

# The Cherokee Scout

The Leading Weekly Newspaper in Western North Carolina, Covering a Large and Potentially Rich Territory in This State

Vol. XLV.—No. 30

Murphy, N. C., Friday, February 23, 1934

\$1.00 YEAR—5c COPY

## CWA RESUMES EXCAVATION OF INDIAN MOUND

Raleigh Office Sends Order To Continue Task—Many Valuable Objects Discovered

Excavation work on the old mound at the mouth of Peachtree creek seven miles south of Murphy, has been transferred to the State CWA, along with all other Federal projects in the county, according to telegraphic communications from Raleigh made public here Saturday, and work on the mound was resumed Monday morning as usual, local CWA authorities said.

Work on the project was discontinued last Thursday. Archaeologists were preparing to leave when the decision of the State CWA headquarters was received. This assures that work will continue, temporarily at least while efforts are now being made to have the work continued until it is completed. Authorities indicated it would require six or eight weeks longer to complete the project.

**Began First Of Year**

Excavation of the mound has been in progress since the first of the year. It is being done under the supervision and direction of J. D. Jennings, of Chicago, Ill., and William B. Colburn, of Detroit, Mich., archaeologists attached to the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., in the interest of scientific study of the aboriginal American.

Although many valuable finds have already been uncovered, if the work were discontinued at this stage of the operation the most valuable material from a scientific viewpoint would be left in the mound and perhaps lost entirely.

Besides a large number of intrusive burials, quantities of potsherds, celts, pipes, copper trinkets of both Indian and white man manufacture, definite evidence has been uncovered that a village of substantial proportions existed on the site long before the ancient builders began the construction of the mound.

One of the interesting phases of the excavation is the discovery of superimposed cultures existing in the mound. Two cultures are definitely indicated from the surface material and the material found in the mound. Strata of different colors of clay, layers of sand and soil have been found, indicating the gradual building up or process of construction. And it is this stratification which separates the two cultures—one on top of the mound and the other in the bottom. And the bottom culture is said to be the more advanced of the two.

**Experts Non-Committal**

Asked whether or not the bottom culture showed evidence of a higher degree of advancement than the upper, the archaeologists were non-committal. However, the writer reliably understands that evidences have been found to mark the people who built the foundation and lower section of the mound as being more advanced in the arts and sciences of their day than those who later built the top portion of the mound.

No definite traces of the famous Ohio Hopewell culture have yet been discovered. However, it is believed that further exploration of the mound will disclose the existence of the Hopewell influence. (Hopewell culture is so named because of a type of hand decorated pottery of excellent manufacture, said to be the finest type of the pre-historic potter's art yet found in the United States. It was first discovered in the Hopewell Mound in Ohio. Traces of this Hopewell influence have been found to exist as far south as East Tennessee.)

**Fire Pits Found**

Under the floor of the mound numerous post holes and fire pits, quantities of potsherds, layers of humus, and other evidences have been discovered that wigwams and huts once stood on the site long before the construction of the mound began. As to what type of village or type of inhabitants who peopled it, further exploration will be necessary to determine, if such is a possibility. The floor of the mound consists of a layer of sand and waterwashed stones, some of the stones being as large as the head. As the work toward the center of the mound progresses, archaeologists said this sand layer became thinner. Under this layer of sand and stone the y found a layer of humus, indicating that a considerable

## Mallonee May Enter Race For Judgeship

J. D. Mallonee, attorney of Murphy, may become a candidate for the Democratic nomination for judge of the 20th judicial district in the coming June primary, according to his friends.

Mr. Mallonee was a candidate for judge in the primary eight years ago, but was defeated by the late Walter E. Moore.

## PAYNE BOYS STAGE GUN BATTLE SUN.

Brothers Facing Charges of Assault With Deadly Weapons As Result

James and George Payne, brothers, are facing charges of assault with deadly weapons as result of a pitched gun battle early Sunday morning at their homes about 2 1/2 miles west of Andrews.

George Payne was peppered all over the body with shot. John, another brother who was cleared by the Justice at the preliminary hearing, was wounded in the right leg and arm when he got within the range of the firing. Jim survived the battle unscathed.

Shotguns were the weapons used. The battle is said to have been the result of a rather spontaneous misunderstanding. Charges were preferred against all three. However, only James has succeeded in making bond and is at liberty, while George is still in jail pending negotiations for his bond. John was exonerated of complicity in the affair by the Magistrate.

## MINISTERS TO MEET MURPHY ON MARCH 5

Cherokee And Clay Conference May Become Interdenominational Organization

The Baptist ministers conference of Cherokee and Clay counties will meet in regular session at the First Baptist church, Murphy, on Monday March 5, at 10 o'clock in the morning, officers announced here this week. The Rev. W. T. Truett, of Culberson, is moderator, and the Rev. Howard Hall, of Hayesville, is secretary.

The meeting will be opened with a devotional service by the Rev. Howard Hall. "Church Problems of Today" is the general topic theme of the program, and the discussion will be led by the Rev. R. W. Prevost, pastor of the Andrews church.

All preachers, pastors, deacons and lay members of the two counties are invited to attend and share in the inspiration and fellowship of the meeting. The conference has been organized about eighteen months, meeting always being held monthly, on the first Monday after the first Sunday. The past few meetings have not been so well attended, and some discussion took place at the last meeting in February of making the meetings interdenominational or else abandoning them altogether. Officers believe that some good work has been done by these get together meetings and are reluctant to consider discontinuing them.

All pastors and ministers of other denominations are extended special invitations to attend the conference on March 5, as some action is expected to be taken. If enough interest is shown and co-operation of other denominations can be enlisted in the conference, the purpose of which is to acquaint the religious leaders of the two counties with the problems of each other, the meetings will in all probability be continued, officers said.

**Presbyterian Church**  
Rev. Stewart H. Long, Pastor

Sunday School ..... 10:00 A. M.  
J. B. Gray, Superintendent.  
Evening Worship ..... 5:00 P. M.

The Bible study will be resumed at the evening service when the remainder of the book of Genesis will be studied. Visitors are always cordially welcomed.

## TVA LAUNCHES SOIL EROSION VALLEY PROJECT

Demonstration Work Being Undertaken At Five Points In Four Adjoining States

Washington, Feb. 15—Few, if any, projects undertaken by the Soil Erosion Service promise to be of greater importance to as many tillers of the soil in such a large area as the one at present being organized in the great Tennessee Valley.

Recently Mr. M. B. Manifold has been making preliminary surveys and locating the sites for large erosion demonstrations. Mr. Manifold has been appointed Regional Director of the entire Tennessee Valley work, and has located five demonstration areas in which approved methods of checking erosion will be put into immediate execution. He is still on the ground working out definite plans of work.

It has already been decided that these projects will be established in the following states: One each in western North Carolina, Northern Alabama, and one on the line between Kentucky and Tennessee, and two in the Tennessee Valley proper. The work to be undertaken here will be done in cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the States directly interested, whose officials are enthusiastically in favor of this great undertaking, and who have assumed responsibility for obtaining permission from the land owners in the different districts for the soil erosion forces to enter upon their property and put in their experimental stations.

These five demonstration stations mentioned have been located for the purpose of carrying on experimental work in a big way. Each one of them will average about 1,000 acres and the present purpose is to learn for them by accurate measurement just what the rainfall in each section is and how much of the rainfall runs off and how much soil this water carries with it under various forms of cropping. Then the loss under different types of grazing on the sloping land will be carefully recorded.

The difference between land overgrazed by livestock and that upon which no animals are permitted to feed will be noted. Terracing, contour plowing and strip-cropping on various slopes, and different systems of cropping will be tried. Portions of the land will be seeded to soil-holding vegetation, such as lespedeza which has been found useful in preventing soil wash by many of the experimental stations where it has been used. There are several varieties of lespedeza which is commonly called Japanese clover. Some of it is known as Korean, another Kobe and then there is the common type which has been cultivated in the southern states for some years past. It was introduced in to this country from Japan and Asia by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the Agriculture Department. One of its best characteristics is that it will grow on acid soil where alfalfa and other legumes will not flourish. Although it is an annual, it has the faculty of reseeding itself from year to year.

A large acreage of the hillsides on which erosion always is the most severe will be planted in trees. The result obtained from the experimentation upon these five 1,000-acre plots will be used in determining the treatment to be applied to check erosion in this whole vast area of the Tennessee Valley. By this means, it is expected to develop the remedial treatment for each form of erosion in this entire section in which the Tennessee Valley Authority and the states directly involved are giving their heartiest co-operation. This experimentation work will furnish considerable employment and preference will be given to local residents in this regard.

Mr. Manifold who will have charge of this work on the ground, under the newly created Soil Erosion Service, is an experienced agronomist, his knowledge and experience having been utilized in many different parts of the world. He spent some years in Sumatra with a rubber concern. He has had charge of work in South America and his last engagement was with the Firestone Company in Liberia Africa. He is recognized in many different countries as an outstanding authority upon soils and their treatment.

## Murphy School To Open February 26

Murphy schools will remain closed for another week due to the epidemic of measles, H. Bueck, superintendent, announced following a meeting of the board of education last Saturday afternoon.

The schools had been closed for two weeks and authorities believe they should stay closed until Monday, February 26, on account of the fact that many children will not have recovered sufficiently to return to school until then.

## APPLICATION SEEKS SURVEY OF CHEROKEE

Would Locate and Map All Indian Village Sites, Mounds, Trails And Burial Places

An archaeological survey of Cherokee county is the object of an application filed here this week with state CWA headquarters for funds with which to do the work by W. B. Colburn and J. L. Jennings, archaeologists attached to the Smithsonian Institution, who are supervising the excavation of the old mound 7 miles south of Murphy.

The survey would locate all village sites, mounds, burial places, trails, etc., used by the Indians on a specially prepared map of the county, with such information as could be compiled in each instance. The amount of the application is for \$100, to be used for purchasing gasoline and oil for traveling to the various parts of the county.

Mr. Colburn said he and Mr. Jennings, under the present arrangement of CWA working hours at the mound, had at least two days each week which could be given to the survey, and they would gladly make the survey on their own time provided funds for gasoline and oil for their automobile could be procured.

An archaeological survey of the county has never been attempted before, and it is believed the funds will be provided, since the amount asked for is relatively small when compared with the value such a survey of the county would be.

Mr. Colburn said regardless of whether or not the application was approved, anyone in the county having knowledge of the location of village sites, mounds, burial places, or other evidences of Indian occupation or habitation, would be doing them a great favor by reporting such evidence to them in writing at the Regal Hotel, as well as aiding in compiling a scientific study of the aborigines who peopled the country before the coming of the white man.

Any information secured will be turned over to the state archaeological authorities in case the application for the survey is not approved, he said.

## \$7,539 PAID IN CHEROKEE SALES TAX

First Six Months Indicate Property Tax Reduction For County of \$26,626 Excess

The sales tax collections in Cherokee county for the first six months period amounted to \$7,359, according to information made public this week by A. J. Maxwell, commissioner of revenue.

The commissioner of revenue released tabulations showing tax relief afforded by the last legislature in enactment of the sales tax and other measures adopted by them, affords property tax reduction of \$41,344 in Cherokee county, and that the indicated sales tax returns for the year would amount to \$14,718, which leaves a property tax reduction in excess of sales tax collections made and anticipated for the year of \$26,626.

The figures given out by the commissioner are based upon the amount of taxes collected from the sales tax for the first six months. The figures relative to Cherokee county follow: Sales tax collections for first six months, \$7,359. Property tax reduction, \$41,344. Indicated sales tax yield for year \$14,718. Property tax reduction in excess of Sales tax, \$26,626.

## TWO ATLANTA MEN VICTIMS OF ROBBERS

Christopher and Foote Lose Money And Goods In Holdup Last Saturday Night

W. Christopher and Charlie Foote, salesmen of the Georgia Remnant Company, of Atlanta, were victims of highwaymen last Saturday night when they were relieved of \$95 in cash and about \$150 in merchandise on No. 10 highway 2 miles west of Topton by three heavily armed and unidentified men.

The robbers car followed their victims out of Topton, passing them and blocking the road when about 2 miles out. Mr. Christopher and Mr. Foote stopped when the road was blocked. Three men came back to their car. One played a flashlight over the car and in their faces, opened the car door, and demanded to know what they were hauling.

Thinking the robbers were officers, Mr. Christopher said he replied, "Nearly everything but liquor." Then he and Mr. Foote got out. The leader told them it was not liquor they were after, but money. All three men then flashed guns and ordered them to put up their hands.

Mr. Foote complied immediately. Mr. Christopher, however, said he thought he could slip his money out of his pocket and drop it on the ground without being detected, as it was rather dark where he stood. One of the robbers saw the movement.

"Keep your hand away from your pocket," he ordered, and struck at Mr. Christopher's head. Christopher dodged and the blow caught him on the shoulder, and he was knocked to the ground. The fall injured his hip, and he was suffering the next day with painful soreness in his shoulder and hip, but he was not injured seriously.

After relieving their victims of all the cash they had, the robbers then transferred all of the merchandise to their car. Christopher and Foote were then told to remain on the spot for half an hour, and the robbers left in the direction of Andrews. After about ten minutes, Christopher and Foote left, also.

At Andrews, they notified officers. Telephone calls were made to Murphy and Bryson City for the officers to be on the lookout. No trace of the three men has yet been found, although they were seen at Patterson Springs and Topton before the robbery. Officers believed the robbers entered a side road after the holdup and when Christopher and Foote passed them, turned back toward Asheville.

It is believed that they were experts at the holdup game, as only the leader talked, and he did not mince his words. The leader was described as being tall and athletic, wearing a black mustache. However, officers said he could have been "made-up". The car was described as a '31 Chevrolet Sedan. Mr. Christopher and Mr. Foote said the robbers were unmasked and they could identify them on sight.

Mr. Christopher was formerly United States Commissioner at Murphy, but now resides in Atlanta.

## JACKSON DAY DINNER TO BE AT RALEIGH

Young Democrats To Hear Prominent Speakers At State Rally On March 31

A Jackson Day Dinner, featuring a state wide rally and prominent speakers, will be staged by the Young Democratic clubs of North Carolina at the city auditorium, Raleigh, on March 31st, with nationally prominent speakers appearing on the program, according to information made public here this week by Mrs. Elizabeth Brittain, member of the State Executive Committee.

The Young Democrats will get together from 6 to 7 o'clock, dinner and speaking will be from 7 to 10, and from 10 to 12 dancing will be the order.

Among the speakers will be Senator Champ Clark, Senator Bailey, Governor Ehringhaus, D. Ed. Hudgens, and others. Mrs. May Thompson Evans, president of the State organization, will preside.