

Mount Vernon Signal

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Seven indicted

The Rockcastle County Grand Jury returned six indictments last week for alleged crimes ranging from failure to wear a seat belt, to stealing a social security check.

Mike Lee Marlow, 26, of Rt. 1, Mt. Vernon was indicted on a charge of knowingly having in his possession a stolen check, which police say he took from the mailbox of Cecil R. Houk.

Nicky S. Thompson, 35, of Brodhead was indicted on a charge of receiving stolen property. He is accused of having stolen property, belonging to Timothy Siler.

Billy G. Robinson, 39; Ricky Dale Madden, 46, and Joe King, 32, all of Mt. Vernon, were indicted on charges of burglary, first degree and theft by unlawful taking.

The three are accused of breaking into the home of Mark Robinson, on February 21st of this year.

John Campbell, 43, of Georgetown was indicted on four charges, all related to driving while under the influence of alcohol. Campbell has been convicted of DUI three other times.

I-75 north closing last Thursday explained

If you were unfortunate enough to try to be going north on U.S. 25 last Thursday between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. or thereabouts, you probably wondered why it was taking you an hour to reach Roundstone Elementary from Mt. Vernon.

Hat Holbrook, director of emergency management services for Rockcastle County, explained that a wreck, which happened about 3 a.m. Thursday morning, sent a semi-trailer trailer over a hill at the 73 mile marker starting the chain of events.

The accident happened when a truck, which had broken down in the middle of the road, was clipped from behind by another semi, causing a front tire to blow out. The driver then lost control, went through the guard rail and over the 100 foot embankment. The impact caused the truck's fuel line to rupture and tore the filters from the oil lines. The truck lost about 11 gallons of oil and 100-120 gallons of diesel fuel, but none of it went into a stream about 15 feet from the accident.

However, Holbrook said an environmental team had to be brought in to clean up the contaminated soil and then a wrecker took several hours to retrieve the truck. That portion of the clean-up is what caused the interstate to have to be shut down for several hours, re-routing all the northbound traffic onto U.S. 25 to Berea.

Fiscal Court finally rules

No lights, sirens for constables

The Rockcastle County Fiscal Court settled the question of blue lights/sirens for county constables at a special meeting of the court Monday.

After a short discussion of a letter to the Magistrates from County Judge/Executive Buzz Carlotta, laying out the court's options to deal with the matter,

Magistrate Fred Mullins made a motion to approve the devices with restriction, as laid out in Carlotta's letter.

The restrictions included: no high-speed pursuits; fully marked vehicles that meet the fiscal court's standards; uniform requirement or at least a badge; restriction of activity to county-

maintained roads and state highways, with the exception of a request for back-up on the Interstate by sheriff's department or state police; a minimum of 40 hours basic law enforcement training and prohibition of road checks, unless in conjunction with the sheriff's department.

However, Mullins' motion

died for lack of a second and no other motion was made.

Wednesday, in a written statement brought to the Signal, Mullins explained his reasons for the motion:

"I made the motion to permit our county's constables the use of blue lights and sirens at yesterday's fiscal court meeting because of several reasons.

"I think the added visibility of cruisers on the roads in our communities would help deter crime.

"I think the constables, if provided lights and sirens, could add to the present law enforcement in Rockcastle County.

"The fiscal court's insurance coverage would not be compromised, because the county's present coverage extends to all law enforcement officers.

"The county judge gave us three options: approve lights and sirens; reject lights and sirens or approve lights and sirens with restriction.

I made the motion for the court to approve lights and sirens with restrictions, including state training for law enforcement officials and restrictions on certain types of activities constables could engage in. This was all in accordance with how one of the options was presented.

I am still convinced that constables, if given permission to use lights and sirens with specific restrictions placed by the fiscal court, could augment present law enforcement activities and restrict criminal activities.

I made the motion to permit, with restrictions, because of my convictions, no other magistrate seconded the motion and I respect their opinion. However, the county judge had no alternative but to pronounce the issue dead at the meeting."

By Fred Mullins

Magistrate, District Four

As the first order of business of the meeting, the court opened sealed bids for three voting precinct booths, located at East Mt. Vernon, Brown and West Mt. Vernon.

High bidder on the building on Poplar Street (West Mt. Vernon) was Novice Gentry at \$1,450;

Carol J. Martin for the Brown precinct building (Willalla) with a bid of \$550 and Donna Blanton

for the East Mt. Vernon precinct building (behind Cox Hardware) with a bid of \$251.

The court also decided to sell the Poplar Street property, on which the precinct building was located, to the high bidder on Tuesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. at the site.

A permit application by R&M Sanitation was approved by the court. The company has met all requirements and was recommended for approval by James E. Renner, solid waste coordinator.

An extension of solid waste haulers and convenience center permits was approved through July 8, 2003 for: Bee Garbage (hauler and convenience center); I&M Garbage Service; Mink's Garbage Service; Perkins' Garbage Service; Riley's Garbage Service and Waste Management Container Service.

The court also passed an ordinance approving the increase of fees for the Sheriff's Department for the service of Civil Summons to \$30, from \$20, and \$20 for arrest fee, from \$10.

The increased rates will be in effect upon publication in The Signal and the second reading of the ordinance at the next regular meeting of the court.

An approval of a time extension to complete work on the Ten Foot Hole Road low water crossing was received from the Division of Emergency Management. The county now has until August 15, 2003 to complete work for damages received during the flood disaster of August, 2001.

The court also approved a motion by Magistrate Billy McKinney to work out an agreement with Beth Hamm to rent the former Brodhead Adult Day Care building. The building has been vacant for some time and the

magistrates felt an occupant was needed to keep the building from deteriorating. Rental was set in the neighborhood of \$400 plus utility per month with a security deposit required.



They say that if you don't like the weather in Kentucky just stay a while. Last Wednesday, Rockcastle County was hit by a severe thunderstorm. The above tree, which is located near Four Sons Subdivision in Mt. Vernon, was struck by lightning. And then on Monday, the beautiful Spring weather allowed Rebecca Turner, Adam Davidson and Glen Davidson to "drop a line" in Brush Creek. The high Monday was 72.



Historic Rockcastle Co. home being restored

By Richard Anderkin
Some people in this world feel like they should give something back to their community and Charles Stanley Phillips is one of those people.

Phillips, the grandson of the late Wally Phillips a former Rockcastle magistrate, is still in the process of restoring a historic Rockcastle County building.

But he, Craig Clark, Gerald

Chasteen and Roland Hammond have already completed the outside of what used to be an old coach house. One that certainly has plenty of history.

"If these walls could talk - oh the stories they could tell," said Phillips. Ulysses S. Grant ate lunch there. Frank Smith was shot to death there. A 30-year-old woman died during childbirth and, according to one man's story, she still haunts the place.

Some say that you could throw down coal dust at night at the bottom of the steps and in the morning children's footprints would be there! J.S. Adams kept slaves to work the farm and Tom Jim Ballard made legal whiskey there.

Verbal history even says that "Devil Bill" Adams ran the coach house, which is located in the Red Hill Section of Rockcastle County.

Even if it sounds like the set of a Walt Disney adventure film, the coach house is real and has been since about 1808.

Wally Phillips bought the coach house from Thaddeus Drew, his father-in-law.

Thad Drew, got the coach house from Tom Jim Ballard who got it from J.S. Adams.

Records of ownership of the house are gone, they were burned with the courthouse in 1873, but Phillips knows that a man named Stephen Gilbert did the original survey on the property.

Probably the oldest house in this county was originally intended to be

a coach house where people and animals rested on their long trips from London to Richmond. The house stands beside the original Daniel Boone Trail that eventually became the main road from Indianapolis to the Cumberland Gap.

Some people say that the reason the Red Hill Road was called the Old State Road is because it was the main thoroughfare from Ohio to Tennessee.

Though it can't be completely documented, legend has it that "Devil Bill" Adams, one of the county's most colorful characters, owned the house and farm at one time.

It is said that he owned 6,000 acres of the land in the area and kept 75 slaves on the place.

The slave houses were kept across the road from the house, "Devil Bill" apparently didn't like the smell of the shanties in which he housed his slaves. How "Devil Bill" got his nickname is a matter of some conjecture but it apparently had something to do with the way he treated the slaves.

J.S. Adams is the first recorded owner of the coach house and the property adjacent to it.

According to records in former County Clerk's office T.J. Ballard, (Tom Jim) as he was better known, bought the place from the J.S. Adams heirs on the 17th of April, 1872. Little is reported about J.S. Adams, but he did run the coach house until his death.

Tom Jim Ballard is another one of those colorful characters whose name has popped up in Rockcastle County from time to time.

Tom Jim was the last to run the coach house on the premises. He died shortly after the turn of the century.

Tom Jim was said to be a gambler. It is also told that he played cards whenever possible. People have also told that he would very often involve passing livestock drivers in card games and while they gambled with others he would steal a head or two of their livestock.

It is said that Tom Jim would run a cow or pig over the cliffs behind

the house, and the weary gamblers would donate the animals to the coach house, rather than having to fool with them. Therefore, Tom Jim stayed in "fresh meat."

Other assorted legends, maybe true, maybe not, have sprung up around the house.

Some say when General Grant stopped at the coach house for lunch he was heading south with his troops.

There are others who have said that the ghost of Mrs. Sally Cranberry, who died in childbirth at the coach house in 1831, still haunts the place and she is, after all, "buried" (Cont. to A7)



Charles Stanley Phillips



Charles Stanley Phillips has found the above arrowheads near the property of his grandfather's at Red Hill, while he has been restoring the historic house.