

The Cherokee Scout

Official Organ of Murphy and Cherokee County, North Carolina

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SAM CARR Editor
L. A. LEE Owner and Business Manager

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Murphy, North Carolina, Thursday, March 24, 1939

Cherokee County's Problems

Since it is necessary to "make-up" and run the editorial page and news sections, it is not at all impossible for advertisements of some kind to creep in the finished product.

Such as the situation last week. Imagine reading on the front page of your paper about a mass meeting that has organized and has begun functioning for the benefit of the recreational interests of the county, and then turning over eight or ten pages and finding an editorial suggesting such a meeting. But that is the very thing that occurred last week. And we are glad of it.

A committee has been named and is actively functioning to provide adequate recreational facilities for the county. A full account of the meeting has been carried in the paper.

Some people want to know: Why, with the necessity for longrange planning in the various economic and sociologic factors of the county, should anyone concern themselves with the problem of recreation in exclusion to others?

In the first place, Cherokee county (the powers have decreed) has nearly \$35,000 in WPA funds to expend for this particular purpose before many months pass, and if some arrangements for the expenditure are not made, the money will go lost.

In the second place, the farmers of the county have had their TVA phosphate, TVA trees, crop loans and payments; the women of the county have had their WPA help through sewing rooms and cooking rooms; the youth have had their benefits through NYA; the men have had their TVA and WPA and PWA work.

So far as we know this the first time the recreational facilities of the county have had a "break" from the federal government. Why, then, not utilize the opportunity before it, too, is lost?

Monday night quite a crowd of Cherokee countians attended a meeting in the library. It was stated, through the county agent's department, that Cherokee was one of the few counties of the state that had chosen as eligible to receive the benefits of the state and TVA planning boards.

To the accomplishment of this end, the various problems and resources of the county were outlined. Chairman were selected to chose committees, study their particular phase of problem and report back to another meeting later where a composite report will be made up and forwarded to the state and TVA planning boards.

Then, as we understand it, systemized planning under the supervision of experts in this line will be available for the county.

All in all, it's great thing—just what Cherokee county had needed for a long time. Now the big task of work and cooperation.

The committee heads have been vested with the right to call on help anywhere they see fit in making their survey and their recommendations. If this help is not given then the whole thing shall have been for naught and we shall be right back where we started.

The problems of the county to be studied are: beautification, recreation, crafts, agriculture, housing, general industry and government and advertising. With benefits Cherokee county will receive from the state and TVA planning boards on the reports made by these committees. Resultant systematic planning should do a lot to solve the problems.

Apparently one group is interested in the recreational work, not only for the county's own benefit, but for the inducement of tourists as well. The committee is actively functioning to the best interests of the county. Some fine results should soon be realized.

Then, let the other committees named at the meeting Monday night follow the same example. Let not sect nor personal motif interfere. Then we shall reap the benefits of the planning boards.

Ouch! They've Done It Again

We are officially advised that Highway No. 19 between Topton and Bryson City will be closed again this summer.

Last year the highway department spent all the summer months rebuilding portions of No. 19 necessitating a detour that practically cut Cherokee county off from tourist trade. A four-mile stretch of the highway through the Nantahala Gorge was left untouched. This summer it will be rebuilt.

Acting as spokesman for the county in this matter, we have assured the highway board how greatly we appreciate highway developments such as has been tendered us between Topton and Bryson City. The road is shorter, wider and much better.

But why this additional work could not have been done this fall or at some other time more suitable to the tourist industry, we can not fathom.

Soon the summer tourist road maps will be distributed all over the country, and Murphy and Andrews will again be segregated from all recommended traveling routes by detour warnings.

At least we can look forward to the summer of 1940 when, if nothing goes wrong, Cherokee county will again be connected with the rest of the world.

Let The Dictators Fight Each Other

Isn't there a phrase to the effect that "one crook doesn't trust another"? Isn't the "Dictator" as we understand the word today, made up of the egotistical attitude that he is supreme, omnipotent, beyond the physical reach of any other human being?

We think so. Why then, do not some of the smarter democratic countries put these supreme dictators against each other by "fighting fire with fire" rather than "heaping coals on the fire" with words and notes of resentment.

After all, a dictator knows the is despised especially by those whom he oppresses, and it is not logical to believe that we will let any such a small thing as a good cussing or threat stand in his way.

Could not one dictator be proclaimed smarter and more powerful than the other through subtle praise and gifts? That should hurt the other man's ego and make him very, very mad. He might even get the idea he's being double-crossed. Man, wouldn't the fire-works flare then.

Of course all this sounds kind of balmy. But it can't be helped. It's very beautiful outside today. It's the first day of spring. Everything looks so alive; the kids going to school and all.

We'd hate like the dickens to see it all glown to bits and splinters by bombs. And the streets running red with blood.

"Itinerants"—Not Much Help To Community

Your local merchant is a home owner. Some realtor sold him his lots, some builder built his home, local lumbermen, hardware men, plumbers and various other men sold the materials for that home. Your state, county and city gathers taxes from him, and probably charge him license fees to do business.

His advertising is printed in local newspapers. He is a member and a contributor to local civic organizations. At his place of business, he pays rent, and he employs local people as his clerks and assistants.

If you buy from your local merchant, he is there every day, ready to make good any guarantee to right any mistake and to see to it that the things you purchase are all they were supposed to be.

Your local merchant is a dependable, desirable citizen. His children are going to school with your children, and his taxes are helping to maintain the police department, the water department, the fire department and the sanitary department of your city.

Who is that itinerant salesman who rings your door bell? Most likely he is a man who does business only during the busy season in your town. The money you pay him is sent out of town. He pays neither taxes nor license fees. He contributes nothing to the welfare or the income of your town. More than likely, he will not be there when you discover that the thing he sold you is of poor quality, or not suited to the purpose for which it was purchased.

The last thought on the subject would suggest that every citizen request or demand that members of his family never buy anything from itinerants at the door. They represent the most unfair competition to local merchants, and should not be patronized.

There may be a few exceptions to this rule, but they are so rare that they are hardly worth mentioning. "Buy in the home town from the home merchant" is a rule which has in it the best interests of the town which gives you your own living—Kiwani's Magazine.

NOBODY'S BUSINESS

HOW WE SPEND ALL OF OUR TIME AND MONEY

Our firm, meaning the one that this so-called writer is affiliated with, which is, by the way, a place where merchandise is bought for cash (neatly) and sold on credit (mostly), has figured out a plan for continuing in business till something else happens, and here it is:

We will work for the state, in order that our state taxes might be offset, during the months of January, February and March. We will devote April May and June to taking care of what our city and school district demands of us. We will work for the federal government during July and August; we don't pay Uncle Sam any taxes much, but we are busy for 2 months making out returns and dodging inspectors and would-be collectors. (Eight months gone).

By applying ourselves steadfastly and intelligently, we can possibly settle with the insurance companies policies covering our stock against fire loss, our trucks and cars against personal property damage and running into or over somebody—during the months of September and October. (We will have to do better than we have been doing if we make enough during these two months to

meet our insurance demands as listed—ten months gone).

We will be under the employ of the Salvation Army and the T. B. seal drive and the community chest push and our own church solicitations, as well as the solicitations of the churches of my dear brethren, the pan-handlers, the "ad" getters for our name on book-backs, and programs generally, water an dlight bills, headache pills, taxes on gas and oil, and many other things, too numerous to mention—during the months of November and December.

Kind friends, if any, you will observe that our entire 12 months have been taken up working for other folks. Not a minute has been used for the benefit and welfare of ourselves and family. We will use free air breathing purposes, buy a little neat here and a little greed there on credit, and try to borrow a few rags from the folks more gainfully employed—those that have jobs and own nothing and employ nobody, and maybe, by diligent effort and the prayers of our loved ones (both of them), we will get by some way. We hope the day will come when an individual will have a chance to get a dollar that he doesn't have to turn into the tax-gatherer, etc.

By Gee McGhee

NEWS PICK-UPS

A page in St. Peter's record book: Name: Carr, Samuel Ezequal. Address: Murphy, N. C. Date: Tuesday, March 22, 1939.

Arises at 9:27 a. m. and begins day wrong by claiming to have gotten up at 6:30 a. m. and sashedy to country for story which never broke. (This was quoted to the boss later, of course).

Spent the first 15 minutes after arising trying to make big toes and holes in socks come out to the satisfaction and comfort of the day, and shave with razor with no blade in it.

Gets to the office and finds Mr. J. H. Wilson whom he engages in conversation. Learns how the Cigarette Sales Company was born resulting in another industry being added to Murphy. Mr. Wilson, it seems, was in Gainesville, recuperating his health, when a drug store tried to hold him up by charging him \$1.70 for a carton of cigarettes.

"Now, if somebody was to move in a town close to Georgia and Tennessee and mail cigarettes into customers in those states at a decent price. . . . Thus you have it, Mr. Wilson did just that. He took the initiative in court action that cleared the way for anyone to ship cigarettes into Georgia and sell them, just at what you buy them here. Said Carr thinks this is mighty interesting.

Attempts to write story about golf course but after variously spelling "golf" gold, foff, folf, gives the job up and decides to see what is going on in the drug store, if anything.

There is reminded by one man that Walter Winchell recently wrote in his famous column: "The only reason why people take weekly papers is to see if they heard the news just like the editor did it."

Carr smiles wryly and walks off knowing at least that all weekly edi-

By Sam Carr

tors don't depend on some Anti-Litler Puplicity organization to get what little news they do print, and wonders how he got away with it.

On way to post office is advised that there is a TVA man in town named Paul Jones; that Harry Ward, brother of Mrs. Doctor Holt, (and himself a good journalist) is now running a weekly paper called the "Belmont Bannaner" near Charlotte; that there are two men in Graham county who buy a pair of shoes between them (one has no left leg and the other has no right leg); that Vic Olmsted here on vacation from the desk of the Philadelphia Record is looking well again, and is asked what kind of a "tater" is Dictator.

Post Office force reveals nothing as usual and Carr decides to go to jail in quest of news. There learns that High Deputy Pat Coleman, while helping to raid a still, sees a calf break through some straw in a barn and fall into a barrel of mash and is about to drown. Coleman attempts to rescue the calf, but himself falls into another barrel of hidden mash. This causes great mirth among Pat's fellow deputies.

Then Pat reveals that a Negro in the lock-up preaches eight times a day. "Them fellers wouldn't pay any attention to him at first", Pat says. "But he's about to get them all converted up there now. He uses my Bible to preach from." (St. Peter's personal note: "Better had pray boys Court's almost here").

Decides there is nothing new under the sun. Spends rest of the day convincing his conscience that he has done a day's work.

Score for today: Not so good. Better wait and see what he does tomorrow before making any entries.

Attesteth
St. Peter.

OUR FORESTS

CHEROKEE CITIZENS URGE FIRE PREVENTION

Leading citizens in Cherokee County recognize the importance of protecting our forests from fire. These people know conditions in the County and have given the matter of fire prevention quite a bit of consideration.

"The placing of Cherokee County under organized fire protection is the greatest thing that has come to this County in years" is the statement of Mr. Don Witherspoon, Murphy Attorney. "I can remember back when certain parts of the County were burned every year. Young trees could not get started. But now that the burning no longer occurs, fine stands of young pine have come up on these areas."

Mr. A. Q. Ketner, County Agent, said: "Burning every fall and winter will not kill weevils, bugs, ticks and snakes. We have had lots of fires in this County, but these pests are still with us. 'New Ground' fires, 'Tobacco Patch' fires and 'Trash Fires' are a necessary part of farm life, but the farmers should watch these fires and not let them get out. I always urge farmers to be careful with fire wherever it is used around the farm."

Mr. C. W. Savage, hotel operator in Murphy has been living in Murphy for many years. He tells of the damage of forest fires to the beauty and recreational value of the forests. "Hundreds of people staying at the hotel each year say that this is one of the most beautiful sections in the whole country. The tourist trade means a lot to Cherokee County because these people spend a lot of money in the County each year on gasoline, food, places to stay, fishing tackle and in other ways. We should keep fires out of the woods and keep the County beautiful so these people will continue visiting us."

In pointing out the effect of forest fires on game, wildlife and fishing, Mr. D. M. Birchfield, County Game Warden, had this to say: "Fires will kill the food and cover for game. Some kinds of game, when nesting will not leave their nests when fire burns the woods and are killed in this way. Ashes and silt from burned land washes down into the streams and kills the fish. Keeping fires out of the woods will mean better fishing and hunting for Cherokee County."

Federal, state and local funds are provided for organized fire protection in Cherokee county. Fire towers are located on high points throughout the County to locate fires when they get started. A County Fire Warden patrols the County and when the fires are reported by the towermen, gets a crew of men together and goes to put the fire out.

The Fire Warden for Cherokee County is S. S. Birchfield. He has the following to say about forest fires: "A lot of people don't know just how much damage a forest fire can do. Our fires get started because people are just careless. Hunters and brush burners start most of the fires in this County. They ought to know that burning will kill the game and ruin the hunting. We have a State Law that requires people who are going to burn brush to have a permit. This law is for the good of the people. Brush burning has to be watched all the time. The people are learning all along that fires are bad and I know we will have less fires all along."

These statements were made by men that are interested in seeing Cherokee County come to the front in the way of timber values, good hunting, good fishing and tourist trade. They have watched the County come forward during the past years and know that keeping fires out of the woods will be a big factor in future progress.