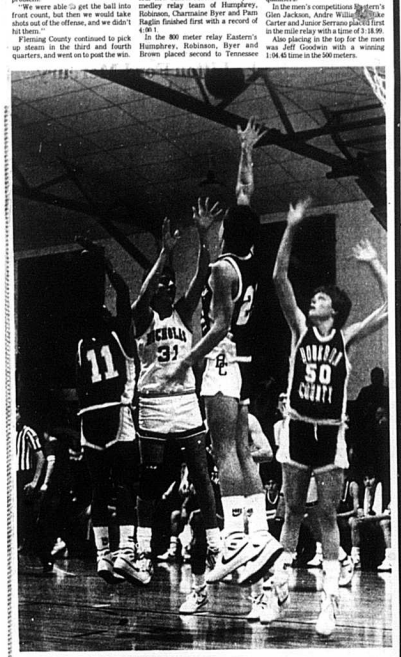
Distance runner Chris Snow clocked a new record of 10:30.28 in the 3-mile beating 1984 runner Maria Panarentos' time of 10:41.03 and in the mile Pam Raglin ran a record of 4:45.46.

Raglin just missed the NCAA qualifying standard of 4:44.46 placing second to Kentucky's Lisa Breiding who ran a 4:41.96.

EKU assistant coach Tim Moore said, "We were pleased overall and we feel we competed very well. We were really pleased about our qualifiers."

In the men's competitions Eastern's Glen Jackson, Andre Willis, Blake Carter and Junior Serrano placed first in the mile relay with a time of 3:18.99.

Also placing in the top for the men was Jeff Goodwin with a winning 1:04.45 time in the 800 meters.



Sophomore center Danny Wells goes high in the lane for a bucket against Bourbon County, last Saturday night in Carlisle. Wells, who has been elevated to the varsity roster on a fulltime basis, finished with 11 points against Bourbon, but the Jackets lost 61-42, as their record slipped to 5-11. — Josh Guthrie Photo.

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