

FEATURE AT SIX

West end business has been many things to many local people

By Bob Shugart
The Carlisle Mercury

It is already bringing changes to Carlisle, as a 28-year-old building expands to Nicholas County's first 24-hour food mart and gas station.

When Richard Cox built the eight building in 1952 to rent, he got it in the hands of Dorcas and Peanut Allison, where it became a successful small restaurant with gasoline service.

A offered gasoline, but few came to the building for refueling. Instead it was the warm comfort of a small restaurant, where regulars knew each other and people could spend an hour to enjoy home cooking and a relaxing atmosphere.

However, after several years of good business the Allisons sold their equipment to Leah Henry.

The restaurant transferred to many hands throughout the 60s. Throughout that time, a bulk gasoline plant was still in operation.

The plant, essentially, was designed to take gasoline directly to customers and for the operation was auc-

County

Continued from Page 1
normal maintenance of state roads. The remaining funds, about \$107,000, may be used for road improvement.

Rhodes said he would recommend spending part of the money for improvement of about six miles of Ky. 57, the Moorefield Milltown road.

Each magistrate indicated roads in their particular district they would like to see money used for, but neither Keith nor the magistrates "have the final say."

"I make recommendations, but Frankfort has the final say in where the money will be used," Keith said.

Magistrate Daryl Stacy sparked discussion about extending an old county road located near the old Myers Station being built.

Stacy said two of his constituents are planning to locate two trailers about a quarter mile beyond where the county road ends.

However the question arose whether it is a county road. Conley said the road has not been sufficient a long time.

According to local government statutes, if the court decides to plumb a county road, ownership of the land reverts to the original owners, until the court decides to put the road back into operation.

"If it is a county road, then the court should supply rock to the road," Conley said.

The court tabled its decision until an accurate determination of the road can be made.

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cessful. However, according to Hester Allison, the restaurant has been a little bit of every thing to many people, but it has always been a business house.

"People have said it's a landmark in this town, and though the new store will be an improvement, many people are going to hate to see this building go," Allison said.

J. H. Layart took the business over early into the 70s and operated it as a restaurant until he could no longer get help in running it.

It was hard to get employees to stay and though the business was good, I couldn't run it effectively when it kept being understaffed," he said.

Therefore, under great criticism from restaurant patrons, Layart changed the restaurant into a gasoline and grocery store.

But, from a business stand point, the decision to change was a sound one, Layart said.

"I was under contract to pay \$150 a month of I sold under 5,000 gallons of gas. However,

If I went over that, I only paid \$15," Layart said.

While the restaurant was in operation, gas consumption barely reached over 2,000 gallons. But when the grocery came in, people began to wait in line for gas.

"I was putting between 12 to 15,000 gallons a month," Layart said.

However, in 1977, Layart sold the business and moved

to Myers Station Road. However, the building's days as a restaurant were far from over.

Though never to be the car top Dorcas and Peanut Allison started, Robert Costery bought the place in the late 70s and re-opened a restaurant named Bob's Drive-In.

The restaurant existed but a few years before it closed.

In 1982, ownership of the

store came into the hands of Freda and Charles Allen Sparks.

In a 1987 Carlisle Mercury interview with the couple, Freda Sparks said their West End Market would change with the times, not knowing then how quickly those changes would come.

In a short time, the old building will disappear to make room for the new Shell

Food Mart and Gas Station. It has grown and altered in business services offered, now it will change to form. Four pumps will replace two and a wider selection of goods will be offered.

However, for the people who have known the building since Richard Cox had it built, it will always be a good business prospect.



The old West End Market, left, and new Shell Food Mart. The Carlisle Mercury/John Shephard

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