

**GENERAL NEWS**

**Kentucky's future question**  
Continued from Page 1  
skilled nursing and intermediate care in this state and will approach \$200 million in the fiscal year 1988, according to the KASCF.  
Nicholas County's facility, Johnson-Mathers Nursing Home, will be an exception.  
John Hunter, Johnson-Mathers administrator, said nearly 90 percent of the patients in the facility are currently on Medicaid.  
"The payments don't hardly cover the cost," he said of the majority of Medicaid patients.  
"But I can't turn these people away and just say 'No,'" he added. The \$200 million represents one-third of the total Medicaid budget.

**What is Medicaid?**  
Basic medical assistance payments for nursing home care in Kentucky originated in 1963 for those elderly who had exhausted their financial resources but needed long term care. The federal government began offering matching monies in July 1966. Due to its low per capita income, Kentucky now has the seventh highest matching rate in the country.  
The federal government pays 75 percent of all Medicaid expenditures in the Commonwealth and those federal dollars have a very positive impact on Kentucky's state and local economies.  
There has been a drastic increase in the care needs of nursing home patients.  
The new Medicare hospital reimbursement system has resulted in much sicker patients being discharged more quickly from the

**Poison prevention week declared**  
As Kentuckians watch the unfolding of spring, public health officials caution that everyone should know the names of all the flowers and plants in their yards and homes to protect children in case of possible poisoning.  
"Some plants and flowers are toxic," said E. P. Conyers, consumer product safety branch manager in the Department for Health Services. "It is important that everyone know the names of plants in and around their homes in case a child eats part of a plant."  
March 20-26 has been declared Poison Prevention Week in Kentucky by Governor Wallace G. Wilkinson.  
"Children are naturally curious about the things around them, and some small children will try to eat almost anything," Conyers said. "Parents should teach toddlers not to put certain things in their mouths, but at that age, kids don't always cooperate."  
Conyers suggests labeling indoor plants with plastic tags that can be inserted into the soil around the plant.  
"If you have a mystery plant, have it identified by a florist or garden center," he said.  
The Kentucky Regional Poison Center in Louisville has compiled the following lists of poisonous and non-poisonous plants: If you

**Business profile**  
**Nicholas County-Carlisle bank caters to its customers' needs for 87 years**  
By Chip Miller  
The First National Bank of Carlisle has expanded its services to the Carlisle and Nicholas County community for 87 years.  
"We try to fulfill the needs of our customers," added Shirley Wilson, cashier of the bank.  
According to the locally written book History of Nicholas County, the First National Bank opened for business in 1901.  
The First National Bank of Carlisle offers a lot of financial services to the customers it serves. Wilson explained.  
"We offer some popular features such as the convenience of the three drive-through lanes. We also offer various types of checking, accounting and bookkeeping services," she added.  
Wilson said the hours the bank is open for its customers is also convenient.  
"Our drive-in service is open later (than the lobby) and until 5:30 on Fridays, plus on Saturdays for later service," she said.  
The First National Bank of Carlisle also offers customers something else.  
"I enjoy meeting a lot of different people in this community," Wilson said.  
"I think everyone here enjoys working close together and with others."  
"We are a service organization. We try to provide that to our customers," she said.

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As our first a particular plant on this list or have other questions, call the poison center toll-free at 1-800-722-2778. In Louisville, call 588-2222.

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**The Carlisle (KY) Mercury, March 24, 1988 - 11**

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