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THE CARLISLE MERCURY

"PROUD TO BE SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867"

Meetings

Disaster Assistance Available

If you sustained losses or damage in Nicholas County from the recent flood, you may be eligible for federal and state disaster aid. You may apply by phone. Call 1-800-462-0029 or TDD 1-800-462-7885 for the speech and hearing impaired. When you apply for disaster assistance please have the following available: Social Security Number (including spouse), address and zip code of the damaged property, directions to the damaged home or property, telephone numbers where you can be reached during the day. Help may include: temporary housing or repairs, low interest loans to homeowners, renters, and business owners, grants or individuals and families. Need information? Call the HELPLINE at 1-800-525-0321.

Briefs

School Board

The Nicholas County Board of Education will have its regular monthly meeting on Monday, March 20, 6:30 p.m., at the School Board Office.

Hospice of Bluegrass Memorial Service

Hospice of the Bluegrass extends an invitation to a Memorial Service for families of patients who have received hospice services in 1999. The service will be held at Nicholas County Elementary School, Thursday, March 23, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. To RSVP, contact Kelly Kendall at 1-800-756-6005.

Fair Board

The Nicholas County Fair Board will have a meeting on Monday, March 27, 7:00 p.m., at the Nicholas County Extension Office.

Obits

Deaths, Page 3

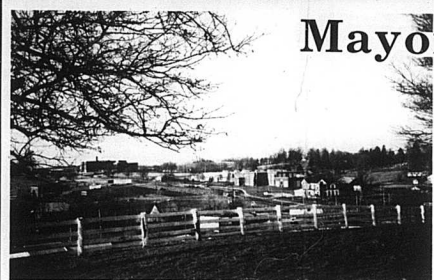
- Catherine Robinson Barlow, age 90
- Alma White Grimes, age 91
- Mary Louise Rankin, age 75
- Charles Miller Lau, age 81
- William Norman Williams, age 71

INDEX
10 Pages, Plus Inserts
Classifieds 8
Comics 8
TV Week 8
Obituaries 8

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KENTUCKY
CENTENNIAL
BUSINESS



Carina Jordan/Ten Cent News Mercury
The city limits of Carlisle has just grown with the addition of the Nicholas County School Systems property which contains more or less 68 acres.

Swinging into spring sports

If your upset that Nicholas County Basketball Season is over and are still pumping from the great thrill that the Bluejackets Men's District Champs gave us than don't worry. It is spring sports time. The Nicholas County High School Baseball and Softball teams are working hard to bring a winning season and tournament wins to the already great sports season.

Under the direction of Coach Billy Anderson the Bluejackets are ready for the state title with 11 returning players. For 31 years Coach Anderson has provided 519 wins, including a 26-7 season. He has lost six seniors but has still maintained seven starters.

The Lady Bluejackets, under the direction of Mike and Barbara Kenney, are looking to have another great year after being district runner-up last season. The Track Teams under the direction of Robert Hopkins, as High School Coach, and Legendary Coach Peltry, as the Jr. High coach. The track team starts competition on March 28.

For more sports action check out next weeks Carlisle Mercury for complete team photos and schedules. Shane Smith, photo at top, takes aim during the NCHS Baseball practice. Coach Hopkins works students on the proper disk throwing techniques, in photo at bottom.



KARINA JORDAN photo



KARINA JORDAN photo

Mayor breaks tie

School system to be annexed

In a full house during Monday night's City Council meeting the council members passed four ordinances that would enlarge the City Limits of Carlisle and bring in additional revenue in the amount of \$45,000 for the city. Among the properties is the Nicholas County School District Finance Corporation. Despite opposition from the School System the Council members voted 3-3 with Mayor Ronnie Clark making the final decision. Clark voted yes.

The school system property will bring an additional 68.272 acres to the West portion of the city.

Among other properties to be annexed include the property of Connie Clinkenbeard, Anna Mary C. Hammonds, Gladys C. Shrout, and Jack Clinkenbeard, Vincent G. and Kimberly Wells, on the north end of the city containing approximately 67 acres. With the exception of the school system property, all other properties passed unanimously. "We are still looking into the project, and to make sure that all process have been done properly," said Nicholas County School Superintendent Greg Reid in a conversation with THE CARLISLE MERCURY on Wednesday.

Nicholas County and Carlisle to clean-up

If you have been looking for the right time to spruce up your property and neighborhood than the next two weeks is for you.

With the Commonwealth Clean Up Week being held March 18-25 and the City of Carlisle "Clean Up Days" being held the first week in April 3-7, stop by the office and make arrangements. There is a small fee for certain household items.

If you are a club or organization that would like to participate in the Commonwealth Clean Up Week, please contact the Nicholas County Judge/Executive office at 259-0255. To have the City pick up your items the week of April 3-7, stop by the office and make arrangements. There is a small fee for certain household items.

Abnee guilty

Pam J. Abnee, who confessed to Kentucky State Police for the December bomb threats at Nicholas County School, Foodland, and Nicholas County Square Apartments was found guilty, on three

counts of bomb threats during her trial that was held Thursday, March 9. She was sentenced to 12 months in jail with credit for seven days served and a fine of \$1,500.



BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

Days gone by at Hickory Ridge

The small community of Hickory Ridge, first called "The Ridge", but later known as Hickory Ridge, was located in Nicholas county on the head waters of Stoney Creek. A road, called the New Cut road, opened the community for transportation between Stoney Creek Road and the Mayville and Lexington Road.

At the close of the Civil War when the Negroes were free to leave their masters and settle in communities of their choice, a number of Negro families settled on Hickory Ridge. When circumstances allowed, these families bought their own small farms, built homes, and reared their children. They were industrious, proud people, and were highly respected by the white people in the area.

The men raised their crops, tended their gardens, put out fruit orchards and had many varieties of trees and flowers that thrived growing around their homes. The women knew where to find

herbs to use in their cooking as well as for their use as medicine. They often shared their medicines with the white neighbors in their times of illness. There was much good and valuable hickory timber to be had from the Ridge and this Negro community prospered.

The community soon felt the need of a place of worship, as they were a religious, God-fearing people. On April 14, 1894 the people bought from Sarah Campbell one half acre of land for the site of the church. They erected a neat frame building and gave it the name Methodist Episcopal Church of America. The trustees making the purchase were Thomas Robby, Morris Rice, and Robert Taylor. This church meant much to the entire community of both Blacks and Whites. Camp Meetings were held in the summers and quite able ministers were brought in to conduct the meetings. The boys were preached and many people, both black

and white attended these meetings. It was said their singing was unsurpassed. The ladies kept the church yard and cemetery in good condition throughout the year. There were many flowering shrubs, such as lilacs, both purple and white, birdflower, snowball, peonies, and March flowers. Today headstones monuments with names and dates are chisled in the stone may still be seen in the church yard.

After years of service to the community the church was destroyed by a freak tornado that swept through the community. Over the years many of the older citizens died and the younger ones had left the Ridge and settled in other places. The church was never rebuilt.

The people wanted not only a church, but a school for their children. The county granted them a school of eight grades which was called Hickory Ridge School. Over the years they had several

teachers. One teacher, Mrs. Sam Brooks, taught the children of the school for about 15 years. A number of very bright boys and girls came from that school. Again had luck struck the community and the school house burned in 1904. After that the remaining children went to Carlisle and enrolled in the Henryville school with their friends and kinfolk.

In 1935, Aunt Lute Young, the last of the Negro population on Hickory Ridge passed away. This ended the era of the Negro community.

In 1963 Hickory Ridge came to life again. On May 28 Gov. Combs was on the Ridge to dedicate the North Central 4-H Club Camp. Gov. Combs was introduced by Nicholas County Attorney, Charles Cox. A barbecued chicken dinner was enjoyed by the Governor and the audience, after which the crowd went to one of the new cabins built there and watched Rachel Booth, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Booth cut the ribbon. Soon another auspicious step was taken when a number of local citizens organized and planned a lake project on Hickory Ridge. There some citizens and other interested people bought lots along the site of a lake shore. Many cottages used for summer homes and also year round homes may be seen dotting the shore line.