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The Carlisle Mercury

PROUD TO BE SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867

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Thursday, December 30, 1999 - CARLISLE, KY

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 1999**

Briefs

Holiday Closings

CARLISLE MERCURY
 The Carlisle Mercury office will be closed on Thursday, December 30 and Friday, December 31, so that our employees may enjoy the New Year. We will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, January 3, 2000.

NICHOLAS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Nicholas County Courthouse will be closed on December 31, with the exception of the County Clerk, due to the State's Annual Inventory. It will remain closed until January 5, 2000. The rest of the office will re-open on January 4, 2000, at 8:00 a.m.

Nicholas County Bookmobile Schedule

The Nicholas County Public Library Bookmobile will be at the following locations on:
 Tuesday, January 4th: Carlisle, Shepherd Hills Apt., Nursing Home, Assembly of God Day Care
 Tuesday, January 11th: Myers Road, Myers Station, Cassidy Creek Road, and Moorefield.
 Thursday, January 13th: Headquarters Road, Dog Walk Road, Morning Glory, Johnson Road, and Head Start.
 Anyone interested in having the bookmobile stop at your house, please call the Nicholas County Public Library at 606-289-5595.

Obituaries
Deaths, Page 2
 • Ethel Lee Purcell Briggs
 • Pauline McCarty Buntin
 • Ethel Mae Booth Reid

The first settlement in Nicholas County was at Blue Licks. It has the distinction of serving under seven governments: Virginia, 1622; Fincastle Co., Va., 1173; Kentucky Co., Va., 1776; Fayette Co., Va., 1780; Bourbon Co., Ky., 1786; Nicholas Co., Ky., 1799; and parts of it now in Robertson Co., Ky., 1986.
 Early advertisers in this region were Daniel Boone, Simon Kenton, John Finley, George Rogers Clark, Daniel Drake, and David Tanner. Tanner was the first permanent settler sometime before 1784.

Nicholas County was established and named 200 years ago in the 42nd order of formation, from parts of Bourbon and Mason Counties. The legislative act forming Nicholas County is printed on the back of the Bicentennial Calendar. It was named for Col. George Nicholas, a Revolutionary Soldier, prominent framer of Kentucky's constitution in 1792, Kentucky's first attorney general, and a law pro-



MARLA VICE/THE CARLISLE MERCURY

Last Snow Fall of 1999. . . The Nicholas County Courthouse was filled with natural beauty as snow fell in Nicholas County just in time for Christmas.

November unemployment rate up in Nicholas County

Unemployment rates dropped in 72 Kentucky counties between October and November, rose in 39, including Nicholas County, and remained the same in nine counties, according to the Department for Employment Services, a Cabinet for Workforce Development agency.
 Nicholas County's unemployment rate for October was 3.5 percent and rose to 3.8 percent in November. The increase is due mainly to Hockey closing one of its two factories here in Carlisle.
 From November 1998 to November 1999, jobless rates fell in 70 counties, went up in 45, and stayed the same in Ballard, Christian, Garrard, Nicholas and Oldham counties. In November 1999, three counties had jobless rates at or above 10 percent. Four counties recorded double-digit rates in October 1999 and 12 in November 1998.
 Woodford County's 1.1 percent jobless rate was the lowest in the commonwealth. Other low rates were recorded in Fayette and Jessamine counties, 1.6 percent each, Bourbon and Scott counties, 1.7 percent each, Oldham County, 1.8 percent; Shelby County, 1.9 percent; Mason and Trigg counties, 2 percent each; and Anderson, Franklin and Todd counties, 2.1 percent each.
 Monroe County recorded the state's highest unemployment rate, 16.2 percent. It was followed by Letcher County, 13.1 percent; Green County, 9.9 percent; Taylor County, 9.8 percent; Cumberland County, 8.9 percent; Hancock and Magoffin Counties, 8.6 percent each; and Lewis County, 8.3 percent.

Nicholas County Water District receives \$1,558,000 from USDA

The Nicholas County Water District received a \$568,000 loan and a grant of \$700,000 from the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development mission area, State Director of USDA Rural Development, Thomas G. Ferr, announced today.
 USDA, Rural Development administers a number of programs designed to strengthen rural economies and expand infrastructure in rural areas.
 "USDA's domestic water and sewer programs are an example of the Clinton-Gore Administration's priority of helping rural communities provide basic services to local citizens," USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development, Jill Long Thompson said. "Providing communities with necessities such as clean and safe drinking water supply and new or upgraded waste water facilities helps improve the economic infrastructure and expand job opportunities for all who live in the region."
 These funds will be used for the construction of approximately 10 miles of water lines, one 100 gpm booster pump station in order to serve new and existing users in northern, northeastern and southeastern areas of rural Nicholas County.
 The USDA's drinking water and sewer program is targeting public health benefits and economic opportunities to America's rural communities. Through this loan 940 existing and 160 new users will benefit from a safer and more reliable supply of drinking water," said State Director Ferr.
 The USDA's Water and Waste-Water programs administered through USDA Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service, is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary and environmentally sound waste-water facilities to rural America. Loans and grants are available to rural communities of fewer than 10,000 residents.



MARLA VICE/THE CARLISLE MERCURY

A Winter Wonder. . . The streets of Carlisle and Roadways in Nicholas County have made for some scenery this past week. The cold weather looks to be leaving us with this weekend. Look for a little bit warmer weather.

My History of Nicholas County

By Joan Conley
 The following is taken from the book of this same title, published in 1976 our country's 200th birthday.
 The first settlement in Nicholas County was at Blue Licks. It has the distinction of serving under seven governments: Virginia, 1622; Fincastle Co., Va., 1173; Kentucky Co., Va., 1776; Fayette Co., Va., 1780; Bourbon Co., Ky., 1786; Nicholas Co., Ky., 1799; and parts of it now in Robertson Co., Ky., 1986.
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 Nicholas County was established and named 200 years ago in the 42nd order of formation, from parts of Bourbon and Mason Counties. The legislative act forming Nicholas County is printed on the back of the Bicentennial Calendar. It was named for Col. George Nicholas, a Revolutionary Soldier, prominent framer of Kentucky's constitution in 1792, Kentucky's first attorney general, and a law professor at Transylvania University, who died in 1799 - the year of our county's founding - the legislature in naming it wished to honor him.
 The first session of county court was held at the home of Martin Baker at the Lower Blue Licks on June 2, 1800 and we will celebrate this event's 200th birthday with a bigger Bicentennial Celebration next year June 1-4.
 The Seat of Justice was fixed as follows: from Order Book A, the first minutes of Nicholas County: "Whereupon it is ordered that the place for holding courts in this County as aforesaid be fixed on the lands of Henry Clay Jr. on Main Licking in the bends of the river, below the mouth of Stones Creek and opposite Bedinger's Mill on said river, the bottom containing about 90 acres."
 The court met in "the new courthouse" in August 1800 at Blue Licks. Typical court matters during those 12 years included orders for surveying roads, appointment of overseers for construction crews, issuing of licenses to tavern keepers, and inventory of estates of deceased persons. Other business was granting permission for construction of water grist mills and establishment of routes for the transportation of salt water from Blue Licks.
 Order Book A, page 223, of the April, 1803, Court meeting states that "Permanent" court is established at Lower Blue Licks. The Order Book depicts a sketch of a lot delegated to the construction of public buildings at Blue Licks.
 The second county seat was established in 1805 on the James Ellis farm and named Ellisville. A log courthouse was built there the same year across from the presently standing Old Stone Tavern on U.S. 68. Ellis sold scores of lots to individuals who wished to build homes in the new county seat.
 Why the decision to move the county seat from Blue Licks to Ellisville is only speculation, but probably to locate more closely to the center of the county.
 Because the people of Nicholas County soon grew dissatisfied with the county seat at Ellisville, wanting an even more central location. They voiced their discontent until in 1814-15 the Kentucky Legislature passed a bill authorizing the removal to a more central point and appointed commissioners to locate a suitable site. They inspected various sites and soon narrowed it down to two places. One was on the old main first road from Maysville to Lexington, afterwards known as Forest Retreat. The other was the Kincaid Farm along the great public road about 12 miles from Upper Blue Licks and seven miles from Millersburg.
 Meanwhile all Ellisville was in an uproar, threatening dire vengeance against all concerned with the removal scheme, but the location was duly made on the Kincaid farm. The legislature confirmed the choice and the new site was granted under the name of Carlisle, probably in honor of Carlisle, PA. Because some of the yearly settlers came from that city.
 When the county seat was moved to Carlisle in 1816, so was the Ellisville Courthouse which was set up on Lot #87 temporarily - where the Nicholas County Library is now. It was replaced with a new brick Courthouse in 1818, in the center of the public square, and erected under the supervision of Gen. Thomas Metcalfe. "Old Stone Hammer," later to become the 10th Governor of Kentucky. He also built his home, Forest Retreat, here in Nicholas County, in 1826, on land he bought in 1816 for \$16 an acre.
 The second brick courthouse was built here in 1845, and the third brick courthouse, this very one, was dedicated on July 4, 1893.
 If the Forest Retreat site had been chosen for our county seat we can only imagine whether it would be better off today at our Metcalfe's Forest Retreat.
 Forest Retreat Tavern and Stage Coach Stop, Daniel Boone's last home in Kentucky, are all historic treasures which should not be lost by our county. They, along with prehistoric Blue Licks could be made into very profitable tourist attractions. We can only hope that each of you will see the potential and do everything you can to make this happen.
 History proves that often our own backs are overlooked when searching for economic development. Tourism is as worthy an industry to count as new factories. We hope you all think about it.
 Our Bicentennial Committee wishes you a Happy New Year as we together bring our 201st Year as Nicholas County.

