

People You Know

MURPHY

Mrs. Glenn Taylor and children, Ann and Tommy, of Albermarle are here visiting with her mother, Mrs. K. V. Weaver, and her brother, Robert V. Weaver and family.

Mrs. Francis Payne and children, Janet and Scott, of East Point, Ga., are visiting Mrs. Payne's brother, Dr. J. N. Hill and family.

Mrs. A. E. Welborn of Statesville is here with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Alexander and her grandchildren for a visit.

Mrs. Don Witherspoon has returned from a vacation spent in Raleigh, Nag's Head and Hendersonville. She met her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown and children, Margie, Norvell and Barbara, of Chicago in Raleigh, and made the trip with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown and children spent a few days here with Mrs. Witherspoon last week, and Mr. and Mrs. Mack Patton and sons, Bobby and Don, of Hendersonville, spent the week end with her.

Mrs. Ned Dudley of Raleigh is visiting her sister, Mrs. Witherspoon, for some time.

Mr. and Mrs. T. V. McNicholas and children, Pat, Terry, Joel and Dennis, of Miami, Fla., are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hamrick.

Mr. and Mrs. William L. Reid and children, Barbara, Carol and Ann, were week end guests of Mrs. Reid's mother, Mrs. C. J. Manley of Anderson, S. C.

Mrs. James B. Ward returned Sunday from a Pacific cruise.

Miss Jennie Lee Palmer of Sylva is spending the week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Franklin.

Mrs. Robert P. Abbott and four children, Bobby, Kathy, Brownie and Mike of Augusta, Ga., have returned home after spending a week with Mrs. Abbott's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wells.

ANDREWS

Mrs. Lucy Caldwell has returned from a week's visit with her sister, Mrs. Eddie Watts, of Warren, R. I. She was accompanied on the trip by another sister, Mrs. Lindsay Robinson, of Newport, Tenn.

Mrs. Edwin Bristol is spending this week in Asheville with her sister, Mrs. Joseph J. Stone, and her mother, Mrs. Faires.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Brown and daughter, Patty, and Mrs. Brown's mother, Mrs. Bruce Battle, Sr., returned Sunday after a two weeks visit with Mrs. Battle's son, Bruce Battle, Jr., and his family and her granddaughter, Mrs. Blaine Thompson and their young son Gary, all of West Peabody, Mass. While away the party also spent sometime with Mr. Brown's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brown, Sr. in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Huggins and children, Pat and Carolyn, of Fort Pierce, Fla., spent several days with Mrs. Huggins' aunt, Mrs. J. L. Rowland, and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Herbert enroute Sunday to Franklin where they will visit other relatives.

Mrs. Roy E. Stoops and young daughter, Carolyn, left Sunday for Mineral Wells Air Base, Texas where they will join her husband, M-Sgt. Roy E. Stoops who is stationed there. M-Sgt. Stoops and his family have recently returned from a four years stay in Higham Ferris, England where he was stationed with the U. S. Air Force. Mrs. Stoops and Carolyn have been visiting her parents here, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Piercy.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Wood flew to Sylva for an over night stay with Mrs. Wood's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Higdon.

Mrs. Ed Slagle returned to her home in Orlando, Fla., Monday after spending the summer at her home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cupo and children left Monday for their home in Wilmington, Del., after a week's stay at their mother's home, Mrs. J. F. Green.

Commissioners Seek \$500,000 School Bond

Traffic Cases Dominate August Court Just Ended

With a docket containing most-ly traffic violations, the August term of Superior Court came to an end here Wednesday noon after two and a half days in session. Judge Walter E. Johnson Jr. presided.

Some 107 speeding cases were closed-involving mostly out of state residents who forfeited bond. Other traffic cases completed were: driving while intoxicated, eight; drunk driving, one; driving without license, five; driving while intoxicated and carrying conceal-

ed weapon, one; and reckless driving, two.

Seven persons drew prison terms for the following: abandonment non-support, one man drew two years on the road; escaping prison, three men had 30 days added to their current terms; assault and robbery, one man drew four to seven years while two women drew two to three years.

One forgery case, two larceny of personal property cases and a case involving larceny of an auto were also completed.

Baptist Association Meet Be Next Week

The Andrews First Baptist Church and Murphy First Baptist Church will be hosts on the first day of the 70th annual Western North Carolina Baptist Association meeting next Tuesday, August 17.

The opening session will be at 9:30 a. m. in the Andrews Church. The afternoon session will begin at 1:00 also at the Andrews Church and the Tuesday evening session will be at the Murphy Church, beginning at 8 p. m. The Wednesday morning and closing session Wednesday afternoon will be at Shady Grove Baptist Church, Hayesville.

The opening scripture and prayer will be led by Ralph Matheson. A member of the Andrews Church will give the welcome. J. Alton Morris, chairman of the program committee, will give a presentation of the program. Others on the program committee are Mrs. L. W. Hendrix and Mrs. H. E. Danielson.

Main speakers at the two day associational meeting will be the Rev. John C. Corbitt, pastor of the Andrews Church, who will give the annual sermon; L. L. Morgan, of the State Baptist Sunday School Department, speaking Tuesday morning at 10:55 on "A Million More In '54"; M. R. Huggins,

stewardship message Tuesday at 2:15.

J. C. Canipe will bring the Tuesday night sermon, "Every Church Revived in '55". G. E. Scruggs, associational missionary will bring the missionary sermon Wednesday morning at 11:30.

The closing message, on Christian Education, will be by Dr. Harold W. Tribble, president of Wake Forest College.

Others appearing on the program are: Lester Stowe, clerk; A. B. Lovell, Mrs. J. J. Hamilton, P. G. Ivie, C. C. White, Fred Lunsford, Marjia Hampton, L. P. Smith, W. A. Hoover, Mrs. H. E. Wannelson, John Odom, John Gill, Kenneth Woodard, Loy Thomas, Richard Powers, J. V. Hall, Mrs. L. W. Hendrix, Robert Barker, and others.

Special music will be provided throughout the program. The theme for the meeting is "Forward In Christ Jesus." Tuesday morning's theme is "Forward, In Christ Jesus In Our Association"; Tuesday afternoon "In Christian Stewardship"; Tuesday night "In Soul Winning"; Wednesday morning "In World Missions"; and Wednesday afternoon "In Christian Education".

Two Baseball Games Be Played Here This Week

The Murphy-Basin Baseball team will play two home games this week end with the first slated Saturday night at 8:15.

The second game will be Sunday at 2 p. m. Both games will be with the team from Dayton, Tenn.

Walter Carringer Sings Program Sun.

Walter Carringer will sing a musical program at 8 p. m. Sunday at the First Methodist Church, Murphy.

He will be accompanied at the organ by Mrs. J. W. Davidson. The public is invited to attend.

Andrews School To Open August 26

J. E. Ruffy, superintendent of the Andrews City School Unit, has announced that all schools in the unit will open Thursday, August 26.

Ruffy said the schools will operate on a half day schedule for the first two days and the school cafeteria will open Monday, August 30.

A general meeting of teachers and principals will be held in the Andrews High School auditorium, Wednesday, August 25 at 10 a. m.

Superintendent Ruffy stated that school buildings will be open to the teachers who wish to visit their rooms and make pre-school pre-

County, Murphy, Andrews Schools Will Benefit

The Cherokee County Commissioners this week said they will seek a \$500,000 bond issue to improve school facilities in Andrews City schools, Murphy City schools, and in Cherokee County schools.

The Commissioners said the County Board of Education and the trustees of both Murphy and Andrews schools asserted the existing school plants are not adequate. The bond order will take effect when voters of the county approve the bond at an election.

The money will be used to erect several new buildings to be used as school houses, school garages, physical education and vocational buildings, teacherages and lunch rooms and other school plant facilities, the Commissioners said.

Additions and improvements will be made to buildings now standing.

The Commissioners will file application with the Local Government Commission in Raleigh for approval of the issuance of the proposed bonds.

The Commissioners' move came with two units in dire need of new buildings. Hiwassee Dam, under the Cherokee County Administrative Unit, will need the money to erect a new plant.

Marble School has been operating in an old, inadequate building which needs replacing.

If the bond issue is voted in each school unit will get roughly a third of the \$500,000.

Murphy Has New Police Car

Murphy Town police are riding in a new auto this week after Town Council decided to replace the old vehicle.

The new police car is a 1934, black two-door, V-8 Ford. The auto delivered Tuesday, has 130 horsepower.

Football Players To Meet With Coach

Coach C. K. (Ike) Olson asked all prospective football players to meet him Friday morning, Aug. 13, at 9 a. m. at the field house.

Football practice will begin Monday, Aug. 16, the coach said.

Whitaker Gets Citation From U. S. Treas. Dept.

W. D. Whitaker, senior vice president of the Citizens Bank and Trust Co., Andrews, was presented an achievement award-the highest U. S. Treasury award given for achievement and patriotic service in the United States Savings Bond program dedicated to the economic strength of the nation, at the meeting of the Andrews Rotary Club Thursday in the Shell Dining Room.

S. J. Gernert, president of the club presided, Whitaker, program chairman, introduced the guest speaker, Walter P. Johnson of Greensboro, director of Savings Bond sales in North Carolina, who stated that the award was one of the 50 being presented in the nation. The award was unique in that it was an illuminated engraving of the prayer of the president of the United States framed with wood from the inaugural platform.

Mr. Johnson praised the services rendered over many years by the Citizens Bank and Trust Co. in Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties and stated the bank has never failed to meet its Savings Bond quota. He said Cherokee County ranked 12th in North Carol-

ina in the Savings Bond quota with \$2,400, in value of outstanding U. S. Savings Bonds.

He further stated that 26 percent of the National debt is in U. S. Savings Bonds.

Guests at the meeting other than Mr. Johnson were E. G. Lee of Asheville, J. Wiley Davis, a charter member of the Andrews club, of San Juan; Max Lineberger, deputy director of the N. C. Savings Bond division of Greensboro, and George Handura of Clearwater, Fla.

Superintendents At Annual Conference

School Superintendents Lloyd Hendrix, Cherokee County; Allen Bell, Clay County; H. Bueck, Murphy, and J. E. Ruffy, Andrews, this week are attending the annual conference for State school superintendents at Mars, Hill.

Mr. Bueck appeared on a panel discussion of legal questions Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Ruffy accompanied her husband to the meeting and Mrs. Bueck left today to attend the banquet and closing sessions.

Cherokee County Marble Ranks With Best In Country

Columbia Marble Co. Quarries Blue And Gray Stone

A Cherokee County industry dating back to 1902 is continuing to put on the market a fine grade of marble which is equal to any found in the United States.

The Columbia Marble Company at Marble employs some 53 men and operates two quarries furnishing two colors of marble.

Columbia is owned by T. A. McGahey of Columbus, Miss., who also has companies at Sylacauga, Ala.; Columbus, Miss.; Memphis, Tenn.; Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Atlanta, Ga. At the Columbus plant granite is also handled, but the plant at Marble handles no other stone than marble.

Each of McGahey's plants is operated independently and the manager of the local company is Roscoe Wilkins, who has been here for seven years. The company at Marble was bought by McGahey in 1945.

REGAL BLUE

However, the industry here dates to 1902 when a quarry was opened at Regal—about three miles northeast of Murphy. This company quarried a stone called Regal Blue and the company itself was called the Regal Blue Marble Co., and operated from 1902 until 1945. In 1928 the Carolina Marble Quarries Inc., carried out further



A giant marble block, just brought from the quarry, is transferred by a steam-run crane to the gang saw where it will be cut into slabs. It takes about a day and a half to bring out one of these blocks.

prospecting by core drill and found both blue and white marble.

The Columbia Marble Co. under different ownership from the present company in 1931 secured the property on which the company is now located between Marble and Andrews. In 1945 McGahey purchased the company.

At present the quarry at Regal is producing an excellent grade of blue marble and a quarry a short distance from the com-

pany's plant at Marble, is being quarried for a light gray marble, registered as Sterling Gray.

There is a large amount of marble in Cherokee County and the marble band extends over into Swain County and down into Georgia. However, much of the stone is not of great commercial value.

No white marble is being quarried in the county now, but, Co-

lumbia buys white stone from its Sylacauga plant. Until about six months ago Columbia also purchased a pink marble. The pink has been discontinued.

SLOW PROCESS

Marble quarrying is a slow process and a great deal of prospecting, core drilling and study precedes the actual cutting out of the stone.

In fact, Mr. Wilkins said, it tak-

es some two years of drilling and quarrying to reach the marble that is of the best commercial value. The marble is first brought out when the quarry has been dug down about 15 feet.

It takes about a day and a half to bring out one of the blocks from the quarry. The usual size of the blocks is around eight feet long, and four feet wide and four feet deep, and they weigh from 12 to 15 tons.

After the block is brought to the plant it is transferred to the gang saw where it is swung back and forth and cut into slabs. This process makes a great swishing noise, as the stone is cut by sand carried in water. It takes around 48 hours to be cut through. (There are four gang saws.)

The slab is then taken to the diamond saw where 1100 chipped diamonds cut the slab to the desired size. There are two of these new circular diamond saws at the Columbia plant.

From the diamond saw the marble goes to the rubbing beds to be smoothed. (The saws leave a rough finish.) The rubbing bed is a large revolving cast iron plate.

Then the marble goes to the polishing machine—if it is to be polished.

WHOLESALE

Columbia is a wholesale company and about 70 per cent of its sales are for monumental purposes and the rest for building.

es and paneling can be seen along with the large number of tombstones.

Much of the marble sold for monumental purposes is not polished and most of it is not lettered. However, Columbia does do lettering on the monuments, by rubberizing the monument, drawing on the letters and design and then sandblasting. Austin Parker is the proficient lettering man.

The company makes children's tombstones with lambs and doves as one of its specialties. Skilled carvers form the animals with air tools, using a picture as the model.

Columbia Marble Co. ships Cherokee County marble to all states in the country as well as to Hawaii, Cuba and Canada.

Most of their customers are from Washington, D. C. south.

Probably the most famous local use of marble is found in the county courthouse in Murphy. The courthouse was built in 1926-27 and makes extensive use of local marbles—both blue and white. The exterior walls are of dark blue marble in a sand finish and the interior is finished with a baseboard of highly polished blue above which is a wainscoting of polished white.

The floors in the halls are a checker board pattern of marble tile consisting of dark blue and white tiles 12 by 12 inches in size. The front of the building is finished with a porch and four columns 25 feet by 30 inches in diameter. Each column consists of three sections turned from a solid block of marble.