FEATURE AT SIX

Bus ride ends for Atkinson in public life

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Though nicknames are common fare for people in Nicholas County, it is rare for people to acquire one at the moment of birth.

Yet, when Orville Atkinson's father first saw his child he said, "My, he is a buster, isn't he." Eventually shortened to "Bus", Buster has remained with Atkinson ever since.

Now, some 60 years later and after 12 years as magistrate on the Nicholas County Fiscal Court, Atkinson has etched his mark on Nicholas County through his work on the County recreation board and left a part of himself here that will last a good many years.

He will step down from his post as the new 1990 fiscal court takes over in January.

Atkinson was part of the fiscal court that governed this county throughout the 1960s, a court he which he said he thinks has made some very important strides for Nicholas County.

Yet the ride through the eighties has been far from smooth. From the very beginning, being magistrate has been an unending learning process for Atkinson.

He took office in January, 1977 along with a new judge executive, Reese Smoot, and three other new magistrates. Only one magistrate on the board carried over from the previous court.

Atkinson won his seat over three other contenders by a slim 30-vote margin. Though considering the voting populace of his district, the win was significant because each candidate, including the incumbent, had earned a substantial share of the vote, he said.

Atkinson never sat in on a fiscal court meeting before he took office, nor did he have an inkling of what would come up during his term.

There was only one thing he was certain of — he wanted to do his best for the county and represent its residents as well as he could in county government, he said.

It really didn't take long for things to fall into place. The transition actually came about much easier than I expected. On the first meeting, after the greetings and all, we simply got down to business," Atkinson said.

During three terms representing his district, the body of the fiscal court remained fairly constant. In 12 years, he saw only four magistrates come and go through office, Atkinson said.

As court representative of the recreation board, improvements and, changes started slowly.

East End Park was established long before he joined the board, and one thing he admired the board for was its willingness to work voluntarily.

Since he joined the board, East End Park went through a "face lift" of sorts, he said. The tennis courts were black-topped and work had been completed to acquire new lights for the baseball field as well as a new fence.

Members also landed a federal grant for more improvements.

However, the most significant stride the recreation board made during his term was the establishment of West End Park, Atkinson said.

West End Park was primarily the idea of Board Chairman Kenneth Baker, though the general feeling of the recreation board was that another park should be established.

The park was four years in the making. The County donated 10 acres to establish the park, but credit for the park's initial construction goes to all the members of the recreation board, according to Atkinson.

"Most of the work out there was accomplished by people working entirely on a volunteer basis, and considering the relatively low budget we had to work with, I don't imagine there would be anything up there if not for the efforts of a few people to take on a lot of work," Atkinson said.

Bud Lyons and Harvey Clark donated their time to operate the park. Dorlald Robinson built the concession stand, and Eugene Sibert installed the plumbing all with 'little or no pay for their efforts', Atkinson said.

Baker arranged for the ball field to be established. Baker got the National Guard to help grade the land to be used for the field.

"The intention was to dedicate the field in Baker's name, but as far as I know, that has not been done yet," Atkinson said.

Lights, at $1,000 each, for the horse show ring were installed by members of the 4-H branch of the extension office and by members of the Fire Board, mostly on a volunteer basis.

However, aside from his work on the recreation board, Atkinson said his duties of magistrate have been rough, but satisfying.

When asked what the most trying decision he has had to make as magistrate is, without hesitating he said the payroll tax.

"I don't think anyone would disagree the payroll tax has received a lot of public criticism, and I can understand it. Nobody wants to pay more taxes. But the benefits this tax will eventually bring I think outweigh the criticism," Atkinson said.

He gave two reasons he feels the payroll tax has helped the county.

One involves the massive cost of running a county landfill.

"Because the public is not directly involved with it, they do not have an accurate conception of the costs involved," Atkinson said.

State and Federal environmental requirements demand considerable cost in maintaining an acceptable landfill, Atkinson said, and to keep within the parameters set by the EPA, a considerable amount of money must be spent.

However, the payroll tax involves benefits that are not so readily seen by the public, primarily because the tax was only recently enacted.

"When we functioned without the tax the county was barely able to function in the black. We controlled spending, but that meant sacrifices in the quality of county roads and industrial development," Atkinson said.

"With the payroll tax, we have been able to get about $20,000 worth of blacktopping on county roads in each district. This is far more desirable to the patchwork jobs we have been forced to contend with before.

"It has also enabled us to begin bringing water lines to places in the county that were at one time beyond our reach."

Atkinson said it is a time saver because the court is able to avoid the paperwork involved in applying for state and federal grants. To begin to acquire these grants involves about six months of paperwork and meetings alone, he said.

Though no longer involved in the decision making process, Atkinson said he is certain Nicholas County will move forward and progress.

"We don't see the benefits now, but in time, as long as the county and city work together, Nicholas County cannot help but prosper," Atkinson said.

"I appreciate being allowed to serve this county for 12 years and have no regrets about leaving the office. The court has good people coming in. I wish them the best of luck."

Orville "Bus" Atkinson

Merry Christmas
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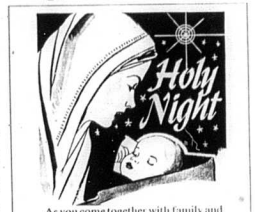
In the rush of the season, have you forgotten to claim God's special gift to you?
We invite you to claim God's gift of love, as we celebrate together the birth of our Lord.
Candlelight Communion Service
First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
100 Catherine Street
Dec. 24 at 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Julie Schmitt Metzger, Minister

New Year's Eve Dance
At Carlisle National Guard Armory
8:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.
5 hours of continuous music
Music By: Sounds Unlimited
Country, 60s, and Rock
$5.00 per person
No Reservations
Refreshments will be available.
Everyone Invited



As you come together with family and friends during this season to rejoice at His birth may we offer our thanks.

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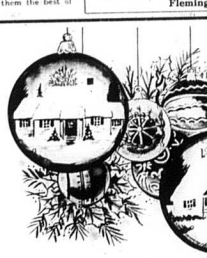

Happy Holidays

...May the scent of pine, glow of lights and happiness fill your home this happy time of Christmas.

Christmas Store Hours:
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
December 21, 22 and 23
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
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GETTING THE WORD TO SANTA

Attention Santa

Every possible effort was made to reproduce the letters to Santa exactly as sent.

Dear Santa,
My name is Paula Jane Fryman. I'm 10 years old and have been a pretty good girl this time.
For Christmas I would like a pair of Eastland's, watch, new baby doll, and some clothes.
Also don't forget my three nieces, they have all been good girls this time. I will leave some milk and cookies under the tree for you.
Love You,
Paula Fryman
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi, my name is Darrin Keith Snapp. I am 5 years old. Mommy and daddy say I have been a very good boy this year. I think so too.
Please try to bring me everything I ask for, you made me very happy last year. Some of the things I want are: a t.v., a pool table, clothes, some Ninja turtles, and a train set, but most of all, I want an electronic guitar.
Please don't forget all the other children in this world. I'm sure they've been good too. See you on Christmas Santa.
I love you.
With Love,
Darrin Keith Snapp
Paris, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi, my name is Brandon and I'll be 2 years old in March. My mommy and daddy said I've been a good boy this year.
For Christmas I would like a play telephone that talks, a new tricycle, some winter clothes and a remote control dump truck.
Please don't forget my two little cousins, John Ross and Chris, they need some clothes and toys too.
Love,
Brandon Jefferson
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi, my name is Clint Austin Riggs. I live at 1666 Headquarters - Saltwell Road. I'm 3 years old. I have tried very very hard to be a good boy this year.
For Christmas I would like for you to bring me a chain saw and drill with hard hat like my daddy wears at work.
Also I would like a Mickey town Railroad Play set, a playschool big bird talking phone, toy chest, basketball set, micro cars and carrying case, toy gun, and some clothes for this winter and any thing else you might think I'll like. I'll leave you a surprise under the tree.
Please don't forget papa and mama in Bedford Ky. and the ones in Moorefield Ky.
Love always,
Clint Riggs
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
This year for Christmas I want the Nintendo game boy with it is the new game Tetris.
And I also want Tennis, and Alleyway. The game boy is portable I take it anywhere. I am getting pictionary, and marble madness.
Joey Kenney
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. I would like to have earphones, telephone, a teddy bear/and candy.
Rachel Ecton
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I would like a little Miss Makeup for Christmas. My brother Robbie would like a Tonka truck. My brother James would like a Tonka tractor.
I would also like some Barbie dolls and clothes for them for Christmas.
Love,
Heidi Lane
Ewing, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I want a football, four wheeler, dominoe rally, baduds, and a play dinosaur. That is all I want. Merry Christmas
Thank you,
Mitchell Hamilton
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I want a dolly surprise and a baby. My sister Rachel wants a Oopsie Daisy.
Yours truly,
Rachel Lynn Brewer
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
My name is Lein and I am four years old. I have a little brother named Chris who is 16 months old. We have both tried to be good this year, but sometimes it's been hard.
I would like to have a doll that cries and says "mama," a PJ Sparkles doll, Little Miss Makeup, My kid Sister, and a Bambi movie.
I would also like some new clothes and anything else you would like to bring. Chris would like to have a cabbage patch babyland kid, a dump truck, a rocking horse, and some toys that he can push. He could also use some new clothes.
Please don't forget mommy and daddy, all my mamaws and papaws. Aunt Beck, and especially Ka and Tam Tam. We will be sure to leave you something special under the tree.
Hugs and kisses,
Leia and Christopher Morris
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
My name is Tyler Tolliver. I am 2 years old. I have been a pretty good boy this year.
For Christmas I would like a Mickey Mouse Circus, a farm set and video tapes of Mickey and friends.
Don't forget my mommy and mamaw and papaw and Nannie. All my aunts and uncles and cousins. And my friends, especially Dorothy Greiner of New Orleans, Louisiana.
Love,
Tyler Tolliver
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I want to have an nintendo and a nintendo game. This game is called Mike Tyson Punch-out you have to get to Mike Tyson he is hard to be beat but I like the tiger. It said on the gameboard, big tiger vs. little mac, I'm mac. But the tiger carries his tiger on his back and I'd also like the fat guy if you hit him somewhere like the heart, that will make him fall down. That's all I want.
I love you Santa.
Love,
Eric Fryman
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I would like a train for Christmas, and a game boy with some nintendo tapes to go with it. And I want a remote control hover craft. I hope you can make little people for my train set.
Love,
David Smoot
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I would like alot super string. Hello Santa. I would like super mario 3. I would like the Typhoon hover craft, and a lot of G.I. Joes, and alot of comic books. I would like the turtle cycle and the turtle blimp.
Paul Baker
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I hope you don't get hurt or anything happens to you. I wish all eight reindeer a safe and happy trip.
Santa, I would like to have a little radio with head phones. Some G.I. Joes and some clothes.
Love,
John Hamilton
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. I hope I get a pair of coveralls for Christmas. I want a race car set. I will leave some milk and cookies on a table by the tree.
Love,
Gary Hawkins
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi. I want a bike for Christmas and a wagon to carry my baby dolls in and a baby buggy.
I wish you have a nice Christmas this year. I hope Rudolph still shines.
I will leave you a cup of milk and cookies. I love you very much I hope you get my letter.
Love,
Roxanne Compton
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I've always loved presents, Christmas tree and snow. I have also been waiting for you to give me and all the toys you are suppose to bring me and everybody else. I would say that everybody would put on a little bit more lights so you can see their house a little better. We always put our Christmas tree up with a star on the top.
Kritin Hobbs
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I want a Oopsie Daisy doll, baby bubbles, a play electric guitar and a Barbie dream house and a Nintendo for Christmas. Hi. Bye.
Your Friend,
Deanna Dawn Buckler
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I would like to have some Barbies and barbie clothes, turtle necks, lil Mrs. Makeup, Micky Mouse sweat shirts and lots of goodies. I will leave you some milk and cookies under the Christmas tree.
Love,
Angela McCarty
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi. How are you. I am fine. I wish I had a nintendo for Christmas. I wish I had a colored t.v. I wish I had a barbie dream house, atari and a rabbit.
Love,
Marcia Denton
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want an electric guitar and a pink bike. I will leave milk and cookies. I also want 5 cassette tapes.
Gretchen Roberts
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi. Santa can I have a barbie dream house. Oh, and a cat and a big Christmas tree would be nice. A song for Santa. Santa Claus in his sleigh saying, ho, ho, ho.
Love Becky Goins
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi. I know it's got to be cold in the North Pole. Would you please bring me a mint ndo tape, electric guitar, a fluffy bear, and a cabbage patch.
I wish you a happy and safe Christmas Day. I am going to put cookies and milk under the tree.
Kathy Jo Schanding
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is a tony hawk skate board and some special skate board pads too. If you had a skateboard what would you do Santa? Would you skate with me please? I want a mini halfepipe with three fingerboards for the halfepipe too. And want about five surprises too.
Bye, bye, Santa,
Aaron Snapp
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I want a baby bubbles. I watched her on t.v. all the time. I like her alot. I want her for christmas. I want a lot of toys for Christmas. I want some toys from my friends. I want some toys from my whole family. I want some clothes for Christmas. I want some other stuff for Christmas too.
Carolyn Flora,
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I would like a toy truck, a book shelf, and tools, a toy gun, real drums, a pet snake, Mike and Steve, my little cousins, Jessica, Jeria, Jenny, and Chris, my friends, 'Ne Ne', Norm, Heather, Ashton, and Christina.
I'll leave you some "goodies" under the tree. Have a safe trip and don't forget to "buckle up".
Your friend,
Kari Beth Stacy
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
My name is Celia Trussell. I've got A's on my report card this semester except one, but it was only a B, and I still think I'm smart enough to bring it up to an A.
I don't care what anyone else says, I still think I'm smart.
I want a Nintendo or a new 20 inch bike.
Miss Herrin is my teacher. Miss Herrin says I am very good.
Don't forget my aunts and uncles or Mom and Dad.
Celia Trussell
Spring Street
Carlisle, Ky

Dear Santa,
My name is George Livingood. I want a record breaker, some baseball cards, a baseball card price book, a few Hot Wheels, a few New Kids On The Block tapes.
George Livingood
Carlisle, Ky

Dear Santa,
My name is Seth Hamilton Sadler and I am six years old.
I have tried to be a good boy this year.
My wishes for Christmas are a bicycle, Nintends games and any other surprises you might want me to have.
Please don't forget my little brother Brendan, who is one year old. He would like a rocky horse, stuffed animal, and any other surprises.
We will leave you some goodies under the tree.
With love,
Seth and Brendan Sadler
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
My name is David Jr. I am four years old. I have been a good boy.
I would like for you to bring me a train set, dunop truck, arrows, and tractor, and a grader. My mommy is writing this letter for me.
I will leave you some milk and cookies under the tree.
Love,
David Thornsburg, Jr.
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
My name is Courtney Lynn Dale and I am four years old. I have tried to be a good girl this year.
I would like for you to bring me a PC Pal computer, Barbie townhouse, Ken doll, Whitney doll, Maxie doll with a Hula Hoop and some doll clothes.
I would also like a Little Miss Makeup and an ironing board. Please Santa, don't forget all my playmates. They have all been good girls and boys too.
I will leave you some cookies and milk and some carrots for Rudolph and all your other reindeer under the tree.
I love you,
Courtney Dale
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
Hi. My name is Kari Beth Stacy. I am four years old and I love on Stoney Creek Road. I have tried so hard to be a good girl this year.
For Christmas this year, I would like to have an Oopsie Dasy doll, a Peelin Fun Barbie, and lots of surprises. My "bubby", Israel, really hasn't made up his mind what he would like to have so just bring him whatever you want.
Please don't forget my mommy and daddy, my grandparents, papaw and mamaw Webb, and Mamaw and papaw Stacy, my uncles, Mike and Steve, my little cousins, Jessica, Jeria, Jenny, and Chris, my friends, 'Ne Ne', Norm, Heather, Ashton, and Christina.
I'll leave you some "goodies" under the tree. Have a safe trip and don't forget to "buckle up".
Your friend,
Kari Beth Stacy
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
My name is Rodney Thomas Trussell. I am in Mrs. Phelan's first grade class. I am seven years old and try my best to be good. It is very, very hard to do sometimes.
If you could I would like for you to bring me a radio controlled car, batteries and a Fred Flintstone bopper bag.
I would also like to have a bow and arrow and a radio controlled airplane.
Please don't forget my brother Roger and my sister Kim. My sister Susan would like a new white Porsche and red Lamborgine.
Your friend,
Rodney Trussell
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
My sister doesn't believe in you. I do and no one, not no one, can tell me different.
For Christmas, I want earrings and a Kroper curling iron, a radio, and Dolly Surprise, Little Miss Makeup.
On Christmas, when you go down the chimney, go in the living room and I have got a present for you.
My sister wants a Cabbage Patch Kid, I do too. We will fix the tree for you.
And wake me up I want to see you and the deer.
Most of all I want to see Rudolph. You better tell the elves to make a lot of toys fast as Christmas is coming the 25th.
Amanda Morris
Mayseville Road
Carlisle, Ky

Dear Santa,
I want the Atari games Tetris, baseball, Top Gun, Soccer, Basketball, Xenophobe, Rampage, Double Dragon, Mike Tyson's Punchout, Exitebike, Ikari Warriors, Contra, Pro Wrestling, Friday the 13th, Kung Fu Heroes, Simon's Quest, Double Dribble, Tomcat, Fester's Quest, Ghostbuster, T and C. Surfboard Design, Skate or Die, Football, Hockey, John Elways Quarterback, The Karate Kid and Ring King.
Jason Swartz
Lower Jackstown Road
Carlisle, Ky

Dear Santa,
I want some school stuff.
Like a 72 box of crayons, three bottles of glue. But there is one thing that I really want. It is not a box of toys, it is not a car, but it is both tapes of Tiffany.
I want ten candy cane pencils and a turbo train set, a lot of story books about God.
One pencil sharpener, Nintendo, a mini skirt and a crayon box and a Barbie.
Love,
Shannon Johnson
Walnut Grove Road
Carlisle, Ky

Dear Santa,
I would like you to give me a Little Miss Dress Up.
I don't know what to write, but a friend of mine says, 'There's no such thing as Santa Claus', but I know there is such a thing as Santa.
I am going to have chocolate chip cookies and egg nog setting on the fireplace.
Melissa Lyon Selvage
Mt. Mariah Road
Carlisle, Ky

Dear Santa,
My name is Ashley McLean. I am four years old. I have been a pretty good girl this year.
Would you bring me a Barbie Corvette Car, a cash register, a doll house, and a soda fountain. That's all I want.
Don't forget to bring mommy and daddy something, mamaw papaw Barbee, Randy and papaw Nick.
Also mamaw and papaw McLean, Aunt Connie, uncle Freddie Kay and Tammy.
Also don't forget all of the homeless kids and orphans.
I'll leave milk and cookies out for you and a carrot for Rudolph. I love you Santa.
Please don't forget my papaw Konney, he's in heaven this Christmas. I want him to get something special.
Ashley McLean
Carlisle, Ky.

Dear Santa,
I want a Nintendo, a T.V., some clothes and shoes, and an icecream maker and an Easy Bake Oven and some socks, a doll, a headphone set, a dog, a cat and some pens, a skateboard, skates, a phone and a radio.
Sharon Buckler
Mayseville Road
Carlisle, Ky

A Christmas of snow, decorations and love

By Gerald Tubbs - December 5, 1989

On a cold and snowy day, when the snow is coming down, you can go out and play in the snow.
You can run in the snow.
Then you can throw snowballs at the snowman.
The you must watch out or you will get hit.
You can go sledding in the snow, too, and you can decorate the house with Christmas lights and put the tree up too.
You can put lights on the tree. I'll peek in the presents.
Celebrate Jesus's birthday.
My family will get together and eat a feast. My family will love each other.

– Gerald is a third grader in Hannah Gabriel's class at Nicholas County Elementary School.