

MURPHY MAKING WONDERFUL STRIDES IN PROGRESS

(By Maccn Rush Dunnagan)
 Murphy, April 19.—Murphy is rapidly taking her place in the sun. Although this town is the first name in the pair that designates the extreme boundaries of the State from west to east, and is as far from the

Capital as it can be and remain in the State, it is characteristically keeping pace with the "program of progress" at which the store "points with pride."
 Although the last census, four years ago, gave the town only 1,500 population, present special and incom-

plete enumerations place the people living in and near Murphy growth within and including developments without the limits.

Because of the distance and the natural barriers that cut Murphy off from the other parts of the State, including high mountains and deep ravines, making roadbuilding engineering feats of the first magnitude and unusually expensive, the work on the State system has not reached the degree of perfection there that it has in more favored sections. Highway No. 10, the Central Highway, is in fair shape through the country, reaching to the Georgia Line, but there are stretches eastward that have not been completed and may not be ready for satisfactory use this summer. The Nantahala gap is proving a stubborn deterrent, but even this stretch, often hewn from almost solid rock, is giving way before dynamite, pick and steam shovel.

State road No. 28, from Murphy by way of Hayesville, Franklin, Brevard and to Hendersonville, is in passable shape and all links will probably be completed during the year.

In Cherokee County, Murphy and Beavertown townships are building a road down the Hiwassee River to the Tennessee line. Another road from Murphy to Kinsey and on to Copper Hill, Tenn. Connecting there with the Dixie Highway, Route "A," is well under way. Murphy township graded the six miles within its limits two years ago. Nolichucky township has let the contract for over eight miles and Hixson township has voted bonds to build the six miles to the Tennessee line, within two miles of Copperhill.

Many Summer Residents
 Murphy and Cherokee County can hardly take care of the many summer visitors and residents that knock at their doors, but they are building many homes and adding to facilities for increasing this large summer population. Two main hotels and numbers of boarding houses and private residences are used to capacity. The Regill Hotel is a modern brick building with all convenience, while the Dickey House is one of the old, rambling wooden structures, homelike and comfortable with a table that tempts even the appetiteless.

Train service at Murphy, both passenger and freight, compares favorably with that of any other center. Two railroads enter the town furnishing 10 passenger trains a day. The Southern, Murphy Division, from Asheville has two trains each way daily. The Louisville and Nashville operates a train each way, to and from Knoxville, Tenn., and one each way from Atlanta, in addition to a local train to and from Blue ridge Ga., junction point. Freight traffic from this point is becoming an important fact, the competition of lines giving the section very favorable freight rates.

Rich in Iron Ore
 In Cherokee County, in and around Murphy, iron mines are being opened that with further development, promise to be one of the leading enterprises. Three rich and extensive iron veins run through the county. Geological Survey report has shown and starts are being made in mining this ore. In one of the mines a car of washed-out ore is being mined each day, while another is providing two or three car loads each week. This ore assays from 60 to 65 per cent iron.

Marble has been quarried for some time and promises larger development, as do numbers of other mineral and rock formations, some of which have been started, while many others are in their original state—all awaiting exploration. Hardwood timbers are being utilized extensively already but there is still much virgin forest while tanneries are doing an extensive business.

With this background, it is not surprising that Murphy has begun an unprecedented development including erection of at least 35 homes, along with a large number of business houses and a few extensive manufacturing plants within the past twelve months.

New Manufacturing Plants
 Probably the most extensive accomplishment of the year is the erection of the Oaklane Knitting Mills building, costing approximately \$30,000, with equipment costing \$100,000. The mill will manufacture ladies and children's underwear and sweaters and sweater coats, and has in connection, a bleachery for knit goods. The mill is just now making up the samples and will, within a short time, start at full blast, employing close to 100 people, prob-

ably putting on a second shift if business develops according to expectation. Progressive citizens of Murphy saw the need and value of such a plant and organized the Murphy Real Estate Company to build the building for the mill.

The Cherokee Company, manufacturing hardwood lumber, was reorganized and reopened during the year, beginning operations on a large scale in November of last year. This company employs around 500 workers in its various departments and now has 30 miles of railroad running into the timber lands. At present 20 miles more of railroad are being built, extending the territory from which supplies may be secured. The plant is running at full blast, with considerable overtime operation.

Among the new business houses that have been erected during the year may be enumerated the filling station built by Dr. J. A. Nichols and G. W. Ellis; the Dickey and Dickey garage and filling station, a handsome brick building the G. H. Hasty Garage, the new wholesale distributing station of the Gulf Refining Company, erected by local capital and numbers of others of a smaller nature.

Church and High School
 Nearing completion is the new home of the Methodist congregation of Murphy, a handsome structure, which will compare favorably with any in the extreme Western part of the State. This building, of pleasing architecture and appointments, will cost about \$60,000, by the time it is opened for worship, during the summer.

Murphy people point with pride to the new high school building, now nearing completion and costing \$30,000. This school will house the four higher grades, domestic science, laboratories, superintendent's office and other smaller offices and rooms. The former building, which housed all of the students, will be devoted to the primary and grammar grades, making room for the increasing number of children. The high school faculty, consisting of D. W. Raroy, who teaches history and civics; B. W. Sipe, science; Mrs. L. P. Kinsey, foreign languages; L. E. Mauncy, history and English; and Miss Marguerite Couch, mathematics, will probably be enlarged when the new building is brought into use next fall.

New B. & L. Association
 An organization that gives promise of being invaluable in increasing home building operations in the town is the new Murphy Building and Loan Association, which began business January 1 with a capital stock of \$100,000. Already a building program has been started and the association

has many applications for loan. Officers: D. Witherspoon, president; J. W. Davidson, vice president; B. W. Sipe, Secretary-treasurer, and directors: W. M. Fain, P. C. Hyatt, E. C. Mallonee, H. G. Elkin, J. V. Barnett, W. D. Townsend, J. B. Story and C. M. Wofford.

While people of Cherokee County are not worse than others, the prices for keeping the occasional vicious was inadequate so, during the year a new jail was completed, at a cost of \$55,000. However, all of the building is not used for housing criminals; only the second floor is devoted to this purpose; The jailor and his family occupy the first floor, while the third is used as a storage place for county records.

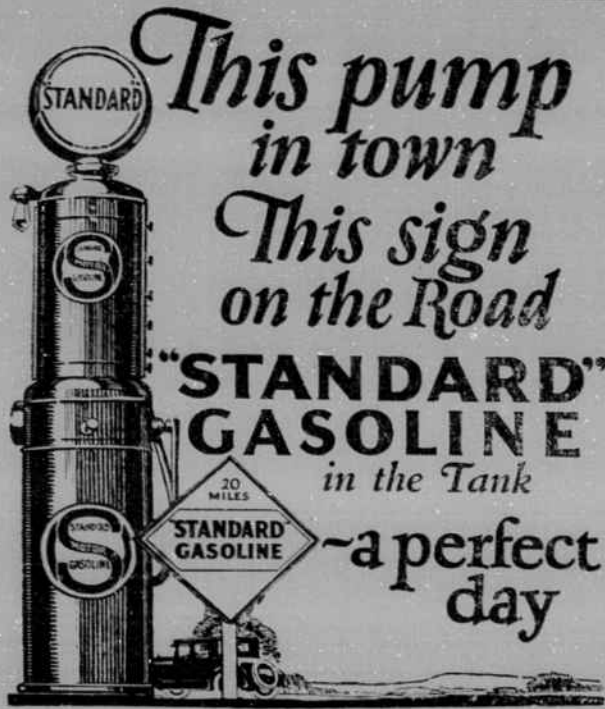
During the year, Cherokee County and Murphy, in conjunction, bought Cherokee Park, containing 12 acres, have erected a handsome fair building, built a baseball park, fenced in the area, graded the land and made it inviting by setting out trees and hedges. Here the county fair, baseball games and other large attractions are held. The park is located on Valley River.

Handsome New Homes
 But the building operations have not been confined to business, manufacturing and public edifices. Much of the 150,000, approximately that has been spent during the year and certainly \$50,000 represented in present construction, has been expended on 35 new homes. Practically all are of the substantial and desirable type, while numbers are included in the expensive and valuable group. The home of E. A. Davidson, president of the Cherokee Bank, costing \$18,000 or \$20,000, will compare favorably with any home West of Asheville and is the handsomest in Murphy, which has many handsome and attractive homes. S. S. Christophers and J. H. Phulp are now building very attractive homes. Murphy has two strong banking institutions which are doing much in the development of the town and county, including the Cherokee Bank, E. A. Davidson, president, and J. B. Storey, cashier, and the Bank of Murphy, A. B. Dickey, president, and L. E. Rayless, cashier.

Electric Lights and Water.
 The town owns and operates its

own hydro-electric power system, developing 500 horsepower. This is sufficient for lighting the town and supplying several small industries, but there is immediate demand for more power for additional industries. The water system is one of the best in the State, the water, accumulated on a watershed of about 25 acres of mountain land, analysis absolutely pure. The supply is adequate for several years, being sufficient to supply a town three or four times the size of Murphy.

Considering everything, the people of Murphy are proud of the progress of the past year and are predicting that the town will continue its splendid growth through the coming years. It prides itself on a special citizenship, largely native, but with a sprinkling of better and more aggressive element that makes for progress and co-operation.



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