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State finance board dismisses allegations against Shirley Gardner

Hy-Josh Shephard — The Kentucky Registry of Election Finance dismissed allegations against Nicholas County resident Shirley Gardner as groundless based on the results of an investigation that found no evidence that exists for the Registry to believe a violation of campaign finance regulations ever occurred.

According to the Kentucky Registry's files released after the dismissal, allegations against Shirley Gardner came following the publication of all political campaign contributions in an issue of the Lexington Herald Leader in which Gardner was listed as having donated to the Martha Wilkinson campaign during the democratic primary campaign in 1991.

The amount of the contribution was \$2,500.

Jimmy Shaw, a member of the Democratic Election Commission in Nicholas County, filed a complaint with the Registry in which he was informed that Gardner had made the contribution and that a violation of campaign finance regulations may have occurred.

According to the complaint, Shaw filed with the Registry office, dated May 24, 1991, Gardner was said to have denied that she made such a contribution, although proof in the form of a check, was on record with the Registry.

Three Nicholas County residents, Tom and Lida Henley, of Pleasant Valley Road, and Charles Giles, of 219 Sycamore Street, attested that, in conversation, Gardner denied making the contribution.

In a formal response to the Registry in regard to the allegations, Gardner acknowledged that she, indeed, made a contribution to the Wilkinson campaign and that the Herald Leader listing was correct. That Mrs. Kenneth Holbrook, in the response, Gardner admitted that she was to the Gardner's a full year prior purposely vague, and may be in conversation, Gardner denied making the contribution primarily because it was not anyone's concern as long as her contribution complied with the law.

Respondent (Gardner) further submits that this Complaint is wholly and totally without merit, as it involves

only the curiosity of private individuals and there is no probable cause whatsoever...to believe that a violation of campaign contribution laws has occurred," the response said.

At the regular meeting of the Registry board on September 16, 1991, it was agreed that the Registry would not conduct a full investigation. A motion to dismiss the matter, entered by Gardner's legal counsel, Frankfort attorney Steven G. Bolton, was entered. According to the motion, the "sole basis of Shaw's complaint against Shirley F. Gardner is that she denies that she made a contribution in her own name" to the campaign of Martha Wilkinson for Governor in response to inquiries from private citizens.

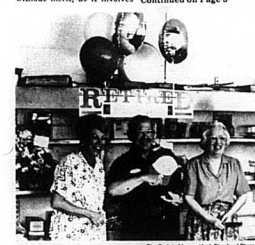
According to the text of the motion, "no provision in the statutes regarding campaign contributions requires a private citizen to divulge in private conversation to any other private citizen whether or not they made a campaign contribution. Furthermore, the check was drawn on the Gardner account, was signed by Gardner, and properly reported."

Roy Stuart, an auditor who served as one of the investigators into the case, confirmed that the contribution was drawn from any source other than an account and was told that the money used for the contribution was not given to them nor was it reimbursed to them from any source after the contribution was made.

The Registry board, however, turned the investigation toward Quest Engineers of the Frankfort and its Executive Vice President, Kenneth G. Holbrook.

In further inquiry, according to the case file, Stuart reported that Mrs. Kenneth Holbrook, Gardner's husband, had made a \$2,500 loan to the Gardner's a full year prior purposely vague, and may be in conversation, Gardner denied making the contribution primarily because it was not anyone's concern as long as her contribution complied with the law.

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The Carlisle Mercury's Elaine Hunt and Clay Hunt were hosts of a retirement celebration for Clay Hunt. Hunt announced his retirement after about 35 years of service in the Carlisle area. He extends his thanks to all people who have supported him during his years with the station.



The Carlisle Mercury's Donnell Photos

Just like riding a bike?

Nicholas County school bus drivers go through their paces in training in the school parking lot in front of the bus garage Tuesday. Every year, the training session to get more challenging and this year is no exception. The obstacle course bus drivers had to overcome this year began with a slalom course between pylons followed by perhaps the toughest part of the course, maneuvering the front and rear tires between a line of paper cups without touching them. From there the bus was to swing around, maneuver between cones and complete the course by backing into the bus garage wash bay. According to School Bus Supervisor Rob Lane, the training is more a refresher for experienced drivers and was pleased with their performance.

Hunt retires after 35 years

Hy-Josh Shephard — Along the shelves are receipts, reports, and other miscellaneous items dated at least five years ago, some before then. Standing in a far corner, looking almost new, is a fortune and weight scales. A bright painted arrow points to a slot, a copper one cent mark in its price. But that piece of memorabilia, that amusement, would be worth 25 cents today.

Compare it to the price of gasoline. Hunt will tell you, 800 gallons of premium, in 1964, was \$255. In 1992, the same number of gallons costs \$1900, Hunt said.

In terms of numbers, he makes more per gallon, but he said, it would be worth more if his bills remained the same as they were in 1964.

It was probably better when he was 15 years old, when he began working as a mechanic at Hunt's Garage on Elm Street, where the Goodyear service garage continues to operate.

Oil and grease, mufflers, brakes, carburetors, manifolds and gears, they formed the direction his life would take. His skills would lead him to Haney and Delaney Ford in Paris.

For a time he would run the Ashland Station outside of town, where Betty's BP now operates. In that period he would also give over 20 years of his time in service with the National Guard before he retired from it in 1966, he said.

But he soon wanted nothing more than to be self-employed. To be his own boss, make his own way.

"If it was done right, it was by my hands. If work was done wrong, I was responsible. That's the way I wanted it," Hunt said.

The old Blue Bonnet gas station in town, built by Julian Green, was closed. He and a friend went in to open it, and eventually, it was just Hunt's operation. It was Hunt's Ashland and it re-

mained as until last week.

The cars became more and more complicated, less similar, more specialized, he said. Changes came so fast, they eventually passed him. Brake work, oil changes, muffler work, basic automotive operations were pretty much the same.

Outside, the gravel alley was paved, businesses came and went. Snapp's service station across the street continued to operate. Snapp's and the people, he said, were the two constants. He watched Danpiper's Studebaker and Packard dealership rise and fade along with all the others.

There was only one time when I wondered if I would continue, and that was during the oil embargo back in the seventies. I was told to sell all I had and take a vacation for two weeks. That was the longest vacation I ever took. Of course, that was right then."

holds the few brands he carried.

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Nicholas received \$179,600 in state student financial aid

Nicholas County students received \$179,600 in state student financial aid from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) for the 1991-92 school year.

Of that amount, 60 students shared \$39,437 in grants, and 61 loans totaling \$140,163 were guaranteed.

With the ever-increasing cost of college and vocational education, it is more important than ever for families to plan early for higher education. Approximately 43 percent of Nicholas County students who graduated from public high school in 1991 pursued a college education.

The average annual total cost of education at both private nonprofit colleges and public institutions continues to rise.

Private school costs rose from \$3,854 in 1978 to \$10,600 in 1993. That figure is expected to reach \$28,622 by 2008.

Costs at public institutions rose from \$2,319 in 1978 to \$6,656 in 1993 and are projected to reach \$15,574 by 2008.

KHEAA is the state government agency that administers several student financial aid programs and provides special services to help students and their families plan and pay for college or vocational training.

KHEAA's financial aid programs include the College Access Program (CAP), Grant, Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG), KHEAA Teacher Scholarship, Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship, Stafford Loan, PLUS Loan (for parents), Supplemental Loan for Students (SLS), and KHEAA Work-Study Program (KWSP).

KHEAA also provides free planning materials like *Getting It*, a book of admissions, costs, financial aid, and academic program information. Continue on Page 3