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Bus Blasted

Clay County Sheriff Hartsell Moore points to the heavy steel chassis rail of a schoolbus shattered early Friday morning by a charge of high explosive,

"definitely not dynamite." The sheriff and SBI agents are investigating the explosion. (Staff Photo)

Rogers Retires From Clay Post

Neal Rogers, Clay County Tax Supervisor and County Accountant was honored with a party and presented with a new suit of clothes in Hayesville by county employees when he retired on June 30.

Rogers had served for the past 13 years, having been appointed to his office in 1957 on the death of the Rev. F.B. Garrett. Rogers had served under three different Clay County Boards of Commissioners.

The Clay County commissioners have named Robert C. Sams, 22, to succeed Rogers. Sams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sams of Hayesville, is a graduate of Hayesville High School and received his B.A. degree in Business Administration this year from Western Carolina University.

Sams trained under Rogers for 10 weeks before taking over the office on the first of July. Sams is a member of Myers Chapel United Methodist Church, where he is superintendent of the Sunday School.

Rogers, 67, was postmaster at Shooting Creek for 20 years. He is an active member of the Marshalls Chapel United Methodist Church. He is married to the former Nettie Ledford and they have eight children.



Neal Rogers



Robert Sams

Explosion Rips Bus In Clay

A charge of high explosive shredded the front of a schoolbus at Hayesville early Friday morning and damaged several others.

Clay County Sheriff Hartsell Moore is investigating the explosion, assisted by State Bureau of Investigation agents. Physical evidence collected at the scene is now at the central SBI laboratory in Raleigh for analysis.

Sheriff Moore said the explosive was "definitely not dynamite." He added that the investigation is now pending results of the SBI analysis of the evidence.

The explosion happened at 4:45 Friday morning, Sheriff Moore said, demolishing the front of a 1960 Chevrolet and damaging several other buses parked near it at the Hayesville High School gym.

SBI agents brought a mobile laboratory to the scene on Friday and demolition expert with the Special Forces, presently on maneuvers and camping at Hayesville, was also brought in to examine the bus.

The damages were estimated at about \$6,000, the blast blowing out about 30 windows in the gym in addition to wrecking the buses.

County Tax Rate Trimmed 3 Cents

By Wally Avett
Staff Writer

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners cut the tax rate for the coming year by three cents Monday, from the \$1.58 per hundred of valuation last year to \$1.55 per hundred.

The county budget, as adjusted Monday, will come to a total of \$1,499,309.46, according to County Accountant Barbara Stalcup. Mrs. Stalcup said the tax cut was made possible by an increase of taxable property which was more than the commissioners had anticipated.

The property which can be taxed, she said, was expected to increase about a million dollars worth over what it was last year. This comes in the form of new plants and houses, new cars, etc. in the county.

When all tax listings were accounted for, the increase was found to be more than \$1.5 million, she said, making the cut in taxes possible. She noted that the two biggest items in the increase were the new Levi's plant near Murphy and equipment at the American Thread plant at Marble.

In its final form, the budget shows some adjusting the commissioners accomplished Monday. The commissioners cut back on the amount earmarked for a countywide appraisal of taxable property to be done in the next year and also cut back about \$8,000 on the school budget.

The cut on the school budget was for a guidance counselor at Andrews, requested in the school budget. The item had been cut out in budget discussions by the commissioners at their meeting last month and despite an appearance Monday by School Superintendent John Jordan and the Andrews High principal, it stayed cut.

Town Taxes, Water Rates Up

The Murphy Town Council Monday voted to raise town property taxes from \$1.60 to \$1.85 per hundred of valuation and also to increase water and sewer rates.

It is the first time taxes have increased "to amount to anything" in six or seven years", according to Town Clerk Charlie Johnson. He said the tax raise and rate hike were necessary because of rising costs and the need to pay town employees better.

Johnson said the tentative budget of \$280,892 for the 1970-71 fiscal year contains a raise for practically every town employee. The raised in pay are needed, he said, to keep the town in competition on the labor market.

"The pay for our policemen is still low," Johnson said, in comparison to other towns and wages paid by industry. The town water and sewer workers, he noted, are sometimes hired away by private industry at

Commissioners were of the opinion that if the county paid out the \$8,000 for a counselor's salary at Andrews, they would soon be approached with special requests from Murphy and Hiwassee Dam. Both Murphy and Hiwassee Dam have counselors, it was explained, paid for out of the federal money they receive for having numbers of children from low-income families.

Andrews, it was noted, does not have as many children from low-income families as the other two schools and therefore does not receive as much federal money and cannot afford to hire a counselor.

The appraisal of property in the county for tax purposes is required by state law once every eight years. The commissioners have several bids but are still dicker on a price for the job and cut back the amount they had allotted for it.

Mrs. Stalcup explained that the county has collected on back taxes in the past few years, money that was not expected and she has purchased savings certificates which now make up a surplus of more than \$25,000. This money will be available to bail out the budget if commissioners find themselves short of funds.

The commissioners Monday also approved spending \$3,000 for a community cannery at Brasstown to serve both Clay and Cherokee counties. It is now being built on the John C. Campbell Folk School property and the total cost is about \$21,000.

Mayes Dehrman and Bergan Moore appeared before the board Monday and said much of the materials and labor required for the cannery project are being donated. They said they still need about \$9,000 to finish the job and could raise at least half through

their own efforts. They asked that \$4,500 be provided by the counties.

After some discussion, Commissioner Ray Sims made the motion that Cherokee, more than twice as large in population as Clay, provide \$3,000 of the amount needed and the motion carried unanimously. (Later in the day the Clay commissioners turned down the request from the cannery for \$1,500.)

The commissioners Monday also agreed to up Cherokee's share of financial support for the three-county Nantahala Regional Library system by about \$4,000. This amounts to raising the county's share from 50 cents per capita to 75 cents and will place the library in a higher grant "bracket," enabling it to get more federal money.

The Cherokee commissioners had agreed to the increase two months ago, providing Clay and Graham would go along with it. Then it seemed Clay would not increase its part but Mrs. Martha Palmer, regional librarian, showed Cherokee commissioners a signed statement Monday by Andy Fadgett, chairman of the Clay commissioners, indicating that Clay would indeed raise its support for the system.

In other business, the commissioners;

—Heard Mrs. Margaret Schroeder, president of the local humane society, on the need for an animal shelter and dog control program. They suggested that she come back when plans for such a program have been drawn and land has been acquired for it.

—Accepted the low bid of Humble Oil for fuel oil for county use.

—Reappointed H.W. (Bud) Alexander to serve another term on the county Social Services board.



Fairest In Cherokee

Miss Linda McRae was crowned Miss Cherokee County of 1970 at the pageant Friday night by Charlotte Oliver, the 1969 title winner. Looking

on at right is Sharon Floyd, the first runner-up. Miss Oliver this week is in the state beauty pageant in Raleigh. (Staff Photo)

Linda McRae Wins Title

Linda McRae Friday night became the second in her family to wear the beauty crown of Cherokee County in the annual pageant.

Linda, 18, was crowned Miss Cherokee County for 1970 in competition with nine other girls for the title. Her older sister, Carol McRae, won the title in 1966.

An honor student at Murphy High School, she was Homecoming Queen last year and named to Who's Who in American High Schools. She graduated this Spring and will go to Western Carolina University at Cullowhee in the Fall. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. McRae of Route 3, Murphy.

The first runner-up was Sharon Floyd, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Floyd of the Hiwassee Dam Section. She graduated this year at Hiwassee Dam High School, where she was active in writing programs and won several awards.

The second runner-up was Vivian Adams, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Venson Adams of Andrews. She is a rising Senior at Andrews High School.

The annual event, part of the Jaycees Water Festival, was held inside the hot, stuffy Murphy High School gym, with high temperatures holding the crowd down to about 400.

Sewer charges will also increase, set at a flat 70 per cent of the water bill.

Charlotte Oliver, Miss Cherokee County of 1969, made her farewell appearance last Friday night before crowning the new queen.

On Sunday she went to Raleigh for the week-long Miss North Carolina pageant. With the other contestants she will enjoy a number of interviews, rehearsals, press parties and parades before the competition begins.

The finals of the state beauty pageant will be seen on the Asheville television channel, received here at Channel 5, on Saturday night at 8 o'clock.

4th OF JULY PHOTOS INSIDE.

Jaycees said many people told them if the heat wave last week didn't break with a rain Friday night they wouldn't come to the pageant. It didn't rain and they didn't come.

It was a scene reminiscent of a camp meeting as hundreds fanned themselves with the pageant programs, the papers continually fluttering in the backstage from the floodlights as the 10 girls paraded onto the stage and down the runway.

The judges were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Moore of Franklin and Ted Holt of Asheville. They watched the girls in evening gowns and swimsuits and in their talent presentations.

Miss McRae sang "My Favorite Things," from the Sound of Music; Miss Floyd

sang a popular ballad "Let It Be Me" with guitar accompaniment.

Miss McRae was sponsored by Easley Manufacturing Co.; Miss Floyd was sponsored by Clifton Precision; Miss Adams was sponsored by Gibson's IGA.

Other contestants and their sponsors were: Joan Swint, Townsboro Funeral Home; Sherry Beaves, Wachovia Bank of Murphy; Shirley Derberry, Wachovia Bank of Andrews; Marie Anderson, Rimeo Manufacturing; Dyan Kaylor, First Union Bank; Wanda Baker, Tri-County Tech; Becky Hooper, Levi Strauss & Co.

Miss Jerri Ruth Smith was the pianist for the pageant and Earnest McDonald played the drums.

Wachovia Names Isaacs To Head Murphy Office

Percy Ferebee, chairman, and Hugh E. Gentry, senior vice president of Wachovia's Western Region offices have announced organizational changes in the Murphy office of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, N.A.

"Because of the continued growth of this most important office and our expectation of future advances in the economic progress and well being of the area, it is imperative that we build our organization to reflect these important trends."

Accordingly, Jack B. Isaacs, vice president, will assume responsibilities as head of the Murphy Region office. Rex Kephart, Wachovia vice president, will become senior lending and administrative officer.

"These two men make an excellent management team," Gentry said, "both from the standpoint of internal

operations and their taking a more active role in economic development, civic affairs and overall capacity to serve our large number of Murphy customers with great

efficiency."

Isaacs is a native of Elk Park in Avery County and a graduate of Appalachian State University, and has carried heavy lending and management duties in Charlotte and Valdese, where he served as office manager.

Active in the Baptist Church, Isaacs has served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and on various committees of the church in Charlotte and Valdese. He has been active in various civic organizations, such as Rotary, Red Cross, North Carolina Symphony and the Masons. He and his wife, Barbara, and their two children will reside in Murphy.

Kephart, a native of Murphy, joined the Citizens Bank in 1955, and has progressed steadily through various important positions with the bank to his present duties as vice president.

Jack B. Isaacs



Medals Presented To Soldiers' Families

The families of two Cherokee County soldiers killed in Vietnam in March were presented medals on Tuesday by Col. Dan Prewitt, U.S. Army representative. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Graves were presented the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Air Medal and Purple Heart, awarded posthumously to their son, 1st Lt. Bill Graves. He also won a



number of other medals before his death. Mrs. Richard Wilson and son Dewaine were presented medals Tuesday for Sgt. Richard Wilson, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service and Campaign medals, National Defense Service Medals and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.