

MERRY CHRISTMAS



"AND, LO, THE STAR, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."
(Matthew 2:9-10)

"AND THERE WERE IN THE SAME COUNTRY shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."
(Luke 2:8-10)

"FOR UNTO YOU is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be sign unto you: ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."
(Luke 2:11-12)

Nantahala Sale To Duke OK'd By 4-1 Vote

RALEIGH - The State Utilities Commission granted permission Monday to Nantahala Power and Light Co. to sell its distribution lines to Duke Power Co., and retain its main generating facility. The 4-1 decision was accompanied by a sharp, 56 page dissent from Commissioner Thomas Eller, who contended, in effect, that the action severely compromised the principle of eminent domain. By not disposing of its generating facility, Nantahala was left to continue supplying power to its parent firm, Aluminum Co., of America, which runs a plant across the line in Tennessee. Opponents of the deal contended that the state had public service in mind when it gave Nantahala the power of eminent domain to condemn property in its Western North Carolina Service Area when it constructed its facilities. Nantahala, proposing to sell the distribution facilities and other property for 4 million dollars, told the commission its power capacity would not carry it through 1965. The commission, in giving Duke the franchise to Nantahala's service area in the mountain counties of Jackson, Macon, Graham, Cherokee, Clay and Swain, directed

Due to place into effect for three years, the rates which Nantahala had charged before July 16, 1961. On that date, Nantahala applied for a 33 1/3 percent rate increase which it placed into effect under bond. The commission has not ruled on that application. "After the three year moratorium," Eller said, the implication is that Nantahala's former North Carolina customers "would be stepped up to the much higher Duke rates." He also said it had been implied that "if public opposition to the 'sale' were withdrawn, or if the Utilities Commission should approve the 'sale' Nantahala would withdraw its extortionate 'bonded' rates and make refunds of all the excesses extracted from its customers." Eller's dissent ranged thru the development of the Nantahala firm and through a detailed discussion of the law of eminent domain and its connection with public, rather than private, service. He wrote, "there simply is no other way" that the firm could have blocked, controlled, backed and diverted the streams of North Carolina. "Now," he continued, "Nantahala strips all pretense of interest in the public of Western North Carolina, discards its prose, forgets its pronouncements, allegations and commitments, and asks this commission to . . . divert the use of substantially all its vast locations and its extensive water and land rights, from the public purpose for which they were obtained to a use, and for a purpose, which is primarily private and for the direct and primary benefit - not in a special preference of a private holding company in another state. And, somehow, the majority purports to approve such diversion." Eller said, "the actual issue here should turn more on what Nantahala is keeping than what it is selling." "Were Alcoa proposing to sell," he added, "and Duke proposing to buy, ownership and control of all that which Nantahala has devoted to public utility service in this state, whether by stock transfer or by conveyance of all assets impressed with the public trust, the great issue in this case would be substantially eliminated." Citing a 1952 case in which Nantahala requested a rate increase for all industrial customers except Alcoa, Eller said, "This commission approved the increases in toto. Both the Supreme Court and Superior Court reversed this commission in toto, using perhaps the strongest language ever directed by superior authority to this commission and a public utility under its regulation." He added, "I cannot, of course, speak for the others, but for me, Alcoa's motive is again embarrassingly obvious: It has all along needed all the low-cost hydroelectric power it can get for its aluminum plant in Tennessee"

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Early Paper Next Week

Next week's edition of The Cherokee Scout and Clay County Progress will be sent to the Murphy Post Office Monday, Christmas Eve night, Dec. 24. Joe Ray, Murphy postmaster, has informed the newspaper that postal employees will not work Christmas Day, Dec. 25. The mail will be delivered as usual on Wednesday, Dec. 26. Rural Route and city delivery patrons should receive their newspaper on Wednesday next week. The Scout office will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 25, and 26. The newspaper for the week following will be published on Thursday, Jan. 3, and the Scout office will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 1. All advertisements and news copy for the early edition Christmas week must be in the Scout office by 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 24. All copy received on Monday stands a chance of not getting into the paper.

Bells

Ring bells in churches, for solemn and glad ceremonial occasions, goes back to about 7 A.D. In early Britain church bells tolled for an hour on Christmas Eve, announcing to Satan the coming of Christ. At midnight, joyous peals heralded Christ's birth.

Commissioners Name County Tax Listers

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners met in a special session Monday, Dec. 17, to name list takers and listing places for the forthcoming tax listing period which begins in January. List takers for the Murphy Township are Milt English and D. V. Carringer; Shoal Creek - Walter Anderson and A. A. Williamson; Beaverdam - Lester Taylor and Mrs. Lottie Murphy; Horsehouse - John Hampton and Mrs. Geraldine Lomina; Notts - J. H. Monteith and Arnold Hughes. Following some discussion the two Republican members of the board passed on the Rev. Weldon West and Mrs. Posey Crisp of Marble as the list takers for Valleytown Township. W. T. Moore abstained. In other business, a blanket bond of \$5,000 was placed on the commissioners. Lloyd Ramsey's, in anticipation of being named a deputy sheriff, request to buy State Trooper R. N. Ensley's patrol car from the State Patrol after the car was turned in, was turned down. The state stated that patrol cars are not sold to private individuals. A bid by the Columbia Tower Clock Co., in the amount of \$785, to repair and electrify the courthouse clock was tabled. Request by landowners for additions to four county roads were turned down by the State Highway Commission because right-of-way agreements could not be obtained. In a copy of a letter to Ben Roney, Director, Secondary Roads, State Highway Commission, Raleigh, from F. L. Hutchison, Division Engineer, it was recommended that the addition of the Loudermill Road not be added to the secondary road system because Mr. J. G. Whitmore refused to sign the Right-of-Way Agreement. In another letter, the addition of the Postell Road was turned down because Alice G. Crowell and husband, Carl Gibson and wife, refused to sign the Right-of-Way Agreement. The addition of the Jenkins Road was turned down because Mr. J. C. Hensley, Jr., would not sign the Right-of-Way Agreement, according to a copy of a letter received by the commissioners. Likewise, the addition of the Old Mill Road was turned down because Mr. W. B. Shields would not sign the Right-of-Way Agreement. Mr. Hutchison called to Mr. Roney's attention in all cases, that Ted Jordan, of Robbinsville, State Highway Commissioner, had given his approval on the bottom of each letter and also on the investigation report. John Donley, tax supervisor, was given authority to purchase one each of the official used car and truck red and blue books and national farm tractor and implement book for use in evaluating automobiles and trucks for tax purposes. He was authorized to use the trade-in value of the vehicle. On a motion by W. T. Moore and seconded by L. N. Cole,

Record Cold Subsides

Record-breaking early season cold invaded the tri-state area last week, causing the mercury to tumble below zero on two successive days. Murphy's low Thursday was -7, with Andrews reporting a -9. The polar frigidty brought many breaking water lines, frozen canned goods, and closed schools. The top temperature for Murphy's coldest early winter day on record was 27, giving an average for the day of 10 degrees, Wednesday, Dec. 12, the mean was one degree lower, with a range from -2 to 20, producing an average of 9. Schools in Murphy and in Cherokee County and other nearby areas were closed - - - although open in Andrews - - - on account of the difficulty of starting the buses and inability to have them warm enough for the students. In East Murphy, the heavy heating load caused a transformer to blow out around sun-up Thursday. Many had frozen pipes, potatoes, fruit or canned goods. Early morning temperature remained low for the rest of the week, Friday's minimum at Murphy being 11 degrees, and Saturday's 9. Much milder weather took over this week, however, the mercury crested Tuesday at an unseasonal 69. Occasional rain was in the offing for the closing days of the week.

Nantahala Boss Hails Decision

FRANKLIN - J. M. Archer, president of Nantahala Power and Light Company, hailed the North Carolina Utilities Commission's approval of the transfer of Nantahala's distribution facilities to Duke Power Company as being in the best interests of all concerned. Mr. Archer said, "The people of Southwestern North Carolina can now enjoy the many benefits offered by Duke Power Company, including an increase in the supply of power already available for future expansion needs, accelerated industrial promotion and assurance of the return of the old Nantahala rates for a period of three years. "Duke's record for persuading new industry to locate in its service areas should help make it feasible for the young folk of Macon, Jackson, Swain, Graham, Clay, and Cherokee Counties to find suitable employment at home, instead of educating our sons and daughters for the benefit of other locales, we can now hold this valuable reservoir of talent for the future development of this six-county community." Archer said that he was also pleased that the many loyal and faithful people who work for Nantahala will continue to be employed. "Present arrangements provide," said Mr. Archer, "that some of our personnel will be transferred to Duke Power, where their service records will be preserved, thereby allowing them opportunity for advancement in the larger utility. The other Nantahala employees will remain with our company as it continues to be a good corporate citizen and employer in the area." "Duke's acquisition of the Nantahala facilities," said Archer, "will almost be like starting a new business in the community, and it can reasonably be expected that the future employment of Duke and Nantahala will be greater than at previously enjoyed by Nantahala alone."

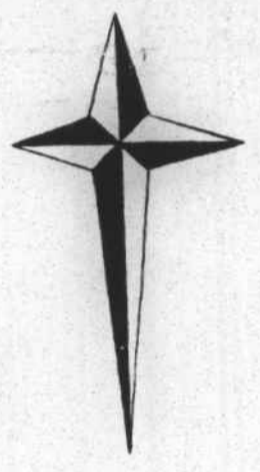
WEATHER

Date	H	L	Perc.
12	20	-2	0.02
13	27	-7	0.00
14	40	11	0.00
15	47	9	0.00
16	50	30	0.05
17	59	24	0.00
18	69	21	0.00

FORECAST - Thursday, overcast, showers and occasional rain; Friday, partly cloudy, cooler; Saturday and Sunday, chance of showers.

Christmas Eve, Christmas Services Set

Services of Holy Communion will be held at 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25, at the Messiah Episcopal Church in Murphy. The service will be conducted by the Rev. Bruce Green of Copperhill, Tenn. Evening Prayer and Carol services will be held Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24, at 11:00 p.m. According to Rev. Hamilton Whitner members of all other denominations are cordially invited to attend these services.



MOTHER AND CHILD - Dean Mintz, a senior at Murphy High School is the artist that drew this line drawing of Mary and the infant Jesus. Mintz is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Mintz of Marble.



MURPHY WOMAN'S CLUB members, with husbands as guests, held their annual Christmas party at the New Regal Hotel Monday, Dec. 17, at 7:30 p.m. Special guests were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce. Mrs. Max Blakemore, president of the club, presented a check for \$338.00 to Mrs. Bruce for the purchase of an audiometer. Mrs. Bruce, speech therapist in the Cherokee

County schools, will use the audiometer to test the hearing of her pupils. She thanked the club on behalf of the teachers and students for the gift. Pictured above, left to right are Mrs. Ken Lovingood, Mrs. Presson Henn, Mrs. Blakemore, Mrs. Bruce, Miss Charlene Davidson, and Mrs. Chester L. Dodson. (Scout Photo)