

# COMMUNITIES

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SECTION B

If logs could talk, these would tell of an era when the Kentucky River was a loggers' highway that mountain men rode on rafts.



This log at High Bridge Kentucky River Museum shows the "R" identifying logs cut for W.J. Roberts Co. sawmill and floated downriver.

DAVID PERRY | dperry@herald-leader.com

## AROUND THE REGION

LEXINGTON

### Corn boil dinner

Daughters of the Nile #128 will hold its annual all-you-can-eat corn boil dinner from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Aug. 1 at Oleika Shrine Center, 326 Southland Drive. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$3 for children younger than 10. The menu will include corn on the cob, ham, green beans, coleslaw, cornbread, coffee or tea and dessert. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

More Fayette County news, Page B3

WINCHESTER

### Ice cream social

The Generations Center on Meadow Street in Winchester will hold an old-fashioned ice cream social from noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 1. Homemade cake also will be available. Tickets are \$3. All proceeds will benefit the center's programs for seniors. Call (859) 744-3235

More Clark County news, Page B7

WILMORE

### Concert series

The second season of the Stonebridge Summer Saturday Night Concert Series will continue with a performance by the Flute Symphony of Lexington and Lexington's Original Viola Ensemble at 7 p.m. Saturday on the downtown green in Wilmore. Chairs and tables will be provided, as well as refreshments for purchase from a local food vendor. The concerts are free and open to the public.

More Jessamine County news, Page B7

VERSAILLES

### Twilight Festival

The Versailles Merchants and Farmers Market Twilight Festival will be 5 to 9 p.m. Friday in downtown Versailles. Merchants and crafters will sell their wares. Food, including dishes from the Lions Club Fish Fry, will be available. There also will be a fund-raiser for a scholarship fund in memory of Michael Jackson, a member of the Woodford County High wrestling team who died in a car accident.

Call Carol Zanone at (859) 879-6008 for more information.

More Woodford County news, Page B10

## TO OUR READERS

**For the Record will return on Aug. 6. Check for restaurant inspection scores and births, divorces and marriages listings in Communities.**

**Bankruptcies appear in Business Monday, and property transfers are listed in Homeseller on Sundays.**



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CHARLES BERTRAM | cbertram@herald-leader.com

Mickey Humphrey showed some of the 100-year-old logs pulled out of the Kentucky River during the construction of the new dam near Nicholasville.

# TIMBER TALES

Construction workers at Dam No. 9 have been dredging up history

By Jeff McDaniel  
Special to the Herald-Leader

NICHOLASVILLE — Mickey Humphrey is no lumberjack.

He wields neither ax nor saw. There's no plaid shirt or suspenders.

As site project manager for the ongoing reconstruction of Kentucky River Dam No. 9 in Jessamine County, his gear includes a walkie-talkie and a flotation vest.

To Humphrey, a stray log is nothing but a minor hindrance to keeping his \$14.7 million project on track.

Yet Humphrey and his crew have been responsible for harvesting some 100-year-old logs that are drawing interest from historians.

"We started finding the logs about 20 feet down in the river mud," Humphrey said. "A log on the bottom means that it takes us longer to drive the sheet pilings into the bedrock. The logs and other debris have to come up and out. It wasn't long before we had a stack of seven or eight logs ready to be hauled off for disposal. We didn't realize what they were."

Enter George Dean and Bill Grier. On a summer evening last year, Dean, a Jessamine County magistrate, and Grier, a retired engineer who sits on the Kentucky River Authority, were a few hundred yards upriver from Dam No. 9 attending a Valley View Ferry Authority meeting.

As the meeting adjourned, they made an impromptu decision to venture down to check out the progress on the new dam. The site was shut down for the day, save for a few workers who were finishing up. They ran into a state engineer making his rounds, and he showed them around the site.

The group stumbled upon the stack of grayish mud-caked logs, most of them about twelve feet long and two feet in diameter.

The logs looked mysteriously out of place.

Upon closer inspection, they noticed a

See DAM, B3



DAVID PERRY | dperry@herald-leader.com

Jessamine County magistrate George Dean has been instrumental in procuring logging tools like this one-man cross-cut saw for the High Bridge Kentucky River Museum.



The north fork of the Kentucky River in about 1900, when it was a major logging thoroughfare.



DAVID PERRY | dperry@herald-leader.com

A log about 40 inches in diameter was found last fall during the construction of the new dam in Jessamine County.

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