

Buses ready to roll  
School starts Sept. 3

Gridiron preview inside

# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

124th Year, No. 35

Carlisle, KY 40311-0272

Thursday, August 29, 1991

50 cents per copy

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1991

## Fire destroys Snapp barn Thursday night

By Josh Shephard

Fire had already engulfed a barn on a hill above upper Jacktown Road Thursday night before Nicholas County and Carlisle City Fire Departments could arrive to squelch the flames.

The barn, belonging to Gene Snapp, was a complete loss, according to an official report from Nicholas County Fire Chief Mark Hughes.

The call for fire fighters came at 11:35. There was some confusion early on, Hughes reported, when the call came in that the fire was located on Walnut Street behind a local grocery store.

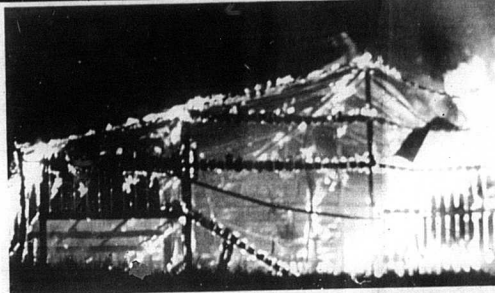
City and County firemen went to work immediately to contain the inferno at the barn, soaking down materials which could catch and spread the flames, Hughes reported.

Eye-witness reports said the flames seemed to ignite all over the barn simultaneously, engulfing it almost immediately.

As flames began to die down, a small explosion occurred when flames reached a barrel of highly flammable barn paint, the report said, sending a spire of fire higher than a nearby tree.

Among the items lost in the blaze was a tractor, hay baler, tobacco setter and sprayer outfit, approximately 10,000 tobacco sticks and about 700 bales of hay, Hughes said.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, the report said.



Fire crews are already engulfed a barn when the fire departments responded to the fire on Thursday night. The barn was the property of Gene Snapp. The barn was totally destroyed and the fire is still under investigation.

## Morford shows more than one side

By Josh Shephard

The former Mercury star

Watching Jack Morford with his wife, Betty Ligon, fitting long slabs of stone into an old slanted rock field fence they are rebuilding in a small pastoral section of their farm, one could hardly imagine Jack Morford as a doctor.

He is in a pair of old worn

blue jeans with a red bandana tied wide across his forehead which musses his silver grey hair.

The bandana is dry. He and his wife have not yet begun to add the finishing touches to the last section of rock wall, but one can tell he is anxious to get it.

"Betty and I plan one

summer project a year. The fence was Betty's idea and now that it has taken shape, we couldn't be more pleased with the results," Morford said.

All they had to work with when they began was a hint of the foundation which extends for miles on a section of the Morford property.

Their plans, however, involved about thirty yards of the fence running a few feet from their garden.

"It's just like fitting a jig saw puzzle together trying to keep the fence as close to the way it used to look. All told, I think I've driven about 70 loads of stone down here to build with. Fortunately we have been able to get the rocks we need right on our farm.

The fence was one of the elder rock fences, when the rock was laid in slanted. To keep it that way has involved quite a bit of labor.

"We think the original wall dates back to at least 1820-30. Eventually the rock walls began to be laid out flat and cut to fit, but we wanted to make it the older way," Morford said.

There is an at once surprising to see and surprising sturdy, considering the Morfords are not professional builders by trade.

Jack Morford is the longest actively practicing physician in Nicholas County.

He began his Carlisle practice in 1946, just before he was yanked back into the army after it was discovered the tuberculosis in the army diagnosis had been proven false.

When I went to medical school at the University of Louisville, I found myself suddenly drafted to the U.S. Army. They had taken over

the medical school and drafted us all in the Army Specialized Training Program.

"In two years, without benefit of college summer breaks, I went through an intensive medical degree program at breakneck speed.

"But when it finally came to my induction, I was told I had tuberculosis. Well I knew I didn't and I told them as much, but they didn't believe me and I was discharged and sent away," Morford said.

Knowing of an opportunity in Carlisle, he made his way to Nicholas County with no money, three dollars in his pocket, and a small office in downtown.

However, he was not quite through with the military. Almost as soon as he settled down and began to treat patients, he was informed the army had discovered its mistake.

"I was back in the army again and soon found myself aboard an LST in the Gulf of Mexico during a hurricane," Morford said.

Actually it was two hurricanes, he said. Though the fleet, out on maneuvers, was in little danger of capsizing during these two major tropical storms, they were not without their own detrimental effects.

"We lost all life rafts aboard ship and in one incident, a truck stored aboard the LST broke loose from where it was stored and came barreling down on our Captain. If he hadn't got inside a metal tube that combined him from the blow, he would have been in serious shape," he said.

In his state room, Morford found himself fortunate to lose a coin toss with his roommate for the bottom bunk.

"The top bunk had a large iron heating pipe over it making it slightly less than comfortable to sleep on, so when I first lost and had to cram myself beneath that pipe, I wasn't very comfortable.

"Our state room housed the mimeograph machines, very bulky and heavy and, unfortunately for my roommate, on wheels. When the storm hit the machine was thrown into him. Two quart bottles of ink broke, throwing ink all over him."

But the discomforts of the Gulf were nothing compared to Panama, where he was sent when his orders to Korea were cancelled.

"When I was stuck on the ship, orders came in for myself and several others to go to Korea. But with the storms raging, there was no way they could transport me back in

work in the central American country, working with a variety of funguses and parasites."

"A great deal of Panama, at least when I was stationed there, was mostly thick dense jungle, thicker than anything I have ever seen before.

"It is possible to walk into the jungle and become disoriented, which was a very real danger. If one became lost, it is possible to stay lost for several days," he said.

But the worst hazard were the mosquitoes. Thousands of them everyday would cling to their clothing, ignoring any type of deterrent anyone could time and they needed medical personnel immediately.

So they took other people and assigned me to do lab work in Panama," Morford said.

For fifteen months, Morford did specialized research

Continued on Page 2

The Carlisle Mercury's Josh Shephard Photo

Dr. and Mrs. Morford enjoy that life in the country. One would not realize he was a doctor when he is settled into the home setting.

## Council to add two lights

By Melissa Hall

The former Mercury star

CARLISLE — The Carlisle City Council unanimously agreed to add two more street lights to the downtown area at its regular meeting on Monday August 26.

One of the new street lights will be at 150 Spring St. and the other at 224 Morgan St.

Both lights will each be \$500 worth. The city will be billed by Kentucky Utilities for two more street lights.

The council adopted Ordinance No. 6 to set the property tax rate for money that will go into the general fund.

A tax rate of 17 cents of every \$100 on property taxes, with the exception of vehicles and water crafts, went unopposed at the meeting.

These taxes that are paid before October 31, 1991, will receive a 2 percent discount.

From November 1, 1991 until December 31, 1991 all property taxes will be paid at the regular rate.

Anyone paying property taxes late, after January 1, 1992, will be penalized an additional 6 percent of the property value.

Ordinance No. 7 was also unanimously adopted by the City Council Monday night which states:

Beginning in 1992, a 17

cent tax rate on every \$100 of property taxes on vehicles and watercrafts will go into the general fund.

The council members discussed why the water district has not yet connected its meters to the water line.

According to the members, Simmons has met all criteria necessary to be connected to the line.

The water line ends four miles short of Myers Station.

Attorney Chip Watson said he would write a letter to the water district and ask them what their plans are in this matter.

The council members also took action on the following:

"There will be an open house on Sunday October 13 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the sewer plant."

"The city is getting additional coverage on the new equipment at the water plant through Hartford Insurance Co. The additional insurance will give the water plant 218 percent more coverage."

"The premium on the life insurance policies for city employees, through Shield Shelter Insurance, has risen.

According to council members, when the bid was made the rates were to remain the same. The members agreed to contact the agent.