

Happy New Year The Carlisle Mercury

120th year, No. 1

Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

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Day Care Christmas

The children of the Tender Loving Care Day Care Center were treated to a visit from Santa Claus at their Christmas party, December 17. In addition to singing songs and what they wanted most, the kids also exchanged gifts among themselves. Several pictures were on hand to lend assistance to the center directors, Stephanie Deason (left) and Brenda Collins, waiting from the background. —Tom Allen

By Nicholas Board Literacy program planned

Nicholas County Board of Education has announced a new educational program, the Nicholas County Adult Literacy Program. This program, sponsored jointly by the Board and the Kentucky Literacy Commission, is designed for nonreading adults who can learn to read by being tutored on a one-to-one basis. The teaching sessions are free and learning materials are provided at no cost to the student. The program will begin in mid-January.

Some 20,000 Americans are functionally illiterate. These people can't sell if their specialties in correct, read safety signs or fill out a job application. Of these 20,000 people, 40,000 are Kentucky adults. These Kentuckians can't find jobs; they can't read the warning on a can; and they can't help their children with homework.

According to the 1980 census, 100 Nicholas Countians have not finished the eighth grade. A few of these people can't read a stop sign, some won't join a church or a school support group because of their reading handicap; some have trouble finding employment.

That's a grim picture. The bright picture is, given the opportunity, Nicholas County adults are eager to learn. The GED program is an example. Sixty levels as many adults as were anticipated.

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State to back local program

Determined that all adult Kentuckians have the personal achievement — and the economic boost — of a high school diploma, a new organization will launch similar activities in 1987.

The GED Foundation will pool the donations and efforts of business, civic organizations, and philanthropists to help Kentuckians earn GEDs — General Educational Development certificates, or alternative high school diplomas.

The foundation evolved out of a GED Task Force created by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Alice McDonald in October 1985. Kentucky's ranking at the bottom of the states in the percentage of high school graduates — only 47 percent nationwide — means that intensive and intensive undertaking is needed to help Kentucky adults get better jobs and heightened self-esteem — and make our state more competitive in economic development. McDonald said.

The task force recommended a foundation to receive tax-exempt funds and coordinate program, and the Legislature established the GED Foundation in February 1986.

The foundation, chaired by Larry Moore of Murray State University, will begin the first of its ongoing GED campaigns in early January with about \$50,000 in start-up contributions.

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Mercury celebrates 120 years

120 Years of Service

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 also one of the oldest businesses still remaining in Carlisle-Nicholas County. It was first published, January 1, 1867, and has served the people of Nicholas County for 120 years of the 187 years the county has existed.

Fire Destroys The Carlisle Mercury

On the morning of January 5, 1873, The Mercury office was completely destroyed by fire. Nothing was saved, but the subscription list. Never was public sympathy more thoroughly aroused. The Kentucky Press Association hastily responded by a liberal contribution. New subscribers by the score came flocking in, offering to pay one and even two years' subscriptions in advance. Within a few days after the fire, with the purchase of a new power press and other equipment, The Mercury rose from the ashes to enter upon a new career. This office was located on the third floor of the F. M. Pease and Company Building.

Locations

The last three locations for the Mercury have included: the upstairs at 105 West Main Street; next the office was moved to a building on the corner of Sugartree Alley and South Locust Street. Finally, in 1891, Warren R. Fisher Jr., moved the newspaper plant to 234 North Locust Street, its present location. The final move marked the first time the newspaper office was ever located in a building owned by its publisher.

Mercury Offices Remodeled

An interior and exterior remodeling of the front portion of the building housing The Carlisle Mercury was begun in early January 1972. Two doorways across the front of the building were removed, and the front of the building was covered with grey aluminum siding. Inside the building, an old storage room was remodeled into an office, making space for two make-up rooms elsewhere. The inside walls were packed with insulation, ceilings lowered, and the old plastered walls paneled. The floors were tiled or carpeted. The wash room was modernized and enlarged. Air conditioning was installed throughout. In later years, the back portion of The Mercury's office was enlarged to contain a small job press, circulation area, paste-up area and complete composition area. In addition, a portion of the publication's bookkeeping process has been placed on computer, including all circulation and accounts receivable.

Offset Adopted In 1962

The Mercury adopted offset as a method of reproduction in August 1962. The newspaper was printed entirely in its own plant until April 27, 1967. In April 1967, the printing process was moved to Paris. In June 1971 the printing of the newspaper was moved to Cynthiana, where it is done today. A 7200 computerized display phototype machine was acquired in 1970, and a Compuwriter text machine replaced justowriters in 1972. The installation of this offset equipment elevated the newspaper to one of the best equipped in the state. The Carlisle Mercury was one of only 11 newspapers in the state using a Compuwriter for setting text. The newspaper is now produced on a Compuwriter 887G. The overall system also includes a Compugraphic MCS computer terminal with dual-disk drive.

The most modern up-to-date offset equipment is used by the Mercury staff in producing the weekly newspaper through the page-negative stage here in Carlisle. The Mercury staff is proud to be associated with such a modern newspaper. And, we proud to have the opportunity to contribute to the service The Mercury has provided the fine community of Carlisle and Nicholas County for over a century.

Warren R. Fisher Jr., the publisher of The Mercury since 1947, has been a leader in newspaper technology. His awareness of market and equipment trends has allowed The Mercury to be nearly first for new equipment and product oriented changes. Mr. Fisher's wife, Katherine (Kay) served as managing editor of the Mercury from 1964 to retirement in 1986.

The Mercury office has two darkrooms, one for pictures the other for page negatives and some picture reproductions, a reception area, an office area, an editorial office and two computer locations within the plant.

EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS

Dr. Preston Lindsay	1867-1869
William R. Anno, editor	1867-1868
Judge Thomas F. Hargis	1869-1870
John B. Scudder and Calvin W. Darnell	1870-1878
W. J. Kehoe and T. C. H. Vance	1878-1879
W. J. Kehoe	1879-1890
Keller & Sons	1890-1912
Green R. Keller, editor	1890-1912
Carlisle Mercury Co., Inc.	1912-7
Warren R. Fisher Sr., editor	1912-1928
Mrs. Warren R. Fisher Sr.	1928-1944
Frank Borries, editor	1928-1944
Walter S. Boyd, editor	1943-1943
R. M. Feese, editor & publisher	1944-1945
(leased)	
Paul Brannon, editor & publisher	1945-1947
(leased)	
Warren R. Fisher Jr.	1947-Nov. 1986
Sog Kash, editor	1947-1949
Warren R. Fisher Jr., editor	1949-1951
William J. Fluty, editor	1951-1953
Warren R. Fisher Jr., editor	1953-1972
Other editors since 1972	
Mrs. Joseph H. Conley	
Jeff Kerr	
Jimmy Smith	
Jim B. Wanke	
Emily Ashby Wolf	
Howard (Hank) Bond	Nov. 1986-Present