

UNDEFEATED!
NCJHS Bluejackets head to final conference game
 Page 5

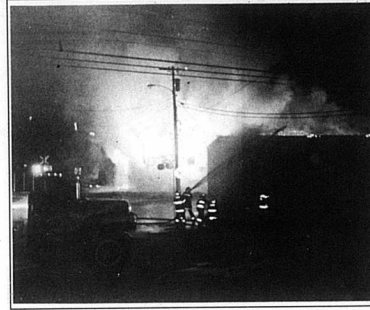
Red Rit ved, Page 8
Saltwell News by Leila Hollar, Page 3

THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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Gaunce's Furniture Barn burns Carlisle landmark destroyed Monday

By **ROXANN JOLLY**
 Staff Writer

One of Carlisle's landmark family businesses perished in a fire Monday night. Gaunce's furniture barn, on East Union, burned to the ground from a fire of unknown origin that started around 8 p.m.

Also heavily damaged was the neighboring ACL Laundry. Its owners say it won't be operable for three to four months.

Both the Nicholas County Fire Department and Carlisle fire departments responded to the blaze. As the furniture barn burned, its owner, Billy Mac Gaunce, watched helplessly from the side with tears in his eyes.

He declined to comment.

By morning the only thing that remained of the business was a pile of smoldering rubble on the foundation.

Nicholas County Fire Chief, Mark Hughes, blames the loss of the furniture store's contents at around \$35,000. He did not know the value of the building.

"The cause of the fire was not arson and was ruled accidental by the State arson investigators," said Hughes. "But the cause of the fire is still unknown."

The chief said the business did carry insurance on the building but not on the contents.

The business—a one-time rustic barn converted into a store—used to be rendezvous for retired men

to just sit and talk.

Carlisle has been in business for 31 years, specializing in new and used furniture. It offered everything from old quilts to dining room sets.

He was planning to celebrate another anniversary on Friday.

Gaunce's father started the business and handed it down to Billy Mac.

ACL Laundry, a neighboring business to Gaunce's store, was severely damaged.

Carlisle City Fire Chief, James Berry said the radiant heat from the furniture store fire started the fire at the laundry.

"The building I think will be a total loss," Berry said. "The rear siding and back of the building are completely gone."

"The contents however, weren't damaged so much by fire... it was mostly water and smoke (damage). Some of the contents may be salvaged."

"I would like to thank those citizens who weren't firefighters who joined us and helped with hoses and assisting with those things," Berry added.

Also all of our fighters were on the scene."

According to Carlisle's Mayor, Ronnie Clark, a previous partner in the ACL Laundry business, the business is looking at probably three or four months of hard work to open its doors.

"I hate to see all of the hard work and effort that went into this place to be lost," Clark said.

ACL Laundry was preparing for a first year anniversary November 1, 1996.



Elements of the Carlisle Volunteer Fire Department and the Nicholas County Fire department battled a blaze that destroyed Gaunce's Furniture Barn Monday night. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The Carlisle Mercury/Roxann Jolly Photo

October 28 marks the last day for two long-time city workers.

Darrell "Bajj" Faulconer, a 13-year employee, and Tommy Crawford, a 16 year employee handed in their letter of recognition at last Monday night's City Council meeting.

Faulconer and Crawford are going into the plumbing business for themselves.

The two will start their business C and F plumbing on October 28, 1996.

Crawford said the two have been doing work on the side for eight or nine years and have been licensed for the past four.

"I served under Bill Campbell for two years as a journey man during my apprenticeship," Crawford said. "Now Faulconer is doing his apprenticeship with me."

Crawford and Faulconer are not only business partners but long time friends. "We were raised practically as brothers and have been life long friends."

City workers retire

Faulconer and Crawford said the main reason for leaving the city is to spend more time with their families and pursue other career goals.

Crawford is the husband of Jan and has two children: Lindsey, age six and Cameron, age three.

Faulconer has two children, Brandon age thirteen and Nathan age five.

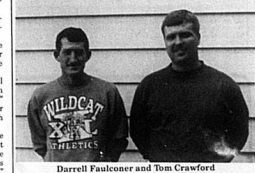
The two have lived in Carlisle all their life.

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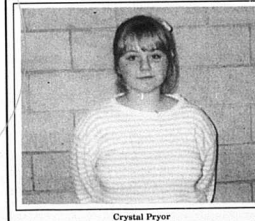
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Darrell Faulconer and Tom Crawford



**Don't forget
 Daylight Savings
 Time. Set your clocks
 back one hour on
 Sunday, Oct. 7**



Crystal Pryor

Student of the week

Nicholas County High School student Crystal Pryor was selected student of the week by Vice-Principal Ron Baker. Crystal is the daughter of Janice and Mike Pryor of Carlisle. She is a Sophomore at Nicholas County High. Pryor's interest are cheerleading, softball and enjoys gymnastics. Always being cheerful, helpful and

willing to work hard are some of the qualities that Baker pointed to in choosing Pryor.

The Carlisle Mercury will profile one student each week, chosen by the faculty of their respective school. Watch this space in future issues.