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Nicholas County getting into the Christmas spirit

By Heather Mathews
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
It's the day after Thanksgiving, and jingle bells are on everyone's mind. Shopping days until Christmas are on the countdown, nativity scenes are being planned and carols can be heard while Mom's busy in the kitchen.

These are the images that come to mind as Carlisle gets into the swing of the Christmas spirit.

No Scrooges to be found in Nicholas County on this December 1st, but it does help to have an occasional reminder of the true essence of Christmas.

The Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce has planned a Christmas Parade for downtown Carlisle on December 10 at 7 p.m.

According to Debbie France, plans will be finalized when the Chamber meets on this Wednesday evening.

Mark Hughes and Richard Gardner have gotten into the spirit of the giving season for the last five years by distributing toys to needy children throughout the Nicholas County area.

"We rely on people in the community who are willing to give old and new toys and anything children might want or need so that needy children will have Christmas," Hughes said.

Those that would like to give can drop off toys, books and clothing at the (county) fire department or the new hospital.

Those who are in need are determined by a list provided for Hughes by the Nicholas County Health Department and by people who call Hughes or the fire department directly.

"For the last two years the fire department has given us a helping hand in distributing the toys the night before and up into the morning of Christmas," he said.

The tradition started because Hughes and Gardner felt needy children deserved Christmas.

As long as the tradition of these in need continues so will the tradition of giving," Hughes concluded.

And the list keeps on growing longer.

Live Christmas trees can also be found even though the drought of this summer did do damage on a large portion of this year's Christmas crop.

Tony Smith, pastor of Blue Licks Christian Church said, "We will be selling Christmas trees on December 10 and

17 from 9 a. m. until 5 p. m. down on U.S. 68 by Jones and John Cartmill's house, plus signs will be up.

Churches and street lights will also be decorated in the weeks to come before Santa begins his journey overhead from North to South Pole.

Other than our regularly scheduled masses we plan to hold our patronal feast of our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 and caroling a wood town is also planned with the youth group becoming involved.

Father Weglicki added, "Midnight Mass held the night before Christmas" also trains the birth of our Christ.

coming here as the Light of the world to save the human race.

That is why we use candles in services - remembering Christ as the Light of the world."

While springing from shop to shop, fashioning wreaths and sipping eggnog, Nicholas Countyans are making memories, special Christmas hometown memories.



Go in' Fishin'

Jim Barnes, with his wife Nettie, unwraps a fishing pole. It was one of many gifts presented to Barnes as a reception honoring his 42 years of service to Kentucky Utilities. Barnes started working for KU June 1, 1946 and has served Carlisle 33 years, most of that time as a Service Technician A. Julie Pfeifer photo

Foreclosure not looming, FmHA official says calls reserivcing options a great help

By Julie Pfeifer
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
There seem to be many rumors circulating about "foreclosure notices" from the Farmers Home Administration, but according to James Dunmore, Chief of Farmer Programs at FmHA, the situation is not that frightening.

He explained that the reserivcing notices are being mailed to farmers and where they have not made payments for 11 months to five or six years.

Of 1,200 Kentucky farmers receiving notices, 64 farmers in Nicholas and Harrison counties will receive these notices.

"This is a very positive thing for farmers," Dunmore said. The new regulations, included in the Agricultural Act of 1987, are too, farmer to reduce his debt.

State FmHA officer Bruce White said, too, that foreclosure is not the right term. The Act provides other alternatives, he explained, such as a "write down" in which the FmHA may reduce a farmer's delinquent debt to the value of the land and equipment he may have used for collateral.

As for foreclosure, Dunmore explained that if a farmer does not respond he will have to go out of business, but a court order has restrained any farm foreclosures for nearly five years.

Even those who do go out of business have several options. The farm can be leased from the government, or a farmer can keep the home and 10 acres.

Some stories have reported 16 pages of complicated forms for applying for local farm restructuring," Dunmore said actually, the 16 pages are carefully written instructions to explain the farmers options.

"All they are required to give is a cash flow statement and information on his debt so we can contact a bank lenders," Dunmore said. "It's nothing more than they have had to do to acquire a loan in the past."

Some states have support groups to help the farmer fill out the forms. Dunmore said the County Extension offices have been designated to help.

Kentucky is much better off than other states," Dunmore said. "We have one of the lowest delinquency rates in the nation."

Dunmore added the media has hyped the fact that the notices came out after the election, when in fact it was

condition for the biggest part of the past three years," said Glen Conner, state climatologist at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

"Since July, we have been recovering from that in Kentucky. But fall is a dry season, and there's nothing from the National Weather Service's outlook to indicate this will be a wet winter."

Two-thirds of the precipitation each year is recorded between November and April with the rest falling during the summer months, but a wet winter won't necessarily mean that Kentucky will be out of the woods, according to C.B. "Big"

weather experts fear summer of 1989 could be more fierce

dickerson, Boone County extension agent. He said a lack of summer rain would put the state right back in severe drought conditions.

"There's no way to predict," Dickerson said. "The summer drought left ground-water and moisture levels low, officials said."

"Our water supplies are down," Dickerson said. "The ground water is extremely low, and ponds are not up to where they were. Farmers had to irrigate crops and water cattle from this summer."

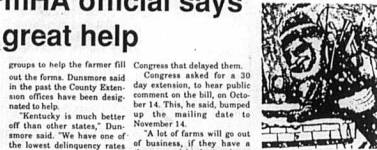
Conner said the good news is there has been quite a bit of rain in Kentucky this month.

"We're entering the winter season in better circumstances than we have in the past two winters," he said. "Winters, under normal conditions, make our recovery for ground water levels."

"The soaring heat and dry weather this summer burned leaves and damaged trees across Kentucky."

"Trees have suffered for three years," Dickerson said. "Trees are suffering from root compaction and insect damage. A tree can be sick, and you never know it dies, but if it's under stress, it dies."

The drought also hurt corn, hay and soybean crops in the state.



Hey kids, write Santa

in keeping with a longstanding tradition, The Carlisle Mercury will again publish letters to Santa this Christmas season.

Youngsters are invited to write Santa, in care of The Mercury, telling what they want him to bring them for Christmas. Mothers and fathers may help too, and send along their wishes.

Grow-ups are encouraged to participate by sending us their remembrances of Christmas past, or whatever might be appropriate during the holiday season. Letters will appear in the issue prior to Christmas. Deadline for letters to Santa is December 14.

So get busy, it's later than you think!

Letters to Santa will appear in the December 22 issue of The Mercury