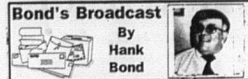


FOCUS



Bond's Broadcast
By Hank Bond
School's starting and I am glad

Although this may bring a chorus of boos and grunts from the majority of those school aged children facing the opening of school... I am glad. Why, should someone out of public education's system for 21 years be glad to see school start? It is relatively simple.

The people of the State of Kentucky have yelled for a change in Kentucky's educational system and now with the School Reform Act of 1990 (which it will affectionately be called) will come into play for this school year. While certainly some of the details won't be worked out for about two, three or five years, the basics are in place for the changes this has mandated.

When exactly will it mean? That's a question only time will tell. There are some concerns, though, as already problems have begun to crop up in the workings of the new plan.

Two weeks ago I had the opportunity to speak briefly with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, Senator Nelson Allen. Nelson has been a friend of over 20 years and has been an educator longer than that.

Even as an elected official his "off the court duties" include the administration of two elementary schools in the Russell Independent School District. He too has some concerns about the implementation of this new legislation. First, he agrees, there was way too much for one regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly to consider... thus there may be some repair work done in the next session of the legislature. But, before that, we'll have to deal with things the way they are now.

The gray area of 13 days from July 1 through July 13 allowed many school systems to get things put in place that may not be what the legislation intended. The actions taken by school boards during that period may come under a close look for months to come. Nothing specific yet, but it'll come out if things don't appear to be right.

Next is the complete shift of power the legislation brought about. It would be fine if there were no problems before, but as you are well aware in many Kentucky school systems there were a lot of problems... and this change may make it worse.

The legislation attempts to eliminate the hiring of relatives within a school system if one of the people hired holds an administrative or elected position. That's all fine, but I can quickly see where there may be some problems in that area.

Why should a school system be forced to not hire someone JUST because of relation? I can't see that. If a child does exceptionally well in high school... goes on to college and hovers near the top of his or her respective college class in education preparation... and then wants to come home to teach in order to repay the quality education received... you can see this presents a real problem.

There will be more and more come to the front as weaknesses in the newly placed system.

I had one person argue that the legislature had six months before the session to study and plan for the legislation and would have been ready. I can't agree with this position.

How can a state take 200 years to break a system and a group of individuals be expected to make recommendations to fix it after spending only six months?

Only time will tell how efficient and reasonable the legislation is... and how well it will work under the current guidelines set up, but in the long run only time will tell.

With all the trappings, though, I still look forward to the opening of school to see just how well this will all work.

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

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City opens streets for some crusin'; town's merchants promote event

By Mark Paxton
Associated Press Writer
WILLIAMSON, W.Va. (AP) — Teenagers with time on their hands and gas in their tanks poured into this coal town for its first officially sanctioned Cruisin' Night, turning the narrow streets into a kind of Appalachian Gremlin.

Whether riding in Topo sports cars, sitting on the tailgates of parked pickup trucks or just standing on the street corner sipping free soft drinks, the teenagers set out an age-old scene Friday night.

You drive around and holler at some girl and park, and they come by and see you and pull in and talk to you," said Freddie Anderson, 16, of Betty, Ky., as he sat on the roof of his Camaro, gazing cars full of young women.

City officials and merchants conceived Cruisin' Night after officials in several other cities cracked down on cruisers, enforcing traffic and loitering laws to keep the teens on the run. Prizes were awarded in four categories: "Best Looking Cruiser Car," "Best Looking Cruiser Truck," "Loudest Cruiser" and "Best Vanity Plate." Other prizes were awarded based on random drawings from registrations at the end of the three-hour event.

The teenage traffic jam resembled scenes from the movie town in the early 1960s.

Downtown Williamson was packed Friday night with teenagers, and occasionally with elder drivers who found themselves caught in the bumper-to-bumper traffic, sometimes with panicked expressions.

As the sun went down, the Topos came off and the car stereo came on. The strains of the rap song "Pump Up the Jam" filled the air.

Some drivers parked their cars and trucks and watched the others drive up two blocks on Second Avenue, left one block on Pike Street, down two blocks on Third Avenue and left one block on Harvey Street, ready to begin the circuit again.

A line of cars stretching across two bridges into Kentucky went to join the parade.

It gets pretty boring after a while, but there's nothing else to do here," said Heather Cannon, 15, as she sat on the tailgate of a pickup truck in the Williamson Daily News parking lot. "This is it."

Richard Foster, 20, said he and the half-dozen young men with him would come down downtown even though the Cruisin' Night promotion.

"We've always here," said Foster, a weekend cruiser for five years. City police Sgt. R.E. Pyrite, walking his beat, said the promotion appeared to bring the teenagers downtown a little earlier than usual but said there was no trouble.

Friday and Saturday nights, the kids mainly come here about 10 o'clock and cruise, but not to the extent it tonight," he said.

As the cruisers cruised Friday night, several adults watched from park benches outside the Mingo County Courthouse.

ney, littering teens this summer by strictly enforcing traffic regulations. Across the Topo drive from Williamson in South Williamson, Ky., police have taken steps to block cruisers from congregating in a mall parking lot.

But Colin Berry, president of the Williamson merchants' association and one of the fathers of Cruisin' Night, declined to criticize anyone who wants to put the brakes to cruising.

"It's not up to me to judge what someone else should do," he said. "Different towns have different problems."

Tourism Talk

The renovation of the old county jail for a visitors center moved closer to reality last week. The project has been awarded a \$3,500 grant from the Heritage Council in Frankfort, Kentucky. This brings the total monies designated to the jail project to \$15,500. In addition, the local National Guard unit has promised 992 man hours plus equipment on the renovation. These hours are counted as a kind of service and add up to over \$7,000. The final approval for the Guard's help must come from Governor Wallace Wilkinson. The Tourism Division is hoping that Gov. Wilkinson will give his sanction soon so the work may begin.

Letters from local residents written to Gov. Wilkinson seeking his swift action on allowing the National Guard to work on this local project would be very helpful.

The news of the grant from the Heritage Council is very exciting. One nearby town had to reapply two times on their grant making it three years before they received any monies from the Heritage Council.

The Tourism Division attributes a large part of the success in receiving monies to the excellent preparatory work submitted by Ronn Bank, project architect. Mr. Bank's proposal to the Heritage Council was thorough and precise.

The Tourism Division is very appreciative of Mr. Bank's level of involvement in the renovation of the jail building.

Another thank you is extended to the Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce for allowing the Tourism Division to form under its auspices.

Since organizing the Tourism Division has found that it is imperative to secure a nonprofit status. Most of the grant monies available from the state are available only to nonprofit groups. To become a nonprofit organization it was necessary to become a separate incorporated entity. The Tourism Division, through the assistance of Jack Conley, filed for and has received incorporation status.

The new name of the group is Carlisle-Nicholas County Tourism, Inc. The process of seeking nonprofit status has begun. Many thanks to the Chamber of Commerce for allowing the Tourism Division to be a part of its organization if only for a short time. Tourism Talk is submitted by the organization.

Publication Deadlines
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MERCURY MEMORIES

5 Years Ago
Thursday, August 1, 1985
The 45th annual Nicholas County Fair is underway at the new National Guard Annex.

David McMillen Principal at Nicholas County High School for the past seven years, submitted his resignation to the board of education Monday night.

Blair night has spread to virtually every area of Nicholas County, Mike Phillips, county extension agent for agriculture told The Mercury this week.

Candace Renee Wilkins, July 14, 1985; Larkin Keith Thomas, July 20, 1985; Michael Thomas Cox, July 27, 1985.

MARRIED: Miss Gaylene Fryman to Richard John Polk Jr., July 6, 1985; Miss Jacqueline Ezell to Mitchell Cheek Jr., July 7, 1985.

DIED: Mrs. Orville Doyle, July 29, 1985; Mrs. Elsie Stone Hensley, July 29, 1985; Mrs. Florence Conyers Snead, July 29, 1985.

10 Years Ago
Thursday, July 31, 1980
Nicholas Countians had a front end bumper crash this century in Kentucky Sunday.

It likely anyone will want to repeat performance as an earthquake shook the county on Sunday.

The Nicholas County property tax roll will be open for inspection from August 11 until August 15, Nicholas County Property Valuation Administrator announced last week.

BORN: Jeffrey Lee Market, July 22, 1980; Derrick Wayne Myner, July 27, 1980; Jason Monroe Denton, July 20, 1980.

MARRIED: Miss Sarah Allen Kingston and Mr. Stephen Allen Petersen, August 2, 1980.

DIED: Joseph B. Delaney, 72, August 4, 1980; J.K. Moffat, 65, August 4, 1980; John T. Workman, 57, August 3, 1980; John L. Bean, 63, July 28, 1980; Samuel James Isaac, 80, August 5, 1980.

20 Years Ago
Thursday, July 30, 1970
The Sycamore Hill apartments the local FHA housing project, are now renting according to local sponsors.

MARRIED: Sarah Vaughn, Joseph H. Conley and Billy Gubbers, members of the Nicholas County Drug Education Committee, attended a two-day drug education training program held last Thursday and Friday at the National Institute of Mental Health Clinical Research Center in Lexington.

BORN: James Kenneth Stapp, July 23, 1970; Harold Lee McKee, July 24, 1970; John L. McCreary, July 24, 1970; Neal Thomas Metcalfe, July 20, 1970.

DIED: Mrs. Loda Barton, 87, July 27, 1970; Claude M. Groves, 79, July 23, 1970.

40 Years Ago
Thursday, August 3, 1950
Miss Doris Cloyd, administrator and Miss Thelma Meyer presented the commission was held this week.

Voters to face
Continued from Page 1
consideration that lawmakers must take into account. They made some recommendations that will never be considered by the General Assembly," Meyer said.

Meyer pointed out that the commission was also sensitive to pressing topics.

The panel's number one recommendation called for creation of an Emergency Budget Board. It would convene when revenue estimates fall short and have the authority to make budget cuts.

This recommendation came after several consecutive years of budget shortfalls, said Meyer, something that has not been a problem for the last two years.

Similarly, the fifth priority of the commission would have been to restrict revenues for punitive and non-essential items, but he topped a few years ago.

There has to be some immediate... in order to put these amendments on the ballot and get them adopted," Meyer said. Some of the commission's recommendations have been addressed in different ways.

Others on the commission's list would have the superintendent of public instruction appointed by a state board of education that had seven of its members elected and six appointed. A similar amendment was defeated by the voters in 1986, but the 1990 education reform package strips the authority of the superintendent and gives it to an appointed commission of education.

Voters in 1988 approved an amendment to let mayors in first and second class have successive terms.

The commission's 15th priority, to allow a state-sanctioned lottery, passed in 1988.

Others on the commission's list would seem no more pressing than the legislature's selections.

The fourth priority of the commission was to eliminate many specific regulations on corporations from the constitution and have general power to the legislature to regulate companies.

Henry Stephens, dean of the Chase Law School at Northern Kentucky University and a member of the commission, said he could not criticize the proposed amendments placed on the ballot by the legislature this year.

Stephens said the commission offered its list of changes as a sort of menu to the legislature that would allow it to pick and choose.

"I think it was contemplated that the legislature would sort of play it hot luck," Stephens said.

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Nicholas County Farm Bureau

will hold its Annual Meeting and Fish Fry on Thursday, August 2, 1990 at the Carlisle Armory

The Fish Fry will start at 6:30 p.m. with the business meeting beginning at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$2.00 each and can be purchased at the Farm Bureau Office or at the gate.

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