

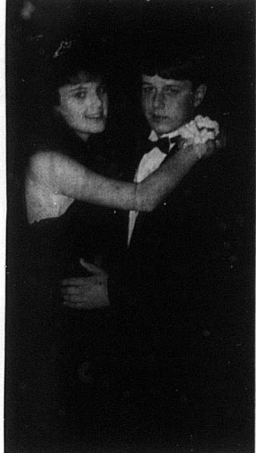
GENERAL NEWS



Eighth grade Snow Queen candidates were, front row, Nikki Smoot, Susan Coldiron, Johnny Griffith, and Andrea Galbraith, back row are King candidates, Given Jennings, Brad Bireley, Brian Ockerman and Kevin Watkins. - Heather Mathes Photo



Mariam Williams, vice principal at Nicholas County Elementary, welcomed Kyle Allison, the senior citizens director. - Heather Mathes Photo



Snow Queen and King for 1988 are Johnys Griffith and Given Jennings, sponsored by Pynny's Brax's homeroom. - Heather Mathes Photo

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GENERAL NEWS

**Carlisle High** It was a time when life was different . . . .  
The city school building still has attraction

By Heather Mathes  
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Many recall fond memories of high school. But there seems to be a certain attachment to the old Carlisle High School that cannot be measured in words.

New those graduates who wish to have a souvenir from their alma mater may find their wish readily granted by the owner of the old city school, who although he could not save the entire structure, has saved some remnants.

Bill Hilander graduated on May 15, 1935.

He harbored his memories of Carlisle High School and wound up buying the structure 15 years ago, in 1972, when there seemed no other alternative.

"People have always wondered why they didn't turn it into something else, and really they did try, but no two factions could get along so they decided to sell it altogether," Mr. Hilander explained.

He added, "I wrote to Wendell Ford and Virgil Kinnaird concerning funding for housing and urban development to get a community center established and both expressed interest."

The reply from Wendell Ford read, "I am very happy to strongly support your HUD application for funding of the community center. This is a good and valuable project that will make a lasting and substantive contribution to Carlisle and Nicholas County. Certainly it deserves federal funding."

Ford also wrote a letter of endorsement to Kinnaird, director of HUD, concerning development of a northern portion of the town combined with "funding the community recreation facility."

Ford wrote, "The site of this proposed activity is the old Carlisle School grounds which contain a gymnasium that, through renovation and rehabilitation, would become the recreation facility. In addition to recreation, this facility would offer accommodation for senior citizens activities and for other residents. It is important to note that at present, there is no such recreation facility in the county. Funding of this proposal would, therefore, fill a need which the community desires and make a substantive contribution to Carlisle-Nicholas County."

According to Hilander, Carlisle-Nicholas County did receive the funding, but sent

the grant back to HUD.

"When hate, greed and jealousy enter the picture, things never turn out right. This structure was one of the best in the country, being five brick thick, and historic to boot, but because people could not agree it was lost and now it stands in a pile of rubble and brick."

"Had it not been for that, it would still be standing for another one or two hundred years," said Mr. Hilander.

Over the years, Hilander has found much history behind the school and even compounded a book of graduates.

"According to the dates on the sidewalk, the building started in 1859 and ended in 1892, meaning it was built about the same time as the court house here."

The old school is 80 x 140, five stories high, and three to five brick thick, half a million in total.

"The bricks are the most remarkable thing, since they are made of common bricks, they are 20-25 percent bigger and made in the brick kiln in Mayville in the mid 1890's," commented Mrs. Hilander.

"Since the school and I began tearing it down, we have



The Carlisle High School, commonly known as the 'old city school,' as it was pictured in the 1950s before its destruction. - photo submitted by Bill Hilander

Now that the building is in its last stages, Hilander has a gift for other graduates of the old school," said Mrs. Hilander.

"We would like to thank the residents of Nicholas County for bearing with us."

"And we just wanted them to have something from the old school," said Mrs. Hilander.

"The people have the memories, now we want them to have a piece of the school."

**Extension office moved**

By Heather Mathes  
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Up at the courthouse, we had only one meeting room and I and Miss Margie were really running over each other, meetings at the same time. I want one of us had to find another meeting place, and that was a lot of trouble.

"With two meeting rooms in two completely separate places so one does not have an entrance to the other, we have a real advantage."

Adding one meeting room in a kitchen where the old vault was located which will be tentatively finished in spring.

Heating was also a problem in the old location.

Prather commented, "We had no way of controlling the heat in the old offices because they had to keep the third floor of the courthouse warm and that meant keeping the basement really hot. It really about run us out in the winter time."

Margie Wilson, home extension agent added, "The top of my desk stayed about 90 degrees in the winter, it got so hot the things on your desk made indentations where it melted."

The new extension offices sport a thermostat control and radiators where the temperature is under control in each office.

Other advantages to the new location are an entire parking area and an access ramp for the handicapped.

After beginning the move

the week before Thanksgiving with the help of some county employees, all those in the extension office are almost ready to apply the finishing touches to the new facility.

Phillips explained, "We hope to get one of the meeting rooms painted and all in place over the holidays."

"The other meeting room will be the task after that, with moving the counter out and painting."

"Then all we really have to do is the kitchen."

Wilson also had thoughts on renovating details. She said, "There is an enormous acoustic problem down here, if there is a lot of people in the meeting room the noise is deafening."

"I thought if I put some sheers over the windows and we put a wall hanging up that it would soften the bounce I lack."

Wilson also introduced the idea of one quilt a month taking the place of the wall hanging, and making a 4-H and Homemaker emblem to put on the doors.

Wilson added, "We just want to make our new offices more attractive."

Darlene Davis, extension office secretary, said, "I really like this location a lot better. It is really much nicer, because the old place was very damp and musty, and that caused problems."

"Dampness attracts roaches and mice and we had both."

"I will miss all the people up at the courthouse though."

While the Extension office continues to renovate and refurbish in their new location, they would all like to invite those that need their services to visit the new location.

"We still offer the same services, we are just in a new location that is more accessible to the people with nicer facilities," concluded Prather.

The Extension offices are planning an open house to take place in either April or May.



Superintendent Donald G. Elder, Extension Agent Terry Prather, and others at a dinner held in their honor on school grounds. - Heather Mathes Photo



James Neal received a certificate from, left, Eugene Letcher, and far right, Robert G. Brady, chairman of the committee. Neal has served the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Committee for 36 years. - Heather Mathes photo