

The CHEROKEE SCOUT



and Clay County Progress

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Holding The Bag

February 15, 1964, was a sad anniversary for stock holders in the Farmers Federation in Western North Carolina.

On February 15, 1963, the local Farmers Federation store was padlocked and since then the doors have never reopened.

Goods on the store's shelves and counters have been left to spoil. The store building itself is deteriorating badly.

The store was closed when the Federation declared itself bankrupt. The reasons behind the failure are complicated and lengthy.

We don't claim to know all these reasons.

We have asked questions of some

stockholders in the Farmers Federation and all they know is that their stock is worthless and that the store is closed with goods rotting and spoiling on the shelves.

We don't even know who is to blame for this situation, or if there is someone to blame.

Bankruptcy proceedings are full of technicalities and can be lengthy.

But we do know that local stock holders have been left holding the bag. And it doesn't make sense for saleable goods to rot on the shelves.

Something needs to be done about investigating this mess. Legal technicalities or not, it doesn't make sense.

And we don't like to see local folks left holding that bag.

N.C. Highway Patrol Is Tops- But Unmarked Cars Should Go

On Wednesday, March 11, at 9:30 a. m., a hearing will open in Raleigh with a legislative committee headed by State Senator Irwin Belk of Mecklenburg County opening an investigation of the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

The Legislative Council was instructed by the 1963 General Assembly to investigate the patrol and make recommendations to the 1965 Legislature.

When it set up the investigating committee, the Legislature passed a resolution saying the Patrol should use more discretion in making arrests in the interest of highway safety and without regard to a competitive quota or salary increases for the Patrolman.

It seems a bit strange, to say the least, that the state's Highway Patrol needs to be investigated, in light of the fact that the Patrol has been named number one in the country for several years running.

But while the 1963 Legislature was in session, stories appeared in newspapers throughout the state claiming that N. C. Highway Patrolmen worked with a quota of arrests each should make each month, and consequently the stories hinted that innocent people were being arrested by patrolmen, often on technicalities, in order for the patrolman to reach his quota.

These stories also made claims that patrolmen could expect promotions or salary increases directly in relation to the number of arrests made. That is, the stories said, the Patrolman who made the most arrests would advance faster in rank and get more salary increases than the Patrolman who made fewer arrests.

The Patrol was quick to deny these charges, and we think that the denial was true, and that the 'quota' charges were false.

As a matter of fact, the Legislature's resolution noted that "there is no direct arrest quota system within the Patrol."

But the resolution calling for the investigation did say that "there does exist indirect methods of production results, such as comparing Patrolmen, which encourages competition in the number of arrests made."

We feel that anything relating to the State Highway Patrol is of direct interest to our readers as well as every driver in the state, if for no other reason than the fact that every driver in the state comes in contact with the Patrol almost every day, even if this contact amounts to only seeing a Patrolman on the highways.

When a motorist sees a Patrolman he is reminded that these men are on duty to enforce highway laws. In small towns such as ours the contact is even closer. Patrolmen are citizens of the community, often active in civic and church work.

N. C. Patrolmen are the best in the country. . . and they have proved it in competition.

We think the Patrol has disproved the 'Quota' charges, and that the investigation on that count is unnecessary.

The distressing number of highway accident deaths each year in this state directly resulting from breaking highway laws should prove that if anything, more people should be arrested.

Of course some Patrolmen make more arrests than others. A Patrolman's territory, his work schedule and even blind fate will affect the number of arrests he makes. Some

Patrolmen are stricter than others, but such is human nature.

The upcoming investigation will include, however, one point that we think should be studied.

The Legislature instructed the committee to include in its study the proper marking of Patrol cars, including staff cars.

And on this point we think a change is in order.

We think the unmarked Patrol cars have outlived their usefulness.

Here are some reasons for our stand.

1. The sight of a manned well-marked Patrol car on the highways will do more to remind more motorists to obey the laws than any other thing.

2. Native Tar Heel Motorists, especially those in small towns, and most especially those who try to get by with breaking the law, can spot an unmarked Patrol car almost as quickly as a marked one.

3. North Carolina has the top Highway Patrol in the nation and we're proud of it. We need more Patrolmen, and we should be able to recognize them in their Patrol cars when we see them.

4. When a Patrolman is needed for an emergency and some motorist is sent looking for him, he is harder to find in an unmarked car.

5. The tourist business is one of this state's top income producers and is especially promising in our area. Tourists coming into our state are greeted with signs proclaiming, "Unmarked Patrol Cars On Duty", and this seems to us to cast an impression of some kind of "Secret Police", and is definitely not inviting, even to the motorist who obeys the law.

6. A motorist will certainly heed the siren of a recognizable, marked Patrol car quicker than he will an unmarked car, which may lead him to wonder just who wants him to stop.

7. In the case of an accident at night, the big flashing red lights on top of marked Patrol cars can be seen for miles, warning approaching motorists.

8. The unmarked cars were put in use with the plan to move them from area to area, but some stay in the same area for long periods of time.

9. The Patrol's primary function is protection for and service to law-abiding taxpayers, and we think the great majority of taxpayers prefers the use of marked Patrol cars.

10. Today's high-powered cars and high speed roads lead even the law-abiding motorists to exceed the speed limit without realizing it, and the sight of a marked Patrol car will serve as a reminder to "Slow Down And Live."

Certainly there are advantages and good reasons for the use of the unmarked cars or the Patrol would never have requested them.

We simply believe the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

The use of unmarked cars should be discontinued, or at least, strictly limited as to the number in use.

Furniture Plant Seems Assured For Andrews As Pledges Mount

ANDREWS - A furniture manufacturing plant employing some 300 men appeared to be assured for Andrews this week, as pledges for local loans to raise 10 per cent of construction costs totaled around \$120,000.

The Andrews Development Corporation announced last week that the plant was all set to build in Andrews if local investors could raise \$135,000.

At a public meeting last Thursday night, Mayor Percy B. Ferebee told the 100-plus crowd of Andrews businessmen and citizens on hand that "in my opinion I can say that this industry is on the way up, and while there's no guarantee that your investment will be perfectly safe, I can see no reason why it shouldn't be."

The Mayor suggested that a drive get started within a week or two to take pledges explaining, "it will probably be a month or two before you investors will actually have to put up the money."

Many in the crowd thought that pledges should be taken "right now while we have this many people together," as one man said.

The majority agreed, slips of paper were passed out, the pledges were written down and passed back to the speakers table.

Bill Whitaker, a member of the Andrews Development Corporation, totaled up the pledges and announced that they amounted to \$76,400.

By Tuesday of this week, pledges from investors were up to some \$120,000.

Den Mothers Honored At Scout Banquet

ANDREWS - The Cub Scout's Blue and Gold Banquet, commemorating the 54th year of Scouting in America, was held Hall on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m.

Approximately 80 guests were in attendance, including Cub Scouts, den mothers, parents, and other interested people.

Tables were decorated with a blue and gold color scheme. Miniature flags were arranged on each table, also gold candles. A large arrangement of gold mums and iris centered the speakers' table.

Cub master Charles O. Frazier was master of ceremonies. The invocation was given by the Rev. Joel Key.

Special recognition was given to den mothers, Mrs. Frank Ledford, Mrs. Blaine Thompson and Mrs. Neil Matheson.

Mrs. F. E. Blalock and Mrs. Floyd Brooks were also recognized for their assistance to the den mothers for their outstanding contribution to the Cub program and special planning of the banquet.

During the program Mr. Frazier stated that this year's enrollment exceeded any year in the past and appealed to all mothers present to give assistance to this program.

Den Chief Dicky Blalock added to the program by giving the poem, "A Boy In Blue."

On display was the most recent project of Den 1, depicting an "Emergency Trail." It included items every home should have to meet any type of emergency, such as fire, tornado or even a nation-wide emergency such as war.

Bobcat pins and Wolf badges were given to cubs at the close of the meeting.

Lenten Devotions Planned By Andrews Catholic Church

ANDREWS - A series of Lenten Devotions will be held at the Holy Redeemer Catholic Church here on the Saturdays of Lent at 7:00 p.m.

The special Lenten Services are to consist of a Scripture Vigil Service made up of Bible readings, the explanation of the passages read, and congregational hymn singing. Then there will follow the blessing of some material thing which has a spiritual meaning for the observance of Lent and the preparation for the feast of Easter.

Examples of these objects are water, oil and bread. After prayer together, all will join in offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

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The local investments will earn 5 per cent interest and are to be paid back within a maximum of 25 years.

The investors learned practically everything about the plant except the name of the manufacturing firm.

Development Corporation member Robert Heaton said, "we are not disclosing the company's name at this time because they asked us not to."

The announcement of the firm's name and final decision to go ahead with construction is expected soon, when enough pledges have been made to cover the 10 per cent required locally.

The Federal government is providing 65 per cent of construction costs of the plant, loaned to the firm through the Area Redevelopment Act. The local bank puts up 20 per cent and the company five per cent plus working capital.

The plant will be housed in a 24,000 sq. ft. building, and construction costs will

run \$1,350,000. The size was described as "about twice the size of the Berkshire plant in Andrews."

The meeting revealed the facts that the new plant will manufacture bedroom furniture, will be built on the site of the old core plant in West Andrews, will be completely modern in both the building and equipment, and will be one of four or more presently owned by the company, which has a nationwide sales force and long experience in the furniture industry.

Mayor Ferebee explained that the ARA plan for financing the plant only called for the firm to pay 4 per cent to local investors, but that officials of the company wanted to pay 5 per cent because they believed that amount is fairer to local people.

Plans presently call for starting construction this spring, with a target completion date set for next October or December.

Dave Bristol Relates Baseball Experiences In South America

ANDREWS - Dave Bristol of Andrews, who will manage the Cincinnati Reds Baseball organization's San Diego, Calif., Pacific Coast League Team this season, was guest speaker at a joint meeting of Andrews Rotary and Lions Clubs Tuesday night.

Bristol told of his adventures during the past four months managing a Venezuelan, South America, baseball club.

He was introduced by Dr. Floyd Blalock, who pointed out that Bristol's post at San Diego this year is only one step below the majors "and we hope to see him at the top very soon."

Bristol is considered the top manager in the Reds farm organization.

The speaker humorously said that "I planned to speak in Spanish tonight, but then I remembered that one day in Venezuela I told a cab driver in Spanish to take me to the ball park and I ended up at the cemetery."

His South American experiences not only included baseball, but four months of seeing the country, how people there live, and dodging bombs and gunfights.

"It was an election year," he explained, "and they take the thing very seriously."

He said that Venezuelan baseball fans "are fanatics, and they often get carried away."

He pointed out that the country is roughly the size of Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana with a population of eight million. He explained that oil is the major export of the country, which is rich in all natural resources.

"Everybody asks for baseballs when they find out you are with a ball club, kids and old folks alike," he said, "and you never have enough."

Bristol arrived in Venezuela last October and managed a team in Valencia, "a town about the size of Asheville," he said.

"A bomb went off right outside the stadium where we were playing one night," he said, "and that gives you a funny feeling standing out there in third base coaching box, not knowing whether a bullet is coming your way or not."

He explained that most of the troubles stemmed from the Communist party's attempts to win in elections.

"They would strew the roads with tacks," he said, "and you would see cars with brooms tied on in front of the tires to sweep them out of the way. But it worked and was better than having flat tires."

His ball club was in a four-team league and played a 50 game schedule, with as many as five games a week.

The players were both native Venezuelans and American minor league ballplayers there to gain experience.

His team entered a seven game championship playoff at the end of the season and lost the seventh game by one run. He had tied with the Caracas team in the regular season.

Both top teams went on to enter an inter-league series with the Dominican Republic and his team won in their league.

"The money I made was not bad," he said, "but living costs there are fantastically high. One room in a hotel for myself, my wife, and two children cost \$300 a month."

Bristol made his own deal with the Valencia ball club's owners to manage the club during the four winter months, but the Cincinnati organization approved the job and gave him a recommendation.

"It was an experience I wouldn't take anything for," he said.

Bristol will leave for Tampa, Fla. this week to join the Reds spring training camp. His San Diego Club's players arrive there March 15 where they will train until Apr. 12.

His club plays the Reds in an exhibition game in San Diego on Apr. 15 and open the regular season Apr. 17.

Lodge Meets Monday Night At Andrews

ANDREWS - Andrews Lodge #529 will hold a regular meeting at the Lodge Hall Monday, March 2, at 7:30 p.m.

W. D. Whitaker will present the program. All members and visiting Masons are invited to attend.



W.H. Hamilton, 88, Dies Sunday At Andrews

ANDREWS - William Harve Hamilton, a retired employee of the State Highway Department, died Sunday afternoon in a hospital here after a brief illness. He was 88.

A native of Graham County, he was a son of Isaac and Jane Hamilton and lived in Graham County until he came here in 1912.

He worked for the State Highway Department for 21 years until he retired in 1940. He also worked for a number of years for Andrews Builders Supply Co. During World War II he was a guard for Nantahala Power Co.

Mr. Hamilton was a member of Andrews First Methodist Church and had been a member of the Masonic Lodge here for 56 years. His wife, the former Francis Leona Sherrill, died several years ago.

Surviving are three sons, Boyd of Sylva, Glenn of Calderwood, Tenn., and James Lyle of Augusta, Ga.; four daughters, Mrs. Helen Walldrop and Miss Ruth Hamilton of Andrews, Mrs. Howard Ford of Warne and Mrs. Ola H. Williams of Calderwood; a foster son, Crawford Wakefield of Marietta, Ga.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He is also survived by several foster grandchildren, who are children of the late Mrs. Minnie Tatham.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Andrews First Methodist Church.

The Rev. Joel Key and the Rev. T. C. Christmas officiated and Masonic rites were conducted at Valleytown Cemetery. Pallbearers were

Mrs. Bill Cathey and Mrs. Mary Will Phillips of Hiawassee, Ga., were business visitors in Andrews on Wednesday.

Mrs. Carmen Johnson of Asheville was guest of her sisters, Mrs. J. W. Brown and Mrs. Luther Nicholson this past week.

Mrs. Carlyle Matheson is spending two weeks' with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Huffstetter and daughter, Kristolyn at Murchiston, Texas.

Sgt. and Mrs. Wade Teague and daughter, Tara, of Fort Chaffee, Ark., are visiting relatives in Andrews and Sgt. Teague's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Teague in Murphy. Mrs. Teague is the former Miss Helen Jones.

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