

## Lack of Ob-Gyn In Nicholas Co. (No Easy Fix)

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## In Nicholas County Barns Have Withstood The Test of Time . . .

Pictorial Essay By Chip Miller  
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# The Carlisle Mercury

Serving Nicholas County Since 1867

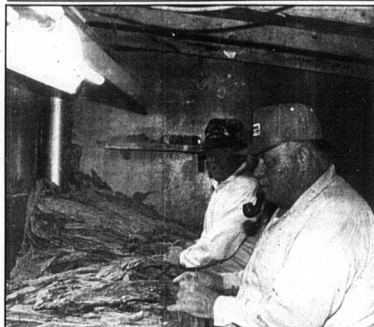
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Bill Fryman, left, and Roy Fryman, right, take advantage of the recent damp weather to begin stripping their tobacco crop. — Chuck Anderson Photo

## City gas rates to be lowered

By Chip Miller  
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Two ordinances passed by the Carlisle City Council last Thursday night will lower gas rates, effective next month.

Ordinance No. 9 is an ordinance amending an earlier ordinance passed October 10, 1977.

Ordinance No. 9 will change gas rates to a minimum of \$2.25 for the first one meter cubic foot, and \$4.40 for each meter cubic foot over one.

The 10 cent drop will push the rate for one Meter Cubic Foot down an average of about 3 percent.

Columbia has lowered its rate, so one can now lower ours," said Councilman Cartmel Lester.

He said the new ordinance simply allows the city to do that.

Ordinance No. 8 was also called a rate law.

The ordinance was discovered after the October 12 meet-

ing when a mill vote was not held.

The Ordinance No. 8, an annual 23-cent property tax on motor vehicles, will go into effect January 1, 1988.

Councilman Tommy Vaughn said the 23-cent tax is something he would like to see.

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## County faces possible penalties for sanitary landfill violations

By Chip Miller  
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Nicholas County Fiscal Court received an order on its October 7 meeting from the Kentucky Natural Resources Environmental Protection Cabinet (EPC) in regard to several violations at the county landfill.

The EPC recommended the county adhere to its policies of sanitary landfill at the site located on KY 28.

The EPC said in a letter addressed to the fiscal court, "the county complete the permitting process and obtain a operating permit for the site, or the county pay \$10,000 to the EPC as a letter of credit upon the county's failure to perform the terms of this order."

The EPC said it would release sections of these funds after compliance with the order.

The EPC's waste law since September of 1984, according to the EPC letter.

## Local bank officials express confidence

By Hank Bond  
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Local bank officials expressed optimism on the state of the economy, following the recent fall on the New York Stock Exchange, Monday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell a record 558.32 points, to close at 1738.41.

The market rallied Tuesday with record trading over nearly 604 million shares to post a record, single day gain of 102.27 in closing at 1841.61.

Although trading had to be considered brisk, declines still held a U.S. advantage over those stocks showing a gain.

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## Lady brings help For fallen man

By Heather Mathes  
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Last week a native Nicholas County found out the hard way who his friends were, animal and human.

Joe Smith and his wife, Nellie, have lived near the Crutcher line as long as they could remember.

Last week they were expecting home and Joe decided to travel approximately the one-half mile from home to pick some apples that were otherwise going to waste.

"I was fixing to start down to rest my ladder when it turned over with me," Joe said.

"My dog, Lady, a border collie, licked me on the face like she knew something was wrong. I pulled for help a couple times because I knew my leg was broken. Lady lay hard on hearing so when I pulled she thought I meant for her to get the cow away from the fence, and she did," he explained.

"I finished my nap when I fell but when I saw it lying a little ways down the hill I got up. I noticed my good foot down three inches and turned the ladder over and worked my way up it. Then I got a twig off of a tree and raked my way up so I could reach it. I had a pocket knife with me."

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## Obstetric services not available in Nicholas

By Heather Mathes  
Of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Nicholas County Hospital does not have obstetric facilities for many reasons.

According to Bob Hester, Nicholas County Hospital Administrator, obstetric insurance rates, and finally not having enough births, played a large part in the decision not to offer obstetric services at the hospital.

In addition to the hospital's decision not to offer obstetric services, there are no longer physicians in Carlisle who deliver babies.

"Even though we do not offer obstetric services, we can handle emergencies. The incubator, Ohio beds and other needed facilities are still here," Hester said.

On the subject of insurance for doctors, Hester said, "A doctor pays according to his or her own practice."

What could cause this drastic rate like after years of level premiums?

There are several reasons, however the biggest reason is, "Kentucky, as in most states, has no copaying or awards that insurance give. I am not saying, however, that insurance is harmful and negligent that he or she should not receive compensation. But, it can get out of hand," Hester explained.

"For example, in California someone was awarded a million dollars when a CAT scan was performed and it supposedly damaged his psychic abilities. This original verdict is understandable being appealed," Hester said.

"We live in a society where some and more are being brought up and \$100,000 per procedure would have even thought twice about it."

Even though medicine today is considerably more advanced than it used to be, it still has that human element which allows mistakes.

"Health care is still a practice of medicine and is not a precise science. People cannot expect outcomes to always be perfect, and there are no guarantees," Hester said.

Is there any resolution to the growing problem of hospitals not offering obstetric facilities?

Some states use an Arbitration Board. These are regulating commissions that decide top and amounts for cases and also set copay attorney's fees.

"However, in Kentucky this would not be binding as this goes against the Kentucky Constitution. The legislature would have to write and pass an amendment," Hester said.

The hospital's insurance is basically a liability type policy.

They are members of the Kentucky Hospital Association Trust which is a self insurance company completely covered by the hospital association within the state of Kentucky.

"One doesn't really charge according to what we do. We are mostly fixed on an occupancy and low rate percentage, and the total amounts set in regular time paid out or set aside for future claims," Hester said.

Alex Hammon, M.D. was the last physician in Carlisle to deliver a baby.

"The last day I delivered was April 23, 1987 and prior to that I had been delivering for 17 years. I mostly stopped because of the insurance rate increase, and it was very demanding being the only doctor to deliver for so long," Hammon said.

Law Rowe of the Nicholas County Health Department wants participants in the prenatal program to Dr. Mary Pratt of Mt. Sterling.

Rowe said, "If someone requires pre-natal care and is not in the prenatal program, we provide the list of doctors that are in the next geographical area."

Hester said delivering babies was a long proposition all the way around, so the closing of obstetric facilities was a joint hospital and doctor decision.

"The insurance rates were rising dramatically, medical was staying low, and the doctor was taking baby even," Hester said.

"What happened finally was we were delivering a small number, around 90 to 100, and for most of them we could not be reimbursed fully," Hester said.

Most places use cause for reinsurance because all the risks cannot be absorbed.

"It literally a battle every year just to find them. Not one with legitimate rates because they are most all way out of proportion, but just to find one and use with an excellent record," Hester said.

From Hester's point of view something is going to have to give.

"Good doctors are limiting their practice, and it is a shame that a practice that a doctor enjoys must be given up," Hester added.

There are maybe around 10 places in Kentucky that regularly deliver from Hester's estimation.

"It is coming close to the point that it is feasible to get out of state to receive good health care for delivery of babies in the future," Hester concluded.

## Mercury captures II press association awards in Frankfort

The Carlisle Mercury claimed 11 awards at the Kentucky Weekly Newspaper Association Convention held in Frankfort, October 15-16 at the Capital Plaza Hotel.

The Mercury received two first place awards: Best Small Advertisement - Hank Bond and Best Classified Page - Kathleen Brewer.

The Mercury earned three second place awards, two third place awards and four honorable mention certificates.

Marilyn Bond won an honorable mention certificate for the best small advertisement.

Mercury Publisher Hank Bond was honored by the association as a Friend of KWNH for contributions made to the organization.

Governor Candidate Wallace Wilkinson addressed the group after the evening awards banquet, while Larry Wilson and Brenton Jones, candidates for U.S. senator, addressed the group during the Friday luncheon.

The awardees were escorted by representatives of nearly 30 weekly newspapers across the state.

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## Absentee ballots to be picked up by October 27

Those planning to use an absentee ballot for the November 3 General Election must pick up the ballot by October 27.

All ballots must be received by the Nicholas County Clerk by 6 p.m. November 3.

## Don't Forget To Turn Your Clocks Back!!!



Sunday, October 25, 1987  
at 2:00 a.m.