The 19th Hole of Carnico to open doors March 27 under new ownership

By Josh Shepherd
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — A little less than a year ago, the 19th Hole of Carnico closed its doors, teetering on being financially bankrupt. For months it sat empty and unused on the hill overlooking U.S. 68.

For Carlisle merchants and the Carlisle / Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce, the question of what was to be the final fate of the former country club and golf course was a serious consideration.

Facing the heavy traffic on U.S. 68, it represented a major draw for travellers to move off the road and edge themselves at least a little bit closer to the town — but only if the 19th Hole was open.

Being closed, it was only useless bulk upon a hill. Its potential as a business untapped and representative of a local economy in a state of slow, steady decline.

Concern for the Carnico business finally reached the point where businessmen felt serious discussion was needed. So in the February meeting of Business After Five, a monthly gathering of Carlisle merchants and Chamber representatives, community leaders gathered to discuss the situation.

But just as Chamber representative Spud Marshall introduced the question to the people gathered in the basement of the First National Bank, two strangers among the group announced they were in the process of purchasing the building and golf course with plans to re-open it for business. Needless to say, the question appeared to be resolved.

On Wednesday morning last week, Joe Ramey, Ed Bibby, and newly hired general manager Mike Mattox were at Carnico conducting interviews with several Nicholas County people to hire as Carnico's staff.

Despite costs needed to replace the restaurant's water pipes and a requirement by a state inspection to replace 19th Hole's entire septic system, Ramey appeared confident when he said he fully expected to have Carnico open and serving the public by March 27, "Or earlier," he said.

Although responsibility for Carnico's main business operation seems equally divided between Ramey, Bibby, and Mattox, it is Ramey whom all seem to point to as the mover and shaker behind the operation.

Ramey, however, displays full confidence in the people with him.

"I see potential in people and try to bring that out of them. Ed Bibby, for example, was in a comfortable position before he entered into this enterprise. But he saw a future potential greater with this business venture than where he was," Ramey said.

According to Bibby, he had worked 17 years with Central Kentucky Supply Company. "Though I could have remained there and had a comfortable existence, when Ramey convinced me to join in with him, I was ready to take my life in a new direction.

"Ramey's offer was very appealing. I think 19th Hole is a sound investment," Bibby said.

Mike Mattox, brought on in the last several weeks since work began on the 19th Hole, appeared more concerned with changing what he felt was Carnico's previous reputation as an exclusive, private atmosphere which, he said, was a stigma to the restaurant and golf course's growth as a business.

"This is a facility for everyone. We are not exclusive. When we say 'open to the public', that is exactly what we mean. Everybody.

"We plan on expanding our recreational facilities as much as the land will allow for everyone to come use. We also want to become a primary attraction for people outside of Nicholas County.

"Quality is our catchword. And it will always be that way," Mattox said.

However, it is the older Ramey who, once retired, has come back into business to make full use of the potential he sees in the restaurant.

The Pike County native has dabbled several businesses. Currently he owns the Dinner Bell Restaurant, which he operates with the help of his two sons, Charles, 33, and Justin, 18, in Mt. Sterling.

But Carnico is his major investment, one he had thought fallen through in negotiations last year.

"I'm kind of an entrepreneur, a risk-taker, if you will. I like to take businesses like Carnico and turn them into successes," Ramey said.

Ramey has made a concerted effort to have his employee base be from Nicholas County. In this way, he says, the restaurant can focus on its own community. Not only does he feel the 19th Hole can be a facility for Nicholas County entertainment, but as an aid to the local economy.

"I would like to see Carnico as a kind of Nicholas County lighthouse. It can bring people here and get money circulating. I will use Carlisle for my supplies and make Carnico available for private business promotions.

"I hope to bring outside people here, but afterwards, it really depends on the initiative of the local business community to capitalize on their coming," Ramey said.

However, Ramey's community spirit is tempered by the fact that Carnico is a business. "I would like to see the 19th Hole help Carlisle thrive. But we must face a bottom line fact. We're in it to make money. I believe the 19th Hole has the potential to do just that, for all people involved," Ramey said.

"I want Carnico to be the entertainment spot of northeastern Kentucky. It's a lofty ambition, I know. But if you don't think in those kind of terms, what's the point of taking the risk in the first place," Ramey said

The Carlisle Mercury/Josh Shephard Photo
Justin Ramey (left), is conducting an interview with Billy Pat Duncan (right), at the 19th Hole of Carnico. Also shown is Joe Ramey (center).

Obituaries

INGRAM

Nancy Bell Ingram, 63, of 113 Cherokee Drive, Cynthiana, died Tuesday, March 17, at the Nicholas County Hospital after an illness of several months.

She was a native of Bracken County, a daughter of the late Lucien and Lula Nickerson Brown, and a member of the First Church of God, Cynthiana. Her husband Charles Ingram preceded her death in 1991.

Survivors include her son Jerry Ingram, Harrison County; one daughter Verna Kenney, Carlisle; and eight grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, March 20 at 2 p.m. at the Drake Funeral Home, by Rev. Jim Henegar. Burial was in the Kentontown Cemetery.

RITCHIE

Jeannetta Jenkins Ritchie, 57, of Fairway Drive, Cynthiana, formerly of Paris and wife of Robert E. Ritchie died Sunday, March 22, 1992 at St. Joseph Hospital.

She was a native of Scott County and was the daughter of Reynolds T. Jenkins Sr. and the late Dorothy Arnold Jenkins.

She attended Georgetown College, was a member of Newtown Christian Church and was a lady of a shriner. She was an active participant in farming, breeding and racing of thoroughbred horses of which she achieved many awards for her accomplishments.

Survivors besides her husband and her father are a daughter, Pam Burberry Ross, Paris; a son, Robert E. Ritchie Jr., Lexington; two grandchildren, Amanda and Dee Burberry, both of Paris; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Reynolds T. and Julia Jenkins Jr., and John W. and Evelyn Jenkins, all of Georgetown; nieces and nephews, Allison and Hannah Jenkins, Danny Ritchie, Rhenda Leny and Sharon Williams.

Funeral services were held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 24 at Johnson's Funeral Home, Georgetown by Rev. William N. Luttrell Jr., and Rev. Greg Mason with burial in Hillcrest Memorial Park, Lexington.

Casketbearers were Mike Farmer, Wayne Duff, Dennis Robey, Charlie Smith, John P. Jenkins and Gregg Lyons.

Honorary bearers are A.T. Skinner, Charles Donald Smith, Danny Ritchie, Gary Crump, Jerry Jenkins, Patrick Smith, Dr. Frank McKemie, John Robey, Pruitt Hammond, John Oder, B.C. Edwards, Jimmy Sowards, Jess Beckett, Billy H. Holcomb, James Galvin, Turner Doty, Wayne Ritchie, Alvin Whittwer and Roger Humphrey.

Bicentennial Events planned

Nicholas County Bicentennial Event and Tourism Council will host several events.

April 3, 11 a.m. - Terry Prather of the 4-H Council along with Tourism members will plant the state Coffee Tree in the Carlisle Cemetery.

April 3, noon - Church bells will ring and a flag will be presented to Nicholas County Judge Executive Reese Smoot and Fiscal Court members.

April 10, 7 p.m. - A Womanless Wedding will be held at the Nicholas County High School will half of the proceeds going to the Audra Sparks Fund. Cost is $3.00.

Chamber plans Doctors appreciation dinner

The Carlisle-Nicholas County Chamber of Commerce will honor the Doctors of Nicholas County at a reception. The Doctors appreciation dinner will be held March 30, at 6:30 at The 19th Hole of Carnico.

These physicians contributions is immeasurable and they add to the quality of the community's life and the Chamber wants to pay tribute to these people.

Doctors' Day has been celebrated annually since 1933 and was originally designed to commemorate the discovery of painless surgery.

Abandoned vehicle recovery to begin in county

The Nicholas County Rotary Club and 4-H Council have combined forces to bring the state sponsored abandoned vehicle recovery program to the county.

Since 1973, more than 40,000 junk vehicles have been removed from Kentucky's landscape through the abandoned vehicle recovery program.

Proceeds from the sale of junk vehicles have helped pay for many community projects. The program gives a boost to the local economy by providing jobs, as drivers for the program are hired locally. It also improves the appearance of the community.

The removal of junk cars from the landscape eliminates a health hazard and breeding ground for snakes, rats, wasps and other harmful insects and rodents.

We are not expecting vehicles that are in a good state of repair to be noted. Old car skeletons, tractors, truck cabs, junk farm machinery or any thing else of a metal nature may be picked up. The vehicles or other items will be picked up free of charge at a designated time. The donor will receive a receipts that will be good for a tax deduction. The junk will be like a gift to a charitable cause.

We all benefit because the energy saved by recycling one junk vehicle will heat a house for one year and save two tons of iron ore.

Help yourself and help us clean up your farm or backyard by donating any scrap items you may have. 4-H members will be calling on some of you but if one does not, you may call the Extension Office to make a donation or for further details. The number is 289-2312 between between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or talk to a member of the Rotary Club.

Producers to signup by April 17

Nicholas County producers have until April 17, 1992 to sign-up in the 1992 Wheat-Feed Grain Program. This set-a-side of acres during the 1992 growing season is for farms that have a wheat or feed grain base such as corn. The producer must be willing to not harvest production from five percent of their base for 1992 in order to participate. The five percent set-a-side must be acreage that has been in production one of our last five years.

Producers who have questions should contact the Nicholas County ASCS Office.

Eaglestone wins in Angus breeders

Angus breeders from throughout the state, paraded 59 head of bulls, females and cow-calf pairs in competing for championship honors at the 1992 Kentucky Sweepstakes Show in Louisville. Andy Starr, Sunbright, Tennessee, judged the entries and selected the champions. The Late Junior Heifer Calf Champion was EF Perfection 102, from Eaglestone Farm, Carlisle, Kentucky.

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TANGIBLE & INTANGIBLE PROPERTY
APRIL 15 - DEADLINE

All tangible and intangible property must be reported to the PVA office by April 15. There are no extensions on filing property tax returns.

Any information received after this date is considered late and/or omitted by the Revenue Cabinet. The Revenue Cabinet is started to actively cross-check records in their computers and will send tax bills with interest and penalties added.

In order to help you avoid the penalty and interest, please contact my office no later than April 15th. I will be glad to help you fill out the correct forms and answer your questions.

My office is in the basement of the courthouse. An appointment is not necessary but if you would like to make one, call the office at 289-3735 to arrange it.

Rose Brady
Property Valuation Administrator
Nicholas County

Open this Friday! Everyone welcome!

19th Hole of Carnico Restaurant and Golf Course

Weekend Dinner Specials
Cornish Hen or Frog Legs
Dinner includes salad bar, vegetable, dessert, soft drink, coffee or tea
$7.95

Save 10% thru March on our annual Green Fee Cards!
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Dessert
Soup and Salad Bar
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$7.50

WEEKEND MUSICAL GUEST: Song Collaborator with John Cougar Mellencamp. SINGER/SONGWRITER CHARLIE WALLS

Games, Music and Grill Downstairs

The Carlisle Mercury/Pam Bowles
The Nicholas County Drama Club will present a "Night of January 16th" in the courtroom at the Nicholas County Courthouse. Pictured from left to right, front row: Jason Dailey, Joy Anderson, Brian T. Canupp, Robbie Doyle, Gretchen McKee, Jason Poe, Mary Ann Lawrence, and Janella Sibert. Back row: Stephinie Stamper, Jill Hardin, Brian Dunn, Kelly Puckett, Jennifer Beatty, Amanda Abnee, Chuck Holder, and Jonathan Brunner. Absent: Shawna Arnold, Chris Compton, Phyllis Tincher, Christie Gammon, and Stephanie Adams.

Drama club presents "Night of January 16th"

CARLISLE — Did Karen Andre commit murder?

That will be a question for the audience to decide when the Nicholas County High School Drama Club presents "Night of January 16th" in the courtroom of the Nicholas County courthouse on Thursday and Friday, April 2 and 3, at 7:30 p.m.

"The Night of January 16th" by Ayn Rand, renowned author of the "Fountainhead", is a comic courtroom drama that follows in the popular form of Broadway mystery comedy such as Charles Dickens' "Mystery of Edwin Drood".

The play follows along traditional lines of a mystery tale until the ending. Then 12 members of the audience, who are chosen to form the jury, are asked to select one of several possible endings for the play.

This makes for several different plays rolled into one. Admission is $2.00 and everyone is encouraged to attend.

A night of live, thrilling, and unpredictable entertainment is guaranteed.

Open house to be held March 29 at NCES

The Nicholas County Board of Education will hold an open house March 29 at 2 p.m.-5 p.m. for the Nicholas County Elementary School and Nicholas County Bus Garage.

Parents and citizens of are invited to tour the elementary school and bus garage.

At 2:15 Superintendent Cebert Gilbert , Principal Gerald Hammons, and Board Chairperson Louise Zachary will speak to the group.

The Nicholas County Band and Nicholas County Choir will perform after the speakers.

Guest are encouraged to visit each of the rooms and teachers.

Refreshments will be served in the Nicholas County Cafeteria.

The Kentucky Partnership for Education Reform Bus will at the school with a group of individuals to answer any questions about the school reform act.

There will be displays in the bus to explain the reform acts.

The Nicholas County
Board Of Education And
Cebert Gilbert Jr. Superintendent
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And
Nicholas County Bus Garage
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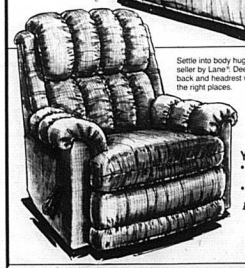

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