

# Enticements of Murphy Area Told on Radio

## HALF-HOUR IS DEVOTED OVER STATION WNOX

### Knoxville Manufacturer Arranges Program; Local Musicians Attend

On last Thursday morning Murphy and surrounding territory were given quite a boost by Billy Cole, advertising manager of the F. K. Paxton company, of Knoxville, makers of portable cabins, when he devoted one of the series of 10 half-hour "Appalachian Breezes" programs over WNOX, Knoxville, Tenn., to Murphy.

Mr. Cole informed the Scout that inquiries from persons more than 100 miles had been received almost before the program went off the air.

Appearing on the program were the string band led by Glenn Ellis of Culberson and the Valley River Quartette.

Winners of the ten Appalachian Breezes programs will be complete in the tenth, eleventh and twelfth programs to be given over the station the last week in August and the first two weeks in September.

Mr. Cole reported that he was very impressed with the Cherokee county delegation and that the program devoted to Murphy and surrounding territory was one of the most successful of the series before.

Mr. Cole's talk was as follows:

Today we visit a little city enshrined in the very heart of the old Cherokee nation. It is surrounded closely on all sides by the most varied panorama that one can imagine. There is everything from the Carolina Blue Ridges and Tennessee Smokies, to the prairie-like Tellico Plains. There is like Santeetlah, bluer than the Chesapeake; and there is Copper Basin, garish and like the Painted Desert. We recommend for your week-end adventure or summer's vacation, this little city, Murphy—western-most city in North Carolina.

The story of Murphy is downright enchanting. It begins about 150 years ago when the first white man came to settle among the proud Cherokees. This man's name was very long—Archibald Russell Spence Hunter. Alone, he made his perilous way into the stronghold of the Cherokee, until he came to the fork of Hiwassee and Valley Rivers. This fork, viewed from the gigantic base boulders that hover over it, resembles a wild turkey's track. It was known by the Cherokee as the Turkey's Track. It was the birthplace of the great chief, Junaluska. Archibald Hunter set up a trading post on the Turkey's Track, and soon after he moved his wife and family to the post, it became known as Huntington.

Archibald Hunter must have been a good influence over the Indians. For in this period Chief Junaluska took up his followers and left his birthplace to fight for Andrew Jackson. And Junaluska gained undying fame for himself by saving the life of Jackson at the Battle of Horse Shoe Bend.

#### Regrets Action

Sadly enough, it is said Chief Junaluska regretted the deed afterward. When Jackson became president he assigned the General Winfield Scott to round up the entire Cherokee tribe and transport them to a strange reservation in far away Oklahoma. Bitterly Junaluska saw his people corralled like cattle, and of all places, they were herded together on his very birthplace, the Turkey's Track. Junaluska is one of the few Indians who never was caught.

Romance bloomed on the Turkey's Track with the coming of Gen. Scott. Not long after he established Fort Hunter, Scott lost his army surgeon to the charms of Archibald Hunter's daughter. The surgeon's name was Dr. Hitchcock, and he married Miss Hunter. They built a cabin on the Hiwassee bank, where they lived long after the Cherokees were driven on their westward trek, never to return. The Hunters moved into the cabin with the Hitchcocks, where they remained until they died and were buried near the center of the Turkey's Track.

Soon afterward, the Hitchcocks, were lured to California by the gold rush. And like in a fairy story, they went there and became fabulously rich.

Years drew into a decade. Into half a century. And in the meantime on the fork of Hiwassee and Valley Rivers, old Fort Butler crumbled into the ruins of time and lost glory. The trading post of Huntington grew as the years passed. . . . until at last, with amazing foresight, it was decided to put Huntington on the map. The town was laid out in streets almost as wide as they were long; and the town was like a wheel, with eight broad streets centering around an eight-sided square. And the name of the town was changed to Murphy.

One hundred years after the death of Archibald Hunter, his great-granddaughter saw the pyramids in Egypt, and was struck by a magnificent inspiration. She decided to erect a pyramid over their graves, which were now situated in the city limits of Murphy. She returned and willed \$10,000 for the erection of a white marble pyramid 25 feet high and 15 feet square at its base. Unfortunately she died one year before it was unveiled in a memorial celebration in 1930.

Today it stands overlooking the town and the two romantic rivers. And it seems to whisper silently of the miracle of change which the soon years are bringing.

#### Surroundings of Murphy

If Murphy was the axle of a wheel, you would not have to go farther than twenty or thirty miles in any direction to find the most varied and startling panorama than one can imagine. Located right where the Blue Ridges and Smokies best get acquainted, near the corner of three states and nearer the capitals of seven other states than it is its own. On the Payne's Bill Highway and a number of other U. S. roads, the outlets of Murphy are like the spokes of a wheel. We might start on that spoke which leads to the Nantahala Forest. The Forest is curved like a finger around the lower base of the Great Smoky Park, bordered on one side by Santeetlah Lake. One of the greatest tributes to the exquisite beauty of this spot, is the fact that nearby is located the Joyce Kilmer Forest. Dedicated to the memory of that beloved poet, no spot anywhere could be found that so truly interpreted the one and only poem called "Trees".

In the heart of the Nantahala Forest is the magnificent Gorge, so deep and vast that even its name, in the Cherokee language means "Land of

the Noonday Sun". Shadows of clouds crawl slowly down and slowly up the other rim, while onlookers snap camera shots of them. So far below that only the image creates the sound, the river roars down a long long succession of falls, beginning where the river seeps from the brow of the farthest ridge.

Another scene looming on the very threshold of Murphy, is the beginning of gigantic Hiwassee dam. It will be 306 feet high and 1250 feet long, a mightier dam than Norris, and the third largest in the United States. Hiwassee Dam is the biggest project of the TVA. Fed by hundreds of streams from the Blue Ridge and Smoky ranges, this dam will fill up the lower end of the Appalachian Mountains.

It will be entirely surrounded by that range dividing the Blue Ridges and the Smokies. It will raise the waters of Hiwassee and Valley Rivers eight feet on either fork about Murphy, and Murphy will be the only city actually on Hiwassee Lake. It will be a great day for Murphy.

#### Copper Basin Garish

A little further round the wheel, swinging westward, one comes upon a third startling spectacle, the Copper Basin. As one surmounts a high rim of thickly wooded mountains, he is instantly transported into a country entirely different and amazing. The trees have diminished to scrub oak and vegetation has almost vanished. The horizon looms of bleeding hills, of red and yellow and purplish tones, all garish and hideous, and ruined for the next thousand years by the

process of erosion. As one continues, the aspects of life completely vanish except for here and there the dismal dwellings of miners crouched above black smudges of the copper mines. Located in the midst of this desert is Copperhill and the sulphuric plant. Across the Ocoee River is the state of Georgia.

When the copper mines were first opened, the ore was smelted, as the natives say by "roasting it on the ground". Sulphuric acid, a by-product, was given off into the air, killing vegetation.

The modern process now used prevents the escape of the deadly acid. In the manufacturing of sulphuric acid now leads the mining of copper. And the metal is now a by-product of the acid industry.

Swinging eastward on another spoke from Murphy, is the only school of its

kind in America, the J. C. Campbell Folk School, founded 12 years ago for its namesake. Through this quaint educational system, original religion and social life and habits of the mountaineers are retained, while the principles of modern civilization are brought to them. The school brings education through co-operative movements, such as model farming and dairying, and old-fashioned spinning and carving. In the evenings the people of the mountains learn of such things as the arts and sciences. And altogether they are proud to call themselves "just one big happy family."

Mr. and Mrs. John Davidson, Miss Anna Mae Townson, Miss Marion Axley and Alden Coward have returned from a vacation to Carolina Beach.

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This summer you will be making trips—vacation trips, picnics, visits, etc. Don't let your trip be spoiled with automobile trouble.

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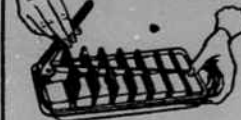
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