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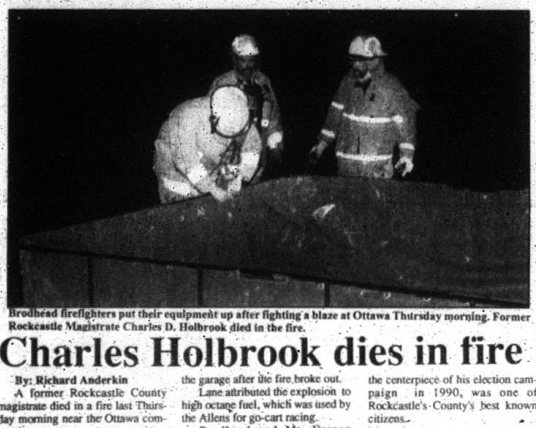
Former Rockcastle County Magistrate Charles D. Holbrook of Brodhead died in a fire at Ottawa on Thursday morning.



Brodhead firefighters put their equipment up after fighting a blaze at Ottawa Thursday morning. Former Rockcastle Magistrate Charles D. Holbrook died in the fire.

Charles Holbrook dies in fire

By: Richard Anderkin

A former Rockcastle County magistrate died in a fire last Thursday morning near the Ottawa community.

Charles D. "Sleepy" Holbrook, 68, of Brodhead died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to smoke inhalation, according to Rockcastle County Coroner Bill Dowell, who ordered an autopsy in the case.

The deadly fire occurred at 3:20 a.m. in a garage on the property of Jerry and Peggy Allen, eight miles west of Mt. Vernon, off of Hwy. 70.

Kentucky State Police Detective Gary Lane, who is investigating the incident said that Holbrook had apparently fallen asleep in the garage, after he went to the Allens to "do some trading."

There was also an explosion at the garage after the fire broke out.

Lane attributed the explosion to high octage fuel, which was used by the Allens for go-cart racing.

Brodhead and Mt. Vernon firefighters found Holbrook's body around 5:00 a.m., several feet from the door of the garage after they extinguished the blaze.

Dowell said that according to the autopsy there was no foul play involved and that Holbrook may have fallen asleep and was trying to leave the garage when he was overcome by smoke.

Dowell said that Jerry Allen knew Holbrook was in the garage.

Lane said the investigation into the fire and death is still underway.

Holbrook, who was probably best known for his antics when he used a monkey known as "Boom-Boom" as the centerpiece of his election campaign in 1990, was one of Rockcastle's County's best known citizens.

Holbrook was a Veteran of the Korean War, he had been a teacher in the Rockcastle school system and he was a former employee of the Department of Social Services.

Holbrook, who served one term as magistrate, received national attention in the 1960's and 70's along with his father John H. Holbrook because of the ginseng they grew on their farm.

Funeral services for Holbrook were held Wednesday at the Brodhead Baptist Church.

A complete obituary will appear in next week's *Signal*.

Indictments returned by Grand Jury

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury, handed down indictments on Friday against two local men who are accused of entering the home of Julie Martin in the Conway area of Rockcastle County on December 12, 2000.

John R. Saylor, Jr., 19, of Mt. Vernon and Charles Marlow, Jr., 30, of Mt. Vernon were named in the six count indictment.

Saylor is accused of having a handgun in his possession when the crime was committed.

Both men are accused of threatening Mrs. Martin with physical force during the holdup.

Marlow and Saylor were also indicted last month in connection with another break-in at the home of Tim and Diane Abrams in Mt. Vernon on January 29.

Saylor is also facing charges in an armed robbery at a Pulaski County

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Court hears Clay's request for new lake

By: Richard Anderkin

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court heard from a group of Clay County officials on Tuesday including County Judge James Garrison, School Superintendent Doug Adams and magistrate Terry Davidson.

The group was soliciting support for a lake project which would involve Rockcastle, Clay, Jackson and Laurel Counties.

The three men told the court that the lake was very important to the future development of Clay County and the region, including Rockcastle County.

Clay County apparently has somewhat of a water supply problem and the new lake would greatly help that situation.

The lake would feed off the Rockcastle River and lay in the Lamero section of the county.

It would also be located in Jackson, Clay and Laurel Counties.

Garrison told the court that every time the needs of Clay County were discussed, water and the lack of it was always the main subject.

Garrison told the court that he did not want to present the project to U.S. Congressman Harold Rogers until he had the support of all county officials in each county.

Garrison said that he had talked with Rogers about six years ago concerning the project which is called Parkers Branch.

The three men said they would be meeting with all county officials in the four counties in the very near future.

Rockcastle County Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis told the group that he was very much in favor of the lake project and each magistrate, John Holbrook, Jack Bradley, Bill McKinney, Fred Mullins, Jr. and Donald Bullock also voiced their support for the project.

The proposed lake would be a third larger than Laurel Lake, which would cover about 9,000 acres.

The court also approved Marvin Owens as deputy coroner and discussed which four dumpsites the county would clean-up to satisfy their agreement with David McFarland.

After the court meeting Holly Wiedemann and Linda Gateskill of AU Association of Lexington visited the old Livingston School property with Carloftis, the county's head of maintenance Gene Cromer, Magistrate Bill McKinney, and Daniel Boone Development Council Executive Director Mike Buckles.

Wiedemann is the developer of the renovation of the Midway School project in Woodford County, and is presently getting ready to renovate the Irvine School in Estill County.

A graduate of the University of Georgia with a fellowship in England, she has a master's degree in business with Duke University. In addition to the school projects, she was also the associate developer of a 500-unit apartment complex in Boston, Massachusetts.

"I was extremely impressed with both Holly's and Linda's ability to grasp the possibilities for the old school building. After a quick walk-through of the property, Holly was

Cont. to A-8

School board approves five percent pay increase

Rockcastle High School Superintendent Larry Hammond has posted two important jobs in the Rockcastle County school system.

Rockcastle County High School Principal Ruth Allen and Director of Student Services Loretta Powell are retiring.

Both jobs were posted last Friday and applicants have 30 days to apply.

Hammond, who announced the openings at Tuesday night's board of education meeting said that he had not received any applications for either job as of yet.

The board of education also approved a five percent pay increase for all school system employees which will go into effect on July 1.

Civic leader Wayne Stewart dies

Wayne Stewart, a retired Rockcastle County businessman and community leader, died Wednesday at Berea Hospital. He was 77 and lived in Renfro Valley.

Mr. Stewart ran Rockcastle Farm Service in Mt. Vernon from 1959 to 1983. He was administrator of Rockcastle Hospital in Mt. Vernon from 1983 to 1989.

At his death he was a member of the hospital's board of directors. He also was chairman of the board of Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation in London. He had held that position in the non-profit, private venture-capital company for about 25 years.

Mr. Stewart was born in Rockcastle County, graduated from Berea College and served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

Cont. to A-8

The home of Alfred and Mary McNew at Brindle Ridge was destroyed by fire Friday. The couple lost everything in the house. Alfred McNew said the fire apparently started in the electrical box. Brindle Ridge, Brodhead and Mt. Vernon firefighters responded to the fire.

Two graves in the Davis-Witt Cemetery at Scaffold Cane were unearthed by apparent would be robbers last week. Above, Mrs. Dorothy Martin and Rockcastle Judge-Executive Buzz Carloftis examine the damage. The graves were that of Mrs. Martin's ancestors and one of the graves had been dug in 1860. County employee Scotty Berryman, John King, Carloftis and work release prisoners filled the graves back in. The Rockcastle Sheriff's office is investigating.