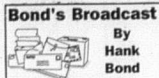


FOCUS



Bond's Broadcast
By
Hank Bond

As we come to the end of a decade there are two types of people, really. There is one group that will constantly want to look back and talk about what has been. The other group is made up of those people who look at what might be, and plan for the future.

As you read this newspaper, hopefully every week, the staff here works diligently to bring you the most comprehensive news and advertising package available to the people of Nicholas County. To do that requires many hours and a great deal of effort. Unfortunately, at times we will miss key events or pictures, but as a rule we try to be everywhere.

That is indeed difficult with the size staff we have. When you consider the state's second largest daily newspaper has an editorial staff eight (8) times larger than our entire staff — that handles everything — you can see the difficulty of the challenge.

You must remember that weekly newspapers and daily newspapers are not all that different, except a weekly only gets to print its edition one time a week.

There are the same editorial responsibilities — the same sales territories, the same general responsibilities, pictures, stories, composition, etc.

At a weekly there is a commitment sometimes not present at larger publications. The people who work at weeklies usually live in the county — or next to it. They don't have a 50 mile commute and go home after a 48-hour shift.

As part of The Mercury's commitment to bringing you the best possible publication, we have added new staff people. Jeff Spradling has been on the staff for a few days as managing editor, and Jeff Rogers is here as general manager.

Each has a commitment to a well-versed, well-planned publication to make it a real value to readers each week.

In addition The Carlisle Mercury Plus contains in-depth feature material, along with news of general interest and information.

Both publications will make some changes in the coming weeks. There will be a shift to targeted information to offer assistance in making some of those big decisions.

Be it a woman planning a wedding to a family planning this year's garden or home improvements, we plan to bring you the best possible editorial information and advertising messages to help you with these projects.

As usual, we welcome information to be used in the publications. Be it a feature story idea, a news story, or a picture opportunity.

Call Jeff Spradling, 289-2464, and he'll make every effort to accommodate our readers' wishes. Sometimes, as you know, time doesn't allow this to happen, but we will do our best.

We wish you the best in the 1990s, and look forward to bringing you these publications every week.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

In The Chigger Patch

With Jeff Spradling

I love small towns. In fact, I rather abhor big cities, even Lexington is too big for my liking. Of course that's the main reason I am working at The Carlisle Mercury and not the New York Times. The Big Apple just holds no appeal for me.

Which brings me to this column. Actually the title is Chigger Patch for this column. Actually the name is one my father picked for a book he wanted to write about the simplicity, joys and impossibilities of rural life.

I think that's an apt description of what it'd like to accomplish as a journalist in this area, or anywhere I go for that matter.

It's the people that I've met, and written about, during the past five years who have made it fun to be a journalist. Don't get me wrong, as any reporter or editor will tell you, there are always a few people who can make the newspaper profession completely miserable. But those moments rarely stay with me. In fact, occasionally I enjoy a good confrontation. It's a reality check that keeps one from getting too high on his horse.

By and large, though, it's been the people I've met in the course of my career who have greatly enriched my life. People like the nice lady who makes cream candy in Grayson every Christmas, the quitter in Mt. Sterling, the old poet in Olive Hill who remarkably resembles Abraham Lincoln and even the little kids who unflinchingly expect you to give them balloons from far away places on their farms.

The old axiom of journalism nearly holds true; the

From Left Field By Josh Shepherd

It has been a strange weekend in Carrollton. People are only beginning to get things in order for the holidays as the last network satellite hookup has moved from the courthouse square, and though the people of the small river town to begin to live their lives again in relative obscurity, as had been their case before they were propelled into unjustified infamy for over two years by the Carrollton bus tragedy.

Yet the grim matters, settled only days ago, have left an impression not even time will conceal. It is an unfortunate situation and though the perpetrator has been punished, justly or unjustly is apparently a matter of opinion, a stigma, as the Courier Journal has said, still remains among the townspeople. I'm not sure how much this stigma is purely the result of journalistic perception and how much truly exists, but I doubt the depth of concern and emotion is felt more deeply in Carrollton than it is for the rest of the nation.

What occurred was no mere morality play because the situation was not, as many people would like it to be, all black and white. In spite of the obvious, the national problem of drinking and driving, the capacity of our justice system to deliver justice instead of appealing extremists was exemplified. The decision Larry Mahoney will serve time, probably the entire 16 years. Those who believe the punishment lenient have heard that 15 years of life taken from them. When it's over, if he survives, no one will recognize him anymore. I have heard many opinions, many from Carrolltonians themselves, but the one thing that strikes me is the general agreement that, though they may not agree with the final verdict, no one ever desires to be in the position of those who comprised the jury.

I was born and raised in Carrollton, and I can say it was one the best homes I have ever had. I hope for Carrollton that anxiety and the unjust guilt may be, hopefully and finally, laid to rest.

On the morning after and for all mornings to come, merchants will open shops for another day, the morning shifts at Doh-Corning and M&T will clock in as the night shifts clock out, with night workers anxious for a good morning's sleep. Farmers will patiently wait out the winter, waiting for the last spring frost to pass, allowing them to begin plowing and sowing seed for the summer growing season.

And vacationers asking the Butler slopes or camping in the spring will come and once in a while venture downtown to take morning breakfast at the Carrollton Inn. And they will ask locals how they the waitress will shake her head, local diners will continue eating, all the time muttering a subconscious prayer that through all of the mess, a permanent lesson has been learned.

Editor's note: The opinion expressed in this column is that of the writer.

news is always the same, it just different people. I have forgotten about most of the stories I've written and many of the names escape me, as well. But chances are if I wrote about you and you jog my memory, I will remember it. Stephen Row never left I could make that claim if I went to a metropolitan paper to report. Instead, I'd be at a desk editing stories or working as the night obituary writer. Add to that the pain of fighting traffic and the smell of car exhaust and you find out why this country boy passed on the opportunity for glamor and glitz.

But, back to the theme of this column: chigger patch. I'll offer you one of my personal chigger patch stories. (Until I was 8 years old, we had an outdoor instead of the fenced-in tennis court. It was never fun going to the thing on winter days. One winter day, I remember it was so cold that my feet froze on the outdoor floor so soon as I hit. I'm not even going to go into how cold the seat was.)

I'm sure many in Nicholas County can relate to this, and there's the theme again: common concerns broad ground. That's what is special about rural life.

Now, it's your turn. I need your help. If you have a Chigger Patch story about yourself or someone you know, I'd like to hear it, as would many other people.

Of course I'm committing myself to something back that may be tough. I won't be able to fall back on politics and world affairs and all those other topics that we so freely express our (sometimes dull) opinions about. No, I'll let you read William Safire (one of my favorites) when he writes about language usage or Mike Royko for that.

This may put me in a real jam when news is slow or if I don't hear from our readers. But that's okay. Call it Catch 22, or call it the Chigger Patch. Who said rural life is easy?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor: Without realizing they are doing it, many Nicholas Countians exemplify the spirit of the Christmas season. They do so by helping others and by helping when help is needed.

Some of these people helped my family the brutal cold of Saturday, December 23rd. I want to express my deep appreciation to them and let others know why.

We found ourselves without even one vehicle that would start on that early Saturday morning, and we're five miles out in the country — a physically challenged child in our home.

My wife needed to get to the Community Center in Carlisle to join with her staff for the 35 children in the Nicholas County Head Start program.

A.D. Payne was the first to come to the rescue. No only did A.D. drive my wife to the Community Center, he also needed to buy what I needed to try to get an auto started.

C.T. McFarland was the next to be so helpful. After the first hours of life taken from them, when it was still no operable vehicle, C.T. drove my wife home from the Community Center.

Later that day, Charles Ring showed the spirit that is Christmas. While I was on my way into Carlisle to pick up needed prescription medicine, the one auto that had been started chose to stop again, right in front of the sheriff's house. Charles gave me a ride, and later — after spending time out in the cold — getting my car running again — he brought the car home.

Then, our closest neighbor, Billy Bromberg, helped us from the front of our house to ask what he could do to help.

And vacationers express appreciation for people like A.D., C.T., Charles and Billy. I do know that such caring and helping is a large part that Christmas ought to be.

Thanks, A.D., C.T., Charles and Billy, and Merry Shildknecht that the future of health care in Kentucky is vitally important. The elimination of CON will fuel price increases, making health care unaffordable to more and more Kentuckians.

Therefore, we urge the Legislature to relate, just improve, CON law in Kentucky. On the other side is Humana's need for pro-sec calling for repeal of the cess.

Stephen Row
President
Blue Cross & Blue Shield

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List Doyle, Assistant to the Publishers
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John Bond, Associate Editor
Lisa Bond, Sales Manager
Carpenter, Start Photographer
Beth A. Bond, Copy Reporter/Photographer
Matt Theis, Editor
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GENERAL NEWS

Visitor experiences.....

Continued from Page 1

However, June said two of the Loos Krathing and the Thailand New Year, the Songkran Festival, held on April 13 is traditionally considered the hottest day in Thailand and the people celebrate the occasion by throwing water on each other.

For the young, Tanai said, water is splashed and thrown, especially to keep people cooled off, but it does no good to the guests, she said.

"Don't say 'do not splash on me,' because it will happen whether they like it or not," she said.

However, amid the liveliness of the day, grandparents and older people do not have water thrown at them.

Instead, families come to gether and have their grandparents in a tub of water, a symbolic gesture of love and respect for elders.

The Loos Krathing is a celebration Dr. Lean and Clinger Riggs say they would like to replicate.

In this time-honored custom, held on the day of the first full moon in November, the people make paper flowers, called Krathing. In the Krathing they place a candle, a bit of fingermeal and a lock of hair. Then they float the Krathing out in the water which, Tanai said, is supposed to take away unhappiness.

"For all the ceremonies June has described to us, this is one we find very special," Dr. Riggs said.

"Since June has come here, I have learned so much of her beliefs I have come to respect them. They are not too different from our own. They believe in love and peace and to help others. The Buddha people see is like our Christ, it is not God, but a symbol of their religion, that's all."

It has only been since she has come to America and gone to church with the Riggs that June has come to understand Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Yet there is one Christmas tradition she finds most perplexing. It involves mistletoe.

"You have to kiss someone because they hold this thing over your head. I can't believe that one. In my country, if someone tried to do that, they would be committed," Tanai said.



The Carlisle Mercury/Jeff Spradling Photo

Christmas shopping

Curly Lester, left, owner of Lester's Family Store in Carlisle, shows a pair of boots to Albert Vice of Nicholas County. Lester and other downtown merchants said the Christmas sales season went well this year. For a story on local sales, please see page 1.



The Carlisle Mercury/Jeff Spradling Photo

Landfill fire

A fire broke out at the Nicholas County landfill December 21 after a dumpster apparently dumped burning trash on the site. The county fire department dumped 3,000 gallons of water on the fire, but it continued to burn into the next day. Fire Chief Mike Hughes said no toxic gases were released from the fire. Here, a court fireman and a bulldozer work to extinguish the blaze.

Cold causes.....

Continued from Page 1

Hughes said.

"There's more fire in this kind of weather because of blankets and coats," he said. "People need to take extra precautions." Hughes said.

Hughes said those who burn wood should be careful when burning, because if a fire starts, it can spread quickly.

Hughes said that, when the weather is so cold, it's important to take precautions when using wood-burning stoves.

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Best of Luck

To all who are young in heart: warmest New Year Greetings for the best year ever.

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PEACEFUL NEW YEAR
City of Carlisle

GOOD LUCK GOOD CHEER GOOD HEALTH

May this happy holiday spirit sing in your hearts from one end of the new year to the other. Share the good times with those dear to you.

Rep. Adrian & Delma Arnold

Deposit Bank of Carlisle will be closed Saturday, December 30, 1989

May this New Year be a holiday to remember, filled with the charm of new-found hope and happiness. Our gratitude to the kind, generous people we serve.

"Your Next Door Neighbor"

Deposit Bank of Carlisle