

**AL
SMITH**

**A life in journalism
and public service**

Albert Perrine Smith Jr. was born Jan. 8, 1927, in Sarasota, Fla., where his father had gone to get rich but didn't. The family moved back to a farm in Tennessee, where at the age of 15 Al became a stringer, a community correspondent, for **The Tennessean** in Nashville and entered the American Legion Oratory Contest. Only a sophomore, he beat out three seniors for the top prize, a \$4,000 college scholarship.



Poised while he talked the judges out of \$4,000, young Albert P. Smith's knees wobbled when he was announced national winner of the American Legion high school oratorical contest Thursday. Smith, front, was awarded the \$4,000 scholarship. He is from Hendersonville, Tenn. Other sectional winners who competed with

him at the finals, held in Shorewood High school auditorium, are ranged behind him. Left to right, they are Mildred E. Miller, Waterbury, Conn., who got a \$250 scholarship; H. S. Burton of Kaysville, Utah, \$750 scholarship, and Harold A. Pollman of Carrington, N. D., \$500 scholarship.

*Tennessee Farm Youth
Legion Oratory Winner*

He went to **Vanderbilt University** but dropped out and went to New Orleans, where he worked on the **Picayune** and the **Item** but got fired and returned to Tennessee with a serious drinking problem.

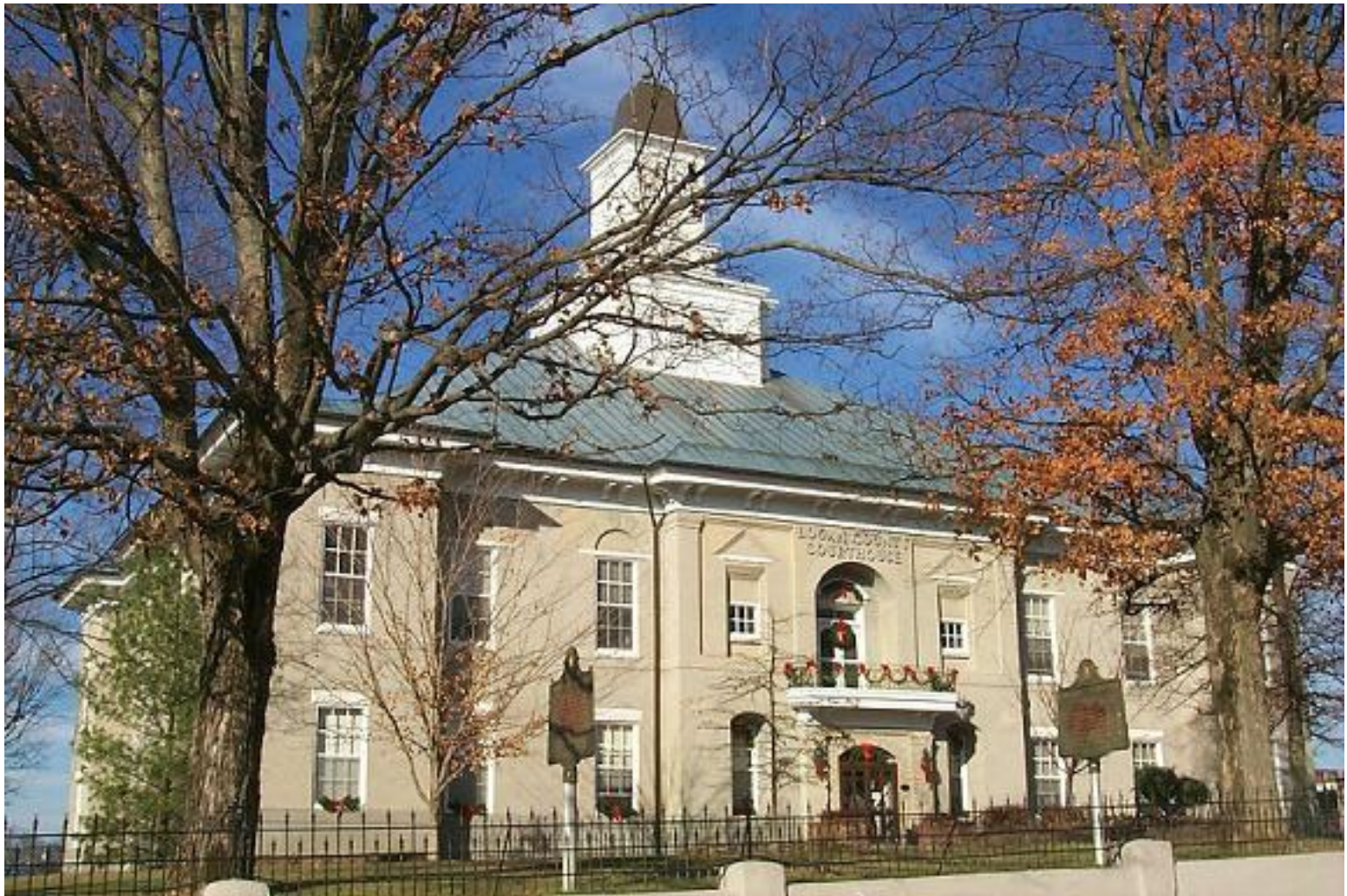
He dried out for a month, and applied at The Tennessean, but there were no openings.



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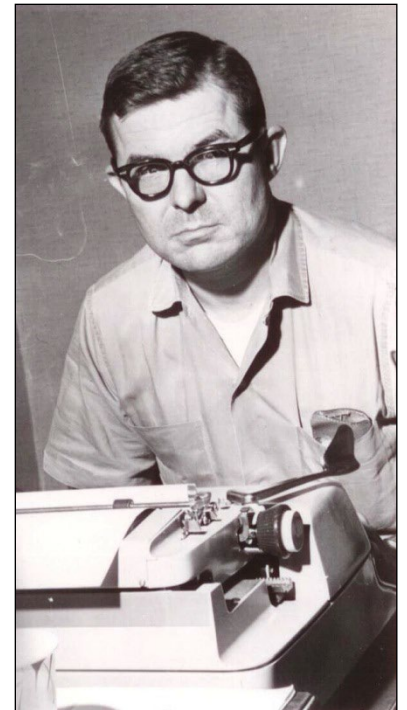
*Tennessee Farm Youth
Legion Oratory Winner*



He took what he thought was a temporary job editing The News-Democrat, a weekly in Russellville, the seat of Logan County, a half hour west of Bowling Green. It would be the place of his rebirth as a community journalist, and set the course of his life.

“I was 31 and just another tramp newspaper man who drank too much. After losing two jobs on New Orleans dailies, I was profoundly depressed, not much caring if the next loss would be my life,” Al recalls in the preface to the memoir he is writing.

“I won’t say I’m not that person anymore, but Russellville fooled me, the fooler, who had deceived myself through an intense pursuit of self-destruction. It took five more years of battling the bottle, but in a small town which I scorned as nothing, I finally learned there was everything, including sobriety and the beginning of a new and different career nearly all of it still in the news business but with a family and as an ‘engaged’ kind of journalist, that is, as both a story teller and a player in the narratives.”



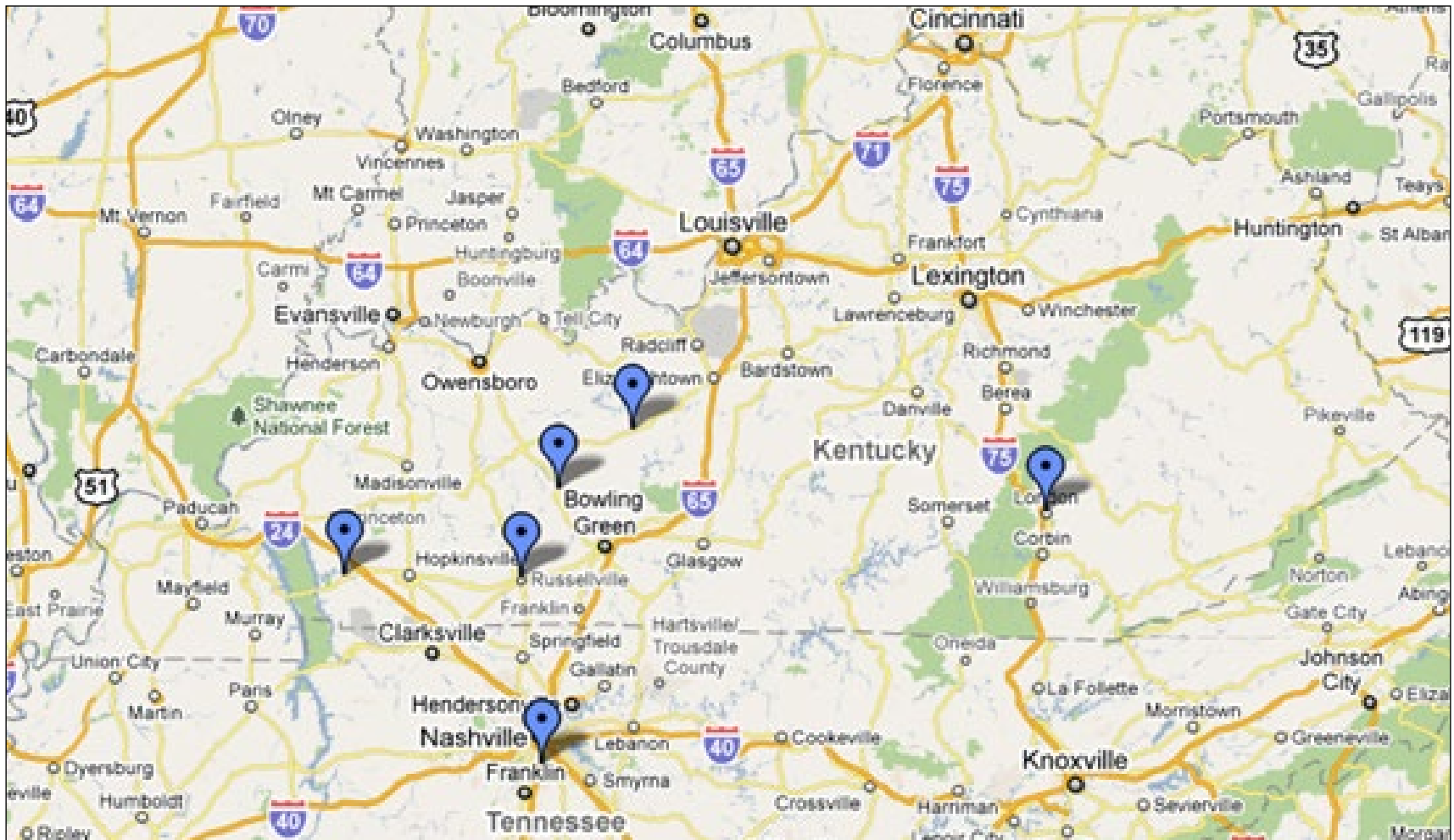


After kicking the bottle, Al bought a small piece of The News-Democrat and married Martha Helen Disharoon, which he says was the best decision he ever made.

He often quotes her: Living in small towns is fine “as long as your vision didn’t stop at the city-limits sign.”

When the owner of the paper wouldn’t sell him more stock, he started his own paper, and the owner sold out to him a month later.

He kept publishing both Russellville papers, then bought others in Morgantown, Cadiz and Leitchfield, and started one in Brentwood, Tenn. This map also locates one his company bought later in London, Ky.

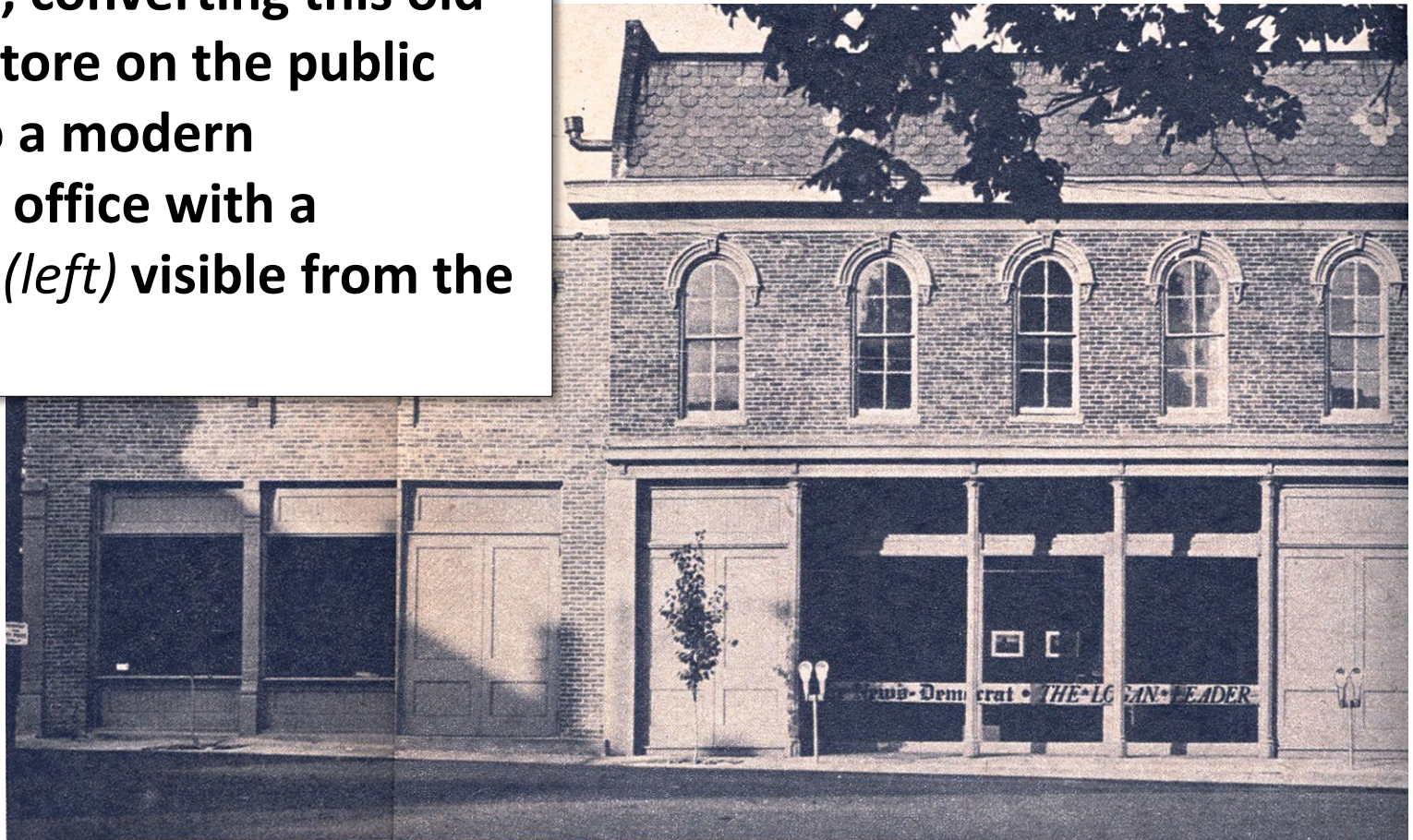


Al became a leader in the Kentucky Press Association, first helping end its practice of accepting free liquor from distillers for its conventions, and then making a major mark on the public policy of Kentucky by helping push through the state's first real open-meetings and open-records laws.



Photo from a KPA convention

He was a strong advocate for industrial development but also for community arts programs and historic preservation, and he put his money where his mouth was, converting this old hardware store on the public square into a modern newspaper office with a pressroom (*left*) visible from the street.



A painted flag on the pressroom wall was a constant reminder of the First Amendment.

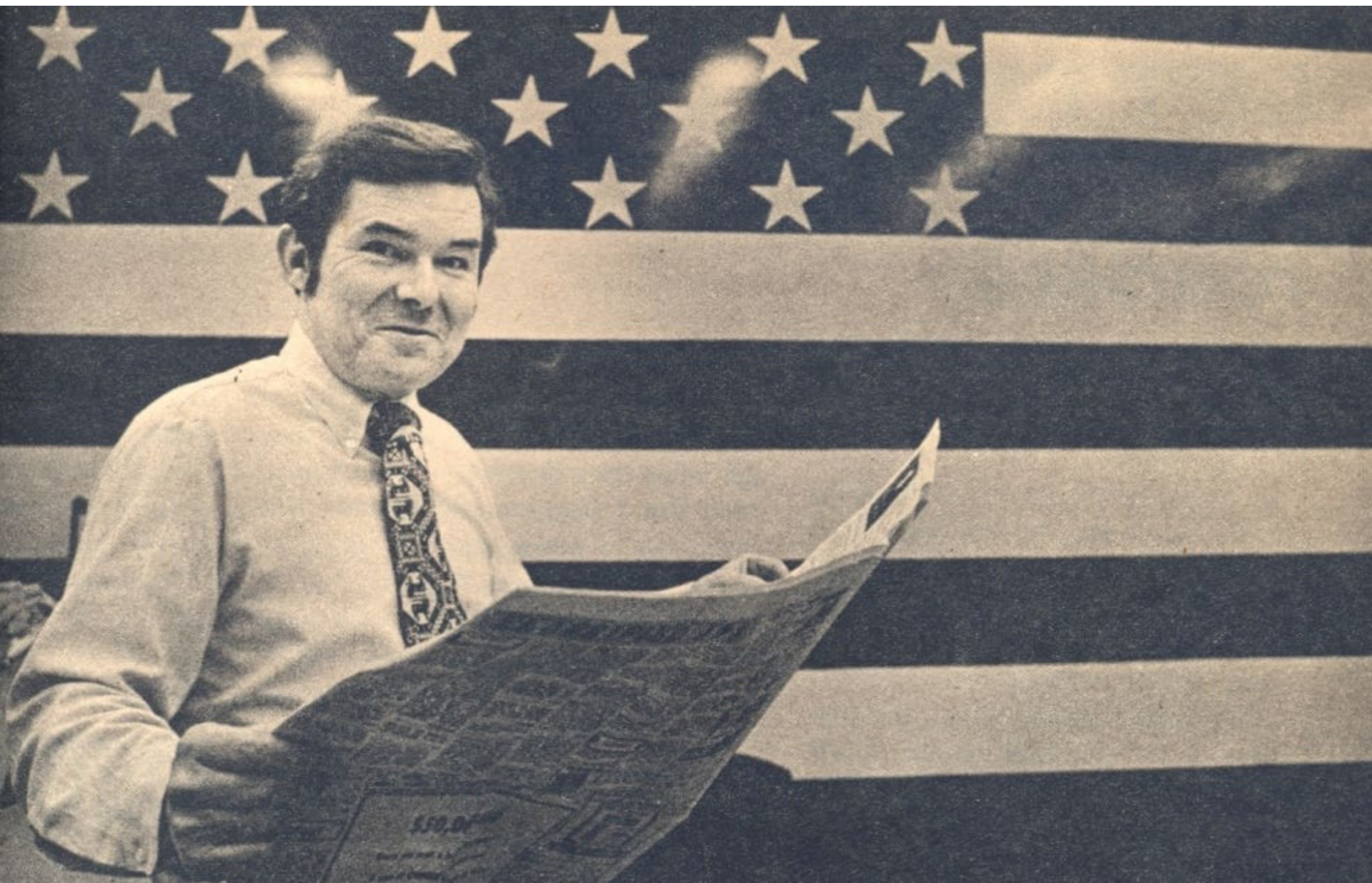


Photo by Richard Nugent, The Courier-Journal and Times Magazine

AI's keys to editorial leadership

- A newspaper has a unique community role
- Keep public service at top of mind
- Have a conversation with readers
- Provide and promote a fair forum for all
- Comfort the afflicted, afflict the comfortable:
Give voice to the voiceless, and speak truth to
power; no one else can do it like you can
- Take stands, carry causes; always have one . . .

AI's keys to editorial leadership

- **Always have a cause**

Your readers see a newspaper that CARES about things, that amplifies the voices in the community

Choose some popular causes; that can make unpopular causes easier to sell when the time comes

Here's an example:

In 1975, the state planned to cut a grove of trees just west of Bowling Green on US 68, Russellville's route to the big town. Al mounted a campaign to save the trees.

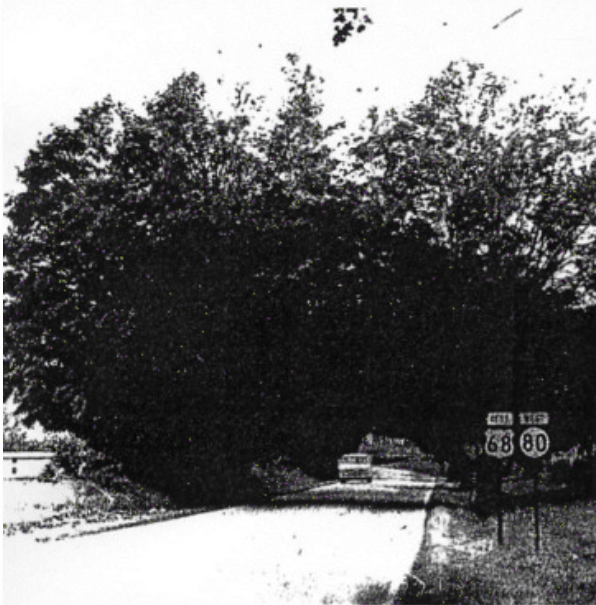
THE ★ LOGAN ★ LEADER

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 28

RUSSELLVILLE, LOGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, MONDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 28, 1975

ONE SECTION, 18 PAGES

PRICE 15 CENTS



Arch of maples near Bowling Green

...they'll be chopped down as a safety hazard to motorists

Grove of maples to be removed *Safety for motorists State's aim in cutting 101 trees*

By Al Smith

"Safety for motorists" is the reason why the State Highway Department plans to cut down 101 trees along U. S. Hwy. 68 between Russellville and Bowling Green.

Jack Van Meter, engineer for the Bowling Green District of the State Bureau of Highways, said that if the trees hadn't been by the side of the

Does saving lives really mean we can't spare these trees?
Editorial on Page 1.

road, several persons involved in traffic accidents might not have been killed.

The trees to be removed include a grove of stately maples about six miles west of Bowling Green near Blue Level Road that many persons think is the most scenic natural attraction between Bowling Green and Russellville.

There was one fatality in the grove in 1974 and one in 1973, Van Meter said.

Why doesn't the Bureau of Highways consider putting up some sign warning motorists to reduce speed because a grove of beautiful

Nevertheless, an improvement program of considerable scope is underway along Hwy. 68 between Bowling Green and Hopkinsville.

The projected work between Bowling Green and Russellville-34 miles in all—does not include adding a third lane, but it does include removal of roadside obstacles. The trees are considered to be obstacles. There are 85 in Warren County and 18 in Logan to be cut.

Although the contract hasn't been officially awarded, the cutting of

the trees will begin within 30 to 60 days, Van Meter told a reporter for the Logan Leader and News-Democrat last week.

In addition, guardrails will be added to protect motorists from such fixed objects as bridge abutments and piers. Some old guardrails will be removed. Federal and State monies will be involved under the authority of the Highway Safety Act. The State Bureau of Highways has been

granted Design Approval from the Federal Government. Plans for the work may be seen at the District Office of the Bureau of Highways of Morgantown Road at Bowling Green.

Thus far there have been no traffic deaths in the grove of trees near Blue Level Road this year, Van Meter said, but there have been three traffic deaths on Hwy 68 in Logan County that weren't connected with any trees.

August 4 deadline for objections

Reapportionment plan retains eight districts

By Jeanne L. Bowles

Citizens of Logan County will have until Monday, August 4, to file

could equalize the magisterial districts.

"We didn't want to separate the precincts in the towns of Lewis

registered voters.

DISTRICT 4: Lewisburg Precincts 15, 16, 17, with 1260 registered voters.

The story on the front page was coupled with an editorial accompanied by a photo from the other direction.

COMMENT/OPINION

Does saving lives really mean we can't spare these trees?

WITHIN a month to 60 days, the Bureau of Highways will begin chopping down a scenic stretch of trees between Bowling Green and Russellville. They are a grove of stately water maples that the engineers have decided constitute too much of a threat to the safety of motorists using U. S. Hwy. 68.

Altogether, the State will remove 101 trees between the two towns — 16 in Logan County and 85 in Warren, including the maples which are located about six miles west of Bowling Green in the vicinity of Blue Level Road.

These arching trees are a lovely gateway between the counties.

They stand just a few miles from historic South Union, nominated for the National Register as one of Kentucky's two famous Shaker colonies. The Center House at South Union — acclaimed as perhaps the finest single Shaker building in the state — is, itself, almost on the right-of-way along Hwy. 68. The Shakers and other Logan countians going to Bowling Green and east, as well as Warren countians and others traveling west towards Logan County, journeyed past the trees that now seem doomed as unsafe for the motoring public.

There are about 20 to 25 maples in the grove that most concerns us.

As the Highway Department's resident engineer, Jack Van Meter, sees it, the trees are to blame for several deaths that occurred when cars ran off the road and struck them. A suggestion that some caution signs be put up, warning motorists to reduce speed because they are approaching a grove of trees close to the road, was dismissed on grounds that "motorists don't pay attention to a third of the signs that we have up anyway."

The satisfaction of cutting down a tree to get it out of the way of a speeding motorist who might be oneself or a relative or friend is not an adequate justification for the destruction of a genuine scenic attraction — such as a grove of trees or a roadside lake or mountain trail or a wilderness swamp or a wild river — because it might endanger some members of the passing public who failed to take reasonable safety measures in its vicinity. People drown off our beaches, and in our rivers. Regrettably, they also perish on our highways and in our parks. If we would forbid the sale of automobiles, there would be no deaths from their use, and certainly no problem with speeding motorists. But we're not going to do this, nor are we going to close our beaches and parks.

There must be a balance, and the question we raise here is whether the Bureau of Highways — with the best of intentions — has found the proper balance between safety and beauty.

Three deaths have occurred in Logan County on Hwy. 68 this summer.

They were on improved sections of the road, not anywhere near the grove of trees. There are, however, persons who were known to us or whose relatives were, who have died by striking trees on this road and other roads in Warren and Logan County. In many instances, excessive speed had a great deal to do with these accidents and was the first — or second — real cause of the fatalities. In other instances, similar deaths have occurred when speeders struck bridges — not trees — on the roads. Of the trees in question on the Hwy. 68 project, our concern is primarily with the maples near Blue Level Road, although we would reserve final opinion until we have further information about the others.

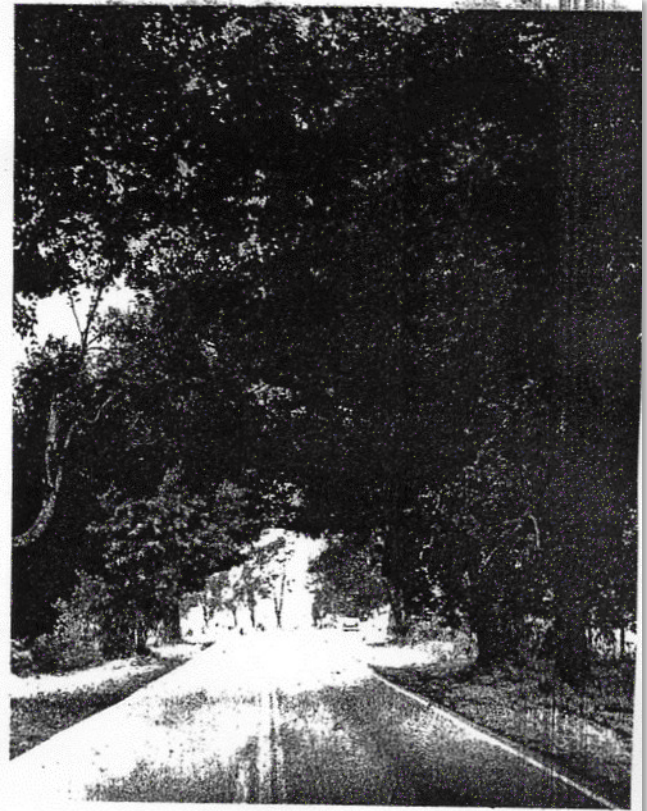
THIS PROBLEM might have been forestalled if we had kept the Kentucky Scenic Roads Commission that was created by former Gov. Louie Nunn with an executive order in 1968. The commission, the then governor said, was "to preserve and publicize" the state's scenic roads. "Many times, in the haste to improve our road system, the scenic attractions of a road are overlooked," Gov. Nunn said. "Trees, old stone fences and creek beds which contribute measurably to the beauty of a road are destroyed. Under the new scenic roads program, this danger will be eliminated."

Five roads in Western Kentucky were placed on the Scenic Roads Registry, the Courier-Journal recalled recently in an editorial protesting plan to widen Paris Pike to the detriment of that Fayette and Bourbon County road's natural beauty and historic interest.

But the commission was not renewed in 1971 when Gov. Nunn was succeeded by Gov. Ford. In the meantime, a federal plan — advanced in 1967 — to establish a national scenic highway system was shelved because of the expenses of the Vietnam war.

California and three other states have commissions to protect our scenic roads. Kentucky's commission might have a good chance of being resurrected when the 1976 General Assembly convenes if more persons become aware of the dangers to our scenic country roads. In Warren and Logan County (where old Russellville has also been nominated for the National Register as an historic district), the local governments should start making an effort on their own to save the roadsides. Strip building along Hwy. 68 has gotten out of hand in Warren. Logan's Fiscal Court should be concerned about the scenic deterioration of some of our roads — the Franklin road, the Clarksville road being high on the list.

Finally, the able Mr. Van Meter, who has been appropriately concerned about maintenance and safety problems on the roads in his district, should take another look at those water maples and see if he can offer us an alternative to the axe.



Grove of trees six miles west of Bowling Green

... these old maples to be axed and dynamited by Highway engineers

A public outcry ensued, as demonstrated by the letters on the next editorial page, and the Highway Department quickly backed down.

an editorial report

Stay of execution given for trees along Hwy. 68

By Jim Turner

Recent discoveries in horticultural science lead to the belief that plants are healthier if they are spoken to in friendly terms. If the same holds true when they are talked about favorably, 101 trees between Dumas and Bowling Green along U.S. Highway 68 may have grown a few feet and sprouted new, green foliage this week. Countless Logan and Warren Countyans have come to their defense since news of plans to destroy them have been made public.

State reacts to citizens' concern

Responding to news stories and editorials in local and Bowling Green newspapers, concerned citizens have called and written their support of tree-saving pleas. Even more important has been the reaction received by highway department officials from the public.

There has been so much criticism of the proposed destruction of the trees that action has been delayed.

The situation is under review by the Highway Department in Frankfort, district engineer Jack Van Meter said this morning. "There's no way of telling how long it will take. No public meeting has been scheduled as yet, but our original schedule for removing the trees has been postponed."

State highway engineer J. H. Harbison admitted that a review of the original decision was being made as early as Friday. He announced a top level State Department of Transportation meeting that day on the sub-

ject.

"I think we will try to gather all the facts and make an evaluation of what's in the best interest of the public," Harbison said.

One person particularly vocal about the tree cutting has been State Rep. Nicholas Kafoglis of Warren County, who Thursday asked the Bureau of Highways to hold a public hearing.

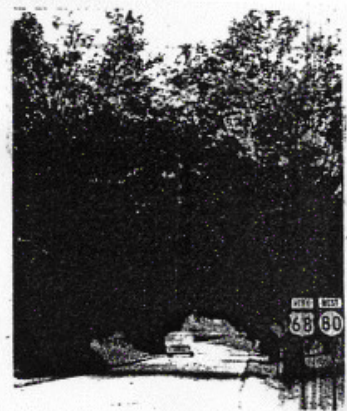
Kafoglis said the hearing would acquaint the public with the department's reasoning on the trees' effect on highway safety while people could verbalize reasons for their opposition.

Among those calling or visiting the department's Bowling Green office has been Miss Julie Neal of Shakerfork, Sh. South Union. She had been concerned about the future of some historic trees across from Shakerfork, but she learned that they are to be spared.

One letter in *The Logan Leader* today, from Russellville High School biologist Mrs. James C. Turner, appeals for the preservation of the trees from ecological, historic, and nostalgic viewpoints.

Other letters range from accusations that the project is merely busy work for an overworked staff to suggestions that the trees be pruned instead of destroyed.

The HANDS (Home and Neighborhood Development Sponsors) committee of the Cardinal Council of Garden Clubs has offered to help finance replacement of some of the destroyed trees at greater distances from the road.



Readers respond

Why not try a sign instead of destroying trees?

Dear Editor:

The photograph in the July 25 issue of your paper showing the beautiful arch of trees on U.S. Highway 68 that are slated to be cut down, prompts this letter. Your previous news article citing the Bureau of Highways' plans in the matter caused my concern, as a Christian citizen of this state, and as a HANDS member of the Garden Club (society), which is committed to the conservation of our environment.

Imagine the Shakers in their quiet garb traveling through this stately grove on their way to Bowling Green, and many of us today breathe a sigh of peace and thanksgiving to God for His handiwork when we drive through this scenic spot.

Perhaps some of the 101 trees do need to be trimmed properly or

even possibly a few removed, but not from this particular grove, and not any tree, indiscriminately. No tree should be doomed to destruction because of the carelessness of some of the motoring public. If a highway sign warning motorists "REDUCE SPEED. BEAUTIFUL THRES AHEAD" were installed, perhaps it would eliminate ac-

cidents, and serve also to help educate our citizens to the beauty of Nature. What accidents? Records show none as far this year for this particular grove, and only 1 fatality in 1973 and 1 in '74. Were these caused by the trees or by excessive speeding?

I feel sure that you want to do everything possible to insure the

safety from physical road hazards on the roads in your district, but reasonable precautions are all that are expected from the Bureau of Highways. The Bureau also has an obligation to the public to maintain and preserve the beauty and historic legacy of the rights of way under its jurisdiction. These maple trees are a precious resource. God

given, to benefit all people. I urge you to give serious consideration to all of the alternatives available, and to weigh seriously the value, irreplaceable in our time, of these trees to the Commonwealth which you are serving.
Mrs. Richard C. Garrison
966 Cherry Drive
Bowling Green, Ky.

Contract let, but destruction could still be prevented

Editor:

Thank you for your front page story informing the people of the area about the Highway Department plans for removing over a hundred shade trees from Highway 68, particularly the beautiful row of maples near Blue Level Road.

Are we overlooking air pollution problems?

To the Editor:

I wish to support you in your effort to save the trees which the highway department plans to remove from the right-of-way on Highway 68.

In serving as chairman of the science department of Russellville High School, I have for many years required all biology students to participate in a study of ecology and conservation. Each student is

The pretense for this action is that it will "save lives." The real reason is the usual desire to spend state and federal money as quickly as possible, even though the project is actually harmful to the highway and its concept.

I am no longer a resident of Bowling Green and Kentucky,

college work during summer vacations, before the days of automobile air conditioning. I rode the bus daily. On those hot afternoons I looked forward to the respite from the sun given by that stretch of trees.

One summer when we were experiencing an unusually prolonged hot period, I had a class in Kentucky history under Miss Gabrielle Robertson. She was discussing a trip she had made to Shakerfork,

though I was born and brought up there. I presently live in Vermont; there we have the same problem—a highway department that spends more money in order to have more money to spend, without much regret for the damage it sometimes does. I have enjoyed seeing these trees for many years; I have enjoyed the little oasis of cool shadow beneath them as I drive by on the blazing blacktop.

The contract has been let, but the destruction could still be prevented. I strongly suggest to those citizens who care that they call the district engineer and make their care known to him; better yet that they call the highway commissioner and

request that the trees be saved. Highway 68 is not an interstate. Surely Kentucky highways can still be graced by our beautiful Kentucky trees. Many more lives would be saved by properly enforcing the speed and highway laws than by the destruction of every tree bordering a highway in the state.

I suspect the trees will go, but at any rate, all people who regret it will feel a little bit better about it if they have made a genuine effort to stop it.

John Clagett
Box 888
Bowling Green, Ky.

'Only God can make a tree'

Dear Editor:

I am amazed and shocked over the planned cutting of the magnificent maples on Highway 68 between Russellville and Bowling Green. These beautiful trees that border our highway are one of the scenic beauties of our great state. Are we to be so uncaring of our state's scenic attractions that we will stand as us to fell these great trees?
"Only God can make a tree"

Christine Allison
Lawburg, Ky.

There must be a better way to protect speed demons

Speeders . . . more of a menace

Editor:

AI knew that carrying a popular cause can make readers more willing to consider an newspaper's arguments on controversial subjects, such as consolidation of Logan County's five rural high schools, something that was eventually accomplished.

EDITORIAL

Better quality education not likely without consolidating high schools

A COMPLAINT that is heard about the proposed central high school for the Logan County District is that five centers in the county would lose their "community schools."

Each of the five centers would keep its schools. Each would give up three grades, or possibly four, to a central senior high school, but each would keep eight or nine grades—which would include enough for a junior high program.

All of the advantages of a small community school would remain for the centers at Olmstead, Auburn, Adairville, Lewisburg, and Chandlers. Additionally, the smaller children would come out from under the dominance of the older ones. There is an old farm expression, "You don't feed the little pigs in the same trough with the big ones," but that's what we've been trying to do.

The high school that is proposed, serving about 800 students if the three-year facility is constructed, is hardly on the scale of the type that is evoked by opponents of consolidation when they talk of "problems" in big schools.

No one interested in a better school program for Logan's rural children is going to claim that simply increasing expenditures is likely to increase academic achievement. No one really claims that consolidation is the ONLY way to upgrade education. Individual attention and innovation, the employment of dedicated well-grounded teachers with imaginative approaches to their subject matter, and the offering of a variety of subjects on different levels all help make up the school mix that is truly enriching. Given the resources that Logan has, and the track record of the Logan system, two conclusions emerge. These are that the county

system is unable to meet reasonable standards of performance by any contemporary guidelines and that Logan's rural children are not likely to get a better quality high school education without a central high.

The claim that many county graduates have done well with the education that was given them begs the question of how much better they might have done with a better education.

THE FOREMAN might have become a company president, the pharmacist a doctor, the doctor a surgeon, the typist a secretary, the cashier a bank president—we don't really know, but for a Larry Forgy or a Bill Franklin there are hundreds of dropouts; in fact, the Logan system has a terrible record for holding children through high school, as has been brought out in State Board of Education hearings.

OTHER than the transporting of Chandlers children to Auburn to take some home ec and agriculture classes, the Logan board has little to point to in the way of innovation and nothing—according to the State Board of Education—to point to in the way of progress during an 18-months "probation" period.

Observers of trends in the state school policies believe that the state is pushing toward eventual merger of a number of districts. At this point, neither the county nor Russellville district have plans to merge. Indeed, Russellville citizens, who have paid extra taxes for a quality education, would be outraged at a forced merger. But with a slackening off in population growth in the city, it is to the interest of all Logan citizens that the County Board do some positive, long range planning.

In that respect, the new high school ought to be built on the north side of the city of Russellville, looking toward the day when it becomes north Logan high and the present Russellville high school becomes south Logan high. Maybe this will never happen, but the possibility should be entertained in the construction planning.

Former Lewisburg resident earns high school diploma at Evansville

By Edna Folz
Evansville Press Staff Reporter

Alvin Ray Coursey was just a country boy.

He worked on his family's farm in Lewisburg, Ky., and dropped out of high school after his freshman year.

But this week, at age 38, he picked up his high school diploma, and is seriously considering going on to college.

For the last 6½ years he has been going to Central High School's evening school two nights a week. "Last semester I never missed a single class," said Coursey, who has worked at the Unclaimed Freight Store for 15 years.

Finally decided to return to school, said Coursey. "I really wanted to get more education," he added. The majority of the evening high school students were under or around 20 years old, said Coursey, but the age difference was no problem. "I enjoyed it . . . the students and the courses," said Coursey.

Primarily he liked mathematics, using the calculators and other office machines. He also had a year of typing.

Coursey said he would like to continue study in the mathematics and business area "maybe become a CPA (certified public accountant)."

said Coursey of the extra hours it took.

Coursey's wife and 15-year-old son, who is a Central freshman, were at the Central commencement ceremonies Tuesday night to see him get that diploma.

At the Unclaimed Freight Store Coursey works in the plumbing department, unpacking materials, selling, making deliveries and a variety of duties to keep the department running.

And there's still some of that country boy there. He and his family live on Rural Route 7, Outer St. Joseph Avenue, Evansville, Ind., where they have an acre of land and big



How does your school board rate?

— From Farm Journal

Rate your school board

In scoring, Very low=0, Low=3, Average=5, High=7 and Very high=10.

1. What proportion of school board meetings are open to the public? (The higher the percentage of public meetings and the more welcome people feel, the higher you would rate the board on a scale of 1 to 10.)
2. Is your school board dominated by any one person? Any one family? Any one racial or occupational group? Any one political party? Any one "faction" in the community? (If the answer is yes, give the board a low score, otherwise a higher one.)
3. Do board members seem more interested in money, budgets, buying than in the quality of education children get? (If they seem more interested in the "mechanics" give a low score; if they are looking for ways to upgrade teaching and learning opportunities, give the board a high score.)
4. Does the board ever consider what students think, want and need? (If students have contact with the board, have a say in student government, express opinions in the school paper, you would probably give the board a high score if you believe students need to develop skill in decision-making.)
5. Does your school board ever "sweep under the rug" questions which are controversial? (If there is free, open public discussion, you would give the board a high score here.)
6. Do your board members go to state meetings of school board associations to update themselves and get new ideas? (If yes, score them high; if not, give them a low score.)
7. Are the basic skills—reading, communication, math, etc.—taught effectively in your schools? (If you can say yes, score the board high here.)
8. Is there any discrimination in your school—against a racial or religious group? Against girls? Against students interested in vocational training rather than a pre-college course? Against anyone who comes from a home with too little money? (If so, score the board low.)
9. Does your board have written policies and goals? (If yes, score them high.)
10. Is the educational program "individualized" enough to hold the interest of the great majority of students—say, 95%? (If you think not, score the board low, otherwise give them a high score.)

If your board scores under 65 on these 10 questions, maybe you need to see that the board takes steps to represent you better!

■ The members of your school board strongly quality of education your child. Back in schools and hominani students, teachers, pu members often knew sionally, had there, c communication amoi school boards were st people they repres controlle

As our grown o however, rience enrolmen teachers, trators a consolda The scho ber who sent only people, a sent sev Day-to-d rious an teachers, school B is no h. This big the reas has los the schoe. But it still publ school b are elect to be " public. T people a ing to th their moe. This help you job your doing. It get are mens.

Adapted, book on Board's f Other C of the ps Order Clearing Education Schools, FJ, New Universit New Mex

Nealy, Mrs. Chesnut honored at state Young Democrats mee

Logan County Trial Commissioner Jim Nealy was awarded the "Doc Beauchamp Award" for outstanding service by a Kentucky Young Democrat over the weekend.

He was joined by Kentucky's junior U. S. Senator Wendell Ford, Senator Walter "Dee" Huddleston, Secretary of State Thelma Stovall and other state officials.

Other delegate County attending nut, Bobby and Stella McPhail, Betsy DeBriener

Out in the open. . .

Alexander selected again, but in public meeting

Alexander Alexander Alexander McCarley Johnson These were the words of Logan County School Board Chairman John Dawson as he read the secret ballot cast Friday night in a special meeting called by Dawson.

Although the balloting was secret, the meeting and the voting itself were open.

The result was the same as at an earlier meeting of the Board on Friday, Feb. 7. W. N. Alexander, 66, was elected superintendent, to succeed Robert Piper, 70, next summer.

Two differences in the second meeting were these: The voting was open and no mention was made of the length of Alexander's contract. At the Feb. 7 meeting he was awarded a three-year contract.

At the start of the meeting, which was held at the same time, the same place, and with exactly the same persons present as the February 7 meeting, Dawson said, "All of you know the purpose of this meeting. There is some question concerning the legality of the action taken during the previous meeting. The fact that this meeting is being held does not mean that the School Board has done anything wrong, it is to preclude the possibility of any further confusion concerning who is to be superintendent."

"I know the last meeting was held in good faith, even though it may not have been according to the letter of the law," he added.

W. N. Alexander, John McCarley and Merle Johnson, candidates for

the position of superintendent, were asked by Dawson if they had any comment. Alexander said, "No comment unless some of the Board members have questions."

John McCarley said, "No, I don't."

Merle Johnson replied to Dawson's question by saying, "I would just like to know why my credentials were not acceptable. It is only fair to those who were not hired that they be told why. I am not trying to be uppity or persnickety, I would like to know so I can begin to prepare myself better."

Do it in private

Dawson asked Edward Schweers to respond first. Schweers said, "I will tell anyone in private why I

nominated the man I did, but to do so in public where it would be in the press might not be in your best interest."

Jim Moore of Auburn spoke next, saying, "All delegates were discussed in detail as to their qualifications. It was a tough decision for me. It finally boiled down to the question of what my people wanted. If the people in my district say vote a certain way, then regardless of my opinion, I vote the way they say."

J. C. DeBerry, the Chandlers Chapel representative replied, "I did what I felt the people in my district wanted."

John Lee Barnes, Adairville Board member said, "I feel as Jim Moore, it was a hard decision. I

lots of people talk to me about this thing. I carried out the wishes of my people."

'You haven't said...'

Chairman Dawson asked Johnson if that answered his question, to which Johnson replied, "Yes, except that you haven't said anything."

Dawson said, "My thinking is along the same line as the others. All three candidates are qualified on paper, and otherwise as well. Mr. Alexander was the choice of my folks down there, and he was my choice, too."

Dawson then asked if the Board wanted to go into Executive Session to discuss the way they wanted to vote and so on. Jim Moore replied that it might be a good idea to

discuss the details of what the man from the Attorney General's office told them Tuesday.

J. C. DeBerry made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion. After Jim Moore seconded the motion Dawson told the Board that they would have to do something about the other motion to elect Mr. Alexander as superintendent since the legality of it was being questioned.

Executive session

Ed Schweers made a motion to rescind the motion in question, number 128, followed by a second by Jim Moore. The motion carried without opposition. The vote on whether to go into Executive Session was then taken orally and

carried without dissent.

The three candidates and representatives of the local radio station and newspapers were asked to leave the room. After the closed session, which lasted less than five minutes, everyone was invited back into the room.

Ed Schweers nominated W. N. Alexander for the position of superintendent, John Lee Barnes nominated Merle Johnson, Jim Moore nominated John McCarley and J. C. DeBerry made a motion that nominations cease. Schweers seconded the vote, which carried.

Ed Schweers then made a motion that the vote be taken by secret ballot. The motion to do so carried unanimously after being seconded

(Continued on Page 2)

THE ★ LOGAN ★ LEADER

The Russellville newspapers held the county school board's feet to the fire on many fronts, including board members' failure to obey the Open Meetings Act that Al had helped get through the legislature the year before this story was published. At this time, he was president of KPA.

'Behind closed doors'

W. N. Alexander elected superintendent

W. N. Alexander will become superintendent of the Logan County school system on July 1, shortly after his 67th birthday. An employee of the county system for 31 years, Alexander was elected to succeed Robert Piper, who is retiring at age 70.

The vote to appoint Alexander was taken Friday night in a secret discussion of the five-member Board of Education after two reporters and three applicants for the superintendency were asked to leave the board meeting.

Although the new Kentucky open meetings, or "Sunshine," law requires that such actions be taken in public, the board did its voting in executive session. Reporters were allowed to sit in while the board interviewed Alexander and two other applicants, John McCarley and Merle Johnson.

Following the interviews, the public spectators—the reporters and applicants—were asked to leave.

"Mr. Alexander has been elected"

The closed session lasted about 80 minutes. Piper then emerged from behind a door and read the following: "Mr. Alexander has been elected, all three applicants were nominated and all board members voted."

The state open meetings law—enacted by the General Assembly in 1974 and based on a draft proposal adopted by the Kentucky Press Association at a meeting of its board in Russellville in October, 1973—prohibits such votes from being taken in executive, or closed, sessions. Discussion concerning hiring and firing of personnel may legally take place in a closed meeting if the purpose of such a meeting is first announced publicly and a majority of the Board wishes to deliberate in executive sessions.

A Nashville paper, The Tennessean, said in a front page story in Saturday's edition that the Metro Board of Education firing of a school teacher in a closed session violated that state's Sunshine law. State Chancellor Ben Cantrell made the decision, noting that the board is a governmental body and is bound by the law requiring that meetings be held in public.

Secrecy also shrouded the Logan school board's decision to place the appointment of Alexander on the agenda for Friday night's session which was a regularly scheduled meeting.

Notices "hand carried"

The order to put the election of a new superintendent on the agenda came from Board Chairman John Dawson on Thursday—too late to notify prospective candidates by mail.

A letter was typed up and addressed to employees of the Logan County

school system who were on a list of persons eligible for the position of superintendent that had been compiled by Piper.

Clyde Nolan Sanders, an employee of the board who is an Adairville magistrate on the Fiscal Court, hand carried the letters around. Sanders is a son of Clyde "Red" Sanders, Olmstead politician who is a political associate of John Dawson, the board chairman who sponsored Alexander's appointment. The third member of the Olmstead group which campaigned for Alexander's appointment is David Riley, a farmer serving as Olmstead member of the Fiscal Court.

No persons living outside the school district were notified that an election would be held.

Dawson said at the meeting that he felt that someone working for the Logan school system should be promoted to the superintendency.

Alexander will serve a three year term, as opposed to the one-year term which was given by contract to Piper every year since 1964.

It was in 1964 that Dawson and the former school board chairman, Bill Hall of Chandlers, beat back an effort to build a consolidated county high school.

Observers have seen the one-year contract for Piper as a "short leash" arrangement to discourage the superintendent from cooperating too closely with the State Department of Education and the State Board of Education. These agencies have repeatedly recommended that the five high schools be converted to junior high schools and the senior high schools be merged into one new school. Logan remains one of the few large rural systems that has held out against this trend across Kentucky. One effect of the resistance to the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education has been that under Piper's tenure and Hall and Dawson's leadership, the Logan County school system ranking has ranged from provisional to emergency—at the bottom of the state's system of evaluating schools.

The local school board leaders have contended that they are giving the people of Logan County exactly what they want.

No outsiders wanted

As far as selecting a successor for Piper, the school board chairman, Dawson, who is an Olmstead farmer, was positive in his expressive Friday night that no one outside the school system should be considered as superintendent.

Dawson said if he were working for the school system and someone out-

(Continued on Page 2)



W. N. Alexander

Another Olmstead principal to head county schools

For the second time in a row, the Logan County School Board has turned to the Olmstead High School to obtain a county superintendent of schools.

W. N. Alexander, who will become superintendent next summer, was principal of Olmstead school from 1944 to 1966.

He will succeed R. B. Piper who was Olmstead principal from 1933 to 1942.

During his tenure as Olmstead principal, Alexander had a close working relationship with the Olmstead district board member, John Dawson, now county board chairman.

Alexander was shifted to the Title I coordinator's post in the County Board of Education Office when the program was set up to coordinate Title I funds that are allocated to the school system. The job now pays about \$1,000 a year.

principal, Jesse Richards and Grider Watson of Lewisburg.

A man with a friendly personality and obvious "staying power" in the politically sensitive county system, Alexander is now 66. He is married. There are no children.

The son of a Methodist preacher, Alexander was born in Smiths Grove in Warren County. He attended the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University, where he received a bachelor of science degree. He has also done graduate work at Western and at Peabody Teachers College in Nashville.

In Logan since 1944

He came to Logan County in 1944 to be principal and coach at Olmstead. He coached basketball there for seven years and was principal

THE ★ LOGAN ★ LEADER

VOLUME 8, NUMBER 6 RUSSELLVILLE, LOGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, MONDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 19, 1975 ONE SECTION 13 PAGES PRICE 15 CENTS

Secret vote. . . the way it might have been

If all three applicants for the superintendency of the Logan School Board were nominated and if all board members voted, a "guess" of how the vote went in what was an apparently illegal secret action of the

county board Friday night would be:

John Barnes — Adairville member — for Merle Johnson.
Jim Moore — Auburn member — for Johnny Mc-

Carley.

John Dawson — Olmstead member and chairman — for W. N. Alexander.

Edward Schweers — Lewisburg member — for

Alexander.

J. C. Delberry — Chandlers member — for Alexander.

At presstime Monday, there was speculation that Bill

McKinney, the Lewisburg principal, would be named Title I coordinator to succeed Alexander. However, the board has given no public indication of its thinking about this appointment.

Sunshine Law voids firing of Nashville teacher by secret vote

From the Nashville Tennessean:

tion of the board in executive session is violation of the Sun-

is obliged to rehear him if he

11 different schools, was

for the board's procedure, but

The newspapers' editorial pages were open to all points of view. Al urged local citizens to write pieces that disagreed with his editorial policies and he gave them prominent play.

The case for small schools

Have we such a surplus of institutions that we can throw away five of them?

On next Tuesday afternoon the Logan County Board of Education must report to the State Board of Education on what is being done to upgrade the five county high schools. The local board has little reason to believe that any steps short of consolidation of the high schools will ever satisfy the State Board.

This newspaper has supported the State Board's position on this issue for many years, but it also recognizes there is a case for smaller schools, as is argued in the following essay by Patrick Tovatt, of Chandler's community, which was written at our request.

Tovatt, 54, is a professional actor who has lived on a small farm near Duncan's Hill for the past five years. He came to Logan County as a community theater director, the first artist-in-residence sponsored by the Kentucky Arts Commission. He has acted in films, on television, and the professional stage. Grandson of a Colorado rancher, he grew up in the west and attended Harvard, Antioch College, and the London Film Institute. His father is a professor at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana and his mother is the author of English textbooks.

—Editor

By Patrick Tovatt

OBSERVATIONS and opinions on school consolidation in Logan County should begin with a few questions so this local conflict can reverberate in a broader perspective.

"Has your satisfaction with costs, goods and services grown as the industries and agencies that supply them are grown and centralized?"

"Does your feeling of actual participation in the governing process grow deeper as bureaucratic hands reach deeper into your pocket and deeper into the ordinary affairs of life?"

"And why do you still choose to live in a small, relatively stable community when an ever-expanding, ever-'progressing' place is by definition better? Aren't you blighting your opportunities to grow, 'progress,' and improve?"

"Of course not. No observable developmental pattern in all creation leads to the assumption that bigger is automatically better, that 'more' is always 'progress.' I submit that the opposite is indicated.

"True progress and development are rooted in qualitative evolution by stable economic and social institutions. I reject the notion that slow development is outmoded, that the only modern 'solution' is to tear it down, slap it all together somewhere else under a different name and start over with a blueprint from on high. Central location, central control and central specification.

Development is the key

Development is the key word. Development takes time and patience. A school is the continuous running total of all the school boards, administrations, faculties and students (good and bad) and the changeable result of community interest and support (thick and thin).

Whatever the deficiencies in the view of local critics and the state board of education, the five county schools are the creations of the communities whose children they serve and their

future evolution is the proper future business of these communities. Why should schools be standardized, all of a kind? Aren't the particular flavors, the differences in communities the primary source of our affections and loyalties? And assuming that all social institutions (schools, hospitals, churches, local governments, unions, etc.) could be brought up to so-called "standards" by a stroke of administrative magic, who would truly benefit?

Is it really an improvement to wrest control of these institutions from the hands that have built them, yank them bodily out of the community that they serve and forfeit all the considerable educational value of the small community school?

COMMON SENSE and current wisdom tell me that the small school, strongly supported by a body of interested parents and integrated into the community, has an excellent chance to develop and maintain a fruitful academic climate.

Ads for expensive, advanced private institutions stress the continuity are salable commodities and fetch good prices from those who desire and can afford private education for their children.

Schools not grossly inadequate

Why, then, are the small community-oriented schools with continuity suddenly unacceptable here? "Because they are scholastically inadequate," it is charged, and not without grounds. Yes, the foreign language program is scant. Yes, the science facilities are few and antiquated. There are numerous areas where a lot more emphasis and some well-considered outside help might be profitably applied; but no, the schools are not so grossly inadequate to their task that they are fit only for the wrecking ball!

ONCE THOUGHT the conservative public school board to be a regressive force without peer. They fought all the good ideas and setzied on all the bad ones. Their only saving virtue was that they didn't do anything with the bad ideas, either. To me, the school board's only important dictum was: "Don't spend a penny more than is absolutely necessary."

A little age and some experience with another, more flamboyant style of public management brought this very conservative, downright balky manner into an entirely new light for me.

For one thing, poor as the instructional staff is made to look by state board statistics, poor as the physical plants appear beside gleaming new schools, the slow, recalcitrant course of the Logan County School Board has preserved the one really essential aspect of public school systems: the deep identification of the school with the community, with locale, with past graduates and rivals, making the ongoing life of the school a central expression of local pride, strength and style.

Chandler's Chapel isn't a town, but it's very definitely a community, the central feature being the school complex. Take Auburn High out of Auburn and real damage is done to the whole fabric of the town. The same can be said of the Olmstead or Lewisburg communities.

Have we such a surplus, such a glut of strong home-run public institutions that we can afford to throw away five of them? Even if the results super school football teams win and wind and wins? Even if the marching band paces an Orange Bowl parade or makes some such super school achievement, forever out of

reach of an Olmstead or a Chandler's Chapel?

What will be lost when the trade? What five identities for one thing . . . and today, a secure identity is no small thing. But aside from that, what about, say, sports?

We are assured an expanded sports program will provide new experiences, more variety (teams and more opportunities). Let's examine this proposition, and remember that we're trading five programs for one.

In high school athletic programs, a minority (the physically mature and coordinated) dominate the variety positions because they can compete on even terms with other mature peers. The more sports that are available, the greater variety they enjoy. But the additional sports do not offer new opportunities in proportion to the new enrollment, for the simple reason that the quarterback on the football team is likely to be a starting guard on the basketball team and a fine third baseman as well, whether the school is big or small.

The greater enrollment stifles competition. In order to win, only the best can play. So no matter how we may desire a broad, open, participatory sports program, what we get is a more intense, bigger-league version of what we've had. The athletically superior AMBU minority dominates the variety teams and everybody else's scramble to be safe.

AND BESIDES, what's important, vitally important, to the student body as a whole? Is it only powerhouse teams? The glory moments of my high school life were the moments that I participated in fully, not the glorious heights reached by others representing me on a school team.

A scheme to replace five admittedly incomplete sports programs with one allegedly "complete" one seems to promise more satisfaction to the coaches, the boosters and the variety players than to the county as a whole, which will gain one synthetic giant and lose five human-size traditions.

What about the other areas, the arts, languages and specialized trades education? Well, hell's bells, are we to assume that the only remedy for these deficiencies is wrackage? Is it beyond the realm of possibility that these will not yield to any creative slice of imagination?

Surely the mechanism to affect change already exists. It always does, only sometimes it's rusted tight and needs a lot of oil and some well-placed kicks to start it cranking. Sometimes it runs backwards, but it seems to me we're not suffering from a shortage of the motive force to get things done.

That's cheap right now, what with the consolidation forces around the county board like a pack of wild-eyed cowpunchers trying to stampede a settled bunch of old boys. Nothing infuriates a tough young cowboy like a motileless cow, chewing her cud and considering the situation.

Faith and patience needed

What is in short supply is patience, and faith that qualitative progress can be made and that the communities themselves have sufficient mental and spiritual resources to look to their own affairs and make changes and additions in the interests of their own children.

Right now, there are those who will swear this faith is groundless, that if left to its own ways the school board will procrastinate and "sit" the county schools right back into the



ACTOR Patrick Tovatt, seen here petting one of his dogs, earns a living in the cities, but likes the way of life in the country and spends as much time as possible on a small farm in Logan County.

18th Century (a move for which there might develop some considerable support).

Certainly what is needed is a much bolder, much broader restorative program than the laconic half-programs of past boards. The wolf may still not be at the door, but he's lurking down the block looking for signs of weakness or sloth.

Before we jump about yelling "revamp this and that," consider again that "more" is not necessarily anything but more expensive. True qualitative development is a delicate business, requiring some depth of understanding of the mechanisms and dynamics involved and good solid judgments regarding value received for money spent. All the whiz-bang educational hardware in Christendom will not create good teaching of a rich learning environment.

A FEW simple assertions: A new building will not by its own existence raise the level of teaching or improve the quality of administration.

Kids tend to behave better close to home under the mild restraints that home territory naturally asserts. I'm not the only kid whose behavior took a wilder turn among 15,000 peers on a campus 80 miles from home. Time enough for that after age 18.

Regarding severe discipline problems, those whose schools are now patrolled by uniformed officers didn't think it could happen to them, either.

And finally, not to belabor the point, but to make it in a different way: The small school may have the possibility of real, planned qualitative improvement precisely because it is small, community-centered and vulnerable to the expressed desires of the people it serves. That's a whole lot more promising than betting bigger is better.

Three teachers in a young life

By Al Smith

LET ME tell you about some of the teachers I have known. Years ago, when I was in the fifth grade in Sarasota, Fla., in the middle of the Depression, we met a French woman who had a one-woman private

mountain boys and girls. Her influence on me was profound. I learned about history, literature, and speech from her, and also, to find a side on public issues and to fight for it. My Aunt Della, Grandmother's only daughter, was a fine horsewoman, swimmer, and was Tennessee woman's tennis champion while at Man-

Between them, Maddy and Miss Bevier first contracted to teach me French and woodworking as an after-school project when I was in public school in the sixth grade. I learned neither, but in the process I also took such an aversion to all sorts of formal schooling that I was withdrawn



COUNTY JUDGE Robert R. (Bob) Brown and his predecessor, Homer Dorris, discussed political matters during vote counting at the courthouse Tuesday night. Both men are expected to play a large role in political patronage jobs in Logan County during the term of Gov. Julian Carroll, who was elected in his own right Tuesday. — Photo by Al Cross.

LAND OF LOGAN

Next political maneuvers involve handling of patronage in county

By Al Smith

LOGAN COUNTY'S political patronage decisions may involve more than one local voice after this week's election.

Gov. Julian Carroll's Logan County campaign manager, Homer Dorris, and Dorris's co-campaign chairman, Guy McMillen, are expected to have a say in who gets what jobs.

When Wendell Ford was governor, "the man to see" in Logan County was the county judge, Robert R. (Bob) Brown.

During this time, Brown found patronage to be a mixed blessing.

A remark he made over the radio a few years ago that was really a simple acknowledgement that he was the patronage or "contact" man in Logan cost him some popularity. Everyone knew it was true, but they didn't like to hear him

say it.

The damage wasn't enough to keep him from winning re-election over the late Jim Johnson.

But when Wendell Ford resigned the governorship to go to the U.S. Senate, Julian Carroll inherited a problem about state jobs in Logan. Carroll's oldest friends in the county—men such as Dorris, McMillen, and Karl Dawson—were in the old Doc Beauchamp faction of the Democratic party that supported Bert Combs and Carroll for governor and lieutenant governor four years ago.

Judge Brown was not without Ford from the beginning. Although Brown got on the Carroll bandwagon in the primary this year, after an early political flirtation with Jefferson County Judge Todd Hollenbach, the original Carroll man and the two are still not close in local politics.

Fount W. Shifflett, once a Brown friend but now embittered because Brown didn't back him in the 1973 sheriff's race, is also strong for Julian Carroll, and he will be expected to have some influence with the governor in job decisions. At Auburn, John Clark, the milling company president who was a stout backer of Jim Johnson against Brown, is close to Carroll but still antipathetic to Brown.

But counting Brown out is like predicting the end of Happy Chandler or Hubert Humphrey's political careers. It's a bad bet.

Brown thinks he also has an understanding with Julian Carroll—perhaps not more than, but certainly as much, of an agreement as the other men have.

All he will say for the record is, "I'm happy the governor won, I know I can work with him, and I'm not worried about patronage. It can

hurt you as well as help you."

What he is depending upon, it is believed, are the assurances he and another longtime political ally, Circuit Judge William G. Fuqua, received from the governor in at least two unpublished meetings this year.

Carroll is thought to have told them that he would be foolish to antagonize a county judge and a circuit judge over old internal differences in Logan County politics.

While the governor would certainly depend upon the recommendations of his oldest friends for guidance, he wanted advice from Brown, too, and wouldn't move without reaching an agreement with the county judge. This is what Brown and Fuqua are believed to have obtained in assurances from Carroll—along with a commitment to keep Fuqua's

brother-in-law, Doug Shoulders, in the state administration and to keep Brown's son, Bobby, on payroll.

In the meantime, Dorris, the former county judge; McMillen, who was sheriff twice; and Dawson, property valuation administrator who was Combs-Carroll campaign manager here in 1971, will probably be testing their influence with the governor in the months to come.

There are about 100 patronage jobs in the county—60 of them at the highway garages.

Since Brown and the old Beauchamp group all supported the same gubernatorial candidate; there probably won't be any massacre, if at all, until there is a disagreement in the county over some future appointment that Carroll will have to make.

If there is a bloodletting, then, it's still not certain whose blood will be spilled.

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Election night



Al's Russellville papers covered the courthouse like metropolitan dailies cover a statehouse, delving into local political alliances and patronage fights that rarely make the pages of most country weeklies, while showing pols in the full breadth of their humanity.

Few weekly publishers make election endorsements, but Al did in Russellville, from the top of the ballot to the local race for the state legislature.

Julian Carroll for Governor

THIS newspaper endorses Gov. Julian Carroll for nomination in the Democratic gubernatorial primary Tuesday, May 27.

Twice speaker of the House in a career that began in the General Assembly when he was 24, a former lieutenant governor, a lawyer who grew up in a western Kentucky farm and laboring class family, he has kept the respect and friendship of people who have known him all his life and attracted strong support from a representative cross section of Kentuckians from all regions of the state who have met him through his duties in Frankfort or in his various campaigns.

The complaints that he has refused to discuss the issues in any but generalities in the primary campaign that is ending is valid. A comparison has been made to the 1972 presidential race in which President Nixon refused to be drawn out by either the press or his opponent. As was the case then, Gov. Carroll obviously thinks he has so much backing that to speak in hard specifics will shake off votes; his strategy seems to be that it's not worth the risk.

We would wish for a more meaningful campaign, a transformation of the election contest into a forum in which the candidates did address themselves to and debate the directions that Kentucky should take. But this is a wish, and a goal for another day. In the meantime, a vote must be cast this month and there is considerable exposure of Julian Carroll on the record to justify his election.

BEFORE the Kentucky Press Assn. convention last January he

committed himself to an open government, including a financial disclosure review commission for officeholders, an open records act, and a more equitable procedure for awarding state leases. This was very specific.

Since becoming governor he has made some plain and forceful moves that were the actions of a leader who knew his own mind rather than a passy-losing politician. The temporary hold on state spending, the freeze on employment, the diversion of funds for vocational education, and the effort to upgrade business and industrial development under the leadership of John Y. Brown, Jr. are in point.

Ultimately, Kentucky's government must be judged by what they do for education. It is our most serious problem and by the nature of our government, the governor is in the strongest position to help or hurt. All candidates run on a pro-education plank, but some are more "pro" than others. Julian Carroll's reputation for probity is an impressive underwriting of his pledge to give elementary and secondary education the first priority if he wins a four-year term. If Kentucky's schools are to escape their next-to-the-bottom ranking, it will require a commitment like the one Carroll has made.

While his opponent, Judge Hollenbach, has spoken forthrightly on issues that are relevant, and done so with energy, wit, and zeal, we feel that Julian Carroll's record is still the soundest reason to believe that he will meet the important tests of the Governor's office with honesty and a decent respect for the public interest.



Carroll in Logan County

CAMPAGNING in Logan County, Julian Carroll asks for a vote from Arthur Allen, Adairville. In center, Logan County Attorney Jude L. Riley, Jr. — Photo by Leslie Page

Sullivan for Lt. Governor

OUR CHOICE for lieutenant governor in the Democratic primary is State Senator Bill Sullivan of Henderson. The decision is based on which of the 11 candidates for this office would best serve if he (or she) had to become governor.

Sullivan's background included the office of president pro-tem of the Senate, functioning as an incumbent lieutenant governor; chairmanship of the Democratic state committee; leadership in hometown civic and church work. He has been Senate majority leader, a Commonwealth attorney, Kentucky commissioner of aeronautics.

A combat veteran of World War II, he has had many other honors—including designation as an outstanding young man of Kentucky—and one of the more significant reasons for voting for him might be his reputation for integrity with all factions of the Democratic party. Although he retains his original identity with the Chandler and Ford elements of the

party, he has influential support from the old Combe organization in the eastern and western sides of the state. He has a long record of support for mostly sound legislation and backs a plan for equalization of education.

Of the other candidates, Secretary of State Thelma Stovall and Attorney General Ed Hancock have fine records for independence and honesty. Mrs. Stovall has been her own person and has run all of her offices in Frankfort efficiently and courteously. Hancock has been very effective in consumer and environmental protection. State Senator Tom Ward of Versailles has impressed a number of independent observers with an issues-oriented campaign, especially in coal-lax reform. Judge Wayne Rutherford of Pike County and former Parks Commissioner Ewart Johnson are recognized as men of ability, but each has run into problems. Rutherford with his enormous dependence on a single source for financial support, the coal baron, and Johnson with his "chairlift" episode at Cumberland Falls.



George Atkins

The other races

George Atkins for State Auditor

AT 33 the youngest mayor in Hopkinsville's history, George Atkins is our choice for state auditor of public accounts. He has a business administration degree from the University of Kentucky and is running on a specific platform for carrying out a tough new law that requires audits of all county public accounts every year.

His outstanding performance as mayor in Hopkinsville—where he has pushed new program for downtown improvement, better relations between the city and industry, and for more sensitivity in government to the needs of minorities and the poor—is a solid recommendation for electing him to state office.

We also endorse:

TONY WELHOFF, 39, of Versailles for attorney general. The first public defender is a former city attorney, city judge, city attorney, has strong plans for consumer protection, reputation for integrity.

DR. JAMES GRAHAM of Bowling Green for state superintendent of public instruction. He is, has for opponents an anti-busing leader from Louisville who hasn't any other platform and the Frankfort director of Kentucky Education Assn. who at 35 hasn't had much other experience.

BEVERLY G. HEBEL YIGERT, 38, of Winchester, an egg marketing businessman and farmer. His opponent is Tom Harris, who has good credentials in agriculture but showed little concern about the environment while he was commissioner for natural resources and environmental protection.

DREW DAVIS, the state treasurer, who is running for secretary of state, and Francis Jones Mills, the Clerk of the Court of Appeals who is running for state treasurer. These office holders are in the "musical chairs" routine—seeking another of the constitutional offices which can only be held one term. Each has demonstrated competence in previously held elective and appointive positions.

MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS of Versailles for Clerk of the Court of Appeals. She is 38, was reared in Shelbyville, is married to a dentist and has two children. She is a State Democratic committeewoman and was a leader in the election campaign of Wendell Ford for governor and W. L. (Doc) Hollister for U. S. senator. She has taught school for eight years.

George Boone: A vote that Frankfort can hear



THIS newspaper endorses George Street Boone for the House of Representatives for the same reason that it supported him in his winning race in 1971 and the race he lost in 1973: he is one of the most qualified persons available for legislative service to our generation of Kentuckians.

In 1971, this argument and the support of some Logan politicians who thought they were going to lose anyway and might as well lose with a good man) saved his quest victory for Mr. Boone. During the session that followed, he served with high distinction on the committees on Education and Elections and Constitutional Amendments. The leadership of the House additionally named him one of two House members for a Board of Ethics for the Legislature. He was also one of Kentucky's two delegates to the Consumer Protection Committee of the Council on State Governments, representing 15 states. He is now chairman of a subcommittee of the Legislative Research Commission drafting revisions in Kentucky's laws on estates and inheritance of property. He is also on a committee proposing new directives and expansion of service for Kentucky's educational television network. Still another committee on which he is a member is working for improvement of the public schools.

At the close of the 1973 session, Mr. Boone was chosen by the reporters who cover the legislature as the outstanding first-term member of the House. Despite this vote of confidence from people who watched him at

tion of Judge Bob Brown.

During Mr. Foster's tenure, we have found him to be pleasant, honest, and attentive to what is going on in Frankfort and back home. He has consulted those who were against him as well as those who were for him in 1973. Although he has been criticized for following the initiative of other men, Mr. Foster could have taken worse advice than he did. He has a deserved reputation as a good citizen and as a politician he is a man we might be able to support if he weren't in a contest with George Boone.

George Boone's legal background and reputation for leadership in the Navy, in the Red Cross, as the advisory boards of the Community College and mental health programs at Hopkinsville are impressive. He has also achieved a statewide reputation as a scholar in the field of laws that protect the public's right to know what their government is doing.

The most compelling reason for voting for him is because this legislative district should have a voice that can be heard in Frankfort. The representative is one out of a hundred and, if Logan and Todd are to receive any attention, their representative should be aware, knowledgeable, concerned, and able to represent those interests, and persuade others to recognize and help.

Almost anyone can occupy the seat and push the lever to vote. The legislator is where the real action takes place.

Al's exploits gained the attention of John Ed Pearce of The Courier-Journal and Times Magazine, who wrote this cover story published in February 1974.

The photo by Rich Nugent shows Al in front of his new press.



The Courier-Journal & TIMES
MAGAZINE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1974

GADFLY EDITOR

Al Smith, the darling and the devil of Russellville, Ky.

That fall, Al became founding host and producer of “Comment on Kentucky,” for which he is best known. He did it for 33 years, longer than any other public-affairs host on a state network.



**Photo from KET set
before Al's last show**



Al later hosted other KET productions, such as gubernatorial debates and a colloquy between conservative commentator William F. Buckley Jr. and Kentucky liberal Edward F. Prichard Jr.

Following the course that he would later call “the engaged journalist,” one who is active in a broad range of communities and occasionally part of the news, Al actively supported Jimmy Carter for president. He sought an appointment to the Tennessee Valley Authority board, which didn’t come through, but in late 1979 President Carter appointed him federal co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission.



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PRICE 20 CENTS

Preservation of past and changing of the present characterized Logan 70's

By Jim Turner

Commitments to historic preservation, redesign of the health care process, changes in governmental organization, and growth of existing industry highlighted the seventies in Logan County.

No major decision, change, or commitment came without headaches and heartaches.

Perhaps the recently departed decade was best characterized by the

Russellville was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, making it more difficult to tear down buildings of historic significance and offering opportunities for historic grants.

Russellville City Council and the Russellville-Logan County Chamber of Commerce got into the act. The council decided not to raze the Hite Building on the square after public outcry, and Mayor Everett Daniel and Councilwoman Edie Martin led elected officials in aiding a beautification commission in downtown improvements, highlighted by renovation of the city park. The Chamber, in its efforts to promote tourism, encouraged historic preservation and beautification.

Not all successful

All was not successful in preservation efforts, though. Some other buildings fell before the wrecking ball, most notably the "recitation building" at old Russellville High School. Some Chamber officials are now second guessing themselves about allowing the Red Kan building on North Main to be

cost continue to rise annually. No satisfactory solution had been reached when the seventies ended, although progress was being shown by Coroner Jackie Dunlap, who had begun direction of the service.

The emergency room at the hospital was a constant cause of concern. With the arrival of HAI, the hospital board agreed to staff the hospital on weekend with paid, out-of-town doctors.

The late 1970's saw the arrival of the Doctors Pathak, natives of India who provided additional surgery skills and a gynecologist.

Dr. Jim Dodson joined the medical staff in 1979 as an internist, becoming the second Dr. Dodson in the county, along with his father Carlisle.

But Dr. Lewis Martin left practice to return to school and Dr. W. L. Harris had to close his practice because of his own poor health. There was still a need for more doctors.

Nursing homes increased in size and quality

A new health department building



Making it official

AL SMITH is administered oath of office as co-chairman of Appalachian Regional Commission by Federal Judge Edward Johnstone, during open house for the Smiths at Clark Building Sunday. Martha Helen Smith holds Bible as her husband takes oath. The open house, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Granville Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gran Clark, was attended by around 175 people. — Photo by Leslie Page.



BAITERED COURTHOUSE took on a new look after remodeling.

cementing of our interest in the past.

The front page of the last Russellville paper edited by Al had a photo of his swearing-in by U.S. District Judge Edward Johnstone and a story recapping the 1970s in Logan County — a decade in which his newspapers provided some of the strongest editorial leadership of any Kentucky newspaper.

LAND OF LOGAN

So this was home...

By Al Smith

I SPENT a lot of time with older men when I first came to Logan County — Doc Beauchamp, Chick Ray, Joe Copple, Henry Dickason, Rayburn Smith, Lawrence Forgy, Marvin Stuart, Harry Whipple, and J. M. Richard. Beauchamp was the king politician in Logan County and one of the first men I met on the first day that I came to work for the News-Democrat.

Rayburn was his close friend and political lieutenant; I met him the first day, too — Jan. 2, 1958. Jim Lyne, who had just been beaten for county attorney, introduced me to Doc and Doc introduced me to Rayburn. It was the first court day of the new year. I also met Joe Wheeler that day — it was he who beat Lyne — and County Judge Homer Dorris. Judge Dorris and Beauchamp were squaring off for a friendly power fight over who would be the new county road foreman — Guy McMillen, the former sheriff who was Beauchamp's choice, or John Q. Hite, a former county engineer who was Dorris's choice.

Doc and Judge deadlocked (the magistrates had to vote, and they were evenly split) for about a month, Beauchamp finally prevailed and John Q. had to buy Guy a bottle of whiskey to settle a bet over the outcome. That was the first political fight I ever wrote about in Logan County, or Kentucky.

The new sheriff was Ed Price. Beauchamp had waffled over whether he would support another friend, Fount Shifflett, before throwing his backing to Price. Shifflett and Joe Wheeler ran as "antis." Joe made it, and kept the county attorney's office through two more terms. When he lost again, to a Beauchamp-backed candidate, the once formidable Democratic Court-house machine was showing wear and

tear: two of Wheeler's running mates, Bob Brown and Jim Johnson, were elected judge and sheriff respectively. Beauchamp had only two more years to live, and with his death, in 1971, most of what was left of the famous Rhea and Beauchamp organization died, too. The only politician left in western Kentucky who can deliver votes the way Tom Rhea and Doc Beauchamp did is Smith Broadbent, Jr. in Trigg County. And even Broadbent lost a congressman after Beauchamp died.

On different occasions young Charlie Ray over the recent holiday reminded of Charlie's grandfather (Ray) and Hal's great. They were tough but exactly likeable in e they were kind to interest in what I was Henry Dickason, a L who wildcatted for came home to spec real estate and pract three of us drank together, first at t Restaurant on the Sq White now is) and t

Stone sober or stone We drank coffee w ing whiskey, that is. The first five years County I was eithe nearly stone drunk. A a newspaper career had quit one paper is my way out of the of Frost said, is where, they have to take yo came home from Ne parents' farm at Hen out and lick my wou of newspapering in t wouldn't admit I wa just thought I had

naturally. So when I came to Russellville, at the suggestion of Elmer Hinton, a Nashville newspaperman, it was just a lark. I had never edited a -country weekly, and I thought it would be fun to try for a week or a month. The game plan was that I would go to the Tennessean when there was an opening.

Later in the year some openings may have come along, but I was in no condition to accept them. When I finally whipped the bottle, with the help of an



co-chairman of Appalachian Regional Carter Hancock and daughters Ginny

In his last "land of Logan" column before going to Washington, Al recalled people who were both his friends and the subjects of his coverage, and his growth in the newspaper business, and the change in his life: "The knowledge that Logan County people had helped me through this ordeal was the basis for a conviction that I could want no better home than here."

EDITORIAL

New editor is in charge

MARVIN STUART BECAME A STAR SALESMAN at persuading other industries that we were good people with whom to do business. Those two are dead now, Stuart and Whipple, but there are 3000 jobs here that are their legacy.

I've been a partner in business with one judge, Bill Fuqua, who invested in my newspaper company, and who is a good friend. With another judge, Tom

a disagreement over the future of the paper's ownership.

Mrs. Evans was hard to get along with sometimes, but she was also bright and right about many issues. She and her family were kind to me. Although they sold the News-Democrat to my new company after we started the competing Logan Leader in 1968, their perspective on the business break was,

conditions: They have supported what we tried to do, not always agreeing with what we said, or how we said it, but always demonstrating loyalty to our common goal — the production of good, honest, caring newspapers.

We've had some exciting fights over issues, big and small. Lost some, won some: Hospitals, doctors, lawyers, courthouses, city hall, new factories,

there n, and Evans

attract depart- for us, ep buy- ick and e early ay. Bob and his istently erments by the s and

and the s have working

eternal question in Kentucky government: who gets the rock? About our extended quarrel over consolidation of rural schools, I hereby make a confession: I enjoyed that battle for so many years that I came to like the folks who disagreed with me as much as I liked those on my side.

One day, I looked around the square in Russellville and realized that this was all the world that I had, that it was either the end or the beginning. In that moment of realization, it became something else. It was both. The end of one me and the beginning of another.

So this was where I sobered up, got a new start, married, reared children, made friends, lost friends, went into business, was occasionally right, was wrong, too, and sometimes plain silly. It was home.

Now, 22 years to the day after I came to Logan County, I find myself leaving for a while. I have already been in Washington long enough to know that if I have any wisdom to bring to this new challenge, it is what you, who live in Logan County, have taught me.

If I have any success, it's yours. If I mess up, I did it.

As Al was planning to leave Washington during the Reagan administration, he and his partners bought The Sentinel-Echo of London, Kentucky's largest country weekly newspaper.

As a Democrat coming to one of the state's top Republican counties, he ran into some skepticism and outright opposition, as expressed in a letter by a Centre College student from one of Laurel County's leading GOP families, John David Dyche.



Smith urged Dyche to continue writing, promoted his efforts, and eventually Dyche, a Louisville lawyer, became the regular, local, conservative columnist for The Courier-Journal and commentator on KET election-night coverage.



Despite feelings like those Dyché expressed, Al quickly made friends in the Republican county, and some enemies – especially when he mounted a campaign to build a big, new regional hospital in south Laurel County to replace older, small ones in London and Corbin. That effort almost succeeded.

In 1985, Al began his exit from the newspaper business, selling Al Smith Communications to Park Newspapers, headed by Roy Park, *left*. In center is Virginia B. Page, who led the Russellville papers after Al left. She had been with him since he started his first paper, and he gave her much of the credit for his success.





Al was getting out of journalism, but not out of public service. He became involved in, and a leader of, several statewide organizations, such as the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.

Al Smith helped start:

- **Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence**
- **Governor's Scholars Program**
- **Kentucky Oral History Commission**
- **Leadership Kentucky**
- **Forward in the Fifth**
- **Shakertown Roundtable**

He moderated many of the discussions at the Shakertown Roundtable, a forum for exploring issues facing Kentucky.



Al Smith's awards include:

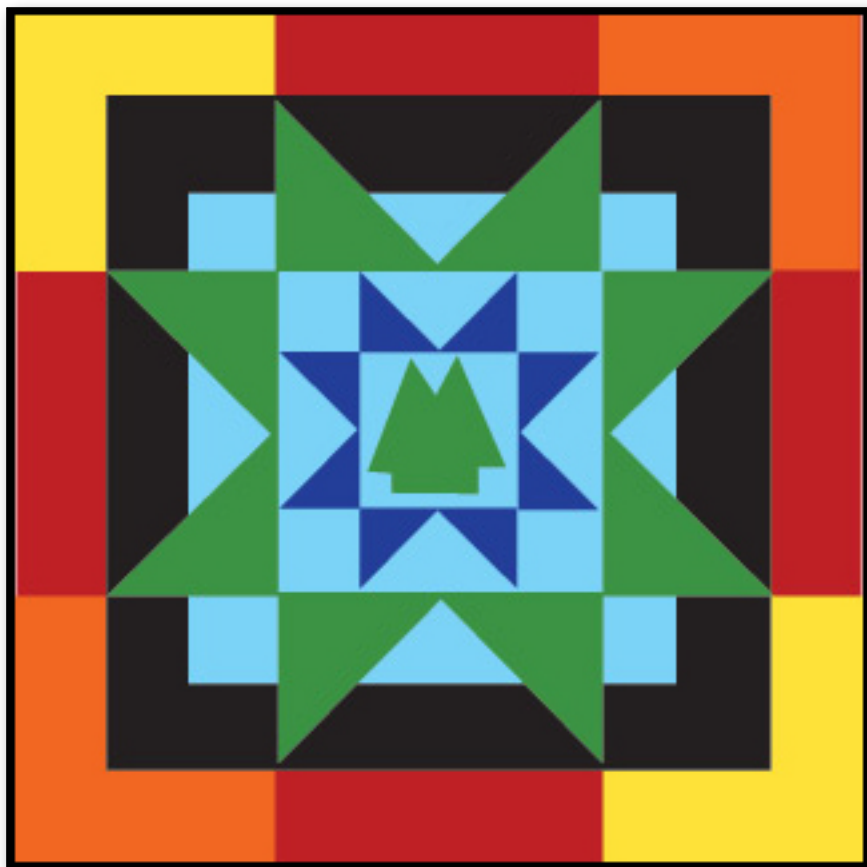
- **Fellow of the Society of Professional Journalists**
- **Honorary doctorates from nine universities**
- **Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame (charter member, 1981)**
- **East Kentucky Leadership Foundation Media Award**
- **Vic Hellard Award, Ky. Long-Term Policy Research Center**
- **Lewis Owens Award for Community Service, Ky. Press Association**
- **Gabbard Distinguished Kentuckian Award, Ky. Broadcasters Assn.**
- **UK Library Associates Medallion for Intellectual Achievement**
- **Distinguished Rural Kentuckian, Ky. Assn. of Electric Cooperatives**
- **Rural Hero of the National Rural Assembly**

In 2001, Al and his friend Rudy Abramson conceived the Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues as a way to help rural news media cover broad issues that have a local impact but lack local sources. Al got the new president of UK, Dr. Lee T. Todd Jr., to support the idea.



Al assembled an advisory committee that included Courier-Journal Political Writer Al Cross, who had worked for him at his Russellville and Leitchfield newspapers.

In 2004, with the help of then-Provost Michael Nietzel, Dee Davis of the Center for Rural Strategies, Director Beth Barnes of the School of Journalism and Telecommunications and others, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation gave UK \$250,000 to make the Institute a reality. Al Cross was hired as interim director and became permanent director in 2005.



**Institute for
RURAL
JOURNALISM
& Community Issues**

Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues: Mission

- To help non-metropolitan media **define the public agenda** in their communities, through strong reporting and commentary, especially on **broader issues** that have an impact on their communities but few good local sources
- To give them **information** and **inspiration**
- To help all journalists with coverage of issues that affect rural America

The Institute is more a public policy institute for journalists than a journalism-craft program.

OUR MAIN ISSUES:

Education

Economic Development

Environment

Health Care and Health

The Institute does its work by:

Direct consultations

Issue workshops

Conference presentations

Research on rural media

Publishing The Rural Blog:

Maintaining www.RuralJournalism.org

Employing graduate students

Writing for national journals

**Speaking to non-journalism groups
about issues facing rural America**



The Institute does its work by: Field reporting projects with students

The Future of Tobacco and Tobacco-Dependent Communities in Kentucky

A project by students in Rural Journalism at the University of Kentucky School of Journalism and Telecommunications



A field of free-market burley ready for harvest in tobacco-dependent Owen County, August 2005

Al Cross, instructor, and director,
Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues

Cooperating:
Cooperative Extension Service, UK
University of North Carolina
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
Bath County News-Outlook
Breckinridge County Herald-News

Casey County News
The Jessamine Journal
The Ledger Independent
Mount Sterling Advocate
News-Democrat and Leader



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Instructor

Al Cross

Student Contributors 2009-10 school year

Cassidy Myers

[Council approves budget for 2010-11; city won't appeal attorney general's open-records decision](#)

On June 7, the Midway City Council adopted the city budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1. For a copy of the budget, as an Excel spreadsheet file, [click here](#). For a PDF version, [click here](#).

Mayor Tom Bozarth declined to release a copy of his proposed budget while the council was considering it. In a case prompted by the Midway Messenger, Attorney General Jack Conway [ruled](#) that a proposed city budget becomes public once the mayor presents it to the council. However, Conway's ruling did not become final until June 19, 30 days after it was issued. On June 10, Bozarth said the city will not appeal the ruling to Woodford Circuit Court.

[Midway Station is rezoned, but will developer deliver?](#)

By Emily Funk, Spring 2008; Ana Clegg, Fall 2008; and Al Cross, 2009

Midway Station, a failed industrial park, has been rezoned and sold for residential and commercial development, Ana Clegg reported. ([Read more](#)) But the developer has been slow to proceed. For the story on the Midway Messenger blog, [click here](#). The rezoning process raised [big questions](#) about the future of Midway and posed a [tough issue](#) for the City Council. Emily Funk

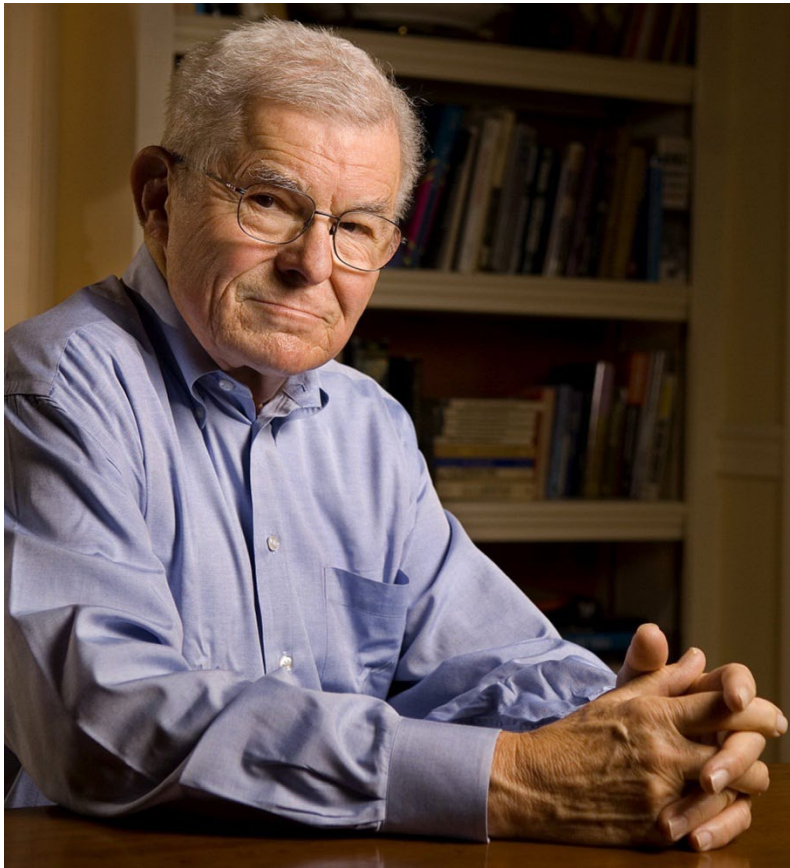
Community journalism students write for a website and blog that covers the town of Midway.

The Institute's director is a tenured (as of July 1) associate professor in the Extension Title series, the first at UK outside the College of Agriculture and the first we know of anywhere. Most work of Extension faculty is directed off campus.



Al Cross

The Institute has academic partners, at 28 universities in 18 states, who constitute its Steering Committee.



It has a national Advisory Board of 50 members, headed by Al Smith, who is an active chairman.

DR. SMITH, I PRESUME

In 2011, the man who dropped out of Vanderbilt, and who had been awarded at least seven honorary degrees, finally got one he had long wanted, from the University of Kentucky and Dr. Lee Todd, whom he had backed for president.

