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School children pay high tribute with celebration

By Heather Mathes
The Bicentennial of the signing of the U.S. Constitution was honored with a celebration all week in Nicholas County.

Each morning a Nicholas County High School Student Council member read to the school of the importance of the Constitution. Thursday morning teachers led discussions and Government and History classes watched KET programs on the Constitution. The Nicholas County Courthouse Re-dedication took place at 11 a.m., and Thursday afternoon found the High School Bluejackets Band in their usual excellent form as they began the formal gathering with the playing of the National Anthem.

After Neal Metcalfe held prayer, Rob Lane spoke about the first dedication of the courthouse July 4, 1814. Lane also reported on the three buildings that were the first courthouses and the three sites of the county seats.

The cutting ceremony was performed by Adrian Arnold, Don Elder, Jack Conley, and Bessie Smart. America's 7th Bicentennial was sung by Shana McCarty. The luncheon held for honored guests, at the school, was also a vital success.

NCHS band shows stuff



The Nicholas County High School Marching Band won first place in its class last Saturday at the Fleming County High School Marching Competition. The Bluejackets' percussion unit was also picked as tops. Top, percussion players Emmett Smith (left) and Joe Hutton watch for the downbeat, while (back row) Bill Johnson (left) and Jason Poe help keep the beat straight. Bottom left, NCHS Band Director Shawn Parrish and Field Commander Carol Bond display the hardware won by the band during competition. —Rick Bond Photo

Historic ride routed thru Nicholas Co.

Remember what a substantial ride the steam engine train once played in our nation's everyday life? When traveling was an adventure as you rolled along the tracks lastly viewing America's countryside and people.

When a train station was the town's center of activity, and the wheels of economic progress were totally dependent upon the rails. Now, the people of this area will have this opportunity.

On Saturday, October 10, and Sunday, October 11, a 1905-built steam locomotive, owned by the Kentucky Railway Museum in Louisville, will pull vintage passenger cars and offer rides between Paris and Mayville.

Those interested may catch the train Oct. 10-11 at the Carlisle Passenger Depot, instead of Paris. The Depot will be open at 9:30 a.m. Saturday only and again at 2 p.m. on Sunday to watch the train go by. This will be an opportunity for many to reminisce about the old passenger train days.

The museum will be open Saturday only. The Depot WILL NOT be open Sunday due to a previously scheduled event.

Tickets are \$10 per person for one-way train passage to Mayville and a return trip to Paris by bus. This package includes bus tours of downtown Mayville, Old Washington, and Blue Licks State Park. Children under 5 years of age, who do not occupy a seat, will be admitted free of charge.

With limited seating capacity, tickets must be sold in advance on a first-come, first-served basis. Ticket sales will begin Wednesday, September 30, at Carlisle Drug, 101 Main Street, and Hopkins Drug, 116 East Main.

The train will depart Paris each day at 9 a.m. and arrive in Mayville at 12 noon. Passengers will be able to purchase lunch at beautiful Capron's Restaurant on Rosemary, Chooey Street prior to leaving buses for the tour. Following the tour, buses will leave Mayville at approximately 4:15 p.m. and arrive in Paris at 4:45 p.m.

Pager system in place

Nicholas County Hospital has advanced its communications systems with a new paging device. Robert Hester, hospital administrator, was pleased to announce the purchase of 10 pager and chargers.

Hester said, "This is something I have always wanted for our hospital. It has taken us a while to get them, but they were worth the wait." The pagers will be distributed among local physicians, respiratory therapist, and maintenance personnel, and others that would need to be reached among the hospital staff after hours.

Before the pagers, the hospital would have to call the dispatcher in town, and then have the dispatcher relay the message. "This was inconvenient to some and each had his own pager." The pagers are battery operated, and each have its own charger. "When they are taken out of the hospital," Hester said, "we will have a sign out sheet for them to sign, so we'll know who has them." Hester expressed his appreciation to the Lions Club, Woman's Club, and the Burn Bureau for their assistance.

Without their donations, we could not have purchased them," Hester added. The cost was approximately \$3,500.

Historical Society Working Toward County-Wide Historical Registration See Details Page 8

Rob Hester

Walk-A-Thon for Kurt Kelley is scheduled for this Saturday
Special to The Mercury by Barbara Hopkins
As of Friday, September 25, 1987, the Walk-A-Thon Fund raising had collected \$1,021 toward the \$2,000 needed for his new chair.

The committee is pleased with the whole-hearted response of the community.

On Saturday, October 3, 1987, Walk-A-Thon will be held at Lake Carmel from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The course will be monitored and will not include walking across dunes. The route is faster.

Refreshments will be donated by Pe Pe. We hope many people will come and support Kurt by joining their friends and walking our beautiful lake area.

This is a truly an event that all ages can enjoy as well as benefiting their own health.

Registration forms will be available that morning or can be picked up at the Pe Pe or Hopkins Drug.

Those people who are unable to walk but would like to donate or sponsor someone are encouraged to contact committee person, Mrs. Marilyn Sama, Mrs. Barbara Hopkins or Mr. Harold Massey.

Viet vets still have painful memories

After more than a decade

By Heather Mathes
As haunting fall mists lay summer and lush greens change into reds, browns and a bouquet of golds there also comes a time to stop and remember seasons that have long since been forgotten.

For those who have served in a far away place called Vietnam and come back to a world that held a beautiful but unlike the one they left, remembering is painful.

Henry T. Caswell, Paul Johnson, Charles Rice, Donald Salvage, and Chester Scott all remember Vietnam as a place where a part of them was left and a part of them was created.

Caswell was a construction engineer in the Army and left for the Making Delta in Vietnam in March, 1967.

When asked for his first thoughts upon finding out his destination, he said, "I just thought I've got to make it and come on home. I don't see how anyone could be mentally prepared. You get there and adjust and change your whole personality."

His first fire fight came on his first night in country. "We were in a fox hole and I was with

and he was taking a couple weeks and to radio back if I heard any movement. About that time I heard the Communists were changing and was told by radio to stay with one rapid burst and follow with three rapid bursts. The next morning the way that VC was changed in the wire and I registered. I knew I was in Vietnam."

Johnson left not only a part of himself there but 11 friends and one he calls a brother who he had went through basic and AIT with. He said that he wanted to come home but that he was never really mentally prepared.

"I landed in Louisville and a group of us were acting on a longer couch. A little girl asked us, while playing, if we were in the Army. About that time her Daddy reached and got her and I told you not to talk to these baby killers. Right then I got up and I had a hard time shortly found myself in Jefferson County night court."

And, too, there is still the controversy surrounding the U.S. POW's still in Vietnam.

Johnson replied, "I truly feel that about 700 are there by choice. They were being ridiculed by their own people and felt they had nothing to come home to and decided to stay."

Rice was a truck driver in Vietnam and left for that country in May, 1966.

After spending two weeks in Camp Bui, Rice and six months in Tay Ho he moved to several different camps.

What were his first feelings about being sent to Vietnam?

"It had to express the feeling. It was this is it, the end."

His first fire fight was after only a month in country.

"It was almost over before I knew I was in. I was with the person I had been assigned to, we were all assigned to someone who had been there longer but he suddenly he was telling me to get down. I couldn't believe it. There was only a woman in the room. He forced me down and when I looked up there were two bullets hole in the windshield."

"That was what it was all about. Not treating anyone. Women, even little children. I saw kids and the VC would take a 5 year old and just a grenade belt around their waist."

"It changed my whole aspect," Rice said.

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