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## Local seniors talk about 'old time' Christmas past

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Staff Writer



Local residents talked about old time Christmas past while visiting the recently renovated Nicholas County Senior Citizens Center Tuesday. From left, they are Elsie Burden, Claudia Thompson and husband and wife Alberta Glass and Ben Glass.

With Christmas right around the corner, many people find themselves rushing around from store to store trying to find gifts for family and friends. The holiday season is packed with commercial and material messages, and grabbed up by a society of grab-it-and-grow-it. But one group of people in Nicholas County said they know a slower, quieter, simpler Christmas time. That time was in the past, and it wasn't as bad, according to some senior citizens who visited the senior center in Carlisle Tuesday.

Ben W. Glass, 74, of Headquarters Road, told of the gifts he received when he was a child living in Fleming County. "We'd get a sock of candy, and maybe some apples and oranges for Christmas," he said. "We didn't get a whole lot of toys, the way kids do now."

His family would kill a hog in November. We'd save the hams, let it dry out, blow it up real tight and save it until Christmas Day so we could jump on it and make it pop," he continued. Even though there wasn't much money to go around, Glass said he did get a cap pistol one year. "It only lasted me about a week, but my brother's cap pistol didn't last even that long," he said. Glass also remembered in it and showed it up the same day he got it. "I can't say they were appreciative," he said. Glass, who runs a family of 10 children, said he doesn't expect some of the things that were the mischief come to him.

"We'd go out in the field with my dad to find a pine tree to decorate for Christmas. But it was hard to find one that was even. We'd walk up to the one we thought we'd want and find out that it was uneven and we'd have to move it," said Alberta Glass, 74, Ben's wife. "I remember getting handkerchiefs or small things that didn't cost much. We may get an orange book or a story book and sometimes I'd get a baby doll," she said.

"We'd help my mother in the kitchen baking cookies or a cake or two. And we'd have oranges and other fruit at Christmas," said Alberta, who was one of four children. Her said the family would kill a hog before Christmas and grind the sausage in the kitchen. "I'd say very few people does that now," he said.

Elsie Burden, 78, an only child, said that she couldn't

remember having bananas any other time except for Christmas. "My daddy would always buy coconuts, pineapples and bananas and bring them in for us to eat except Christmas," she said. "We'd string popcorn on our Christmas tree, because there was no such thing as putting lights on a tree then. In 1920, I know so much on Christmas Day we couldn't get anywhere. We were stranded in the car and stayed parked in the barn."

Burden said she got dolls at Christmas and one year she got a Christmas and I thought it was the house she had. Santa Claus, and I thought he was the real Santa. I was thrilled and about half scared at the time. I was eight years old at the time," Ben said.

"I think the times were better then," Alberta said. "When things were simpler, we had less, but we had more fun." "I was just so happy with the food as I was with my cap pistol," Ben said. "It was something different to eat. Now we eat what we want, but back then you ate whatever you could get a hold of. It may be a pigskin."

"I always looked forward to Christmas because we'd have days at school and at church. We also had what we called hog slippers, where the girls would make it and bring it and the boys would bid to eat with the girl. It made money for the school," Alberta said. "I got a little train one year and I thought that was the greatest thing," said Claudia Thompson, 73, a little three weeks at the senior citizens center. "We had it better than my mother's generation. We'd get slippers for Christmas that we wore to year old party. We might get a dress or skirt to wear to school, but we always got oranges and bananas, and that was a real treat for us."

"My goodness, kids do have it better now, but I was happier and appreciated everything. Kids now have Christmas every day," Thompson said.

What's happening? Consumers appear to remain confident about the national economy. But they also are being lured to stores by good prices. "We see deep discounts by retailers — even before the holidays. That's somewhat surprising, considering the signs that consumers were already in a mood to buy," said Robert Thompson said. Part of the reason, Thompson

said, is an increase in most people's incomes. Income growth seems to be very good this year," he said. But Thompson noted that income growth is trailing the increase in spending. "This reflects a continuing reliance on credit," he said.

Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. Some reports set the activity at a percent over last year's," said Kim Thompson, a UK economist who focuses on Kentucky's economy. "I think this indicates a good Christmas season. This first week is good, even compared to last year's," Thompson said.

Part of the reason, Thompson

## Parents are graduates of leadership institute

The local women have graduated from the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, a project of the Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence. Graduation exercises were the culmination of six days of training that began Sept. 11 and concluded here, 4 and 5 at the Morehead State University campus.

Local participants were Vicky Fleming and Brenda Anderson, both of Nicholas County. The institute will train 200 parents each year during 1998 and 1999. These parents will engage several thousand other parents through projects and activities in their local schools and communities. The institute is free to all participants; all expenses including lodging, meals and materials are provided. Total budget for the institute and all follow-up community school projects is \$200,000 for the first year. It will increase \$1.2 million for 1999 and 1999 with the increase in participation. The institute is funded by private and corporate donations. No public funds are appropriated for the institute.



Attending the two-day session last week were, from left, Vicky Fleming, director of the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, Brenda Anderson who will volunteer at Nicholas County High School, and Gail Lincoln, community support coordinator for northeastern Kentucky.

## Woman accuses MSU police officers of abuse

A Morehead woman has accused three Morehead State University police officers of rape and other abuse in an incident that allegedly occurred on campus last year. Also named as a plaintiff in the lawsuit is the woman's 12-year-old daughter. She is the same girl that has accused the founder of the now-defunct Morehead's Children's Theater, Luther Henry Dowell, of sexual abuse.

The Carlisle Mercury does not identify alleged victims of sex crimes. In the civil suit filed on Nov. 23, the woman accuses MSU officers: Rodney L. Coffey, Howard Curtis III and Shawn Bentley of rape, assault and excessive force. She is seeking \$5 million in punitive damages.

According to court records, the alleged incident occurred about 4 a.m. on Nov. 26, 1997 after MSU police officers at Carter woman's apartment at Carter Hill on the MSU campus. Her lawsuit alleges that police obtained a search warrant and entered the apartment based on false information supplied to them by William "Bully" Jennings about possible drug activity. "The officers entered the premises without the requisite lawful sufficient time to knock and announce to the door using the master key obtained from MSU," according to the lawsuit. The woman claims she was sexually assaulted by the officers and also claims the officers separated her from her daughter and abused them, both physically and mentally, and "terror-

## Burley prices hold steady for week two

Burley tobacco prices were steady for a majority of grades during the second week of sales across the state. Although distribution by crop showed changes, color and quality were about the same as opening week. Volume of sales remained low, but the November crop estimate, around 12 percent of the 1998 production has been announced.

Crack sales amounted to 170 pounds for the week, and averaged \$191.71 per pound. Volume of sales from the first week of sales. For the season, 210,748,205 pounds returned \$491.37. Last season after seven sales days, 255.3 million pounds had averaged \$1,177,824 pounds. Resales amounted to \$1,177,824 pounds for the season. This produced a weekly net figure of 114,555,046 pounds, and a season total of 253,823,843 pounds.

In heavy volume sales, around three-fourths of the weekly grade bids were steady, and one-fourth declined. Losses were generally small, only \$1 per hundred in most cases. Top average held at the \$205 level for a few light volume auctions; however, the bulk of sales fell within a range of \$18 to \$205 per hundred.

## Snow Queen

Rachel Ecton was crowned 1998 Snow Queen at Nicholas County High School in Carlisle's Christmas parade last Friday night.