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Mount Vernon Signal

Serving Rockcastle County Since 1887

Mount Vernon Kentucky 40456

VOLUME 100 - NUMBER 52

Thursday, October 22, 1987

It's been a long dry spell, and it's still not over yet

By: Ray McClure

It rained! Not much, but every little bit helps, and it was a little bit, only .22 of an inch, bringing the October total to .27 of an inch the lowest in memory.

The rain Tuesday had little effect, if any at all, on drought conditions plaguing the area. Weather Service officials say.

It's indeed dry hereabouts, but Rockcastle County is not listed among the 34 counties under a state "water watch." However, the county is adjacent to counties that are, including Garrard, Lincoln and Madison.

Familiar statements heard around the county these past few weeks include, "I've never seen it this dry," and "I don't have a well anymore," and "My spring is dry for the first time that I can remember."

Glenn Bullock, who lives at Cove Branch, reported he had installed 3,000 feet of water line when his spring went dry for the first time. About 10 other residents have done the same this fall.

A state climatologist from Western Kentucky University has summed up the future. "We may have a good rain overnight that would help, but you don't suddenly get into drought conditions in one summer. It takes awhile, and it takes awhile to get over it."

"We need about several inches of rain over several weeks," he added. "And October and November are usually our driest months."

Lake Linville, which furnishes water to nearly all of the county, gradually gets lower with each day, with only one small stream now feeding the lake.

The pull-down at the lake has not been as much as it was two or three weeks ago because with the cooler temperatures comes less

usage and less evaporation.

Water Supp. Matt Powell, Jr., said the lake is now about two feet, five inches below the overflow valve.

He said if the lake goes lower, the water department would have to go to another lower valve, meaning to another six-foot level.

"And the lower we go the blacker the water," Powell related. "These cold nights are causing the lake to turn over and that only adds to the problems.

We're having a hard time keeping the water clear."

He said the city can take 12 more feet of water from the lake and still be able to get water into the water plant. But after that, no more water. He added, that at the moment, the use of another six feet of water is "on the brink."

The cause of a water shortage is obvious. No rain.

A check of records at Cox Funeral Home Weather Station shows to date only .27 has fallen

through Oct. 21. That compares to last year's October figure of 3.49 inches. There was 5.10 inches last September compared to 2.57 this year. Last November, there was 8.68 inches, a goodly amount for November.

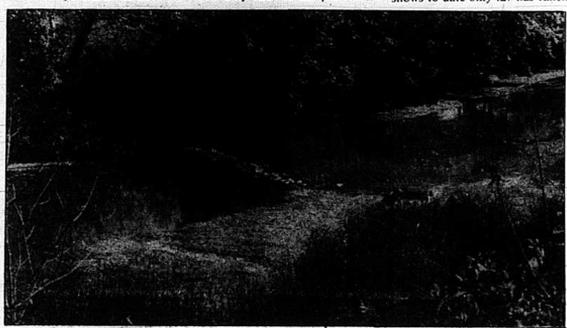
With November and December still to go, to date this year there has been 31.27 inches of rain. The yearly total in 1986 was 41.97 inches of rain. The yearly total in 1985 was 41.71 inches.

In November 1986, there was

that unusual 8.68 inches of precipitation and 3.77 inches in December 1986. Adding these figures to this year's total, granted there is rain during the two remaining months, the yearly total would be about what it has been for the past three years.

To date, compared to the last two years, the area is about 10 inches short of rainfall. However, the yearly totals for the past three years are better than in 1980

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All that's left of the Rockcastle River are a few stagnant pools. The above scene is the ford on U.S. 25 south of Livingston.

Tobacco growers have less to sell

The bulk tobacco market will open officially Nov. 23 and warehouses will begin receiving tobacco on Nov. 13, but Rockcastle growers will have about nine percent less pounds to sell this year.

The decrease in production is due to a six percent cut in the quota this year. Last year, growers were allowed to sell three percent over the quota something that is not allowed this year, so far.

There will be 15 sale days before the Christmas holidays. They are: Nov. 23, 24, 25 and 30; Dec. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16 and 17. After the Christmas holidays, selling will start on Jan. 4 and continue until the market closes.

Harold Ballinger, county ASCS director, said there is just over 2,425,513 pounds in the county available for sale, the effective quota.

He said due to the dry weather

10 percent of the crop has been stripped and is ready for weighing. Usually, about 85 percent of the crop is sold before Christmas.

The average price support level this year is the same as the last two years, Ballinger stated. That price is \$148.80 a hundred pounds.

The Rockcastle average last year was \$154.99 for 100 pounds. A total of 3,186,848 pounds were sold by county growers last year with a total value of nearly \$5 million.

Most county tobacco growers take their crops to London, Richmond, Lexington, Danville and Somerset.

McKinney quits at local bank

After almost two years as president of the Bank of Mt. Vernon, Danny McKinney has resigned.

McKinney's move came suddenly last Thursday following a meeting of the bank's officers. McKinney said Tuesday he quit because of personal reasons.

A former branch manager for Farm Credit Services, McKinney was named to replace C.T. Huffines who had been president of the bank since Tracy Farmer purchased majority stock in the 1970s.

A spokesman for the bank said Tuesday that a new president would be named as soon as the board of directors meet.

Food bank growth rate up

The Rockcastle Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) continues to expand in its ability to assist emergency food needs of Rockcastle countians. During August and September the average number of families that were assisted was between 15-20 per month. That number is expected to increase dramatically during the winter months.

One reason for the expected increase is that the Food bank operated by the Christian Appalachian Project (CAP) is no longer operating. CAP has donated all remaining supplies to

REAP, including the use of a freezer.

As demands have risen so has donations from citizens and organizations of Rockcastle County. Because of the increase in financial support REAP is able to proceed with plans to become an associate member of God's Pantry and Crisis Food Center of Lexington.

What this means is that a large amount of many food items can be obtained there to stock the local food bank. While the food does not cost the food bank

Cont. to B



Bro. Eddie Hammond and daughter Heather, met with Mary Jo Votuba, director of God's Pantry in Lexington, at the local Rockcastle Emergency Assistance Program office in Mt. Vernon to discuss and assess the local food bank.

Swimming charges dropped

Mt. Vernon City Policeman Jim Rhodus was the time handing out tickets to persons swimming and wading in Lake Linville this summer.

Judge William Cain dismissed 26 cases involving swimming at the lake this week. Judge Cain said Tuesday he felt there was a "question" about the ordinance itself, and he found it difficult to determine what the designated swimming area is at the lake. There was also a question of signs posted.

The judge also said the city allows water skiing, but if you fall off into the water the person can be charged with swimming in a no swimming area.

There is now no designated swimming area at the lake after the Rockcastle Health Department.

Trick or Treat

Trick or treat night has been scheduled at Mt. Vernon, according to city police. The time will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30.

It is suggested that parents or an older person accompany children on their rounds during the prescribed time.

Vote buying widespread; Rockcastle no exception

By: Richard Anderkin

Is vote buying a problem in Rockcastle County? A recent story in the Louisville Courier-Journal stated that vote buying is prevalent in all of eastern Kentucky, making Rockcastle County no exception.

According to a local man, who asked that his identity not be revealed, for obvious reasons, vote buying in Rockcastle is as wide-spread today as it was 50 years ago.

The local man, who has been in politics and around them for many, many years said that some politicians in office today got there by way of the bought vote.

"Elections have been bought and sold in Rockcastle County as long as anyone can remember," he said. "They are bought one at a time, a handful or by the entire family," he said. "When I say family, I don't mean just mom and dad and the four kids, I'm

Harper to visit

A John Harper for governor bus tour through 16 counties in the Fifth District including Rockcastle, is scheduled for Oct. 28, 29 and 30.

Harper will attend a 7-30 breakfast at Jean's Restaurant on the I-75 Burr Interchange on Wednesday, Oct. 28.

He will spend two hours in the area.

Harper will be accompanied by state GOP leaders including U.S. Rep. Harold Rogers, State Senator David Williams and State Rep. Lonnie Napier.

talking about families with 50, 100 or even 200 people most with the same last name, that for the right amount, and usually it is not a lot, will vote for the same candidate or the same slate of candidates."

"Often times, candidates for county-wide offices here slate together and run as a whole. They pool their money so they can buy more votes," the man continued. "That makes it much easier financially on the candidates because instead of having to put up enough money or whiskey, in some cases, they only have to come up with about a fourth or fifth of whatever the total cost is, depending on the number of candidates that are on the slate."

"Anyone that knows anything about Rockcastle County politics knows that elections have been bought and sold since the beginning of elections," he related.

He added that not all present day politicians get involved in buying votes, but the majority of those who do not usually lose. That is not to say that they always lose, just most of the

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John Doe buried

The body of "John Doe," an unidentified man found floating in Lake Linville Apr. 20, was buried Wednesday in Elmwood Cemetery.

The body was returned from Frankfort where efforts were made to identify him.

The man, of medium height, had been shot in the chest.



Several citizens recently attended the Kentucky Economic Development Showcase '87 in Louisville, which was sponsored by the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet. At the Rockcastle booth are, from left: Mt. Vernon Mayor Elizabeth Baker, Karen King, Ada Noe and Danny McKinney. In a unified endeavor to induce industry to located in Mt. Vernon/Rockcastle County, area delegates campaigned aggressively with the industrial marketing representatives, stressing the amenities of our county.