FOCUS

BOND'S BROADCAST

By Hank Bond

Very little happens in a county the size of Nicholas County without the word spreading pretty fast.

Such is the case with Nicholas County. When the fire siren goes off, or an ambulance goes through town at our house, like many in Carlisle, the call goes out to "Turn up the scanner."

It's events like these, no matter if it is once a week or four times in a day, which brings back the reality it could happen to any of us . . . any time.

Carlisle has one of the best "spread it on the street networks" I have ever seen.

Take a look at this: A stranger stops out at Berry's or Beatty's to get a little gas and before hitting the east city limits 47 people know there's stranger in town.

I guess Carlisle is no exception to this, and as the old timers will tell you — and I'm not really all that far away myself — "It's always been that way."

I had a most interesting visit from a former resident of Nicholas County — now a sun drenched Californian — Phillip Lowe. A resident of Anaheim, California, he is back in Carlisle for a visit and stopped by the office to renew his subscription to The Mercury. Although he graduated from Hazel Green Academy he still has ties to the area and looks for names he knows from Nicholas County and the surrounding area.

I will admit I tried to get Phillip to explain to me how in the world he would live somewhere that could fall off into the ocean at any minute, or split apart and gobble him up, but he just smiled.

We have occasion to talk to a lot of people as they come in and out of the office. Some stop by to complain, some do not.

Two of the hottest topics I have encountered in the past few weeks have been taxes and taxes.

No one appears very happy with increased taxes, but it appears there's little relief in sight.

You know, with things going the way they are now, it wouldn't surprise me in the least to have the next batch of taxes we have to absorb from the federal level be a tax on the taxes taken out.

That's right take federal income taxes out of our checks, social security, state tax, county tax, and add them all up — and then levy a 5 percent tax on that, taking that amount away from what was left over when the first group of taxes was taken out.

If our government operated in a little more efficient manner it wouldn't be so hard to take a look at the tax bite, now would it?

No matter how much or how little we make it seems to be decreased rapidly by the drain from the tax collector.

I have a question no one has ever seemed to ponder.

If the U.S. Congress and the President can't agree on the budget legislation pretty soon and government operations come to a screeching halt — will we still have to have taxes taken out of our checks?

You bet we will!

And so, for another week, thanks and thirty.

Publication Deadlines

Letters To The Editor .....5 p.m. Friday
News Items, Display Advertising ..5 p.m. Monday
Classified Advertising.....10 a.m. Tuesday

Errors and Omissions

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The Carlisle Mercury
(USPS 090-820)
Winner of over 300 State and National Awards For Excellence
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Phone 606-289-2464

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• Press Association Award Winners

The Carlisle Mercury
Postmaster:
Send address changes to: The Carlisle Mercury, (090820) P.O. Box 272, Carlisle, KY 40311
The Carlisle Mercury is owned by The Carlisle Mercury, Inc, 234 N. Locust Street, Carlisle, KY 40311, and is published each Thursday at its offices on Locust Street in Carlisle, KY. Subscription rates are $15.90 per year in Nicholas County; $19.08 in all other Kentucky counties, and $25 per year out-of-state. All subscriptions are payable in advance. Entered as second class mail in the Post Office at Carlisle, KY 40311.

Read Between The Lines

By Kara Read

Who's to say that a city mouse can't come to the country?

Although I'm not from the Big Apple, this town is considerably smaller than what I am used to.

I grew up not two miles from downtown Cincinnati. We were so close to the river we could hear the cheers from the ball games in Riverfront Stadium and the music of the calliopes from the Delta Queen when she made her trip to the Queen City each summer.

I always feel it necessary, however, to make it clear to people that I am not from Ohio.

I am a Kentuckian, born and bred, as the saying goes. Being from Covington, or any part of Northern Kentucky, can sometimes cause people to see us as something other than Kentuckians.

Although I can't speak for every Northern Kentuckian, most people where I come from are as proud to be from this state as any other Kentuckian I have met. We're just the city variety of Kentuckians.

Most people outside of the Cincinnati area consider Northern Kentucky to be a part of Cincinnati. I, on the other hand, think of Cincinnati as being part of Kentucky.

I love this state at least as much as any other Kentuckian. I just don't know much about the rural way of life.

The house I grew up in, the same house where my grandfather was raised, was probably not 10 feet from the house on either side of it. We had a long narrow backyard, bigger than most on the block, but still only about 45 feet wide and 100 feet long.

We had professional baseball, football and even hockey for a while, just across the river.

I am a city kid through and through.

But like any Kentuckian, I was raised to love this state and everything in it, especially University of Kentucky basketball.

My dad was absolutely thrilled when I chose to go to UK.

I once jokingly asked my dad if I could go to the University of Tennessee. He said sure, as long as I didn't come home again.

So moving here wasn't a change for me as far as Kentucky pride is concerned. It was a change for me because I don't know the rural way of life. The smallest town I have spent any time in is Lexington, and Lexington is pretty large compared to Carlisle.

I am learning the ways of the community though. For example, I now know what a bird shoot is and I understand a little more about farming and tobacco.

I'm also learning to appreciate the beauty of the country. I don't ever think I will be able to appreciate the beauty of a large spider trying to make it's home in my apartment, but, I have to admit, rural Kentucky has its own distinctive appeal.

I have been to some of the most gorgeous areas around this county on my bike and I am becoming accustomed to the more relaxed way of life.

The people tend to be a little friendlier as well and there are some things you can do here that you just can't do in the city.

Last week I got a call from my future brother-in-law, Don, while I was at work. Since my sister's wedding is less than one month away and I'm the maid of honor, we've been giving the phone company a lot of business lately.

What was so unusual about him calling me at work was that neither of them had my work phone number.

Don, being the enterprising young man that he is, called information but couldn't remember the name of the newspaper. Instead he got the number for the Nicholas County Library.

When he called there no one answered so he came up with an idea.

He dialed 606-289 and made up four numbers to finish it off. He has no idea whom he called, but sure enough, that person was able to tell him the number of the paper.

That's just one reason this city mouse might enjoy a stay in the country.

Plain Talk

By Tim Jones

Taxes.

The word causes screaming and cursing and turns mild, mannered people into homicidal maniacs.

I have heard a good deal of this in the county lately due to increased tax assessments and the school tax increase. While I can't speak to the increased assessments, I can speak about school taxes with some knowledge. And not only the taxes but the reason why it was done.

The school board raised the tax rate in this county to provide the type of education the state mandated. The Commonwealth of Kentucky, or rather the courts of the state, ordered a fundamental change in the way schools were financed and ran. The reason for the order was obvious, clear and painful.

Kentuckians, as a group, have never put much stock in education. This has been the case since the Civil War and led to Kentucky's poor showing when the nation was ranked as a whole. Kentucky has traditionally been near the bottom of almost every list dealing with education. We have more dropouts, more undereducated people and more illiterate people than almost any other state.

Something was wrong.

The Kentucky court system, from the Franklin Circuit Court to the State Supreme Court, decided Kentucky's system of financing schools was not only wrong but also unconstitutional. Sixty-six county districts brought suit against the state because there was no equality in the educational levels of Eastern Kentucky and the public schools of suburban Louisville, Lexington and Northern Kentucky, for example. The courts decided there should be equality and the legislature put this thought into law with the Educational Reform Act, mandating drastic change and a significant increase in the amount of money Kentuckians had to pay for their children's education.

To do this, the legislature took power out of the local boards' hands and ordered certain funding levels to be met. Not only did certain levels have to be met but in order for the school system to qualify for building programs and other future necessities, there had to be more than a minimum level. Nicholas County raised the property tax rate to 44.2 cents per $100, raised the motor vehicle tax to 54.3 and imposed a three percent utility gross receipts tax. The rest of Kentucky's counties did basically the same thing. With all the school board did, Nicholas County is still 93 on the funding list of Kentucky's 176 school districts.

I am not arguing here for Nicholas County to be first on the list or in the top 10 or top 20. Limited resources have to be taken into account and I don't believe it's realistic to expect a small system to be really high. A small system should do the best it can to finance the schools and this is what the board did.

I can understand people being mad about taxes but let's be mad about the right things. Let's be mad about the $600 million of the $1.2 billion Educational Reform Act that went for pork barrel projects. Let's be mad about the money the Kentucky Lottery was supposed to generate for schools and never did. Let's be mad about a thousand worthless politicians on the state and federal level who spend money on a thousand dumb projects. Be mad about the National Endowment for the Arts getting millions of dollars so people can take pictures of other people doing what some consider obscene things. Be mad about the money the Pentagon throws away every year. But don't be mad about the money we spend to educate children.

I am, in general, a fiscal and social conservative. I believe the government is involved in too many parts of our lives now. I believe it spends money for misguided programs. Education and its reform, in Nicholas County, in Kentucky and in the nation, is what government and people should spend money on.

Because Kentucky has been so negligent in education, our bill has come due all at once. The only people we can really blame are ourselves for attending by and watching things get so out of hand in the first place.

MERCURY MEMORIES

5 Years Ago

Thursday, October 17, 1990

A total of 335.00 pounds of walnuts have been hulled at Wells' Produce since September 20.

As a convenience to participants in the 1985-86 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), the Kentucky Department for social Insurance will operate temporary HEAP application sites in 55 counties, including Nicholas.

The Nicholas County Junior Bluejackets came within an inch of victory here Monday night but had to settle for a 14-14 tie with Richmond Madison.

BORN: Jessica Denise Shannon, October 5, 1985.

DIED: Willie H. Mattox, 67, October 11, 1985;

10 Years Ago

Thursday, October 16, 1980

An area Displaced Homemakers Program at UK's Lexington Technical Institute now serves 11 Kentucky counties.

Farmers Home Administration County Supervisor James A. Letcher and his staff last week helped set the Agency's statewide plan for investing some $350 million through its farm, housing, community and business/industry programs in fiscal year 1981.

BORN: Larry Edgar Bowles, Jr., October 4, 1980; Beatrice Nicole Faulkner, September 21, 1980; Amanda Fay Prater, September 30, 1980; Paul Warren Baker, October 8, 1980.

DIED: Garland C. Swartz, 63, October 7, 1980; Mrs. Florence Russell Claypool, 92, October 7, 1980; Bob West, 54, October 7, 1980; Mrs. Ada F. Saunders, 56, September 29, 1980; Mrs. James W. Lee, 49, October 5, 1980.

20 Years Ago

Thursday, October 15, 1970

William F. Threlkeld, representative of the U.S. Department of Agricultural Soil Conversation Service in Nicholas County since 1955, will retire October 15.

The Carlisle United Methodist Church Revival begins on Monday evening, October 19, and continues through Sunday, October 25.

The Junior Fellowship of the Carlisle United Methodist Church and their parents visited Aldersgate United Methodist Church Camp at Pitchburg in Estill County Saturday, October 10.

BORN: Kimberly Dawn Fryman, October 11, 1970; Lisa Denise Cobb, October 11, 1970.

MARRIED: Miss Patricia Ann Snapp to Mr. Jerry Lynn Brannock, September 27, 1970. Miss Vickie king to Eugene King, September 19, 1970.

DIED: Mrs. Mattie Asbury, 92, October 9, 1970; Joe J. Burden, 81, October 8, 1970.

40 Years Ago

Thursday, October 19, 1950

Rudy Pittman and Miss Mary Margaret Hutchings, purchased the Nicholas Locker Plant on West Main.

Mrs. Cleo Dawson Smith will review the current Broadway stage show, "South pacific' at the first meeting of the Carlisle Women's Club.

Pfc. Everett C. Vice, was one of 15 Kentucky graduates of the new class of Security Patrol Air Police, October 14.

BORN: To Mr. and Mrs. H.T. Allison, a son, Monday; To Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Gayle Fryman, a son , October 11, 1950. To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Thomas Gillispie, a daughter, October 6, 1950; To Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ockerman , a daughter, Tuesday.

MARRIED: Miss Wida Campbell of Lexington, to E.C. Flora, October 10; Miss Dorothy Frances Rawlings to William Nathan Young Jr., Saturday.

DIED: J.R. Logan, 68, Sunday; Pearce west, 52, Monday; Mrs. Emma Treats Mitchell, 84, Friday; Charlie Oldham, Tuesday; Mrs. Mary Crockett Conway, 71, Saturday; John William Cartmel, 39, Sunday; George Thaddeus Lail, 55, Monday; Gay T. Shrout, Monday in Mt. Sterling.

50 Years Ago

Thursday, October 17, 1940

John Rebel, owned by Roger Womack of Carlisle, won the derby of the 11th annual field trials of the Central Kentucky Foxhunters Association at Flemingsburg Tuesday.

A total of 92 men were registered in Nicholas County Wednesday, placing themselves at their country's call for military training in the first draft registration ever conducted in America during peacetime.

Contract for the construction of the post office building in Carlisle has been awarded to a Kansas firm.

MARRIED: Miss Jean Palmer Myers of Carlisle and James H. Robinson of Danville, October 10 ; Miss Pauline Judge of Nicholas County and Shanklin Boyd Cannon of Bethel, Saturday; Miss Wilma Letcher and Herbert McClanahan, October 5.

DIED: Samual Thomas Sledd, 72, Thursday; Mrs. Oma Hughes Pryor, 73, Thursday.

GENERAL NEWS

Jockey Service Awards

The Carlisle Mercury/Kara Read Photo

Anna Lee Lawson , left, with Jockey Vice President Don Haney, receives her service award for 40 years.

The Carlisle Mercury/Kara Read Photo

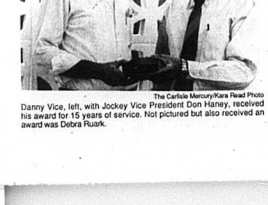
Wanda Bowles, left, with Jockey Vice President Don Haney, receives her award for 30 years of service.

The Carlisle Mercury/Kara Read Photo

Employees with 25 years of service are: (from left to right standing) Connie Manley, Eula Mitchell, Faye Buzzard, (sitting from left to right) Rosemary Compton, Kathleen Snapp and Bennie Morris.

The Carlisle Mercury/Kara Read Photo

Employees with 20 years of service are: (from left to right standing) Bobbi Guy, June Overbey, Karen Smith, (from left to right sitting) Edith Dale and Donna Hughes.



The Carlisle Mercury/Kara Read Photo

Danny Vice, left, with Jockey Vice President Don Haney, received his award for 15 years of service. Not pictured but also received an award was Debra Ruark.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

Nicholas County property tax bills will be in the mail in a couple of weeks. A lot of people are talking and wondering how much more they will have to pay due to the new education bill. My job is to glace a value, an assessment, on each property.

When I increase the assessment on a piece of property, then that will cause an increase in the amount of taxes due on that property.

However, the tax increase on the 1990 tax bills is caused mainly by the increase in the school tax rate. The school property tax rate went from 30.3 cents to 44.2 cents per $100.00, meaning an increase of $14 per each $10,000.00 worth of assessed value over what they received in 1989, plus full rate on the increase in assessment.

They were allowed to do this without public hearings because the legislators exempted schools from HB 44 for two years.

When I attended a Board of Education meeting, the board said they had to set the 1990 tax rate at the maximum level, they had no choice.

However, I have contacted all the surrounding counties and only one other county raised their rate to the maximum. The other school boards passed the 3% utility tax, but kept the property tax rate at just above the minimum level of 30 cents.

Hopefully, the Board of Education will spend this money wisely and in a way to benefit the children's education. I just don't see how a new bus garage costing nearly one-half million dollars will help the children's education.

When you receive your property tax bill, if you have a question about it, please contact my office (289-5460).

However, please keep in mind that the increase in taxes is due to the school tax rate. Nothing can be done this year, but contact your board members and superintendent and express your opinion.

Maybe it will help next year, the board always has the option to lower the tax rate. Also, contact your state senator and representative to let them know how you feel.

Senator Ed Ford, 224-2850 office, 234-1164 home; Rep. Adrian Arnold, 498-3034 home; Co-sponsors of Education Bill, Senator Mike Moloney, 255-7946 office, 268-1784 home; Rep. Joe Clarke 236-2240 office, 236-4064 home.

Rose Brady,
Property Valuation Administrator
Nicholas County

Editor:

An independent and responsible press has become an important tradition in our society, giving citizens the information they need to carry out their roles as voters and citizens.

Many years ago, Charles Prestwick Scott wrote, "The primary office of a newspaper is the gathering of news -- comment is free, but facts are scared."

National Newspaper Week, being observed October 7-13, provides everyone with an opportunity to reflect on the crucial role The Carlisle Mercury and other newspapers have played in preserving that tradition.

We at South Central Bell understand the difficulty of your task and appreciate your commitment to it.

The price of a newspaper becomes less and less when one considers that it constantly informs us about our governments, businesses and neighbors.

Tom Tucker, Manager
South Central Bell

Editor:

Pleasant Valley will not lose its name because one politician keep his promise even though he was defeated.

I have tried for years to get a road sign for out community from our elected politician with no results.

It's such a pretty name that suits the community that should never be lost.

Hats off too your Tom Hogge you are the one who remembered the people of Pleasant Valley after election day.

I asked and you delivered. You keep your word. We the people of Pleasant Valley thank you very much. We do not forget.

Lida R. Hensley

Editor:

I would like to comment on the Industrial Authority Office. Spud and Kathy are doing a great job to promote our county, our town and the general area.

The people in Frankfort are impressed with their efforts. I go to Frankfort and as I lobby, I go to each department and present ideas and ask questions.

For the first time in years, most people in government circles know where Carlisle and Nicholas County are located. This in part is due to an open industrial office. It takes good public relations, friendships, good contacts and hard work to gain confidence for a town or county.

There is nothing wrong with the area or the people. We deserve good jobs and a good area to live in.

I will make a personal observation and comment that has nothing to do with the industrial authority. For years, every lame excuse has been used to keep industry out of the general area. In some ways this has been good politics for a limited few. Rural Kentucky can no longer afford this situation.

Our youngest and best people are forced to leave the rural areas to have a standard of living. This county offers very little to the people who live here. I think we can do better and we have a duty to try and make things better.

Allen Clay Stone
Carlisle, KY

Editor:

Recently, at work, a friend and I were talking about her nephew in service, and how she would like to have some cookies or something made, in order to send him for Christmas.

Well, in order for anyone to receive anything in time for the Christmas Holidays, it should be sent out no later than November.

It got me to thinking, and wondering, if The Mercury would consider asking readers to send The Mercury, the names, addresses, and maybe, even pictures, of their loved ones, that are in service, so that everyone that would want to, here at home, could send them a Christmas card?

I think it would be a nice gesture to let our service men and women know we care and love them.

It would be a "nice gift," for church groups, the Senior citizens, and community organizations, to send cards, as well as any and all individuals, just to let these people over there know that they are in out thoughts, and prayers, and even though, they may not be 'home for Christmas', they will be- in out hearts.

Carolyn McFarland
Carlisle, KY

Editor's Note: We would be glad to run this information, if it is made available. Thank you for writing.-Hank Bond

Tourism Talk

Word was received last week that Carlisle - Nicholas County Tourism, Inc has received a grant from the Kentucky Bicentennial Commission. The Bicentennial Commission has awarded $7,500 to the Tourism group on the restoration of the old county jail as a visitors center. The Commission's financial award is an endorsement of the historical significance of the jail building and of the lasting benefit to the community of its restoration for a visitors center site.

Tourism, Inc. has taken the $7,000 donation from Fiscal Court and the $5,000 donation from City Council and used it to receive an additional $10,000. (The Heritage Council made a $3,500 award earlier in the summer.) This is an excellent example of what can happen when various sectors of the local community come together. It is a tremendous accomplishment to turn $12,000 into $23,000 within a year's time! It is also an example of the significance of a broad base of support for a given project. Working together greatly enlarges the available possibilities and resources.

The Nicholas County National Guard unit has been a great asset in the work on the jail building. They have contributed many work hours on the project. Tourism, Inc. publicly expresses our heartfelt thanks for the Guards help. Their work has been another tangible demonstration of community support.

A project of this magnitude requires the support of many. Thank you Nicholas Countians for responding in such positive ways!

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