



## Chamber Honors Townson; Is Ready For Membership Drive This Weekend

The Murphy Chamber of Commerce honored past-president Dave Townson with a testimonial dinner at the Milton Inn in Blairsville Tuesday night and is now moving toward the membership drive which will climax Murphy Chamber of Commerce Week.

Over fifty people turned out for the dinner honoring "Uncle Dave". Larry Black presided at the dinner and traced the career of Townson since he came to Murphy to stay in 1919. Black said "a community is like a ship, everyone should be prepared to take the helm" and he pointed out that "Uncle Dave" has always been ready to take the helm.

Townson, who left home at the age of 16, was a railroad man in his younger years. After he settled here, he was a charter member of the original Murphy Chamber of Commerce in 1928. He brought the first purebred cattle herd to Western North Carolina. In addition to his presidency of the local Chamber, he has served in the same capacity with the North Carolina Funeral Directors Association and the Western North Carolina Highway Development Council.

In recent years, he has been involved in the industry-seeking projects of the area. Townson is credited with bringing Levi Strauss to Murphy and his work was a major factor in locating the Rimco plant here.

Among the speakers that paid tribute to "Uncle Dave" were Merle Davis, John Gill, Doyle Burch, Dr. B. W. Whitfield, J. H. Duncan and Mrs. Mary Faye Brumby.

Duncan recalled an incident in 1939 that illustrated Townson's unceasing efforts to promote Murphy. He said that he was serving in the General Assembly at the time and that during a session, a page boy told him a Mr. Townson from Murphy was waiting in the lobby to see him. Duncan said he went outside and greeted "Uncle Dave" and asked what he could do for him. Townson told Duncan he wanted him to get the state capitol moved to Murphy. He was serious, too.

Telegrams were read from several cities across the nation. Most of them were from industrialists that Townson has met through his efforts to bring more industry here.

At the conclusion of the testimonial dinner, Larry Black presented a plaque to "Uncle Dave" on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. The plaque is in recognition of his many services for the betterment of this area. Townson accepted it with typical humility and received a standing ovation from those present.

The Chamber's membership drive moves into high gear Friday and Saturday.

"Building A Wall To Support Murphy" will be the theme of the drive.

A wall will, indeed, be built. Bricks are on hand and each brick contains the name of a business place in Murphy. As each establishment signs up, the brick bearing its name will be put in place for the wall which will be built on the square Saturday morning.

The size of the wall will be an indicator of the success of the membership drive. The Chamber has outlined 10 major projects that it will work on. The group plans to promote five Murphy retail sales yearly, publish a new tourist promotion brochure, and sponsor an annual Employer-Employee Week and a Know-Our-Industries Week.

Traffic problems in downtown Murphy are on the list of projects to be worked on. The Chamber plans to encourage development of off-street parking facilities in the downtown area and cooperate with the town in helping to plan for present and future traffic.

Members are expected to help groups whose function is the continuing development of the community and assist in their applications for loans or grants from Federal, State and other sources. The Chamber has pledged to work for more housing, recreation, and community facilities and to cooperate with farm agencies and organizations to increase farm income in the area.

The Chamber has expressed an interest in working with other local groups on some projects. It hopes to co-sponsor a fire safety program with the Cherokee County Rescue Squad and expects to work with the Murphy Jaycees on an annual Christmas Parade.

Rescue Squad Finds Drowning Victim's Body In Lake

The Cherokee County Rescue Squad recovered the body of Richard Johnson from Hiwassee Lake, Friday night after a three-hour search.

The 24-year-old Johnson had gone swimming with two companions and apparently experienced trouble. He was a resident of West Jefferson and was in Murphy working on an installation with the telephone company. His two friends are also telephone employees.

Coroner J. C. Townson issued a verdict of death by drowning. The body was returned to West Jefferson for burial.

Do the police enforce speeding laws in town? How many speeding cases have been made in the town by town police? Who enforces it? I guess the State Patrol does a little, but too, their job is in the county and not in the city.

I believe the records will show that the sheriff's department and the State Patrol have made more cases, probably with the exception of public drunkenness, inside the city limits of Murphy than the Murphy Police Department. Where do you think the criticism should go, especially with the enforcement of liquor laws?

The county sheriff is a sober, decent, honest man. Let us give criticism where it is due!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. R. F. Dockery  
Murphy, N. C.

Trio From Murphy Attends Legion Meet In Raleigh

Homer Ricks, John Davidson and Tom Fuller attended the state convention of the American Legion in Raleigh last week. About 500 people from across the state attended the meeting.

Ricks is Commander of Post 96 of Murphy. He and Fuller attended the convention as delegates from the local post. Davidson attended in his capacity as the local service officer for veterans.

The convention elected new officers for the state organization and transacted routine business.

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DAVE TOWNSON (L) accepts a plaque presented to him by the Murphy Chamber of Commerce at the testimonial dinner held in his honor, Tuesday night. Larry Black is making the presentation.

## Independents Win Two To Take League Lead

The Independents climbed into first place in the Murphy Softball Association with two victories in the past week. The two wins boosted their record to 3-0 and give them a half-game lead over Ranger and Hiwassee Dam. Those teams have each won two and lost none.

On Friday night, the Independents thwarted a last inning uprising to come out on top, 17-16, in a see-saw battle with Forest Service. Monday night they ran their string to three straight by routing Murphy High School, 22-5. Peachtree is also undefeated with a win in their only game played to date.

Tomoda broke into the win column with a victory over First Baptist Tuesday night. Tomoda is now tied with Murphy High School with a 1-2 record. These teams are in fifth place, two games behind the Independents.

The Jaycees and Forest Service are three games off the pace with 0-1 marks each and Rimco and First Baptist, each winless in two games, are three and a half games out.

Undefeated ABC heads the women's division with three wins. Clifton Precision is a game out with a 2-1 mark while Peachtree trails by a game and a half with one win and one loss. Government and Texanna each have one win and two defeats and are two and a half games behind ABC. First Baptist is winless in two games in the women's competition and is three games off the pace.

There are several places in the Town of Murphy where whisky can be bought. It seems like the general public thinks that it is the sheriff's job to catch them. There are six men on the police force of Murphy to do this job. The police, as I see it, have full authority to enforce all the laws within the city limits. Yet, in reality, the sheriff's department makes nine out of ten cases for liquor that are made in the city limits. How many arrests does anyone know that the city has made for liquor in the past six months?

The sheriff, on the other hand, has only two paid deputies to enforce the law in the whole county. The sheriff and his two deputies make more arrests than does the whole police force put together.

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houses that exist in may suburban areas. The homes here, with their varied designs, are a strong point in giving our town the look of a pretty place but the litterbugs seem determined to making Murphy a floating garbage dump.

Each individual can help prevent the ugly scars of littering by keeping the things to be disposed in the car until they get to a place where the junk can be put in a proper receptacle.

I hope the workers at local plants will start thinking of their parking lots as parking lots and not a branch location of the city dump.

Murphy has the makings of being a beautiful town. The job to be done is so easy that there is no excuse for not doing it.

I'd like to see Murphy finish dead last in the Litterbug League.

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