

WEATHER

April	H	L	Prec
26	74	50	0.06
27	76	48	0
28	77	50	0
29	75	56	0.15
30	79	55	0
May	H	L	Prec
1	89	58	0
2	83	52	0.09

Forecast Thursday, Fair,
Friday Increasing Cloudiness
with showers by Friday night,
Saturday and Sunday Fair.

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

And Clay County Progress

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12 Pages This Week

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Murphy Election Tuesday; GOP Ticket Disqualified



MURPHY BAND NEARS GOAL -- Mrs. Ed Brumby, chairman of the Murphy to Manteo band trip finance committee is shown presenting Holland McSwain, superintendent of the Murphy Schools, a check for several hundred dollars which brings the amount close to the goal of \$800. Band director Ed Reynolds is shown at center. Others serving with Mrs. Brumby on the finance committee were Mrs. Francis Bourne, Jr., Mrs. Hobart McKeever, Mrs. H. A. Mattox, Mrs. W. T. Brown, Mrs. Holland McSwain, and Mrs. W. A. Singleton. The band will receive free lodging and meals during their stay in Columbus, N. C.

The Lindsay Warren Bridge dedication committee will pay for one half of the travel expenses of the Murphy Band to Manteo. (Scout Photo)

The announced Republican candidate for mayor in the Town of Murphy election set for Tuesday, May 8, has been declared disqualified by the North Carolina Attorney General. Walter Puett, a registered independent on the Town of Murphy registration books, can not run for mayor on the Republican ticket according to a telegram from the Attorney General received by H. W. Hughes, Chairman of the Cherokee County Board of Elections.

This leaves the Democratic ticket unopposed. L. L. Mason is the Democrat incumbent candidate for Mayor. Democrat incumbent councilmen are Francis Bourne, Jr., John Jordan, W. A. Singleton and Cloe Moore. New comers are Jerry Hatchett and Kenneth Godfrey.

In other political action, Charlie Crain, Sr., an announced Republican candidate for councilman, has withdrawn by letter to the Cherokee County Board of Elections.

The Cherokee County Board of Elections requested this ruling from the Attorney General.

The telegram advised that "under charter 278 session laws of 1949, city election of Murphy is partisan election. Persons registered as independent elector can not lawfully file notice of candidacy to run as candidate for any particular party. Persons registered as independent can not be candidate for mayor on either Democratic or Republican ticket and no such filing should be accepted by board of elections." Signed T. W. Burton, Attorney General, by Ralph Moody, Assistant Attorney General.

The attorney general's decision was based on the special election laws for the Town of Murphy which requires a party convention. A registered member of a party at the filing deadline is not eligible to be a candidate for another party according to these special laws. In the case of Mr. Puett, these laws fit the situation perfectly.

Had Mr. Puett re-registered as a Republican prior to the filing deadline he would have been a qualified candidate. Although his name can not appear on the ballot, he is still eligible to run as a write-in candidate.

Mr. Puett is a registered Republican on the county registration books.

The law requires that each party desiring to run candidates in municipal elections in Murphy must hold a convention on or before April 10 elect a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary and name candidates.

It further requires that the secretary within two days, must certify the candidates with the county board of elections, giving the date of the convention.

Hughes said that on April 10 the following list of candidates was given to him by J. Doyle Burch, chairman of the Cherokee County Re-

publican executive committee: Walter R. Puett for mayor and Richard A. Howell, Virgil O'Dell, Don Ramsey, Charles Crain, Mrs. W. M. Fain and Hayes Dockery for commissioners.

He said the names were not certified by an authorized person and that no date for a convention was given. He also reported that to the best of his knowledge the Republicans had not held such a convention. J. Doyle Burch, Cherokee County GOP Chairman, said the Republicans did hold a convention. He gave no date.

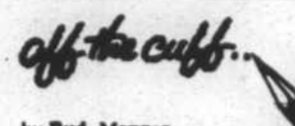
Under provision of the same law the election must be held with space provided on ballots for write-in candidates.

The letter received by H. W. Hughes from the North Carolina Attorney General's office is as follows:

"You state that on April 10

the County Board of Elections. In Section 4 of the Act it is required that where a convention is called by a political party the convention shall determine its own order and procedure" except that the convention shall elect a secretary who shall keep faithful and accurate minutes of the proceedings of the convention."

(Con't To Col. Six Back Page)



by Bud Morgan

CIRCUS WINNER: In "Off the Cuff" last week I promised to give a free circus ticket for the Rescue Squad circus on May 14 to the first person who clipped out this column.



BIGGEST PIKE - Lee Thomas of Murphy proudly holds high the 31 inch wall-eyed pike he caught Sunday, April 29, in Wiassee River just below the Town of Murphy filter plant. The fish weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz. Thomas said he was fishing from a boat and used a L & S broken back plug. He caught six other pike, all weighing around a pound and a half a piece. (Scout Photo)

Walter Puett, Disqualified GOP Candidate For Mayor, Resigns High School Job

Walter Puett, principal of Murphy High School, has submitted his resignation to the Murphy Board of Education effective at the expiration of this school year.

The resignation was received by the Board of Education last Thursday night, April 26. The board had met to renew contracts for the 1962-63 school year.

The board voted unanimously to accept Mr. Puett's resignation.

H. A. Mattox, chairman of the school board, said it is his opinion the board accepted Puett's resignation in the best interest of Murphy High School.

Puett was a candidate for Mayor on the disqualified Republican ticket in the Murphy Town election set for Tuesday May 8.



WALTER R. PUETT

did not know that two registration lists were maintained. In fact, I went to vote for candidate Sanford and was informed that I could not cast a ballot and be registered as I was. I fully intended to register as a Democrat the next time the books were open in order to correct this situation. Before that time arose, I was committed to support a party," Puett added.

"Now that there are no Republicans on the ticket, I feel free to revert to my independent thinking as a voter. In the future I intend to vote for the man that I consider best qualified to serve the interests of the people. I express sincere regrets for my errors and whole-hearted thanks to the fine workers who so enthusiastically supported the cause to which I aspired," Puett said.

In a prepared statement, Puett said, "Many of my friends have asked me, 'Why did you resign as Principal of Murphy High School?' In order to avoid any misunderstanding, I take this opportunity to clarify my decision."

"No one suggested or even intimated that it would be advisable for me to resign. I reached this decision entirely on my own. My resignation read as follows in a letter to Holland McSwain, Superintendent, Murphy City Schools. I submit this resignation as Principal of Murphy High School to be effective at the expiration of my current contract.

It has been a rich and rewarding experience to serve under your supervision. I thank you for your wise counsel and advice through various problems. I fully appreciate your cooperation and guidance in our mutual efforts to improve the educational opportunities for our students. There is substantial evidence that progress toward quality education has been made constantly.

Please express my personal regards to the members of the Board of Education for their dedicated services to Murphy City Schools. Signed - Walter R. Puett.

"I was sincere in every statement made and would make the same at this time," Puett added.

"For fifteen years, I have enjoyed a most unique favor which very few people have had opportunity to enjoy. In short, I have been employed by the duly appointed officials of a political party opposite to my registered party affiliation. I feel that the gentlemen who have employed me must have been questioned many times about their decision by patrons of our school. In fact, I quote a statement made by one of these men soon after I was elevated to the principalship of Murphy High School. 'He made the statement, 'Could you board members not have done better for our school than to elect a Republican to head it.' This statement was made by a close friend of my wife's family, Mr. Puett said.

"These men have served the interest of Murphy Schools for many years without pay. They have been my loyal friends and supporters in my school work. For me to have attempted to head a ticket for the opposite party, I consider a gross blunder. The dual positions of Mayor-Principal, although legal, could bring about this hypothetical situation. Principal counsels and advises a young man during the forenoon on personal or

educational problems and enjoys his utmost confidence and then as Mayor at 3:30 p.m. judges his brother for being drunk on the previous night. This could lead to unpleasant or embarrassing relationships between the student and principal. Such would severely handicap the principal in his efforts to serve the best interests of students. I am confident of the fact that the members of the Board of Education for Murphy City Schools accepted my resignation in what they considered the best interest of Murphy High School, Puett said.

"I have always been an independent in my thinking and voting. In fact, in my embarrassment, I misled the party, whose ticket I headed, by telling them that I was registered as a Republican, when in fact I had been registered as an Independent since November 12, 1955, on the city registration list. I

Golf Club Gets More Members

The proposed Murphy - Andrews golf club membership drive met with good results during the past week as nine named were added to the list from Andrews. This brought the list to an unofficial total of 59 members, 49 from Murphy one from Hayesville, and nine from Andrews.

Added to the list this week were: W. D. Whitaker (Bill), Dr. Charles O. Van Gorder, Dr. Floyd E. Blalock, Lee Nichols, Joe - El Khouri, Edgar Wood, Jim Baker, Eric Reichman, and Joe Parker, all from Andrews.

Correction to last weeks list - Davis ESSO servicenter (Boyd and L. C. Davis) instead of Elsie Davis.

Republican Convention Is Saturday

The Cherokee County Republican Convention will be held Saturday, afternoon, May 5, at 2:30 p.m., at the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy.

The purpose of the convention is to elect county candidates to run in the November elections.

Candidates for sheriff, state representative, county commissioner, clerk of court, register of deeds, coroner, constables for all townships, surveyor, and justices of the peace will be elected to run on the republican ticket this fall.

Seeking re-election are Sheriff Claude Anderson and Representative Herman H. West. Register of Deeds J. E. Graves will run subject to the convention Saturday.

Land Is Returned By Quitclaim Deed To Clay Couple

Washington, D. C. - 12th District Congressman Roy A. Taylor Tuesday, May 1 introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to convey, by quitclaim deed, 8.4 acres of land in Clay County to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mosteller of Hayesville, Route 1.

The land was acquired in error by the Department of Agriculture in 1936, although the Mostellers have continued to maintain actual possession of the property. It was recently discovered that their deed was in error.

Auto Accident Injures Two Near Andrews

According to State patrolman Don Reavis an accident involving two automobiles occurred on U. S. 19, four miles east of Andrews on April 25, 1962.

Wanda Stum, 29, of Route 1 Andrews was admitted to District Memorial Hospital for possible neck and back injuries. Hazel Woody of Andrews was treated and released.

The driver of the other car, Weaver Cochran, 72 of Nantahala was injured. Cochran's vehicle struck the Stum vehicle in the rear on a rain slick road. He was arrested by trooper Don Reavis for following too closely in traffic.

Registration Books Will Be Open This Saturday

Registration books for the May 26th primary election will be open in all 24 Cherokee County precincts from 9 a.m. to sunset Saturday, May 5. Challenge day will be Saturday May 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to H. W. Hughes chairman of the County Board of Elections.

Murphy Band Plays At Hayesville

The Murphy School Band will present a concert at the Hayesville School auditorium Thursday night, May 3 at 8:00 p.m.

Admission will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. Proceeds will be used to finance the band's trip to Manteo next week.



WOMEN OF THE MONTH

For the month of May the Public Relations Committee wishes to honor the members of the Murphy Business and Professional Women's Club as Women of the Month. The club by working together, has accomplished much in the four years since our Charter in 1958. The chief accomplishment of the club has been the awarding of a scholarship to a deserving senior girl. This has been increased from \$100.00 to \$300.00 this year. Each year we sponsor a recitation contest for high school

girls. Active participation in School Bus Safety Program, Cancer Drive, March of Dimes, T. B. Christmas Seals, Wagon Train, and other civic projects have been entered into by the members.

The main means of raising money is our Radio Day, at which time we sell advertising to the business people of Murphy and surrounding territory.

This month we are celebrating our fourth anniversary with our annual party. The Murphy B. P. W. is not

all work as we have two parties a year, Christmas and Birthday at which time the "Boy Friends" are invited.

Front row left to right - Mary Cathron Sneed, Jane Lovingood, Carrie Davis, Elvia Blakemore, Bess Alverson, president, 1960-1961, Lona Davis, Jusita Weaver, president 1958-1960, Blanche Smith, President, Edythe Howard.

Standing left to right - Edwina Shelton, Ruth D. Chesney, Bertha Bates, Sara Patton, Bonnie Kinsey, Maude Gullidge, Betty Kate Wilson,

Esther Hartsoe, President-elect, Margaret Bruce, Clara McCombs, Bessie Mae Elkins, Ruth Carringer, Helen Bryson, Virginia Scroggs, Frances Gentry, Emily Sword, Lillie Mae Cover.

Those not present for picture - Martha Jean Hatchett, Avis Hoover, Maude Duncan, Betty Hena, Eunice Shields, Florence Seamon, Elizabeth Gray, Maxine Chastain, and Maureen Bryant.

Hats off to women of the Murphy Business and Professional Women's Club.

MAY		1962	
S	M	T	W
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3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30
31	-	-	-

Remember . . .
Coke and Good Taste
Go Together!

May Flowers

Vicki Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Hall and Patricia Ingram, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ingram, Jr.