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The Cherokee Scout

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FAMOUS FOLK SCHOOL XMAS PLAY IS GIVEN

Play Is Enacted Wednes-
day Night At Brass-
town School

A Christmas celebration that aroused attention not only in Cherokee county where it was born but in many places over the country was the Christmas play at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, N. C., on Wednesday night, December 22. Beginning with a few scenes some ten years ago, the play has grown with the growth of the school until today it is a full blown Christmas play incorporating many of the traditions that have lingered in the mountains in song and ballad since the English and Scotch-Irish pioneers came into this region about a century or more ago. Among these is the famous ballad of the Cherry tree, which bowed down its branches to the Virgin Mary.

The form of the play varies from year to year. This winter the Herod scene was omitted, but an addition of great interest was the scene of three travellers who, as well as Mary and Joseph, could find no place to rest in Bethlehem and plainly manifested their displeasure thereat. The scene acted as an excellent foil to the humble acceptance of the lowly quarters by Mary and Joseph. A wealth of song and carol clustered about the performance. Visitors from the north who attended the play exclaimed over the great variety and unusual quality of the music given, for few trained bands of carollers anywhere have such a repertoire of rare and choice folk music.

On the stage was a primitive representation of the manger, thatched with hay, the star burning steadily above. The detail of shepherds lanterns and crooks, of royal crowns and humble rustic offerings of shepherds to the newborn king were presented with reverent simplicity. The costumes were simple, effective, and colorful. Especially charming were the angels white robes and wings as they sang in a harmonious trio their word to the adoring shepherds. "Ye shepherds leave your care of flocks so fleecy."

Though a light rain fell in the early part of the evening, a large audience was present from all the surrounding country and the hall was as silent as in a church service. Indeed to most of the people present the whole presentation preached as movingly as the finest church music and sermon. The simplicity, the reverence, the natural charm of the actors and action alike made an appeal like that of the famous Oberammergau play in Switzerland.

Perhaps the finest feature of the whole is that the songs once learned become a part of the life of the students of the John C. Campbell Folk School as permanent as is the tradition of the ballads in the mountains. After the play which took place on Wednesday evening was over, the students were still living the atmosphere of Christmas. The angels were singing their chorus on Christmas day itself, and the boys rising early to milk went to their work with the song of the shepherds on their lips. It would seem as if Cherokee county had inaugurated a unique, beautiful and telling Christmas celebration which may well become an inspiration to those beyond the mountains.

Among those taking part in the Christmas play or chorus were the following: from Cherokee county, Nell Clayton, Glenn Holland, Elaine Logan, Ralph Day, Frank Hogan, Blanche Scroggs, and Tom McLeary; and from Clay county, Willie Clayton, Clara Bell Brown, Wallace Massie, Ruth Arrant, Opal Green, Fannie Kate Brendle.

Murphy Schools Will Reopen Mon. Morning

Pupils in the Schools of the Murphy unit will lay aside new Christmas toys for schoolbooks Monday morning when classes will be resumed after the holidays.

TVA RIGGER FOREMAN AND HIS CREW HAVE UNEQUALLED SAFETY RECORD

The Tennessee Valley Authority's policy of safety on its construction jobs has been commended by safety engineers throughout the country. Recently, Mr. Ben Clark, rigger foreman at the Hiwassee Dam project, and formerly rigger foreman at the Norris project, completed a record that is said by some safety engineers to be unequalled in the field of heavy construction.

Over a period of two years Mr. Clark and his crew of riggers, have moved, erected, and dismantled approximately ten million tons of steel without a single loss-time accident. This work consists of moving and erecting cableways, derricks, bridges, steel trestle work for conveyor systems, and other large machinery and equipment necessary in building dams and power houses.

Mr. Clark states that in 25 years'

construction work, he has never had a rigger fatally injured on the job, which is an exceptional record, considering the hazards in that kind of work.

Mr. Clark, a native of North Carolina, was born in Lflesville and attended the schools there. He began his first construction work at the age of 18, on the Tallulah Falls project in Georgia. This is Mr. Clark's thirteenth dam powerhouse job since 1912. While the biggest job in concrete placement he has ever worked on was Norris Dam. Mr. Clark says he has worked on other jobs with larger personnel. At the present time, Mr. Clark has 27 riggers under his supervision, and will probably have more as work progresses.

It is understood that stories of this record will appear in nationally circulated magazines.

January 1 Deadline On Vehicle Licenses

A final warning to local motorists was handed out by Patrolman E. B. Quinn, Jr., Wednesday when he reminded them that "1938 tags must absolutely be displayed on all vehicles before they can be driven after the first of the year."

"I don't want any excuses," the officer said, "I know them all by heart."

Tags are being sold locally for the first time this winter by J. L. Hall, operator of the Woco-Pep filling station in Murphy. Mr. Hall will serve vehicle owners of Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties.

SECOND BAPTIST HAS XMAS PARTY FOR ITS CHILDREN

A Christmas Eve party was given at the Second Baptist church of Murphy for the children of the church. A large number attended and had a good time. Presents were distributed, poems were recited by the children and Christmas carols were sung. Mrs. Vance Wilson also gave a recitation.

According to Hugh Hood, the Sunday school of the church has increased to six classes taking care of the young people and adults. A cordial invitation is extended to the public at all times to attend the Sunday school meetings and church services there.

Regular preaching dates are the fourth Saturday night and Sunday of each month. The Rev. Alga West, of Andrews, is the pastor. His subject at the last meeting was: "The Three Greatest Gifts".

OCCUPATIONAL ANALYSIS IN COUNTY IS TAKEN BY EMPLOYMENT WORKERS

By SILAS F. CAMPBELL
Statistical Supervisor, Raleigh, N. C.

For the purpose of securing more complete data concerning the occupational characteristics, educational and marital status of applicants registered with the North Carolina State Employment Service, it recently undertook a survey through its 45 local offices of all applications in the active file. Previous surveys have indicated that a large portion of active applications represent unskilled occupations in which there is the greatest amount of unemployment and the survey was intended to furnish information that would be helpful in providing an occupational readjustment for those who could profit by it. The educational background and domestic responsibilities of an applicant both have an important bearing in determining his availability for additional occupational training.

The active file of applications in Cherokee County contains 1,484 applications, 1,265 men and 219 women. Only 11 Negro applicants are registered in this county, and these are included with the white applications.

Majority Under 30
The analysis of this file discloses that 43 per cent of the entire number registered are under 30 years of age and that 95 per cent of this number have not finished high school. Of the total number 1,484 registered, 96

per cent had less than high school training and only 4 tenths of 1 per cent had finished high school and received supplementary training in college or business school. The proportion of this who had less than high school training is practically the same for both men and women, 96 per cent women and 95.4 per cent men being in this class.

The proportion of married applicants is almost twice as high among men than women, 37 per cent of whom were reported as married as compared to 70 per cent of the men.

Classified as to occupational skill requirements, the files are divided into 8 major classifications. It appears that 85 per cent of the total number registered represent occupations that are classified as unskilled or semi-skilled and that 98 per cent of the applicants in this classification had failed to finish high school.

Among the Professional, Technic and Supervisory workers 88 per cent had less than the high school training. This is exceptionally low rating for applicants in this group.

Of those classified as Salespersons, inside and outside, 55 per cent had less than a high school training.

Highest Rating Given
The highest educational rating is observed in the Clerical group, 56 per cent of whom had finished high

(Continued on back page)

This Is Annual New Years Issue Of Scout

This is the annual New Years edition of the Cherokee Scout.

With it your county paper brings you innumerable New Years greetings and best wishes from the outstanding local merchants.

The entire force of this paper thanks you for your favors of the past year and hope to serve you even better in 1938.

Rock Crusher To Be Placed On Dam Route

A rock-crusher will be moved to the Shoal Creek road leading to the Hiwassee dam village the latter part of this week to keep the road in good shape for the remainder of the winter, highway officials said here Tuesday.

Inclement weather has made the Shoal Creek route bad in several places during the past few weeks and difficulty has been faced in maintaining traffic over it.

Roy Plemmons, district engineer, and Grover Mauney, maintenance superintendent, made the announcement and will be in charge of the work.

They said it would take several days to set up the machinery, drill the quarry which will supply the rock and crush it. They expect the surfacing work to begin Monday.

Although there are a number of quarries along the route, they did not state definitely which one would be used to supply the rock, but said that in all probability the Oak Park bridge quarry would be used.

Much TVA, private and business traffic is maintained over the route from Murphy into the dam site.

Christmas Is Observed Here In Quiet Spirit

Christmas Day passed quietly in Murphy this year.

Amid a reverent setting created by special services at the local churches, Saturday and Sunday were observed in a leisurely spirit while the town was blessed with some of the prettiest weather seen here this winter.

Charity extended throughout the community as personal and organized gifts were made. The Charity League and other local civic organizations maintained drives to give Yuletide presents to the poor.

The most elaborate municipal decorations ever on display were observed here in the evenings.

Although numerous fireworks added noise to the serene setting, few Christmas parties were observed.

Local merchants reported a rushing business during the several days immediately preceding Christmas day.

Edith Alley, 13, Is Buried On Thursday

Funeral services for Miss Edith Helen Alley, 13-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Alley, of Peachtree, were conducted from the Murphy Methodist church Thursday afternoon at 1 o'clock with the Rev. W. Arthur Barber, pastor, officiating. Interment was in Sunset cemetery. Peyton G. Ivey was in charge of funeral arrangements.

Miss Alley, a popular member of the sophomore class of the Murphy high school, died at noon last Wednesday of an attack of pneumonia which she had suffered for a week.

Classmates acted as pallbearers and flower girls.

Surviving besides the parents is one sister, Loe.

WAGES OF 8000 TVA EMPLOYEES TO BE RAISED

Approximate 5 Per Cent
Increase To Become
Effective Jan. 1

The Tennessee Valley Authority Monday ordered effective Jan. 1 an approximately 5 per cent wage increase and a 40-hour work week for its 8,000 employes hired by the hour in the Tennessee river watershed.

The increased wages and shorter hours were granted after collective bargaining conferences during the past six weeks between the Authority and the American Federation of Labor's TVA unions.

The agreement provides for time and a half for overtime and even higher wages than the scale provides, if necessary to meet prevailing wages on similar projects in communities outside the watershed area where TVA employes are assigned to work.

Cost of the additional wages to the TVA was estimated at more than \$500,000 annually. The largest single increase was \$180,000 for unskilled workers, whose rate was increased from 45 to 47 1/2 cents per hour.

The question of wage increases for groups among the remaining 5,500 TVA employes will be taken up in conferences early in the new year. In this group are many skilled workmen, engineers and supervisors.

The recent wage conferences did not affect the wage status of office workers, for whom a point system has been adopted, and in which employes in each classification are rated as unsatisfactory, satisfactory or unusually satisfactory. As an office worker moves from one rating to a higher one over certain periods, a wage increase becomes automatic.

The increase in wages for hourly employes will amount to a little more than \$500,000 annually, the largest single item being in the \$180,000 increase given to unskilled workers whose rate of pay was raised from 45 to 47 1/2 cents an hour.

The board of director's action follows six weeks of negotiating with representatives of the Tennessee Valley Trades and Labor council. The council is composed of representatives of 13 cooperating unions affiliated with the AF of L.

The new wage schedule will apply to hourly employes of labor classifications on force account work throughout the Tennessee watershed area. Provision was made however, that when the TVA engages in work outside this area, as it does occasionally, rates of pay of such employes can be revised to meet prevailing rates where they are in excess of those just approved.

The TVA act prescribes that wages paid by the TVA shall be those prevailing in the vicinity for similar work and that consideration shall be given to those rates which have been obtained through collective agreement by representatives of employers and employes.

Preparatory to holding the wage conferences this year, the personnel department of the TVA made a survey of prevailing wage rates through the area. Labor unions representing employes of the TVA also submitted data on established wage rates.

Wrecks Reported, No Serious Injuries

Although numerous automobile wrecks were reported throughout this section over the Christmas holidays, no serious injuries have been recorded. Only one entrance has been recorded at one of the local hospitals and it was said to not have been of a serious nature.

Several minor injuries were also reported from the use of fireworks, and requests were made not to shoot firecrackers in the vicinity of the Regal hotel due to the serious illness of Mr. A. J. Burns.