

The

MOUNTAIN EAGLE

IT SCREAMS! Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky, Thursday, December 30, 1965 Vol. 58, No. 33

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Emergency strikes city water system

The City of Whitesburg found itself this week with about the fanciest water filtering plant in Eastern Kentucky--but no water to filter through it.

At about noon Monday, the two wells which have provided the town's water supply went dry. The town was using water faster than the wells could accumulate it. Residents of the higher parts of town were the first to feel the effects of the situation. Then the shortage spread to all parts of the town as the storage tank above the wells dispensed the last of the water in it.

From Monday night until early Wednesday morning, most parts of town were without water service while city officials worked desperately to find a solution.

Residents who had friends or relatives not served by the city water system went to them for jugs or buckets of water. Others did without.

Coincidentally the failure occurred at the time of a meeting called by Dr. Richard Keeler, the county's new health officer, to discuss another aspect of the water problem. Dr. Keeler had asked city councilmen and water board officials to meet with him to talk about the high mineral content of the city water supply, which has been causing the water to stain laundry and has been making it distasteful to drink.

When the emergency arose, Dr. Keeler called the State Health Department at Frankfort, which sent Harry Marsh, chief sanitation inspector, here Tuesday to help with the problem. City officials had already decided early Tuesday, before Marsh's arrival, that the best solution lay in pumping water from the North Fork of the Kentucky River into the city's new filtration plant for treatment. They had constructed a low dam across the river and had begun to pump water to the plant, which is near the river, by using the city's new fire truck.

When Marsh arrived Tuesday afternoon he tested the water and pronounced it satisfactory for consumption after treatment. At about 9 p. m. Tuesday water system employees began pumping the water from the filtering basin into the storage tank, and by

Wednesday morning, the tank was filled and water service was restored to most of the city. One area, however, in the Long Avenue neighborhood, was still without water today because of a break in a four-inch main. Water system employees hoped they had located the break today and were digging through six feet of dirt and rock to make the needed repairs. They were uncertain when service could be restored to the affected area.

Dr. Keeler said the water is perfectly safe to drink after treatment, even though the Kentucky River is little more than an open sewer from Hemphill to Whitesburg. He said there is no need to boil the treated water and he did not expect the need to arise. However, he said, if boiling should become necessary, radio announcements would be made.

Several serious diseases are water-borne, among them typhoid fever, dysentery and other gastrointestinal disturbances.

Dr. Keeler said Marsh pronounced the new filtration plant, financed with a loan and grant from the federal government and completed only last summer, well constructed and well designed. He said Marsh said the city will be getting its money's worth from the plant and was pleased at the way the plant was working. The plant had been designed originally to handle river water as well as water from the city's wells.

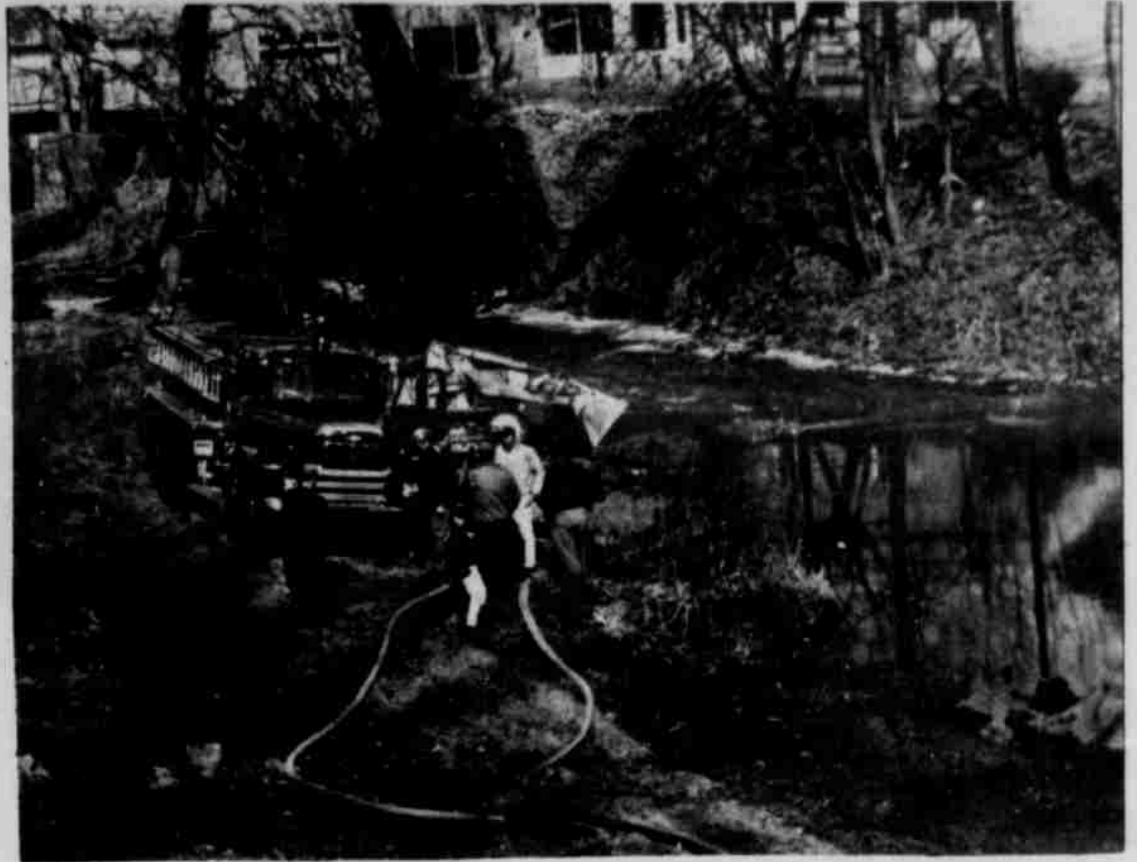
Although it will be a week before the chemical content of the water can be analyzed completely, officials believe the water from the river will be more palatable and less likely to cause laundry stains and other problems than the water from the wells.

Dr. Keeler said hourly checks of the bacterial content of the water are being made. So far it has been perfectly safe, he said, and he and his family are drinking it also.

Even though water service has been restored, city officials continued to ban washing of autos by garages and asked all residents to use the water supply sparingly as possible.

Dr. Keeler said officials were surprised at the amount of water

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Whitesburg's fire truck provided the pumping power to get water from the North Fork of the Kentucky River into the city water system's filtration plant a few yards from the river after the wells which have supplied the water system for many years failed this week to meet the need. (Eagle photo).

Where?

The University of Kentucky Board of Trustees this week recommended establishment of new community colleges at Maysville and Louisville but did not make any mention of a site for the proposed Blackey-Hazard college.

However, the UK fund request to the legislature for the 1966-68 biennium does include a request for \$206,500 for Blackey-Hazard. The request asked \$25,000 for Blackey-Hazard for 1966-67, primarily for planning and study of needs.

For current operations--faculty, staff, etc., excluding building funds, UK is requesting \$181,500 for Blackey-Hazard for the 1967-68 fiscal year.

Local residents who have been active in the campaign to have the college located in Letcher County say they have heard nothing concrete since the inspection of a site at Whitesburg by a University team, including President John W. Oswald, in December, 1964. At that time UK officials looked at property owned by Willie Lucas in West Whitesburg and the Ran-

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'WATER EMERGENCY STILL EXISTS,' OFFICIALS CAUTION WHITESBURG

Mayor Ferdinand Moore and public health officials declared today that a state of emergency exists in Whitesburg because of the water crisis.

Moore joined County Health Officer Dr. Richard Keeler and State Health Department Chief Sanitation Engineer Harry Marsh in urging residents to make every reasonable effort to conserve water and not to do such unnecessary things as washing cars.

Dr. Keeler and Marsh said the state of emergency will exist until the city finds a new, temporary water source. They said the city can continue pumping water from the Kentucky River from the present intake site only until new arrangements can be made.

Marsh joined Dr. Keeler in pointing out that the present river intake, near Boone Motor Co., is just below a river-bed city sewer pumping station. Should anything happen to the sewer

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Dr. Crawford dies

Funeral services for Dr. John Edison Crawford, who had practiced medicine in Letcher County for 36 years, will be conducted at 2 p. m. Friday at the chapel of Moore and Craft Funeral Home.

The Rev. Clel Rodgers, former pastor of the Baptist Church here, will officiate. The Rev. McCoy Franklin will give the scripture reading. The Rev. David Morrow will sing a solo. The Rev. H. M. Wiley will give the prayer.

Burial will be in Green Acres Cemetery.

Dr. Crawford died Wednesday night at the Whitesburg Appalachian Hospital. He had been

in declining health for several years.

Dr. Crawford was a native of Colson, Letcher County, and was one of 12 children of Campbell Calloway and Mary Collins Crawford.

He attended Valparaiso University in Indiana and Eastern State Teachers College, where he met Margaret Parker of Burtonville, Lewis County, who later became his wife.

After graduation from the University of Louisville Medical School, he interned at Louisville City Hospital and then practiced for a year at Mt. Vernon before coming to Whitesburg in May of 1929. He had practiced here continuously since that time until failing health forced him to close his office a few months ago.

Dr. Crawford's practice took him to all parts of Letcher County for house calls and deliveries, and he was known and respected throughout the county. His pointed comments on medicine, politics and humanity in general are the subject of numerous anecdotes which have been widely retold.

Surviving him besides his wife are two sons, John Edison Crawford Jr. and Guy Ray Crawford, both of Whitesburg; four brothers, Guy Crawford, Lenoir City, Tenn.; Kelly Crawford, New York State; Ford Crawford, Washington, D. C.; and Champ Crawford, Lexington; and three sisters, Mrs. May Holbrook, Brodhead; Mrs. Estill Boyd, Camden, Ohio, and Mrs. B. H. Smith, Yakima, Wash.



DR. J. E. CRAWFORD

Corps says school delay needless

The U. S. Corps of Engineers told the Letcher County Board of Education this week there is no reason to delay planning for construction of a school in the Roxana area because of the possibility a dam might flood it out in a few years.

The message came from Col. W. Roper, district engineer, of Louisville. He wrote to U. S. Rep. Carl D. Perkins, who had written to him after he received a letter from Whitesburg Atty. Harry M. Caudill on behalf of the school board. Caudill had asked what the corps could tell the board about its plans.

Col. Roper wrote Perkins: "In our current authorized review of the Kentucky River basin for flood control and allied water resources various alternate measures are being considered. Two of these measures being studied are reservoirs with the dams on North Fork near Ulvah and upstream from Blackey, Kentucky.

"At this time, our studies have

not proceeded to a stage where conclusions can be drawn regarding the feasibility of these potential reservoir projects. We expect to complete these investigations and submit a report thereon next summer.

"It does not appear advisable that planning of the school mentioned by Mr. Caudill or other developments in the area should be limited by consideration of the reservoir projects under investigation until there is a reasonably firm expectancy that works will be authorized and built.

"Should either of these reservoirs be found economically justified, several years (normally about 10) would be required for processing our report to Congress, authorization, funding, advance planning and construction."

The proposed school at Roxana has been the subject of considerable controversy in recent weeks. It looms important in the 1966 school board election, in which

Kern Whitaker, the board member who represents the area, is up for re-election. "They know he can't be beat if that school is built," one political observer said.

Both the Letcher County Teachers Organization and the Letcher County American Federation of Teachers chapter have protested to the board about its plans to build the school. Members of the Whitesburg Parent-Teacher Association have argued that the next building to be constructed ought to go to Whitesburg. The board has continued to indicate it prefers to build at Roxana and hopes to obtain funds under the federal aid to education act to construct the building. Cost of the school will be about a fourth of a million dollars.

Perkins indicated privately to some Letcher County residents during a visit here before Christmas that he expects the dams to be built, and soon, with money from the Appalachian Development Act.