

# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

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## Waterspout??

Approximately a ton of dirt, rocks and grassy sod was blown out of a hillside at Sunset Hills Cemetery on Tuesday morning, apparently due to some sort of natural water-force eruption. Looking over the scene, left to right, are Hoyt Bryant, Town Clerk Charlie Johnson, Fred Panther and Carl Gladson. Oldtimers say they have never heard of

such an occurrence and TVA specialists photographed the area Tuesday for their records. For want of any other name, some are calling the event a "waterspout." The distance from the clumps of sod in the foreground to the top of the hole left by the eruption is about 45 feet. (Bill Gray Photo)

## Hillside Erupts At Cemetery

A phenomenon, unexplained so far, occurred Tuesday morning as a hillside at Sunset Hills Cemetery here in Murphy apparently exploded due to some sort of natural water force.

The force of the eruption completely ripped away a thick section of sod, 10 by 10 feet square, and the geyser of water which issued from the grassy hillside sent chunks of the turf flying to land over 40 feet away.

Three men were working at the Sunset Hills cemetery, mowing the grass, and witnessed the strange event.

Fred Panther, Hoyt Bryant and Carl Gladson. They described the sound as an explosion which resembled dynamite.

Town Clerk Charlie Johnson and Scout newsmen who went to the scene shortly after the eruption could detect none of the characteristic smell of blasting powder and Johnson said there are no water or gas lines in the area.

The section is a new part of the cemetery and there are no graves near it. Johnson said the hillside was formed by fill dirt in expanding the cemetery several years ago.

Panther, who was nearest the eruption, said the water which rushed out of the hill ran only a short distance before it disappeared back into the ground and physical evidence bore out his statement. The raw hole was dry an hour after the event and there was no water to be seen anywhere near it.

The three men said they

were "a little bit shaky" after the eruption and "getting scared to work" on that particular slope.

Those who have looked over the scene theorize that the abnormally heavy rainfall of recent weeks somehow built up pressure inside the hill which caused the eruption.

## Bloodmobile Is Coming

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Murphy to collect blood on Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the Power Board Building from 1 until 5:30 p.m.

"Collections over the area have been very low this Summer and we hope people will make an exceptionally strong effort to come out," said Mrs. Jessie Harshaw, who heads the blood program of the local Red Cross chapter.

All young people who have reached the age of 18 are now considered adults, she said, and may donate without the written parental permission demanded in the past.

"All those who have pledged

replacement blood in the past should try to fill their pledges as soon as possible," Mrs. Harshaw said.

## 4-Square Meeting

The Four-Square Board meeting will be held this Monday night, 7:30, at the Andrews Community Center. All Board members should attend, and anyone who is interested in the business of 4-Square's social and economic agencies, is urged to attend this meeting.

## Shrine Parade Set In Andrews

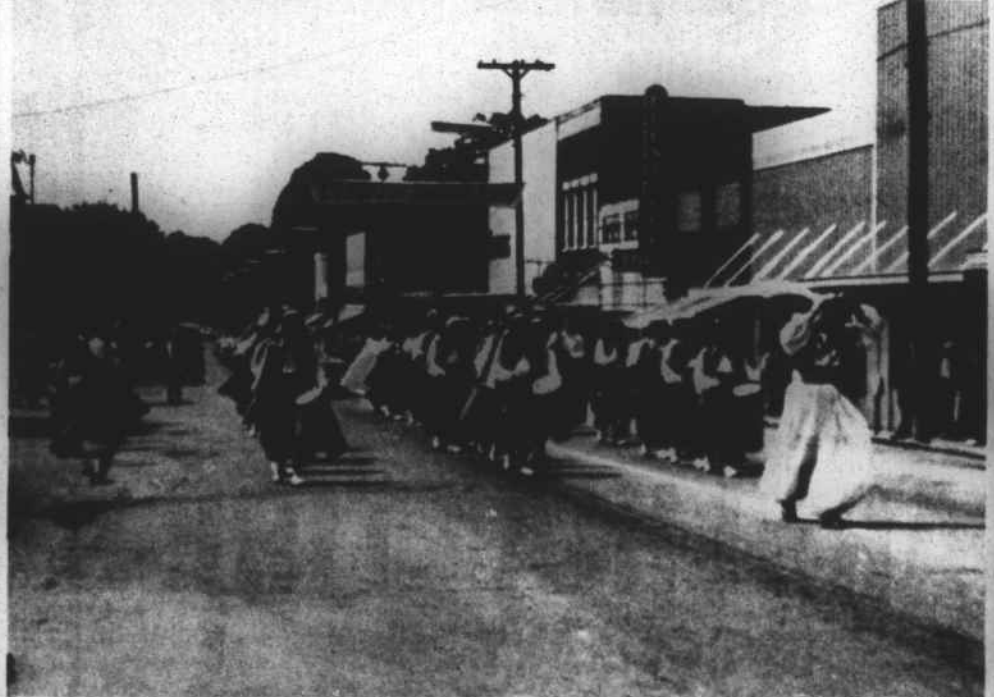
More than 500 Shriners in colorful costume will parade down Main Street in Andrews on Wednesday of next week.

Members of the Oasis Shrine Temple, which includes Western North Carolina and the Piedmont, will be heading for Memphis, Tenn. for a Shrine convention that day and will put on the parade in Andrews in honor of Illustrious Potentate W. D. Whitaker of Andrews.

It is customary for the Uniform Units of the Shrine to appear in parade in the Potentate's hometown sometime during the year he is serving. The Shriners, who will be traveling to Memphis from Charlotte and Greensboro in a caravan of chartered buses, will parade at 12:30 p.m. and then have lunch at Andrews High School cafeteria before continuing their trip.

The parade will feature the Color Guard, the marching Patrol, the Shrine Band, a drum and bugle corps, the Oriental band, various clowns and the Provost Guard, which rides motorcycles in intricate maneuvers.

Nobles of the Smoky Mountain Shrine Club from Franklin, Bryson City, Sylva, Andrews, Hayesville, Robbinsville, Murphy and surrounding towns will assemble in Andrews to greet the caravan.



Colorful Shrine units, shown in a photo from 1966 event, will march in Andrews next Wednesday.

## Sheriff Charges Politics Involved

# Cherokee Axes Radio Plan

BY WALLY AVETT  
Staff Writer

Cherokee County has withdrawn from a Western North Carolina law enforcement radio network, with politics a definite suspect in the case.

Cherokee County Commissioner Jack Lovinggood, a Republican, denies any political motive and said he made the motion to pull out from the planned radio network simply because the county cannot afford it.

Cherokee Sheriff Blain Stalcup, a Democrat, said withdrawing his department from the seven-county radio hookup was purely a political slap at him by the GOP-controlled board of county commissioners, in retaliation for his going over their heads, to the Democratic Legislature, for authority to hire two additional deputies.

Charles Hipps of Waynesville, planning director for the Southwestern Enforcement and Rights Service (SWEARS) which worked out the details of the radio system, said he was disappointed by the Cherokee withdrawal.

"I hope the county commissioners in Cherokee will be able to adjust their differences and see their way clear to participate in the system," Hipps told The Scout on Tuesday.

"We have been working on this system for more than two years and for anyone to play politics with something so important to the people is past my understanding."

The Cherokee commissioners, Lovinggood, Chairman Jack Simonds (Republican) and W. T. Moore (Democrat), approved the county Sheriff's Department joining the network in their February meeting.

As planned by SWEARS, the network would join all the sheriff's departments and cars in the counties of Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Swain, Macon, Jackson and Haywood. All the counties and all the towns within them, including Andrews and Murphy, agreed to band together in the system, which Hipps says will be financed with about 66 percent federal funds.

Hipps said Tuesday his office received last Spring an official letter from the Cherokee commissioners on their approval of participation in the system. The Motorola corporation was given the contract to build the system, he said, and the contract was signed by representatives of all the towns and counties involved, Sheriff Stalcup signing for Cherokee.

Hipps added that even if Cherokee has withdrawn from the system, Motorola may legally press for payment on the special radio equipment it has already manufactured for the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department.

"I imagine Motorola would make them pay for it anyway," Hipps said. "Especially since

the radio equipment was built on a special frequency, engineered for the terrain in Cherokee, it was not standard equipment."

All the radio equipment has been manufactured and some of it was being installed this week in some of the counties, Hipps added. The whole system will be put into operation as soon as it is approved by the Federal Communications Commission.

Town fathers in both Murphy and Andrews have approved participation in the system for their respective police departments and Hipps said engineering problems will arise in Murphy, since the town police department radio was planned to work partly on the strength of the base station in the Cherokee Sheriff's

Department.

Radio equipment for the Murphy Police Department will have to be redesigned, he said, but declined to comment on whether this will mean additional cost to the Town of Murphy.

As approved by the Cherokee commissioners last February, joining the radio system would cost this county about \$1,000 a year for the next five to eight years. The Cherokee Sheriff's Department would receive a new base radio station, five mobile units for installation in cars and three walkie-talkie units.

At a special meeting the last of July, Commissioner Lovinggood made the motion and Chairman Simonds seconded it, to rescind all previous action in approving the radio system.

Commissioner Moore abstained on that vote.

All three commissioners had protested the Legislature's giving Sheriff Stalcup authority to hire two additional deputies, an additional expense of \$14,000 per year. At the special meeting, still angered by the two new deputies, Lovinggood voted against adopting the new budget; Simonds and Moore also protested the new deputies but voted for the budget.

Tuesday Lovinggood denied that pulling out of the radio system was a political move and said he had never even thought of it that way.

"I think as communications it would be a good thing," he said. "If we just had the money. We don't have the money, we're lucky to get enough money for the \$14,000 for the new deputies.

As it was, we did cut the tax rate but if we had gotten the radios, we probably would have had to added to it."

Lovinggood said he and the other commissioner did pass a resolution approving the radio system but as far as he knew, no legal binding contract had been signed by the county.

Sheriff Stalcup said "It's a political slap at me, it can't be anything else. They think they're hurting me but they're actually hurting the county."

"With the radios, it'll mean better protection for the county because people will be able to get in contact with us easier. The way it is now they can't always get us because our base station doesn't work too well and the two new men don't even have radios in their cars."



## The Winner

Linda McRae, last year's queen, at extreme right crowned Breeze Thompson of Andrews the new Miss Cherokee County at the conclusion of the Jaycee-sponsored pageant Saturday night at

Murphy High's gym. Arthur Hayes, left, Jaycee president, brought up the traditional roses for the beaming winner as runners-up Peggy Martin, Phyllis Hughes and Angie Curtis looked on.

## County Queen Chosen

Breeze Thompson of Andrews won the Miss Cherokee County beauty title last Saturday night in a colorful competition held in the Murphy High gymnasium.

Over 500 paid admission, more than double last year's crowd, to see the annual Jaycee-sponsored event. This year's up-to-date version was based on an Age of Aquarius theme, complete with the hard rock sounds of St. John's Wood, a local band.

The 10 contestants opened the pageant in a flashy production number and then paraded before the judges in the evening gown section of the competition. Judges were Milt Carlson of Bryson City, James Parrish of Franklin and Miss Linda Karlick of Miami, Fla.

The girls then displayed their talents for the judges, ranging from singing and dramatic readings to comedy sketches and baton-twirling.

Partisan cheers and appreciative whistles rang through the gym as the young ladies paraded in their bathing suits in the final division of competition.

Miss Thompson was named the winner and was crowned by last year's queen, Linda McRae. First runner-up was Peggy Martin, second runner-up was Rita Jordan, Phyllis Hughes was fourth and Angie Curtis finished fifth.

Miss Curtis also won the Miss Congeniality award, voted by the contestants themselves as the most likeable, friendly and helpful of the girls in the contest.

The new queen, a petite brunette, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Thompson of Andrews. At 20, she was the oldest girl in the contest and standing just over five feet, she was one of the shortest.

Stage poise seemed the key to her success and she commented after the judging

that "the experience was helpful" she had gained in past contests. She was a contestant in the county pageant two years ago and was judged Miss Catamount this year at Western Carolina University, where she is a student.

A physical education major, for her talent presentation Miss Thompson did an acrobatic dance

combined with a gymnastic routine on the uneven parallel bars. Unshaken by a fall from the bars during her act, she bounced right back up and continued her routine.

Her victory brought her a silver bowl and a \$250 scholarship and the chance to represent Cherokee County in the annual Miss North Carolina pageant.

## Ladies Softball Tourney Underway

By Red Schuyler  
Staff Writer

The second Jaycees ladies invitational softball tournament got underway Monday night and will continue through Saturday night.

There are no games scheduled for tonight (Wednesday) or Thursday. Semi-final games will be played Friday night with the championship game to be played Saturday night. Trophies and awards will be presented after the final game.

Teams representing Franklin, Robbinsville, Cherokee, Hayesville, and Murphy are competing against each other to see who will move on to the State B & C tournament in Canton beginning Aug. 19.

Monday night Martins Creek defeated Robbinsville 7-0 by default. Cherokee won over Franklin 11-3, while Martins Creek eked out a close game over defending Champion Palmer's Discount 6-5.

Tuesday night Palmers Discount took the measure of the Franklin Lassies by a score of 8-1. Franklin's Joan Stanley scored the only run in the first inning after getting on base with a hit. Palmer's pitcher McNabb limited the Franklin ladies to four hits while getting good

support from her teammates. Palmers made 12 hits account for 8 runs. Munkus was the leading hitter for Palmers getting three hits out of three times at bat.

Kitchens lead in the run scoring department by crossing home plate two times.

In the second game Cherokee lost to American Thread 10-0. Pitcher Sue Queen gave up only three hits while on her way to a shutout. Janice Henson with three for three, Judy Garland with two for three and Peggy Lindsey also two for three were the big bats for American Thread.

In the nightcap Cherokee eliminated Robbinsville by a score of 8-3. It was nip and tuck for the first six innings but Cherokee wrapped it up with four runs in the seventh.

The schedule for Friday Night will be Palmer's Disc. vs. Cherokee at 6:30, American Thread vs. Martins Creek at 7:30, the winner of the Palmer-Cherokee game against the loser of the Martins Creek-American Thread.

Saturday night the final game or games will be played starting at 7:30. From here it looks like a tossup between Martins Creek, Palmers Discount, and American Thread. Take your choice.

## Council Buys, Sells

Buying and selling of land and equipment was the main business of the Murphy Town Council in its brief meeting Monday night.

The council voted to sell a 1962 pickup truck used by town workmen, which Town Clerk Charlie Johnson said was in need of major repairs, and buy a 1967 pickup to replace it from the State Highway Commission shop at Peachtree for \$650.

Mayor Cloe Moore and Councilmen Joe Fowler, Henry Simmons, W. A. Singleton, Francis Bourne Jr. and John Carringer attended the meeting.

The council also approved purchase of an electronic calculating machine from Carringer, at \$500, for use in the town office.

Paul Ridenhour, who lives next-door to the Alverson property recently purchased by the town for the site of a new library building, appeared before the council and asked that he be sold a five-foot strip of the Alverson lot, which he said would straighten out a bend in the present line.

The council took no action, noting that other landowners have asked to buy strips of land on the rear of the Alverson lot. Councilmen were of the opinion that they should wait until plans are drawn for a library before they start disposing of any of the land.

Johnson and the council discussed other matters received so far on two pieces of land the town owns, which are still up for offers. One tract of land on the Andrews Highway contains almost 13 acres, the other piece is two lots, side by side, on Cherokee Street.

W. D. Whitaker  
Shrine Potentate