

Announcement Of Dam Expected "Any Minute"

PROSPERITY IS SEEN HERE IN LOCAL SURVEY

TVA Is Great Aid In Restoring Better Business Conditions

Murphy and Cherokee county are looking forward to the greatest period of prosperity in their history during the year 1936.

There have been great changes during the past year; changes that were not brought about by "puff ball" activity or "blue sky" dreams, but changes that have been built around sound financial and strong economic factors of natural progress.

Since Cherokee county is primarily a farming area very few industries have been established in its lumber industries, two veneer plants, confines, and except for several a marble quarry and a talc mine there are no regular payrolls in this county.

Thus the average citizen of this county, whether he is a merchant or a farmer, is dependent on the market prices of farm products, which in this tip end of the state consists principally of the grain and vegetable staples.

The natural circulation and influx of currency has been yoked here since the booming days of 1929. Those who had good incomes suddenly found themselves pinched, and those who had but a meagre income found themselves, as the years wore on without anything.

Change Is Noticed

Beginning a year and a half ago in the summer of 1934 a marked change has been evident. Definitely "business has been picking up." On the whole merchants and retailers report greater sales. Wholesale salesmen say they do a better business in Murphy than in any other town two or three times its size. Most of the farmers see better prices for their products. And incomes to the average citizen are higher.

Blank clearings are higher; the price of property is swinging back to pre-war levels, and postal receipts will pass the \$10,000 mark for the first time in five years.

Analyzing the situation, politics has unquestionably been a primary factor in bringing the change.

Ordinarily the voting power in this county is equally divided between the Democrats and the Republicans, but at present the latter party is holding its guiding reins. The policies the present board of county commissioners are following vary but little in the more important aspects of their work with those of the Democratic regime which went out of office in the elections of November 1934.

Both have tackled the job of collecting delinquent taxes over a long period of years without resorting to extreme and harmful measures, and slashing the county's debts and outstanding bonds.

Financially the three incorporated towns of the county—Murphy, Andrews and Marble—are better off now than they have been in the past decade.

TVA Brings About Change

The Tennessee Valley Authority's interest in this vicinity, more than anything else, is responsible for the change that has lifted the gloomy atmosphere from local prosperity.

The change came simultaneously with the Authority's announcement that they were interested in building a dam on the Hiwassee river, and that one of the possible sites was 18 miles below here at what is known as Fowler's Bend.

For years the Hiwassee, a mere gully spiraling through steep mountains that tower on either side, has been surveyed and resurveyed time and again for a possible dam site. Heretofore the work was done by various individuals or private corporations. But the building never began.

Most of the land was bought up, in one way or another, by W. V. N. (Continued on back page)

APPLICATIONS FOR LABOR ON 3 DAMS RECEIVED LOCALLY

Applications for skilled, semi-skilled workers on the Hiwassee, Guntersville and Chickamauga dams were received at the Murphy post office this week.

During the first three days 500 of the applications were filled out and more are expected to be received here on January 9. Mrs. Thelma Dickey, postmaster, states that the blanks will either have to be called for in person or a stamped envelope must accompany the request for applications as they do not come under the head of official business. The receipt of applications will close on January 25.

The examination will be for positions as skilled workmen, helpers, and laborers, and will consist of tests of mechanical skill and ability to perform simple tasks. It will also include a simple test of ability to follow oral instructions. Samples of these tests may be found in the official announcement of the examination.

Persons desiring work on these projects must file applications and compete in this examination even though they have civil service status, or have taken previous TVA examinations, or are now employed by the Authority. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age on the date of the close of receipt of applications.

No person will be permitted to take the examination unless he or one of his parents, or his wife, or one of his wife's parents was living in one of the counties listed on the official announcement on July 15, 1935.

This examination will not qualify persons for clerical, professional, or other positions not classified as skilled, semi-skilled, or unskilled labor.

Owing to the large number of applications expected, examinations will be held on several dates. Each person who is to be examined will be notified by admission card from the Authority when and where he is to be examined.

Wages for labor on these projects will not be less than those prevailing in the region where the work of the Authority is carried on.

The Tennessee Valley Authority will make appointments and communicate with applicants as the need for workers arises, or if additional information is needed. Appointment from the register will be made after investigation of character, employment record, and competence in particular trades or skills. Unnecessary correspondence on the part of the applicant is discouraged.

Fisher Will Speak On Old Age Pensions Bill

W. B. Fisher, the state manager for the Townsend pension movement, will speak to the people of Cherokee County in the court house at Murphy Saturday, Jan. 11th at one o'clock (Murphy time.)

Mr. Fisher travels from one end of like for everybody interested in an old age pension of any kind to hear him as he will tell the people just where we stand on the two pension bills now before Congress, and just what chance we have in getting anything from either of them. He asks all those parties who joined the Townsend Club in Murphy some time ago to be present at this meeting.

Mr. Fisher travels from one end of the State to the other in the interest of the Townsend revised bill and this will be the last chance to hear about the pension bills for at least a couple of months. He hopes to have the court house full as the old age pension is one of the most important issues now before the people.

H. G. ELKINS ILL

Mr. Harve Elkins, genial manager of the Southern States Power Company, was confined this week suffering from infection in his hands that resulted from wounds caused by a dog biting him he attempted to separate his dog and another that were fighting.

CIVIL TERM OF COURT TO OPEN ON JANUARY 20

Judge Oglesby, Of Concord, Will Preside Over Session

A civil term of Cherokee County Superior court will begin a two week's session here Monday, Jan. 20. Judge John M. Oglesby, of Concord, will preside.

The jury for the first week will be: Phil Calhoun, Andrews; John Hall, Murphy, route 2; B. L. Fox, Murphy, route 2; Floyd Oliver, Murphy; W. R. Bristol, Andrews; J. B. Mulkey, Murphy; Ralph Shields, Culberson; B. L. Padgett, Murphy; John Arwood, Marble; Fred Hayes, Letitia; John W. Keenum, Suit; Abe Hembree, Murphy.

Neal Davidson, Murphy; Ed Raxter, Andrews; G. W. Barton, Murphy; L. A. Pulliam, Andrews; W. A. Smith, Marble; M. C. Odell, Murphy, route 3; Joe Axley, Murphy; John Palmer, Marble; S. C. Mingus, Murphy, route 3; Eula Palmer, Unaka; A. J. Timpson, Murphy, route 3; Sam Amons, Andrews.

The second week's jurors are: J. G. Hogan, Andrews; Ed Brown, Turtletown, Tenn.; W. M. Dockery, Murphy, route 3; Dennis Barnett, Murphy; John McGuire, Murphy, route 1; Tom Rogers, Murphy; G. W. Young, Murphy, route 3; J. B. Warren, Murphy; Sam Williams, Andrews; Charles Hunsucker, Murphy; J. W. Kilpatrick, Ranger; Jim Stewart, Andrews.

Sanford Ledford, Patrick; John Arp, Culberson; T. L. Martin, Murphy; Oscar Palmer, Tomola; Fred Hampton, Murphy; Hillary Hampton, Murphy; A. P. Allen, Postell; W. B. Johnson, Postell; Lee Horton, Patrick; John Mason, Brasstown; Drew Taylor, Murphy; Frank Sparks, Suit.

Scout To Give Dam News Here First

Every preparation has been made by the publishers of The Scout to bring to the people of Cherokee county the FIRST word on the Hiwassee dam.

Arrangements have been made with TVA officials in Knoxville to send a wire here as soon as the board acts on the project, and a special edition of The Scout now being prepared will be put on the street.

The Scout feels that it is but one of its duties to bring paramount news to this section FIRST, and will lend every effort to give authentic news of this important event to the interested people of this territory.

DAM SITUATION NOT TO BE HURT IN HIGH COURTS

Whether or not the Tennessee Valley Authority has the right to sell its surplus power to municipalities will be decided by the Supreme Court some time in the next few days, it is expected.

The body of justices have blasted the AAA and what their decision in the Authority's matter will be is purely a matter of personal speculation, close observers say.

However, it is believed that no matter what decision the Supreme Court hands down on the TVA, the result will have no bearing on the Hiwassee dam as that project is concerned with flood control and not necessarily power generation. The Hiwassee river is the second largest tributary flowing into the Tennessee river.

There is a possibility that the Supreme court may go farther into the matter and attempt to name the entire TVA set-up as unconstitutional, but local lawyers are not prone to look on that matter with too much alarm.

IMPORTANT DATES, EVENTS IN HISTORY OF HIWASSEE DAM

Here are the important dates and events that have led up to the realization of the TVA's Hiwassee dam:

April 24, 1934—Preliminary surveys begun along Hiwassee river.

June 8—Congress appropriates \$13,000,000 for Hiwassee dam.

July 20—TVA abandonment of French Broad dam strengthens hopes for dam here.

Aug. 27—Representative McReynolds of Tennessee appeals to President Roosevelt to have dam built in Tennessee.

Sept. 6—Senator Reynolds and Murphy delegation granted "a hearing" by A. E. Morgan.

Sept. 28—Morgan addresses motorcade from Cherokee county.

Sept. 25—TVA gets option on 42 acres of land in Hiwassee basin.

Oct. 19—Graham, Macon and Swain counties sign petition protesting TVA acquisition of land in basin of Nantahala Light and Power company development at the Fontana settlement.

Nov. 17—Macon county "discounts" petition in wire to Morgan.

Feb. 21, 1935—Concern caused here when Judge Grubb of Alabama rules against right of TVA to sell surplus power.

June 21—Appropriation committee cuts off Hiwassee funds with statement "not necessary to TVA development at the present time."

July 1 and 2—Strong appeal from Cherokee county for restoration of appropriation.

July 3—House subcommittee agrees to restore appropriation.

Aug. 5—House and Senate conferees agree on restoration of appropriation.

Aug. 12—President's signature makes Hiwassee dam law.

Nov. 24—Clarence E. Blee named acting engineer of Hiwassee Dam.

Dec. 26—Fowler's Bend chosen as exact site for Hiwassee dam.

Whole Year's Weather Is Here In Less Than Week

Cherokee county has experienced a whole year's weather in freakish changes in a little over one week.

During the Christmas holidays one of the worst snows in years completely tied up the county. Then came severe rains that washed all the snow away, and Monday "shirt-sleeve" weather threw everyone in a langour.

Outside of a hindrance in travelling facilities, very little damage was reported as a result of the storms.

Democrats Observe Jackson Day Dinner

As the Scout went to press Wednesday night more than 150 Democrats from Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties had assembled at the Junaluska Terrace for their annual "Jackson Day" dinner.

Arrangements were in charge of Bill Cover, of Andrews. Up to press time the complete program had not been learned.

Schools Open Again

All schools in the Murphy unit resumed their regular schedule Monday following an extra three day's vacation due to bad weather and bad roads.

H. Bueck, superintendent, had originally intended to begin classes on January 1st, but the heavy snows made it impracticable for many of the students to attend classes and the opening was delayed until Monday.

TVA Workers Arrive

Five TVA workers, three of them who have been stationed in Murphy before, arrived here during the past week to aid in the local surveys for several weeks.

They are: D. L. Kean, H. A. Townsend, A. A. Miller, Henry Turner and M. L. Shahan. Mr. Kean and Mr. Shahan were accompanied by their wives.

TVA BOARD TO SOON DIVULGE FORMAL PLANS

Action Must Be Taken Before June 30, Officials Assert

Formal announcement of plans for the building of the Hiwassee dam can be expected at any minute, TVA officials said Friday.

As soon as all details concerning the erection of the project are completed the board will act, it was said, and official announcement may come at any time before June 30.

On that date the government rounds out its fiscal year and a provision in the second deficiency bill which included funds for the project made specific word mandatory before that time.

In the mean time several extra surveying parties were sent to the Murphy offices during the past week, construction of temporary roads from Turtletown, Tenn., into the dam site at Fowler's Bend were begun, and 600 applications for skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labor the Hiwassee, Guntersville and Chickamauga dams were distributed at the Murphy post office.

In an interview with officials of the publicity department of the TVA Friday, it was learned that they would give out no definite information until the board acted.

"The announcement can be expected at any time. The dam will be built, and construction will begin before June 30", one official said.

Before announcing its formal plans the TVA naturally has a number of points to clear up. Surveys must be made, roads must be built into the dam site, labor must be acquired and necessary land must be purchased.

Surveys of all types have been going on in this vicinity for the past 21 months under J. D. Blagg, unit chief in charge of TVA surveys in this area. The Hiwassee flood, caused by recent heavy snows and rains, has been keeping the workers busy until late hours studying the contour of the river at high levels, offering figures that have not been available before since the TVA's interest in the Hiwassee dam.

Under Dunn Lawrence, TVA workers with WPA help are tentatively building roads into the dam from Turtletown. Over these roads the Norris machinery, which will be completely disassembled and loaded on huge TVA trucks, will be hauled.

The geological surveyors under B. C. Moneymaker and the hydrological surveyors under Garland Reachle have filed complete data with Knoxville headquarters in their respective divisions.

Thursday 500 applications for labor on the three dams were received at the local postoffice. They were all used up in three days. Tuesday another hundred were distributed and more are expected on January 9, according to a telegram received here from the employment division.

It is generally believed that official announcement is primarily awaiting complete purchase of lands in and around the Fowler's Bend site 18 miles below here, although the Knoxville authorities refused to comment on the point Friday.

Most of the land is understood to belong to W. V. N. Powelson New York architect and engineer.

Pinkerton's January Clearance Sale Begins

Pinkerton's, Murphy's newest department store, will begin its January clearance sale Friday, W. R. Pinkerton, owner of the store and the Armour Beauty shoppe, announced this week.

The proprietor has taken a full page advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the Scout to mention a few of the many bargains that he is offering in this unusual sale which features extra low prices on a full line of all kinds of ladies, men's and childrens wear and groceries.