

Looking Back

From the files of Hoosier Democrat, Delphi Journal, Journal-Citizen and Carroll County Comet. Photo provided by Carroll County Historical Museum.

10 YEARS AGO

Burlington Town Council has taken the first step into investigating the feasibility and public opinion of an annexation campaign.

"We want to get the word out about this to see who's in favor and who opposes," Council president John Bogue said.

Bogue said areas being considered for annexation include property near Burlington Community Park, the sewage treatment plant and land near the southwest edge of town.

Rick Strasser and Liza Liebert were named homecoming king and queen at Delphi Community High School.

25 YEARS AGO

Dick Ayres was re-elected president and Charlene Davis, secretary-treasurer, of the Flora Park and Recreation Board at a recent meeting.

Ayres reported on the use of the park last summer which included 45 reunions, weddings, county fair, and other special events.

Residents of Delphi Nursing Home enjoyed a Valentine's Day party. Residents elected Gladys Kuszmaul as Valentine Queen and Clark Wallace as king.

Donald Craft and his family, Flora were featured in the January-February issue of the Suffolk Banner, the national sheep magazine.

Carroll Jr. Sr. High School Choir students received nine firsts at the ISSMA District Contest held recently at North Miami High School.

50 YEARS AGO

The Journal has unwittingly been publishing pin-up pictures for soldiers. Pretty Carol Hawn whose photo was shown in the Journal in connection with her recent installation as Worthy Advisor of the local Rainbow for Girls Chapter, has received a long, admiring letter from a young soldier stationed at Camp

LeJeune, North Carolina. Both Carol and the Journal staff are amazed at stirring up interest so far from home. As yet, Miss Hawn, while understandably flattered, has not indicated as to whether or not she is interested in acquiring a pen pal in North Carolina.

75 YEARS AGO

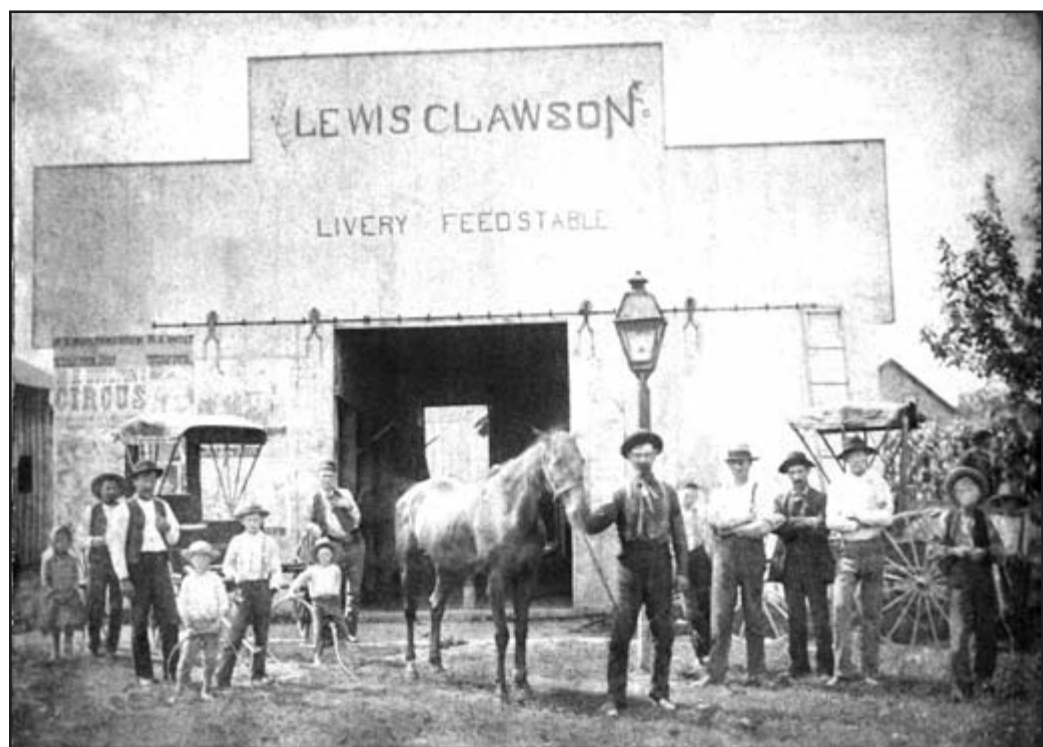
Belle Anderson and assistant of the Lavender Beauty Shop at Lafayette, will be in Delphi Tuesday, located at 121 North Washington street, Phone 289. Permanent Waves: Guaranteed Lavender Oil Wave-\$2.00 Complete; Duart Wave-\$3.50 Complete; Realistic Waave-\$5.00 Complete. Will be in Delphi on Tuesday of each week. Please have hair shampoo and dry.

Reports from the Carroll county Red Cross are to the effect that previous to the last car load of flour and two shipments of clothing, flour and clothing to the amount of \$3,750 had been distributed in Carroll county. Another large box of clothing arrived for the Red Cross

distribution this week. **100 YEARS AGO**
At Lafayette last week, Carroll county and especially Monroe township carried off

almost all the highest honors in the great State Corn Show. The state is divided into five districts Carroll county being a member of the second dis-

trict, which also includes nineteen other counties, such as Howard, Clinton, Tippecanoe, Cass, in the great corn belt of the state.



Lewis Clawson Livery & Feed Stable, 1875, Radnor

Rainy Day

From page 1A

an additional appropriation at the end of the month to pay a Lancaster Covered Bridge renovation bill that was presented after encumbrances from 2007 were made, which prevented him from setting the money aside from the 2007 appropriations.

Other transfers

The council transferred \$200,000 from the Rainy-Day Fund to the general fund.

A request from the Carroll County Parks Board to transfer \$149.70 from the French Post Park restrooms account to park attendants account was approved in a five-to-one vote. Jerry Hendress voted against the transfer. He said gasoline was used by "someone" and he believed the \$149.70 had been "paid in kind" to the park attendants.

Assessor Doris McLeland was granted permission to transfer \$12,000 in the reassessment fund from maintenance/new construction to the AdValorem firm, which will provide reassessments for flood-damaged structures and land.

The county health department was granted permission to hire a food inspector for \$9.55/hour, with no benefits, paid out of the tobacco and health maintenance funds.

Auditor's report

Myers provided council members a packet of informa-

tion for review that included a comp. time report and the monthly report that compares current financial standing with past years' during the same time period.

Myers reported that all funds are balanced with the treasurer's office except for county general. The difference between the auditor's office and the treasurer's office is now minus \$2,902. This number represents a fluctuation from a positive of nearly \$3,000 at the end of 2006.

She said the tax rebate money was no longer in county general. Myers further indicated checks to taxpayers would be issued in the next two weeks. Myers said her office is looking for delinquent property tax payments before sending out the checks.

Consensus was to mail a statement to a county employee who owes the county \$712.16 for personal charges on a cell phone provided by the county. It was noted the situation became an issue in 2006 and has gone unresolved since that time. The employee initially paid \$25 toward the personal use cost of the cell phone, but nothing had been received since the initial payment.

Finance committee

Committee chair Ann Brown reported the treasurer continues to not balance with bank statements. She said treasurer Jane Brewington was directed to

make an appointment for Monday with a representative of the software company which is used in both the treasurer's and auditor's offices, who will be hired to assist Brewington to properly reconcile the accounts. Brewington had not accomplished that task by Wednesday morning.

"She's working at it, but not hard enough to suit me," Brown said.

Brown said the county will also pay the software consultant to work with the auditor and treasurer to help them understand the use of the computer program and how voided checks are processed. The understanding is necessary between the two offices so that voided check transactions are recorded properly.

At the urging of Myers, council voted to use money from the Rainy Day Fund to pay February bills.

"I'm not writing a check in the red anymore," Myers stated. "I'm just not doing it."

"Well good," council member Steve Ashby replied.

Myers cited the reason for her decision was due to "all the publicity" she had received for the former practice and that the finance committee "put me through holy heck." After she made a second similar statement complaining about the finance committee, Slavens told Myers

that if she worked any place else, she would no longer have a job.

Brown recommended taking out a loan from a lender until the spring property tax settlement is received. She said a lender might give the county a loan while it still had some money in reserve accounts. She said if those accounts become depleted, it would be more difficult to convince a lender the loan could be repaid.

Slavens agreed that the council should pursue a bank loan at some point, stating that "citizens don't understand" the money the council is currently using to pay bills "is borrowed." He maintained that if an actual loan is made, a repayment plan would have to be developed. Currently the council has no plan to repay the cumulative bridge account from which \$675,000 was recently borrowed or the \$200,000 transferred from the Rainy Day Fund, although legally that fund does not have to be repaid.

Ashby also recommended a bank loan. He said if the bank would not approve a loan, "then we'll have to come back and think about it."

Cripe said money was needed by the end of February for payroll.

"You can't not give people their paycheck," she said.

The finance committee recommended the council refer to the 2003 budget appropriations, \$5,816,303, the amount of revenue likely for 2008. It was noted the cost of personnel is the largest item in the budget. According to the written report, a reduction in the number of county employees will effectively reduce county operating costs overall.

The report read in part, "The fact is...our county population is pretty much static and has been for over 100 years. We absolutely cannot increase services to the taxpayers without bringing in revenue to pay for those services. We must live within our means. Without additional population or increase in businesses and industry to provide increased revenue, we must continue to operate county government at the same fiscal level (without any significant increases). The DLGF is not going to permit us to increase taxes over and above what the people can afford to pay."

Other business

Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Vice President Dick Bradshaw presented the Carroll County Economic Development/county chamber five-year plan for economic development projects, using an increase realized from an Economic Development Income Tax increase. He said the plan was for EDC and the chamber to administer the funds.

Slavens questioned how the commissioners have chosen to spend EDIT in recent years.

Council member Rob Baker suggested EDIT money be spent more wisely before the tax is increased.

Ashby questioned how the county has benefited from the use of EDIT in the past several years.

"Our books don't balance," he said. "We borrowed \$675,000 to pay the bills held over from the end of 2007. We need to know what actually goes into the county coffers."

"Tourism will not propel the county," he continued. "501(c)3s (not-for-profit organizations) will not propel the county. Now we've got to be fiscally responsible to make everything work."

He said people have the misconception that when the county grows industry, it acquires significantly more income. He said that is not the case. For instance, if a company generates \$1 million in employment taxes, the county realizes approximately \$11,000. And if the factory or business was built in a Tax Increment Financing District, such as Indiana Packers, the county receives no more property tax than prior to the development. Additional tax revenue stays in the TIF district to repay loans for infrastructure and for future development.

A joint meeting with commissioners was scheduled for Feb. 21 at 6 p.m. The next council meeting will be Feb. 29 at 8:30 a.m.

Meeting with DLGF

Council members met with Dan Eggermann from the De-

partment of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to begin to develop a financial plan for the county to remain solvent in 2008.

Myers said she did not want to process property tax bills until assessed land values were more clearly defined. When asked, McLeland was unable to approximate the value of reassessed property due to flood damage. She said her office has processed approximately 214 claims, but she could not give an average value for them.

Eggermann recommended the county process the property tax bills immediately so that a budget order could be made by DLGF. He said although the flood-damaged properties could be assessed lower, the tax rate would be adjusted and the loss would be redistributed to other taxpayers. Eggermann developed a rudimentary time-line for the county to follow in order to receive the property tax settlement in May for the county to use to pay the bills.

Although the end of the year report was provided by the auditor, Slavens clarified to Eggermann that the county lost approximately \$800,000 in the general fund in 2007, which was not apparent from the report. Eggermann was to take auditor-provided information with him after Myers corrected the information to more accurately depict the true county fiscal picture. He said he would likely be able to advise council members about a plan of action by the middle of February.



Serviceman visits CES

Carroll Elementary sixth graders kept in touch with local serviceman Jason Cree while he was in Afghanistan. He replied to the students' questions, and when he returned home, he came to the school to talk to them and give a PowerPoint presentation. He is pictured holding up a pair of typical trousers worn by Afghan men. He explained that the men tie their loose fitting pants and large shirts with a type of belt. He also told the students about his missions. His longest mission was 48 days, with no shower and only a makeshift bed. The students enjoyed the video of Afghan children running after candy that the soldiers threw out to them. Cree thanked the students for their support of the troops. He is a 2005 graduate of DCHS and serves with the Army National Guard. Photo provided

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