



Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon, Kentucky 40456 - Volume 113 - Number 19 - Ph. (606) 256-2244 - .50 a copy - Thursday, February 10, 2000

Fiscal court hears from Democrat County Chair

Acting Democratic County Chairman Verla Scott told the Rockcastle County Fiscal Court on Tuesday that she had money for blightproofing of some county roads.

Mrs. Scott said the county roads she wanted worked on were: Briarfield Cemetery Road, Big Clear Creek Road, Copper Creek Road, Sweetwater Road, Lackey Road and a portion of Wab-Jones Road.

Mrs. Scott said she would like to work with the fiscal court to improve the county's roads and if not she would "take the money elsewhere."

Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifotis said the fiscal court had already turned in Big Clear Creek, Sweetwater and Copper Creek for resurfacing. And he told Mrs. Scott that the county was going to blacktop the Briarfield Cemetery Road themselves as part of the county's efforts to improve cemetery access in the county.

The Judge said that no work could be done on the Lackey Road because it was not a bona fide county road, because the county hadn't accepted it.

He said that the fiscal court would welcome any help from the state, but that no work could be done on any county road (even by the state) without the permission of the fiscal court through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The court also heard from some very disgruntled residents of the Rainbow Valley Burdette sub-division drive off Purr Rigby Road.

Bobby Bussell presented the court with a petition, signed by twelve

Cont. to A-12

Livingston man arrested

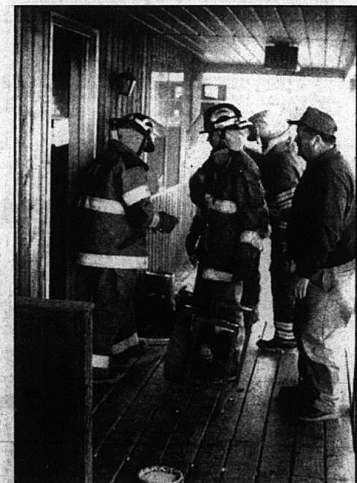
A local man remains behind bars this week, after a Sunday night incident in the city limits of Livingston. Lee Hammond, 46, of Livingston was arrested by Kentucky State Trooper Lave Owens, after he reportedly shot at the home of Freda Sturgill and shot out some street lights.

According to Owens, Hammond attempted to drive off when he saw Owens turn on his emergency lights.

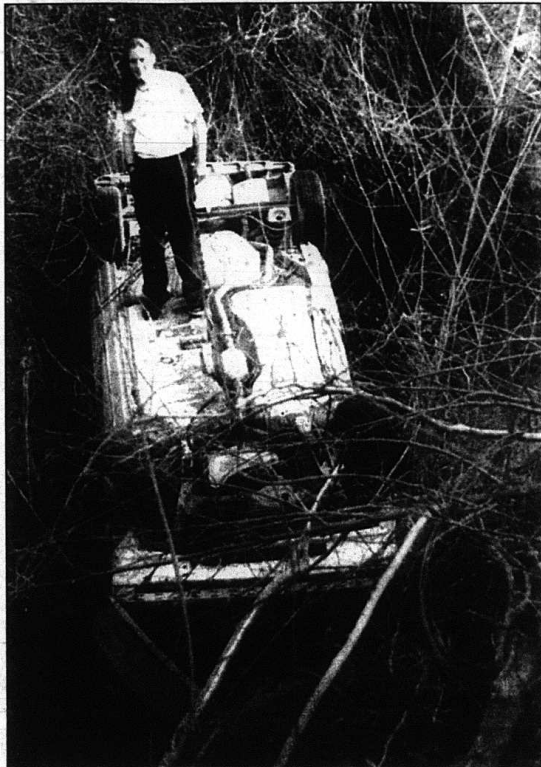
The trooper arrested Hammond after he blocked Hwy. 1955 with his cruiser.

Hammond refused all sobriety tests and was charged with two counts of wanton endangerment in the first degree and driving under the influence.

Hammond is being held on a \$7,500 cash or property bond.



Mt. Vernon firefighters were called to the Rockcastle Auto Parts building on U.S. 25 in Mt. Vernon Tuesday afternoon. According to firefighters, a grease fire broke out in one of the apartments above the parts store around 4 p.m. A few people, including small children were in the apartment at the time of the fire. Store manager Wayne Taylor went to the apartment with a fire extinguisher and was able to contain the blaze until firefighters arrived. The building sustained minimal damage.



Michael Wyatt, 19, of Livingston was all smiles after he escaped injury in a single car wreck on U.S. 25, north of Livingston, Tuesday afternoon. Wyatt said he swerved to miss a dog and lost control of his car, which traveled over an embankment, overturning and landing in a small creek. Wyatt said he was wearing his seat belt.

Mt. Vernon amends ordinance, will vote again on February 21

By: Richard Anderkin

The Mt. Vernon City Council will once again try to pass a final reading of an ordinance that will tax the wages of employees and the profits of businesses inside the city limit.

The ordinance calls for a half-cent of every dollar tax on the wages and profits to go to the city each

Mrs. Kirby then requested that there be no examination of anyone's private records, unless it was ordered by the district or circuit court, after suit was brought by the city.

The vote on that amendment was also defeated after Mrs. Kirby and Renner voted yes, Mullins and Mrs. Vanhoose voted no and Bullock abstained. The Mayor broke the tie voting no.

Mrs. Kirby then asked the council to amend the ordinance and exempt Image Entry employees from the tax for three years. Mrs. Kirby referred to the ordinance itself, which states that the city can exempt up to two factories for five years in order to get them to locate here or not to leave. Mrs. Kirby said the employees at Image Entry were already paying a one percent fee back to Image Entry and that she did not think it was fair, because Image Entry is the only factory the city will collect the tax from.

That amendment was also defeated in the same manner. The same two yes votes, the same two no votes, one abstention and the no vote by the

Gary Kirby sentenced

Gary "Legs" Kirby, of Chestnut Ridge was sentenced to twelve years in prison Friday in United States Federal Court in London.

Kirby had pled guilty in November to possession of cocaine with intent to distribute it.

Kirby will also be placed on three years probation after he serves his sentence, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's office.

Many of our readers have complained throughout the years about not being able to get in touch with us after hours and on weekends. That is no longer a problem. We can now be contacted on the Internet at info@signal.com.

Shirley Smith lambastes Fiscal Court, Judge

By: Richard Anderkin

Rockcastle County Sheriff Shirley Smith lambasted the Rockcastle Fiscal Court and Rockcastle Judge Executive Buzz Carlifotis Tuesday during the monthly Rockcastle Fiscal Court meeting.

Smith's comments came during a fifteen minute exchange with the County Judge and centered around a \$2,100 reimbursement to the Sheriff's office from the fiscal court for the transportation of juvenile prisoners.

Smith told the fiscal court that they had never helped him during his ten years in office and that it had gotten especially worse the last three years.

The \$2,100 reimbursement apparently dates back as far as 1996.

"Nobody cares about the law until they need them," Smith said.

Carlifotis took exception to Smith's comments, saying the court always supported the Sheriff's office, but that ultimately any shortfall in fees in any county office had to be made up by the fiscal court. "Under state law, the bucks stop here," Carlifotis said.

The Judge said that actually himself and the magistrates would be held personally responsible for shortfalls, if they did not take action to see that money was available to cover them. "That is why we had to pass the insurance tax or we could have landed in jail," he said.

The Judge also told Smith that the county had always paid the insurance on his police cruisers and they also paid his monthly phone bills. Last year those phone bills amounted to \$3,600.

He also pointed out that the Sheriff's office was required by law to haul juvenile prisoners and that the fiscal court did not have to reimburse him, but that they always had.

But Smith said he thought it was unfair that the fiscal court pay their janitors more than he was able to pay his deputies and that the fiscal court bought the county road workers uniforms and provided some of them with vehicles to drive back and forth to work.

He also said he had recently paid

\$7,000 out of his pocket for three police cruisers and had put \$1,200 into his payroll account from his farm account to meet expenses.

"There has never been a fool in here since I've done what I've done and there never will be," Smith said.

"When I first ran for office, all I heard was that this Hasty had beat the county out of a lot of money and now that you got an honest man in office, you won't help him," Smith told the fiscal court.

"I've had ten years of clean audits from the state and I'm getting tired of you guys 'hoodooing' me," Smith said.

Before the conversation began between the Judge and the Sheriff, the fiscal court had already unanimously voted to pay the reimbursement of the \$2,100 when money became available.

The Sheriff also told the Judge that if the county did not want to pay for the insurance on his cars anymore that was fine with him.

However, the Judge pointed out that he did not say the county did not want to pay the insurance he merely said that they do pay it.

But during the conversation Rockcastle Jailor James Miller and County Treasurer Joe Clontz told Smith that the jail fund would pay him after they received money from the state for housing prisoners. Clontz said it would probably be by the 15th of February.

After the discussion between the Judge and Sheriff the court passed the Sheriff's 2000 operating budget of \$187,000. That was an increase of \$15,000 from a year ago.

Deputy Sheriff Sonya Previtt said the increase was based on higher property assessments and number of new homes being built in the county. The budget also included \$24,000 more for deputy salaries.

After the meeting, the Judge pointed out several other expenses paid by the county for the Sheriff's office.

They include: one hundred percent of employers share of retirement, workers compensation benefits

Cont. to A-12

Census is important to Rockcastle County

County Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifotis is concerned that every household in Rockcastle County respond to the Census 2000 questionnaires, and that they accurately represent their family in the responses. According to the last census (1990), Rockcastle County was able to count approximately 15,000 residents.

Because much of a county's funding depends upon the number of people residing within a county, it is extremely important that every person be counted.

"I realize that a lot of people don't want the federal government knowing anything about them, but they are often the same people who complain about roads and other services. The

government has been counting Americans since 1790, and this is the way we can increase our services," Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifotis said.

Many in the county believe our numbers have grown - especially when you consider that we have 10,756 registered voters and 2,895 students enrolled in school. This would mean that 1,349 preschoolers and unregistered adults live in the county. This could be correct, but it would mean that we have an unusually high number of registered adults in Rockcastle County.

Our county's future (for the next 10 years) depends upon you making the census count. Our county's future depends upon you.

Don't leave it blank.



Tuesday, Rockcastle County Attorney Jeffrey T. Burdette, in conjunction with the Cabinet For Families and Children - Child Support Division, donated a computer, monitor and printer to the Rockcastle Fiscal Court to help Rockcastle County move more toward technology, and to help provide more effective and efficient assistance to the public. At left is Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carlifotis and Burdette.