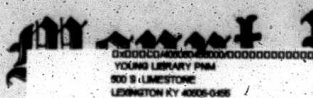




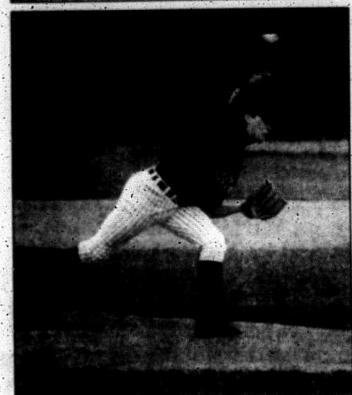
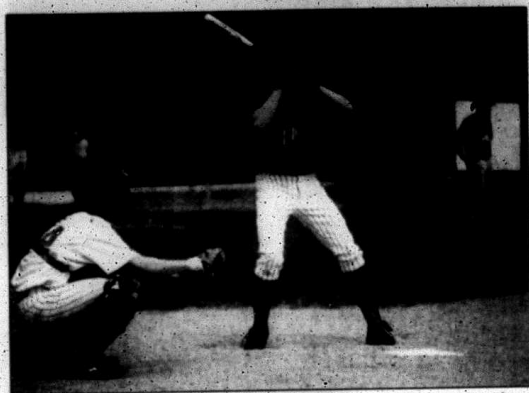
Military Bell held - Pg. B1



Mt. Vernon Signal

Rockcastle County Since 1887

35¢ a copy - Thursday, April 4, 2002



In the top photo, Austin Miller goes to bat against a team from New York. In the bottom photo, Stephen Boring takes the mound for the Rockets.

Rockets begin new season

The Rockcastle County Rockets began their quest for a third straight regional title on Friday at Pulaski County and then moved on to Florida the next day.

The Rockets lost 2-0 to PC in a game that was called in five innings because of lightning.

Within the next 54 hours the Rockets had made an overnight trip and played two other baseball games.

Those games were played in Co-coa, Florida and both the junior varsity and varsity had lost.

The junior varsity lost to North Laurel High School from London 5-4. The varsity lost 11-5.

Within the next twelve hours the team had slept four hours and played two more games.

The good news for the Rockets was that none of those games were wins.

The bad news for second year head coach J.D. Bussell was that he had a very tired team on his hands and a lot of sore arms.

(Cont. to A10)

Grant funds available for homeowner septic systems

If you are a homeowner and have a failing septic system or a "straight pipe," you may be eligible for a free septic system. The program is part of the \$9,000,000 "PRIDE Homeowner Septic System Program" in Rockcastle County, the Cumberland Valley RC&D Council and the Rockcastle County Conservation District are jointly administering the project. The project is being funded by a grant from the Hal Rogers PRIDE program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

To be eligible for the program the applicant must meet the HUD poverty guidelines and must own the property on which the septic system

will be installed. The grant program is for existing homes and is not for new unoccupied homes. If your home is near a municipal or county sewerage line, the grant program will also pay the expenses to hook your home onto the sewerage line.

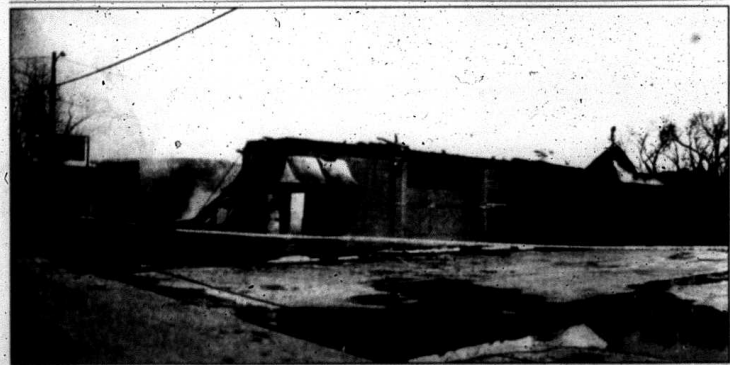
This program is targeting a known 36,000 straight pipes and failing septic system throughout the 40 county PRIDE area. Pollution from straight pipes and failing septic systems is the main water pollution problem in eastern Kentucky. Nearly 1/2 the private drinking water wells in Kentucky are

contaminated with coliform bacteria, an indication that the wells may be contaminated water. By installing ad-

equated septic systems or hooking on to an existing sewerage line we can all be a part of drastically improving the water quality of eastern Kentucky and Rockcastle County.

In Rockcastle County, applications for the "Homeowner Septic System Program" can be picked up at the Rockcastle County Conservation District office at USDA Service Center, Hwy. 150. The homeowner will complete the grant application, provide proof of income, and proof of ownership of the property on which a septic system is to be installed, along with other documentation as required in the grant administration procedures. For further information

(Cont. to A10)



The building that housed Bruce's Billiards on Williams St. in Mt. Vernon was completely destroyed by fire Monday night. Firefighters were called to the scene around 10 p.m. and reported the building heavily involved upon arrival. The fire apparently started in the back of the building. The building was formerly home to Food Fair, EC Porter and the Big B Supermarkets.

Mt. Vernon Council votes for huge raise for Mayor

By Richard Anderkin

The Mt. Vernon City Council voted in favor of a \$36,000 per year salary for the new Mayor during their regular monthly meeting on Monday night.

Besides the \$35,400 raise, the next Mt. Vernon Mayor will receive all benefits including health insurance and retirement.

The next mayor will also receive reimbursements for expenditures incurred with the office and be required to work at least 35 hours per week.

That's not to say that the next Mayor will be required to spend those

35 hours in the office.

"There are a lot of after hours duties that come with this position," said current Mayor Karen King.

There had been talk among the council of a salary as high as \$50,000 per year, but King said the council agreed on the \$36,000 as a compromise.

mise.

"We did not think the Mayor should earn less than the highest paid city employee," she said.

Currently that employee is City Clerk Kaye Rader, who earns just less than \$36,000.

(Cont. to A10)

Brother shoots brother Friday

Alcohol is expected to be a contributing factor in a family argument that ended in a shooting at Sand Hill Friday.

Rockcastle Deputy Sheriff Jeff Rush said that Billy Gene Hubbard, 38, apparently shot his brother, Larry Hubbard, 45, three times with a shotgun.

Larry Hubbard was hit in the face, side and leg, according to Rush's report.

port.

Rush said the shooting incident took place around 1 p.m. at Larry Hubbard's house. Both men live on Sand Hill.

Billy Gene Hubbard was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

Larry Hubbard was treated for gunshot wounds at Rockcastle Hospital and transferred to UK Hospital.

Over 100 turn out for forum

Well over 100 citizens came to RCHS last Friday night to learn how Rockcastle County can plan for its future. Dr. Vaughn Grisham, from the University of Mississippi and a nationally recognized expert on community development, shared his experience in community and economic development. He told the story of Tupelo, once the county seat of the poorest county in Mississippi, which is now one of the most successful communities in the nation.

"It took a long time, and a lot of hard work," said Grisham, "they

(Cont. to A10)

Two arrested

Helping Rockcastle County deputies track down a gun for questioning in a drive-by shooting, Lincoln County deputies busted two people on methamphetamine charges.

(Cont. to A10)

Mike Gates speaks to Equestrian Ministries

Mike Gates, Director of Christ's Outreach for the Blind in Mt. Vernon, spoke recently at the Equestrian Ministries International meeting held at Wears Valley Ranch in Townsend, Tennessee. Mike and his wife, Lori, his Mom and Dad, along with Bud and Shirley Cox, attended the bi-annual, two day meeting where Mike shared his vision to build a camp to help others who are blinded to become independent members of society.

Equestrian Ministries International is comprised of 409 members from 14 states and Belgium. Their mission statement reads: "Equestrian Ministries International (EMI) is an organization of believers in Christ who share an interest in horses and wish to be involved in a ministry designed to reach out and share the love of God." The Equestrian group has promised a "barn raising" for Christ's Outreach as a result of the meeting. Ashbury College students from Wilmore, members of the Equestrian Ministry, also offered to bring their horses and help with camping activities.

Horseback riding will be only a part of the camping experience when Christ's Outreach for the Blind, a non-profit organization, officially opens. In addition, the camp will teach hunting, bow and gun, fishing, swimming, mountain climbing, hiking, rappelling, gardening and independent living skills.

When a hunting accident blinded Mike in 1989, he admits to having a death wish for a period of time. Then God spoke to him and told him that he could help others who are blinded like himself so he started to search for a place to build his camp. Beginning with a purchase of 100 acres, Christ's Outreach now encompasses 800 acres of Rockcastle wilderness. Mike and a skeleton crew have completed a barn, facility with two staff apartments, an indoor archery range, a hydrotherapy room, steam room, weight room and bathrooms. Another building, the Outreach center or Lodge is nearly completed. It has 10 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, a cafeteria,

a commercial kitchen, an office, a laundry room and a maintenance storage area. Mike estimates that it will cost each participant only \$35

to attend. "Our activities are based on everything that everybody tells the blind or disabled that they can't do," Christ's Outreach for the Blind can accommodate 600 participants each year and will run April - December.

Dr. Larry Martin, Missions Growth Team Leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has been instrumental in introducing Mike to the Equestrian Ministries group and in getting 43 beds and mattresses for Christ's Outreach. He has also scheduled a group of Baptist Builders to help to complete the Center. In addition, work crews from the Coalition of Appalachian Ministries will be coming in April to help with further construction.

Mike attended the School of Ministry in La Mirada, California from

(Cont. to A10)



Mike Gates, blinded in a hunting accident in 1989, spoke to the Equestrian Ministries International in Townsend, Tennessee.