

The Carlisle Mercury

Serving Nicholas County Since 1867

121st Year, No. 3

Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

Thursday, January 21, 1988

40 cents per copy

JAN
21
1988

Water system planned for eastern Nicholas, western Bath Construction could begin late this year

By Chip Miller
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

An \$875,000 water line project is in the drawing boards.

The project, if completed, is expected to service eastern Nicholas County and western Bath County residents, possibly to begin construction by late 1988.

The project is that of the Sharpshurg Water District and is in the stage of applying for needed funds.

The project involves the installation of 14.8 miles of rural water lines in eastern Nicholas County and nearly six miles of water lines in western Bath County.

The future project, if granted the state and federal funds, would update a rural water system and be a first step toward much needed water services, according to Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot.

"We hope this will lead to other extensions of lines to more people throughout the county, to those who haven't had water (public service) before," he said.

The project will make public water service available to more than 150 of its customers within the two counties.

This would be the first time many residents of this later county area would receive public water service because, currently, many rely on cisterns as their source of water supply.

According to a report filed by Woolpert Consultants,

engineering consultants to the Sharpshurg Water District, over 50 percent of the 104 households the district services in rural Bath and Nicholas rely on cisterns as their source of domestic water. Seventy-one percent in the survey said they had to haul 55 additional water at an average monthly cost of \$30.

"We hope to get, through this project, additional (water) storage and the capability to fill that storage with a pump station," said Mike Pryor, chairman of the Sharpshurg Water District, a Nicholas County resident.

Pryor said the inter-county water district is set up as a non-profit district where, "what we make from our customers, we put into the system."

The project is applying for separate funds through federal and state grants and loans, according to Pryor.

Pryor said Bluegrass Area Development District assisted in the water district's application for the necessary funds.

If granted, 11 percent, or \$100,000, of the funds would be from an Appalachian Regional Commission grant that is to apply to construction of Bath only.

\$208,000, 45 percent, from a Farmers Home Administration (FHA) grant; \$150,000, 40 percent, from a PMA Loan, and \$120,000, 4 percent, from the water district connection charge.

This funding entity would only be set up if the court is unable to meet its obligation to UK concerning the county extension service, Herbert said.

"I cannot accept the statement you proposed in the December meeting of our board," Herbert said.

In the December meeting, the court proposed to approve the extension service six-month budget only if the occupational tax levied by the state supreme court

was ruled constitutional. "If you cannot meet your obligations from your general funds in this case, then we ask for the establishment of a district board for a tax rate," he said.

Herbert said the last budget agreement expired in December, 1987.

He added the court and the extension service were in "limbo" and the university service could not operate without a guarantee the court would pay its share of the county service.

"We just need some kind of backup, some assurance that the money will be coming," Herbert said.

The memorandum states the court will agree to the continuation of the county extension service and cooperate with UK in estab-

lishing the proposed Extension District Board if the occupational tax doesn't go into effect in Nicholas County.

"If we don't come to some agreement then we'll have to take some form of action," Herbert said.

"It was to keep the extension service, we don't have a choice," said Magistrate Floyd Buehl.

The court motioned to enter the agreement and voted 4-2 in favor of its magistrates Elmo Myers and Earl Plunk cast no votes.

The motion of a district board for the county extension service was proposed to the court in the June 17 meeting by Magistrate Orville Ackison and failed to get a second.

and Nicholas County which private water supplies make the proposed water extensions of great importance," the report. Continued on Page 3

approximately 22 miles of new water line, the project calls for the paralleling, for a distance of two miles, an underground water transmission line in both counties, and the replacement of an inadequate 20,000 gallon elevated tank with a new 100,000 gallon storage tank.

The proposed 100,000 gallon storage tank, the two miles of main line to parallel KY 3 from Moorefield southwesterly to KY 11, and the line from Reynoldsville to Bethel would act as one unit to service both counties residents.

According to the report, the project will "rectify water transmission and water storage deficiencies, particularly in those deficiencies relative to adequate flow and pressure in the western portion of the distribution system."

The report defines eastern Nicholas County as having "inadequate pressures and inadequate available water storage" in its distribution system.

According to the report, \$208,000 is targeted for the extensions and improvements in Bath County and \$445,000 is targeted for extensions and improvements in Nicholas County.

The report analyzes special needs of the future project involving two facets.

"First is the hydraulic upgrading of a water distribution system, which is presently in use."

"Second is the extension of rural water service availability to 150 homes and businesses in Bath

and Nicholas County which private water supplies make the proposed water extensions of great importance," the report. Continued on Page 3

and central Kentucky counties. The plan has been endorsed by other rural courts and was endorsed by Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot in December.

"Also, the court adopted a resolution in support of Tom Hendley's Kentucky Farmers First program be presented to the court in the December meeting."

"The court then heard from Mike Pryor, chairman of the Sharpshurg Water District, on the proposed \$875,000 water line to service Nicholas and Bath counties."

"Pryor requested the court donate funds to the project since 'the line will benefit about 140 Nicholas families.'"

"Pryor asked the court to give \$10,000 to the project."

"It would be about 10 percent of the total cost, and it does service Nicholas residents," Pryor said.

The court hasn't donated any funds for the project yet.

The court agreed to consider the request.

"I think it is a step toward getting water all over the county," said Smoot. (See related story)

Atkinson questions purchase of engine

Court discussed the purchase of a used 330 truck engine from the county fire committee.

"I'm not so sure I liked seeing it in the paper that we'd already bought it," said Atkinson.

He said the court didn't discuss the purchase of the engine, even before it was said the county had bought it at the fire committee meeting.

County Attorney Jack Conley said he'd received a call from someone who had another engine if the county wanted to purchase it.

The court discussed whether the \$1,250 price the fire committee asked was too high or whether to check around for a better deal on a used engine for a county truck.

The court agreed, after several minutes of discussion on the price, to pay the fire department the \$1,250.

As the court also heard from Shirley Gardner, secretary to Smoot, on the problems of county employee insurance.

He achieved his goal and was continued on Page 3

N.C. court enters agreement with UK on extension service

By Chip Miller
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

Nicholas County Fiscal Court agreed in its January 13 meeting to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the University of Kentucky concerning the Nicholas County Extension Service.

In addition, the court set a tax rate to provide for the service in case the payroll - occupational tax does not provide expected revenues.

County officials continue to watch the progress of a Casey County suit, which questions the legality of payroll - occupational taxes in counties with less than 30,000 population.

The suit has been heard by the Kentucky Supreme Court, however, no date has been given for a final ruling from the state's highest

court.

In the memorandum of agreement UK Cooperative Extension Area Director Bob Herbert presented the court, Nicholas County agreed to cooperate in setting up an Extension District Board for the purpose of setting a tax rate for the service's funding, if necessary.

This taxing entity would only be set up if the court is unable to meet its obligation to UK concerning the county extension service, Herbert said.

"I cannot accept the statement you proposed in the December meeting of our board," Herbert said.

In the December meeting, the court proposed to approve the extension service six-month budget only if the occupational tax levied by the state supreme court

was ruled constitutional.

"If you cannot meet your obligations from your general funds in this case, then we ask for the establishment of a district board for a tax rate," he said.

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Former Nicholas native, governor: Thomas Metcalfe

By Heather Mathes
of the Carlisle Mercury Staff

After the election of Kentucky's 53rd Governor, Wallace Wilkinson, Nicholas Counties may think back to the middle 1800's when an ambitious and talented citizen of

Nicholas County held the governor's office.

Thomas Metcalfe, or "Old Stone Hammer" as the former statesman and stone mason was called, was born on March 20, 1780 in Pauequier, Virginia.

His family moved to Kentucky in his early childhood and settled in Fayette County.

"Old Stone Hammer" came to Nicholas County in 1798 and his family followed soon after to settle near Millersburg. Here, Metcalfe

settled, always returning after every excursion his illustrious career afforded him.

According to the book, "Nicholas History," Metcalfe received only "sufficient education to inspire an ardent love for knowledge" during his short-lived childhood.

At the age of 16 Metcalfe was apprenticed as a stone mason to his uncle and learned not only his trade but gained knowledge of the fundamentals of architecture, carpentry and building.

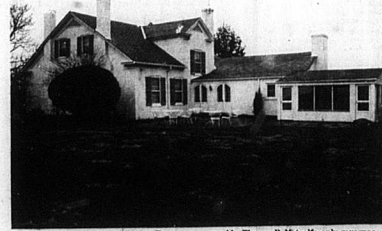
The apprenticeship ended four years later when Metcalfe's father died, suddenly leaving him to provide proper support and assistance for his many brothers, sisters and his mother.

According to a history volume written by Dr. Eliza Ashbury, current resident of the Metcalfe home, Metcalfe's "name and talents spread abroad" as a stone mason and architect.

He built the first brick court house in Nicholas County and the bank in Millersburg which now serves as a residence.

Metcalfe also preserved structures in Fayette, Bourbon, Mason and Nicholas Counties but in Ashbury's opinion his best effort is the stone courthouse he built in Paris which was replaced after a huge fire damaged the building.

"Old Stone Hammer" also built the stone for his own residence.



The main house on Forest Retreat Farm, once owned by Thomas B. Metcalfe, only governor from Nicholas County. The house was bought and restored by Dr. Eliza Ashbury and his wife, Dr. Mary Knight Ashbury. Inset: Hecker Photo Press



Local officials met with state and Community Action officials Friday for ribbon cutting ceremonies of the new rural transit system. CATS. Left to right, Carlisle Mayor Lee Bepko, Ky. Dept. of Mass Transportation Director Jerry Ross, Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot and Jack Burck, executive director of Community Action. Chip Miller Photo