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Good Morning! It's Wednesday, June 15, 1977

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House votes to restore Meramec funds

Story on page 14A



Leola Flores

Catch me

It's finally summer and that means a fast round of "cowboys and Indians" during recreation time for these children at Vacation Bible School at Broadway Christian Church, 2601 W. Broadway. But the school is not all play. Arts and crafts, top right, is educational as well as fun for these five-year-olds. They are, from left, Leila Ajans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Zaki Ajans; Holly Churchill,

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Churchill; Dehn Harper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Harper; and Andy Gray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gray. And then there's the lesson, given by Patricia Volkert, lower right. The four churches conducting the school which began Monday are Broadway Christian, Columbia United Church of Christ, First Christian Church and First Baptist Church.



Insight City's black businesses face hurdles

Scarcity of loans hurts new ventures

Columbia's small-town, homey atmosphere is a gold mine for most enterprising men and women who have always dreamed of their own businesses.

But not if you're black. Black businessmen here often face insurmountable obstacles. They, as other American small-businessmen, have been hit hard by the economic recession of the past two years. They, also as others, frequently find themselves battling the threat of a chain store takeover.

Often, too, they are hampered by a history of low income and fewer educational opportunities than non-minority businessmen. Consequently, they may find it more difficult to qualify for loans they need to get their businesses started.

Mississippi-bred Betty Pate, 27, who serves as economics chairman for the Columbia chapter of the Legion of Black Collegians, says, "One of the problems here is that there are no black

(See LACK, page 13A)

Group trying to save traffic loop

By Jean Becker and Betty Connor
Missourian staff writers

The downtown loop task force is hustling to keep Columbia's "noble experiment," the downtown loop, from falling apart.

At a meeting Tuesday, Dale Puckett, owner of Puckett's Men's Wear, 906 E. Broadway, easily persuaded the task force to recommend unanimously changes on the loop at Broadway and consider revising the five traffic signal intersections along the loop.

But a group of downtown businessmen are not waiting for further

city action. Glenn Braden, owner of Susie Scott's children's store, 710 E. Broadway, said Tuesday petitions to remove the loop will be circulated in most downtown stores by late afternoon today or Thursday.

A successful petition drive would force a referendum if the City Council did not eliminate the loop.

Braden said the task force's suggested changes would not affect his group. "Our group will settle for nothing but complete removal of the loop. We're not interested in any compromise," he said.

Three surveys will be taken during

the current six-month trial period, after which the council will decide whether to make the loop permanent.

The task force gave Public Works Director Ray Beck 24 hours to investigate whether Broadway traffic between Sixth and Tenth streets could exit the loop by traveling straight instead of turning as is now required.

"I think business has been depressed over the whole downtown section," Puckett said. "If we don't move, it'll be too late."

The task force is asking University professor David Leuthold to begin his survey of downtown shoppers and

merchants "as soon as possible." When told of the group's action, Leuthold said the survey, originally scheduled for the last week in June for a July 1 presentation, may be ready in a week.

Some task force members wanted Beck to start revamping the signal lights and traffic islands Tuesday afternoon.

"In fact, I'll provide the manpower," Puckett said. "I'm trying to salvage something from (the loop). If we don't move immediately the whole thing could collapse," he said.

Beck, who is acting city manager until vacationing Terry Novak returns

Monday, could adopt 90-day traffic regulations without City Council approval. Beck is to report to former Mayor Bob Pugh, acting task force chairman, today on whether he will act independently or wait for an informal polling of the council Monday night.

Puckett has been running promotional radio advertisements urging customers to try the loop. He said Tuesday he plans a newspaper campaign to solicit reactions to the loop.

He said he is aware of, but not involved in, petition drives against the (See PUGH, page 10A)

In license fees case

Harper: evidence lacking

By Mason Smith
Missourian staff writer

Boone County Prosecuting Attorney Milk Harper Tuesday afternoon repeated his position that the county lacks evidence needed to win a court suit against County Clerk Murry Glascock.

Northern District Judge Richard Farmer had asked Harper for advice before the County Court decides whether to pursue recovering \$6,000 in liquor license fees that cannot be accounted for in Glascock's office.

"You have to have evidence!" Harper told a reporter later. "I'm not bashful about filing suit where I have

evidence... but it's just not there."

The County Court Tuesday morning had questioned County Auditor Don Caldwell about his investigation of Glascock's missing liquor license fees. The court judges received few answers.

Harper said, "I told Mr. Farmer that there were 26 or 27 people working in that office in 1973. And how are you going to prove who took the money?" Harper said he explained some of the legal procedure involved in following an embezzlement action through court.

In the morning's court meeting, the judges cross-examined Caldwell for 15 minutes, probing for information that Caldwell would not give.

Caldwell had released figures last week, saying that available liquor license records do not show if Glascock collected \$6,000 in license fees in 1972 and 1973. Harper said that he could not use this figure as evidence in a trial.

The judges pressed for information, and the atmosphere became tense as Caldwell avoided releasing any further data.

Farmer: "Exactly what information is missing from the clerk's files?"

Caldwell: "Copies of liquor licenses, we could not locate..."

Farmer: "Who lost them?"

Caldwell: "Mr. Glascock would be (See COUNTY, page 18A)

Drew regrets pleading guilty

By Deana Holman
Missourian staff writer

One year ago, Clarence Drew's life as a public official came crashing down about him. In an eight-count indictment, a grand jury charged Drew with misusing the powers of his office as Boone County Court judge.

Today Drew, 63, is living quietly in Centralia with his wife and 30-year-old son.

"I work in the yard, go get groceries, take my pills," Drew says. "I have no bad feeling toward anyone. No sour grapes. I pleaded guilty. I didn't get a bad deal. That's just politics."

A grand jury investigation of the county court started last May. Drew resigned his office on June 7 saying that because of his health, his doctor recommended retirement. A week later, the grand jury charged Drew with eight counts of misconduct and abuse of authority.

The charges included purchasing turkeys for county employees with

county funds; ordering the property delivered to his residence by county employees on county time; ordering county employees to deliver culvert pipe for use on his private property; ordering his car washed, serviced and repaired by county employees; filling the tank of his personal car with county gas; and causing the county to extend credit to him for the cost of that gas which he ultimately paid for. Drew pleaded guilty, was indicted and fined \$250.

"If I had it to do over again, I never would have pleaded guilty," Drew says. "I'd have fought the charges and would have been acquitted in any court in the world. But at the time, my wife and I were just trying to save our sanity and health. Pleading guilty seemed the easiest way to get the whole thing behind us."

Drew says he has no hard feelings toward any individual; yet he does have some bitter feelings about the result of his indictment.

"I never would have pleaded guilty if I'd known I was going to lose my voting rights," he says. "That's the worst thing. I didn't know that at the time. I wasn't advised of that by the judge or the prosecuting attorney. I found it out in the Tribune a few days later."

Anyone convicted of a misdemeanor committed while holding public office loses his right to vote.

"It hurts," Drew says. "It hurts like hell. After serving on the county court for 10 years and being political for so many years, it's just cut me off. I don't feel like talking to people about political issues at all. Why bother? They'll just figure, 'What do you know? You can't even vote.'"

The only way Drew can regain his voting rights is through a pardon by the governor. He says he has been trying to obtain one, but so far his effort have been unsuccessful.

Many people in Centralia think Drew was treated unfairly, including William McEntire, Drew's neighbor and (See DREW, page 14A)

Assembly faces tough final bills

By David Ramsey
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — Five months and 1,400 bills after its session began, the Missouri General Assembly today faces four major issues before it adjourns at midnight.

Final forms of those bills are being decided by House-Senate conference committees, gatherings that sometimes resemble frontier trading posts more closely than law-writing sessions.

The major issues remaining, which are to be voted on today, are:

✓ A major revision of the state's criminal code.

✓ A conflict of interest law requiring less financial disclosure by candidates than under a law put on the books by citizens.

✓ A campaign finance law under which some candidates may not have to make personal financial disclosures.

✓ A potential new prison.

The 328-page criminal code bill, the product of a study commission that began work in 1969, sets standard definitions of crimes and their punishments.

The House tacked 27 amendments onto the Senate bill last week which, if passed and signed by the governor, becomes law in September 1978.

The House and Senate already have agreed to major changes in the 142-year old code, including stricter laws for rape, state criminal sanctions for prostitutes and their customers and reducing homosexual relations from a felony to a misdemeanor.

The House version of the conflict of interest bill is model legislation writ-

ten by the citizen's lobby Common Cause, but it was altered considerably by a Senate committee.

According to the Senate version of the bill, legislators who are lawyers would be allowed to represent clients before state agencies, a practice the House bill would prohibit.

The campaign finance bill is a reaction to a campaign finance law approved by voters in 1974. The Senate-authored bill would make two major changes in the law.

Under the proposal, candidates who spend less than \$500 in a campaign would not have to disclose their personal finances, and campaign finances in noncandidate elections, like votes on constitutional amendments, must be reported.

The bill's author, Sen. John Schneider, D-Florissant, said the bill can pass this session. But Rep. William O'Toole, D-St. Louis, the House sponsor, would not comment on the bill's chances, saying "the situation is too fluid."

The biggest fight of the legislative session probably is a new prison in Missouri's Corrections system. A conference committee is expected to battle down to the last minute on a compromise location and type of a new prison.

The House appropriations bill provides \$11 million for a Kansas City-area medium-security prison and \$1 million for buying land for a similar prison in the St. Louis area.

The Senate conferees are fighting for a maximum-security prison to be built on state land, probably near Jefferson City. Gov. Joseph P. Teasdale has supported the House version of the bill.

In town today

4 p.m. Bicycle workshop, Columbia Public Library assembly room.

9:30 a.m. Robert A. Taft Institute of Government Seminar, University's General Classroom Building, Room 227.

Neom Optimist Club meeting, Tiger Hotel.

10:30 a.m. Missouri Housing Development Commission meeting, Hilton Inn.

Exhibits

See Sunday's Vibrations magazine for continuing exhibit schedule.

Movie listings on page 13A.