

# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress

Volume 79 - Number 32 - Murphy, North Carolina, 28906 - Second Class Postage Paid At Murphy, North Carolina - Thursday, March 25, 1971



## Commissioners To Meet On New Sales Tax Law

The North Carolina Legislature has passed another local sales tax law and both Clay and Cherokee county commissioners will hold meetings within the next several days to discuss the local one percent levy.

In Clay County, the local sales tax was approved in the statewide vote in 1969 and went into effect early last year, producing more than \$3,000 a month in local revenue until it was knocked down in January by the State Supreme Court.

Howard Wimpey, chairman of the Clay commissioners, says his board has advertised a public hearing on the matter of reinstating the tax, to be held at the Clay Courthouse next Monday morning.

The new law passed by the Legislature will allow local county commissioner across the state to levy the one percent local sales tax, either with or without a vote of the people.

Wimpey said the Clay board does not plan to call for a vote on the local tax. "Depending on how many people show up for the hearing and what they say about the tax, we'll make the decision whether to put it in or not," he said.

Jack Simonds, chairman of the Cherokee commissioners, has called a special meeting for Saturday morning at the Cherokee Courthouse. He said the board will talk about the local sales tax and also a school bond vote to finance rebuilding the burned elementary school at Andrews.

Simonds said a special election will have to be held sometime in May on the bonds to build the school, which the Cherokee Board of Education says will cost the county \$300,000 in addition to the insurance money from the fire.

Public hearings on the one percent sales tax will be held around the county, Simonds said, both to educate people about the tax and give them a chance to tell the commissioners how they feel about it. These are planned for Andrews, Peachtree, Murphy and the Hiwassee Dam area, he said.

Simonds said although the new law gives the board the power to levy the local sales tax without a vote of the people, he thinks a vote probably should be held on the tax at the same time the school bonds are voted on. He said since the Cherokee voters turned the tax down in the 1969 voting, he didn't think it would sit well with voters for the commissioners to levy the tax without voter approval.

However, Simonds added that if enough people at the planned hearings express themselves in favor of the tax, the commissioners would consider putting it into effect without a vote.

## Griggs Dies Fighting Fire

Marcell Griggs was fatally injured on Thursday afternoon of last week when he fell off a cliff while fighting a wildfire at Marble.



Marcell Griggs

Griggs, 35, of Route 1, Marble, was an employee of the Columbia Marble Company, which sent a crew of its own men to fight the blaze on company-owned land in the vicinity of the Bluff.

Clell Head, who has been Cherokee County's acting forest ranger since the retirement March 1 of Ranger Harold Hatchett, was directing the fire-fighting activities Thursday afternoon at Marble.

Head quoted men who were working near Griggs as saying Griggs had dropped his fire-rake and was scratching out a fire line with his hands when he fell backwards off the 20-foot cliff.

Cherokee County Medical Examiner, Dr. Charles VanGorder said Griggs was dead on arrival at District Memorial Hospital in Andrews. After talking with members of the dead man's family, he said Griggs had a "trick" knee which may have collapsed and toppled him as he worked near the cliff.

Dr. VanGorder declared it "accidental death," saying Griggs suffered a crushed skull in the fall.

Funeral services were held at 4 p.m. Saturday in Marble Springs Baptist Church, of which he was a member. The Rev. A.B. Lovell and the Rev. Ernest Sanders officiated and burial was in Moss Cemetery.

Active pallbearers were Steve Wyke, Jewell Payne, Harold Watkins, Edd Deitz, Howard Beavers and Marvin Moss.

Honorary pallbearers were: Giles Adams, Lemar Ledford, Edd and Jack Raxter, J.C. Palmer, Ralph Carringer, Kenneth Rogers and Irvin Nations.

Mr. Griggs was a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in Europe.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Thelma Davis Griggs; a daughter, Miss Teresa Michelle Griggs of the home; the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Griggs of Marble; seven brothers, Porter, Vincent and Grant Jr., all of Gastonia; Charles of Kernesville, Gene and Robert of Marble and Mickey Griggs of Andrews; four sisters, Mrs. Frances Carroll of Murphy, Mrs. Mae Coffey, Mrs. Linda Parson and Mrs. Pearl Griggs all of Gastonia.

Ivies Funeral Home in Andrews was in charge of arrangements.

The U.S. Forest Service announces that Cherokee Lake Picnic Area and Hanging Dog Campground will be open the first day of April. These areas are being opened early to accommodate fishermen and "early-bird" campers and picnickers.

At Hanging Dog Campground, the second loop on the right will be the first to open. Additional loops will be opened as needed. The entrance fee for this Area and for Jack Rabbit (Opens May 21) will be either a Golden Eagle Passport (\$10) which is good for one car at any U.S. Forest Service Recreation Area for the entire year, or a daily charge of \$1 per car.

There are also several other breaking and entering cases on the calendar, plus several drunken driving cases.

At the close of the criminal docket, the court will hear civil cases.

The State Highway Commission is studying the possibility of moving the traffic light at the Murphy Elementary school to the Hilton Street intersection.

That was the gist of a letter received last week by Mayor Cloe Moore, in response to the Town Council's earlier letter to the SHC protesting the removal of the light, which stops traffic for school children to cross Valley River Avenue.

The SHC has complained for years that the light at the school is not located at any intersection and therefore is often ignored by motorists. Recently SHC engineers informed the town of their intent to remove the light.

The Town Council has urged the SHC not to take down the light but added if it must go, move it to the Hilton Street intersection, which is only about 100 feet away. Councilmen feel this would still help the children cross the street and would also help the traffic situation around the A&P store there.

"We have received several letters from interested citizens of Murphy concerning



## Tree Planted At Elementary School

The fifth and sixth grades of Murphy Elementary School celebrated Arbor Day last Thursday afternoon by planting a silver maple tree on the school grounds. The tree was purchased by the children and planted in memory of Mrs. J.C. McNeal, the

late mother of Mrs. Marie Hendrix, fifth grade teacher. Actual planting of the tree was done by Mrs. Ida Townson, teacher; Harold Hatchett, former Cherokee County Forest Ranger; Mrs. Hendrix; and Principal Bill Hughes. (Carringer Photo)

## Court Starts Monday

A two-week session of Superior Court begins at the Cherokee County Courthouse next Monday morning, Judge Thad Bryson of Bryson City presiding.

Among the cases on the calendar, for trial or other disposition are:

Wade Edgar (Dump) Adams, charged with dispensing narcotic drugs in what county and state officers described as a plan to begin the growing of marijuana in this county.

Jeffrey Willard Whitener and John Richard Whitener, charged with robbing their grandmother Molly Whitener, also with assault on an officer, former Deputy Sheriff, now Magistrate Dude Radford.

Brothers Andrew and Jerry Green, charged with breaking and entering at a Murphy oil dealer's office.

Dillard Pullium, Ronnie McInturff and Bill Curtis, all charged with the theft of a bull from Charles Higdon's pasture at Andrews.

There are also several other breaking and entering cases on the calendar, plus several drunken driving cases.

At the close of the criminal docket, the court will hear civil cases.

The State Highway Commission is studying the possibility of moving the traffic light at the Murphy Elementary school to the Hilton Street intersection.

That was the gist of a letter received last week by Mayor Cloe Moore, in response to the Town Council's earlier letter to the SHC protesting the removal of the light, which stops traffic for school children to cross Valley River Avenue.

The SHC has complained for years that the light at the school is not located at any intersection and therefore is often ignored by motorists. Recently SHC engineers informed the town of their intent to remove the light.

The Town Council has urged the SHC not to take down the light but added if it must go, move it to the Hilton Street intersection, which is only about 100 feet away. Councilmen feel this would still help the children cross the street and would also help the traffic situation around the A&P store there.

## Choir To Sing

Murphy United Methodist Church will be host to an evening of choral music presented by the Guilford College Choir, Thursday, March 25, 8 p.m.

The concert will include selections from Bach's "Choruses from Cantata 142", "The Magnificat" by Charpentier, Dvorak's "Songs of Nature" and a Colonial Suite (Music of Colonial America). The Guilford College Madrigal Singers and Soloists will also be featured.

The Wesleyan Service Guild and the United Methodist Men are sponsoring the choir. There is no admission charge. An offering will be taken for the choir. A nursery will be open for pre-school children.

At their regular meeting Thursday night of last week the Clay County Lions Club laid ground work for their annual county-wide clean-up campaign.

Lion Arthur Siegle, chairman of the committee responsible for planning this campaign, announced assignments for each member of the club, together with names of civic leaders in each community in the county who might be available for helping sponsor such clean-up, paint-up jobs in their respective areas.

## SHC Studies Light Move

The State Highway Commission is studying the possibility of moving the traffic light at the Murphy Elementary school to the Hilton Street intersection.

That was the gist of a letter received last week by Mayor Cloe Moore, in response to the Town Council's earlier letter to the SHC protesting the removal of the light, which stops traffic for school children to cross Valley River Avenue.

The SHC has complained for years that the light at the school is not located at any intersection and therefore is often ignored by motorists. Recently SHC engineers informed the town of their intent to remove the light.

The Town Council has urged the SHC not to take down the light but added if it must go, move it to the Hilton Street intersection, which is only about 100 feet away. Councilmen feel this would still help the children cross the street and would also help the traffic situation around the A&P store there.

"We have received several letters from interested citizens of Murphy concerning

this signal," the SHC letter last week read. "I can assure you that every consideration will be given your request and I am requesting our consulting engineer to make a study of the possibility of moving this signal to the Hilton Street intersection. I feel confident that something will be worked out on this in the very near future."

It was signed by W.A. Ward, area traffic engineer.

## Hit-And-Run Charges Filed

Carroll's Taxi stand on Tennessee Street was damaged Sunday night by a hit-and-run driver, according to Murphy Police Chief Pete Stalcup.

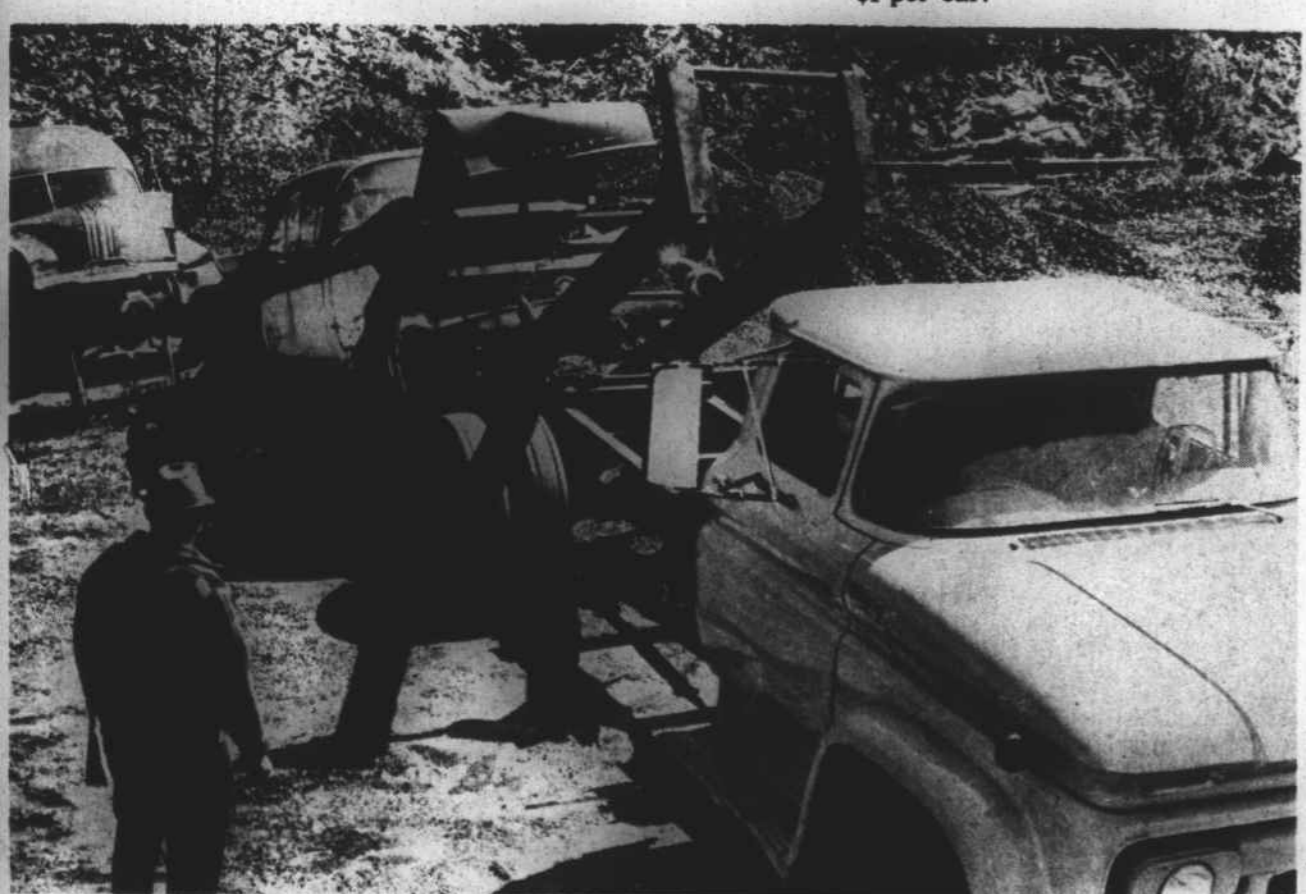
Chief Stalcup said Mrs. Sandra Allison Jordan of Murphy was charged Tuesday with two counts of hit-and-run driving with property damage in the incident.

The officer said her car apparently struck the parked auto of Barney Hensley in front of the Dollar General Store and then swerved across the street into the taxi stand.

## Direct Distance Dialing

The Hayesville telephone exchange was connected to the nationwide Direct Distance Dialing system last Saturday and Mayor Conrad Carroll, right, is shown making the first dial-it-yourself long distance call, to Westco Telephone

President L. T. Moore in Weaverville. Westco employe George Worley, who did much of the work in connecting the system, is shown in the background in the Hayesville office. (Avett Photo)



## Abandoned Auto Clean-up

Murphy Town Clerk Charlie Johnson watches the first of an estimated 400 abandoned autos inside the town limits of Murphy meets a specially-rigged wrecker provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority. The junked cars are being loaded daily on the tilting bed of the truck, pulled up by a cable

winch, and then carried to a location near the town sewer plant, where a private wrecking company will crush the bodies and haul them away for scrap. The clean-up began Tuesday and will continue for about three months in Murphy. (Avett Photo)