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Georgia Revives Boundary Dispute

Georgia is reviving an old boundary dispute, saying its northern boundary should actually take in a strip of land which includes parts of both Cherokee and Clay counties.

Two Georgia legislators were in the vicinity of Highlands last weekend, trying to survey what they claim should be Georgia's northern boundary. The claim by Georgia is that the line should be the 35th parallel of latitude.

The present boundary, which was settled on about 1807 according to North Carolina officials, runs roughly a mile south of the 35th parallel.

If the Georgia boundary was extended a mile north to the 35th parallel it would take in parts of Chattanooga and all of Copperhill, Tenn. In Cherokee, it would take in Culberson and Bellview communities and it would include Warne and part of the Ledford's Chapel community.

Ironically, if the Georgia line was moved north, it would include the isolated Macon County community of Betty's Creek, which petitioned without success several years ago for permission to withdraw from North Carolina and join Georgia. Residents of Betty's Creek have to drive into Georgia before the road turns north to take them back into Macon County.

Georgia's Gov. Jimmy Carter has made an official request of North Carolina Gov. Bob Scott that the border question be restudied and Scott said in Asheville last week that he is taking the request seriously.

Tennessee officials, however, say as far as they are concerned the line was settled years ago.

There is much talk of the issue in the three North Carolina counties concerned and Oscar Ledford, chairman of the Macon County Commissioners, said in Franklin Tuesday that the idea is "far-fetched." He added that his board was in the process of writing a strong letter to Gov. Scott, opposing any movement of the boundary line.

Howard Wimpey, chairman of the Clay County Commissioners, said "I don't think it's much to get alarmed about." He said his board may discuss writing a letter or two on the issue during their meeting Monday but emphasized that their main problem is the Clay County budget and tax rate,

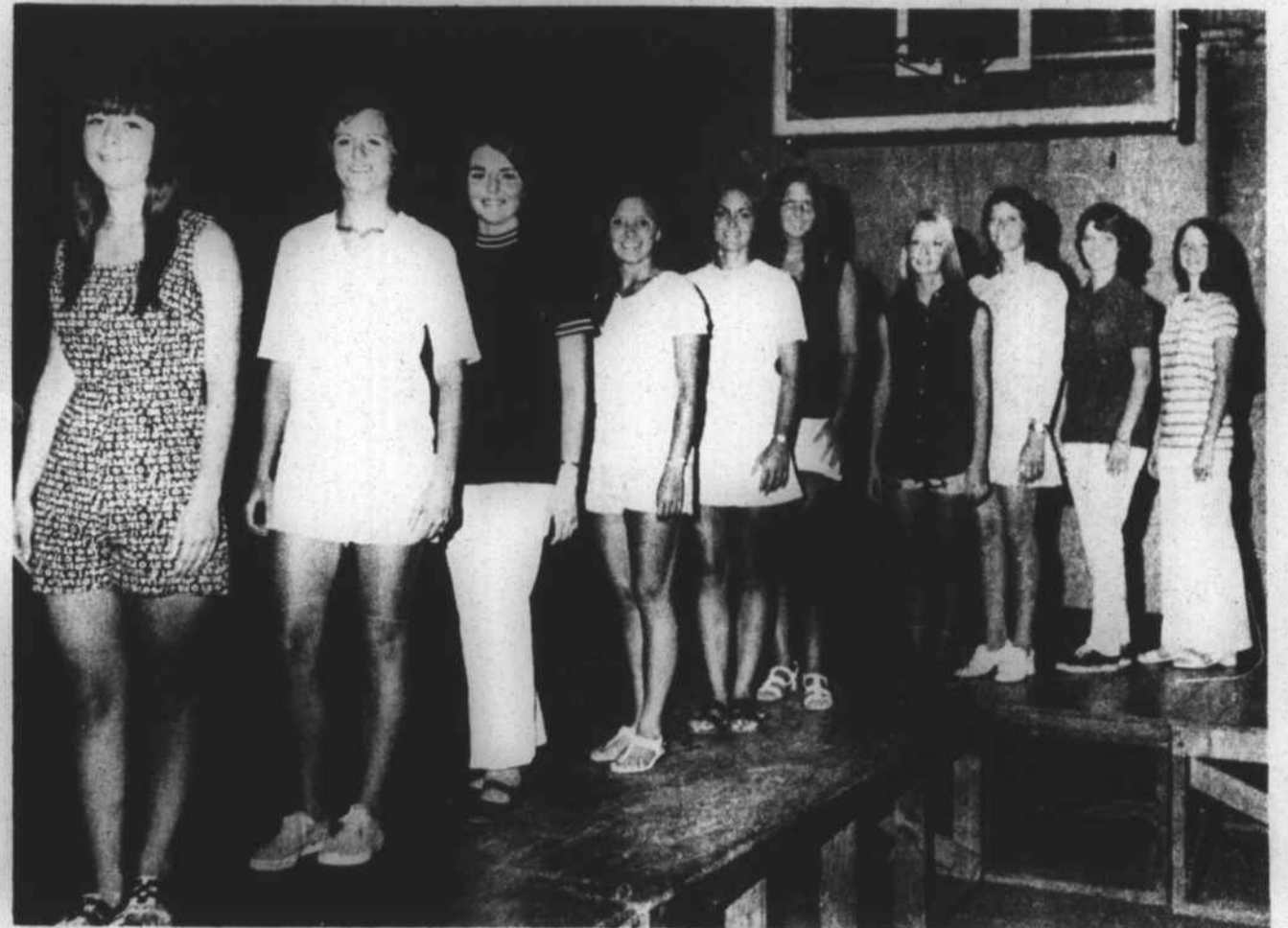
which still has not been decided on.

There were also indications that the boundary dispute will be discussed in the Monday meeting of the Cherokee County Commissioners.

North Carolina sources say the boundary line was fixed in 1807 when boundary commissions from North

Carolina and Georgia met in Asheville and agreed on the line.

Georgia State Rep. Larry Thomason of Decatur, who heads the boundary study commission of the Georgia Legislature, says his state has never ratified an agreement fixing the boundary.



To Compete For Crown

The 10 Cherokee County girls who will compete Aug. 7 for the title of Miss Cherokee County are shown in one of their nightly practice sessions this week at the Murphy High gym, where the beauty

pageant will be held. The winner of the annual Jaycee-sponsored event will represent the county in the Miss North Carolina pageant next Summer. (Staff Photo)

State Officials Tour Here

Officials of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development who advise new industries on where to locate in this state visited Cherokee and Clay counties last Thursday.

The tour, which took them to Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Macon, and Jackson counties, was sponsored by Wachovia Bank, Nantahala

Power, Western Carolina Telephone and Western Carolina University. It was designed to acquaint them with the potential of the far western counties and, hopefully, to influence them into mentioning a far west county when industrial prospects are looking for a place to build a new plant.

The group of industry hunters flew in from Raleigh and landed Thursday morning at the airport at Andrews, traveling by chartered bus to Hayesville, where the presentation of the local industrial picture was made by banker Tom Day, head of the Clay County Development Corp.

Day told the visitors that Clay County has built a fine new golf course and some new housing but it needs more housing, motels, expanded recreational facilities and an industry that would employ men. The tour included stops at the Chatuge Shores Golf course and several industrial sites in Clay and then moved on to Murphy.

Merle Davis, representing both the Chamber of Commerce and the county development group, made the presentation to

Murphy, saying that the area needs is an industry to work men. There are about 800 men in the area now who need steady work, he said, adding that local plants work a disproportionate number of women. The Cherokee County Development Corp. has purchased a plant site at Peachtree, he said, which would be available immediately if an industrial prospect was interested. Cherokee has also built a golf course, he said, and housing projects have been completed here. The visitors were shown industrial sites, the golf course and then had lunch at O'Dell's before going on to Andrews. Their tour ended Friday with stops in Bryson City, Cherokee, Sylva and Franklin.

Memorial Held For Christopher

A memorial service for Murphy attorney F.O. Christopher, who died June 9, was held Tuesday morning in Superior Court in Murphy.

The opening and closing prayer was given by the Rev. Carlton Thompson and brief remarks were made by Solicitor Marcellus Buchanan, Ed Hyde and Herman Edwards, who was once in a law office partnership with Christopher.

Attorney Hobart McKeever delivered the memorial resolution, which will be entered in the Cherokee Book of

Memorials, a volume of memorial resolutions in honor of attorneys who have died. Relatives and friends were present at the service, as were several out-of-town lawyers here for the session of Superior Court. Christopher was lauded in the resolution as the "soul of integrity and courtesy," a "courtroom tactician of great ability and success... industrious, meticulous and highly capable, respected by all, but especially by his fellow lawyers."

Ledford Works On Apollo 15 Project

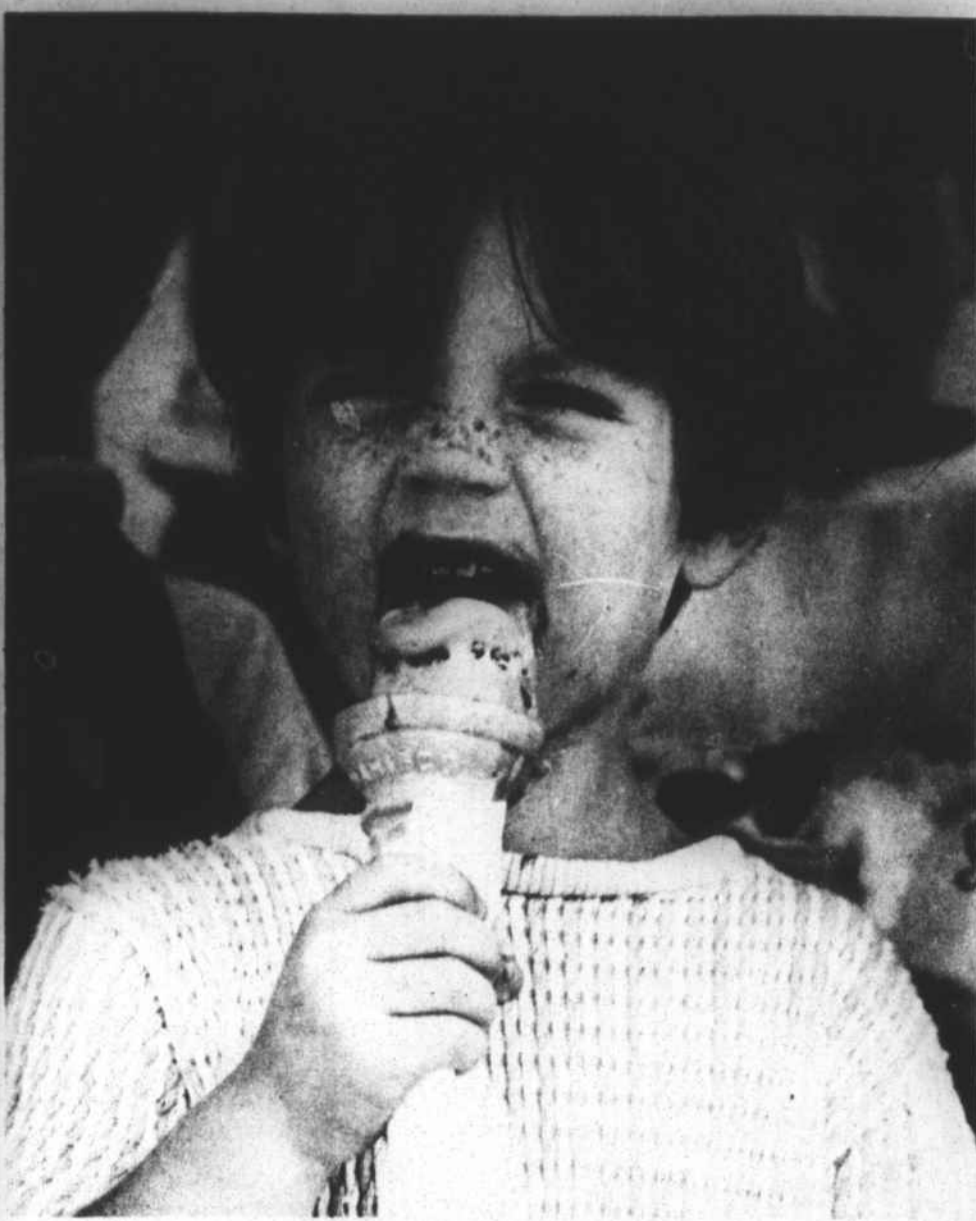
Harold Ledford, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Ledford of Rt. 3, Hayesville, has a personal interest in the Apollo 15 mission.

Ledford is employed as deputy chief of the launch vehicle systems engineering division with NASA's George C. Marshall Flight Center which provided the huge Saturn launch vehicle to propel the

spacecraft to the moon. He works at the center's Huntsville facility.

Ledford, a 1968 graduate of Hayesville High School, received his master's degree in 1969 from Western Carolina University at Cullashee.

His wife, Carol, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Jackson of White Marsh, N.C.



Summer Treat

Happiness is a cold, wet ice cream cone on a hot July afternoon. The Murphy Day Care Center youngsters walked uptown from their playroom at the First Methodist Church on Tuesday afternoon for ice

cream and Scout Photographer Weaver Carringer, using a telephoto lens, got this shot of three-year-old Gina Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor.

Forest Service Explains Plans, Policies To Public

About 50 people attended a public meeting on Wednesday night of last week, called by the U.S. Forest Service for the purpose of explaining its plans and policies in the local Tusquiee Ranger District.

In the question-and-answer period that followed presentation of Forest Service work plans for the current year, the main items were entrance fees at Hanging Dog Campground, land use around Hiwassee Lake and use of trails on government lands by motorcycles.

The entrance fees will continue in effect, according to Del Thorsen, Forest Supervisor from Asheville who attended the meeting. Some in the audience said the money involved, at \$1 per vehicle, was not much compared to the bad publicity the Forest Service has

been getting on the entrance fee and suggested that it be dropped.

The Forest Service's "wilderness area" policy for land surrounding Hiwassee Lake was questioned by a Murphy real estate agent, who said the local economy was being held back because waterfront land could not be developed and sold to retired people and summer residents.

People who are familiar with Lake Chatuge in Clay County then answered the question by saying private landowners there keep fishermen off the shore in some areas and the overwhelming number of skiers and pleasure boaters on the weekends make fishing nearly impossible. Forest Service officials did not comment and their policy on the lake remains unchanged.

On trail bikes, Thorsen said the Forest Service is in the process of writing a new policy on the use of motorcycles on forest trails and roads, which will be released soon.

Bridge Figures In Wreck

Highway Patrolman Bob Ogle reported that one of the narrow concrete bridges along US-19-129 between Murphy and Andrews has figured in another wreck.

Trooper Ogle said a 1969 Volkswagen just before noon Tuesday struck the bridge at Marble School. It was driven by Marvin Dawson, 50, of Mt. Pleasant, S.C., who escaped injury. The car was damaged beyond its market value.

The concrete bridge at Marble was the scene earlier this month of a fatal wreck and a death was also recorded in June on the bridge at Tomotla. The bridges, built in the 1920's, are very narrow compared with modern highway bridges.

Parker Wins 50-Mile Ride

Jimmy Parker of Route 4, Hayesville, won a grueling horseback endurance ride on July 18 in Habersham County, Ga.

The 50-mile ride had 19 entries with only seven finishing the long race. Four horses died during the event.

Rogers Goes Free

Will Rogers, charged with murder in the June shooting death of his son Edd, went free this week as the Grand Jury did not indict him, finding a no-trial bill in his case.

A former law officer now in his 70's, Rogers had been housed at the Cherokee County Jail since the shooting. Officers who had served the warrant on Rogers admitted their case was weak; the only witness to the shooting was his wife, they said, and by law she cannot be forced to testify against her husband.

The one-week term of Superior Court, during which the Grand Jury was meeting, wound up on Tuesday, Judge Fred Hasty of Charlotte presiding.

Russell Lee Jones, who escaped from jail three times awaiting trial, pleaded guilty to two counts of breaking and entering and two counts of possession of a stolen car.

Prayer for judgment was continued until the November term of Superior Court, with Jones ordered to go to a medical diagnostic center in Central Prison in Raleigh between now and November.

The Grand Jury did not finish its deliberations and returned a continued bill in the case of three young men charged with rape of a Marble girl and also Ervin Whitener, charged with manslaughter.

The only jury trial was that of J.W. Bryant of Andrews, charged with exceeding the creel limit on trout. The jury deliberated for about an hour and a half Tuesday morning and found him not guilty.

The majority of the cases were continued until the November session, a number of defendants and witnesses failing to show up. Appearance bonds were doubled for defendants who failed to come to court.

Courthouse Repairs Are Urged

The Cherokee County Grand Jury inspected the Courthouse and county jail Monday, calling for a number of repairs.

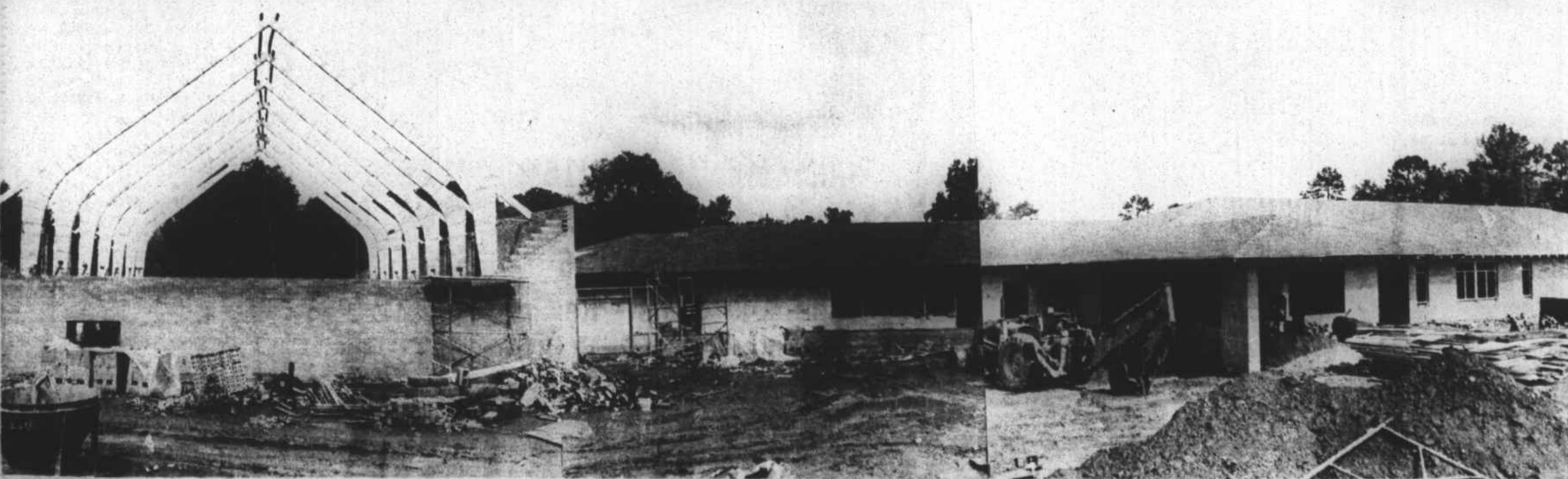
Signed by the foreman, Mrs. Ruth Forsyth, the Grand Jury's report says most Courthouse offices were clean and orderly but electrical wiring in the marble building is inadequate and most of the offices need repainting and replastering.

Members of the Grand Jury found existing electrical outlets overloaded in most Courthouse offices. Nine lines were found connected to one outlet in the Clerk of Court's office, seven in

the License Examiner's office, six to an outlet in the Extension office.

The outside of the building needs mortar replaced between the marble blocks, the report stated, "and the edge around the top of the building should be inspected by a competent builder to determine if there is danger that parts of the building might fall on passers-by". There is evidence, the report added, that part of the upper edge has already fallen, without injuring anyone.

The jail was found to be clean, but in need of extensive repainting and replastering.



Construction Pace 'Excellent' On New Baptist Church

Construction work is going along at an "excellent" pace on the new First Baptist Church building, according to the Rev. Woodrow Flynn, pastor. Work has been temporarily halted on the sanctuary, at left, and concentrated on the

educational building, at right. "We hope to be holding services in the educational building by October and then be able to move into the sanctuary by Christmas," the Rev. Mr. Flynn said. Buncombe Construction Co. of Asheville is the

general contractor on the project, which will cost over \$500,000 to complete. (Carringer Photo).