

TWO BOYS STEAL ED KING'S TRUCK; WRECK ON CURVE

Neither Of Joy Riders Ever Had Attempted To Drive Car Before

Two 14 year old boys, neither of whom had never driven a car, stole a truck belong to Ed King from the garage at Mr. King's lumber yard in Factorytown Saturday afternoon, and started on a joy ride to Bryson City.

Just beyond Andrews they went off the road into a ditch, bent an axle, ruined a new tire, and did other damage. They were standing, wondering what to do, when a Graham County Highway patrolman came along and settled that problem for them. They came back to Murphy, and the jail house, whence they will depart, shortly for the Stonewall Jackson Training School at Concord, N. C. for an indefinite period.

The boys are Trilley Frankham and J. T. Dockery. They told half a dozen stories about why they took the truck. The last, and probably the true one, was that young Frankham decided he'd like to go visit a sister who lives in Bryson City, and that young Dockery decided to go along "just for the ride". Neither of them had a penny.

The boys broke into a locked garage to steal the truck. The key had been left in the car, Mr. King said, so the truck could be gotten out quickly in case of fire.

How the boys, neither of whom had ever sat behind the wheel of even a light car, much less a truck, got the motor started, and managed to drive through town without being apprehended remains a mystery. They finally came to grief on a curve.

Brought back to Murphy, the boys were given a hearing before John Donley, who, in addition to being Clerk of the Superior Court, is also Judge of the Juvenile Court. At first they told His Honor that they had been hired to take the truck by a man in Andrews, who was to meet them there, and pay them \$20.

Before the truth was learned, Judge Donley made half dozen trips to the county jail, and each time the boys were called from their upstairs cell for questioning.

Monday afternoon His Honor went to the jail with commitment papers made out, and sent for the boys again. Young Frankham refused to come.

"I'm tired of walking up and down these stairs," he told Jailer Patton Coleman. "If he wants to see me, let him come up here."

Donley smiled when he got that message.

"Well he said," I was going to let both boys out on parole until time to send them away. Now I'll only let young Dockery out. I'll let young Frankham stay in jail awhile, until he gets thoroughly rested."

Eight Prisoners given Feast in Jail House

Thanksgiving came to the County Jail too. The eight prisoners, six men, and two women had a rare feast—though not together. The men were fed in the big cell they share on the second floor. The two girls ate a cell one story higher.

The main dish was hog's head "the biggest", Jailer Patton Coleman declared "that I've ever seen". Sauer kraut and potatoes went with it, and the meal was topped off with mince pie and coffee. There were "seconds" and a dozen thirds for those who asked—and most of them did.

A. K. Dickey Farm Sold To Beecher M. Luther

Mr. Beecher M. Luther has purchased the Allen K. Dickey farm near Ranger, said to be one of the finest agricultural tracts in the county. The farm contains more than 100 acres. It was sold through Walter Witt, of the Murphy Realty Company.

SCOUT WILL RUN MESSAGES FROM HEAVENLY STARS

On the back page of this issue you will find a new feature—a horoscope.

The Scout has not gone into the fortune telling business, and whether you believe what the stars portend is strictly your own business.

However, it's fun to have your fortune told, whether you believe it or not; and the Scout hopes you will get some enjoyment out of these horoscopes, which will appear each week. One of them—perhaps this week's—will apply to you.

Incidentally, if you would like a nifty little bracelet strung with all the signs of the zodiac, you can get one, free merely by subscribing to the Scout. Make a Christmas present of the Scout—and get one of these cute bracelets as a bonus for yourself.

LIME PROGRAM MORE GENEROUS, KETNER LEARNS

Minimum Of Nine Tons Allowed, Regardless Of Smallness Of Farm

The 1940 program for distribution of lime to Cherokee farmers by the State has just been mapped. According to County Agent A. Q. Ketner, it will work the greater benefit of the small farmer than was the case last year.

The new program sets a minimum allotment of nine tons, to be given to any applicant, regardless of the smallness of his farm. However, it is specified that his farm must be at least three acres, a place less than this being regarded not as a farm, but merely as a home with garden plot.

For farms from three to 30 acres, there is an allowance of \$20 worth of lime. For larger farms, the allowance will be increased, according to acreage. Agent Ketner will supply exact details.

The lime will be delivered at the railroad station nearest the residence of the consignee. It will be charged for at the rate of \$2 per ton; but the receiver need not pay a penny of cash. Instead the amount will be deducted from the 1940 soil conservation payment.

The records of the County Agent show that use of lime by Cherokee County farmers has increased steadily. This year, Mr. Ketner said, this County used more lime than in all the preceding program years put together. The County stood well to the fore in the entire State, with 4,138 tons used.

This year, it is expected that this record will be passed.

Hen Lays Ostrich Egg For Wife of Minister

When Mrs. J. H. Stansberry, wife of the Baptist minister at Tomotla went to gather her eggs last Saturday she thought, for a moment, that an ostrich must have strayed into her chicken yard. The nests were full of eggs, all big and heavy, but one of them seemed too big to be produced by a mere hen.

She brought it to the Scout office. It was five inches long, seven inches in diameter and weighed a fraction over a quarter of a pound.

Mrs. Stansberry raises Sussex chickens, a large red and white spotted breed which was originally imported from England. She says all are prolific layers of eggs of unusually large size; and she attributes this fact to specialized feeding, as advised by the local Farmers Federation store.

6 MONTHS WORK IS ASSURED, SOON ON HIGHWAY 19

Project Employing 200 And Costing \$72,863 Formally approved

Improvement of Route 19 between Andrews and Murphy is to continue as a result of approval of the project Saturday by A. F. Weaver, Jr. area chief engineer of WPA.

The project calls for an expenditure of \$72,863 and will employ 200 men for a period of six months. Portions of Route 19 will be widened from 16 feet to 20 feet.

A considerable part of the route between the two towns was widened the past year but funds gave out, and the project has been shut down some time. It is anticipated that this allotment will enable engineers to complete the entire portion between Murphy and Andrews.

The project is sponsored jointly by the State Highway and Public Works Commissions. Other projects were authorized at the same time in Buncombe county on U. S. Route 25, and in Jackson county between Sylva and Balsam Gap.

Many Murphy men hired by the WPA on the previous project are anticipating employment under the new allowance. They pointed out, however, that even though the project started immediately there would be no pay day before Christmas under the usual WPA routine.

MURPHY VALUED AT \$2,321,784 BY TAX ASSESSOR

If you wanted to buy out Murphy, lock stock and barrel, it would cost you \$2,321,784. The figures come from the values fixed this year in levying taxes. They include all real and personal property, and all firms and corporations in the township, but do NOT include private bank accounts.

According to records in the office of Register of Deeds Bascomb Padgett, Murphy real and personal property is valued at \$1,819,957. Firms and Corporations and their holdings are valued at 501,827.

If the latter figures seem high to you, remember that the Southern and L and N Railroads are included.

However, the figures do not include a considerable amount of personal property which is exempt from taxation.

All of the above gives the County a tax return of \$125,835.39 for the year. This return, however, is only on paper. The amount that will be actually collected is something else again.

New Church To Rise Across Valley River

Work of constructing a new Baptist church is to begin this week on a lot near the old band-saw mill, across Valley River, according to the Rev. Clarence A. Voyles, pastor. The edifice will be known as the Second Baptist church, of Murphy.

The site for the new church was purchased from Mr. Forest Teague, but the work of the building will be done by volunteers. The Rev. Voyles hopes the building will be completed by Christmas. It will be of frame, with a concrete basement, and will measure 30 by 40 feet.

Later, according to the Rev. Voyles, the congregation plans to build a parsonage, and to secure the services on an all-time pastor.

State Agent Cracks Down On Cold Storage Eggs Here

STATE WILL PAY RESIDENTS FOR PLANTING TREES

Shoots Are Delivered Free Of Charge, With 4 Varieties Offered

An easy way to get a Government allowance, through the planting of young trees on washed out soil, lies open to Cherokee residents during the coming week. The Government supplies the trees; delivering them to County Agent Ketner, at the Court-house.

Since the young trees are only one to two feet tall, transportation and planting by the farmer is easy. Those who set them out will receive an extra Conservation allowance of from \$3.50 to \$4 per acre.

Requests for trees should be made to County Agent Ketner within the coming week. Interested persons calling on him will be advised as to what kind of trees, and how many to request. Mr. Ketner will file all applications without charge.

Four varieties of trees are available; white pine, short leaf pine, black locust, and yellow poplar. The earlier an application is filed, the better the chance of getting exactly what is sought.

Any farmer is entitled to \$30 worth of trees, entirely free of charge, regardless of the size of his place. If his farm is more than ten acres, he can get more. The trees are furnished by the TVA under a working agreement made with the State.

The plan is designed to battle soil erosion, and also to find a use for land that is either too washed out, or otherwise unsuitable for the raising of crops.

In addition to increasing both beauty and the value of farms, the tree planting project offers a direct cash return which will more than pay for the small amount of labor involved in planting.

Tax Returns Increase Despite TVA Purchases

Chronic mourners who have bemoaned the fact that the coming of the TVA will cost the County thousands upon thousands of dollars in taxes, as a result of Government purchases of so much land will have to swallow their complaints if they look over the county records.

As already stated elsewhere in this paper, the theoretical tax returns this year totals \$125,835.39.

Believe it or not, back in 1936, before the TVA had purchased a single acre, the tax return was only \$125,285.43. A simple matter of subtraction shows that instead of losing, the county has gained \$549.46.

There is a trick to this, however, which all in fairness, must be explained. In 1936 the tax rate was only \$1.30 per \$100. It now is \$1.37. Also some valuations have been increased, considerable property which was lying idle in 1936 now has homes built thereon.

Ministers From Clay And Cherokee To Meet

The ministers of Cherokee and Clay Counties will hold their monthly meeting at the Baptist Church Monday at 10 o. M. Rev. W. R. Jenkins will lead the discussion on "The Church's Responsibility for the unfortunate".

Election of officers for the new year will be held.

10 Out of 16 Merchants Selling Packing House Products As "Fresh"

Ralph B. Kelly, Special agent for the State Department of Agriculture paid an unexpected visit to Murphy last week, as a result many stores that had been selling "Fresh eggs" and "Yard eggs" today have those offerings tagged "COLD STORAGE".

Mr. Kelly told the Scout that ten out of sixteen merchants visited in Murphy were selling eggs "under false pretense". In Andrews, he said, there are fewer stores, but the ratio was found even worse.

"I don't believe all the merchants are to blame" Mr. Kelly hastened to explain. "Some of them may have been trying to pull a fast one on their customers. Others were themselves deceived by the people from whom they bought. These merchants thought they were getting "yard eggs". Actually they were getting cold storage products—and sometimes very ancient ones, at that.

"Some of the eggs that I broke were terrible—decidedly not fit for human consumption.

"The State law regarding sale of eggs is very plain. Cold Storage eggs must always be so labelled. The customer has a right to know what he is getting BEFORE he buys.

"Of course he can easily tell AFTER he buys; for a cold storage egg wont poach. It looks different when broken, too. It is not firm."

Mr. Kelly explained that shippers had been able to victimize local merchants because the rigid laws of North Carolina do NOT apply either in Georgia, or Tennessee.

"Wholesalers in those two States do NOT have to label their eggs", he said. "As a result they have been shipping cold storage stuff into Murphy as fresh eggs. The merchants here accepted their word for it.

"These cold storage eggs have cost the merchant usually about 24 cents per dozen. He has resold them for 28 cents—or perhaps 30 cents a dozen.

"The result is that both the consumers and the poultry raisers suffer. The latter would have to sell the really fresh eggs to the store-keeper for the same price paid for storage eggs. Of course they are not willing to do this. Therefore, the consumer has to put up with cold storage eggs.

"There is absolutely no reason that this should be so. Enough eggs are produced in the immediate vicinity of Murphy to more than meet the entire local demand. With a few exceptions, however, the consumers don't get a chance to buy them; because the fresh eggs are shipped out of town.

"Even where real yard eggs were offered in Murphy stores, I found they went begging because other so called yard eggs, that had been shipped in from Atlanta and Knoxville, were cheaper. I found one place that was offering real nearby yard eggs for 30 cents a dozen. I broke several of them. They were fresh, and fine.

"Yet this merchant could not sell them—because a nearby competitor was selling so called yard eggs for only 28 cents a dozen.

"This one with the fresh eggs had paid 28 cents for his, to the farmer. His competitor had bought from Knoxville for 24 cents. But the latter's eggs were all cold storage."

"I have explained to all merchants that cold storage eggs must be labelled as such, with a sign that is easily read. It doesn't make any difference what the Atlanta or Knoxville shipper says. If the Murphy merchant cant tell by the wholesale price, he will have to break a couple of the eggs and find out exactly what they are.

"I intend to come back one of these
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