

Sheriff Crawford Shot To Death At Hanging Dog

M. G. Crawford, Nephew To Victim, Is Appointed To Serve As Sheriff

Sheriff Frank Charles Crawford, 45, of Cherokee County, was killed around 4:30 p. m. Tuesday in front of the home of Noah Dockery at Hanging Dog when a full blast from a 12 gauge shotgun tore into his left chest.

Some 50 or 75 men were fanned out over the nearby mountains and woods searching for Dockery. Thad D. Bryson Jr. of Bryson City 20th District solicitor, said Dockery will be charged with Crawford's murder.

Dockery's wife was being held in Erwin City as a material witness. She was quoted by officers as saying she was in the kitchen when Crawford called at her house.

She alleged her husband was lying on a couch at the time, officers said.

Then, she told officers, she heard

one shot and went to the front door and saw the sheriff slumped in the car, officers reported.

Officers quoted her as claiming she did not witness the shooting.

Meanwhile, The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners met yesterday morning and appointed M. G. Crawford, 33, of Unaka,

nephew of the victim, sheriff of Cherokee County.

The new Sheriff Crawford was sworn in yesterday morning by J. L. Hall, Clerk of Court.

Funeral services will be held today at 11 a. m. at the First Methodist Church with the Rev. Frank Brown, Rev. E. Delbert Byrnes, Rev. J. Alton Morris and Rev. Colvin Thompson officiating.

Soloists will be Miss Velma Umphres and Mrs. Bob White, with music also by other singers from the Methodist and Baptist Church choirs.

Burial will follow the services, at Sunset Cemetery, with Masonic grave rites.

The Court House will be closed all day today.

Dr. B. W. Whitfield, acting Cherokee coroner, said Crawford was killed by a 12 gauge shotgun wound in the heart. He said the wound was not a full eight inches

deep as originally reported.

According to blood marks, the victim was shot a few yards from his auto. One small blood stain shows Sheriff Crawford was at least eight yards from where he died when the charge struck him.

The victim apparently made his way to his car but fell into the front seat and onto the ground where G. H. Farley established a first aid station. He was shot while getting out of the car or while getting into it. A sawmill, shed and equipment was found on the ground near the sheriff's auto.

However, blood stains, found at the foot of a rather steep driveway leading to the Dockery house, indicate the sheriff was either shot while in the Dockery yard or in the driveway.

Bloodhounds turned loose last night picked up Dockery's trail

but the suspect was still at large yesterday afternoon.

One of the searchers said the hounds led part of the posse to a spot where the suspect apparently rested for a while before pushing on.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol and the FBI were alerted to be on the watch for the suspect.

R. G. Fitzpatrick, jailer, said Sheriff Crawford had left Murphy to serve a warrant on Dockery. A warrant charging Dockery with burning a sawmill, shed and equipment was found on the ground near the sheriff's auto.

Frank Crawford was born in Unaka, in Cherokee County on Jan. 30, 1908, and attended Hayesville High School.

The victim was the son of Dr. J. H. Crawford of Robbinsville, state senator for the 33rd District. His late mother was the former Harriet Long.

The sheriff was serving his second four-year term. He had served as Murphy police chief for six years and was a World War II veteran.

He was married to Miss Jane Hill of Murphy Nov. 8, 1932. His first wife, the former Miss Macy DeWesse, died about a year ago.

He is survived by the widow, a son Steve, 18, senior at Murphy High School, and two brothers, George of Murphy and Lee of Andrews; two sisters, Mrs. Fred White of Hayesville and Mrs. Jewell Johnson of Sanford, N. C.

The new sheriff resigned his position at Oak Ridge, Tenn., to accept the appointment.

He served in the Navy for three years during World War II. He was a school teacher before going to Oak Ridge.

He is the son of George Crawford of Murphy. The new Sheriff Crawford is married and has a six-year old son, Stephen.



FRANK CRAWFORD

The Cherokee Scout

PROMOTING MURPHY AND ANDREWS

KEEP YOUR MONEY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

TRADE AT HOME; IT PAYS

VOLUME 62—NUMBER 34

MURPHY, NORTH CAROLINA THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1953

TEN PAGES THIS WEEK

Rep. Mauney Introduces Murphy Power Board Bill

Andrews, Murphy Begin 1953 R. C. Drive Nichols Heads Mason Issues Andrews Group

K. C. Lattimer of Atlanta will speak at the "kickoff breakfast" for the Andrews Red Cross 1953 Campaign Friday at 8 a. m.

Mr. Lattimer director of field service of the Southeastern Area of the American Red Cross, will give the Andrews campaign workers, who will attend the breakfast, last minute instructions.

Thursday evening the Red Cross Council met with L. B. Nichols, campaign chairman, to discuss plans for the current campaign, to be held March 6-14.

The Andrews goal is \$951.

During the council meeting Tom Day, chairman of Home Service for the Andrews Red Cross chapter, said he takes care of 20 to 30 cases each month serving persons at home and in the service. Funds raised in the campaign will contribute to this program of activity.

Persons present at the council meet were Mrs. S. J. Gernert, chapter chairman; Marvin Anderson, co-chairman of the fund drive; Joe Sursavage, co-chairman of the drive; Luke Ellis, chapter treasurer; Gordon Butler, chairman Blood Bank program; Tom Day, chairman Home Service program; William Whitaker and John Ruffy; Mrs. Ruth Starr Pulliam, president, Konnaheeta Club; Mrs. Alice Hogsed, Woman's Club representative; and Mrs. Tom Hay, chairman publicity was unable to attend.

Local 4-H History Told

The 17 Cherokee County 4-H Clubs and their some 700 members are joining with the other two million 4-H'ers in celebration of National 4-H Club week March 7-15 banding together under the theme, "Working Together For World Understanding."

During 4-H week local members will place an exhibit in Coleman's window, will place posters in various public buildings and will sponsor a drive for subscribers to the National 4-H news.

The Cherokee County 4-H clubs have received 24 state and national honors since 1946 and the entire program is organized with the aid of local leaders, school sponsors, business men and work directly under Mrs. Frances Puett, assistant County Home Agent and Milus B. Wright, assistant County Farm Agent.

The first rural youth organization began in Cherokee County as a Tomato Canning Club for girls in 1918. Mrs. Linnie Hatchett Brackett organized the club.

In 1919 Mrs. J. W. Dyer carried

L. L. Mason, Mayor of the Town of Murphy, this week proclaimed March as Red Cross Month and issued a proclamation "urging all citizens to answer the call and support . . . the 1953 Red Cross Fund".

The campaign began here Monday with workers beginning their solicitations, under chairman, Irvin Greene, and co-chairman Ike Olson.

All workers are invited to the kickoff meeting Friday, March 6 at 7:30 p. m. at the Presbyterian Church, when K. C. Lattimer of Atlanta, field director will speak. A social hour and refreshments will also be enjoyed.

Mrs. Nellie Taylor and Mrs. Beryl Witt are in charge of refreshments.

The County quota is \$2,500 under the national goal of \$93 million.

Committee chairmen for the Murphy and area drive are Bob Weaver, finance; Emily Costello, publicity; Harry Bishop, industrial area; business area, H. A. Mattox, Loren Davis, Frank Forsyth, Frank Ellis, Mrs. Dale Lee, Mrs. Walt Mauney, Mrs. Howard Moody, Hugh Howard, Mrs. Ed Brumby, Miss Elizabeth Gray, and Mrs. Bud Alverson.

Also, Mrs. Hugh Howard, Court House; Mrs. Geneva Haygood, W. Carolina Telephone Co.; Lloyd Hendrix, outlying areas; homes, Mrs. Louise King, Mrs. Lella Dickcy, Mrs. Edna Phillips, Mrs. Jack Messer, Mrs. Bryan Whitfield, Mrs. Harvey Wilson, Mrs. Rhett Winters, Miss Adella Meroney, and Miss Judy Nichols.

Other chairmen are: Miss Josephine Heighway, City Hall; Miss Elma Dennis, and Coach Holt, Texana; Miss Kate Hayes, Tomola; and R. T. Kilpatrick, County Jail.

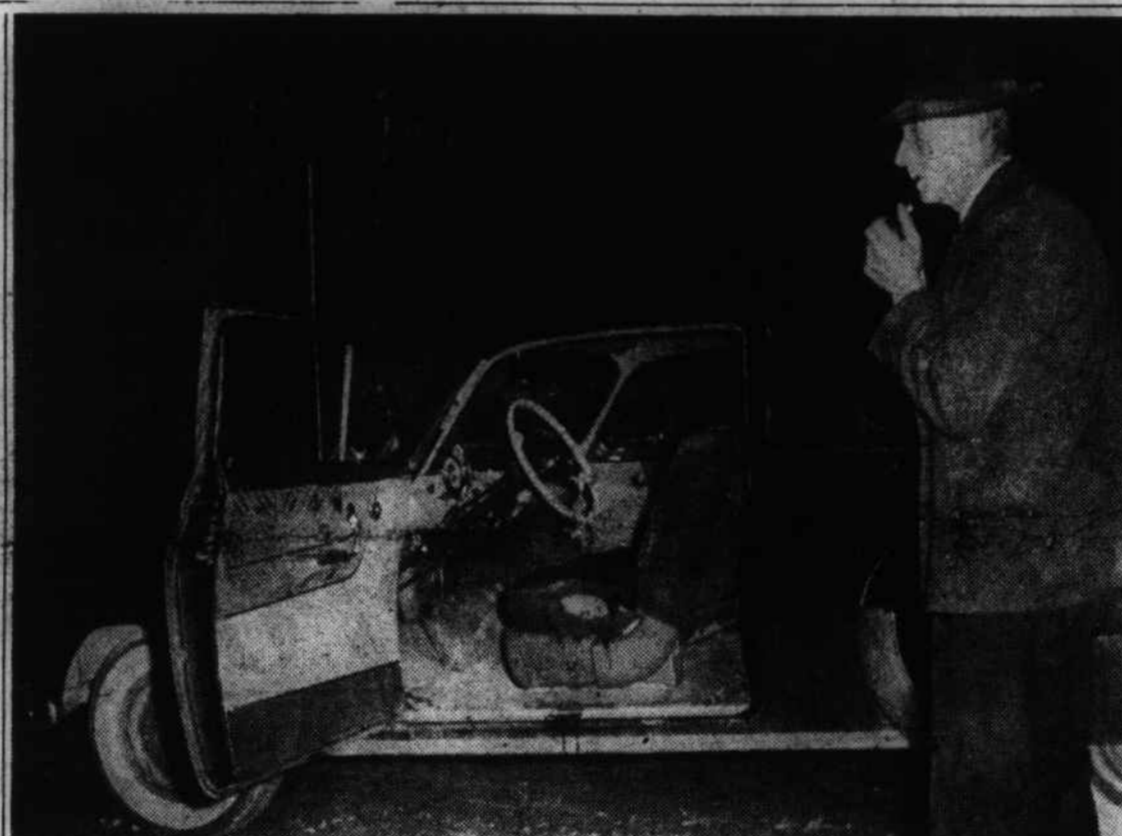
Rites Held For Mehaffey Child

Funeral services for Ronnie Mehaffey, three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Mehaffey of Robbinsville who died instantly Sunday when he fell from the porch and a stick of wood struck him on the head, were held Monday at 2:30 p. m. in Bear Creek Baptist Church.

The Rev. Clifford George officiated and burial was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are the parents; three sisters, Leona, Kay, and Marietta, and one brother, Joe, all of the home; the parental grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Mehaffey, and the maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Postell of Robbinsville.

Townson Funeral Home had charge of arrangements.



Sheriff Frank C. Crawford was shot to death near this automobile Tuesday around 4:30 p. m. at Hanging Dog. A posse is now searching the mountains for Noah Dockery, suspect in the shooting. The sheriff was found at the car in front of

Dockery's home. Sheriff Crawford was at Dockery's house to serve an arson warrant on the suspect, officers said. One of the many persons who arrived at the scene of the shooting is shown above. (Scout Photo)



Sheriff Frank C. Crawford was at this house in Hanging Dog when he was murdered around 4:30 p. m. Tuesday. Investigation shows the victim was probably shot in the yard or in a driveway leading to the house. A search is on for

Noah Dockery, who lived at the house. He is believed to be in the nearby mountains. Officers are holding Dockery's wife as a material witness. A rather large crowd was at the house shortly after the body was found. (Scout Photo)

Proposed Law Goes To House Committee For Study

RALEIGH—Murphy's politics free electrical power board today was a step nearer after Rep. Richard Mauney introduced a bill in General Assembly here to create the board.

The board would be composed of three citizens of Murphy. Their duties, power and methods of procedure with respect to the management, control, operation, maintenance, expansion and financing of the electric plant and distribution system are set forth in Rep. Mauney's lengthy bill.

Members would serve six, four and two-year terms.

Town commissioners would be able under the bill to appoint successors to board members and fill vacancies, but no town employee would be eligible for membership on the board.

Board members would receive \$10 per month and must hold at least one public meeting per month and as many private meetings as necessary and keep typewritten records in a permanent minute book. Known as House Bill No. 417, it went to the House Committee on Public Utilities.

The board, which is given all powers and duties now possessed by the Town of Murphy with re-

- spect to operation of power facilities now owned by the Town of Murphy, or to be constructed or improved, would be empowered to:
 - (1) fix rates (to be in conformity with TVA contract).
 - (2) make contracts or leases.
 - (3) borrow money for period not to exceed three years, with approval of town commissioners.
 - (4) issue long term bonds for acquisition, construction, expansion, or improvement of system through town commissions, who would issue such bonds only in event power revenue is pledged.
 - (5) make reasonable rules and regulations to govern system.
 - (6) exercise power of eminent domain in name of town.
 - (7) employ necessary personnel;
 - (8) keep books and accounts.
 - (9) file financial statements semi-annually with town commissioners.
 - (10) assume all power system debts.
 - (11) dispose of revenue as follows: pay current expenses, debt service, and use surplus revenue primarily to cut rates.

Pro & Con Camps On Referendum

Solon Says Acted For Majority

RALEIGH—Rep. Richard Mauney of Cherokee County today said he was co-signer of the House bill to provide for a state-wide liquor referendum because he was "representing the views of the majority of the citizens of Cherokee County."

In a prepared statement, Mauney said he is a personal believer in the system of local option on liquor but he put his name on the measure offered by Rep. Moore of Clay and some 14 other representatives because he felt it was what the majority in this county wanted.

School Musicales Is Scheduled

A Murphy City School band and chorus musicale will be held at the school auditorium starting at 8 p. m. Friday, March 6.

The band will present eight selections and the chorus will give nine numbers.

Admission will be by tickets presented to the children for the families and guests.

ACL Mem. Go To Meeting

Three representatives of the Allied Church League of Cherokee County were in Raleigh Tuesday to attend the 10 a. m. hearing on the state liquor referendum proposal.

The League is against proposed measure.

Rep. Richard Mauney, saying he acted for what the majority of people in Cherokee County wanted, was a co-signer to the bill.

He asserted he believed in the local option system, now in use.

The three representatives of the Allied Church League who left for Raleigh Monday were P. G. Ivie, the Rev. Edward Atland and the Rev. J. Alton Morris.

The public hearing was held by the Towns, Cities and Counties Committee, which was handed the bill for study after the measure was introduced by Clay County Rep. H. M. Moore.

FINAL POLLO SUM

Tom Day chairman of the Andrews Pollo Drive announced that the Andrews area raised \$931.25 from a goal of \$951.00. Day said he blamed every weather and the fire epidemic for the failure to meet the goal.

INITIATE 9 LIONS

The Andrews Lions Club will initiate 9 new members tonight at 7 o'clock at Gray's Cafe.

Harold Katzemer is in charge and will be assisted by Bill Flake, ex-president of the Robbinsville Lions Club; and Mike Brown of the Robbinsville Club, zone Chairman.

Mrs. Penland Has Midway HD Meeting

The Midway Home Demonstration Club met last Friday with Mrs. N. T. Penland when the new officers took part for the first time. Officers are Mrs. Arthur Jones President; Mrs. Howard Martin, vice-president; and Mrs. W. L. Penland, Sec-treas.

The meeting was opened with the club song and collect.

Episcopal Youth To Have Special Meet

The "Flying Squadron", a group of Youth Leaders of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western North Carolina, will speak to all the young people of the Episcopal Church in Cherokee County Saturday, March 7, at 7 p. m.

The Squadron will be led by Bill Brackett, president of the Young People of the Diocese.