FEATURE AT SIX

Many remember the German Berlin Wall

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Between the years 1959-61 several Nicholas Countians were serving the army in Germany. It was during this time tensions were perhaps at their highest between the United States and the Communist regime.

The Berlin Wall was being raised across the face of Germany. President John F. Kennedy very nearly went to war with Cuba, and then was tragically assassinated in Dallas, Texas.

For Brownie Hollar, Tommy and Jimmy Ring, all stationed in United States military posts in various towns throughout Germany, surprising little tension was felt.

Tommy Ring worked with communications and was stationed at a base in Darmstadt while the Wall was being erected.

However, despite the cold war message the Wall would eventually come to signify, Ring said the base was never put on alert because of it.

"The first leave I got, I went to Berlin. By that time the wall was up throughout the city and I could see it from the train station.

"Guards set up a watch along the wall, but they didn't seem bothered went I went up to it, even though I was in uniform. I imagine it would have been a simple enough trick to go across the border, but I don't think I'd have ever got back if I tried," Ring said.

Animosity toward the Eastern side of the wall was not a thing many at his base really talked about, he said.

"I know U.S. and Soviet tanks were aimed right at each other when the Wall was first being built, but somehow, nobody had ever really considered we would attack. Most people were just sort of quiet on the subject," he said.

However, he said, the same could not be said for the Cuban Missile crisis.

The stand off between Kennedy and Castro during the days of the crisis had put Ring's outpost on full alert. All leaves were immediately cancelled, he said, and most of the base personnel felt certain war would be declared.

"It just seemed like something had to break and Cuba was far more likely a place to fight than Germany," Ring said.

It wasn't a long wait before Ring said his fears as well as the concerns of other soldiers were alleviated when Cuba backed down. There was a general sense of relief when things cooled down, he said, because though they would not have hesitated about going to the Central American island, few soldiers, he said, openly desired conflict.

But something was in the works, he said.

"It seemed the United States was spoiling for a conflict with Communists somewhere," he said,"But no one could tell where it would happen."

30 years later, King's son, stationed about 20 miles below where Ring put in most of his time, in the west German town of Giessen, very near the west German outpost that served as living quarters for thousands of migrating East Germans when the Hungarian borders began to open.

Though with the 101st Airborne, Darrin Ring could say the mass of people streaming across the border were more than the German base could handle.

"He said he never saw so many people crammed in one place in his whole life," Jimmy Ring said.

And yet, Ring was told the base had had no idea what was going to happen. The border opening took everyone, including town people and the German base almost by surprise, Ring said.

Ring said he was never so surprised as when he watched CNN covering the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, but he said it seemed unnecessary during the time he was in Germany that the wall should be up.

However, though Tommy Ring had not been able to really experience east and west border tensions first hand, his first cousin, Jimmy Ring had two experiences with the border.

The first came from his service as a guard of the American border post in Czechoslovakia, but even there, Jimmy Ring said, there was nothing he could see, besides the existence of the Soviet and American posts, that would indicate a cold war was even being waged.

"The only thing I really noticed was the extent which people trying to cross the border were searched. Otherwise, working on the border was as quiet as could be," Ring said.

However, during leave time, while he was headed to the Burgess Gardens in Austria, Ring, travelling by train, had fallen asleep and missed the station he was to get off. Unfortunately for him, the next stop was the border.

"Security had come on the train and woke me up and asked for my passport. I was worried fora minute because I didn't have a passport, just my leave papers," Ring said.

As a result, Ring was asked to wait in the station for another train headed back to his stop.

"That was about the worst of it from my experience.. Hardly think we had any tension at all when I talk about it. It was Cuba gave us the worst scare, that and Kennedy," Ring said.

When news of Kennedy's assassination spread, the general rumor about the base was the killer had been a communist, Ring said. All bases were put on immediate alert, though soldiers had no idea where they would be going to fight, Ring said.

However, both the Rings and Hollar had received their discharge papers before extensions of duty were added. The reason for the extensions was Vietnam.

"Many of the people I knew were shipped state side and placed on inactive duty just months before troops began to arrive in force to Vietnam. We knew something was going to happen, but we got out before it did," Tommy Ring said.

"I know U.S. and Soviet tanks were aimed right at each other when the Wall was first being built, but somehow, nobody had every really considered we would attack."

- Tommy Ring

The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shepherd Photo
Tommy Ring, who served in Germany, stands with a picture of his son, Jimmy.

It's Easier To Build A Boy, Than Mend A Man.

"They said to start him as soon as possible...so we did. At the earliest ages we encouraged him to read, to play sports, even to learn the trumpet. But we didn't urge him on spiritually. Not at all."

Brad's parents can go on for hours describing the pain they now endure over their son's reckless lifestyle. They're sure his getting involved with those so called "friends" didn't help. He's grown now - even lives in another city, but it keeps getting worse. The divorce, now the drinking. They know it's not their problem anymore, but their hearts just won't agree.

Millions of parents know how Brad's mom and dad feel. Most will readily say it is easier to build a boy than mend a man.

We're into mending. But we'd much rather help you build. Get the kids and come. We're waiting with open hearts.

Carlisle Christian Church
At The Heart Of Things.

Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Holiday Givings

Receive A Gift Certificate On Groceries With Any Purchase Of Furniture Or Carpet

4 Drawer Chest - Retail $74.99 Our Price - $49.95

5 Drawer Chest - Retail $109.99 Our Price - $59.95

Swivel Rockers - Retail $129.99 Our Price - $99.95

Recliners - LOW AS - $99

Solid Wood Bunk Beds with Bunkies - Retail $319.95 Our Price - $229.99

Solid Wood 6 Gun Cabinets - Retail $298.99 Our Price - $229.99

Solid Wood 8 Gun Cabinets - Retail $338.99 Our Price - $259.95

Also We Have LIVING ROOM SUITES, BEDROOM SUITES, SECTIONALS, DINING ROOM SUITES.
Many with over $100.00 worth of Gift Certificates

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HOURS:
Saturday, 9-5;
Monday-Friday, 8-6

Stainless Carpet - Starting At $5.99 sq. yd.

Fizer's Carpet & Wholesale Furniture
270 E. Water Street, Flemingsburg, KY Phone: 845-9771
GOOD THRU DECEMBER 16th, 1989

GENERAL NEWS

Questions arise about sale of rock

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

A question has arisen concerning Nicholas County's position to sell rock to the County Concrete Company Plant expected to be operating in Nicholas County in the spring.

Recently, through permission of the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, the County Concrete company of Flemingsburg has made plans to locate a concrete manufacturing plant in Nicholas County.

When a lease for the land, owned by Nicholas County, was drawn up in the regular September Fiscal Court meeting, a stipulation was included that Nicholas would make limestone available from the Nicholas County Quarry as long as no serious legal dispute was raised about sales.

Addressing the legality of a county government selling rock to a commercial firm, County Attorney Jock Conley wrote to the Kentucky Attorney-General concerning the county's position in making limestone available for the concrete company to purchase.

The reply Conley received some weeks later was ambiguous, Conley said.

Though the Attorney General said a county could not favor one business over another, it could sell rock if it involves some type of public service.

According to the court, the need for industrial development in Nicholas County serves a public interest.

However, another hurdle had to be overcome which involved an agreement mentioned by County Attorney Charles Cox in correspondence with the Hinkle Contracting Company some thirty years ago.

According to correspondence between the Cox and Hinkle, an attempt was made to sell rock to neighboring Robertson County, but Cox was assuring Hinkle the county would abide by the agreement.

However, in research, Conley said he could find no signed formal agreement found between Nicholas County and Hinkle.

However, after the lease had been drawn up, the Bourbon Limestone Company, represented by Henry Hinkle, met with Judge Executive Reese Smoot, County Attorney Jock Conley, and Dalbert Johnson, owner of the County Concrete Company in Flemingsburg.

According to Smoot and Conley, the agreement was discussed, but the County did not rescind its offer of selling rock from the quarry. However, Johnson did agree to consider an alternative offer made from Bourbon Limestone to provide the concrete company with a limestone supply.

In an interview with Hinkle, he said the agreement reached 30 years ago was a gentleman's agreement based on what state laws dictated for local county government.

"State law was the primary factor in the agreement. It was not an understanding between two parties, but rather a decision made in accordance with law," Hinkle said.

Since that time, however, Hinkle said he does not know for certain, but he does not think laws have changed much to allow Nicholas County to sell limestone to a commercial interest.

A quarry owned and operated by local government has a priority to provide rock to the public in maintaining county roads and streets as well as providing pulverized stone to lime farm fields, Hinkle said.

"Considering the other things the Nicholas County Quarry needs to provide, furnishing stone to a concrete plant would be difficult from a practical point of view," Hinkle said.

Based on his knowledge of the stone quality, Hinkle said stone bought from the county may need to be rescreened and washed before it would be useable as a component to concrete manufacturing which would mean additional costs, approximately one dollar extra per ton, for the concrete company to re-handle the stone.

"It is a choice between taking the time to make stone useable to having stone prepared and immediately ready for use. It is a business offer, nothing more," Hinkle said.

If Johnson were to refuse Bourbon Limestone's offer, Hinkle said he did not know if Johnson's decision would be actionable, or if the decision actually warranted further action from Bourbon Limestone.

Johnson, who is in the process of considering both offers, said the weight of the decision is based more on economic than the quality of material each interested party can provide.

"I have not discounted any offer. In order to make a decision, I have to look at the long term cost. In the meeting with Hinkle, Smoot and Conley, the general wish was to avoid any type of litigation," Johnson said.

The first batch of tests on the quality of Nicholas County limestone have been completed and Johnson said thus far, the limestone is of good quality to use in their manufacturing. But Johnson said he is waiting for a second sample from Nicholas' quarry because he feels he needs to run at least one more test to be confident of the first results.

However, as is evident from a sign on Highway 32, a plant will be located in Nicholas County. Johnson said construction should begin within two weeks, but with the holiday season, most of the early work will be somewhat sporadic.

"I hope to have a plant running by mid to late spring," Johnson said.

Eye Openers

By Dr. Robert F. Pretzsch
Optometrist

BABY BLUES

Are you disappointed because your baby's blue eyes are turning brown? Don't be. Most babies are born with blue eyes because there is a lack of pigment at birth in the tissues of the iris, the colored part of the eye. When your baby is a few weeks old, the body begins to produce a pigment that can change the color of the baby's eyes. A small amount of pigment production will leave the baby's eyes blue. The production of more pigment causes the eyes to turn almost aqua. And, as the amount of pigment increases, the color of the eyes change to grey, then hazel and finally, for most babies, to brown.

Generally, the amount of pigment produced in the iris is related to the amount of pigment produced in other parts of the body. That is why there are more blue eyes among fair-skinned blondes and more brown eyes among darker-skinned people.

Heredity plays a large factor in the color of your baby's eyes. Brown eyed babies are just as beautiful as blue eyed ones.

Brought to you as a community service by . . .
Dr. Robert F. Pretzsch, Optometrist
21 S. Walnut, Cynthiana
Call 234-1424 for Appointment

SALE

Energy Saving Storm Doors
Many Styles To Choose From!
• Best Storm Door Warranties
• Solid Wood Core Construction
CR SOLE SEWELL

Pipe Insulation
Protect Water Pipes From Freezing
1/2", 3/4" & 1" Polyethylene, Pre-slit

Save Energy!
Insulate Now Rolls, Batts or Blown
Use Blower FREE
For attics, walls, ceilings and floors

Gas and Electric Water Heaters
IN STOCK

SALE
BATH VANITIES
From $60

Reid & Vice, Inc.
• LUMBER • HARDWARE • PAINT • PLUMBING • ELECTRIC
Carlisle, Ky. 289-7175

KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH

THE CARLISLE MERCURY and Carlisle Drug Present
Your 1989 Christmas Coloring Contest

Prizes
Ages 3-5 Doctor Kit - boy; Nurse Kit - girl
Ages 6-8 Hitchup 4x4 - boy; Doll - girl
Ages 9-10 AM/FM Radio - boy; Pink Headphone Radio - girl

ENTRY BLANK
Please Print
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Age _____ Phone _____
This entry blank must accompany picture and be completed.

Here's What To Do!
Contest Rules ★ Read Carefully
1. The contest is divided into three age divisions: 3-5 years of age, 6-8 years old, and 9-10 years of age.
2. All pictures must be submitted with the complete official entry blank and cut out of newspaper.
3. Entries must be mailed or brought to The Carlisle Mercury by Monday, December 18. Address entries to: Coloring Contest, The Carlisle Mercury, P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311. Entries received after 5 p.m., December 18 will be disqualified.
4. Entries will be judged on the basis of originality and neatness for the child's age group category.
5. The winners will be called and names announced in this newspaper on December 21.