

WAY BACK WHEN: LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY
Happenings in the Cookeville area as recorded in the pages of the
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

By Bob McMillian

1980's

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1980

(1980: no month) A Cookeville landmark was gutted by fire last night. The White Star Motor Inn, a rambling two-story wood frame structure on South Washington Avenue, just south of the Square, burned despite efforts of the city firemen to contain the blaze. For most of its 50 years, it was a hotel or motel. Until recently, the Cookeville Pacesetters were housed in it, but they recently moved to new quarters.

(January 4, 1980) The Varsity on Dixie Ave. has been turned into a twin movie theater.

(January 6, 1980) Cookeville's Doyle Allen got the Purple Heart this week - a little late. He earned it when he was hit by a piece of shrapnel in fighting on Sept. 19, 1943, in the Solomon Islands. A foul-up in paperwork prevented Allen from getting the medal. In ceremonies here this week, he said that when he wrote his mother in 1943 and told her he'd gotten a Purple Heart, his mother wrote back and asked, "Is there any cure for that?"

(January 9, 1980) The Varsity Theater is being turned into a twin theater, owner Leon DeLozier announced this week. He said he didn't want to put a wall down the middle of what was built as a single theater but was forced to by film distributors who increasingly require that major motion pictures be kept for a long run. He said he cannot afford to tie up his theater for four weeks at a time with a single movie.

*Iran says this week that it may cut off all oil sales to the US in retaliation for US sanctions against Iran. Those sanctions came after Iranian 'students' seized the US embassy in Teheran and as they continue to hold more than 50 American hostages there.

(January 12, 1980) Longtime Monterey physician Dr. Claude Adolphus Collins died this week in Standing Stone Health Care Center after a lengthy illness. He moved to Monterey in 1946 after spending several years as the town doctor in Wilder. He and his partner, Dr. T. M. Crain, built and operated a small hospital in Monterey. He retired in 1974.

(January 17, 1980) Construction has begun on a new \$1.25 million main office building for two-year-old American Bank & Trust here, officials announced today. The two-story, 11,000-square-foot structure is going up on the corner of Spring Street and South and South Willow Avenue.

*Showing this week at the Varsity Theater, "Apocalypse Now," starring Marlon Brando.

(February 13, 1980) The last remnant of the old quarterly court system was done away with today when the Putnam County Commission voted to cease its four day meetings each year. Until 1978, the county legislative body was known as the Putnam County Quarterly Court, and its members were known as Justices of the Peace, or magistrates.

But a state constitutional convention in 1978 made major changes in Tennessee's 107-year-old constitution. The county court became the county commission, and its members lost the limited judicial powers they had.

This week, the county commissioners decided it was time to do away with the four-day meetings each year, too. Before, four meetings a year – one each quarter – were all that were required under the state constitution.

(February 25, 1980) The county's fledgling solid waste program is in jeopardy now that the word has come down from Washington that the CETA program is about to be cut.

It provided funds for unemployed workers to be hired for public projects. In this case, the county is using the funds to put 16 people to work cleaning up the dozens of illegal roadside garbage dumps that are scattered about the county.

Since its creation last May, the department's workers have cleaned up 550 tons of garbage from 55 illegal dumps. If the work is to continue, county officials say they'll have to find some other labor source.

When TTU basketball player James Henry scored the first point of the game between the Golden Eagles and MTSU this week, there was a "blizzard" inside the Hooper-Eblen Center -- thousands of 'Tech Squares' tossed by wildly enthusiastic fans.

It was a record crowd for the Hooper-Eblen, 8,565 spectators packed into the 'Temple of Doom,' where Tech put MTSU away with a score of 74-70. The Eagles now lead the OVC conference.

(March 1980) A team of Public Service Commission inspectors just completed a tour of the L&N rail line from Nashville to Crossville and found 1,056 safety violations along the route. Half of those were in the section from Algood to Crossville, which L&N said last spring that it plans to abandon once it completes the complicated abandonment process and gains approval from the federal government. Opponents of the abandonment say L&N has let the line deteriorate from Algood to Crossville to further its efforts.

It is expected to argue in abandonment hearings that use of the line is low and the cost of upgrading it would therefore be too high. Critics say use is low because the railroad allowed it to fall into disrepair and because it is intentionally giving poor service there.

(April 30, 1980) There was good news this week for nature lovers and Putnam legislators who have spent the last 10 years trying to make Burgess Falls into a state park. Dedication ceremonies for the Burgess Falls Natural Area have been scheduled for two months from now.

The \$408,000 state project has made the popular recreation area into a state park with a hiking trail, fishing ramp and dock, picnic facilities and an overlook over the 110-foot scenic falls.

*Iranian militants are in the news again, this time in England, where a small group has seized the Iranian Embassy in London. They're holding hostages and say they'll start shooting soon if 'political prisoners' in Iran are not released. A unit of Britain's elite and highly-secret SAS commandos is rumored to be preparing to raid the Embassy in a rescue effort.

(November 28, 1980) On hand for the grand opening of Tennessee Tech's new School of Nursing this week were a number of local officials. In a page one photo, cutting the ribbon are Cookeville Mayor Walter Fitzpatrick Sr., Putnam County Executive John Gentry, and TTU President Arliss Roaden.

In the Middle East today, Iraq completed a 57-mile-long wall around the captured Iranian province of Khuzistan.

The wall was built to keep out Iranians, and to prevent Iran from flooding Iraqi troops there by blowing up nearby dams.

(March 6, 1980) Will there be a county fair this year? No one's saying for sure. The Putnam County Commission took control of the county fairgrounds away from the Putnam Fair Board last fall after a controversy over the Fair Association's operation of the facility. Now it's nearly spring and no plans have been made yet for the annual August fair. There haven't even been any meetings of the fair association. Some commissioners say they're now afraid that the fair association may be planning to put on a fair or an inferior fair in order to embarrass the commission. Putnam County Executive John Gentry, who also serves

as president of the fair association, announced this week that he is calling a meeting of the fair board next week to try to get the ball rolling on the fair.

*Showing at the Highland Twin this week, Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep in "Kramer vs. Kramer."

(April 7, 1980) Cookeville City Council learned this week that the Cookeville City Cemetery isn't actually owned by the city after all. The city has routinely budgeted funds for its operation for years. Now, city officials have learned that the actual owner of the cemetery, where some of the city's most prominent figures rest, is hard to determine due to a tangled trail of deeds.

Part of it was established in 1927 by a private corporation. Another was begun in the 1940s. They grew together over the years. Meanwhile, in 1964, one of the groups asked the city to take it over. Everyone forgot about the second group. Figuring out who owns what could take some time, officials say.

*Meanwhile, in Washington state, there are ominous tremors coming from beneath Mount St. Helens. Gov. Dixy Lee Ray has ordered the evacuation of everyone from the immediate vicinity of the volcano. And teams of geologists at the site say that magma is on the move under the surface. An eruption is near, they predict.

(April 9, 1980) President Jimmy Carter today cut all ties with Iran, where 50 Americans are being held by 'students' who seized the U.S. Embassy in Teheran. It's expected to have little effect on the 130 Iranians in Cookeville as students of Tennessee Tech.

But, if they leave the country, they probably won't be allowed to re-enter, officials say.

Also, they could have problems getting money from home. The diplomatic officials who have been channeling funds to the students from Iran have been ejected from the U.S. Other ways of getting money here from Iran are being sought.

(April 20, 1980) The county has decided to get directly into the ambulance service business. Counties in Tennessee took them over from funeral homes in the early 1970's under a change in the state law. Putnam County has been subsidizing private operators here since then. But last week, Putnam County Ambulance Service operator Buddy Chaffin said that costs were rising too much and too many customers of the service weren't paying their bills.

So, this week the county decided to take over the service and has begun looking for a director.

(April 23, 1980) Putnam County have discontinued ambulance service from a subsidized private operator, and officials decide instead to establish a county-owned and operated ambulance service.

(April 30, 1980) There was good news this week for nature lovers and Putnam legislators who have spent the last 10 years trying to make Burgess Falls into a state park.

Dedication ceremonies for the Burgess Falls Natural Area have been scheduled for two months from now. The \$408,000 state project has made the popular recreation area into a state park with a hiking trail, fishing ramp and dock, picnic facilities and an overlook over the 110-foot scenic falls.

(May 6, 1980) The Putnam County Humane Society is a year old now and it's in the midst of a fund drive trying to collect enough donations to build an animal shelter to serve all of Putnam County. Presently the only option for people bothered by strays is to take them to the Cookeville dog pound out on the CC Camp Road. And that only serves the city, not the rest of the county.

The Humane Society has also launched an education program that it's taking into schools here this month to tell school children about the overpopulation problem posed by too many dogs and cats.

*Meanwhile, a small sect that's broken away from the Baha'i faith, an eastern religion that's gained popularity in the West recently, has rescheduled the end of the world. It was originally predicted for 5:55 p.m. yesterday, but sect members say they miscalculated. They've gone back over their Biblical clues and have reforecast the end for tomorrow. They figure it'll be sometime around 6 p.m.

(May 13, 1980) After serving in city hall for 21 years and holding the post of Cookeville city manager since 1967, Bethel Newport said this week that he'll retire next spring to make room for younger men in city government. He plans to keep active "but it won't be in a high-pressure job like this one," he said.

(May 20, 1980) Mount St. Helens may have blown its lid in Washington state, but the impact is being seen as far away as Tennessee. An awesome cloud of gritty volcanic ash began spewing from the volcano three days ago when the top of the mountain exploded with the force of 2,500 Hiroshima bombs. Hot ash and steaming mud have killed 57 in the immediate area of the volcano. And today, the cloud reached parts of Kentucky and Tennessee, leaving a fine sand powder on cars and windows.

(June 5, 1980) WCTE will not show the controversial program "Choosing Suicide" after all. That's the word this week from station manager Richard Castle, who made the decision because he said the broadcast had received generally negative reactions from the advisory panel here that previewed it last week, and because of the negative reaction it is getting across the state and country from similar advisory groups.

Critics say the documentary gives a too glamorous view of suicide. Castle noted that most other educational stations in the state have already decided not to air the documentary.

*For the second time in a week, a computer malfunction has put the world teetering on the brink of nuclear war.

(June 13, 1980) Maryville's David Olive was elected governor of Boys State here this week. A former Maryville resident was on hand to swear him in, Gov. Lamar Alexander.

*A 26-year-old Charlotte, N.C. man passed through town this week bound for California. He was on foot. Jogging all the way. It's a 2,500-mile trip. Dan Douglass was a social worker who said he was growing stale at his job. So he took some time off and decided to see the country. Close up. He's making about 25 miles a day now.

(June 17, 1980) Dedication ceremonies were held this week for the \$408,000 Burgess Falls Natural Area.

(June 18, 1980) Fire, heat and smoke did more than \$100,000 in damage to the Cookeville Bowling Lanes on North Washington Avenue this week. The blaze began in a kitchen storage area. Members of four city fire crews were able to hold the flames to the front portion of the 20-year-old building.

*A former TTU student and husband of a Cookeville native has been named "Sailor of the Year" for the US Navy's Atlantic Fleet. Bob Luna, who is married to the former Gail Leonard of Cookeville, has been in the Navy since 1975 and has served on two missile-bearing nuclear submarines. He's now in competition for the Sailor of the Year title for the entire US Navy.

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(July 1, 1980) Putnam County Executive John Gentry said this weeks that the county Landfill Committee, after more than a year and a half of study, will soon be ready to unveil its recommendation on a countywide garbage collection system. He's asking county officials to put \$50,000 in the county budget to cover the cost of setting a system up later this year.

Meanwhile, the parents of a US Marine held with 50 other Americans in the US Embassy in Teheran say they may go there to plead with his captors following events this week.

The Iranians say they may put the Marine on trial for consorting with a young Iranian woman in the months before the takeover of the embassy. It's illegal under Islamic law to have relations with an unmarried woman.

Iranian officials say they found out about the affair when the brother of the young woman turned himself into authorities this week. The brother said he discovered that his sister was pregnant. She'd disgraced her family. He hung her.

(July 9, 1980) A team of student researchers spent the week mapping Cookeville from a different side – the underside. They're exploring the cave and underground drainage system that the city depends on in wet weather to drain off rain water in southeast Cookeville. They've got an \$18,925 National Science Foundation Grant and the city has kicked in another \$4,750 because it thinks the results will be helpful to city planners in the future.

*Cookevillians are lining up a new kind of fast food restaurant here, Taco Bell. It opened here this week on South Jefferson, one of 1,000 across the country.

(July 15, 1980) President Jimmy Carter's brother, Billy, has been declared an agent of the Libyan government. He's received almost \$250,000 in loans from Libya, and is in hot water with the IRS.

Becoming an agent of a foreign nation is a way to get out of the mess he's in. Billy says he doesn't see what all the fuss is about.

(July 28, 1980) While they were taking Sunday afternoon naps or engaged in other leisurely activities that day this week, many Cookevillians felt the earth shake. The quake was centered just east of Lexington, KY, but as far away as Coeekville furniture moved slightly, dishes rattled and pets got excited. The last tremor was felt here in 1968.

*The Shaw of Iran is dead of cancer. He died in an Egyptian hospital this week in exile, Theheran radio reported. "The bloodsucker of the century is dead." The Shah is to be buried in Egypt.

(August 10, 1980) A severe electrical fire this week at the Cookeville water treatment plant at Center Hill Lake left most of the county with only a one-day water supply.

(August 19, 1980) Preliminary figures from the most recent Census Bureau say Putnam County now has 44,172 residents, a 24.5 percent jump since 1970. And Cookeville is listed at 18,589 residents, a 29.1 percent population leap. Those are the biggest gains in recent history here. In 1940, the census put the county's population at 26,236. It was listed at 29,825 in 1950, and only at 29,236 in 1960. The county lost residents from 1950 to 1960 as many went north looking for work. That reversed by 1970, with a push in the South for increased industrialization. And now native residents are not only staying here, but new ones are streaming in too.

(September 11, 1980) We're in a recession, say officials, and Putnam's unemployment rate for July hit 11.5 percent. It could be worse. Jackson county registered a 27.9 percent jobless rate in July. Pickett County had 11.7 percent, and Fentress County had 18.6 percent.

(September 18, 1980) In about two weeks, city officials say you'll be able to drive all the way from the Square to Willow Avenue on a new L-shaped, four-lane traffic corridor here. Jackson Street has already been in place for a couple of years, but now, Lowe Avenue, the leg of the route leading south off the square, is about done. It cost \$373,000 and the city used federal and grant funds to pay for it. City officials predict it'll make getting around town easier.

*In the presidential race, President Jimmy Carter said today that Republican nominee Ronald Reagan is too old to hold the nation's highest office and predicted that, should he win, Regan will do nothing but embarrass the nation.

(September 23, 1980) The city's Pigeon Roost sewage pump station on South Maple is over-worked and over-flowing, say city officials. They plan to replace it in a \$1 million project. Meanwhile, they're asking residents who's been complaining about the smell to bear with them.

*Elsewhere, in Bagdad today, the Iraqi government claims its forces have captured an oil facility 50 miles inside of Iran after launching air strikes all along the border in the sixth day of the Persian Gulf war. Iran responded that the claim "is a great lie."

(October 3, 1980) Several Cookevillians saw the C-130 military transport plane pass low over Cookeville about 6 p.m. yesterday. It was unusual to see such a large aircraft – particularly a military plane – flying over the city. Many think it was the one that crashed just north of McMinnville a short time later. All four crewmen were killed in the crash.

The cause is uncertain. The plane, one of 16 Tennessee Air National Guard C-130s stationed in Nashville, was on a training mission at the time of the accident.

(October 6, 1980) For the first time in the 142 years since the Cherokee Indians were forced west in the "Trail of Tears" removal, the Principal Chief of the western branch of the Cherokee Nation was back in Tennessee this week. Ross O. Swimmer, a dapper businessman in a three-piece suit, led a delegation of Cherokee leaders to Monterey for that town's Standing Stone Celebration.

(October 15, 1980) Residents of Capshaw Woods in southeast Cookeville say they think the city should halt all further expansions of the sewer system until it can adequately – and safely – handle its present load. They say the city's sewage is overflowing from a pump station and has wiped out all life in Pigeon Roost Creek.

They've talked to local, state and federal health officials about the problem. Meanwhile, city officials continue to wait for federal funding to upgrade the Cookeville sewage treatment plant. The city is on a federal waiting list along with scores of other cities across the nation. It could be as long as three years before Uncle Sam gets around to footing the bill for work on the sewage plant here.

And showing at the Varsity Cinema this week, "Caddy Shack," with Chevy Chase and Bill Murray.

(October 21, 1980) The city of Cookeville is in trouble with the state health department. It's killed Pigeon Roost Creek with overflowing sewage from a faulty sewage pump station and the state has called city officials on the carpet. They've been ordered to a "show cause" hearing with state health officials in Nashville later this month. They're supposed to show why the state should not take action against the city for the sewer situation here.

In Atlanta, police are seeking the killer of ten black children. A psychic from Nutley, New Jersey, said this week on a syndicated talk show that a vision's told her identity of the killer. Atlanta police say they'll question her. But they're pursuing other investigative channels too. Just in case.

(October 29, 1980) Traffic shouldn't be quite as thick in downtown Algood this week. That's because the state has officially opened the Algood bypass, a freshly asphalted four-lane route that goes from Highway

111 to the Rickman Road (Highway 42). It was built in part to relieve traffic congestion on main street in Algood, previously the route of Highway 42.

And at TTU this week in a mock election, college students narrowly favored actor and former California governor Ronald Reagan over President Jimmy Carter. Reagan got 291 votes, Carter goes 241.

(November 1, 1980) The TTU School of Nursing has opened.

(November 5, 1980) Ronald Reagan beat President Jimmy Carter by a landslide across the United States this week, but Putnam County bucked the tide. Local voters went to the polls and cast 8,078 votes for Carter and 6,232 votes for Regan.

(November 25, 1980) n hand for the grand opening of Tennessee Tech's new School of Nursing this week were a number of local officials. In a page one photo cutting the ribbon are Cookeville Mayor Walter Fitzpatrick, Sr., Putnam County Executive John Gentry, and TTU President Arliss Roaden.

*In the Middle East today, Iraq completed a 57-mile-long wall around the captured Iranian province of Khuzistan. The wall was built to keep out Iranians, and to prevent Iran from flooding Iraqi troops there by blowing up nearby dams.

(December 2, 1980) Is there a mountain lion still running loose in the Upper Cumberland? That's what hunter Gaylon Presley says he saw early one morning this week near Cummings Falls. It was 4 ½ feet long and had a tawny coat. It froze when it saw him, and then took off with a pack of hounds on its tail, he told the newspapers.

He talked to people living in the area after that and they told him of hearing odd "screams" the night before he made his sighting.

(December 10, 1980) Contractors estimate that construction of the Jackson Ave. /Lowe Ave. traffic corridor will be complete by June 1981.

(December 11, 1980) The 52-year-old boys dormitory at DeBerry Academy in Baxter burned to the ground today. Authorities say 15 of the 65 boys living there were still in the building when the blaze started in an upper-floor room, but they all got out safely.

The dorm was built on the south-west corner of the campus in 1928 to replace another boys dorm that burned the year before.

Officials are investigating the cause of the fire today.

(December 18, 1980) Putnam County was the state's 13th fastest-growing county between 1970 and 1980. that's the word this week from the US Census Bureau.

The official population here in 1970 was 35,487. In 1980, it's 46,834, a 37 percent jump.

*There's more good news. The \$1.3 million Jackson-Lowe traffic corridor is expected to be fully operational by next June.

Jackson Avenue was completed and opened to traffic early this fall. And contractors for the city have already laid the roadbed for the new Lowe Avenue corridor that runs south off the Square and hooks west to connect to Jackson at Jefferson Avenue. Asphalt is to go down on Lowe next springs. It should be open by June.

1981

(January 3, 1981) There was an historic get-together here this week. Six men who've held the office of Putnam County sheriff gathered for a luncheon and swapped stories of bad men and public drunks and other characters they knew in their day.

The six were: Col. Hubert Crawford, who served from 1930 to 1931 (and was later a police chief in Cookeville); Narshaw Matheny, who was in office from 1950 to 1954; Ernest Webster, who served from 1954 to 1956; Bill Bilyeu, who served from 1960 to 1964 and from 1966 to 1958 (and who was police chief here for several years); Billy G. Smith, who served from 1968 to 1974 and Jerry Abston, who has served as sheriff here since 1974.

(January 6, 1981) Until last night, people were just speculating what the effects would be when the county commission last week cut \$454,000 from the proposed school budget. Last night, the school board was forced to make some decisions.

The board, in order to make ends meet this coming school year, decided to cancel raises for the system's 700 teachers and workers. It also cut out 25 jobs.

The system has also been placed on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools because of reduced school funding.

*The summer's most popular movie is showing this week at the Highland Twin, "The Empire Strikes Back." The second installment in the Star Wars trilogy stars Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher.

(January 7, 1981) A year ago, President Jimmy Carter, reacting to the seizure of the US embassy in Teheran by militant Iranian 'student,' ordered the expulsion of all Iranians staying in the US illegally. The widely-publicized move had little effect, officials conceded today.

At Tennessee Tech, students from Iran reported to screening sessions set up in Nashville by the US Immigration Service. In those sessions, a handful of Iranians could not produce valid visas and were ordered to 'show-cause' hearings in Memphis and New Orleans.

This week, the US Immigration Service reported that 7,000 former Iranian students are believed to be hiding in the US without visas. Five of those were TTU students.

Meanwhile, 50 Americans are still being held in Teheran this week, hostages of followers of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who is demanding that the US return \$24 billion dollars that he says the late Shah of Iran took from that country when he fled last year.

(January 14, 1981) The top prospect for the job of Cookeville city manager appears to be the man now holding that job in Crossville: Ed Kimsey.

Kimsey, city manager in Crossville for the past five years, is apparently the leading candidate, the newspaper reports after polling the council. Mayor Walter Fitzpatrick Sr. and councilmen Lowell Smith, Bob Poteet, Raymond Brown and Kenneth Dyer all say Kimsey impressed them.

The White County native was a state fire marshall for several years prior to taking the Crossville post.

The council is looking for a new city manager after present City Manager Bethel Newport announced recently that he is retiring this March after several years in city government.

(January 16, 1981) Former short-order cook Joe Buck has been sentenced to death by a Smith County jury for the February 1979 kidnapping, rape and murder of Cookeville service station clerk and young mother Tina Rose Craighead.

The FBI arrested Buck in Portland, Oregon, where he confessed to robbing the service station where Mrs. Craighead worked. Buck confessed to kidnapping, raping and killing her and leaving her body on the side of a rural road in Smith County

During his trial this week, he said the confession was coerced. The trial took two weeks to unfold. The jury took 29 minutes to convict Buck

(January 21, 1981) They held candles and stood in the rain here last night at TTU. And in churches here and across the United States they held prayer services thanking God for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for 444 days by Iran.

The Americans had been captured by 'students' faithful to the Ayatollah and only now have they been released. Their plane landed today in West Germany where the ex-captives were met by medical teams and US government officials.

They were freed on the eve of the presidential inauguration of Ronald Reagan, apparently a slap in the face of Jimmy Carter, under whose administration the captives had been taken and held.

In Cookeville, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Matlock took down the somewhat frayed American flag that they'd run up the pole 444 days ago and kept flying for the duration of the crisis.

Throughout the city today residents were expressing quiet joy and relief.

(January 27, 1981) Former Cookeville General Hospital pathologist Dr. David Beavers was found shot to death in his home in Nashville today. He worked at CGH from 1970-76 before going to the Nashville area. Police are investigating the shooting.

(February 5, 1981) A 13-year chapter in Cookeville city government ended here last night when Bethel Newport attended his last Cookeville City Council meeting as city manager. He's retiring next month from the post he's held longer than any other city manager here.

Meanwhile, it was Ed Kimsey's first public meeting with the council. He was hired by the council following a series of recent interviews and he's wrapping up his duties now in Crossville. He's presently city manager there.

*And at the Highland Twin this week, Robin Williams and Shelley Duvall star in "Popeye."

(February 10, 1981) Putnam County had a week of nasty weather this week. It started with a temperature drop preceded by a night of violent winds. East Side Café's plate glass window was blown out and the steeple on Washington Avenue Baptist Church came off.

Then came the cold. A wave of Arctic air swept across the county and mercury in thermometers fell out of sight. Cookeville registered minus-one degree here during the worst of it and Monterey shivered in minus-five degree weather. Old Man Winter's not through yet, it appears.

(February 18, 1981) After more than a year of study by a committee of county officials, after a series of compromises to make it more appealing to more county commissioners, a plan to create a countywide garbage collection system failed before the Putnam County Commission this week by a vote of 12-11.

The \$33,570 plan didn't get the one additional vote it needed to pass after the argument was raised by some commissioners that a county-wide garbage system would be a case of "double taxation" for city residents.

The argument was that they would be taxed twice for garbage services, once when they pay their city property taxes and again when they pay their county property taxes. But there would be none of the county's collection centers in cities.

Other commissioners said the double taxation question had already been dealt with in legal tests in other counties under similar circumstances as here. It was a non-issue, they said.

Nevertheless, county residents today have few good choices in disposing of household garbage. They can burn it or bury it on their land. They can throw it down hillsides as many do. They can subscribe to a private hauler service or they can take it to the landfill south of Baxter themselves.

(March 4, 1981) A Cookeville native now teaching school in Memphis is the author of a "My Turn" essay in this week's Newsweek Magazine.

Suzanne Lowe Wilke, the wife of a Vietnam veteran, says it is time for America to pay the respect it should have a decade ago to the nation's Vietnam war veterans. It is time for America's "forgotten men" to receive respect and gratitude, she writes.

(March 12, 1981) A new mayor and board of aldermen were sworn into office in Baxter this week. They were Joe Medley, mayor; aldermen Greg R. Phillips, John Montgomery, Van Medlock, and K. D. Crawford; Ruth Keisler, city recorder; and Lawrence Maxwell, town marshal. They were sworn in by county commissioner Pennock Maxwell of Baxter.

(March 17, 1981) Officials here have seen it coming for sometime. Now it's apparently about to roll into the station – L&N says it's moving to abandon its tracks from Algood to Crossville.

Local officials are alarmed. They say the 33-mile section of track is needed to attract new industry and to serve industry already along the line.

They also charge that L&N has in the past years adopted the policy of "starving" the line, giving rail customers along the route poor service and failing to maintain that section of track in preparation for making a case before federal railroad officials.

Officials here say they're going to do all they can to stop L&N's plans.

(March 26, 1981) A TTU history graduate is back this week from four months in London, England, where he served as an aide to a member of the British Parliament under the Educational Programs Abroad project.

Greg Gonzales said it was a three-piece-suit job that kept him running the entire time he was there.

During his stay, he took part in an IRA bomb scare when his boss "had a bad feeling" about a suspicious package that arrived. That one was not a bomb. A package that was received by another member of Parliament that same day was, however.

Gonzales' position also gave him a front row seat to state ceremonies involving Prince Charles and other members of the Royal Family.

He says he now plans to rest a little, take a few more courses at TTU this summer and then go to law school in the fall.

(March 31, 1981) Members of the Putnam County Library board have been hailed this week as defenders of the U. S. Constitution. They rejected an effort to ban a book here.

Earlier this month, an East Tennessee minister sought to ban Sidney Sheldon's novel "Bloodline," from his home library. He said the book is obscene.

This week, the Rev. A. J. Looper went before the Putnam Library board and said he, too, believed the book is offensive and should be taken off the library shelves here or at least restricted so that young people won't read it.

The board, after some deliberation, disagreed and said it would not ban the book.

*In Washington this week, President Ronald Reagan is in good spirits and is recovering after being shot by a drifter under psychiatric care.

The president's press secretary, James Brady, is in grave condition today. He, too, was gunned down by John Hinckley in the assassination attempt.

(April 9, 1981) John L. Maxwell, whose beautifully-crafted mountain dulcimers were once put on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, died this week at the age of 58 of an apparent heart attack.

Since 1966, Maxwell had made some 3,000 dulcimers in his craft shop on East 20th Street and they had become known across the country for their craftsmanship and sound.

The Overton County native's work was put on display at the Smithsonian in the late 1960s as an example of Appalachian crafts.

(April 16, 1981) Baxter Board of Aldermen and Mayor Joe Medley have voted to annex a 25-foot wide, one-mile long strip of Highway 70 eastward to the Homestead Tavern, taking in the drinking establishment, some pavement and nothing more.

*The American Legion here and across the US is calling for a national Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day later this month.

The idea came up after Iran released 52 Americans it had held in captivity for 444 days. The former hostages were greeted with parades and honors.

Then, it was noted that American soldiers who had fought in Vietnam had never had parades or similar salutes when they returned from the war. So, veterans groups across the country began pushing for a day to honor America's soldiers who fought in an unpopular war.

The American Legion and the VFW here are still planning local observances for the special day.

(April 22, 1981) There's a big stir this year over the \$1 admission fee that's going to be charged to get into the county fair. The Putnam Fair Board talked about it earlier this spring, and the Putnam County Commission debated on the fee this week. They approved it on a vote of 18-5.

Fair officials said the fee was necessary to raise funds to make a variety of sorely-needed repairs and renovations at the fairgrounds. They said the choice was between a fee or a request for county tax money from the commission.

County commissioner Bill Rodgers said during the commission's debate on the question, "You pay one way or the other."

*Baxter also was looking for more revenue this week to help run the town. Mayor Joe Medley and the Board of Aldermen hit upon what observers say is a strange but innovative fundraiser. It's probably legal too.

The board voted to annex a 25-foot-wide, one-mile-long strip of Highway 70 reaching from Baxter's present town limits east to the Homestead Tavern. The annexation will take in the tavern, some pavement, and nothing more.

Medley told the board this week that the town should see an extra \$20,000 to \$26,000 in beer tax revenue annually because of the unusual move.

(May 5, 1981) Fire destroyed the Bonanza Family Restaurant on South Jefferson Avenue here this week.

City firemen had put out a grease fire there and were cleaning up when they made a alarming discovery – flames had earlier eaten their way into the building's attic undetected. Suddenly they flared up, burned a hole in the roof, and the building was lost quickly after that.

*In Belfast, North Ireland, today, Catholic housewives banged on garbage cans and pots, people grieved and riots broke out when they heard the news that Bobby Sands had died in the hospital wing of Maze Prison.

The 27-year-old Irish Republic Army guerrilla was an obscure figure 66 days ago when he began a hunger strike seeking to restore prisoner-of-war status for IRA prisoners. The British revoked that status in 1976.

He died today with the world watching, clutching a crucifix given to him a few days age by Pope John Paul II.

(May 12, 1981) The new Putnam Family YMCA is nearing the 250-family membership goal it recently said it had to hit before launching a major fund drive here.

The local Y plans to build a \$750,000 center on a 12-acre site in North Cookeville.

Pope John Paul II is in serious condition in a Rome hospital today after a gunman shot him twice in the side as he drove across the plaza in front of St. Peter's Cathedral today in an open car greeting a massive crowd gathered there for Mass.

(May 21, 1981) TVA began a study here this week to find out whether it would be feasible for Putnam county to burn its garbage in an incinerator and produce energy for local customers.

Putnam county Executive John Gentry said that leaps in technology have eliminated many of the problems that have given incinerator plants a bad name and made it feasible for smaller operations to be undertaken as well.

(May 25, 1981) After WCTE-TV was dropped from state operation, members of the station's advisory board have suggested that Upper Cumberland residents would like to have a self-sustaining television station that would create programs about the region for broadcast here.

(May 28, 1981) A move was made here this week to create the Upper Cumberland's first locally-controlled televisions station.

The state is abandoning plans to form a network of public television stations across Tennessee because it would cost too much to complete. So, the state is disposing of the station it has.

State officials in Nashville have left Cookeville's fledging public television station with two options; it can become part of Nashville's public station WDCN, or it can attempt to become self-supporting.

If WDCN gets it, WCTE will become merely a repeater station, picking up and passing on Nashville programming to the region.

But members of the state advisory board serving WCTE decided this week that residents of the Upper Cumberland want more. They decided to begin a drive to establish a self-sustaining station here that will continue to create local programs about the region for broadcast here.

(June 4, 1981) Baxter need more revenue and Baxter Mayor Joe Medley has been rumored for days now to be planning to propose a liquor referendum to the board of aldermen in its meeting this week.

But when the mayor and the board met this week, a crowd of more than 300 angry residents met with them. They said they didn't want the question of legalized liquor to go on the ballot in Baxter.

Speaking for the group was Arnold Brown, principal of Baxter's Upperman High School and a former mayor of the town himself. Brown said he sympathized with Medley for seeking more revenue. But he said that legalizing liquor was the wrong route to pursue.

After hearing from the crowd, Medley said he'd decided to not bring up the liquor matter.

(June 20, 1981) There's trouble brewing between the Putnam County Commission and the Putnam School Board.

School Supt. Walter Warren Shanks this week brought the board's proposed school budget before the commission's budget committee.

The board asked for an \$855,000 funding increase. The commissioners balked. One even pounded on a tabletop. They said the budget proposal was "obviously unacceptable" and sent the package back to the board for "drastic" trimming.

*At the Highland Cinema this week: "Raiders of the Lost Ark," with Harrison Ford.

(June 24, 1981) They were pouring the concrete sidewalks and putting the other finishing touches this week on Tennessee Tech's 44.1 million Bryan Fine Arts Center on North Dixie Avenue.

The facility is due to open later this summer.

(June 28, 1981) Two merchants filed suit here this week challenging the city's beer codes. The Kwik N Easy on West Broad and the 7-11 Quick Shop on South Jefferson say in legal papers that they should be able to sell cold beer. Grocery stores here that hold city beer permits cannot presently sell chilled beer, even though package stores can.

The lawsuits got results. Two days after they were filed in the courthouse, Cookeville City Council met hurriedly and passed an ordinance on first reading. It allows cold beer to be sold by all businesses that have city beer permits.

* It's going to be Elvis, Elvis and Elvis again at the Cookeville Community Center this week -- a 3-hour show featuring three Elvis impersonators. Each portrays Elvis in a different era, thus covering the King's entire career. There'll be more than 50 Elvis hits sung. And tickets are only \$5.

(July 1, 1981) A lot of bitterness has cropped up this year in budget talks between the Putnam County Commission and the Putnam School Board. The school board asked for \$855,000 in local funds more than it sought last year, and the commission has tossed the request out, telling the board to cut out at least \$250,000 in proposed spending.

Putnam County Executive John Gentry tried to act as peacemaker this week. He wrote a letter to all commissioners and board members asking them to "lay aside all hard or ill feelings" towards each other and get on with the business of producing a budget to run the county's schools.

(July 8, 1981) Students over at the Putnam County Senior High School want to change the school's name to something less windy and more to the point. That's what student leader Tommy Jones of Cookeville, who recently became governor of Boys State at TTU, told the Putnam County Board this week.

The board's discussion of possible substitute names include "Eastwood Senior High" (the school is near Eastwood Subdivision), and "Algood-Cookeville High" (a name jokingly suggested by board member Eulen Locke of Algood).

The board said it definitely did not want to use the name "Central High." It's been down before here and, besides, every town in the country seems to have a "Central High."

Board member Jim Brown thought it might be a good idea to call the school "Cookeville Cavalier High." Then he had second thoughts. That would make the school's football team the Cookeville Cavalier Cavaliers.

(July 14, 1981) Jake Libbey has resigned from the Putnam School Board to take a coaching position at Cookeville High School. The county commission is to appoint his successor.

Two have expressed interest in being considered for the post, Joe Dyer and Don Palk.

(July 21, 1981) It stormed outside and inside the Putnam Courthouse last night when County Commissioners got together to pass a new school budget. Watching was a wall-to-wall crowd of more than 100 parents and teachers.

The Putnam School Board had proposed to spend \$743,000 more than last year. After a lengthy and sometimes bitter debate marked by lightning strikes that knocked out power in much of town, the commissioners approved a \$10.3 million school budget with \$439,000 in new spending.

Commissioners said they didn't think the cuts would hurt schools too severely. Putnam School Supt. Walter Warren Shanks said he sees no way to avoid teachers' layoffs and a loss of hard-won accreditation at some schools here.

Also last night, the commission appointed H. L. "Hackie" Newman to replace Jake Libbey on the Putnam School Board. Libbey resigned recently to take a coaching position at Cookeville High.

(July 28, 1981) The Putnam School Board this week grappled with the question of where to make cuts in the budget it presented to the Putnam County Commission earlier this summer. The commission refused to fund \$454,000 of the board's spending request.

Board members said this week that items likely to go are pay hikes for teachers and school workers, school trips and four to six teaching positions.

*Bells rang all over the island this week when Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer said their vows before the Archbishop of Canterbury in an internationally televised wedding. Viewers here began watching the broadcast about dawn.

(August 7, 1981) Until last night, people were just speculating what the effects would be when the county commission last week cut \$454,000 from the proposed school budget. Last night, the school board was forced to make some decisions.

The board, in order to make ends meet this coming school year, decided to cancel raises for the system's 700 teachers and workers. It also cut out 25 jobs.

The system has also been placed on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools because of reduced school funding.

The summer's most popular movie is showing this week at the Highland Twin, "The Empire Strikes Back." The second installment in the Star Wars trilogy stars Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher.

(August 11, 1981) Cookeville City Council broke ground today on a new 2.3 million expansion of the city water treatment plant on Center Hill Lake.

Pictured with shovels in hand were councilmen Bob Poteet, Kenneth Dyer, Lowell Smith, Mayor Walter Fitzpatrick, Sr., City Manager Ed Kimsey, City Water Supt. Luther Gore, Jr.

(August 12, 1981) Putnam County is being asked to pay \$188,500 to help TTU resurface its football field with artificial turf.

The county agreed to do so under the terms of a 1970 contract with TTU.

Three Putnam school ball teams play on the TTU field. Now, some here are calling for Putnam County to build its own ball field rather than continue in its arrangements with TTU. That would be considerably more expensive, others respond. The county commission is to vote next week on the TTU turf request.

(August 18, 1981) The name is now officially "Cookeville High School." The school board made the changes this week on a motion by board member Hackie Newman.

A group of students from the school approached the board recently asking them to find a name other than Putnam County Senior High School.

A number of new names were considered, including "Hunter High." The county's first school superintendent was Braxton Hunter.

Finally, the board decided to keep things simple. Cookeville High it is.

(August 25, 1981) The school board has changed the name of Putnam County Senior High School to Cookeville High School.

(September 3, 1981) Willie Lee Billingsley of Baxter was going out to cut his 2 ½ acre tobacco crop on a day last week when he suffered a heart attack. The 36-year-old man was recovering in the hospital, but feared he'd lose the crop while he was bed-ridden.

That's when his friends and fellow workers at the McCord plant here stepped in and cut and staked his tobacco for Billingsley. It's curing in his barn today.

The crew that pitched in and helped their friend included Glen Moody, Doyle Key, Roland Whittaker, James Speares, Thurman Hays, Junior Phy, Don Smith, Tater Carmack, Chip Herring, Thomas Young, Harold Phy, Leroy Miller, Ray Billingsley, Alton Billingsley, Lee Billingsley, Austin Fields, Ralph Lafever, Raymond Anderson, Earl Randolph, Hubert Morris, Jerry Randolph, Bob Mitchell & Daniel Pippin.

(September 8, 1981) Retired Monterey banker William (Bill) Turner Ray Sr. died of an apparent heart attack this week at the age of 78.

Ray was a member of a family that pioneered Putnam County. In 1924 he went to work as assistant cashier in the bank that his grandfather, J. H. Ray, founded at the turn of the century. He called in the Bank of Monterey. It later became the Bank of Putnam County.

Ray became president of the bank in 1937 and served in that role until 1947. He was later named chairman of the board, a position in which he served for several years.

(September 18, 1981) Some of the nation's top motorcycle stunt riders are performing at the Putnam County Fairgrounds here this week, and 14-year-old Mike West of Cookeville will be among them.

Mike is seen in a page-one photo this week jumping the cycle over the prone figures of Cookeville Mayor Walter Fitzpatrick Sr., Putnam County Executive John Gentry, Cookeville Police Chief Paul Jackson and Chuck West, the boy's father.

The Jaycees-sponsored event is bringing stunt cyclists to Cookeville from New Hampshire, Alabama, North Carolina, California, Florida, Colorado and a number of other states.

(September 29, 1981) The president of a year-old Kentucky corporation told an audience in city hall this week that the firm plans to build a \$25 million mall across Neal Street from the Cookeville Mall.

Todd Hollenback, III, a former lieutenant governor of Kentucky, assured city officials that the company has not abandoned the idea of the five-story office complex it said would build here a year ago. The 72,000 square feet of office space will be incorporated into the new mall, he said.

In all, the new mall will have 80 stores and will mean a lot of traffic, and the city will probably want to build a better road to serve it. Maybe the city would help extend Neal Street to the east? The company said it would get back to the city later on that idea.

(October 10, 1981) "Sesame Street" is coming to Tennessee Tech. Or at least part of it. The show's Bob McGrath will sing this weekend with the Tennessee Tech Community Symphony Orchestra.

The performance kicks off the symphony orchestra's five-concert season for the year.

*Anwar Sadat, the Egyptian leader who made peace with Israel, was gunned down today by assassins.

Sadat was killed on the reviewing stand during a military parade when men wearing soldier's uniforms rushed out of the formation as a flight of jets roared low over the crowd, causing everyone to turn their attention skywards. The armed men killed the Egyptian president.

Muslim extremists are being blamed.

(October 12, 1981) Members of the western branch of the Cherokee nation, which was forcibly removed from Tennessee in 1839, and the eastern branch, descendants of Cherokees who escaped the removal by hiding in the Smoky Mountains, officially met again this week at Standing Stone Day in Monterey.

(October 18, 1981) Orders are coming in from all over the country for tickets to an unusual raffle here. The Monterey senior class is raising funds for its class next spring. The class is raffling off a house.

The \$65,000 house in Monterey belongs to class sponsor Charles Looper. He's giving it to the class. They've printed 2,000 \$35 tickets in the raffle, enough to repay Looper for the house and make \$23,000 extra for the class trip.

The raffle has been advertised in major newspapers across the country, and 1,000 tickets have already been sold to players as far away as California. The class is still trying to decide where to go on the trip.

(October 20, 1981) Cookeville City Council decided this week that it was tired of waiting on the federal government to fix the city's overloaded and outdated sewer system.

The council agreed this week with recently-appointed City Manager Ed Kimsey that the city should proceed with renovations to its sewage treatment plant with local dollars.

(October 28, 1981) The Wartburg Witch is on the prowl, scouring the area in search of just the right 11-year-old to sacrifice on Halloween night. Or at least, that's the rumor.

And it's a rumor that's got a lot of people talking, especially school children. The rumor reached the Monterey area this week. People are alarmed.

But the newspaper reports that the source of the rumor is a young woman from the small Morgan County town of Wartburg who is a member of a North Carolina "church," the School of Wicca.

She says it's an ancient pagan religion and promises she has no plans to sacrifice an 11-year-old or anyone else on Halloween – or any other night of the year.

Yet, the rumor continued to spread this week as Halloween approaches. It's taken on a life of its own.

(November 3, 1981) The Rubik Cube is driving most people crazy these days. Everyone seems to be clicking the brightly-colored cube puzzle trying to find just the right sequence of twists and turns to line up the colors correctly.

David Bingham can solve the puzzle in 2 ½ minutes flat. David is in the fifth grade. Many of his teachers can't work the puzzle in any amount of time. He says it's a snap. He got a Rubik Cube in May on his birthday. Two weeks later he had his time down to under three minutes.

It's not the first time that the fifth grader has demonstrated mental prowess. His parents say he's already worn out two sets of encyclopedias and he's been drawing his own imaginative comic strips.

(November 10, 1981) TTU is having two concerts this week. The audience is likely to be a little different for each.

In the Hooper Eblen Center, Grace Slick and Jefferson Starship will perform. Tickets for the rock concert are \$7.

And a free concert, the Mastersingers and TTU's Kantorei and Women's Choir have the honor of being the first groups to perform in TTU's new \$4.1 million Bryan Fine Arts Center, which is holding its grand opening this weekend.

(November 17, 1981) Plans for a 1,460-acre development in Putnam and Cumberland County near the Calfkiller Valley got "concept approval" last night from the Putnam County Planning commission.

Representatives of the General Development Corp. of Florida say they'll begin improving and expanding the Dripping Springs Golf Course on Highway 70 right away. Work will begin shortly on some 40 miles of roads planned to serve the development.

The company, which has built retirement and resort communities in Florida, has owned the massive tract of land since 1973. For some time it said it planned to build a "wilderness city" there with its own water and sewage treatment plants.

Plans have been scaled down now. The company is selling large lots of four and five acres each. They'll be served by wells and septic tanks under the present plans.

(November 24, 1981) The Putnam County Square Dancers went to Maggie Valley, NC last weekend to compete in a world-level dance competition at Fontana Village. They came back the world champions in their age group.

Members of the Putnam County Square Dancers are Angie Adams, Randy King, Carol Bellar, Make Judd, Kim Thompson, Bruce Bumbalough, Angie Reed and Ronnie King.

(December 24, 1981) Mary Jo Gregson, a teller at the Bank of Putnam County, says she thought it was a prank call when they told her she'd won a house in Monterey in a raffle.

Nope. That \$35 raffle ticket she bought this fall was pulled out of the barrel by six-year-old Amy Beth Bowling this week in a drawing in the Cookeville Mall. She says she and her husband already have a house, so they're not exactly sure yet what they'll do with another house in Monterey.

But the senior class at Monterey High already knows what it wants to do with the \$17,894 it made off the raffle. The seniors want to go to Hawaii for their class trip.

A teacher allowed the class to put his house up for sale. The class sold raffle tickets in 29 states and made \$62,230, enough to pay the teacher for the house and make a \$17,000 profit.

(December 29, 1981) Congressman Albert Gore Jr. told Cookevillians this week in a visit here that “Reaganomics” and the “trickle-down” theory of economics being promoted by the Reagan White House is doomed to fail.

It’s an “historic mistake” that helps the rich but does little for anyone else. If Reagan’s policies are not changed, the government will soon find itself having to borrow tremendous amounts of money beyond the staggering level it is already borrowing and Americans in years ahead will be stuck with the bill, predicted Gore.

(December 29, 1981) There was an historic get-together here this week. Six men who’ve held the office of Putnam County sheriff gathered for a luncheon and swapped stories of bad men and public drunks and other characters they knew in their day.

The six were: Col. Hubert Crawford, who served from 1930 to 1931 (and was later a police chief in Cookeville); Narshaw Matheney, who was in office from 1950 to 1954; Ernest Webster, who served from 1954 to 1956; Bill Bilyeu, who served from 1960 to 1964 and from 1966 to 1968 (and who was police chief here for several years); Billy G. Smith, who served from 1968 to 1974 and Jerry Abston, who has served as sheriff here since 1974.

1982

(January 7, 1982) A blast of arctic air walloped Putnam County this week, plunging the thermometer down to minus 10 in Monterey and minus 4 in Cookeville.

That was still well short of the 1977 record for cold here, the year the mercury hit minus 17 in Cookeville.

That lucky break probably wasn’t fully appreciated by city and county firemen who battled 13 house fires this weekend in the bitter cold. Exhausted and covered in frothy white frozen spray from their fire hoses, the firemen saved ten of the homes.

Meanwhile, the bitter cold gave Monterey school kids another vacation when boiler pipes burst at Uffelman Elementary and Monterey High.

(January 12, 1982) First the good news. The bitter cold snap that pushed temperatures in Putnam County well below zero over the weekend has lifted.

The bad news: the ground thawed, ice turned to water again and it spewed from broken pipes all across the county. Homes, schools, businesses and even the city’s police department had sudden water woes.

Then the snow came. A lot of it real fast. It hit right before schools were supposed to get out. By the time buses rolled, there was already more than an inch on the roads and the salt trucks hadn’t made it far yet.

At least one bus slid into a ditch and parents – those who managed to avoid similar slides in the snow – had to ferry the kids home. Sheriff’s deputy Bobby Lane was kept busy in the department’s four-wheel drive vehicle carrying folks home too. Tow trucks were everywhere.

(January 20, 1982) The last surviving son of Putnam pioneer merchant Jere Whitson, H. Thurman Whitson, died this week at the age of 94.

He built the H.T. Whitson Lumber Company in 19008 and ran it up until just five years ago. He was also well known for achievements in civic and political affairs here.

Born in 1887 in the Jeremiah community near Algood where his father owned a store. H.T. Whitson moved to Cookeville and attended the Yeargan School as a youngster.

An industrious youth, he opened and operated Cookeville's first soda fountain in the Whitson Brothers dry good store on the Square in 1899. He also delivered the Nashville Banner here for a while.

In his later years he was a staunch supporter of Tennessee Tech and told of planting corn crops on what is now the university's main quadrangle. His father gave the land to build the school that eventually became the college.

Whitson was chairman of the Democratic party here during the FDR years and he was later active in industrial recruitment for Cookeville.

He was on the team of officials who went to the Midwest to persuade officials of the Delman Corporation to open a plant here in the late 1950s.

(January 23, 1982) The Cookeville Planning Commission this week began putting together a 20-year 'master road plan,' a blueprint to allow the city to anticipate growth and find ways to remedy traffic problems before they develop.

The planners said that South Willow Avenue is already at capacity during peak times of the day and South Jefferson is almost there.

And more traffic is in the forecast, they said. By the year 1991, the city is expected to have a population of 35,000 according to the study planners were using.

(January 29, 1982) State Rep. Jerry Jared said this week that things look good for the approval of his photo license bill. Tennessee lawmakers passed it a year ago but Gov. Lamar Alexander vetoed it.

Alexander said he didn't think Tennessee's two million drivers needed to stand in line to have photos made for their drivers licenses. He said he believed there were adequate forms of identification already available.

Lawmakers then and now cited the use of photo licenses in most other states, saying it cuts down on underage drinking, makes check cashing easier and carries other benefits that outweigh the inconvenience of standing in line for photos.

* In Italy this week, police commandos stormed the hideout where Red Brigade terrorists were holding US Gen. James Dozier and safely freed the NATO adviser. He'd been held hostage for 42 days.

(February 5, 1982) The county now has six garbage collection sites in operation in its new countrywide canister system. It's looking for another seven sites.

Canisters are now clustered at Brotherton, Bangham, Silver Point, Dry Valley, Bloomington Springs and near Monterey.

(February 12, 1982) Work is expected to begin again in the long-stalled north-south Highway 111 next fall, state officials said this week.

They're about ready to issue contracts on unfinished link of the highway between Cookeville and Sparta and Celina and the state line.

Completion of those sections will mean the long-awaited highway will be virtually done between the Kentucky state line and Dunlap. Planning began in the 1960s.

(February 16, 1982) Putnam County banks have limited the number of pennies issued to local businesses and restaurants because of a national penny shortage.

(February 27, 1982) Everyone's waiting to see what happens here on March 10, the newspaper reported this week. March 10 is the day the Jupiter Effect is supposed to wreak havoc around the globe.

Or at least that's the theory pushed in a 1974 bestselling book that argues that a lot of bad things will happen on March 10, 1982 because that is the day that all nine planets in the solar system line up on one side of the sun.

The book says that the resulting gravitational strain will cause global volcanic eruptions, a shattering earthquake along the San Andreas fault, tidal waves and immense, worldwide storms.

Asked about the Jupiter Effect, Tennessee Tech geology and astronomy instructor M.O. Smith said, "as near as we can tell it's all arm waving."

The planets line up on one side of the sun every 139 years, and there have been no worldwide catastrophes in past alignments, said Smith.

But he added, "we'll know on March the tenth, won't we."

(February 23, 1982) The nation is in the grips of a penny shortage.

Although the US Mint churns out 10 billion copper pennies annually 75 percent of all coins turned out by the mint there still aren't enough to go around, officials say.

It's gotten so bad that in recent weeks Federal Reserve Banks are limiting the amount of pennies given to local banks. In Cookeville last week, local banks started limiting the amount of pennies they issue to local businesses and restaurants.

In turn, local restaurants are offering incentives such as special coupons to customers who rob their penny banks and bring the coins in so the stores can make change.

The US Mint is now planning to begin making pennies from a mixture of copper and zinc in the hope of churning out even more pennies faster.

(March 1, 1982) State Senator Tommy Burks of Monterey has been working for the last four years to close 'head shops,' those small stores that sell bright T-shirts, odd jewelry and pipes and rolling papers, which law enforcement agencies say promote drug use.

Now Burks says he's near a breakthrough. The Supreme Court this week upheld an Illinois law similar to one he's been trying to pass in Tennessee.

Burks says it's now just a matter of time for Tennessee's head shops.

(March 12, 1982) The marketing director for Alcoa Aluminum's Richmond, Indiana plant was in Cookeville this week and said that while he was glad to be here, he wished it were under different circumstances. He came to issue a formal public apology.

His plant was the one that made the bottle caps sent here in Coca Cola's "Home Run" contest. Contestants were to look on the inside of caps to 2-liter Coke bottles and attempt to spell out the words 'Home Run' with letters found there.

The hardest letter to get was supposed to be the letter 'R.' The odds were supposed to be a million to one that a person in the Cookeville area would find an 'R.'

But when 50 Cookevillians quickly showed up at the Coca Cola distributor's office here with 'Home Runs' to claim their \$2,000 prizes, officials caught on that something had gone awry. That's when they learned that the Richmond plant had printed and sent a few too many R's to Cookeville. About 18,000, to be exact.

The word got out and there was a run on 2-liter Cokes at area stores. Potentially, the Coca Cola company could have been out \$36 million in the contest. But they announced that due to the mistake, the contest is over.

(March 19, 1982) The Stones River battleground near Nashville has its bronze eagle back and Tennessee Tech officials are a little rankled that battleground officials implied that TTU students may have had something to do with stealing it.

The weighty metal bird that originally sat atop a Civil War monument went missing in 1967 on the eve of an MTSU-TTU sporting event.

Battleground officials say they got word that the bird might be "roosting" somewhere in the Cookeville area, a tip they believed carried weight because TTU students have a history of taking eagle monuments.

Tennessee Tech officials were displeased when Stones River officials put up posters on campus seeking the bird. TTU officials said there was no evidence that TTU students had anything to do with this theft.

But then a caller told battleground officials that he would return the bird to them for the reward if no questions were asked. A man in his 30s who refused to identify himself met the bird's owners in the parking lot of Hickory Hollow Mall in Nashville, turned the bird over and got his \$500 reward in cash.

He said he'd seen the reward poster at TTU.

(March 29, 1982) Matt Bulow, an 8th grader here, became the county's champion speller this week in competition here. He's now preparing for state-level competition against 75 other spelling champs in Knoxville on April 24.

*The new \$1.1 million addition to Sycamore Elementary was officially opened this week with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Officials noted that the county's oldest school is now its most modern.

Sycamore school began as a one-room log cabin in 1876 just south of its present site. It was replaced with a frame structure in 1920, and gained a second teacher in 1923.

A more modern structure was built on the present school site in 1940, and that building was renovated and expanded in 1952 and again in 1974.

(April 26, 1982) TTU has announced the winners of this year's Outstanding Faculty Awards.

Dr. Gordon Hunter, professor of biology, has been with the university for 15 years. Barbara Briggs, an assistant professor of mathematics and computer science, has been at TTU for 13 years and won the award for the first time in 1975.

Meanwhile, award winner George King, an assistant professor of English, also won the award in 1973. He's been at TTU for 17 years and says he's retiring this summer.

* The British flag flew again over South Georgia today, the first island in the Falklands island chain that Argentina seized by force in early April.

The British crippled a submarine and took 200 Argentine prisoners in taking the island.

The British are now moving toward the main islands, which lie 800 miles north of South Georgia.

(April 30, 1982) Citizens Bank held the grand opening on its new \$3.5 million, four-story bank on the corner of Walnut and Broad this week.

Chief Executive Officer Charles Miller, Jr. said that the bank decided to buck a recent trend here and stay downtown in the Westside shopping district while most other new stores and businesses are moving to the edge of the city.

Miller said the bank is convinced that Cookeville has an economically healthy downtown business district so it will stay where it opened its doors 70 years ago.

(April 30, 1982) Ask Cookeville High's Skipper Carlton what he thinks about injustice in America and he'll give you a speech. An award-winning one. He took the speech to the state oratorical competition at MTSU this weekend and came back the state's top high school orator.

Now it's on to San Francisco in June where he'll compete on the national level against 99 other top speakers.

(May 18, 1982) Sisters Willie Farley, 82, and Notie Farley, 76, were recently sleeping in the house on North Dixie where they'd lived since 1937 when a drunk driver lost control of his car and smashed through the wall.

They weren't hurt in the crash, but they've been in the hospital in recent days being treated for a chronic illness. While they were there, a group of volunteers pitched in and repaired the sisters' home.

Marge Rios, secretary of First Presbyterian Church, coordinated the effort. TTU ROTC cadets provided some of the labor and local building stores donated the supplies.

(May 25, 1982) Eldred "Mutt" Younger is retiring from GTE after 40 years in the telephone business. In terms of years of service, he's the company's senior employee.

Actually, Younger told the newspaper that he has been in the business more than 40 years. He started as a youngster when his father was an installer-repairman and his mother was a contract operator, running a branch of the Southern Continental Telephone Co. out of their Chestnut Mound home. They served 75 customers in that community.

At the age of 7, Mutt earned 50 cents a day hauling water to crews laying phone line, "telephone gangs."

He officially began his career in April of 1942, but it was interrupted by military service in WWII. He returned from the war and became a cable splicer for Southern Continental, which later sold to GTE. At the time the company had five trucks and a single company car.

The biggest change he's seen in telephone service here? The day in 1956 when the area switched from crank phones to dial phones, says Mutt.

He got his nickname, by the way, because when he was young, the comic strip, "Mutt and Jeff" was widely read. His father was named Jeff. So, people dubbed him "Mutt."

(May 31, 1982) We're about to lose 33.5 miles of railroad tracks between Algood and Crossville unless action comes quickly, members of the new tri-county Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority were told in their first meeting here this week.

L & N Railroad has not yet officially filed papers with the federal government to abandon the Algood-Crossville line, but it shows every sign that it intends to do so.

Officials here who say rail service is vital to industry are preparing to fight it. They've formed a legal body, a rail authority, as a vehicle to pursue that fight against L & N.

Transportation officials warned the NERA in its first meeting here this week that they'd better act quickly because the deck is stacked against them.

Meanwhile, many here are banking their hopes on the Southern Railroad. They hope L & N's competitor will buy the line to keep it open if L & N decides to give it up.

(June 10, 1982) The Detroit Free Press published an article this week on Cookeville. It's listed as one of the Southern cities where people who left the South 20 and 40 years ago are returning to upon retirement.

And many aren't waiting to retire to come home, it noted. While the South lost thousands of residents in the years after the war because there was little work here, now Detroit and the North are losing people to Cookeville and the South. The jobs are here, the article noted.

*Graduating this week from Tennessee Tech with perfect 4.0 grade averages were David Fields of Baxter, Michael Perkins of Baxter and Samir Farran of Cookeville.

They are among only nine students who have ever graduated from TTU with perfect grade averages.

(June 17, 1982) A Tennessee Tech music professor was the subject of an Associated Press feature article that was published in newspapers across the state this week.

Larry Hoepfinger, a music instructor at TTU, is also a bass trombonist with the Nashville Symphony and makes the trip to Nashville two times a weeks for Symphony functions.

But he doesn't have to worry about speeding tickets or traffic snarls on the interstate. He flies over the traffic in a strange looking aircraft he constructed, a modernistic airplane with swept-back wings that he built in his garage here in Cookeville.

Meanwhile, it was the final week of campaigning for candidates in the Cookeville City Council race.

Working for the five seats on the council are candidates Kenneth Dyer, Bob Poteet, Vaughn Howard, Raymond Brown, Henry Ford, Bill Terry, Charles Harris, Allen Ray, Joe Lee Webb and Joe Nelson Scott.

(June 24, 1982) The state is relinquishing control of television stations in its educational TV network and local groups across the state are organizing to take over.

In Cookeville, the first step in the process was completed this week with the creation of a 30-member board of a non-profit corporation that will oversee the transition.

Elected officers for the board here this week were Dr. Leo McGee, vice chairman; Le Vonn Hubbard, chairman; John Gentry secretary; and Bill Ray, treasurer.

A former police chief, Dawson Gentry, died in a Nashville hospital this week at the age of 58 after a sudden illness.

A familiar and well-liked figure at city hall, Gentry had been a city fire-fighter since 1975. Before that, he was sheriff here and in the 1960s, was the city's police chief for a time.

(July 3, 1982) A page one photo shows Cookeville Safety Commissioner Larry O'Rear and City Manager Ed Kimsey greeting the city's new Fire Chief. He's Emily Jensen, 42, a 16-year veteran firefighter and fire captain of the Palatine, fire department. He begins work this week.

(August 22, 1982) A new fairest of the Fair was crowned this week at the opening of the Putnam Fair, 1980's Fairest of the Fair, Darlene Gaw, turned her crown over this week to Cynthia Brewington, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Brewington of Baxter.

City of Cookeville officials prepared to go before the Putnam County Commission this week to try to sell the commissioners on the idea of a 911 emergency telephone system.

(September 3, 1982) Heavy thunderstorms that rumbled through the county most of last night dumped more than a month's worth of rain here, causing floods that did more than \$20,000 in damage to bridges, roads and buildings in the Monterey area.

Observers for the U.S. Weather Service in Cookeville recorded 3.09 inches of rain for the 24-hour period here and observers in Monterey said 5.1 inches of rain fell there overnight.

Good came from the storms as well. Workers at the city's long-awaited Cane Creek park have finished impounding the 56-acre lake there. Last night's downpour filled the lake up. The park will be ready for public use next spring.

(September 16, 1982) The idea of ambulance substations in Baxter and Monterey was revived this week — again. This time, Putnam County Executive John Gentry got the endorsement of the county planning committee to study the concept and see how it might be funded.

Gentry said it takes 20 to 30 minutes for an ambulance to reach outlying areas from Cookeville, and that's too long in heart attack and other emergencies in which every second counts.

Well-known night club owner Lawrence Verble was shot to death in his driveway after closing the club one night this week.

(December 6, 1982) L&N Railroad is planning to abandon rail service and rip up the tracks between Monterey and Crossville, and a committee of officials from three counties is working to prevent it.

The Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority was formed last year when L&N attempted to drop service between Algood and Monterey and stayed in existence after L&N backed away from that move. The NERA knew the battle wasn't over.

Now, its chairman, Putnam County Executive John Gentry, says NERA officials are looking over their alternatives to fight L&N's newest plan before the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington, which traditionally has sided with railroads in abandonment proceedings.

In Texas today, convicted murderer Charles Brooks, Jr., commended his soul to Allah, told his girlfriend to "be brave," and became the first in U.S. history to be executed by lethal injection.

He was the 6th person executed since the Supreme Court allowed executions to resume in 1974.

At the Highland Cinema here this week, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Harrison Ford take on Darth Vader in "The Empire Strikes Back."

(December 23, 1982) Algood officials announced this week that they are building a \$150,000 office building to serve as headquarters for the Upper Cumberland Human Resources Agency.

Last year in a similar project, they built another facility which was leased by the federal government for a new post office for Algood.

UCHRA executive director Phyllis Austin says leasing the facility from Algood will save the agency "considerably." The UCHRA has been renting space on Fish Road in what used to be a Norwalk Furniture Company warehouse.

1983

(January 10, 1983) The Cookeville Police Dept. has hired its first female patrol officer, Pamela Watts.

(January 11, 1983) It's been four years since Cookevillians saw a startling sight — Iranian students from Tennessee Tech marching down South Jefferson Avenue calling for revolution in Iran.

A lot has happened since their demonstration march here in 1979. The Shah, who they said should go, has. He has been replaced by another repressive government that sent most of the country's young — and old — men to fight Iraq, and the "draft" included college students returning from America.

TTU had 139 Iranians studying here in 1979. Today, there are about 50 enrolled, and many of them have applied for political asylum in the U.S. But the State Department has yet to act on their requests, leaving their political status — and futures — in an uneasy limbo.

TTU officials suspect that there are actually more than 50 Iranians here. Many whose visas expired have gone "underground" rather than go home and face the Iraqi army.

And their own government is after them, too. Iranian officials recently began requesting information from U.S. universities about their Iranian students. One of the things they wanted to know was the addresses of the students' families in Iran.

(February 8, 1983) County officials have said for some time that schools here need to be preparing students to compete in the coming "computer age." This week, school math and science teachers took the leap and began training on \$100,000 worth of computers the county has purchased for the school system.

Computers are soon expected to be as commonplace as typewriters in offices here and it is estimated that four out of every five jobs will require familiarity with computers.

(February 16, 1983) The federal Interstate Commerce Commission has agreed to let the L&N abandon its railroad tracks between Monterey and Crossville.

(February 23, 1983) Algood resident Jim Brown has launched a petition drive to convince the state to raise the legal drinking age from 18 to 21, and Sen. Tommy Burks gives his support to the move.

(February 28, 1983) Some 650 Putnam students in grades 9-12 are taking the state's new proficiency test and it's the first year that seniors have to pass the test to graduate.

The test is based on 6th and 7th grade skills levels.

*The Putnam Parks and Recreation Dept. this week laid off its 11 workers indefinitely after the County Commission refused to advance the agency more money.

P&R has already spent all but \$40,000 of its annual \$222,360 appropriation from the county and its three cities. The department's busiest season lies ahead and the agency is in turmoil.

(March 14, 1983) The award winning country music group, Alabama, was in town for a performance this week, and the band said coming to Cookeville was a lot like coming home.

The band's guitarist, Teddy Gentry, lived and worked here for a time in the late 1970s. He laid carpet for Pic and Pay Carpet.

*The County Fiscal Review Committee this week recommended a \$1.5 million, 14-classroom addition to Park View Elementary to relieve overcrowding at the school.

*Monterey High School announced the names of its two honor students for the year. They are Stephanie Miller, class valedictorian, and Tammy Swafford, class salutatorian.

*Presidential candidate Reubin Askew, a former governor of Florida, will be the guest speaker at a fundraiser next week for the Putnam Count Democratic Party.

The local Democrats event coincides with similar events in every county in Tennessee next week.

Tennessee Democratic Party chairman Bart Gordon says the events are an effort by the party to "strengthen the party at the grass roots level."

(March 23, 1983) A midnight fire in the city's Westside shopping district utterly destroyed the Variety Fair department store and Long's Showroom, an appliance store. Damage to the block was estimated at \$1 million. But it could have been a lot worse. There were 8,000 gallons of paint and other highly-combustible materials stored in the Sherman Williams paint store just a few doors down from the blaze. Firemen came from all over to contain the fire. City Manager Ed Kimsey, a former fireman and state fire marshal, even slipped into firemen's boots and bunker coat to fight the fire. City Safety Commissioner Larry O'Rear coordinated the fire fight and Putnam Civil Defense Director Sam Smith oversaw the removal of paint from the store during the battle. Also damaged in the fire were Salads and More and the Suit Center.

*Honor students this year at Upperman High are Janette Johnson, valedictorian; Don Maxwell, salutatorian; and Lisa McHenry, third honor student.

(March 28, 1983) Putnam County has been split in half by a new law that has many coon hunters here riled. It's a compromise between coon hunters who want no state restrictions on their sport and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, which says coons are being hunted out in Tennessee.

The law divides the state along Highway 56 near Baxter. West of that highway, coon hunters will still be allowed to train their dogs year round and a coon hunting season from mid-October until mid-February has been established.

East of that line, hunters can only train their dogs from June 16 until Oct. 7, and can only hunt and kill coons from Oct. 8 until Jan. 31.

*The Cookeville Kiwanis Club this week honored Bill Bilyeu, awarding him the club's Community Service Award. Bilyeu, who comes from a family of law enforcement officers and who served in law enforcement here for 23 years, is widely known as "the Chief."

He's a former Cookeville police chief and also served as Putnam Sheriff.

(April 11, 1983) Last week Cookeville City Council, after six months of frustrating negotiation with the Putnam Parks and Receptions Board to get more for its money, pulled out of the countywide agency.

This week the council has asked Community Development Director Frank Humber to look into what other progressive cities are doing for recreation.

Humber says the city's new department will probably be called "Leisure Services," and, if it follows the lead of other growing towns, will offer a diversity of programs like cooking, art courses, karate, dance and cultural classes as well.

Col. William Jones, headmaster of the DeBerry Academy, said this week that the school, founded in 1919, is about to graduate its first 12th grade class.

Graduating honor students are Monte Gaw, valedictorian; Matthew Pryor, salutatorian; George Irwin, 3rd honor student; and James Storie, Cadet of the Year.

(April 19, 1983) The City of Cookeville has again been rebuffed by the county on the Parks and Recreation Department issue. The County Commission refused to give the city permission to spend city funds on P&R recreation facilities inside the city limits.

City officials, after months of frustration in attempting to negotiate a second seat on the P&R board, have pulled out of the countywide agency. It's now setting up its own recreation program.

The city has full control of all but one ball field at Park View, the Park View Pool and West End Community Center, but other key facilities like the Jere Whitson ball fields and the Cookeville Community Center are still deeded to the county and operated by P&R.

The city is seeking a major state recreation grant and wants to upgrade all recreation facilities within the city. This week the county balked. P&R now says that it is following the city's lead and is seeking a state recreation grant of its own.

*A spring cold snap accompanied by a late frost has hurt the county's fruit trees, strawberries and tobacco plants, says county farm agent Roy Luna. It got down to 26 degrees here last night.

(April 25, 1983) Capshaw Elementary six grade teacher Gail Peavyhouse has been named Putnam County's "Teacher of the Year."

The Fentress County native, a teacher for the past 15 years, has taught at Capshaw for the last 13 years.

And Cookeville officials began taking applications for director of the city's new recreation program after deciding to pull out of the county wide Putnam Parks and Recreation programs and create a program of their own.

(May 4, 1983) The crowning of the "Queen of May" at Upperman High is a 43-year-old senior class tradition at the school, started by the Glee Club of Baxter Seminary, the school's predecessor.

In services Friday evening at the school, Penny Allison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Dean Anderson, will be crowned Queen of May.

Kristin Medley will be her young flower girl and Clay Sherrell will be the ringbearer.

Others to be recognized during the services include the class valedictorian, Janette Johnson; the class salutatorian, Don Maxwell; the Bachelor of Ugliness, Greg Thomas; Miss Upperman High, Lisa Maxwell; the Princess of Personality, Cara Frizzell; the DAR award winner, Karen Shanks; and Mr. and Miss Senior Class, Jeff Collier and Mary Nelle Davis.

Senior class president Wayne Lowe will be the master of ceremonies for the evening, which will end with another tradition of the school, the senior class waltz.

*Showing this week at the Princess: "E.T.," with young Drew Barrymore.

(May 10, 1983) The Cookeville Kiwanis Club this week awarded its Distinguished Community Service Award to Walter Warren Shanks, who is now in his third term as Putnam School Supt., which is longer than anyone else has ever served in that post.

Shanks attended a one-room school in Buffalo Valley from 1932-1940 and graduated from Baxter Seminary in 1944. He served for two years in the US Navy.

He later taught math at Capshaw Elementary and Cookeville Jr. High. In 1972, he was elected to his first term as school superintendent.

*County commissioners considering an \$11.3 million school budget request from the Putnam School Board this week questioned a \$17,000 line item earmarked to pay off the loan on the CHS field house.

It was built by a group of CHS sports boosters in the mid-70s. The high school owns and uses the property, and the parents who signed the note to build it were cautioned that no tax dollars would ever be used on the structure.

The parents paid the debt down to \$12,000 at one point, but interest has driven the total debt back up to \$17,000, and the children of the parents have long since graduated. Now the parents are asking the county to retire the debt.

*German's Stern magazine is asking government prosecutors to look into the case of the "Hitler diaries."

The national magazine paid \$4 million to buy them, but now says it suspects that the man its reporter said he bought them from never existed.

They're also suspecting that the diaries are a fake.

(May 16, 1983) The local unit of the American Cancer Society is planning a new low in charity fundraisers. They're calling it the Swine Ball. It's no black tie affair.

Food for the soiree will be pickled pigs feet and fried pork rinds. Tables will be decorated with old newspapers and dead flowers. There'll be an award for the person who can come up with the tackiest attire.

It's being held in the old Wal-Mart building in Midtown Shopping Center. Bob Luna of WGSQ-WPTN will be the master of ceremonies.

*Pictured on this week's sports page in Tennessee Tech baseball uniforms were Morris Irby and retired TTU instructor Russell Sloan. They were watching the university's first Varsity-Alumni Baseball Game.

Among those who played in the game were former players Garrett Golden, Ralph Mallicoat, Doug Herron, Rick Schubert, David Little, Ronnie James and Chuck Hoskins.

(May 23, 1983) Sam and Clara Sadler celebrated a milestone here this week that few other couples ever see. They marked their 70th wedding anniversary at their home on Sycamore Street.

Sam, now 89, and Clara, 83, were married in Boma when she was 14 years old. They now have 11 children, the oldest of which recently turned 64.

*Cookeville City Manager Ed Kimsey and Public Safety Commissioner Larry O'Rear are searching far and wide this week for a new fire chief.

Frank Moss, who served as chief for the past 25 years, died after a brief illness recently.

So far, Kimsey and O'Rear have received 70 applications for the position and hope to soon narrow them down to a list of seven for the city council to interview.

(May 30, 1983) W&O Construction Co. gave city officials a pleasant surprise this week when they opened bids on the long-awaited sewage treatment plant. W&O's bid of \$3.6 million was \$600,000 lower than what engineers estimated the plant would cost.

The new plant is being built on land the city bought from Rolley Bullinton at the intersection of Highway 42 and 111.

(June 1983) In beauty pageant news, Sabrina Randolph of Cookeville has placed second in the Miss Tennessee US Teen Pageant this week. She's presently the reigning Fairest of the Fair in Putnam County.

And Tennessee's Junior Miss, Julie Vaughn of Cookeville, is in Mobile, Ala., this week competing for the national Junior Miss title.

(June 6, 1983) Tennesseans will soon be lining up to have their pictures taken for their drivers' licenses under a new law about to go into effect.

The new law, sponsored by state representative Jerry Jared of Cookeville, requires photos on all licenses, and a photo station is being set up soon at the Cookeville Mall by the Tennessee Highway Patrol to allow drivers to comply with the new requirement.

*Showing at the Highland Cinema this week: "Flash Dance with Jennifer Beal, "Blue Thunder" with Roy Scheider and Steve Spielberg's "E.T."

(June 10, 1983) The state legislature has approved a bill sponsored by Rep. Jerry Jared of Cookeville that requires photo identification on driver's licenses.

(June 13, 1983) A page one picture today shows Cookeville city councilmen Raymond Brown, Bob Poteet, Kenneth Dyer, Vice-mayor Allen Ray and Mayor Vaughn Howard posing with shovels of dirt.

They're breaking ground on the city's new \$3 million sewage treatment plant at the intersection of Highway 111 and Highway 42.

When completed 20 months from now, city officials expect to persuade state health officials to lift a moratorium on new sewer hookups placed here more than a year ago when the state decided that the city's sewage plant on South Jefferson Avenue was killing Pigeon Roost Creek.

*At the Highland Cinema this week: "Superman III," with Christopher Reeve and comedian Richard Pryor, and "Monty Python's "The Meaning of Life."

(June 27, 1983) A story ran this week on Eileen Harkins, supervisor of Cookeville General Hospital's laboratory.

Mrs. Harkins and her husband Leroy, started the city's first medical lab in a room rented near the hospital in 1946 using mostly WWII Army surplus equipment.

The Cookeville General lab she supervises today has 25 employees using six rooms in the hospital.

Pictured today was Bob Lee Maddux, who turned 94 this week and was thrown a large party in celebration.

Maddux, a prominent businessman and avid fox hunter, is shown sitting out of the way having a quiet talk with an old friend, fellow fox hunter Dewey Garret.

(July 20, 1983) State and federal wildlife officials descended on the Putnam Fairgrounds this week to investigate a mass dove-poisoning. Some 145 doves were found dead at various locations at the fairgrounds.

Agents have sent samples of the dead birds and of the crushed corn they found scattered at various points about the property to a federal EPA lab in Atlanta. The corn is apparently laced with poison.

The uproar started when a resident living near the fairgrounds found her family's German shepherd dying from poisoning. The dog had apparently wandered onto the fairgrounds and eaten some of the corn.

(October 5, 1983) Members of the Putnam County Commission have begun their search for a new landfill to replace one now about full.

They expect their biggest obstacle will be convincing prospective neighbors of a new landfill that, under today's strict state regulations, landfills are odorless, sanitary operations as compared to open dumps that were once used here.

*On the national scene this week, the Provident Indemnity Life Insurance Co., this week, became the latest in a small but growing number of employers who are going smoke free.

The company this week outlawed all smoking in its buildings. It began weaning its employees from the habit a couple of years ago, prohibiting smoking at work stations and offering company-paid counseling for smokers.

Now, the insurance company has gone cold turkey. It's a national trend.

Cookeville, already a leader in the nation's feeder pig sales, began another innovation this week: The sale of bobbed-tail pigs.

Producers have found that pigs kept jammed in cramped quarters for the long hours of the sales tend to chew off the tail of the pig in front of it, damaging the merchandise, so to speak, county farm agent Roy Luna explained.

The pigs don't feel it because of a lack of nerves in their tails. But the farmer feels it in his pocketbook. They get \$3 more per pig if it is bobtailed and unbloodied.

So, farmers have begun bobbing pigs' tails in advance to prevent bloodletting that lowers the value of their livestock.

Of the 3,000 feeder pigs sold here this week, 2,100 had no tails. Cookeville is one of the first markets in the nation to try it.

*Mattie Sue Cooper, in a feature article this week, said that she's only missed two TTU basketball games since 1945, and missed those only because she was hospitalized following a surgery.

The TTU assistant librarian came to TTU in 1933 from Overton High, where she and her sisters were talented players themselves.

But by that year, TTU had dropped women's basketball and she never got to play for Tech. She remained an avid fan through her student years and afterwards, since 1945, when she came to work at TTU.

(October 10, 1983) District Attorney General John Roberts is mounting a campaign to run for Congressman Al Gore's seat. Gore is about to run for Sen. Howard Baker's seat.

But Roberts said he's not going to resign his office as DA while running a campaign for Congress.

Instead, he's hiring two other attorneys to handle prosecutions in his district. He stressed he's paying for the two positions "out of my own pocket."

*President Ronald Reagan has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Secretary of Interior James Watt.

Watt made the announcement this week standing in a cow pasture with his wife and their horses backing him up before a crowd of reporters.

The controversial figure resigned after the latest flap over his remarks. This time it was a joke he told at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce convention in Washington.

The joke involved "A black, a woman, two Jews and a cripple..."

(October 17, 1983) Authorities spent this week trying to determine the identity of a woman whose bullet-riddled body was found in a field near Baxter by farmer Arnold Thomas.

Today they say they're nearly positive she is 27-year-old Debbie Hunt of Nashville, a meat plant worker missing since mid-August. The mother of two was identified by her sister from jewelry found on her remains.

*Retailers reported this week said that by far, the most popular Halloween costume this year is E.T. the Extra Terrestrial, based on the character from the blockbuster movie.

(November 8, 1983) Gov. Lamar Alexander dropping in on Sycamore Elementary this week and paid teachers there a compliment. He noted that Putnam test scores are consistently above the state average, and said the job of producing such competent students begins in grade schools like Sycamore.

Alexander was here during a campaign to sell his controversial Better Schools program, which would be funded by adding a penny to the state's sales tax.

(November 18, 1983) City finance director George Johnson has left city hall for a post at a local industry and this week, the city council filled the post with a Cookeville native, Jim Shipley.

Shipley is currently living in Kingston, where he is Director of Accounts and Budgets for Roane County.

*In the day after "The Day After," and across the nation, viewers say they are shocked and scared by what they say in the \$7 million made for television movie on ABC.

The film depicted the death and destruction in a small Midwestern town following a nuclear attack on the United States.

*Showing this week at the Highland Cinema: Tom Cruise in "All the Right Moves."

(December 5, 1983) After 10 years of delay, finishing touches were being put on the city's new Cane Creek park this week. Concrete was being poured for a series of picnic pavilions.

Delayed by lawsuits and construction snarls, the 200-acre park and 56-acre lake is now expected to be ready for use by spring. The city estimates it will be used by 250 people a day.

*Holiday movies showing this week include Al Pacino in "Scarface" at the Varsity Theater, "Christine," and Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry McCallahan in "Sudden Impact" at the Highland Cinema.

(December 12, 1983) TTU has awarded a varsity letter to cheerleader Edward Bennett of Fairfield Glade. The twist is that it's 50 years late.

Bennett was a cheerleader for Tennessee Polytech from 1933-1936. Because it was the Depression, athletes and cheerleaders had to buy their own letters. He never got one.

This week TTU decided it was time he got his letter and, in a special ceremony, issued it.

*Bernist Medlin is retiring after 22 years with the Putnam County Sheriff's Department. He worked under Sheriff Ernest Webster, Sheriff Ed Stamps, Sheriff Billy G. Smith and now, under Sheriff Jerry Abston.

Medlin says he's retiring to raise cattle in Double Springs.

*Cookeville has been rated the 10th best to retire in a Penn State "places rated" guide. Crossville was rated the 4th best place.

Cookeville and Crossville scored so high based on their climate, location in the nation and natural beauty.

A numbing blast of air straight out of British Columbia has kept temperatures hovering at zero or lower for days. Cars won't start, water pipes are bursting and people are staying indoors.

Monterey weather observer Jess Duncan says the high temperature yesterday was 4 degrees. And it won't get much better any time soon, he reports.

*While the mercury is down, construction totals for the past 11 months in Cookeville soared, the city reports. It's up 250 percent over last year's level.

City officials report that there was \$11.4 million in new construction this year, up from last year's total of only \$4.6 million.

This year's figures are especially good news because officials are taking them as a sign that the national recession is easing its grip on Putnam County.

(December 23, 1983) The court-ordered breakup of the Bell Telephone System will have little impact on Cookeville, says General Telephone's service manager Jim Andrews.

People can keep their present phones if they don't wish to buy sets of their own, he said. They can still make long-distance calls just like before and it will be shown on their bill in the same place.

The deregulation, said Andrews, is expected to create competition between long distance carriers and that could mean lower prices.

The only problem GTE's seen so far, he said, is that some phones people have purchased are on a different ring cycle than GTE's system.

Anyone having such problems can bring their phones by the GTE Phone Mart and the local phone company will adjust them, he said.

1984

(1984) Jim L. Young, 58, died this week following a stroke. He'd been on the Putnam County Commission and its predecessor, the Putnam County Court, for 21 years and had just been elected to another four-term.

He went on the commission with his brother, Benton, in the days when it was known as the Putnam County Quarterly Court, and over the years served on several key committees.

Young owned and operated Young's Auto Parts on West Broad.

(January 15, 1984) Two long-time public servants here have died. Services were set this week for Miss Clara Starnes, 83, and Edwinna Brown, 73.

Starnes was the librarian at the Clara Cox Epperson Library from 1946 until 1972. The library in those years was housed in what this year is the Putnam Board of Education building at 442 East Spring Street.

She was known for her keen devotion to her job as well as having a spritely sense of humor.

Brown served the Putnam County Red Cross chapter for 34 years through wars, floods, tornadoes and disasters.

A nurse, she began working for the relief agency in 1949 as executive secretary, and rose to the position of director.

*Some of the shows on television here this week.

There's Harry Morgan in "After-MASH." Dabney Coleman in "Buffalo Bill," and Martin Mull in "Domestic Life."

(January 4, 1984) Putnam County spent the weekend in the deep freeze. At one point Friday night, it got down to 9 below zero, the mercury never rose above 23 all the next day.

Across the nation, an historic cold wave broke record lows in more than 50 cities, including some in Michigan where it hit 33 below.

*The Vietnam War, or Hollywood's version of it, dominated the movies at the Varsity this week. Showing were Gene Hackman in "Uncommon Valor" and Jan Michael Vincent in "Last Plane Out."

(January 23, 1984) The city of Cookeville has dropped plans to annex a 500-acre area at the request of the residents of Burton Hills.

An annexation study this week concluded that even by the year 2005, the area would be generating less revenue than it took the city to serve it.

The mostly undeveloped area lies in the 'V' formed by Highways 111 and 42 South of I-40.

*Douglas Derryberry, son of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Derryberry, is going to Washington this spring to be a page for Congressman Albert Gore Jr.

The Cookeville High junior was Gore's first choice for the position.

*A Los Angeles hospital has released singer Michael Jackson after treating him for severe scalp burns.

A palm-sized patch of his scalp was badly burned when his locks, which had been greased, caught fire during a pyrotechnics display during the filming of an ad for Pepsi.

(January 30, 1984) Coyotes in Putnam County? Yes, says State Rep. Jerry Jared, who's pictured this week on page one with one he shot in Buffalo Valley.

Wildlife experts say the wily predators have been creeping eastward in recent years and are now across the Tennessee River in West Tennessee.

Buffalo Valley farmers say coyotes have been here for at least three years. That's how long they've been losing calves and goats to them, they say.

The highly-intelligent creatures have no natural enemies this far east. None except man.

(February 7, 1984) A couple of months ago, after admitting they'd held a series of closed-door meetings, members of the Cookeville City Council said they'd met because they were concerned that City Manager Ed Kimsey wasn't keeping them fully informed of city projects. But they said the meetings had ironed the problems out.

Today, Kimsey resigned at the request of Mayor Vaughn Howard. The council voted 5-0 to accept the resignation.

Kimsey came here in 1981 after serving for five years as city administrator in Crossville. Previously he'd been a state fire marshal.

Assistant City Manager Luther Mathis has agreed to fill the post until the council names a replacement.

(February 13, 1984) Luther Mathis, who turned down the job of Cookeville City Manager in 1981, has been offered the position again by Cookeville City Council.

Mathis, whose primary job is running the sewer, water and gas departments, has also served for several years as assistant city manager.

Since the council asked Ed Kimsey to resign the city manager's post recently, Mathis has been acting city manager as well. This week, the council again offered him the position. Mathis says he's thinking it over.

Another change in leadership in the Soviet Union. Yuri Andropov, the former head of the KGB who was named 18 months ago as head of the Communist Party, died of a heart attack this week.

He took over after Leonid Brezhnev died. His successor is Konstantin Chernenko, who at 72, is the oldest leader of the Soviet Union.

(February 20, 1984) Those who attended the Cumberland Mountain School near Crossville -- and there are several from here -- have launched a drive to memorialize the old Methodist boarding school.

Opened by the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1921, it operated through the 1939 school year. The grounds are now being used as a campgrounds by the UMC.

Area graduates of the school met this week to begin a fund drive seeking to raise \$10,000 to restore the school's old library, which will serve as a sort of museum for the school if they are successful.

*Also starting a drive to honor the past this week is Ted Darwin, who wants to see a marker erected at the Putnam Depot recognizing Alexander Crawford.

A marker was recently erected honoring Jere Baxter, president of the Tennessee Central Railroad, which linked Cookeville to Nashville beginning at the turn of the century.

But Baxter did not build the railroad. Alexander Crawford did. The Pennsylvania industrialist laid the tracks that reached Cookeville in 1890.

His name was apparently forgotten here after the old Nashville & Knoxville line sold to the Tennessee

Central and the original depot was replaced by today's brick pagoda structure.

Darwin says Crawford should share the recognition with Baxter.

*US Marines settled into new quarters about ship today and watched as Lebanese rebels settled into bunkers they occupied yesterday.

The marines, bombed and fired on by snipers for months now, have withdrawn from Beirut.

(March 1, 1984) The town of Algood has hired former Cookeville City Manager Bethel Newport as a consultant to help the town with some of its troubles.

Mayor Jim Brown says Newport will assist Algood City Administrator Will Henry Point work on Algood's sewer problems and apply for state and federal grants.

Former Baxter Mayor Joe Medley, known for his attempts to bring legal liquor to that town, was brought back for another term of mayor this week in the town's election.

He was defeated in the last election by Arnold Brown, who chose not to run again.

(March 2, 1984) People looking over an old house in Baxter prior to an auction made a chilling discovery this week. Two infant-sized coffins with bones inside.

The subsequent investigation by the Putnam Sheriff's Department caused a round of heavy sighs of relief. The bones were cat skeletons.

A Baxter resident, who'd worked for a time in Kennesaw, Ga., moved back home recently. He'd disinterred his pet cats for reburial here.

The man had worked in a Georgia funeral home and had buried the pets in a spare pair of tiny coffin liners. He stored them in a vacant house owned by his mother, who forgot they were still there when she decided to auction the house.

"I'm just glad it turned out the way it did," said Sheriff Jerry Abston.

(March 14, 1984) Putnam County Executive John Gentry says he's ready to propose to the Putnam County Commission that the county take over half the cost of operating the Cookeville Animal Shelter to give county residents a humane way to dispose of stray dogs and cats.

Presently, only city residents are allowed to bring strays to the shelter because, when it was created, the county declined to participate.

But Gentry says residents in rural Putnam County are being plagued by stray dogs and something needs to be done about the problem.

The last time he approached the commissioners on the matter, one suggested that the best way for residents to deal with strays is to "shoot them."

*Showing this week at the Varsity Theater: "The Right Stuff."

(March 16, 1984) The Putnam County Commission last night told residents who live near the county quarry that they believe them when they say blasting is hurling rocks into their yards and homes.

But the commissioners say they just don't know what to do about it.

The county needs a lot of rock to repair rural roads badly damaged by another rough winter. But moving to

another quarry site would cost at least \$1 million, commissioners say.

But the residents are threatening to file a lawsuit if the commission proceeds to renew its lease at the current site, as it is now considering doing.

The commission said it would continue to study the matter.

*Showing this week at the Highland Cinema: "Against All Odds," with Jeff Bridges and Rachel Ward, and "Terms of Endearment," with Debra Winger and Shirley MacLaine.

(March 20, 1984) It took then five months of frustration, but three women this week convinced the county commission that they were unfairly assessed a penalty on late property tax payments.

The three, Myrna Estes, Ruth Morris and Beth Gilliam, announced after receiving their tax refunds that they plan to pool the money and help someone who can't afford it, to pay their taxes.

Their victory came after Putnam Trustee Rick Moody explained to the commissioners that there may be a flaw in the county tax system, which sends tax notices to the person listed as the owner of the property as of Jan. 1.

All three of the women bought their property in mid-year, never received tax notices, and never learned of delinquent taxes until it was too late to pay them.

*A surprise half-inch snowfall dusted the buttercups today and closed schools. Elsewhere across the Southeast, there were thunderstorms and twisters as the rowdy weather front swept the region.

(March 23, 1984) Putnam County Executive John Gentry has suggested that the commission take over half the cost of the Cookeville Animal Shelter to give county residents a place to humanely dispose of stray animals.

(April 4, 1984) U.S. District Judge Thomas Wiseman this week warned that court action will come swiftly against the union representing 400 striking workers at Cookeville's Teledyne Stillman if there is any further violence during the strike.

His warning came as he accepted an agreement between the union and the company. The union agreed to cease violence and the company agreed to drop court action against the union.

*Bob Keeshan, better known by millions as Captain Kangaroo, spoke to a packed house at Tennessee Tech this week in his campaign to spend more on programs to help today's young people.

Keeshan said the government can spend more now on youth programs, or more later on prisons.

He also urged parents to allow kids to be kids. He said today's youngsters are under increasing stress to grow up too fast.

(April 11, 1984) State Representative Jerry Jared says this week that after an intensive week of wrangling on the Hill in Nashville, it now looks like the funds to complete Highway 111 have been approved some 23 years after the road project was begun here with much fanfare.

The road funds are part of a massive road building package submitted by Gov. Lamar Alexander as the Bicentennial Parkway program.

The package no longer resembles what Gov. Alexander submitted, but Jared said that with a 3 to 4-cent state gasoline tax hike, he believes it will pass and pass with the funds needed to complete the final links in the long-awaited North-South Highway.

(April 13, 1984) The county Solid Waste Committee last night bit the bullet and recommended a site for a new landfill in the county's 8th District despite vehement protests from more than 75 residents packed into their meeting.

Time is running out. After more than two years of searching for a new landfill site, there's only about four months of use left in the present landfill, state officials warn.

The committee has looked at 36 different sites and after soil tests, a 140-acre farm near Center Hill Lake is the panel's top choice.

But residents there are angry. They say they've already lived near the present landfill for the last 10 years and think it's time for some other district to have to put up with the parade of trash trucks and roadside litter problems.

*At the Highland Cinema this week: The original "Police Academy" and "Friday the 13th, The Final Chapter."

(April 20, 1984) The Putnam County Commission this week faced two angry crowds and made one happy, and left the other threatening a lawsuit.

The commissioners voted to reject a 140-acre site near Center Hill Lake for a new county landfill after more than 100 residents of the area said they feared water runoff from the site might pollute Center Hill Lake, the source of drinking water for most of the county.

The decision to toss the county Solid Waste Committee's choice could put the county in a bind. The re-selection process could take as long as six months, officials say. The county landfill has only about four more months of space left, state officials warn.

*Meanwhile, the commission angered another group when it renewed the county's lease on its rock quarry off Highway 70, east of town.

The residents say blasts at the county quarry hurl stones over the ridge and into their yards and homes. They're threatening to sue to stop the lease.

County officials told the residents that new, safer blasting techniques planned for the quarry should reduce the risk of rocks being shot through their roofs.

(April 24, 1984) A legendary teacher died here this week, W.C. Moore.

He'd taught in Cumberland and Putnam schools for 39 years before retiring to his home on North Maple Avenue in 1979.

He was known as a wit and a jester and sparked enthusiasm in his history students, sometimes by giving them his own fanciful version of history.

At class reunions it was not uncommon for students of his, 10, 20 and 30 years previously, to come up to him and recite what he'd taught them just to show him what he'd given them.

He once wrote his students, "For 36 years you have let me play at my charades ... but best of all, you let me play at being Don Quixote as he tilted at the windmills of this world's ugliness."

*Showing at the Highland Cinema this week: "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes" and "Iceman," with Timothy Hutton

(May 1984) Cookeville City Council, urged on by Mary Jean DeLozier and Donald Ferrell of the newly-created Depot Preservation Committee, this week began the first step to keep the site upon which the historic 75-year-old railroad sits.

(May 3, 1984) Boxes of cereal and stacks of toilet paper probably saved the life of 18-year-old Robert Matheny this week.

A store clerk at the Foodtown grocery at Park Village on East 10th, he was in the rear of the store one day this week stocking shelves when a mud slide shoved down the retaining wall behind the store. That in turn smashed into and collapsed the store's rear wall -- on top of Matheny.

The store's assistant manager, Johnny King, was also momentarily trapped, but managed to free himself before rescuers arrived. Rescue workers freed Matheny in 20 minutes. They say the soft cereal boxes and toilet paper probably kept the young man from being crushed.

*Cookeville musician Brett Masters has been picked as a back-up drummer for the popular rock group, the Cars. He's bound for a recording studio in Boston in June.

Masters met Rick O'Casey, songwriter and singer for the Cars, in a Washington state music store while completing a three-year stint in the military.

*Showing this week at the Varsity Theater: Mel Gibson and Anthony Hopkins in "The Bounty." And at the Highland Cinema this week, it's Molly Ringwald in "Sixteen Candles."

(May 14, 1984) A fierce line of spring thunderstorms spawned a tornado that hit near Monterey and dumped more than 2 inches of rain on the county overnight, setting off damaging floods.

Two barns were flattened and several trees were uprooted as the twister skipped across the Woodcliff community near Monterey.

High winds also demolished concession stands at the Putnam County Fairgrounds.

Meanwhile, rains were so heavy that the Cookeville Boat Dock marina is no longer accessible. The lake level rose over the wooden walk way during the night. And most of its parking lot is also under lake water this morning.

Original damage estimates from the storm were placed at \$100,000 but by the end of the week, when flood damage to roads and bridges were taken into account, the figure rose to nearly \$1 million.

(May 23, 1984) Bill O'Neal is retiring as resource manager for Center Hill Lake after some 40 years of federal service, it was announced this week.

O'Neal began his federal career in 1941 as an inspector for the US Army Corps of Engineers. He was in the military from 1943-1946, and returned to work for the Corps.

In 1953, he became the resource manager for the newly-impounded Center Hill Lake, a position he's served in ever since. He oversees the work of 40 full-time Corps employees and up to 40 seasonal workers.

*The ad for the film showing this week at the Highland Cinema reads, "If adventure had a name ... it must be Indiana Jones." It's the thriller of the summer, "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," starring Harrison Ford and Kate Capshaw.

(June 4, 1984) Cookeville attorney John Maddux, who since 1976 has served as administrative aide to Congressman Albert Gore Jr., says he's seeking the Democratic nomination for the new General Sessions judgeship created here by the state.

Gore, meanwhile, announced this week that he's running for Howard Baker's seat in the Senate. Baker is retiring.

*Summer movies opening this week in town include "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock," "Ghostbusters," and "Gremlins."

(July 2, 1984) Jackson County Sheriff Carsey Lynch Jr. has been charged with fraud and embezzlement after a year-long probe by the FBI into a fire that destroyed his home a year ago in April.

The federal government charges that he set the fire and lied to investigators to illegally collect on a homeowners insurance policy.

He faces fines of up to \$1,500 and imprisonment of up to five years in jail if convicted.

He's expected to announce his resignation later this week.

Lynch was first elected as sheriff in 1976.

(July 3, 1984) After 10 years of work and waiting, the city announced this week that it will open the new \$3 million Cane Creek Park this fall.

The 100-acre park and 56-acre lake are expected to have 250 visitors a day, city officials say.

*Volunteers at Cookeville General Hospital this year saved the facility \$280,000 in services performed for free.

This week, hospital officials decided to save another \$16,000. They cut out free lunches for the 130 volunteers.

Nevertheless, the volunteers say they'll keep on giving their time as usual. And they're still planning to have a large sale later this month to benefit the financially-strapped public hospital.

(July 10, 1984) Cookeville councilman and former TTU athlete and coach Raymond (Bull) Brown this week threw out the opening pitch for Cookeville Summer Theatre's first performance of "Damn Yankees."

That kicked off Summer Theatre's 17th season in Cookeville.

*Cookeville City Council this week named former Cookeville City Manager Bethel Newport to a seven-year term on Cookeville General Hospital's board of trustees.

Newport is taking the place of outgoing board member Dave Maddux.

*Cookeville attorney Kathy Austin and Ernestine Edwards, a teacher at Cookeville High, headed for San Francisco this week as delegates to the National Democratic Convention.

Walter Mondale is expected to beat Gary Hart for the presidential nomination at that gathering. He, this week, named Geraldine Ferraro as his vice-presidential running mate.

(June 6, 1984) Cookeville City Council this week approved a \$63.4 million budget, up \$3.4 million from the current budget. It carries the same \$1.20 property tax rate for city taxpayers for the 11th straight year.

*Monterey real estate agent Jimmy Little says he sees signs that Monterey is growing. The town is experiencing a housing shortage for the first time in decades.

Little said he remembers a sign at Monterey's town limits in 1945, showing the population at 2,500 residents.

In 1980, the population was 2,613. He said, "The town hardly grew at all in all those years."

But this year, a special census put Monterey's population at 3,200.

The new Fast Food Merchandising plant being built for the Hardee's chain will employ 650 workers starting out, and a hardwood lumber company in Monterey is already working three full shifts.

Meanwhile, there's been a surge in new residents as retirees move to the area from Florida, Little said.

(July 2, 1984) Jackson County Sheriff Carsey Lynch Jr. has been charged with fraud and embezzlement after a year-long probe by the FBI into a fire that destroyed his home a year ago in April.

The federal government charges that he set the fire and lied to investigators to illegally collect on a homeowners insurance policy.

He faces fines of up to \$1,500 and imprisonment of up to five years in jail if convicted.

He's expected to announce his resignation later this week.

Lynch was first elected as sheriff in 1976.

(July 19, 1984) Putnam farm agent Roy Luna says that Putnam's 1,000-acre crop of burley tobacco is doing well this year despite outbreaks of fungus damaging tobacco elsewhere in the state.

But the future for tobacco farmers here may not be so healthy, he commented.

Foreign imports of cheaper tobacco are driving down the prices farmers here receive for their effort, he said.

*Meanwhile in San Ysidro, Calif., this week, a fired security guard walked into a McDonald's restaurant and began a 90-minute shooting spree that left 20 dead before a police sniper killed him

The assault by James Hubberty is the worst mass-murder in U.S. history, officials say.

(July 24, 1984) Services were this week for James A. Carlen, 79, a prominent businessman and civic leader.

The son of the late Walter and Fanny Carlen, he was the father of Jim Carlen, former head football coach for Texas Tech and the university of South Carolina.

He built and was the long-time president of the Cookeville Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

(August 1984) At the Putnam County Fair this week, Rita Hickey was named Fairest of the Fair in the annual county beauty pageant. Tanya Gail Wilson was crowned Princess, and Kim Gantt was named Young Miss.

Also drawing a large crowd this week at the fair was a novelty act featuring women in bikinis wrestling in a pit of mud.

(August 2, 1984) Cookeville's Chamber of Commerce has landed a national convention, which Chamber director Eldon Leslie says is expected to bring an extra \$2 million in business to the city in mid-August.

The National Fur Trappers Association that agreed to hold its annual four-day convention on campus of Tennessee tech this year. It has more than 15,000 members.

*In this week's elections, Monterey High principal Bob Hargis became the new superintendent of Putnam's school system, political activist Wanda Noblit was named to the Putnam School Board and John Maddux became the judge for the new 13th Judicial District.

*Showing at the Highway Cinemas: Rock star Prince in "Purple Rain."

(August 12, 1984) A bomb shattered windows and blew a hole in the front door of a home of a Stillman worker this week, the latest in a series of violence that has broken out since employees went on strike there Feb. 1.

Authorities say tires had been slashed and there have been other instances of dynamite set off near homes and cars of other hired since the strike

Sara G. Lynn, a professor of educational psychology at Tennessee Tech, is retiring at the end of the month after 40 years in the teaching profession.

The Jackson County native spent more than 20 years in public school systems in Clay, Jackson and Putnam counties and has been at TTU for the last 18 years.

She says her four decades as a teachers have been "just like a party. I have always liked to get dressed up and go to school and teach."

Many of her students share her enthusiasm for learning, TTU officials say.

Showing this weeks at the Highland Cinema: "Red Dawn" with Patrick Swayze, and "Splash," with Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah.

(August 28, 1984) Services were held this week for two long-time members of the county legislative body.

Jim L. Young, 58, died this week following a stroke. He's been on the Putnam County Commission and its predecessor, the Putnam County Court for 21 years and had just been elected to another four-year term.

He went on the commission with his brother, Benton, in the days when it was known as the Putnam County Quarterly Court, and over the years served on several key committees.

Young owned and operated Young's Auto Parts on West Broad.

Services were also held this week for Solon Maxwell, 77, who served on the county court for 25 years, beginning when its members were known as justices of the peace, or county 'magistrates.' He ended his last term on that body in 1978.

Maxwell has also served as a sheriff's deputy and retired as a dispatcher for the Cookeville Police Department. He's also served as county coroner for several years.

(September 4, 1984) This week the Cookeville City Council prepared to adopt an ordinance to bring city beer codes in line with a new state law raising the legal drinking age to 21.

*Showing this week at the Varsity Theater: "Star Trek III: The Search for Spock," and "Gremlins."

(September 12, 1984) Monterey's Clemmie Pugh was honored this week on her 102nd birthday by her sons, Ed, Frank, Dow, Jim and Bill, in a special party for Standing Stone Health Care Center.

*A Sunday night blaze did \$330,000 in damage to the Lowe Lumber Co. in west Cookeville.

The fire is believed to have originated in a kiln inside a large metal building and destroyed a considerable

amount of cut lumber as well as the building itself.

*Congress has passed a new law requiring cigarette packages to now carry four warnings in place of the current one informing smokers that "The Surgeon General has determined that smoking is harmful to your health."

The new warnings say smoking causes lung cancer and emphysema, can result in complications during pregnancy, and promotes heart disease, and says that stopping now can greatly reduce your risk of serious health problems.

*Showing at the Highland Cinema this week: "The Karate Kid" and Bo Derek in "Bolero".

(September 25, 1984) A legacy of the philosophy of former U.S. Secretary of the Interior James Watts, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced plans to clear-cut timber above Center Hill Lake, which is widely popular with scuba divers for its pristine waters.

The announcement has sparked howls of outrage from area residents and officials alike.

The Corps is planning to make \$50,000 on the sale of the 120 acres of timber above the lake.

Critics say it will not only spoil the natural beauty of the lake, but will cause erosion that will pollute the lake's clarity and disturb eagles which have only recently returned to the lake.

*Showing at the Varsity Theater this week: Harrison Ford in "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom."

(October 3, 1984) Fierce opposition from area officials and residents has prompted the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to delay clear-cut logging on the slopes above Dale Hollow Lake, regarded as one of the state's most pristine lakes.

The Corps says it plans to hold a series of public workshops across the region to explain to the public the reasons behind the plan and how it will benefit wildlife around the lake.

*Algood won a \$346,000 federal EPA grant this week for improving its sewer system.

The only catch is that the funds can only be used to tie Algood's sewer system onto Cookeville's network of sewer lines, and Cookeville officials haven't yet agreed to the connection.

City Manager Luther said talks with Algood officials are continuing this week.

*Legend Paul Bear Bryant, starring Gary Busey.

Also "Sam's Son," a film produced, directed and starring Michael Landon.

(October 14, 1984) Should the county road department continue its long-standing practice of paving the parking lots of rural churches?

Danny Higdon and Charles Looper, members of the County Commission's Fiscal Review Committee, this week said they thought the practice is too costly and should be stopped.

Putnam Road Supervisor Ronnie Herron told the committee that it does take men off roadwork and costs materials that could well be used to repair the county's rural road system.

But he added, "I'm not going out here by myself and say, no, we're not going to do it anymore. I might just want to run for re-election."

The full commission will discuss the question later this month.

(October 22, 1984) Known fondly by generations of TTU students as 'Sherlock,' Bethel Carrington died at Cookeville General Hospital this week at the age of 84.

From 1934 to 1967, he was the night watchman at TTU. His father, who had the nickname, "Uncle Arch," was the college's first night watchman between 1928 until his death in 1934, when the young Carrington stepped in, carrying his father's large ring of keys to campus buildings with him on his rounds.

He carried a pistol on his first few weeks on the job, but when he accidentally discharged it checking its mechanism, "I put that gun away and decided just to carry a rock in my pocket," he said in one interview.

He also decided he could gain the trust and confidence of students if he didn't carry a weapon. It worked. For nearly 30 years, "Sherlock" let students in and out of the dorms after hours, gave them rides to the depot to catch the train, and was their friend.

TTU recently named the small picnic area on the western edge of the campus "Sherlock Park" in his honor.

(October 23, 1984) An electrical short in a soft drink machine is being blamed for a fire that caused \$1 million loss this week at the Cherokee Furniture Company here.

Some of the plant's 100 workers had already arrived and were at their posts when sparks from the machine landed in a pile of foam rubber and it burst into flames that rapidly engulfed the plant. No one was injured.

The building was completely gutted and a warehouse full of finished furniture went up in smoke as well.

*Showing at the Highland Cinema this week: "Irreconcilable Differences," with Ryan O'Neal and Shelley Long.

(November 21, 1984) Cookeville City Council told three ministers this week that there is nothing the city can do to tighten anti-pornography laws so children browsing magazine racks won't be exposed to sexually explicit material in men's magazines.

The three pastors, Donald Simmons, Claudie Richardson and Ron Gray, are officers in the new Cookeville chapter of National Federation of Decency.

They say that in recent checks at area stores, they found magazines like Hustler, Penthouse and Playboy jumbled in with youth magazines on the lower racks.

They suggested that the council pass an ordinance requiring adult magazines to be stored under the counter and made available only when a customer asked for one.

But the council this week said that its hands are tied. Recent court rulings leave enactment and enforcement of anti-pornography laws strictly in the hands of the state.

(December 19, 1984) The Seaboard Systems railroad this week agreed to sell a .22-acre site to the city that it had long hoped to buy – the land underneath the Cookeville Depot.

The city had owned the building itself since the 1970s thanks to the conservation efforts of Donald Ferrell and others, but the city had been unable to buy the actual property itself until this week.

The purchase clears the way for preservation efforts at the Depot, which some hope will one day become a local museum.

Hot toy items for this Christmas? Action figures from the last Star Wars movie, "Return of the Jedi," are popular. So are "Talking Mr. T." figures.

For girls, the "Michael Jackson Phonograph" is a big seller, area stores reported this week.

Showing at the Highland Cinema for the holidays are, "Terminator," "A Christmas Story," "Dune," "Starman," and "Beverly Hills Cop."

(November 1, 1984) Cookeville businessman and long-time volunteer fireman McCoy Shelton was named Cookeville Fire Chief this week after City Manager Luther Mathis dismissed Emil Jensen from the position.

Jensen had apparently developed insurmountable leadership problems during his brief stint as fire chief.

In the latest incident, several of his men complained to city officials that Jensen had ordered them into a dangerous situation fighting last week's fire at the Cherokee Furniture Company.

*India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by members of her own Sikh bodyguard unit this week as she left her home.

The woman who has dominated Indian politics for the past two decades had incurred the wrath of militant Sikhs after cracking down on their movement six months ago.

(November 7, 1984) Ronald Reagan has won a second term as president by an unprecedented landslide and says he now plans to extend the 'conservative mandate' into the next century.

Putnam voters, who in 1980 bucked the Reagan tide and voted for Jimmy Carter, this time went heavily for Reagan.

Ironically, the only precincts Reagan lost here, Buffalo Valley, Cedar Hill, Gentry and Baxter, are in the county's western end, traditionally a Republican stronghold here.

*In other elections, Bart Gordon is Tennessee's new 6th District Congressman, and his predecessor, Albert Gore Jr., easily won in his race for the U.S. Senate.

(November 14, 1984) Residents who are awaiting a court date in their lawsuit seeking to close down the county's rock crusher east of Cookeville say a blast at the quarry this week sent a large chunk of hard-packed clay crashing down through a wooden deck on a Skyline Drive home.

They say this shows the county's newest safety measures at the quarry are not working.

Putnam Road Supervisor Ronnie Herren says blasting crews set off a charge too high on the quarry wall and that blasting will cease in that location until other steps can be taken.

*The Soil Conservation Service this week, in its annual fall banquet, honored Jim Edd Bartlett of Dry Valley as the year's Master Farmer and David Judd of the Salem community as its outstanding Pasture Farmer.

(November 28, 1984) Putnam Fair Secretary-Treasurer Jere Cumby reported this week that this year's county fair was the most profitable ever, clearing \$20,000 once all expenses were paid.

That profit will be added to \$50,000 approved this summer by the county commission to re-roof several buildings at the fairgrounds, undertake the first complete rewiring of the facility in 30 years, and do numerous other improvements.

*Tennessee Tech photographic services chief Don Reese and freelance photographer Meryl Truett learned this week that their work will soon be seen across the nation, representing Tennessee.

They were among 36 winners out of 3,000 entries in a Homecoming '86 photographic contest, part of a

major state effort to draw visitors to the state.

Their winning photos will be included in a handsome Homecoming '86 calendar the state plans to sell nationally.

(December 26, 1984) A.K. Booher is retiring after 34 years with the Soil Conservation Service here, much of it as director of the Hull-York Lakeland RC&D project.

The project has performed a variety of functions, including fighting soil erosion and working to rid the area of roadside garbage dumps and junked cars.

A TTU graduate, he joined the SCS in 1951. In 1967, he was named director of the new RC&D project here and in the next 17 years was awarded four certificates of merit for his performance.

In his last year of service, he has seen the city's Cane Creek Park, which was partially funded by the SCS, come close to completion.

*The National Enquirer this week ran a four-page story on Buffalo Valley native Mary Warren, who earlier this year, at a South Carolina hospital, was exposed as an impostor.

Her four-page story ran opposite a full-page spread on Elizabeth Taylor, who is getting ready to marry her eighth husband.

South Carolina officials discovered that Mrs. Warren, a nurse for more than 30 years, had never graduated from high school, much less nursing school.

She'd gone to South Carolina after being fired as director of nursing at Cookeville General Hospital, when the hospital administrator learned she'd been punching the time card of a son-in-law who worked as a nurse's aide when he wasn't actually working.

Hospital board chairman Fred Roberson was quoted in the Enquirer as saying Mrs. Warren seemed 'very competent.'

1985

(January 30, 1985) Biscuits are nothing new for breakfast, but the hottest new trend here is buying them at fast food restaurants.

The paper says that in the last few months, restaurants like Hardees and McDonald's have begun to sell thousands of biscuits here each morning -- eggs and biscuits, ham and biscuits, steak and biscuits and in other combinations.

It's a craze that's sweeping the nation.

*For the third weekend in a row, winter hit Putnam County hard this week, first dropping an icy rain that encased trees and power lines and glazed roads, and then following through with more than two inches of snow.

Ice pellets fell so heavily at one point that they packed on road surfaces and quickly turned to sheets of ice several inches thick.

(February 12, 1985) After a spring-like December, Putnam is reeling from the latest in a series of winter blows.

Children returned to school yesterday for the first time in three weeks. Yesterday it snowed 4 inches. Today

a warm rain is falling, washing the latest horrible white stuff down the gutters.

*The Cookeville Jaycees Women marked their 33rd year of service here this week. They began as the Cookeville Jaycettes in 1952, under the leadership of Evelyn Stites.

The organization of Jaycees' wives, between the ages of 18 and 35, has undertaken numerous civic projects over the years, including fundraisers for St. Jude Children's Hospital and the March of Dimes.

In 1969, when historic Red Boiling Springs flooded, the Jaycettes, along with their husbands, pitched in to raise relief funds.

Their most consistently successful project over the years has been the Fairest of the Fair beauty pageant, held during the Putnam County Fair.

(February 23, 1985) When TTU basketball player James Henry scored the first point in a basketball game between the Golden Eagles and Middle Tennessee State University, there was a 'blizzard' inside the Hooper Eblen Center as enthusiastic TTU fans tossed thousands of squares toilet paper onto the court, and an annual tradition for the TTU — MTSU game has begun.

(March 12, 1985) Cookeville businessman Jerry Bumbalough and his son, Tom, are heading for Florida as soon as Tom graduates in June from Cookeville High. They're getting there by bicycle.

The two will make the 700-mile bike trip from Cookeville to Daytona, Fla., over the summer to raise money for cystic fibrosis research.

They already have \$10,000 in pledges.

*More than 100 area environmentalists are meeting this week in the courthouse with a representative of the Sierra Club to discuss options on how to fight the Tennessee National Guard.

Guard commander Gen. Carl Wallace wants to build a 114,000 training ground near Spencer for armored maneuvers and target practice.

The site is adjacent to two of state's most popular scenic areas, Fall Creek Falls and the Savage Gulf. The group says the noise alone from tanks, artillery and helicopter gunships training in the area will spoil the serenity of the neighboring wilderness.

(March 19, 1985) Putnam County has five new Eagle Scouts after ceremonies here this week.

Troop 156 produced four of them, Brad Leimer, Danny Sutherland, Jay Mannle and Steve Shaw.

And Leon Tolbert of Troop 108 also received the coveted Scouting badge this week.

+ Showing this week at the Highland Cinema, "Friday the 13th, Part V, A New Beginning," and "Nightmare on Elm Street."

(April 11, 1985) The \$3 million, 200-acre Cane Creek Park has opened after years of delays from lawsuits and other glitches.

(May 16, 1985) Vice Mayor Allen Ray has called for the creation of a full-time recreation director for Cookeville, since the city pulled out of the troubled countywide Parks and Recreation Dept. in 1983.

(May 20, 1985) Cookeville officials have unveiled a monument to the city's namesake, Richard Fielding Cooke.

(August 10, 1985) The Algood Board of Aldermen has voted to hire former Cookeville City Manager Bethel Newport as the town's new city administrator after voting earlier to fire Don Holt from the post he'd held for only a month and after Mayor Jim Brown resigned, saying he was "tired of controversy."

(August 29, 1985) After several weeks of unrest in Algood city hall, the Algood board of aldermen has hired former Cookeville City Manager Bethel Newport as Algood's new city administrator.

The board in a close vote fired Don Holt from that post after he'd only been on the board a month and the controversy that ensued caused Mayor Jim Brown to resign, saying he was "tired of controversy."

Newport, a 23-year veteran of Cookeville government, 11 of which he spent as Cookeville's city manager, says, "I think things will settle down here now."

(September 3, 1985) The Putnam County Fair drew an unusual number of complaints this year, and Putnam County Executive John Gentry says he's going to take the issue up with the Putnam Fair Board at its annual October meeting.

Gentry said this office has received numerous calls about the quality of rides provided by the Cumberland Valley Shows carnival company at this year's fair, as well as the rising cost of the rides.

Meanwhile this week, 560 miles off the coast of Newfoundland and 13,200 feet down on the ocean floor, a French-American team located the wreck of the legendary Titanic, which sank on its maiden voyage on April 14, 1912 taking 1,500 passengers to the bottom. Some 700 managed to find lifeboats and were rescued.

(September 10, 1985) Cookeville City Council has created a new board to oversee the restoration and use of the new Cookeville Depot Museum.

(September 10, 1985) NASA space shuttle astronaut Rhea Seddon is coming to speak on America's space program at TTU this week.

The former high school classmate of Congressman Bart Gordon was a medical specialist on a space shuttle mission in April.

The unbeaten Cookeville High Cavaliers continued their winning streak in Edmonton, Kentucky this week when they trounced Metcalf County High 43-0.

The team recently beat Warren County 21-6 and next weekend plays Murfreesboro.

Showing this week at the Highland Cinema: Michael J. Fox in "Teen Wolf" and Pee Wee Herman in "Pee Wee's Big Adventure."

(September 19, 1985) Cookeville City Council this week created a new board to oversee the restoration and use of the new Cookeville Depot Museum.

Restoration of the building, erected in 1909, has begun under a non-profit group of volunteers here. Friends of the Depot, which is preparing to petition the Tennessee Historical Commission to place the Depot on National Register of Historic Places.

(September 23, 1985) The Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority has been created to help preserve rail service in the Upper Cumberland.

(September 26, 1985) The Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority was formerly created this week in Carthage after several months of work by officials of the three counties that make up the organization, including Putnam.

NERA chairman John Gentry, a leader in the movement to preserve rail service to the Upper Cumberland, says the agency's next step is to find an operator of the 98-mile short line railroad.

The agency will seek to buy the lines from Seaboard Systems, which is in the process of abandoning service to the region from Monterey.

(October 1, 1985) In a speech at Tennessee Tech this week, TVA chairman Charles "Chili" Dean said he was "shocked" recently when he learned of safety problems in TVA's nuclear program that have TVA workers worried.

His comments came amid talk in Washington of making board changes in TVA to restore public confidence in the agency.

Dean says high-level executives at TVA were unaware of problems in the nuclear power program because mid-level managers failed to pass them on.

Showing this week at the Highland Cinemas: Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Commando."

(October 10, 1985) The Putnam Ambulance Service has hired its first female paramedic, Betsy Spurlock, the daughter of a retired Tennessee Highway Patrol officer, Ralph Spurlock.

(October 11, 1985) Putnam county's population now officially stands at 49,600, according to the US Census Bureau, which recently wrapped up a special census here.

That's up from 47,690 in the 1980 census.

The new figure places Putnam County in the 20th place among the state's 95 counties in terms of population.

Cookeville High's Homecoming Queen this year is Catherine Briggs, daughter of Barbara and Dr. Robert Briggs of Cookeville.

Her attendants include Tami Allen, Jennifer Johnson, Heather Anderson, Annette Honea, Teresa Cowan and Karla West.

Showing this week at the Highland Cinema: Fred Ward is "Remo Williams," the special government agent trained to "dodge bullets and walk on water."

(Oct. 24, 1985) Beginning next month the cost of using a pay telephone will go up from a dime to 25 cents after the State Public Service Commission this week approved the hike for the GTE.

GTE said that to "offset" the hike, it is slightly lowering the cost of phone service to rural customers.'

(October 24, 1985) Excited Tennessee Tech football fans tore down the goal post Saturday afternoon after the Golden Eagles broke a 17-game losing streak with a 59-6 win over Moorehead State before a Homecoming crowd here.

Showing this week at the Varsity Theater: Glenn Close and Jeff Bridges in the thriller, "Jagged Edge."

(October 30, 1985) It was a first this week for the Putnam County Ambulance service. It hired its first female paramedic.

Betsy Spurlock, the daughter of retired Tennessee Highway Patrol trooper Ralph Spurlock, has gained medical experience as a nursing assistant at Cookeville General and the 23-year-old recently completed paramedic's training as well.

(November 6, 1985) Cookeville lies in the path of major growth, Bill Long, Commissioner for the Tennessee Dept. of economic and community development told members of the Cookeville Chamber of Commerce this week.

Long said that Cookeville's proximity to the new GM Saturn plant in Spring Hill will likely have a spin-off effect there of attracting new industries to serve that sprawling new facility.

Lying between two of the nation's fastest growing cities, Nashville and Knoxville, will also likely boost Cookeville's growth, Long noted.

(November 12, 1985) Cookeville's Joy Holloway and Tamara Richards were among the top ten finalists in the Mrs. Tennessee Pageant this week at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Nashville.

The winner of the pageant is a former Cookevillian, Becky Schwab, who now resides in Franklin.

In the '50's, it was the 'duck-tail.' In the 60's guys sported long hair and sometimes ponytails.

What's the hair fad this year? 'Rat tails.'

For the uniformed, 'rat tails' are tuft of hair cut to hang down over the center of the collar. They're particularly popular at the junior high here, says the newspaper.

(November 19, 1985) It's a growing problem across the nation – kids left alone at home after school until working parents get home. The newspaper took a look this week at what's being done here to help "latchkey kids."

The Putnam Family YMCA has just launched a new program to give kids structured and supervised activities after school, and some 30 children are enrolled so far.

And at Capshaw Elementary in Cookeville, teachers are operating a similar program for about 19 children this year.

(November 18, 1985) Two city councilmen, Bob Poteet and Raymond Brown, have broken the silence with public statements.

For the last six days after the council held a series of secret meetings, rumors have flown across town but the council has remained tightlipped.

Now, Poteet and Brown say the meetings were concerning City Manager Ed Kimsey as widely-rumored, but they say he will not be fired as rumored.

The councilmen say the council was concerned about Kimsey's management style but they say the situation has been worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

*Showing this week at the Highland Cinema: "The Big Chill."

(November 19, 1985) Cookeville General Hospital this week decided it needed the services of a professional public relations firm to improve its image after revenue losses this month.

Hospital administrator Walter Fitzpatrick, Jr. blamed the local media for what he charged was an attempt to make it appear that the hospital was losing money.

Hospital revenue was down \$50,000 this month, he added.

(December 4, 1985) Some 60 Monterey residents crammed into Monterey City Hall this week to complain to the board that the town doesn't have enough water.

The problem, said board members is the town's sprawling new Fast Food Merchandising plant, which employs hundreds of workers and is hiring more every day.

The plant uses up to 9,000 gallons of water every day processing chicken for the Hardees fast food chain, a large portion of water available for use by the entire town.

While it has created the water shortage, the company's presence in town has also made it possible for Monterey to get state and federal grants for a major expansion of its water system, said the board.

The problem is what to do until the new water facilities are on line. Board members talked about drawing water from old abandoned coal mines in the area for treatment, extending new lines to under-served areas of the town, and even rationing water to the FFM plant until more water is available.

*In Bhopal, India this morning, more than 10,000 people were feared dead from a leak at a neighboring Union Carbide factory. Poisonous gas seeped from the plant during the night and crept into surrounding homes as residents slept, killing thousands and leaving up to 20,000 with long-term lung and skin damage.

(December 6, 1985) Cookeville General Hospital celebrated its 35th year here.

On December 9, 1950, Cookeville Mayor D. S. Mahler dedicated the city's new one-story, 50-bed hospital, a big step forward from the 12-bed hospital built in 1923 by Dr. W. A. Howard.

Today, Cookeville General has grown into a six-story facility with 227 beds and is ranked as a regional health care facility.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "Santa Claus, the Movie," and "Rocky IV."

(December 24, 1985) John Parent was enjoying Christmas Day with his family at their home near Burgess Falls Lake when he became worried because it was growing dark and the family's 1-year-old collie, Sally, failed to come home when called.

He walked a quarter mile to the frozen lake and spotted Sally out on the ice, resting her "elbows" on the ice, with the rest of her in the water, trapped and "crying."

She was too far out to reach with a rope and the ice was too thin to walk on to attempt a rescue.

He rushed home and called neighbor Donald Mott, who enlisted the help of 22-year-old Perry Delaney, son of the owner of a nearby country grocery.

Delaney, in the dying light, brought a flat-bottom boat to the lake and inched it out on the ice before him until both he and the boat went through the ice sill yards from the trapped dog, which by now was lying on her side in the freezing water with her muzzle barely above the water.

Delaney managed to get into the boat, paddle it to the dog and pull her in.

After a night in the family home, Sally was fine today. So was Delaney. He was out tending to live stock when the newspaper attempted to teach him for his account of the rescue.

1986

(1986) It was the city's only water storage tank from 1925 until 1948 and has dominated the skyline at the corner of 4th and Franklin for decades.

This week welders hired by the city toppled the old water tower after deciding earlier this month that it was no longer needed and that the city would therefore save the money needed to repair it from ice damage two winters ago.

A crowd gathered to watch the old metal structure crumple and fall with a crash after welders cut metal legs on two sides and used a wench to pull the old tank down.

*TTU is expanding its telephone exchange in a move that is putting a new telephone prefix in the Cookeville phone book – 372.

The expansion will give the university several new phone lines and the capacity for many more in the future.

Presently, TTU has about 800 office lines and 1,800 phones in student dormitories. After the expansion there will be more than 2,000 phones in dorms and 1,900 office lines.

(1986) Fiddlin' Frazier Moss and banjo picker Jack Sallee of Cookeville will be among a troupe of 90 Tennessee musicians, craftsmen, dancers and storytellers at the Smithsonian Institute this month in an exhibition designed to give the rest of the nation a test of Tennessee's heritage and culture.

Moss is considered the state's best old-time fiddlers and Sallee, a history teacher at Cookeville High, is also well known on the local music scene and often accompanies Moss.

*Showing at the Highland Cinemas this week: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" with Matthew Broderick and Tom Cruise and Kelly McGillis in "Top Gun."

(January 10, 1986) Volunteers with the fledgling Cookeville Depot Museum who were disappointed last year when corporate officials with the Seaboard Systems railroad reneged on a promise to donate an old caboose got a happy surprise this week.

With no advance word, a passing Seaboard train dropped an old caboose off on a side track at the rail museum here and rolled away.

Depot Museum Director Connie Wallace confirmed with a phone call to Seaboard officials that the caboose was indeed a promise kept.

The caboose will be restored and added to the museum's collection of railroad memorabilia, she said.

Showing this week at the Highland cinema: "Rocky IV," and "Out of Africa," with Meryl Streep and Robert Redford.

(February 6, 1986) Working parents are having an increasingly hard time finding day care for their kids, the newspaper reported this week.

The 20 state-approved day care centers and day homes in the Cookeville area are already operating at near-capacity keeping 700 children on a full time basis.

All of those facilities report new requests coming in each week, and some have waiting lists of up to 50 names.

Also overcrowded is the Putnam County school administration building on Spring Street, a 65-year-old structure that was once the city's hospital and later it's library.

Increasingly complicated state school program have boosted the number of staff members needed to administer schools and the piles of reports and records needed to be stored in the building each year.

But Putnam School Supt. Bob Hargis said this week that school officials are not yet sure whether to approach the Putnam County Commission for funds for a new central office building this year.

Capshaw Elementary is also facing severe overcrowding woes he noted, and he said school officials will not put a new administration building ahead of classroom needs.

Showing this week at the Highland Cinema: "The Color Purple," by Steven Spielberg.

(February 12, 1986) It was a week for weather. The week began with an ice sheet that covered Tennessee from west to east. It began as a freezing rain that quickly turned to a driving sleet as schools were dismissed early and parents and bus drivers fought worsening conditions to get children safely home.

By morning, after a low of 5 degrees, roads were glazed over and cars were in ditches across the county.

Three days later Old Man Winter took a second hard swipe at Putnam County. Another freezing rain fell and a sudden cold wave that swept across the county frosted over slush and melt-off still on the roads from the first storm.

Later in the day, snowflakes as big as half dollars fell furiously, dusting the ice over with a blanket of snow.

Two days after that, the snow and ice were completely gone as a soared into the low 70s.

Showing this week at the Highland Cinema; Goldie Hawn as a high school football coach in "Wildcats."

(February 22, 1986) The revised version of Gov. Lamar Alexander's Bicentennial Parkway package was released this week but it did little to assure boosters of Highway 111 here that the long-awaited highway will be completed any time soon.

First conceived 23 years ago, the road today stands only 65 percent finished. Right of way is purchased. Engineering plans are complete. But the road has remained consistently unfunded by the General Assembly in Nashville.

Trying to generate support for his Bicentennial Parkway package, Alexander made changes in his first draft of the road plan.

But civic leaders and elected officials here in the recently created Highway 111 association say that the list of "accelerated" highways in the newest version still will not see 111 finished until at least 16 years from now.

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(February 26, 1986) The casting director of a \$40 million Dino DeLaurentis film announced this week that he will be at the Cookeville Holiday Inn this week hiring extras for "King Kong Lives," the sequel to the 1976 DeLaurentis hit.

The casting director says he's looking for "hundreds and hundreds of military and hunter types."

Arson is the suspected cause of a fire that destroyed the historic 72-year old Ivy Hall on the grounds of the former Baxter Seminary this week.

The Putnam school system had recently bought the building for \$75,000 and had talked of trying to have it placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The town of Baxter has posted a \$1,000 reward seeking the person responsible for the fire.

(March 9, 1986) Three students from Cookeville High School have brought back five medals from the US Decathlon in Nashville this week.

Jai Kumar, Kristy Holt and Scarlett Clouse competed with students from across Tennessee in the academic bowl and, although the team finished 7th in the state, the trio took home high individual honors.

Meanwhile this week, the Putnam school system named it's three Teachers of the Year.

They are Barbara Lee, a 4th grade teacher at Capshaw; Connie McBride, an 8th grade teacher at Cookeville Junior High; and Peggy Fragopoulos, and English teacher at Monterey High.

The three will now compete with teachers from across the state for the state Teacher of the Year title.

(March 10, 1986) The State Dept. of Mental Health is launching a new program to organize clubs in every 4th, 5th, and 6th grade class in Tennessee to teach elementary students how to "Just Say No" to drugs and alcohol.

State officials say that the average age in which a child now first experiments with either alcohol or drugs is now 12. A decade ago, that average age was 15.

Cookeville High's Leon Tolbert, 17, was won what is probably the biggest college scholarship ever here, \$32,000 to attend the Georgia Tech next fall.

Tolbert, the valedictorian for his Class of '86, is one of 25 students in the nation to receive a President's Scholarship.

His mother, Rebecca Tobert, an associate professor in TTU's School of Nursing, was also valedictorian of her CHS class in 1961. Leon's father is Dr. R. Noel Tolbert, a professor of civil engineering at TTU.

Showing this week at the Highland Cinemas: "Down and Out In Beverly Hills," with Nick Nolty and Richard Dreyfuss.

(March 17, 1986) Another wrench has been tossed into efforts by area counties to create a short-line railroad to serve industries between Monterey and Nashville.

The Nashville and Eastern Railroad Authority, composed of Putnam and two other Middle Tennessee counties, is working to raise funds to buy the line currently being abandoned by Seaboard Systems Railroad in hearing before the federal Interstate Commerce Commission.

To make the line work, NERA officials say it must stretch from Monterey into Donelson where the DuPont plant is served by rail.

But this week, the section of tracks offered for sale by Seaboard stopped eight miles and of the DuPont plant.

Without that major customers, NERA officials say the line will not be financially feasible to operate, based on the current number of industries along the route interested in rail service.

*Meanwhile, there was good news from the state. State officials say that various state funds are available to pay for at least half of the \$7 million it will cost the NERA to purchase and upgrade the Seaboard line, formerly owned by L&N and by the Tennessee Central Railroad before that.

(April 3, 1986) Putnam County's three top teachers of the year have now been voted the Upper Cumberland's three top teachers of the year as well.

They will now enter competition for the selection of Tennessee's Teacher of the Year.

They are Barbara Lee of Capshaw Elementary, Connie McBride of Cookeville Jr. High and Peggy Fragopoulous of Monterey High.

(April 3, 1986) At the request of disgruntled downtown merchants, Cookeville City Council this week approved changes in the downtown parking meter situation.

Beginning next week, the cost to park in metered spaces will rise from a nickel an hour to 50 cents. And if a policeman catches you parked there with a red flag up on the meter, the fine will go from its present 50 cents to \$3.

Merchants have complained that some downtown workers are staying parked all day in the same spots near their offices and that this keeps away customers.

Meanwhile, operators with GTE who work downtown are protesting the change.

Showing this week at the Highland Cinemas: Tom Hanks and Shelly Long in "The Money Pit."

(April 15, 1986) It's official now, the state is going to turn loose the funds to complete the north-south Highway, Highway 111 after 23 years of stops and starts on the route from Lexington, KY, to Chattanooga.

The funds for Highway 111's completion are part of a \$2.8 billion road package passed yesterday by the General Assembly after two weeks of fierce infighting and political maneuvering.

State Rep. Jerry Jared, who fought for the Highway 111 funds, says the package will add four cents to the state's present 13-cent gasoline tax.

The package will finish gaps in Highway 111 at the Kentucky state line, between Cookeville and Sparta, and between Soddy Daisy and Dunlap within the next three years.

(April 20, 1986) William A. Smith and Barry Wilmoth of Cookeville are going to Carnegie Hall.

They're members of TTU's Tuba Ensemble, which is preparing to make it's third trip to the famous New York City music hall for another performance in the ensemble's unique style of music.

Smith is a junior music education major and the son of Fred and Sarah Smith, and Wilmoth is a sophomore music education major and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen E. Wilmoth.

(May 3, 1986) Cookeville City Council put an end this week to terms on the Cookeville General Hospital Board which have come to routinely exceed 20 years of more.

The council said it believed new blood and new insights and ideas were needed for the hospital by-laws limiting board members to a single seven-year term.

Neighbors of the Soviet Union are furious this week that the USSR did not warn them of a radioactive cloud drifting their way from history's worst nuclear accident at a power plant in Chernobyl, where fire ravaged the plant and threatened to cause a potentially catastrophic meltdown of the reactor's fuel.

A number of deaths are already suspected in and around the plant as emergency workers fought to contain the fire.

Meanwhile, Scandinavian authorities report that a highly-charged radioactive cloud from the direction of the Chernobyl plant has drifted across their border.

(May 7, 1986) Drought has lingered over the nation's Southeast since 1984 and many cities in the region are having problems with water, or the lack thereof. But not Cookeville, said City Manager Luther Mathis this week.

The city's water treatments plants has access to millions of gallons of water in Center Hill Lake, the level of which has only dropped slightly despite the lingering dry spell.

Since May of 1983, 33 inches of rain that would have fallen on Putnam County in normal years has not. *In this weeks Democratic Primary, Opal Burris won the nomination to face two opponents in August for Register of Deeds. Ronnie Herren won the nomination and faces one foe for Putnam Road Supt., and Gary Maynard is the apparent winner in the race for Putnam Trustee, facing no opponents in the general elections in August.

(May 13, 1986) There was good news and bad news this week for the tri-county Nashville and Easter Railroad Authority, which is trying to create a short-line railroad from here to Nashville to keep trains running to serve local industries.

The good news was that Seaboard Systems is willing to sell the tracks it is abandoning.

The bad news is it's asking \$2.5 million for the line. The most NERA was expecting to pay was \$1.7 million.

Talks continue.

*The Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ this week dedicated its new \$1.4 million addition, which includes an 850-seat auditorium and a two-story classroom building.

One of the city's largest churches, it has come a long way since it was created in 1871 with five families meeting in each others homes for service.

*The city has two new Eagle Scouts: Eric Altom, son of Pam and Ken Altom of Cookeville, and Joseph Murray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Murray of Cookeville. Both boys are members of Boy Scout Troop 156, and Ray Holbrook is the scoutmaster.

(June 25, 1986) Just days before he planned to announce a write-in campaign in an effort to win reelection, White County Sheriff John McGhee, 39, was arrested this week by the FBI on charges of accepting \$20,000 in bribes to look the other way as drug dealers refueled planes at the White County Airport.

The "drug dealers" were in fact undercover FBI agents who videotaped the negotiations.

(July 14, 1986) For weeks now, Celina residents have reported mysterious aircraft in their area at night, shinning lights on the ground and flitting around strangely. In one sighting, an aircraft emitting an usual engine sound hovered over a Little League baseball game and the bright light it shined down was seen by dozens of kids and adults.

And the Clay County residents say they are not amused by insinuations of “UFO” sightings” reported in Nashville media.

This week they got their explanation from Congressman Bart Gordon, who investigated the sightings. The aircraft are new military copters designed for night flights being tested in maneuvers at Ft. Campbell, says Gordon.

(August 5, 1986) In election this week, voters returned Jerry Abston to a five term as Putnam Sheriff, John Gentry, to a third term as Putnam County Executive, Tommy Burks to a third term in the State Senate and Ronnie Herren to a second term as Putnam Road Supervisor.

Voters also elected Opal Burris to her first term as Putnam Register of Deeds.

(August 12, 1986) The community’s effort to raise \$200,000 in donations for a life-saving liver transplant for two-year-old Joshua Clinton is gaining steam here.

Launched a month ago by members of his church and friends, the efforts has now spread to include businesses, organizations, other churches and several civic groups here.

Elmer Lollar and Jeanette Smith, volunteer coordinators of the fund drive, say the fund now stands at \$25,000.

Joshua is the son of Terry and Connie Clinton of Algood.

(November 25, 1986) Five students at CHS were recently ranked in the states’ top ten this week in high school academic bowl competition.

Bringing back top honors in competition with 150 other students from across the state were CHS academic team members Jai Kumar, Carrie Dillon, Keith Eiche, Doug Talbert and Henry Fincher.

Fincher went on in competition to be named to the All-Star team in the event and was named its “Most Valuable Player.”

Showing at the Highland Cinema this week: Steven Spielberg’s animated film, “An American Tale.”

(December 10, 1986) Services were held this week for well-known businessman and fox hunter Bob Lee Maddux.

One of the founders of Maddux and Proffitt on the Square, Maddux began his career as a merchant in 1914 when he became a partner in the Maddux and Massa Dry Good Store on the Square.

He was as well known for his humor and wit and for his love of fox hunting. He had written two books on the subject and a string of magazine articles over the years.

He was 96.

1987

(February 20, 1987) Arson was the suspected cause of a fire that has destroyed the historic, 72-year-old Ivy Hall on the grounds of the former Baxter Seminary.

(June 16, 1987) Local fiddler Frazier Moss and banjo picker Jack Sallee were among a troupe of 90 Tennessee musicians, craftsmen, dancers and storytellers this week at a Smithsonian Institute exhibit about the heritage and culture of the state.

(December 22, 1987) Sparta-White County Airport officials approached Cookeville Mayor Dwight Henry with a proposal for joint ownership of the facility.

1988

(January 16, 1988) Ground was broken for the new Cookeville Commons shopping center at the corner of S. Jefferson and Lowe Aves this week where until just recently, cows grazed. The 157,000 square-foot center will include a large, new K-Mart and a Goody's.

(February 24, 1988) State Rep. Jerry Jared says construction of the four-lane link of Highway 111 between Cookeville and Sparta is a year ahead of schedule.

(March 10, 1988) The American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association has named Cookeville as the most economical of 252 affordable places to live.

(April 16, 1988) A task force appointed by the Putnam School Board has recommended a \$13 million school building project, including a \$10 million high school to replace the old Cookeville High on Highway 70.

(May 23, 1988) Cookeville General Hospital officials are considering buying Sparta's hospital as a way of expanding services and becoming more competitive.

(June 10, 1988) A Jackson County woman, Pamela Kinnard, 25, was stabbed to death in the Cookeville Mall parking lot, and her uncle, Donny Ray Nelson, soon became the prime suspect in the crime.

(October 17, 1988) Mayor Tony Stone and the Cookeville Council have directed a local accounting firm, Duncan and Clouse, to draw up a formal request for offers to buy Cookeville General Hospital.

(October 25, 1988) Fleetguard celebrates 20 years in Putnam County.

(December 16, 1988) A patch of heavy fog is blamed for a 26-car pile-up on Interstate 40 that killed a pregnant woman from Oklahoma and included a state trooper's patrol car.

(December 23, 1988) Cookeville Mall manager Cheryl Hackett has won Mrs. Tennessee title in a Nashville pageant.

1989

(February 23, 1989) The Putnam Commission met to discuss the possibility of building a criminal justice center to house a new jail and courtrooms, helping to alleviate overcrowding in both.

(March 23, 1989) A citizen's panel appointed by the Cookeville Council has recommended that the city retain ownership of Cookeville General Hospital.

(April 10, 1989) The Cookeville Planning Commission has heard a request from First United Methodist Church to build a major addition across the street from the original building on Broad St. and to join the two structures with an enclosed brick walkway over the street.

(June 22, 1989) TTU's Chinese students held a memorial service in front of Derryberry Hall for the democratic supporters killed by the Chinese government in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

(September 2, 1989) TTU switches from the old quarter system to the new semester system.

(September 10, 1989) Ground is broken for the 178,000 square-foot, \$50 million TRW plant.

(December 13, 1989) Cookeville City Council did something about the city's traffic problems today. It gave final approval to a new \$500,000 traffic corridor that will run from South Willow to South Jefferson. Work is to begin soon.

(December 16, 1989) When Cookeville Police were tipped off that the Bread Box convenience store on N. Dixie Ave. was going to be robbed, 28-year-old clerk Jeffrey Judd agreed to man the register during a stake-out. With police watching, 18-year-old Eric Miller robbed the store, turned at the door, shot Judd once in the chest, killing him, and fled arrest until later the next day.

COOKEVILLE IN THE '80S — EXHIBIT COMES TO HISTORY MUSEUM 2017

Posted Thursday, March 9, 2017: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN
By LINDSAY McREYNOLDS

A visit from baseball legend Hank Aaron.

The first female council member.

The establishment of the city's leisure services.

The 1980s were a memorable decade for in Cookeville.

To help people relive or learn about that period, the Cookeville History Museum will host the exhibit, "Cookeville: Back to the 80s," beginning Saturday with an opening reception from 1 to 3 p.m.

The exhibit will continue during the museum's regular hours through April 29.

"We focus a lot on older history, and we wanted to do something we thought would be fun," said Pam Philpot, exhibits specialist at the history museum. "The 1980s are something we've never addressed here before."

Cookeville Councilman Dwight Henry remembers the decade well. He was one of 14 who campaigned for city council in 1985, and he became the youngest mayor of the city at the time at 32 years old.

"One day I barely know where to pay my electric bill, and the next day I'm mayor," Henry joked.

That was also the year that Joan Tansil became the first woman elected to the city council. Three years later, she became the city's first female vice mayor.

One of the highlights of Henry's time in office was a visit from Hank Aaron in which the baseball legend was presented with a key to the city in 1987.

Aaron came to Cookeville as part of the 10-year anniversary celebration of the Cookeville Mall.

"I got a call from Eldon Leslie at the chamber, and he said, 'I've got a celebrity coming to town, and we want you give him a key to the city. I ended up talking backstage with him for 10 minutes or so, and I remember praying, 'Please don't let me say something stupid.'"

One initiative launched during the '80s that led to the establishment of the city's leisure services department was Cookeville Tomorrow, the precursor to Envision Cookeville.

“It was a top recommendation across the board to develop a well-rounded program of recreation,” Henry said.

Cookeville’s first Father Daughter Date night emerged in the 1980s as well.

Cookeville Museums Manager Beth Thompson said that in addition to the artifacts collected to display in the exhibit, she would also like to invite people to display their own photos from the decade.

“One of our main goals is to bring a nostalgic part of history people can still remember,” she said.

Thompson said a Facebook post about the exhibit has already generated interest.

In addition to toys and other ’80s memorabilia, the history museum will have a “selfie station” where people can pose for photos like a photo booth.

“We want to encourage people to dress in their big hair and leg warmers,” she said.

The museum at 40 E. Broad St. is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>