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City agrees to build plant

By Julie Pfeifer
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
Carlisle is one of six cities in central Kentucky that has agreed to build sewage treatment plants to comply with federal clean-water standards.

The other cities include Cumberland, Owenton, Lancaster, Jenkins and Stanton.

Because of the combined expense of the sewage plant and new water lines, Curtmill Lester said, the city tried to get a seven-year extension from the government. Lester is the head of the sewer committee of the City Council.

According to Gene Kelley, of the sewage disposal plant, the city will pay a fine of \$500.

The new sewage treatment plant will treat 250,000 gallons of water on a 24-hour system in an area that treats 200,000 gallons in the same period. It will be an oxidation ditch-type system. Our present system is a trickling filter-type. The

technology involved in that system, Kelley said, has been around about 100 years.

Lester said the city's system does "very well for what we've got." He said Kelley gets letters from the state every year praising his work with the system. But the system's time ran out.

It is 24 years old, having been on line since 1964, Kelley explained. "There's a lot of new technology" Kelley explained, "and the government expects you to change" with that technology. Cities like Carlisle often don't have the funds for such changes.

The government is not completely rigid on its required changes, Kelley noted. "For example, you have to take all the ammonia out of the water, but the government has given us an extension until our new system is on line" to meet its new restrictions. "It's not a matter of wanting the new treatment plant," Kelley said. "It's a matter of being able to afford it."

The money required to pay

the fine and finance the new plant will come from a \$734,750 grant from Housing and Urban Development. The rest of the \$2.2 million may come from rate hikes, Kelley said. "We are now paying one-half the average U.S. bill."

Money may also come from borrowing through the state, he said. From the state, there is a better interest rate, and "less interference money lending institutions."

Our main problem, Lester said, is the fact that the waste water goes into Bushy Fork Creek. The government has deemed this a "non-flowing waterway" and hence the federal government's standards prevent water from being dumped there.

The new facility is supposed to be completed by July of 1989, Kelley said. "We're tardy now," he explained, saying that the new plant was supposed to be in operation this year.

"Fortunately," Kelley said, "Carlisle has always been blessed with good water."

A state representative from the Environmental Protection Agency will be present.

City improves

City of Carlisle workers painted new parking spaces on a portion of Main Street in front of True Value Hardware. - Julie Pfeifer Photo

Court grants right-of-way to district

By Heather Mathes
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
The Nicholas County Water District will be using the county's right-of-way to extend the water line.

Nicholas night set in Frankfort

Nicholas County Night will be held at the Lieutenant Governor's Mansion in Frankfort, Wednesday, August 24 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.

Residents of Bourbon County will also be invited to the mansion at 402 High Street in Frankfort. Light refreshments will be served.

Information about car pooling can be obtained from Emily Wolf at 289-2080. Persons planning to attend should contact Wolf by August 21.

Life as a dairyman means twice - a - day attention

Drought causing decrease in milk production

By Heather Mathes
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
Who do cows like to see at five in the morning?
Reply, Cold Hand Luke, that's who.

In the case of East Union however, it's cold handers Kenneth Stephenson and William Dampier, owners and operators of a local dairy, believe late to see.

Stevenson and Dampier have both seen a great many changes over the years they have milked.

Stevenson has been in the dairy business since 1945, close to 43 years.

Dampier said, "This (dairy) used to be just a sideline for us, but age is what stopped that."

"But you also used to be able to make money in this business, now you are doing good to break even."

He added, "I guess the saddest part about farming in this day and time is that I have pulled 30 years in this shed, in any other job I would be retiring by now. We are working as hard if not harder now than we did when we started and not making much."

In the last six weeks the feed bill has doubled to \$2,200 a month.

Stevenson said, "Corn was about \$21.8 a bushel, now you pay around four dollars."

"Soy bean meal was \$23.20 a ton and now it is \$3.60 or over."

Stevenson responded, "The glass jugs that hold the milk right after the it comes out of the cow and through the lines are \$400 a piece (milk may never touch the air to prevent bacteria from getting into the milk)."

"Right after that, the milk is pasteurized through lines and into a tank that cools it to 38 degrees within one hour after it comes out of the cow and it costs \$10,000."

"After all that is done this whole place has to be sterilized, which means the cost of cleaning equipment and supplies."

"A water supply for this dairy has not been a problem as of yet."

Dampier explained, "We have got a pretty good lake that takes a lot before it gets down too low, but without it we would be hurting."

Dampier added, "Many people think that with one good rain or even one wet year, everything will be solved."

"That's just not the case, because we will be feeling the effects of this one for the next decade."

"And even though things are not that bad now, next year the effects will be felt."

He explained, "The ground is so dry that there will be no young grass and the water will run right off the ground until it soaks up."

According to both dairymen, feeding will also be a problem, even though the government, state and local, will present different programs.

Stevenson said, "At this time of year, we are usually dependent upon green grass from pastures; this is the first time in a long time that we have had to feed silage."

Dampier said, "We have been fortunate on our alfalfa because we have already got two cuttings and hope to have a third with the little rain that we have had."

"We have had to do a lot of fertilizing to get it to grow, and that is another expense."

"Our problem is corn: we hope to get silage, but it won't be fit for anything else."

According to Dampier, government programs have not proved a relief to farmers.

"These promises do not put money in your pocket; they've got a different plan every

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City council meeting called for August 11

A special meeting has been called for August 11, 1988 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to have questions from interested parties concerning the land fill option on Concord Road.

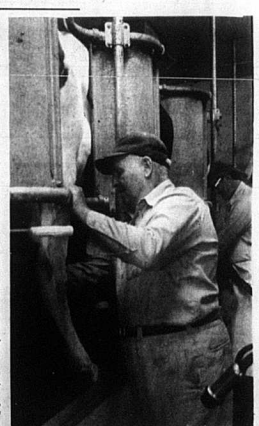
A state representative from the Environmental Protection Agency will be present.

Weather Summary

Agriculture Forecast
The livestock safety index will move into the danger category before noon for the next few days and remain there into the evening. During peak heating hours of the afternoon, The index could move into the emergency category. Those involved with transportation of animals must be alert to the hazards presented by the stifling environment created in transit. Heavy losses could occur if the confinement continues through those afternoon hours.

Extended Forecast - Thursday through Saturday Hot and humid days and warm muggy nights. Highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s.

The 8 to 10 day outlook for Sunday through the following Thursday however, indicates near normal rain returning to join the above normal temperatures.



Kenneth Stephenson, dairy owner, sees the drop in milk production as the dry summer heat increases in intensity. - Heather Mathes Photo