

The Cherokee Scout

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CLAY COUNTY'S OLDEST CITIZEN WILL BE 99 ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Goes Hunting As Usual—Has Killed Over Eight Hundred Wild Turkeys

John M. Crawford, Clay County's oldest man will celebrate his 99th birthday on Christmas Day, by going into the fields hunting as is his custom on this day, when it does not fall on Sunday, as he always strictly observes the sabbath. The writer visited him at his home on Shooting Creek four miles from Hayesville on the afternoon of December the 15th and found him comfortably seated in his favorite chair in the corner reading the Pathfinder. "Uncle Johnnie," as he is known to all his friends, expressed great delight in the coming of the writer. His mind was very alert and quickly he answered all questions propounded to him. He stated that he was born in Macon County on December the 25th 1829, and further stated that if his memory served him correctly it was a rainy day (so said his father.) His father's name was George Crawford, and he lived to the ripe old age of 93. Mr. Crawford has been married twice. His first wife being Miss Martha Bryson, also of Macon County. In 1851 he left his native county and crossed the mountains into that new country now Clay County. He set up a home here, marrying Miss Arbezana Ledford, to which union there was born nine children, three girls and six boys, all living to be grown, namely: M. F. Crawford, W. S. Crawford, John Crawford, Dr. J. W. Crawford, Dr. G. M. Crawford, and R. W. Crawford, of whom the two doctors are dead; Mrs. Leet Rogers, of Colorado, Mrs. G. T. Berg, of Fort Worth, Texas, and Mrs. Joe Penland, of Blairsville, Georgia, all survive. His direct descendants number 116, divided as follows nine children; 44 grandchildren; 67 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Crawford only left Clay County one time, in 1859 he made a trip to Arkansas in an ax wagon, returning the next year by a far faster travel, a vehicle drawn by horses. On this western trip "Uncle Johnnie" was charged with the duty of furnishing the camp with game, and he did not fail one single time to have an adequate supply of meat. His life has been mostly occupied by farming and hunting but in the early days when Clay County was in its infancy, he served as one of the first Board of County Commissioners and made the first tax levy the county ever had, he pointed with pride to the record they made during their term. He is now chairman of Clay County pension Board.

He attributes his longevity of life to, first: he never did worry; total abstinence of tobacco and whiskey; outdoor life; when he goes to bed he goes to sleep; very careful about eating heavy diet for supper, and eating vegetables and wild meat.

He served one year in active service in the Civil War and the remainder of the war he was held prisoner at Johnston's Island. He was captured by the Yankees at Cumberland Gap. His Second Lieutenant's name was Col. Clayton, and his Colonel was R. G. A. Love. He served with the 62nd North Carolina States Troops. He stated that he was unalterably against war, he said the times were possible, that war was necessary, but in this day of enlightenment there were far better ways to settle it for no good came out of war.

He cast his first presidential vote for Millard Fillmore and has voted in the presidential election ever since.

He engaged in school teaching for a few years, teaching his first school at Peachtree in 1852, receiving the handsome salary of \$20.00 per month for teaching 100 students without assistance.

While the writer and "Uncle Johnnie" were talking, his daughter-in-law, Mrs. R. W. Crawford, brought in a basket full of the fam-

SCOUT OFFICE TO BE CLOSED

The office of The Cherokee Scout will be closed from Saturday, December 22nd, to Monday, December 31, in order to allow the "force" and their families to spend the holidays with home folks—Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Paulk with relatives at Columbus, Ga., and Florida; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Triplett with relatives at Elkin, N. C., and ye editor and family with home folks in Atlanta and College Park, Ga.

We hope that no one will suffer for a lack of printing during the holidays. All will be back on the job by January 1st.

Wishing all our readers, friends and customers a merry, merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr. E. B. Gibbs, who was stationed at Murphy with the North Carolina Highway Department last summer, but who was recently transferred to Shooting Creek, is confined to his room at The Maples this week on account of sickness. His friends will be glad to learn that he is getting better.

Mr. Robert Akin, who is a student at Georgia Military Academy, College Park, Ga., arrived this week to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Akin.

Mayor Harry P. Cooper and Mr. Bailey Meroney are on a business trip to Sarasota, Fla., this week.

COUNTY SINGING CONVENTION DEC 30

The Cherokee County Singing Convention will meet at the court house in Murphy for an all day occasion on the fifth Sunday in this month, which is December 30th, according to announcement this week by officers of the convention.

All singers and singing classes of the county are requested to be present, and everybody is invited to come, bring song books and big baskets of dinner.

ous Bald Mountain apples, and Uncle Johnnie informed the writer that his father found a seedling tree on Bald Mountain in Macon County in his early days and transplanted it at his home, and it bore such eatable fruit that he preserved the tree and called it the Bald Mountain apple which is now extensively found in western North Carolina.

He stated that he had killed 40 deer and between 300 and 1000 wild turkeys, and that he would not tell this to strangers but he does not hesitate to tell it to people who know him. When questioned whether he was in favor of enforcing the game laws and preserving the game, he stated that he unreservedly was, he said that the game would come back if it was properly protected to western North Carolina by nature was a game country. "Uncle Johnnie" said protection meant game, no protection meant none and above all although he liked to hunt he strictly observed the game and fish laws. He stated that when the camp fires began to burn again and hunters gathered around them at night and related the stories of the day's hunt, slept in the open people would have better health and the undying ties of friendship would be formed. He is not planning any elaborate birthday celebration this Christmas but is looking forward to a big occasion on his birthday Christmas 1929, when if he is permitted by Divine Providence he will round out 100 years of earthly existence.

He wishes much success to the Clay County News and wishes for each and every one a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE FOR MURPHY NOW ASSURED

Merchants and Business Organizations Contribute Funds to Make Rural Children Happy—Santa Claus Is Coming

The plans of the Murphy Welfare Board for a community Christmas tree and celebration announced in last week's issue of this publication are complete and the event is assured.

A lovely spruce Christmas tree now stands on the public square, awaiting the decorative touch of the artist and the strings of lights that will illuminate its colors and its gold. Already the Christmas spirit is in the air and passers-by pause to look at the big tree, including needy little boys and girls who appear hopeful that Santa Claus will not now pass them by when he rides across the land scattering happiness and gifts.

Those merchants and business men who contributed the money necessary to make possible this Christmas tree and celebration for the youngsters were one time boys and girls who thrived at the approach of Christmas and Santa Claus. We somehow feel that the memory of their childish thrills moved them to unloose their purse strings and contribute to the success of this celebration. Their efforts are going to brighten the face of Murphy on Christmas Eve and gladden the hearts and lives of hopeful boys and girls.

We feel that the public would like to know who these contributors are and we are going to list their names. The list follows:

Merchants

J. M. Stoner, Cash & Carry, Davidson & Carringer, Groceries.
A. & P. Stores.
W. B. Dickey & Sons.
Lovingood Bros.
R. H. King.
Hampton's Grocery, Wofford-Terrell Co., Wholesale.
W. M. Fain Gro. Co.
Candler's Dept. Store.
Mrs. Callie Hall, Millinery.
W. D. Townson, Furniture.
C. B. Hill, Furniture.
J. W. Davidson, Haberdasher.
A. & B. 10c and 25c Stores Co.
Griffith's Inc., Women's Wear.
T. L. Collins, Dry Goods.
E. L. Townson, Dry Goods.
The Variety Store.
Parker Drug Store.
Cherokee Drug Store.
Gulley's Meat Market.
Johnson's Meat Market.
McMillain & Swain.
T. S. Evans, Ford Dealer.
Murphy Filling Station.
E. C. Moore, Whippet Dealer.
Dickey Motor Co.
Bank of Murphy.
Cherokee Bank.
Quinn's Cafe.
Cornwell's Cafe.
Murphy Bakery & Cafe.
J. H. Birchfield Lunch Room.
Brittain & Axley Hardware.
Murphy Hardware Co.
Bonita Theatre.
The Cherokee Scout.
Mr. Phillips, Service Barber Shop.
Singer Sewing Machine Co.

Mrs. A. A. Fain and daughter, Mr. James Williamson, who is a Miss Eloise Fain, and Mr. Robertstudent at the University of Tennessee, are visiting Mrs. Fain'see, Knoxville, is expected to spend daughter, Mrs. Linderman, at Wash-several days with home folks during ington, Ind., this week.

NEW WHIPPET NOW ON DISPLAY

Overland-Knight Has New Car Which Is Formally Presented

Development of body lines that strike a note of beauty and quality, heretofore found only in cars that sell in the higher price ranges, is seen in Willys'Overland's announcement of its completely redesigned lines of Whippet four and six-cylinder cars.

In presenting the new Whippet fours and sixes, Mr. Willys says:

"When the original Whippet was introduced, designed along lines that entirely revolutionized the light car field, it was predicted that within two years every car manufacturer in the Whippet classification would be forced to adopt the mechanical features first set by the Whippet or be regulated to the obsolete group. This particularly applied to four wheel brakes.

"That these predictions came to pass in less than two years is history, with other car manufacturers both in the low and higher price fields following the trend set by the Whippet.

"And now we present the completely redesigned Whippet fours and sixes, bringing to the low price class for the first time in automotive history high priced car value, beauty and advanced features, in addition to proved mechanical superiority.

"There is no place in the low priced field for the manufacturer who fails to incorporate in his product the distinct new type of beauty and mechanical features introduced in the Whippet. To the manufacturer who fails to meet this trend we repeat the prediction of two and a half years ago, that he will find his cars stamped by the buying public as obsolete.

The advance report that the new models, which are designed as the Superior Whippet, would establish a precedent by bringing beauty and outstanding mechanical features into the low priced field is readily apparent, even in first glance at the striking new cars. They are notable for their larger bodies and increased roominess, while the new type of design with the sparkling color combinations is totally different from anything we have ever seen before in the low price classification.

Beauty and Quality
Every detail of the new Whippet bespeaks beauty of design and quality of workmanship and finish, from the trim, higher chromium plated radiator to the carefully rounded lines of the rear quarters. The artistic lines of the body are admirably set off by the new type of sweeping one-piece fenders. The effective use of a belt moulding rounds out the artistry of the design.

By combining a definite type of beauty, entirely new to the light car field, with the proved mechanical superiority of the previous Whippet models, the Willys-Overland company has reached the position of quality leader in the light car field in addition to its recognized position of engineering leadership.

The body models in the four-cylinder line include, five-passenger sedan, five-passenger coach, coupe, roadster and touring car. The six cylinder line is comprised of the sedan, coach, coupe, and roadster.

Outstanding among the features which place the Whippet in a distinctive position, is the new "Finger-Tip Control." By means of an ingenious improvement, all functions of starting the motor, controlling the lighting system and sounding the horn are operated from a single button conveniently located in the center of the steering wheel.

This system was subjected to exhaustive tests and characterized by experts as the greatest driving convenience since the electric self starter.

New Driving Convenience
A mere pull up on the button
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