FOCUS

Bond's Broadcast

By Hank Bond

Last week, as many of you may remember, we had just a little bit of snow and ice. This was especially true on Monday and Tuesday.

Now, by the time this column appears in print we may have a little more, maybe not, but this column can go no farther without expressing some thanks to Carlisle Chief of Police Allen Earlywine.

On Monday, I was able to make it from up on the hill to The Mercury office, without much problem, really. It took some time to get the ice off the windows, but all-in-all it wasn't nearly as bad as I had expected it to be.

Tuesday morning was another matter all together. After falling down, which is one of my favorite pastimes, I did manage to get all of the ice off the windows, the car warmed up, and get on with trying to get to the office once again.

Moving the car is actually what gave me the most problems.

I took my time, made sure nothing was coming down the street in either direction, then as if pre-planned, began to pull away from the curb. I actually didn't go straight enough and as I tried to turn into a neighbor's drive to get the car turned around, the back end of the car dropped into the space between where the road has been resurfaced and the curb. To make matters worse, the car was turned sideways . . . crossing the street.

Try as I might, that big yellow car wasn't going to come out of that semi-ditch. I did manage to get it backed up on the curb for a brief moment, but as I tried to get the car pulled away, it only turned sideways more and I was completely blocking the road.

Effort upon effort didn't allow the big machine to regain its proper place on the road, so to say the least, and I mean the very least, I was stuck.

We tried calling a wrecker, but the number we tried didn't answer. About the same time, Earlywine came by in his four-wheel drive truck, with a way to get us out of this mess. For a moment it appeared his truck wouldn't hold ground, but after moving his truck out into the street, he was able to get the car away from the curb.

All the while, I might add, my wife Marilyn was offering helpful hints from the safety of our front yard. Once we did have the car ready to go, it became apparent she was going to have to try and make it to the car, too.

With little effort she began to slip and slide, while visions of busting something while going down began to dance in her head.

Again, the chief was to the rescue. Helping her down the sidewalk, onto the road, and into the car. There is really no way I can say thank you to the chief except thanks.

Thanks, too, to the neighbors who tried to help me get out of the jam I was in.

Thanks to another assist from some folks, The Mercury was ready for the streets in normal fashion. We did take the papers out a little earlier than usual, but we were on schedule. If your item of news didn't make the paper this week, we're sorry, but we were working against a set of rules to get the paper ready for the press, all dictated by the bad weather.

With a little bit of luck we'll be on regular schedule next week . . . or this week . . . as the case may be.

Helping out . . .

From the ad included in this column, you will see the Kentucky Educational Television Network is making a big attempt to help in getting more people the ability to read.

Last year, Governor Martha Layne Collins asked for some help in reaching adults in Kentucky who need to earn their GEDs.

Since last fall, over 4,000 Kentuckians have enrolled in the KET/GED Study-At-Home Program, and over 1,100 have received their GEDs.

After being utilized statewide this past year, the KET/GED series is now being offered nationally to dropouts through many PBS stations.

400,000 Kentuckians Cannot Read This Ad

KETs **TEACH AN ADULT TO READ ACADEMY** can help you help others. For information, call KET at **1-800-432-0951.**

KET The Kentucky Network

One in four Americans is a high school dropout. KET has assembled many packages to help those dropping out as well as those who cannot read at all.

KET is using television to educate as well as communicate with Kentuckians. KET is reaching out to citizens and bringing education into their lives.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the programs, KET, and how they work together, please feel free to call, 1-800-432-0951.

On the street . . .

According to some I've talked to, it appears there will be a new factory opening in Carlisle before too long.

Although some of the plans have not been set in concrete, so to speak, it should employ about 20 people, to begin with, along with the potential to provide more jobs down the road.

According to those I have talked with, as soon as the entire package is put together, which should be in a week or so, a complete list of information will be published in a story.

The Industrial Authority has been working with the developer in obtaining commitments of support from some local organizations, and other folks.

There is a move underway right now to solicit funds in an effort to boost the plant's location in Carlisle, and to provide that necessary evil, money, in getting everything started.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

HAPPENINGS

February 26-Thursday

A miscellaneous shower will be given at 7 p.m. at the Ewing Fire House, Ewing in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Dixon of Abner's Mill Road, when their home and contents were destroyed by fire last week.

February 28-Saturday

Young Democrats will meet at the courthouse. Anyone ages 17 thru 35 is welcome to attend.

March 2-Monday

Millersburg City Council will meet beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the city hall.

March 3-Monday

The Park's Homemakers will meet beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Nicholas County Extension Office in the Nicholas County Courthouse.

March 4-Wednesday

The C.C. Teen 4-H Club will meet at the Nicholas County Extension Office in the basement of Nicholas County Courthouse, beginning at 7 p.m.

March 5-Thursday

Nicholas County Fiscal Court will meet in the Nicholas County Courthouse beginning at 5 p.m. The meeting is held in the downstairs courtroom.

March 9-Monday

Carlisle City Council will meet in Carlisle City Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m.

March 9-Monday

The Nicholas County Board of Education will meet at the school board office beginning at 6 p.m.

March 9-Monday

The Nicholas County High School Band Boosters will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the band room of the high school.

March 14-Saturday

The Nicholas County Little League Basketball banquet will be held beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Nicholas County High School. A dance will follow presentation of awards, with tennis shoes or socks strictly enforced.

NOTICE: Items of public interest will be included in The Mercury's HAPPENINGS column free of charge on a space available basis. The Mercury assumes no obligation for any incorrect information included in this column. Some events, such as revivals as well as other matters not directed to the total general public, will require placement of an advertisement, before information will be included in the HAPPENINGS column.

Report to Kentucky

SENATOR WENDELL FORD

U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510

PROBLEMS WITH W-4

When Congress passed the massive tax reform bill last year I voted for lower Federal taxes for most Kentucky wage earners and I voted for a simplier system so the average person could fill out his own tax forms. You can image my disappointment several weeks ago when I got my new W-4 form -- that is the new withholding statement that the Internal Revenue Service is requiring all wage earners in the country to fill out and all employers to complete. I know you are disappointed and confused also. A number of you have been in contact with my office.

It is inconceivable that the Federal government would introduce the tax paying public to the new tax reforms with this hard to follow government-gobbledegook. Why clear, simple, easy to follow instructions on how to fill out this new form are not available is a question being raised by Congress. I think we are making some progress. Treasury Secretary James Baker has promised to make changes in the instructions. My hope is that any new instructions will not conflict with the old so that taxpayers end up more confused than before -- I am sure you have heard this saying, "once a job is fouled up anything done to improve it makes it worse".

I see two major dangers in this situation. Taxpayers are required to fill out and file their W-4 form by October 1st or suffer a penalty. Employers must also make necessary withholding adjustments within set time frames. Because of confusion about what is required on the form and because the "experts" are not likely to settle on an answer immediately I am afraid these deadlines cannot be met. If these deadlines are missed, current IRS regulations would make you, the taxpayer, responsible for under withholding regardless of who was at fault. I have joined with Michigan Senator Carl Levin in cosponsoring legislation that would protect taxpayers from penalties if they have done their part in filling out their W-4 forms.

The second danger deals with the amount of withholding you subtract from your paycheck. Under the old law you needed only to withhold eighty percent of your tax liability during the year and then settle on any additional balance you owed in April when your final tax settlement was made. Because the new reform law reduces taxes for most taxpayers you are now required to withhold ninety percent of the taxes you will owe. Under the new law, if you do not meet the ninety percent requirement, the IRS will charge you a penalty. That might be acceptable if there was not all this confusion. The legislation which I have cosponsored would also reduce the eighty percent requirement.

This legislation does not suggest that the government back away from the much needed reforms enacted in the new tax law. It would prohibit, however, the government from penalizing taxpayers for making mistakes brought on by this goverment-created confusion.

Taxpayers should not have to pay the price for any misunderstanding the government has created.

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NNA NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

The BACKYARD NATURALIST

By Craig Tufts, National Wildlife Federation

Seeing Red – And Liking It

That redbird with the big beak really has it made. With the exception of its southwestern close cousin, the pyrrhuloxia, its close relatives are called grosbeaks. Just about everyone receives its picture during the holidays. It'might be the number one Christmas card pinup. And the northern cardinal, as it is officially called, is popular for good reason.

No other bird I know of looks so good against a freshly fallen snow. Both the male and the female sing a very pleasant, simple song, often countersung (the male answers the female with a song on a slightly different pitch). And cardinals seem to prosper with the alteration of habitat that accompanies our home building efforts. That few other song birds reward us so richly or so rapidly if we but scatter a few handfuls of sunflower seed onto the ground or on a low feeding table heightens our appreciation of this year 'round resident.

The cardinal ranges throughout most of the eastern and central states, the entire south and much of the arid southwest. It is so popular that even those who live where the cardinal does not — California, the Rocky Mountain states and Pacific Northwest — love the bird and very much want it to visit their yard. The cardinal may be the ideal suburban bird.

Cardinals prefer dense, shrubby habitat. Provide that in your Backyard Wildlife Habitat within its range and you'll keep a pair happy. They nest in shrubs and vines tangles at least twice every summer and perhaps three times. If the shrubs provide favored fruit — viburnums, junipers, honeysuckles, roses and dogwoods — all the better.

In the winter, this bird with a very heavy, crushing bill prefers sunflower seed. Offer it close to the ground. Cardinals do not like to feed high or far from dense cover. They are invariably

time. And their territoriality can prove annoying. Anyone who has put up with a pair of cardinals constantly battering themselves against a bedroom or kitchen window throughout the entire nesting season soon questions the common sense of the birds. The solution is to block the reflected image of the bird which is simply trying to keep invaders out of its territory.

Cardinals have greatly increased their breeding range over the last eighty years and now appear regularly throughout much of New England and southern Canada. And since cardinals do not migrate, but simply keep pushing further north and west as suburbs and bird feeders proliferate, those on the current edge of their range who long for the redbird year 'round need only wait, plant some dense shrubs, and entice new colonists with sunflower.

For a Backyard Wildlife Habitat information packet, contact the National Wildlife Federation, Dept. BN, 1412 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036-2266.

Watch "The Backyard Naturalist" on GREAT AMERICAN WOODLOTS this winter. See TV listings of your local PBS affiliate for dates and time.

U.S. SENATOR FOR KENTUCKY

Mitch McConnell

New Bill To Ease Sodbuster Rules for Tobacco Farmers

Occasionally, even the most non-controversial legislative proposal will create havoc for average citizens once it actually becomes law. This is particularly true for agriculture legislation which is always complex. A perfect example is the Conservation Title of last year's farm bill.

This provision, commonly called "sodbuster legislation," was the only part of the 1986 Farm Bill which enjoyed anything close to unanimous approval by Congress. But it's since become a source of consternation and confusion of many of our farmers.

Sodbuster legislation requires every farmer to have an approved farm conservation plan in place by 1990 to maintain eligibility for price supports for all program crops. This farm conservation plan is designed to be a working guide so farmers will execute conservation practices and reduce harmful soil erosion on their farms. The legislation went on to mandate that any farmer who "breaks out" new ground in 1987 which hasn't been planted since 1981 must have his farm conservation plan approved before he plants his 1987 crops.

This is a good conservation tool in theory, but what Congress failed to recognize last year is the unnecessary hardship it puts on small tobacco farmers. This law was designed with feed grain farmers in mind who plant the same crop in the same field year after year, not farmers who plant small acreages of tobacco and who often choose to plant different land each year. A strict interpretation of the legislation would require the Soil Conservation Service to write a farm plan for every tobacco farmer who might break out new land in 1987 in order for the farmer to receive price support for his tobacco.

I have introduced "The Sodbuster Clarification Act of 1987" which will simplify the required reporting process to make it easier for farmers to meet the new conservation requirements. Under my proposal, tobacco farmers will only have to certify their planting and conservation intentions for 1987 and beyond and have it approved by SCS and Chairman of the local Soil and Conservation District. This certification will suffice as the "Farm Conversation Plan" required by the original legislation for most of Kentucky's tobacco farmers.

This simple clarification of the 1986 Farm Bill will prevent a lot of aggravation for tobacco farmers and will save the taxpayers thousands of dollars in workload for ASCS and SCS. Most importantly, my bill will guarantee that farmers will remain eligible for price supports on their 1987 tobacco crop.

To The Editor

The Carlisle Mercury
P.O. Box 272
Carlisle, Kentucky 40311-0272

Deadline Friday noon before publication.

Send your items to: Happenings, The Carlisle Mercury, P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY. 40311-0272

GENERAL NEWS

Fate of seniors.....

Continued from Page 1

the group it would be a shame to close it down.

Geneva Allison, who plays piano for functions at the center, spoke next on her views of the center.

"I can't think of anything which needs to go on more," said Allison.

"Sure, people come in for meals, but the important thing to them is fellowship, not food."

Allison, stating she would fight to the end save the center, said "I dare anyone to close it!"

Carlisle Mayor Lee Bentz related his first experiences with the center when it was located on North Locust Street.

"Before I had the restaurant, I used to go in there all the time, but with two full-time jobs now, it's not so easy.

"Anyone who has been there has had a good time and we should keep it going even if it has to move from the corner," said Bentz.

According to Bentz, Carlisle City Council accidentally overlooked the issue at the last meeting, but he assured the group Council intends to "keep the ball rolling."

"If we work as a team, think positive and forget the negative, it will get done," said Bentz.

Nicholas County Judge-Executive Reese Smoot, who followed Bentz in the program, quickly made his point.

"There's nothing we (Fiscal Court) wouldn't do if we could," said Smoot, "but we just don't have $16,000. I know as well as anyone it's a good program, but this is a critical time for the county."

Smoot reiterated Bentz's sentiments and said if people in the community will join hands and work together, the center may be saved.

After the four scheduled speakers finished, Reverend Mike Greer opened the floor to allow those present to ask questions.

"The days ahead will not be easy, with June fast approaching," said Greer. He asked people to consider other options such as fundraising.

Dr. Tim Scott asked Smoot if it would be possible to levy a special tax, specifically for the center. Smoot said if they did, it would have to be in the form of an occupational tax.

"It's hard to come up with $16,000 in a small community," Smoot said.

"One thing we could do is move the center to the old jail," offered Smoot. "It would be rent-free and save them (NCSCC) over $3,000 a year."

According to Smoot, a ramp would need to be installed and work on the building would be necessary, but it could be available July 1, 1987.

Several people inquired about the total cost of the operation. Vice said the $16,000 needed is one-quarter of the total amount and is the portion required to come from local sources (county and city).

"Another problem is continuity," said Vice. "If we close the center for a year, we might not even get the funding we have now. We'd probably never re-open again."

Dr. Osias Villaflor agreed with Vice, based on his own experience with a hospital in New York. "Once we closed the doors, that was it."

G. C. Myers, of Carlisle Drug, asked if the senior center could be restructured to run similar to the Salvation Army, avoiding involvement with the federal government.

Smoot asked Vice if the free rent could be considered as "in-kind" funds. Vice said it was possible to apply it to home care, but the Title III contribution must be cash. She said she would investigate it further.

County Attorney Jack Conley commented, "There's a nice crowd here to support this effort but, unfortunately, the crowd to protest the (occupational) tax was three times this size."

Greer conceded the community is somewhat fragmented, but asked Conley if another meeting could be held.

"We need a rational meeting where screaming and name-calling will not be tolerated," said Greer. "We want to join hands, not force this down their throats."

Noting that many groups were represented at the meeting, Greer said, "If this group will unite, it could have tremendous impact. We just need to listen to eachother."

Following the question and answer session, Greer gave a theological perspective on responsibility toward the aged.

According to Greer, not much is said in the Bible about aging because **of the view Middle Eastern cultures** have toward their older members of society; they were (and are) special and influential people.

In contrast, Greer said, our culture tends to isolate and ignore the aged, thinking that because they "do not produce" they have nothing of value to offer.

"Senior citizens need to be rewarded for their contributions to society and to the life of a strong country," Greer said.

"True religion is fighting a cause for someone who cannot fight for himself. Let's face it, we will someday be in their shoes."

One of the saddest things about being a minister, said Greer is seeing people live out their final days alone and lonely, either with no family near or no family who cares.

In a call for unity, the ministerial association urged citizens to be innovative and not wait for money to come to them.

"We're not going to wait for a tax," said Fant. "We're going to go out and start fundraising tomorrow."

Dropping out

A trip to nowhere

By Hank Bond
Of The Mercury Staff

This is the fifth in a series.

For the past four weeks in the dropout series, the cost of dropping out has been defined.

Not only is the cost to the school system, for programs to help in the area a problem, but costs to individuals for stopping their education are high as well.

The Kentucky Department of Education has distributed a table of sorts to school systems outlining, **The Dropout Cost to Kentucky.**

In the area of intangible costs, loss of community support and loss of human potential are listed as the top problems.

There are, however, some tangible problems, which have been documented surrounding dropouts.

The loss of financial aid to school systems is a major problem.

In the winter, this bird with a very In addition, average daily attendance payments are based on the number of students in school each day.

A school system's budget is based, in part, on these payments from the state, which are altered if a student drops out of school.

From an individual standpoint, several factors point to problems for dropouts as well as society.

High unemployment: figures show unemployment is four times higher for some non-graduates.

Crime-a study has shown that only 23 percent of inmates in Kentucky prisons have graduated from high school.

Welfare-AFDC (Aid to Dependent Children) families, figures show those receiving payments from the state . . . only 2.3 percent of fathers and 10.2 percent of mothers have graduated from high school. (Figures available only where educational level is known)

Drug Abuse-NIDA (National Institute of Drug Abuse) figures show that an estimated 80 percent of dropouts have drug related problems.

Military Manpower-The failure rate of dropouts is twice that of high school graduates in military service.

There are some other problem areas, and these have been identified in Kentucky Department of Education studies.

Most dropouts were not involved in even one extra-curricular activity at the time they dropped out of school.

Kentucky ranks 50th in the nation in the number of adults 25 years of age and older who have graduated from high school.

Children of parents, who have not finished high school, were more likely to drop out than are children of high school graduates.

Most research indicates a student's I.Q. is not a strong predictor of potential for dropping out or for predicting completion of high school.

As a partner in education, Kentucky Educational Television, supplied many ideas and comments from Generation at Risk, a KET exclusive presentation.

One out of every four teenagers will drop out of school.

"I figured out now that it was a big mistake. I should've stayed in school. That's why I'm 18 years old and in the 10th grade."

Four out of every 10 girls will become pregnant before they leave their teens.

Thirty-four percent of high school students regularly abuse drugs.

"I felt I was a lousy loner, like I didn't have no place in the world and all I had to do was use drugs."

NEXT: Alternatives now in the works for helping those intending to drop out . . . or those who already have.

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