FOCUS



It's time to get serious

Across Kentucky, and in most states for that matter, the economic trends have shifted buying from the small towns to the large towns.
Certainly, up to now, there has been a certain

amount of retail trading in Carlisle to allow businesses to stay open. But, the trend has been to send the business dollars up the road in multiple directions and slowly retard the growth of local

It goes without saying if this was a perfect ord everyone would succeed at everything, but that's just not the case.

From day to day everyone feels the frustra-

tions of fighting the economic circumstances of living in today's society, but remember so do the business owners in your town. Can you imagine not having a retail community

n Carlisle? Nothing but houses.

It isn't a pretty site. As a matter of practice I have gone and seen that happen. I have seen towns with several retail establishments, grocery stores, bus service, dwindle to nothing. Why? Because the economic factors shifted

and people took business elsewhere.

This weekend at least 18 businesses in Carlisle are participating in a retail promotion designed to bring an economic movement to-

ward the city.

The stores have reduced prices and are oflering specials, while there has been a variety of

entertainment planned.
In addition, Saturday a portion of the street will be allocated to hold a farmers' market, where area farmers will be able to bring produce and sell from the back of their trucks.

This has a two-fold-benefit. One the farmers interested will be allowed to One, the farmers interested will be allowed to generate some cash flow and secondly, those of us without large gardens - or no gardens - can purchase fresh from the garden stuff. It's a total effort - a statement - that these

people want your business and I urge you to move some of your retail dollars back into this

It's a matter of survival for everyone con-

cerned.

If you think not – shut your eyes and imagine every business in Carlisle with dark windows and out-of-business signs across the front.

Statistics show only 29 to 33 percent of the spendable income in Nicholas County is spent in Nicholas County, with the remainder disbursed cholas County, with the remainder disbursed

in many areas.

What price is too high to protect what you

Try living where there is no business community, I have. It isn't pleasant. And worst of all, it doesn't happen all at once, it happens one busi-

ness at a time . . . slow . . . agonizing.
I urge you to visit Carlisle again, make friends and shop in your merchants' stores.

and shop in your merchants' stores.
For those of you who say you simply can't find everything you want in Carlisle, fine. Go out of lown and buy what you can't find here.

But do two things first.
One – ask the merchants if they can obtain what you want or need within a reasonable time.
Two – think about the consequences if you

And so, for this week, thanks and The Carliele Mercury

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Josh Shepherd From Left Field

There are few people in this world that are quoted more than once. Most times a person gives it one shot and the words they say are mehow carried on through the written or

Every one should know Thomas Paine's rousing "Give me Liberty or give me Death" or Nathan Hale's final words, "I regret that I have but one life to give for my country". These are stirring words of patriotism given at a time when people needed the kind of adrenaline boost they needed to defeat the

But the sharpest of wits in history have a long list of quips that even today continue to enter into our language. They are the best of cliches, though for the most part, they do not impart the same type of implied inner wisdom as, say, "The early bird gets the

But there are very few people who haven't once turned to a child and said, or wished they had said, "Get away, kid, you're botherin' me" or, when facing a dilemma, thought, "On the whole I'd rather be in

Certainly W.C. Fields is not quoted as much as he probably used to be, and yet many of his phrases have entered into a list of classic quips that are as poignant and funny today as then.

Strangely though, there is one other, whom most have never seen, and yet nearly rerything he said has become almost neo-

There are very few people in the United States who have not heard and enjoyed the voice of Mel Blanc. He has been a voice for cartoons almost since the beginning of animation.

It is unfortunate most news media chose

to identify the man as strictly the voice of famous cartoon characters. In every publication I read there was no mention at

publication I read there was no mention at all of Blanc's work with one of the greatest of all comedians, Jack Benny. Blanc appeared several times on Benny's radio show as well as making one of the funniest guest appearences on Benny's television show as the head of a Mexican mariachi band who only said Si, Cy, Sew, and Sue. (I've found trying to relate a comis sketch second-hand often loses something in the telling, so suffice it to say, it was darn

But in today's context, I guess there are very few people around who know much wery tew people around who know index more than Blanc was, in part, responsible for such noted exclamations as Sufferin' Succotash, Great Horny Toads, or the last utterance of a greedy, sneaky little black duck, "You're... You're Despicable."

And need we forget "Blyah, er augh thppt, brr, graahh" in fluent Tasmanian.

The man knew how to make those ink

drawings talk. And of course Bugs Bunny's introductory and of course Bugs Bunny's introductory line which, it being quoted by nearly everyone else writing their own Mel Blanc epitaph, need not be even be mentioned.

The list of characters extends beyond Warner Brothers into some of Hanna-Barbara's best characters. I was surprised to find out, for instance, he was Barney Rubble.

Before there were Smurfs, Care Bears, G.I. Joe, or any other cartoon character with their own line of over-priced accessories in the local toy store, Mel Blanc gave his talents to the best animators in the world. There will never be another entertainer like him nor will there be another comedian who will endure for as long as he because most are limited to the times they live in, where Blanc's voice, however it may sound, will entertain us, and our children, for many years to come.

MERCURY MEMORIES

5 Years Ago
Thurday, Joly B, 1989
Mrs. Wand Datan has been appointed Nicholas unexpired term of Lamp.
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GENERAL NEWS

Election

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Left to right back, Joe Boots, Dee Buckler and Johnny Tapp look on as VFW Comman David Wilcoxson presents a check for \$500 from the local post to Shirley Vice, Directly the Carlisle-Nicholas County Senior Citizens Center, for use at the center. The presention was made at the regular VFW meeting last week. - Hank Bond Photo

Carlisle Council approves Carnico annexation

Carlisle Council, by

Mark Nerpleard

Carlisle City Council, by

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