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Weddings ... Bowling Green style

Local couples are setting trends in wedding preparation. Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue? Not necessarily.
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Editor's Note

Each semester Bowling Green magazine is introduced to a new staff, a variety of new ideas and enthusiasm that will turn a production office upside down.

To call this semester's staff enthusiastic, however, is an understatement.

In January, 1986, the public relations senior seminar class at Western set out with a number of goals:
1. First and foremost—to produce a publication that would meet the needs of the community for which it represents;
2. To make the semester-long experience one of learning;
3. To make a mark on the history of the magazine; and
4. To enjoy the experience.

As a true learning experience, budgeting and re-budgeting brings to you the first full-color edition of Bowling Green. In addition, by incorporating a variety of new ideas and segments, the publication better represents the community.

Let it not be said that learning, meeting deadlines and even facing rejection is unhealthy. All have added to what has been a definite enjoyable experience.

Thanks go out to our advertisers who allow us to make Bowling Green complimentary to you, and to our subscribers who play a supportive role. It is much easier to produce this publication when we know that someone is waiting to see the results.

Final thanks are extended to the staff: Greg Martin, business manager; Barkley Payne, advertising manager; Susan Combs, features editor and Karen Kirsch, department editor. All played first-hand roles in directing the most creative staffs available.

Please continue to read the magazine, subscribe to it, advertise in it and submit your comments to it. Your support is vital in each of these areas.

Kevin J. Garza
Editor

Bowling Green
MAGAZINE

Weddings

Gone are the days when the bride and her mother planned every detail and the groom's only responsibility was to meet his bride-to-be at the altar. Today, couples are planning their weddings together, writing their own vows and making lasting memories. Page 10

Latchkey children—is it a problem in Bowling Green?

More and more children are being left alone to take care of themselves before and after school as both parents enter the labor force. Page 18

Romanza Johnson has been a member of more than 50 civic and professional groups. Her seven-page resume shows the versatility, efficiency and dedication that absorbs every ounce of her energy. Page 30

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Cover photo by Gary E. Hairlson, Bowling Green. Photo elements furnished by Royal Barn Florist and Betty's Florist, Bowling Green.

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Christianity: Where is it going?

By CHIP POLSTON

"All of God's judgment will be meted out on this world as Satan's emissaries, the beast, the anti-christ, the false prophet will wreak havoc on mankind. Paralyzing pain and sorrow, seas of dead men's blood, rivers filled with blood, and the stench of dying aquatic life will plague man and beast."

THE SECOND COMING
THE FELLOWSHIP TRACT LEAGUE

"Leave the hurt behind you
Love has found you now
And He'll never let you go
Oh you've got to know
That Jesus will not leave us now
So leave your cares behind."

FROM THE AMY GRANT ALBUM
WHERE DO YOU HIDE YOUR HEART
STRAIGHT AHEAD, 1984, Word, Inc.

A definite swing is occurring in the way people are practicing their religion. The red-faced, pulpit-pounding minister with the hell, fire and brimstone speech still exists, but diversions for Christians, such as new forms of music and entertainment, are changing the way the biblical message is being spread.

"It's becoming more fashionable to be a conservative Christian these days, because they're adopting the world's way in presenting their message," says Dennis Okholm, an instructor in the philosophy and religion department at Western Kentsucky University. Bowling Green residents have two new ways of presenting their message; the Christian Drive-In Theatre and a contemporary Christian music radio station.

"We want to be available for people who don't go to church to learn the Christian message," says Bob Whittinghill, who co-owns the Christian Drive-In Theatre with his brother Bill. Bob Whittinghill said he got the idea for his theatre from a very personal experience:

"While we lived in Columbus, Ind., my daughter became a Christian after going to a drive-in like ours here in Bowling Green," Whittinghill said. "We also get many reports of this happening here. For example, a couple of kids used to come to movies and sit in the back, smoke pot and laugh at what we were showing. One night though, they called their father from a pay phone and asked him to come pray with them. Christianity finally got through to them."

The drive-in, located on Morgantown Road, is in its fifth season. One of the main reasons the theatre opened was, according to Whittinghill, "to keep the word of God before the people." The drive-in shows family-style entertainment films such as "Chariots of Fire" and others as long as they are Christian-oriented.

Although there is no admission charge to the movies, each patron is given an envelope and asked for a donation. Showing the movies can be expensive (some of the more popular titles rent for $150 or more per showing), and the drive-in did end up "a little short last year," according to Whittinghill. However, he and his brother make up the difference out of their own pockets.

"Hopefully, the theatre's financial problems will be eased due to a trade-off with the new Christian radio station. While the station will be giving free publicity to the drive-in, the drive-in will in turn give a percentage of its income to help the station stay on the air.

WCVK-FM (We're the Christian Voice of Kentucky) is a non-profit, non-denominational and non-commercial radio station serving Bowling Green and South Central Kentucky. The station, which began broadcasting in March of this year, is on the air 18 hours a day. The programming consists of 60 percent music and 40 percent nationally produced teaching shows, such as "Focus on the Family" by Dr. James Dobson and the "Radio Bible Class" by Richard Dehahn.

"We will be playing everything from contemporary Christian music to Southern Gospel in an effort to attract all age groups," said Ken Cummings, director of development for WCVK. Cummings added that the station would also eventually like to branch out into the news field, but would not want to hurt existing stations in the process. "We're not trying to segregate ourselves from the community in this way, but only trying to become part of it," he said.

Money will play a key part in whether or not the station will stay on the air. Since the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had designated their frequency (90.7 on the FM dial) for educational use only, no advertising can be sold. Some funding will come from nationally syndicated programs that are aired, but the remaining funds will have to come from
Rock guitars may create a modern pop sound, the members of the contemporary movement are not your average members of the rock and roll crowd. According to an interview in Rolling Stone magazine, Grant has a prayer meeting with her performers and crew before every concert. Her manager, Dan Hamnett, adds that for members of her entourage, "There's a standing rule that there's no drug use. We have a pretty strict policy that single guys are not allowed to have girls in their rooms also. We do try to uphold a certain moral standard."

Not surprisingly, the emergence of Christian rock has caused a deep generation gap in some areas. Fundamentalist colleges like Bob Jones University in South Carolina and Jerry Falwell's Liberty University in Virginia have banned concerts by contemporary Christian artists while other groups gladly open their arms to them. A performance last year at Western by Myron LeFevre and the Broken Heart Band, one of the more popular Christian groups in the nation, drew a small but enthusiastic crowd.

Some discord also exists in the way the artists are presenting their messages. "Contemporary Christian has its good and bad points," says Okholm. "On one hand it does provide teenagers with an alternative to Twisted Sister (a hard-rock band), but I also see some aspects of Christianity either missing or distorted in this approach. Also, why are the albums and ticket prices so expensive for some of these performers? They should be performing for love, not profit."

In whatever way the message is being presented, both sides seem to be trying to accomplish the same objective. Rolling Stone quoted Amy Grant as saying to a group of A & M recording executives after the first time they listened to her Unprotected album, "Everybody wants hope... It's pretty bleak out there, pretty dark. The statistics are obvious from teen suicides and all the craziness. So we're trying to do is take Christian principles and make them understandable. Even if it doesn't say Jesus," Grant adds, "it doesn't matter."

Kentucky Library: State's history unshelved

By TODD HORNBACK

Storms that rage yesterday are gone forever, they leave a trail, but the experience can never be exactly the same. History follows the same path as storms, but history can again be brought from the past to the present through writings, photographs and drawings which are kept in an archival environment.

It is easily forgotten how much history is in a country, a state, a city or a community, but Bowling Green is enhanced by a library which sets a goal of preserving Kentucky history.

It is an experience to hold the diary of a young girl and carefully turn pages and examine the eloquent penmanship that had been written almost 100 years ago. The words of which tell everyday events — some amusing, some trivial, but all giving history of an era which we may never see.

The diary of Josephine Calvert is just one resource of history that can be found within the walls of the Kentucky Museum and Library. The manuscript section of the library, found on the second floor, holds the hand and type-written originals of various works.

Manuscripts are unpublished materials used as primary sources, Pat Hodges, Manuscript Librarian in the Manuscript and Folklore Archives, said. These include letters, diaries, journals, account books, church books, theses, and dissertations, she added.

"We're just as happy to have the letters, diaries or memoirs of a poor farmer as we are a governor," Hodges said.

The manuscripts have not only been used by WKU students, but historians, folklorists and genealogists from around the country have used the sources for research of Kentucky or other topics.

Pat Hodges, manuscript librarian, in the Manuscript and Folklore Archives

People in any discipline which deals in history are very much aware of the manuscripts, Hodges said. Researchers can use guides such as the National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections to be directed to other libraries to find specific manuscripts.

In fact, library workers have used the manuscripts to do research for the exhibits in the Kentucky Museum.

"Growing Up Victorian" was conceived by a child's diary," Dianne Watkins said, referring to Josephine Calvert's diary. Watkins is the education curator for the library. A quote is used in the exhibit from the Calvert diary. The entry reads:

"We had better lessons this morning than we have had for a good while. We (the girls I mean) had the pleasure of seeing Master Hugh Campbell, Sam Stout, Emily Phillips and John Roxes receive first class paddlings."

The inscription inside the diary showed that Calvert lived in Bowling Green and started the diary in November of 1878. The diary, part of the manuscript collection, is joined by biographies, maps, sheet music, newspapers, cassette tapes and video tapes, all of which give a historical viewpoint of their own.

The Kentucky Building, which houses the library and museum, has 80,167...
continued from page 3
square feet. Museum items can be found throughout the building and are connected historically to information found in the library.

"The interesting thing about the building is each part of it relates to another," Watkins said.

One example of this relationship is the Janice Holt Giles collection. This collection contains the manuscripts of her notes for all of her historical novels and the notes for her book, Run Me a River. Not only are the manuscripts housed in the Kentucky Building, but possessions of Giles are found on the third floor of the building. Her desk sits serenely in the corner of the room as if it were waiting for someone to begin typing on the old typewriter that it now supports. The worn keys of the typewriter show the use by Giles as she fervently worked to create her novels. A free-standing bookcase perpendicular to the desk shields her personally owned books by other authors.

Julia Neal, the former director of the Kentucky Building, helped to get the papers and personal items from Giles home donated to the museum. Giles used the Kentucky Library for research on her books Run Me A River and The Believer.

In the foreword by Giles in Run Me A River, she praised the efforts of Miss Elizabeth Coombs, a librarian at the Kentucky Library. Houghton-Mifflin Co. gained the copyright of the book in 1964 in which Giles referred to Coombs as "an old friend and valued assistant in research." In an autographed copy of the book, Giles wrote, "For the Kentucky Library where I did much of the research for this book."

The growing mountains of historical information extend much further than the walls of the Kentucky Building. The manuscripts are so full of historical knowledge that the windows and doors of the museum allow the information to escape when used in the writings of others. The Kentucky Library has preserved part of the history of Bowling Green and Kentucky — history that has been performed, written and researched. Giles and her life are part of that history.

A Greyhound bus stopped in Bowling Green, Ky. The driver opened the bus doors and allowed ticket holders to enter, Henry Giles boarded the bus, searched for a seat, and sat down. The woman seated next to him had boarded the bus in Louisville and was headed for El Paso, Texas to visit her aunt. They remained neighbors on the bus for the 48 hour trip and during this time, they talked and learned about each other. At Dallas, they parted, but each said they would write. Since it was the summer of 1943 and the middle of WWII, he would have to leave for overseas. Before he left, they decided to marry once he returned from the war. On October 11, 1945, they were united in marriage as Henry and Janice Giles.

The preservation of the manuscripts is important to the librarians. Collections such as the Green Collection from Falls of Rough, Ky. and the original journals of the South Union Shakers have to be protected in a special manner, as do all manuscripts. The library also has various manuscripts dealing with the book Mrs. Wigg's of the Cabbage Patch, written by Alice Hegan from Louisville. A collection which directly deals with history of Bowling Green can be found in the family papers and business records of Calvert, Younglove and Obenchain. The Youngloves owned a drug store in Bowling Green during the Civil War. According to the papers, the Youngloves could hear the battle raging from within the walls of their business. Union soldiers would come into the store.

"Most things are family materials kept in an archival environment," Hodges said. This environment includes a process for the preservation of these materials. Boxes that hold the papers are acid free. Lights in the library have special shields. The temperature and humidity levels in the storage area of the manuscripts are kept at a constant. Plastic clips and rustproof staples are used to hold papers together. The manuscripts and photographs are copied onto PermaLife Paper which has a life expectancy of 300 years. When research is done in the library, the copied manuscripts are used in order to preserve and to lessen the handling of the originals. Although copies are used by researchers, the originals can be seen if one asks a librarian for assistance.

The special care of the manuscripts by the librarians and others has kept history alive at the Kentucky Library and Museum. The Kentucky Building is found between Center and Kentucky streets in Bowling Green, Ky. on the WKU campus.

The tranquility within the museum and library is no way suggests the historical storms which rage inside the files. Let not the storms pass, but watch the lightning and hear the thunder.

Bowling Green magazine
Subscribe today
Say cheese: Government Cheese

By GREG MADDOX

Although Bowling Green isn't known as a town of many bands, it's had some strong representation in the music world. Perhaps the first band to be successful in Bowling Green was the "Hilltoppers" during the mid-50s. They were a group of college students who hit it big with a catchy sound and the popularity to match. They appeared on the "Ed Sullivan Show" and "Perry Como Show," as well as performed overseas.

A few years ago the group "Sgt. Arms" became a hit with the college-based crowd in Bowling Green.

Today, a new, energetic band is emerging in Bowling Green and the recognition is beginning to build. The band is made up of four Western graduates, none of whom was a music major, but all of whom enjoy playing music. The lead singer is Skot Willis, the lead guitarist is Tommy Womack, the bass guitarist is Billy Mack Hill and the drummer is Joe King. Together, they form "Government Cheese."

The group isn't a high-tech band with electronic keyboards or synthesizers. Instead, it is a back-to-basics rock’n’roll band that relies on pure energy to excite its fans.

"Our main virtue is the energy," Womack said. "We’re not going to impress people with high-tech sound, so we have to go for energy."

"It’s raw rock’n’roll sound," Meredith Ludwig, a Cheese fan, said. "It’s a sound you get from 'Jason and the Scorchers,' or some other renegade band."

But it’s really not that easy to label the "Cheese" sound. It’s continued on page 25
China without a veil

By JANE MASSEY

Imagine a 12 x 12 room furnished only with a bed, chairs and a desk. A ghetto scene?
No, but rather home to the average Chinese family of three.
Imagine being told by the government that you couldn't go to school to be a doctor. Instead, the government orders that you become a ditch digger.
Stories of suppression and abuse often leak out from behind the iron curtain, but we usually dismiss the stories as Western propaganda.
Besides, nobody can live like that anymore — it's just not fair.
Fair or not, some do.
The bad side of communism is glossed over by such governments and, therefore, it's a side not often seen by Westerners.
Consequently, only a select few are allowed to stay in Communist China for an extended visit.
Pat Nave of Bowling Green is one of the few.
Nave recently served as a teaching assistant of English at the Sichuan College of Education in Cheng Du, China.
"It's not like 'let me tell you about my trip to China,'" she said. "It has changed my life. I realize that I don't know what a hard time is. I've been so privileged, and I've gone without realizing just how privileged I have been."
Nave volunteered as a teaching assistant after having received a letter from the English Language Institute/China last fall.
Sixty Americans were chosen to teach English to Chinese junior and senior middle school teachers.
The Chinese government is working on what they call 'Four Modernizations.' In order to accomplish these, the people need to learn English," Nave said.
The Chinese government is very receptive to American Christian teachers, according to Nave.
"It's a very interesting paradox," she said. "The Chinese wanted Christians because the government sensed their commitment to excellence."
Nave and her colleagues arrived in China on July 1 and left August 23.
"I felt as if I had been lifted out of the 20th century and put somewhere in the 19th century," Nave said. "There was very little that was familiar. The train seemed almost the only link with this century.

Surprisingly, the students did not hesitate to ask her questions about democracy, American lifestyles and Christianity. However, most classroom questions are superficial. Nave's students would ask her to walk with them after class. Once free from the restraints of the classroom, the students would ask more probing questions and the walks would sometimes last three to four hours.
Another difficult adjustment was the recognition that the government controls everything. "You do what you're told for the rest of your life," she said.
For example, the government requires that a couple have no more than one child. Officials regularly visit couples, and if there are signs that the woman is pregnant with a second child, an abortion is strongly recommended. If the couple refuses, negative sanctions are applied. For example, there could be a change of workplace (which often separates the couple) or a decrease in income.
"That, I knew before," Nave said. "But after I had been there awhile, I noticed that about 95 percent of the little children are male. At first I didn't let my mind think about what that meant. Then I realized that something was being done with the little girls."
Nave asked a few trusted students about this.
"They just dropped their heads and I said 'they're killing baby girls!' "Chinese men want male heirs," she said. "They're only allowed one child; and, if that child is female, she often doesn't live. Couples are destroying their own children... I just couldn't, and still can't, deal with that."
Nave discovered that the people of China and America share many needs and desires. But, there is a major difference between us besides culture.
"Americans have a dream of what can be and the Chinese don't," she said. "We expect good. We expect to achieve, to improve and to change. The 'American dream' is achievable. The Chinese dream as well, but they realize that fulfillment is unlikely for most. They just say 'that can never be."
"I came away from the summer wondering how much persecution there has been in the world while I've been going on with my life," she said.
Although she can't help feeling tremendous sorrow for the Chinese people, she can look back upon her time there in a positive light.
"I gained more respect for the freedom we enjoy," Nave said. "I realize that I've taken so much for granted. It's a strange land — a land of pain and paradox — but I love it because of the people. The Chinese are a wonderful, courageous, strong, admirable, warm, caring race."
Also, Nave's students told her that the experience has changed their perceptions of America and Americans for the better.
"Culturally, I think, that the summer was an extremely important point in the lives of 360 students," Nave said. "And the peripheral advantage to that will be that they all go home and talk about their positive experience."
Where a dollar is still a dollar

By JANE MASSEY

The dinner conversation at Tellie's Restaurant usually focuses on the weather, the crops or the children. But sometimes phrases like "capital formation," "third quarter profits" and "company interfacing" drift over the everyday commentary on life in Scottsville.

Twenty-five miles from Bowling Green on a dead-end side road, off the Old Glasgow Road, lies the headquarters of one of the fastest growing discount retailers in the nation — Dollar General. Behind the main complex are the rolling hills of a neighboring farm.

"People are surprised that our little town of 4,300 can be the headquarters of one company that size," says Scottsville mayor George Maxwell.

But, obviously, it works. Scottsville has been the home of Dollar General for 47 years.

"It just shows that you don't have to be based in the city to have a successful business," says Dollar General employee David Gendron.

And successful it is. The revenues for Dollar General Corporation in 1984 were over $480 million. Expectations for 1985's revenues are $695 million, which is a long way from the $10,000 initial investment of Dollar General's founders, J.L. and Cal Turner Sr.

"Dollar General really got started in 1939 because a large brick building in Scottsville was on sale for half price, and a Turner will buy anything at half price," laughs company president Cal Turner Jr.

This brick building soon became the warehouse of J.L. Turner and Son, Wholesale. The wholesale business wasn't a new venture for the Turners. Both father and son had spent time as salesmen for a Nashville-based wholesaler during the late '20s and early '30s. "My grandfather and father traveled through all the small towns of Kentucky and Tennessee to call on merchants," Turner says.

Once the depression hit, the younger Turner had trouble selling merchandise because of the backed-up inventory of the merchants. "My father went to my grandfather and said 'We've got to go into retailing ourselves; we've got to have direct contact with our consumer,'" Turner says.

After World War II, the Turners opened discount stores in the rural towns of Kentucky. In 1955, Dollar General was incorporated, and the first Dollar General Store, as it is known today, opened in Springfield, Ky. A few months later, Dollar General opened a store in Memphis that sold everything for $1 and under. The store made over $1 million in 10 months.

"That got dad's attention," Turner laughs.

The ever-cautious J.L. Turner didn't become overly excited. "He was afraid my dad was going to go broke as quickly as he was expanding," Turner says. In fact, the elder Turner bought a farm in case the business failed.

Instead of failing, the company has seen steady success and growth over the last four decades. The company employs 6,500 workers and operates 1,286 stores in 23 states.

"There have been a number of predictions that the company would have to relocate to Louisville or Nashville," Turner says. "But, we've proved them wrong!"

Although the fact that a growing corporation has its home office in a rural Kentucky town surprises some, it seems only natural to those who know the organization. "Small town people are Dollar General people," says Dollar General employee Jeff Rice.

Renee Dauer, another employee, agrees, "Scottsville's small town nature and friendly atmosphere are consistent with the culture of the company."

Scottsville residents are grateful for Dollar General. "It employs a lot of our people, which is great," Laura Lones says. "People are proud of having it here."

Despite the steady expansion, Cal Turner Sr., chairman of the board, and sons, Cal Jr. and Steve, are determined to think small.

"We try not to think of ourselves as a big business," Turner says. "We want to maintain the quality of littleness in terms of relations with our employees and customers."

1929 Champs

By JOHN SPUGNARDI

The year 1929 is best known for the stock market crash that sent America reeling into the great depression. But some Bowling Green residents remember it as the year the Bowling Green High School Purples won the state baseball championship.

When the 1929 Bowling Green team had to go door-to-door selling cases of Coke to pay for their uniforms, and walk two miles a day to practice, they didn't mind — they were playing the nation's favorite pastime.

The 1929 Purples didn't mind winning either. As a matter of fact, Bowling Green won every game they played that year, despite having only a 12-man roster.

Bowling Green's first opponent in the tournament was Owensboro High School, and the game was barely a match. Bowling Green won 28-1 and they didn't even bat the last three innings. (The game was so one-sided that Bowling Green's coach, Doug Smith, forfeited his team's right to continued on page 8
Beech Bend then

By CHRISTINE SCHABEL and ROBERT COOK

The rattle of steel wheels clacking along a track, the majestic trumpeting of an elephant, persistent barkers accosting passers-by; all of these are but lingering echoes as one walks among the beech trees, the boarded arcades, and the empty ride shelters. Not even a sparrow can be heard on the deserted grounds of Beech Bend Park. Just a skeleton of a park remains, stripped of the amusement but not the memories.

The memories of Beech Bend Park go back to 1888 when the 400-acre park was a popular place for picnics. The dance hall, built in 1890, was the only building on the property when Charles Garvin bought the land in 1942.

For several years the only activities at Beech Bend were dances held in the original pavilion.

"Garvin always wanted to build up the park but he did it one piece at a time," said Ed Isenberg, park manager for 34 years. By 1948 Garvin had made the first additions—a roller skating rink and a swimming pool. A live pony ride and a water boat ride were added in 1952, and a small merry-go-round and a ferris wheel followed.

Soon after, in 1958, Garvin added the Wild Mouse roller coaster. The Wild Mouse was the first big ride to be brought into a park or carnival in the United States. Built by Ben Schiff, Garvin purchased one out of only seven of the roller coasters that were made.

The Wild Mouse had a special fascination for Garvin. Since the ride was portable, he was able to take it to the state fairs in the southeastern United States and in Canada.

"The roller coaster was Garvin's favorite because it was so popular, it paid for itself and helped further building at the park," Isenberg said.

Other sources of funding for Beech Bend were four zoos which Garvin owned in Florida. Garvin started them shortly after the zoo in Beech Bend opened in 1947.

The idea for the Florida zoos came when a carnival owner, Shotgun Page, asked if he could use Garvin's winter property in Florida to house his carnival.

"Garvin told Shotgun that he could use the land, if he took care of the animals that were housed down there in the winter," Isenberg said. "That year, Garvin put $500 in a bank account to help feed the animals. When he got his first bank statement, there had been no money withdrawn. It turned out that Shotgun was taking donations from people who wanted to see the animals, and he was making enough money to feed them. That gave Garvin the idea to start the zoos in Florida."

Beech Bend's zoo started with four monkeys. Garvin then purchased 11 elephants from the Ringling Brothers Circus. Soon after, the elephant's trainer, Louis Reid joined the Beech Bend staff.

"Reid had trained the elephants at the circus and they would listen to him," Isenberg said. "We could yell at them for days. But when he wanted them to do something, he would yell in German and they would listen."

One incident that Isenberg remembers well was when the elephants escaped from a barn and ended up in a woman's garden across Barren River. Garvin and his workers had to go eight miles around by land to retrieve the elephants.

"When we got there the elephants were eating cabbage from the garden," Isenberg chuckled. "They would grab them (the cabbage) with their trunks and pull them out of the ground and they beat them on the bottom of their feet to get the dirt off. They wouldn't eat them dirty!"

A Western student remembers another kind of animal Garvin kept at the park.

"I remember seeing these shallow pools, just past the kiddie rides, and seeing these eyes looking at me from the water," Lesley Harvey said. "They had alligators or crocodiles, I don't remember which they were, in those pools and it always fascinated me to see them. I would stand there and watch them and when, all of a sudden, they opened their mouths, I would run back to my grandparents and not go near them until the next time I went to the park."

In addition to the Wild Mouse roller coaster and the zoo, Beech Bend offered many other activities.

There were several thrill rides; a water slide, which was added before becoming a popular amusement park attraction; go-carts; trampolines; a ski lift; a miniature train; a steam boat on the river; a miniature golf course which started out as a nine-hole course but was expanded to 18 holes a few years later; stage shows and a 19th century carousel.

The 56-character carousel was originally
built in 1901 for the St. Louis World’s Fair. Garvin bought the hand-carved German carousel in 1958. The merry-go-round was unique because, rather than horses, the animals were zebras, ostriches, reindeer, pigs, giraffes, cats and rabbits. The animals, held together with wooden dowels, took three and a half years to build. When the carousel was sold, the animals were purchased for between $4,000 and $11,000 each.

Another activity that was, and one of the few that still is, popular at Beech Bend is camping. The park had its first overnight campers in 1960.

“This couple from Canada came to the park for the day and they asked Garvin if they could set up their camper at the park,” Isenberg recalled. “Their camper and car would have fit in this room (about 10 feet by 12 feet), that’s how small it was.”

“Garvin let the campers set up by the general store, where there was an electrical outlet,” Isenberg said. “When they asked if they could set up, Garvin realized he could make money that way and he set up 12 electric hookups in 1963.” At that time, the park was averaging 25 to 30 campers a night. In 1965 a camping convention was held at the park. A more recent camping convention in 1984 brought President Reagan to the park.

According to Isenberg, the best years for Beech Bend Park were 1975 through 1977. Because the economy was good and gas was cheap, people were traveling more, and this caused the park to reach its peak. In addition, the fact that the park was the only one of its kind in the area helped make it a success.

In 1980, the park was sold to a Nashville investment group for $5 million. One of the investors was country singer Ronnie Milsap. Milsap’s group ran the park for two summers, but because of financial problems filed for bankruptcy. The Garvins bought the park back at an auction in 1983. Isenberg leased the park in 1985.

The campground has never closed but the park has not been in operation since Milsap’s group declared bankruptcy. Isenberg is now trying to reopen the park with a few rides.

“There are four rides stored at the park and we’ve got a man with several rides in Glasgow and Tennessee waiting for a place to set up,” Isenberg said. “The problem we are having is getting insurance.”

When Isenberg and his associates get insurance, the rides, the go-carts and the water slide will be put into operation and Beech Bend Park will be opened for the amusement of all.
Anticipation and excitement swelled with the organ music as it grew louder to announce her entrance. In awe, they stood to their feet, heads drooping back and forth to catch a glimpse as the cathedral corridor was filled with white satin and delicate lace. She stood there, a vision of alabaster — shimmering like radiant newly fallen snow reflecting early morning rays of sun. A child’s hand reached out to feel the dreamy-white material that was even softer than the hand that touched it. The yards of silk began to unfold behind the bride like a tipped over glass of milk, revealing patterns of dainty beading flowers. Satin-covered buttons trailed down her back, stopping to rest just above a petite waistline. Long, satin sleeves adorned in hand-sewn seed pearls and opalescent sequins came to a point of fragile lace on a long and graceful hand. Eyes shining, skin aglow, she stood before them, the most beautiful creature they had ever seen.

If this sounds like the beginning of a dream wedding, it is. And your dream wedding can be just as beautiful with proper thought and planning.

“If you’ve got the time, use it,” said Jennifer Holcomb, bridal consultant at Castner Knott in Bowling Green. “Weddings are back and couples are making their own traditions. They are writing their own vows because it is so special to know that these vows come from each other.”

Gone are the days when the bride and her mother planned every detail and the groom’s only responsibility was to meet his bride-to-be at the altar.

“It’s not the bride’s wedding anymore,” Holcomb said. “It’s their wedding. I’m finding that many brides will come in to make wedding plans and they have previously talked to the fiancé and have discussed their plans before they talk to me. I think that’s great. Each couple has their own special touch.”

Traditions being broken says Holcomb. Couples are older and the bride’s family doesn’t always pay for the wedding.

“Both sides of the family are helping out with costs,” Holcomb said, “and some couples are paying a large part of it themselves. Some couples have actually come in to help pick out the wedding dress!”

Today’s fashions are a combination of tradition and an individual’s own personal style.

Long gowns and trains are the most popular trends this year according to Holcomb. And there are fewer hats and more veils and wreaths.

“The Lady Di look started a few years ago,” said Sandy Ford, part-owner of the Fabric Shoppe in Bowling Green. “Large, puffy sleeves and dresses made of silk or silk taffeta look-a-likes are in. The trend seems to be very feminine, ruffles at the neckline and full skirts with the draping effect.

“The dresses have a rich look with finer laces like ruffled lace being used,” Ford said.

Hats are being worn with more veiling or with a brim. Lately, the juliette cap, which comes to a point above the eyes, has been popular.

Pastels are usually the chosen majority in the spring and hot summer months.

“Pinks and dusty rose are the most popular,” Ford said. “However, this spring the color seems to be peach.”

Cool weather brings vibrant colors to the wedding celebration with rich teals, hot pinks, navy blues and bright reds.

People have become more relaxed with rules for proper dress and proper wedding etiquette.

“We wear what they want to wear,” Ford said. “They wear what they feel comfortable with and what appeals to them most. There is more flexibility, the same as in fashion,” she added. “They are following the styles, but wearing their own.”

Tea length dresses for the wedding party are also popular this year.

“More consideration is taken in choosing the dresses so the girls can wear them again,” Ford said. “People are more practical in planning their weddings now.”

The heady fragrance of spring flowers filled the cathedral, adding to the already dream-like atmosphere. Brass candelabras filled with long, slender candles lightly scented with vanilla graced the front of the cathedral, glowing in a freshly polished finish. Flickering candles surrounded by clusters of pink roses and white baby’s breath cast shadows of pink along the ivory walls behind the altar. Flowered garland draped the aisle that would soon be covered with rose petals — pink, red, apple and fragrant.

The child bearing the flowers wore a wreath that nestled in his soft, yellow hair and boasted of pink and white daisies and rose buds matching the pale rose color in her cheeks. Tiny purple forget-me-nots blessed the outside edges of the wreath, contrasting with the golden curls that were playfully wrapping around them. Tiny ribbons, almost vein-like, hung down her back, swirling gracefully on the ends.

Dress furnished by Castner Knott

Making Plans To Last A Lifetime

By Susan Combs

Gary E. Harison photo
The bride's beauty was breathtaking. The flowers she carried cascaded down the front of her dress, almost touching the floor. Baby's breath and satin ribbons in a dusty rose lightly accented the bouquet of roses that had just opened earlier the same morning. A tiny green vine laced the magnificent array of flowers, intertwining with the satin ribbon that curled around an occasional leaf and swayed gently as the bride made her way slowly to the front of the cathedral.

For years, flowers have been associated with love, friendship, grief and celebration. No matter what the occasion, fresh flowers are an expression of personal feelings and tastes.

White, like the color of the wedding flower and dress, has always been a symbol of purity, a new beginning and a first love. But wedding bouquets are no longer the traditional white.

"Bridal bouquets are getting more into color," said David Helstrom, a designer for the Bouquet Shoppe in Bowling Green. "The majority are pastel colors — pinks, blues and yellow. But we are seeing some lavenders and even a dark purple on some."

Although red is the color of love, pink is the color of friendship and white the color of purity, most flowers are not chosen for their symbolic meanings.

"Sometimes the girls want a color because their mother used it," Helstrom said, "but it depends more on their personal taste. Brides are more original instead of doing what everyone else has done."

There are many options for today's bride in choosing flowers for the wedding. She may choose fresh flowers or silk to last a lifetime. Flowers can be either ordered or dyed in almost any color. Most flowers that are imported come from Holland and need at least six weeks (eight weeks ideal) prior to the wedding to ensure that the flowers arrive on time and are tailored to specifications. Most flowers today are available all year long if you are willing to pay for them. Flowers may cost anywhere from $200 to $1,000 Janette Sanderfur of Royal Barn Florists said.

"Silk bouquets are coming back," Helstrom said. "The gift to the attendant is often a silk bouquet."

Along with variations in flowers and colors, there are several different arrangements that the bride can choose from. These include the French bouquet, crescent and cascading bouquets. The French bouquet, round in shape, is the least expensive. The most expensive is the cascading bouquet, which is a large bouquet that tapers down to a point.

Design rather than flowers, is more important, Helstrom said. "Brides are looking for something a little bit different." Florists offer many services to the bride and groom — everything from the candelabras and outdoor arches to the floral arrangements for the reception.

"When brides come in, they don't always have an appointment," Sanderfur said, "but we sit down and look at books of flowers and bouquets and pick out what they like and go from there."

"Brides should make a list including color schemes, bridesmaids, flower ideas and so forth before they come in," Sanderfur said. "If they know how much to buy for and what they want to buy, then they will know what to spend.

Even though walk-in appointments are welcome, better preparation would be to call ahead and make an appointment.

"The bride deserves all the attention she can get," Helstrom said. He suggests that you tell a florist what you want.

"Be honest and tell the florist what you're looking for," he said. "This helps the florist to better help you."

"For richer or for poorer, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, until death do us part — I love you."

A single tear slid down her cheek and landed on his hand as he moved to wipe it away.

"I now pronounce you man and wife," said a voice that seemed to come from a far away place.

She had waited for this moment for so long, it hardly seemed possible that it was reality. Her dream wedding had come true after weeks and months of planning each small detail. They were married, and with the help of the wedding specialists, it had been lovely.

After the rings have been exchanged, the ceremony is over, the cake has been cut and the last guest has gone home, what is left but memories?

During this special time, a professional photographer is a must to capture this once-in-a-lifetime experience on paper that will preserve your wedding memories "until death do you part."

Wedding portraits can be a unique expression of the love two people share. There are many options available to the bride and groom.

Videotaping the wedding has become popular within the last couple of years since camera equipment has become more accessible. This provides a couple the chance to relive their special day as many times as they want. Also available are slide shows sometimes referred to as "reflections." The slides begin with baby pictures of both the bride and groom and continue through their high school and dating years with pictures of the two of them together. The slide show ends with actual wedding ceremony pictures to be shown during the reception.

"Everything I do is an original," said John Carmon of John Carmon Photography in Bowling Green. "We can be totally loose and creative in our approach. Our goal is that every wedding will be unique."

The average wedding cost in photography ranges from $1,100 to $1,200 including portraits of the complete wedding party, according to Carmon.

Although photography is expensive, the captured memories are invaluable.

"The price will soon be forgotten, but the quality won't be," Carmon said.

The wedding couple should consider three things when hiring a photographer according to Carmon — sensitivity of the photographer, his or her creativity and the price.

Today's bride may choose either fresh flowers or silk to last a lifetime.

Flowers furnished by Royal Barn Florist and Betty's Florists of Bowling Green.
Carmon believes that it is important for the photographer to be sensitive when working with a client.

"No matter how I want to do it, it is her day and she needs my sensitivity," Carmon said.

"We become like family and give security when we work with the bride and groom."

There are several steps that should be taken prior to meeting with the photographer. First, make sure you have a definite date and time for the wedding. Second, make sure the church is reserved and finally, bring all the people who would be involved in making decisions, including the fiancé and the father of the bride.

"The more prepared she is to make a decision, the more she will be assured of the service," Carmon said.

"We are not, after all, selling paper. We are selling a service, and she is paying for my knowledge of photography."

The dream wedding is possible. Couples should take advantage of advice given by professionals in making their dream come true. Not only will the vows last a lifetime, but so will the memories of a well-planned wedding.

Same marriage: Second time around

For better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health. After 18 years, 22 years and 50 years, the deep meaning of these words becomes even more apparent for several area couples.

"The ceremony was interesting," said Dr. Delbert Hayden, a professor in Western Kentucky University's home economics and family living department. "We were standing there saying our vows to each other after being married for 22 years. This time we know what for better or for worse really meant."

Hayden and his wife, Ellen, participated in World Marriage Day, in February, at the Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Bowling Green.

At each Mass, couples wearing heart-shaped name tags labeled with the number of years they had been married were asked to renew their wedding vows.

Barbara and Ed Parker also took part in the ceremony. The Parkers are active in Holy Spirit's marriage encounter program. They have been team leaders during marriage encounter weekends — three days devoted entirely to married couples, their feelings and their communication problems.

"Communication is the main goal," Mrs. Parker said. "You may drift, and you don't talk to your spouse. You have time for everything else — the kids, school and jobs. You start out with just the two of you, and you are going to end up as just the two of you."

The Parkers have been married for 18 years. They have two teenage sons. Mrs. Parker said the shock of starting a family, the strain of losing a job and the pressures of raising teenagers can tear down the lines of communication between husband and wife. Renewing their vows was a way of saying they could survive.

"Renewing these vows says, 'Yes, I have made a commitment,' " Mrs. Parker said. "So many things happen. Family comes along and financial situations change. The struggles can almost pull you apart."

Mrs. Parker said that even though she was 21 when she got married, she wasn't prepared for the commitment marriage involved.

"I look back, and I realize I didn't know what marriage was all about."

"We have a choice to love. We have to make that choice every day," she said. "If you love one another and believe in your commitment, you know you're going to make it."

Some area couples have taken their celebrations one step further.

Freston and Ola Mae Miller were married 50 years last March. In a ceremony at Forest Park Baptist Church, the Millers restated their vows before their five children and 11 grandchildren.

A reception followed the ceremony.

"People brought gifts, but what does anybody need after 50 years?" Mrs. Miller said.

The Millers were married in Simpson County on March 23, 1935. Their children joined them at the altar as they said, "I do," a second time.

"It is pretty special to live with someone for 50 years," Mrs. Miller said. "We had planned this ceremony for several years.

"Someone asked me where we were going on our honeymoon," she said. "I told them I was going home and putting my feet up in the recliner. I was tired."
Massage: An old technique, a

By LOUISE GILCHRIST

Mary has decided she's suffered from upper back and neck pain long enough. She desperately wants relief from her discomfort. Through a friend, she learns about an effective technique that may soothe her pain. This technique is an ancient healing art and today exists as a licensed practice, even in Bowling Green.

It is widely misunderstood, however, and is often criticized by those who know little about its true nature. Mary, like many others, has believed common misconceptions about the practice and has thought it to be deplorable. She hesitates to try it, but trusting her friend's advice, she visits Marla, a local therapist who specializes in this healing practice.

The session takes place in a private salon, with only the two women present. It is a comfortable atmosphere and Mary immediately feels at ease. During the one-hour visit, Mary first relaxes in a steam cabinet that helps eliminate toxins and purifies the body's system. Next, after a quick shower, Mary rests on an elevated table.

Her neck and back still ache, so she hopes the therapist will be successful in reducing her pain. Muscle tension has caused Mary's circulation level to drop, so blood is not reaching the upper back and neck as it should. Using long, kneading hand strokes, the therapist works the patient's body, applying pressure to the areas of discomfort. This increases blood supply to the body. Marla applies gentle strokes to her patient's neck, back and shoulders. She rubs the spine, releasing tension in each vertebra.

By the end of the hour, Mary's back and neck pain has lessened considerably. "I am in ecstasy compared to how I had felt," Mary says. Her body and mind feel relaxed, almost stimulated. "I used to believe this practice was deplorable, but after just one session with Marla, I realize how wrong I had been. It's not only an honest practice but also healthful and very enjoyable. Today, I'm one of Marla's regular clients, and I now swear by the practice of massage."

And so does Marla Turner, licensed Bowling Green massage therapist, who, along with her husband Roger, owns TLC (Tender Loving Care) Cellulite Treatment Center located on 31-W Bypass. The center specializes in Swedish massage. "Massage is one of the best things you can do for your body," says Marla. "It helps both your mental and physical health. An effective massage makes your body feel like it is getting a two-hour workout while your mind is enjoying a two-hour rest."

Mary and the Turners are not the only people who believe in the effectiveness of massage. In fact, Marla says a growing number of Bowling Green citizens now realize what a healthful practice it is. Marla has a regular clientele of more than 50 women and that number is steadily increasing.

The Turners have owned TLC center for the past year, though it has operated in Bowling Green four years prior to their purchase. "We've tried to make Bowling Green aware that licensed massage is a widespread practice," Marla says, and she believes it is finally being accepted as a legitimate business.

The word massage means friction. The basic Swedish massage implies using long hand strokes to relax muscles and increase circulation. It originated in the early 1800s by a Swedish fencing master and gym instructor, Pehr Henrik Ling. It is a healing art, yet over the years massage has become associated with illegal sexual methods. Even today people have misconceptions about legal massage therapy. They tend to associate its method of touch with sex. But massage as a licensed practice does not in any way refer to sexual involvement between client and therapist.

In fact, Kentucky state laws make it illegal for a masseur (male massage therapist) to massage a woman for payment, and conversely, a masseuse (female therapist) cannot massage a male. In compliance with this state law, Marla operates TLC weekdays 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., accepting only female clientele. Roger takes appointments for males after 5:30 p.m.

"Roger and I are trying to break down the barriers of the closed-minded in Bowling Green," Marla says. "They want to show citizens a more accurate picture of massage, unlike some stereotypical things people may have read about or seen on television."

Marla has had many local chiropractors refer patients to TLC. These are usually elderly clients who can't move around much, and therefore do not receive proper blood circulation. For such a patient, Marla applies a relaxing massage that will increase the person's blood supply.

Dr. John Erskine, of the Erskine Center of Chiropractic in Bowling Green, says, "as a preventive measure, massage is excellent. Most people do not spend a proper amount of time taking care of their bodies; massage gives them this opportunity. It keeps the body relaxed," he says. "Tension, resulting in headaches and aching muscles, can often be prevented when massage is accurately applied to the body."

Another Bowling Green chiropractor, Dr. Foy McCormick, has always believed in the power of massage. He even practices it on his own patients. "If you are a skilled masseur," he says, "you can definitely help a suffering patient. You must know how to accurately manipulate the specific body regions to create a good massage." Dr. McCormick says stress is caused by highly pinched nerves, and to reduce stress, tension on the nerves must be released. "Massage relieves the cause of stress as well as the adverse effects of it," Dr. McCormick explains.

Stress is a daily part of many people's lives. Hectic careers and busy schedules can create high levels of tension. For the
new you

mental and physical well-being of the body, it is important to learn how to deal with stress. Marie tells patients that massage will not eliminate anxiety, that must come from within each individual. What massage can do is relax a patient, and once a person is calm, he is more likely to better handle a stressful situation.

Massage can be beneficial to all age groups. Marie believes the younger a person is when he begins to improve his circulation (through the use of massage), the better his health will be in years to come. She has regular clients as young as 19 and as old as 90.

Each patient has a different reason for visiting a massage therapist. Some people who partake in strenuous exercise use massage to relax their tight muscles; others visit a masseuse to maintain good blood circulation throughout their bodies; course many clients receive a massage simply because it feels so nice and they want to pamper themselves for an hour.

Whatever the reason a person chooses for receiving a massage, the visit to the massage may become habit-forming because of the pleasure a client receives from it. During the hour session it can often be easy to forget that massage is actually a healthful experience.

Many of Marla's customers swear by the ancient practice of massage

The "shaping up" craze around town

By KEVIN GRANGIER

When you hear the word health, what do you think of? Some think of their diet, the amount of nutrition they may be getting or maybe the number of calories they consume daily. To many, health means the number of miles jogged per week or even the amount of sit-ups that can be done before exhaustion sets in.

Whatever the definition, it seems that we Americans are taking better care of ourselves today than at any other point in history. Recent surveys suggest that 77 percent of Americans engage in some form of physical exercise or sport; nearly one-half of those do so on a daily basis. Less than 20 years ago, only 24 percent exercised daily.

Today, there are more than 20 million confirmed runners and 15 million muscle builders all hitting the gyms and tracks in an effort to stamp out obesity in 1986. There are more than 20 million overweight Americans, and 20 million more who think they are.

Who's behind this fit and trim phase? One may tend to believe that our west coast brothers and sisters are the initiators — but yogurt for dinner? Come on.

Whatever it started, the physical fitness bug seems to have hit Americans all over our nation, from all walks of life.

Even in Bowling Green the quest to fight the flab has hit all the time high. Citizens are going to extremes to rid themselves of extra poundage.

"People are more aware of the benefits of health," says Dr. Thad Crews, professor of physical education at Western Kentucky University. "This motivates people to watch what they eat and the amount they eat."

The social aspects are what attract many people says Crews.

Some people exercise just because it provides them with the opportunity to socialize. He adds that "it can very well be the only chance people have to get together as a group."

Most health experts seem to agree with Crews.

Tammy Gore of Health Matters Inc. in Greenwood Mall says people are finally realizing that the only way to look and feel better is through physical fitness. "Health programs improve not only one's attitude, but overall performance as well," Health Matters Inc. is dedicated to helping individuals prevent illnesses rather than waiting until they have to be cured.

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What’s available in Bowling Green?
There are special radios to strap around your head so that you can hop up and down the street and listen to Lionel Richie sing “Can’t Slow Down.” There are new watches that allow you to monitor your speed down to one-one thousandth of a second. There are even boots with straps on them that allow you to hang upside down like a bat. What would our forefathers think if they could see our modern forms of physical pleasure?

“Physical fitness has come a long way in Bowling Green,” says Billy Mayhew, assistant manager of Riherd’s Sporting Goods in Greenwood Mall. People are buying home exercise equipment — weights, exercise bikes, treadmills, wrist and ankle weights — to keep up with the latest surge.

“People are finally learning that they don’t have to jog 10 miles a day to stay physical fit,” Mayhew says. “That’s just beating yourself to death.” He adds that you can get just as much exercise with an indoor rowing machine or treadmill.

“Compact rowers are definitely what are selling in the Bowling Green area; they allow you to exercise every part of your body,” Mayhew says. “The fact that rowing machines can be stored out of the way attracts a lot of customers.”

General Nutrition Center in Greenwood Mall does its part to meet the fitness needs of every individual in Bowling Green.

Nancy Jarreau, manager, sees everyone from kids to grandparents taking part in the fitness craze.

“Kids come in to get natural candies to snack on and senior citizens purchase anything from vitamins to a variety of natural health foods,” she says.

Jarreau adds that they sell weights, benches and bars to every age group in between.

Olympic Fitness Center offers a variety of weight machines to its members.

What else are Bowling Green residents buying to stay fit?
“Books and videos,” says Candace Shirley, manager of Waldenbooks also in Greenwood Mall. “It’s less expensive to read a book and learn exercise techniques if you can’t afford to go out and join a club or spa,” Shirley says. She adds that often those who already have memberships can benefit from reading.

“A book can provide examples and reinforce what you learn from listening to an instructor,” Shirley says. In addition, “by working with an instructor and reading about an exercise, you can put the two together and get much more out of the session.”

Fit for Life, Beyond Diet and Callanetics are all best-selling books; however, each offers its own opinions concerning how to stay physically fit.

Fit for Life by Harvey and Marilyn Diamond. This book claims that it’s not so much what you eat, as it is when you eat. Using a timely system, you can lose weight without having to give up eating. Beyond Diet by Martin Katahn, Ph.D. Changing your metabolism is the answer to staying in good physical shape in this book. Katahn says it doesn’t matter what kind of diet you are on, you must exercise for the diet to work effectively.

Callanetics by Callan Pinckney. This is an exercise book that will help you “re-shape” your body with the latest exercise fad Callanetics. It stresses physical fitness rather than dieting.

If you are interested in weight lifting or body building, Shirley recommends any book by Joe Weider, who has done a series of books on both subjects.

What could be better than sitting in the privacy of your own home and reading about physical fitness — watching it! The queen of home video exercise still reigns.

Jane Fonda’s New Workout Video is her hottest item; however, Shirley contends, “Fonda’s book is dead.”

Susan Combs, a Fonda follower, says it’s
great! "It's like having a coach in your own home." She adds that the relatively simple to follow aerobics give you the opportunity to work up to a level where you really feel good about what you are doing.

Once you have decided on an exercise that is right for you, where do you begin? For many, local health clubs seem to be the social spots.

Olympic Fitness Center in the Western Gateway Shopping Center offers a number of reasons to take up exercise in a Bowling Green club. Manager Mark Long says a local club membership will give you the benefits of a variety of physical fitness programs.

"Whatever you decide to do, you need to get your money's worth. Find a center that will give you the most for what you pay for," Long says. "It is important to look around before you make a decision."

Olympic members are provided with both Nautilus and Polaris equipment, York freeweights, a 12-person jacuzzi and an indoor heated swimming pool. Babysitting services are provided at various times throughout the week. Olympic is co-ed on the weekends and designated male/female other days during the week.

"Life is full of push buttons and televisions," says Jeff Bergholz, fitness manager of Lover's Lane Raquet and Sports Centre. "We stress the fitness values of life. Getting exercise doesn't have to be a lot of work or be demanding; you can have fun at the same time."

Lover's Lane is a private club designed for families. Racquetball, wallyball and basketball are a few of the club's membership benefits. More than 30 aerobic classes are offered weekly and nursery services are also provided.

Bergholz says, "We are not out to attract only the hard-core body builders... we try to reach everyone." He adds, "It's important for all ages to be involved with taking care of their bodies; Lover's Lane tries to do just that."

Lover's Lane Racquet and Sports Centre, located at 1056 Lover's Lane, offers to members the use of Olympic and York freeweights as well as a Nautilus workout facility. The club is co-ed every day of the week and members are provided with private locker rooms.

For those interested in the primary use of Nautilus equipment, Nautilus of Bowling Green, 900 Fairview Ave., caters to that interest.

"Nautilus is a set of machines designed to work on the muscles rather than the joints," says manager Mary Skoog.

Everybody wants to look better, Skoog says. "The kick was to quit smoking, now everyone wants to lose the inches."

Often, the most successful method of staying with a regular exercise program is finding someone with whom you can exercise, someone who can give you constant support.

The Bob Hope International Heart Institute offers the following list of ideas that you can use to build an effective support system:

1. First, find a friend who shares your problem (too little exercise, excess weight) and has a strong desire to do something about it. (Ideally this person should be in about the same shape you are.)

2. Next, sit down with each other and — on paper — map out your goals, your strategies for reaching these goals and a time-frame for both goals and subgoals.

Here it is very important to help each other curb the temptation to do too much too fast — the number one reason why many health improvement programs fail.

Don't plan to start out jogging if you've been inactive — start our walking instead and don't plan to lose more than two pounds a week.

3. Work out a mutual support system and set of rules with your partner. This could include agreeing to meet at 6 a.m. every weekday for a 30-minute brisk neighborhood walk, agreeing to "weigh-in" every Monday morning and record the weights on a posted calendar.

4. Work hard on complimenting each other — "You seem more relaxed since we have started exercising," or "Wow, your clothes are really getting loose." Praise each other, even if all you can say is, "I sure admire you for sticking with it even though you seem to have reached a plateau."

5. Together, set up a reward system. You could decide that after every two weeks of faithful adherence to your program, you will go to the theatre together. Or, every time one of you reaches a personal intermediate goal, the other will plan a small surprise as a reward.

Weed control

Weed and rubbish control enforcement is the responsibility of the Housing Inspector as authorized by city ordinances. Property owners are required by the Housing Code to maintain their property according to the established standards. Property is to be free of abandoned autos, litter, junk or tall weeds, or grasses. To report non-compliance, call 782-2489, Extension 357, or visit the Office for the Housing Inspector at 716 East Tenth Street during regular business hours.

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Nine-year-old Sarah fishes for her key with one hand as she juggles her schoolbooks in the other. After entering her house alone, she turns on the television to combat the silence. She begins her homework, as her mother instructed, and then starts to fix her snack when the doorbell rings. Suddenly, she's not hungry for her peanut butter sandwich anymore. She hastily gets to the door, trying to remember the rules her mother had rushed through that morning while getting ready for her first day at a new job. Sarah's confused. She doesn't know whether to ask who's at the door or whether to pretend like no one is home. Her heart races as she tries to decide.

Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon situation of the eighties. As the rising cost of living necessitates two-income families, and as high divorce rates give way to single-working-parent households, more and more children are taking care of themselves before and after school—alone. Estimates for the number of latchkey children range from two million to 15 million. Editorial Research Reports estimates that there were seven million in 1983. Congressional testimony has put the number as high as 13 million for children ages 5 to 13. Whatever the number, there is a growing trend in this country of leaving children unsupervised because of working and/or financial situations.

As near as can be determined, Bowling Green is following the national trend. Two-thirds of elementary children have both parents of the household head in a single-parent home working, said Karen Schmalzbauer, director of Community Education in Bowling Green. And Bowling Green again follows the national trend in alleviating the latchkey problem by offering after-school programs and self-help programs for those children who do take care of themselves before and after school.

The after-school program at W. R. McNeil Elementary, sponsored by Community Education, offers working parents an alternative to high-cost day-care centers and to leaving their children home alone. It runs from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each school day and is open to all schools, grades K-8. However, because of transportation problems, mostly students from McNeil and Jones Jugglers schools participate.

"We're providing a safe environment for the child after school," Schmalzbauer said. "It also gives the parents peace of mind." This peace of mind enables parents to feel more comfortable about the safety of their children; therefore, they perform better on the job, she said.

Sara Bryant uses the program about three to four times a week for her daughter Cathy, who is in the first grade.

"Knowing where she is and that she's all right gives me peace of mind," she said. Cathy likes the program too.

"You get to play and stuff, and you get to eat your snacks, and whenever you're hot, you get to drink!" she said with excitement as a smile lit up her flushed face.

The program is structured to give children recreation, homework, snack and activity time. Activities range from making boomerangs to creating cardboard pin-on buttons of the students' favorite cartoon characters. Garfield was very popular this year.

In addition to the regularly planned schedule, students also benefit from the safety tips of visiting groups such as the Bowling Green firemen and policemen. The Baptist Student Union has also visited, bringing with it puppet shows and clowns.

The program is an alternative to television, Schmalzbauer said. "Here they engage in social interaction and social experiences," such as learning to work with one another on projects.

Students also gain the social experience of helping to plan certain activities. They have input on what some of the activities will be. They are involved as much as possible, and the older students are given...
promote or encourage leaving children alone, it does lay the groundwork for doing so. Parents and children learn together how to establish home and safety rules, how to handle emergency situations, how to communicate problems to each other and how to supervise younger brothers and sisters. The series of five, free 1½-hour sessions includes activities such as films, coloring, workshops and class discussions. The first session is for parents and concentrates on preparing parents to be better able to structure and monitor self-care situations.

The next three sessions are for children. During this time they learn about personal safety skills, such as answering the door to strangers, answering the phone and sexual assault. They also learn how to handle emergencies such as fires and poisons. Parents' recognition of these concerns are vital. For instance, should your child answer the phone all of the time, some of the time or not at all? Should the stranger at the door remain a stranger or should your child ask who it is? Parents must recognize that there are alternatives to each situation. Then they should decide which alternatives will be the rules in their households.

The last session is for both parents and children. This is when they learn how to communicate in negotiating contracts and spelling out the agreed upon rules. There is a free parent guide, available through Child Protection, for those who can't attend the five-week course. The course emphasizes the communication between parents and children, Linden said.

"Parents don't adequately understand what it's like for the child to be home alone," she said. "The child can really feel lost and abandoned. We teach them to recognize their feelings."

Eventually, most children will need to be left alone. But, when is the child ready, and how can the parent recognize this? Linden suggests leaving your child home for short periods of time and then building on that time. Also, arrange tasks for your child to complete during your time away. The way to find out the responsibility children can handle is to see if they can follow directions, she said.

"If the duties are not done, maybe the child is not ready," she said. "The key to having a successful situation is to determine if your child is willing and able to be in a latchkey situation." Parents must decide for themselves.

The "willing" part is sometimes overlooked. If a child is not ready to handle the new adjustment, he or she may become fearful and begin to show signs. If a child is not ready for the responsibility of self-care, he or she may get depressed, become anxious, decrease performance in school, become fearful and perhaps may begin mismatching clothes, Linden said.

"They just get real helpless all of a sudden to show parents they're not ready," she said. "Some may be too ashamed to admit their fears. We're really a society that praises children who act like little adults," she said.

Research differs on the effects of leaving children alone. Some research states that latchkey children are generally more fearful, less socially active and have lower self-esteem than non-latchkey children. Other research maintains that children who take care of themselves are more independent, mature and have more confidence. Whatever the case, the "I'm in Charge" program aids parents in achieving positive results.

The program is funded by the Child Victim's Trust Fund, administered by the state attorney general's office with matching funds from the Bowling Green Junior Women's Club. In the 1985-86 school year, the pilot program, begun in October 1985, reached six schools — Warren Elementary, Potter-Gray, Parker-Bennett,
T. C. Cherry, L. C. Curry and W. R. McNeil. Although students presently enrolled in the program are given priority, students from other schools may participate if room allows. However, Linden said the rest of the area schools should be reached in the 1986-87 school year.

If parents and children wish to get a preview of the program or to review what has already been learned, the "I'm in Charge" program will appear on Storer Cable's public access Channel 2 during the summer months and periodically throughout the year. The 45-minute summary tape highlights facets of the program.

There are other after-school programs in Bowling Green; however, most require transportation unless the school is within walking distance. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Bowling Green provide care for children during the week and in the summer. The Girls Club offers arts and humanities, sports and self-awareness activities for girls 6 to 18 years old.

"We do whatever we can think of to keep them off the streets and to keep them busy," Director Javonni Burchett said.

The Boys Club offers to boys 6 to 18 years old sports, games, arts and crafts, lessons in kitchen maintenance and homework.

These programs in Bowling Green, including day-care programs, are helpful to the numerous parents and children using them. But are they enough? What about children who have no transportation to these programs? Even if they've participated in the "I'm in Charge" program, they may still feel frightened at times when they have no direct adult supervision.

According to Schmalzbauer, something else needs to happen. "I think the parents, the schools and the community need to work together to resolve the latchkey issue and do what is in the best interest of children," she said.

Some cities, such as one in Fairfax, Va., have neighborhood check-in programs where trained, neighborhood-based family day-care providers keep watch on neighborhood children assigned to them. The program is designed for older elementary and junior high school children. With permission from parents and the providers, children can stay at home after school, visit friends, play in the neighborhood or attend after-school and community activities. Parents designate how much responsibility their children can have through a contract, which also defines the rules of providers. This type of program allows a great deal more flexibility for older children whose needs differ from younger children.

There are also "warm lines," which provide an open ear to children who call out of fear or assistance. The best known is PhoneFriend, sponsored by the American Association of University Women, State College Branch in Pennsylvania.

New programs can be started in Bowling Green by contacting Child Protection, which then works with the Bowling Green/Warren County Task Force on Missing and Exploited Children.

The latchkey problem is obviously one that won't go away. It is estimated that by 1990, two of every three mothers nationwide will be employed outside the home. Each year an additional 4 percent of the nation's mothers take jobs outside the home.Latchkey statistics are affected by these trends and rise parallel to them.

Although a bill authorizing a $20,000 expenditure for latchkey programs was passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan in October 1984, the administration has not sought funds in any of its supplemental appropriation requests. Since the Reagan Administration views the latchkey issue as a local one, parents are turning to their communities for help.

Parents and communities must face the problem and learn more about it. Knowledge leads to understanding and understanding to accomplishment. Society, and the parents who are a part of it, must understand the trend that has dominated the eighties. Together, they can be better prepared to manage latchkey situations in the future.

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**Safety Tips**

**Protect Your Child and Yourself**

- Work with your child in writing an emergency card containing the family name, address, phone number, emergency numbers and directions to the house. Place it next to the phone in a permanent location.
- Create imaginary emergency situations with your child and discuss what to do in each emergency.
- Define specific emergencies such as fires, gas leaks and accidents and outline the emergency procedures for your child. It may be helpful to write them down and keep the information in a permanent place.
- Find a neighbor whom your child can call in case of an emergency.
- Do a complete safety check of your home before you begin letting your child stay alone. Make sure appliances and heating sources are in good repair. Check locks on doors and windows also.
- Don't hide an extra key near your house. Give the spare to a neighbor. Make sure the key works and that your child carries it out of sight.
- Tell your child to take the same route home everyday and to walk home with a partner.
- Either set up a signal for answering the phone or train your child how to answer it. For example, hang up on obscene callers, don't give personal information to strangers and tell the caller that Mom or Dad cannot come to the phone right now.
- Make sure your child has enough change for a phone call.
- Tell your child not to let anyone in the house unless you said that it's okay. Alert your child to anticipated visits. It may be helpful to make a list of allowed visitors. A peephole may be necessary so the child can determine if the person is a stranger or a recognized visitor.
- Establish house rules such as completing tasks before television, cleaning up any mess, recognizing visitors, playing outside and phoning or leaving notes as to whereabouts. Establish a place to leave notes.
- Praise your child for good behavior and accomplishments of house rules.
- Plan activities for your child. Don't let television become the babysitter.
- Always keep an open ear. Talk with your child about his or her feelings and progresses and alter rules as needs arise.
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Doubt turned to triumph

By DARINDA RAMEY

Special Olympics is the world’s largest program of sports training and athletic competition for mentally retarded children and adults.

More than one million athletes compete, year-round, in 16 Olympic-type sports activities held in more than 20,000 communities in the United States and some 60 foreign countries. Programs are run by an international network of 500,000 volunteers who support every aspect of the Special Olympic cause, from raising funds to coaching athletes and officiating at Special Olympics games.

Before Special Olympics was created by the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, many experts in the field of mental retardation had said, “Mentally retarded people just can’t do it. They cannot learn to run 400 meters, swim the length of a pool, or communicate well enough to participate in team sports.”

On every count, Special Olympics has proven them wrong.

These myths were shattered in 1968 at Chicago’s Soldier Field. With the cooperation of the Chicago Department of Parks and Recreation, the foundation invited 1,000 mentally retarded children and adults from 26 states, Canada and France to compete in the first International Special Olympics games.

Since that momentous occasion, the Special Olympics oath has become the pledge of Special Olympians around the world:

“Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”

Mentally retarded individuals who are at least eight years old are eligible to participate in the Olympics. Most participants have an I.Q. score of 75 or less, and those who are members of regular interscholastic or intramural teams are not eligible for the Olympics.

“Graduation” of the Olympians into regular sports programs is the principal objective of the Olympics.

At the heart of Kentucky’s Olympics is area-five, which consists of the ten Barren River Area Development District counties.

Every April, 800 athletes and 150 coaches from 46 schools and agencies gather in Bowling Green to participate in track and field, gymnastics, bowling, frisbee, swimming, pentathlon, and wheelchair events. Months of training bring these athletes to top physical condition for participation in one of the most exciting days of their lives.

Ms. Jo Vermeer, coordinator for area-five Special Olympics, said the most important aspect is “the influence the games have over the athletes, socially and mentally. It gives the Olympians a chance for socialization and adventure; but more importantly, it enhances their self-image.”

Vermeer stresses the importance of volunteers to the games. “The spirit of volunteerism is the glue that holds Special Olympics together.”

The volunteers serve as coaches, game officials, chaperones, huggers, organizers, publicists, fund raisers, entertainers, sports officials and other workers.

Volunteers are also important because they provide sports facilities, equipment, transportation, lodging, meals and other assistance. Volunteers also help raise operating funds which are used in local areas and state programs, as well as to support the Olympics’ international headquarters.

Special Olympics is sport in its truest sense.

“The goal is not to win,” Vermeer said, “but to experience a new kind of joy. No time is too slow, no distance too small to earn a ribbon, a hug, a cheer or a sincere ‘well done,'” Vermeer said.

No records are broken in the Olympics except those for courage, determination and sportsmanship.

If you’re willing to volunteer a portion of your time to the Olympics, contact Vermeer’s office at Western Kentucky University, 745-6063.

“The spirit of volunteerism is the glue that holds Special Olympics together.”
Energy waste avoided

By STANLEY REAGAN

Here's a riddle.
What's invisible, powerful, in almost every Bowling Green home and costs $25,931,268.44? Give up?

"It's all of the electricity used by the city of Bowling Green from June 1984 to July 1985," Larry Carter, customer service manager for Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, said.

The utility, which gets its power from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), has 15,491 residential customers and 2,741 commercial ones. "We have one of the lowest rates in the country," Carter said.

There are several things each homeowner can do to avoid wasting energy, he said.

"The best way is to weatherize your home," Carter said. "Energy waste is the number one form of waste."

Carter said the average home in the city uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity — about $50 a month.

"Attics are the number one sources of heat or cooling loss," Carter said.

Keeping thermostats turned down saves lots of energy on both heating and cooling, according to BGMU bulletins.

When heating a home, the normal setting is 70 F degrees. But if the consumer reduces that setting to 68, heat cost will fall 10 percent.

The regulation of the thermostat is more critical in the summer, when energy use is at its peak.

By cooling your home at 80 F degrees instead of 78, you'll save 16 percent. Some don't like it hot, however, and frequently set their thermostats at 72. This will cost them 68 percent more on their electric bill.

Hot water heaters use 4200 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually, compared with a clock, which uses 38. Carter recommends that the heater's thermostat be set at 110 F degrees.

Other ways to save energy, Carter said, are "just common sense ways."

People should remember to turn off lights and appliances when not needed. Carter said this probably is the most sensible, but overlooked way to save energy.
They look for trouble

By BETH EATON and BRUCE WEST

John and Susan Smith of typical suburbia locked their home's doors tightly and left for a night out with friends. They returned five hours later only to find that their home had been ransacked. Many valuable items were missing, along with several personal treasures.

The chill of realizing that someone invaded their privacy will remain for a long time.

In order to protect the safety of homes, the National Crime Prevention Institute (NCPI) was formed to prevent these incidents. Each state has representatives, usually police officers, who attend training sessions at the organization's headquarters in Louisville. The Kentucky Crime Prevention Association is our state's organization.

Anyone can be a member. Some are from as far away as the West Indies, England, Guatemala and Thailand.

Pat Thomas, a Bowling Green Police officer said, "NCPI began when we (police officers) began looking around the country and saw our current system was not working out right."

The federal government formed a committee that visited different countries and researched respective systems to see if any were more effective.

In England, they were emphasizing crime prevention. "We saw that it worked," Thomas said. "It makes sense to prevent a crime, rather than let it happen and catch the person later."

"It costs thousands and thousands of dollars for one crime," he said. "It's much cheaper spending a few minutes talking to someone who has made a 25 cent phone call to report a crime."

When the committee tried to implement the crime prevention program, they had a problem. Who was going to teach it?

NCPI teaches crime analysis and theft prevention for both the corporate and community environments, Thomas said.

The success of the organization depends on the involvement of citizens at the local level. In Bowling Green, this program is the Neighborhood Watch. Began in the mid 70s, Thomas said, the basis is "helping your neighbor."

The operation of a watch program is simple.

Block captains, designated by each neighborhood, pick neighbors to watch certain things at certain times. Thomas said, "If someone goes on vacation, they might give a neighbor a key so that they can check on the house, turning on different lights, changing the position of the curtains — making the house appear lived in."

Several areas in the city are involved in the watch program.

Thomas said that Bowling Green Police caught a burglar when a man called and told them that a strange car was parked in the neighborhood. "From that, we solved 30 burglaries."

The idea is for people to call the police if they see something out of the ordinary.

Operation I.D. is another phase of crime prevention. "People engrave all valuables with their social security number. Usually, burglars avoid these items," Thomas said.

"Sometimes it is hard to maintain the program ... neighborhoods change, people move in and out," he said. "Some call and want to regroup."

There are certain areas of the city where crime is frequent. Thomas said the majority of last year's burglaries occurred around Western's campus.

"There's a lot of rental property around the campus," he said. "Landlords don't put in good locks because it's an extra to them. Since students are constantly coming and going, holidays are a 'big time' for burglaries in that area."

He said "burglars go after the TVs, stereo and any other valuables left behind by college students."

Thomas feels the program will continue to grow by "leaps and bounds." He said, "We need to convince people it's a whole lot better to prevent a crime from happening, than to let it happen, and then prosecute and possibly throw away the case."

Jaycees are leaders

By STANLEY REAGAN

What makes people in Bowling Green leaders?

State Representative Jody Richards, Mayor Charles Hardcastle and County Judge Basil Griffith started their careers as leaders in the Bowling Green/Warren County Jaycees.

Don Hines, president of the local chapter, said that the Jaycees are the world's largest leadership training organization. "That's our sole purpose," he said.

Since May 1946, when the twelve-member chapter elected Carson Potter as the first president of the then Bowling Green Jaycees, the Jaycees have thrived. The chapter now boasts over 240 members and is the third largest in Kentucky.

"Jaycees come from all walks of life," Hines said. "Doctors, lawyers, service station attendants and farmers."

"Who isn't a Jaycee?"

"Until July of 1984, women weren't," Hines said. "That year the Supreme Court ruled in favor of women joining the Jaycees and ordered
all chapters to change their bylaws. In August of 1984—just one month after the court's decision—the local chapter voted four women into membership.

"The lady members are some of our best recruits," Hines said. "Sometimes they do most of the work."

Pat Brown, a police officer, is the first woman to serve on the chapter's board of directors. Brown said, "The Jaycees have helped me to communicate better and to reach out to people."

Hines was glad to see the merger of the Jaycee Women and men happen smoothly. "There was some opposition," he said. "But, this was mostly among the older members of both groups. In a few years, no one will even think about it."

The local chapter sponsors more than 40 projects annually, devoting 8,000 hours of volunteer work to Bowling Green. Members gain leadership skills by planning and participating in projects, Hines said. "They don't have to be the chairman of the project to learn how to be a leader."

Three phases of the Jaycees work together to aid the members in gaining leadership.

Management Development encourages the wise use of finances and time, Hines said. "Planning the projects is where most of this phase comes into play. Jaycees learn how to budget their resources and delegate responsibilities."

Community Service, the second phase, has the Jaycees working as a whole to help people or other organizations such as senior citizens, the Muscular Dystrophy Association or the Kidney Foundation.

This support comes in the form of manpower working to raise cash donations. This summer, children from all over the world will see Jaycee hospitality at its best as the local chapter hosts the BB Gun Championship of the World. It is sponsored in part by the Daisy BB Gun Company, who will celebrate its 100th anniversary (this year).

The annual championship draws more than 1,000 children and their parents to Western Kentucky University for the week-long event.

"Many Jaycee Chapters like ours have shooting programs," Hines said. "These show kids the proper use of firearms."

One of the most outstanding Jaycee contributions is the Southern Kentucky Fair, held here each summer.

Although the regional fair lasts only one week, Hines said the fair is a year-round project.

"We spruce up the buildings, fix things, paint and mow about two months before the fair opens," he said. But, the planning begins long before that.

"We look at how well events went last year, disregarding the weather, and if it was a good event we and the SOKY Fair Board usually decide to have it again," Hines said. "We try to do different events so the content of the fair always changes."

The final phase of Jaycee leadership training is the individual phase.

This is the most important phase, Hines said.

"Each member builds upon his or her own abilities," he said. "It also builds upon the other phases."

To do this, Hines said, takes a lot of time, time spent on the job.

"Employers are very understanding when their Jaycee employees have to do something for the chapter," he said. "The employer knows that the Jaycees make the employee a better employee."

Local industries and the university support the chapter by loaning speakers on topics. Some industries make donations like cars or trucks when things need to be moved.

Many members put much into the chapter, Hines said. "There is such a thing as Jaycee burnout. There's always 10 or 12 people working on almost every project."

Hines hopes that the chapter will continue to grow.

continued from page 3

somewhere, and everywhere, between a hymn and a hard- rock song, each with a "Cheese" touch.

"To some, rock 'n roll is 'Iron Maiden' and to some it's Billy Joel," Womack said. "We get influence from 'Jason and the Scorchers,' Elvis, (Bruce) Springsteen, the list goes on. But basically, we each play our own sound to form a 'cheese' song," he said.

"I see it as a fusion between rock and folk music," Bryan Hulse, a junior at Western, said.

Whatever kind of music you want to call it, the band is just glad to be playing it. The beginning has not been easy for "Government Cheese."

Skot and Tommy first met while trying to join a fraternity at Western. They played on and off for a while, then lost their first drummer. Billy Mack entered the group a short time later. They eventually found another drummer that came and went, and the band came and went when he did.

Finally, in March 1985, they met Joe. They practiced together a few times and Joe was interested, but they couldn't get him to make a firm commitment.

"It got to the point that I followed Joe to his classes and passed him notes asking him to join the band," Womack said. "With Joe joining the band, they had the ingredients, all they needed was the blend—practice."

"We'd play in the kitchen with two or three people as our audience," Mack said. "We didn't sound too good, but we never lost faith."

"Our main virtue is the energy. We're not going to impress people with high-tech sound, so we have to go for energy."

"We could hear beyond how we sounded at the time," Womack said. "We didn't hear how we sounded in the kitchen; we heard how we'd sound on the stage. We knew it would all come together for us when Skot gave up his career to be with us full-time."

The band, once a hobby, is now the monster created by the hands of its members. Even though each has a part-time job, the band is the main priority.

"It's now become my life obsession; my thoughts are always with the band and our music," Womack said.

With the big effect the band has had on its members, it only makes sense that they want to do their best to change the laid-back Bowling Green image, or at least the musical part.

"More bands are being brought in that play their own music and more are forming," Womack said. "Maybe we didn't start it, but we were pretty close."

The immediate future looks bright for the band. They are planning a single or an album, depending on who backs them, in the next two or three months. Beyond that, they have no clear-cut plans, but one thing's for sure, they will be giving it their best.

"One thing people recognize is that we aren't afraid to fall on our faces," Womack said. "We want to be right of course, but we aren't afraid to fall."
Custom made by Showcase

By REBECCA BARNHART

When the police served papers on Patti McChesney in 1972 and forced her to stop selling cakes from her home, that only temporarily stopped the diminutive blonde, who had already established herself as a cake decorating specialist.

Bored of her new-found freedom, Patti started decorating cakes again from her home in 1975, this time with a license to sell to the public. She thought of opening her own business and it only took one incident to "put the icing on the cake."

"It was my son’s birthday," she said, nibbling on a glazed doughnut, "and Bowling Green had just had a bad ice storm. I had waited until the last minute, as usual, to get a cake or any presents." So, she and her husband, Butch, ventured on the ice-covered roads in search of gifts and a cake.

They went to a local bakery where the parking lot and sidewalks were extremely icy, Patti said, "I was so scared I was going to fall and break the cake. Right then and there I decided that I would start to do decorations myself because I didn’t want to face that again."

And she did.

In August 1978, Patti opened Cake Decorator’s Den, a cake decorating business in a pink house on Magnolia Street. After Cake Decorator’s Den became a success, Patti’s business grew to Glasgow where Glasgow’s Cake Decorator’s Den was opened in April 1984.

"When I first started, I’d sit up for hours and hours at night decorating cakes. I had so much in me to get the cakes decorated just right." Not satisfied with only two business, Patti and Butch bought Donuts, Ltd. with a partner, who they later bought out, thus expanding their business to include doughnuts, cookies, candies and more.

With the latest purchase, Patti found herself commuting from Bowling Green to Glasgow several times a week, while Butch ran the bakery and worked another full-time job. Butch quit his other job to devote more time to the bakery, they closed the Glasgow store in January 1985 and in March, they merged all three businesses to the doughnut shop and began to live in the bakery.

"It’s (the bakery) at home on your kitchen table—it’s in your car," Patti said, waving her arms in the air.

They renamed the bakery Showcase Bakery because Patti said "we didn’t want that doughnut name." While trying to pick a new name, Patti said they thought of "some of the ungodliest names." They decided on Showcase Bakery because the showcases, glistening with fresh chocolate, jelly-filled and cinnamon doughnuts, are the first things a customer sees when they walk in.

Other than doughnuts, Showcase Bakery sells a variety of cookies—chocolate chip to oatmeal—raisin, candies in all shapes, and they specialize in custom-designed cakes. One wall in Showcase Bakery is home to about half of the 200-plus shaped cake pans they have.

"We have about twice that many in the back," Butch said, as he rearranged fixtures to save some much needed space.

"When I first started, I took my profits and invested in more pans, so if anybody came in and wanted a cake, I could say, yeah, I have it," said the 35-year-old mother of three.

They also rent any of the cake pans, except for her Winnie the Pooh pan, she said. "They don’t make Winnie anymore, and he’s old, so I keep him back here," she said, referring to the kitchen.

Patti said they will do anything on a cake and that every cake they make has a story. "We hear more stories than you can image."

As she flipped through a never-ending pile of pictures of her custom-made cakes, Patti said one of her proudest cakes was for a liquor distributor who ordered 26 large sheet cakes to give his customers. They were a replica of the Anheuser-Busch Clydesdale horses in a Christmas scene. It depicted a man and a woman clad in snow attire in a wagon being pulled by a team of Clydesdales.

"That cake had a lot of skill and time in it" and used lots of colors, Patti said, boastfully. But she said the extra effort was worth it because "we in turn have gotten business back from that."

"During Christmas, Butch and I went to some liquor distributors to get recipes with liquor in them, like rum cakes and bourbon balls, and we’d ask them if they got a Clydesdale cake and they’d say, yes, was that you (who made it)?"

Their cakes range from Raggedy Ann to Elvis to scouting emblems. "People don’t want flowers anymore," Patti said.

Showcase will also do custom baking by using the customer’s recipe and do "exactly what the customer wants," Patti said.

"They bring in a recipe and we’ll make it." But Patti said she is a collector of cookbooks and has accumulated a lot of recipes through the years.

"When I was young, I used to cut out recipes and think, 'when I get married, I’m going to make this.’"

When she bakes, Patti said she chooses the "richest recipes" because she wants to give the customers their money’s worth. "If a recipe calls for 1 cup of butter and I find another that calls for two cups, I use two cups.

One of the richest desserts Patti makes
for wedding receptions and parties is a strawberry tree. Her enthusiasm bubbling, she explained that it is a plastic foam cone dipped in white chocolate, wrapped with wax paper and covered with another layer of white chocolate. She then dips juicy, fresh strawberries in more white chocolate and sticks them to the white chocolate-covered cone. "When you break the strawberries, you get a chunk of white chocolate with it and it's luscious," she said, licking her lips.

Showcase offers over 22 specialty cakes, ranging from a Mississippi Mud to a Red Velvet. And they will also try other requests. "I work by trial and error," she said. Patty added that if a customer requests something she's never made, then "we (the employees) try them out—we all eat them."

"Most people like us because we say we'll try and that's fun," she said.

Other than the custom-made cakes, Showcase is also unique in that they deliver. Patty said she and Burch do all the delivering and that they deliver cakes "if people ask." However, most of their delivery business comes from customers and businesses who order on a consistent basis, such as the Mint Mart stores, Jr. Food stores and Ramada Inn.

"We've made a lot of people happy by doing that (delivering)," Patty said, smiling.

And the future appears happy for the McChesteys and Showcase Bakery, evidenced by the pink phones ringing with orders for more Calabash Patch cakes.

You might thing that freedom doesn't come easy to Patty, but she contends "It's the first time I've had any freedom in a long time."

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**A change of pace**

By GORDON ALLEN

A new retail and office center will be offered to Bowling Green in late May or early June. Thoroughbred Square, a 67,000-square-foot facility will be located on US 231 behind Rafferty's restaurant.

Thoroughbred Square is a project of Thoroughbred Square Limited of the Webb Companies. A partnership was formed including Dudley Webb, who is a national partner of the Webb Companies, Wesley N. Williams, partner of the Webb Companies-Nashville, and four limited partners: Dan Davis, David Mason, Thomas Schelldorf and James Smith, executives with Mid-South Management Group, Inc., of Bowling Green.

Frederick Strobel, spokesman for Webb Companies-Nashville, said Bowling Green was selected for the Thoroughbred Square development for several reasons.

"Bowling Green is close to the division of the Webb Companies-Nashville and also close to the national office in Lexington," Strobel said. "The growth potential of Bowling Green also makes it a very attractive market."

Strobel said the other reason for choosing Bowling Green was the need for a mixed use commercial real estate establishment in this area.

Thoroughbred Square will consist of two buildings, each designed by Earl Swenson and Associates Architects of Nashville. The project will cost $5 million and is financed by Citizen's National Bank.

A 59,000 square-foot building will be the home of several retail establishments. This building will be constructed in an L-shaped fashion, wrapping around Rafferty's.

A variety of stores will fill the confines of the retail facility. Most will be specialty type stores and some will be service oriented.

The other building of the development will consist of 28,000 square feet and will be the office headquarters of several businesses in Bowling Green. Modern architecture show a glass elevator and a skylight. Offices in the building will have the look of prominence and distinction.

The Mid-South Management Group, Inc., has already committed to make their new office headquarters at Thoroughbred Square. The Mid-South Management Group operates Wendy's of Bowling Green, Professional Air, Inc., and Rafferty's, Inc.

Wendy's of Bowling Green currently operates eight Wendy's including stores in Bowling Green and Glasgow, Ky., Clarksville, Columbia and Cookeville, Tenn. Professional Air, Inc., an airline charter service, is based at the Bowling Green airport. Rafferty's, a restaurant company, has locations in Bowling Green, Lexington and Atlanta.

"We are pleased to have a first-class office building right next to one of our Rafferty's Restaurants. This provides us with a central location for overseeing all our operations while remaining close to our restaurant to ensure it's smooth daily operation," Dan Davis, chairman of the board of Mid-South Management Group, Inc., said. The Webb Companies development is an excellent project that will benefit us and the Bowling Green area," Dan Davis, chairman of the board of Mid—South Management Group, Inc., said.
We deliver

By ROBYN LIBS

Rain, sleet or snow. Nothing prevents these people from doing their jobs. They’re not mailmen nor milkmen, but delivery people from local businesses. In fact, their business seems to increase as the weather gets worse. When people don’t expect to get out, they do expect their pizzas, flowers or balloons to be delivered as usual.

Domino’s Pizza on Center Street does its biggest business during January and February, according to manager Dan Morris. “When people are cooped up inside, they still like to have someone else do the cooking, so they order pizza,” Morris said. Domino’s delivers in less than 30 minutes even in bad weather.

This past February, the store sold more than 10,000 pizzas, but it wasn’t without a few mishaps. Several drivers got stuck, but Morris said that there were always people around to help. The pizzas stayed warm with the help of a hot box.

Florists also must contend with bad weather because it’s not supposed to stop them from taking flowers to sick friends or sweethearts. Valentine’s Day is usually the florist’s dream, but this year it turned into a nightmare because of bad weather.

Deemer’s Florist did a pretty good job making their deliveries despite the weather, Lilian Henderson, a bookkeeper said. Henderson said that Valentine’s Day is their busiest day of the year, and it usually takes at least a week to recuperate from such a large order day.

Roses are a favorite of customers, especially at Valentine’s. A single rose in a bud vase starts at $5. Customers also like cut flowers arranged or in a bouquet year-round. Their prices start at $8.50.

Henderson said there really isn’t a typical customer. Some just like fresh flowers all the time, but most order for occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. They also have groups such as Junior Miss that order flowers.

Deemer’s also delivers helium balloons for all occasions. They are really mood-lifters for people in the hospital, Henderson said. They have been delivering balloons for over two years, and they seem to be really popular. They are sold in a variety of ways. They can be attached to a floral basket or plain, be sold singly, or by the dozen.

Balloons are really getting popular as Nick Wilkins, owner of Balloon-O-Gram, has found. He has been in the business for five years and said that there is a good market in the Bowling Green area.

Wilkins adds a special touch to his balloon deliveries; they are delivered in costume. Customer’s can choose from a rabbit, tiger, clown, a taco-clad man, gorilla, chicken or during the Christmas season, a Santa.

This service also had to deal with bad weather since its busiest time fell on Valentine’s Day. This year they delivered 95 bouquets. For Valentine’s Day, Wilkins had a special mylar heart balloon. A mylar balloon last up to two weeks whereas a regular balloon will only last 12 hours, Wilkins said.

People really love getting the balloons — especially in costume, Wilkins said. It’s a different way to tell someone how you feel.

Occasions for balloons, according to Wilkins, are birthdays, anniversaries, birth announcements, thank-yous and good lucks. He said surprisingly most of his orders are for adults. The balloons cost around $15 a dozen.

What’s in store for delivery services? Wilkins said that he is thinking about getting into singing telegrams, another way to send you messages. Since no one in Bowling Green is offering the service, he thinks it’s a good time to start.

 Streets and traffic

The Street Division of the Bowling Green Public Works Department is responsible for the repair, maintenance and cleaning of all city streets and alleys. Maintaining traffic signs and signals is another task of the Street Division.

For a service request, contact the Citizen’s Assistance Office, 782-2489, Extension 341, or visit with the Citizen’s Assistance Officer on the 1st floor of City Hall.
One man's dream

By CHAD MORRIS

Although few corporations had their beginnings in Bowling Green, Camping World's first store was located in an old barn on Beech Bend Road.

Today, Camping World is the leader in the recreational vehicle industry. Camping World uses full-service supercenters to cater to RV owners. These full service centers supply RV owners with equipment that can be installed at the supercenters or taken home. They also sell everyday products such as toilet paper and kitchen accessories.

In the beginning, Camping World was just an idea in 23-year-old initiator David Garvin's mind. The business began in 1966 at Beech Bend Amusement Park, then owned by Garvin's father, Charles Garvin and his family. After inviting campers to stay at a farm adjacent to the park, Garvin opened a small store in the middle of the campground and began selling camping supplies. He called the business Camping World.

Business was booming. Camping World moved from Beech Bend Park to its present headquarters on Beech Bend Road. This facility doubled as a full-service supercenter and as the corporate headquarters and mail order center for the company. For additional space, the computer center was moved to a building near Western Kentucky University.

In 1976, Camping World expanded by building new supercenters across the United States. There are new locations from Myrtle Beach, S.C. to San Bernardino, Calif.

Brush and leaf collection

Brush and leaf pick-up is available to city residents during peak times of the year. Throughout the leaf season, trucks will collect loose piles of leaves at curbside. Brush pick-up routes, as with leaf vacuuming, vary according to location within the city.

For added information on scheduling, contact the Street Division at 843-6363. A schedule of pick-up areas and dates are also listed on City Government Cable Channel Three.
Romananza Johnson: What's next?

By LaMont Jones

Folded chairs are pushed back from tables littered with paper napkins, potato chips and cheese curls. Droplets of lemon-ade cling to the waxy insides of little paper cups — leftovers of refreshments that were served at the employees meeting.

On a cold Monday afternoon in the meeting room at Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, Romananza Oliphant Johnson thanks the guest who has just spoken. Pretty and professional in her black and white pin-striped dress, she talks easily in a wissy voice and frequently smiles.

It's been a long day and Mrs. Johnson's fatigue is beginning to show, but true to her reputation as a gracious and charitable person, she grants an interview anyway.

Who is Romananza Johnson?

The answer to that question largely depends on who you are.

To dozens of her co-workers at Bowling Green Municipal Utilities, she is the company's home economist.

To thousands of morning listeners of WBGN and WKCT, she is the one with the helpful homemaking hints.

To many youngsters at the local Girls Club, she is a freehearted woman who gives her time and talent to creating enjoyable activities for them.

Romananza Johnson is a very busy lady. A good look — it would take more than a mere glance — at her seven-page, mostly single-spaced resume shows just that. She has been a member of more than 50 civic, social and professional groups and assorted advisory boards, steering committees councils. And she has held office in most of them: president, Bowling Green-Warren County Home Economist Club; president, Altrusa Club of Bowling Green; president, Bowling Green's Woman's Club and Garden Club; president, Kentucky Home Economics Association; president, Home Economists in Business of Kentucky; president, Nutrition Council of Kentucky and president, Electrical Women's Round Table Association.

Though it's not for the recognition that she works, Johnson has received just that.

Her many honors include Bowling Green's 1985 Citizen of the Year by the Optimist Club, the city's Outstanding Civilian in 1984, national member of the year by the Electrical Women's Round Table, lay person of the year by the Kentucky Nurses Association, outstanding citizen in Bowling Green in 1976 by the Chamber of Commerce and twice honored as outstanding board member of the local Girl's Club.

But Johnson is modest about her reputation as one of Bowling Green's most highly esteemed public figures. She regards herself rather simply, giving others the credit.

"The people before me have set the way, and I've just tried to continue and to promote," she said.

"I am employed at BGMU as its home economist. That includes working with the customers of the utility. Basically, I work with the homemakers and show them how to use new appliances, we help people who are building or remodeling their house plans and give lessons, demonstrating and programs to civic groups and to classes that range from kindergarten to the university level. And anything that relates to home economics, we try to provide information actually showing them how to make their quality of life better."

And she makes a lot of lives better by some of the "little" things she does at work — planning holiday parties, retirement banquets and sharing recipes with customers.

"I try to have recipes and helpful homemaker hints around for them to pick up and take home," she said.

"Then each year before Christmas, we have a utility open house called 'The Holiday House', and we invite our customers to come in and I show Christmas ideas for food and decorations. We give each of the people who attend a cookbook, and I have recipes in it that I tested through the year to see that they are good ones to share with the customers."

"The Holiday House" and regular home economics-related seminars free to the public are some of the activities she started when she began working for BGMU in 1970.

Before then, she taught home economics classes at Western, her alma mater.

"I enjoy working with people and sharing information and helping others," she said. "And so as I have time, I do try to do that."

"The betterment of the community is one of my overall goals. If there is some way I can help with that, I want to do that."

It was concern for others that prompted her to start "Creative Cuisine" during her tenure as state chairman of the American Heart Association.

"Creative Cuisine" gets the local restaurants to offer some food on their menus that would be lower in fat, sugar and salt so that people who need to watch that can find it on some of the local menus," Johnson said.

"Of course," she added, "that would just be able to help us all live longer by eating nutritious foods."

Johnson said she has lived by mottos most of her life. Two of her favorites are "Learn by doing" and "Make the best better."

She applied them in high school, where she graduated class salutatorian and was in Future Homemakers of America and Beta Club.

During her three years at Western, she was active in the home economics department. She remains so today, 26 years after earning a B.S. in home economics and 18 years after getting a master's in education.

"I'm at the university about once a day, either to teach a class for someone or to help students," she said.

"One day, they called and some international students didn't have coats after it turned cold because they were from a warm climate, so I helped organize a coat closet to get together some sweaters and jackets for them."
"I was fortunate to be raised in a family where my mother was active in community service, and many of the teachers that I had in home economics were a good influence. Being a home economist, I’m in a position to see where there’s a need and where there are places that I could be of help."

Experience in home economics has allowed her to explore broadcasting and print communication.

"Romanza’s Ramblings" is her weekly column in “The Vine,” a local consumer newspaper. Every day she hosts “Home Sweet Home” and “Energy in the Home” on Storer cable. Moreover, she has shows on WBKO and WKRX-58 (Western’s station).

“I think that the school’s (Western’s) motto, ‘The Spirit Makes the Master,’ has always had a deep setting in my heart, and I still continue to support the school through the alumni association and its activities,” she said.

“I enjoy the fellowship with the students. I think it’s good to be with younger people. I would like to think that I could provide a helping hand to the students and faculty.”

Mrs. Johnson said she finds much of her strength in meditation and Ralph Eugene Johnson — her husband for 25 years.

“I have a very understanding husband who gives lots of support to my activities and projects,” she said.

They have no children, she said, but "lots of little friends and lots of little godchildren."

She and her husband spend much of their spare time showing Tennessee Walking Horses and collecting antiques. She has amassed more than 200 miniature lamps and nearly 500 cookbooks — 15 of which she compiled.

"My profession being what it is, I enjoy cooking and collecting cookbooks," she said. "I’ve been real pleased that I’ve had recipes used in the ‘Southern Living’ magazine, the ‘Country Living’ magazine, ‘Farm Journal’ and ‘Progressive Farmer’.

If that’s not enough to keep her busy, Johnson and her husband are restoring an old home.

“We’re still working on it. I don’t guess you ever get all the way done," she mused."

What is the key to her apparent ability to do everything all the time?

“I think time management is very important," she said. "A lot of my training is in management — management of time, money and energy.

“I try to put into practice what I tell other people, and people in the community are helpful."”

Eddie Beck, general manager of BGMO, complimented Mrs. Johnson without reservation.

"She is very interesting and very active in helping people in the community," he said. "She is very much a leader. She seems to enjoy getting involved in community activities and she does an excellent job at it. We certainly do appreciate her here — she really projects the image of our utility."

Dr. William Floyd, head of Western’s home economics department, heaped equally lavish praise upon her.

"My impression of her over the years is that she is a human dynamo," he said. "I don’t know how any one person can do the number of things she does. I’ve never figured out how she does them all so proficiently.

What is in the future for Romanza Johnson?"

Her answer to that question is true to her reputation.

"Do more of what I am doing, continue to be active and do more for others."

TEXAS CHOCOLATE CAKE

2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
1 stick oleo
¼ cup oil
4 tablespoons cocoa
1 cup water
½ cup buttermilk
2 whole eggs
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift together sugar and flour. Put in saucepan: oleo, oil, cocoa and water. Bring to a rapid boil. Pour over sugar and flour and mix well. Add buttermilk, eggs, soda, cinnamon and vanilla. Mix all ingredients together and pour in a well-greased 9-x13-x2-inch pan. Bake 25-30 minutes at 375 degrees.

Frosting:
1 stick oleo
4 tablespoons cocoa
6 tablespoons cocoa
¾ or 1 box confectioners’ sugar

ORANGE PECANS

1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon light corn syrup
½ cup orange juice
1 tablespoon butter or margarine
2 ½ cups pecan halves
½ teaspoon grated orange rind

Combine sugar, corn syrup and orange juice in a saucepan; mix well. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until mixture reaches soft ball stage (240°). Remove from heat; stir in butter. Beat with wooden spoon until mixture just begins to thicken. Stir in pecans and orange rind. Working rapidly, drop by heaping teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper; let cool. Yield: 15 pieces.

This recipe appeared in Southern Living.
SNAPSHOTS

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Chim-Chimney Chim-Chimney Chim-Chim-Charoo, most Chimney sweeps are men, but some are women too.

In one of the famous childhood stories, Mary Poppins, chimney sweeps are grubby old men covered from head to toe with black soot, speaking with a heavy British brogue.

With time, the chimney sweeps have evolved into a polished, sophisticated business.

In Bowling Green, the New Era Chimney Sweeps have a special blend of modern equipment and old Kentucky hospitality.

June Haycraft and Karen Minor, who moonlight as chimney sweeps, took over the ownership and operation of New Era seven months ago.

During the daytime, Minor, a tall, slim woman is a heavy machine operator. Haycraft is a veterinarian’s assistant.

After a long day’s work, the two begin their moonlighting job around 6 p.m.

Minor said that each job only takes an hour and a half, “so we can do two or three a night.”

The dirty job begins by brushing from the top of the chimney down. The throat and firebox are cleaned by physically going up inside the chimney and brushing the spot.

“Some people think it’s really odd that we would want to do something that would get us so dirty, but it’s fun,” Minor said.

“We are the only two women chimney sweeps in Kentucky,” Haycraft added with pride.

It’s a dirty job, but somebody’s got to do it.

By KIM MAXWELL

Doing a grate job

Julie Berry
Play us a song, you’re the piano man
Play us a song tonight,
For we’re all in the mood for a melody
And you make us feel all right.

Billy Joel

Lively jazz music from a brown, upright piano fills the small, cozy restaurant and sets the mood. As he finishes a song, people hesitantly clap. “Don’t be shy; don’t be shy,” the bearded piano man says, “I like it.”

Five nights a week Ed Dansereau is the piano man at the Parakeet Cafe and Bar. For Dansereau, it is more than a way to make a living; it’s a way of life.

Dansereau began playing the piano when he was ten years old. Performing was just something he fell into. “Every time we would go out to eat,” he recalls, “if there was a piano, I would play,” he says.

When Dansereau was 13, his father’s job led the family to Europe. The young boy played in restaurants all over Europe and even joined the ship’s band on the way over. “I haven’t felt afraid to go on stage for years,” said the now 33-year-old musician. He started his high school band and helped pay his way through college at Western Kentucky University by playing the piano.

As a dinner entertainer, he still gets nervous at times. “About 3:30 p.m. I start to feel it. By the time I hit the door (of the Parakeet) I’m about ready to explode,” he says.

Dansereau learned his craft through experience, playing the piano for 23 years. Besides playing alone at the Parakeet, he has worked in various bands and with singer/guitarist Beau Haddock. The duo paired ten years ago and still play for such occasions as wedding receptions and parties.

Dansereau also plays with a six-piece Top 40 band at the local Holiday Inn on the Bypass. “Playing by yourself is hard,” he says, “but, playing with a band can be harder, depending on who you work with.”

In addition to entertaining with the piano, he uses hats that match the songs. “I try to keep it moving and keep them interested,” he explains.

To keep his job at the Parakeet interesting, Dansereau uses a variety of materials. “If I played the same songs every night, I’d last two weeks,” he says with a smile.

Dansereau uses his music at the Parakeet to create a mood and help business. If there is a crowd at the door, he plays up-beat music: “People will eat faster and there is a bigger customer turnover,” he says. If it is a slow night, he plays slow music so the customers will relax and stay longer. “I try to feel what’s happening—if feel the people,” he explains.

For this musician, “crowd response is the bottom line.” By KIM SAYLOR

From street to street, from home to home, from one mailbox to the next, each day mail carriers take to the streets of Bowling Green to distribute the mail.

But the job isn’t just a few hours of daily delivery. Bowling Green carrier, H.M. Forester, who has been on the job for twelve years, says that his job can sometimes take much longer than he expects. He says that the amount of time it takes him to deliver his route depends on what time of the year it is. Holidays seem to be busy times of the year. “It can be tough,” says Forester, “but it beats doing factory or desk work.”

Barking and snapping dogs may not show a mail carrier much appreciation, but as Forester explains, there are those who can be friendly. He says that a couple years ago one dog began following him on his route everyday; the two became such good friends that the dog would follow him into his office and sleep under his desk while he was working.

But the dog went away and was gone for a good while. Then, after almost a year, the dog came back and has lived with the mail carrier ever since.

Forester says that walking the route is much more enjoyable than driving. He added that when you walk a route you come across some very friendly people. A sorority house on Western’s campus is one of Forester’s favorite stops. “They are always friendly and give me a nice greeting.”

Forester would recommend this line of work but says most of all he enjoys the benefits of being around people and being able to work outside.

By JOE COOPER

By KIM SAYLOR
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