



## REPUBLICANS REQUEST OUSTING OF REGISTRAR

### O'Dell Calls Local Act "Invitation To Chicanery"

The Cherokee County Republican Party has asked the State Board of Elections to remove Mrs. Ruth Cheney from her position as registrar in the Murphy South Ward and to investigate an incident that occurred during the November 8 General Election when the Republicans accused her of improperly marking a ballot that she filled out for a voter who requested assistance.

Virgil O'Dell, chairman of the Cherokee County Republican Executive Committee, wrote a letter outlining the position of his party Monday. The letter, along with five affidavits signed by witnesses to the voting dispute, was mailed Tuesday to the State Board. A copy is also being sent to the Cherokee County Board of Elections.

O'Dell cited the special local act which bars anyone other than a registrar from giving assistance to voters in Cherokee County. The matter, he said, "is doubly important because no Republican may assist any voter in the county since the Registrars are always and without exception Democrats."

Referring to the dispute with Mrs. Cheney, the chairman said "we are convinced that this is not an isolated incident, since the arrangement is an open invitation to chicanery because persons unable to see well enough to mark their ballot are...unable to see whether their ballot is correctly marked by the Registrar."

The letter requests that Mrs. Cheney "be removed from office and not used in any capacity in any future election."

Other grievances are cited in the letter. "The Republican Party in this county further labors under the handicap" of the special act that has the

county "so gerrymandered into districts that it is virtually impossible" to elect a Republican Board of County Commissioners, he said. The letter also points out that the Cherokee County and Murphy School Boards are composed entirely of Democrats since they are appointed and not elected.

O'Dell said "we feel that action on the part of the State Board in this matter would be a material step in securing fair elections in Cherokee County."

The dispute on election day erupted when Luther M. Beavers, 76, requested help because he said he could not see well and Mrs. Cheney agreed to mark his ballots. The Republican Judge, Lowen Dockery, opened ballots handed to him by Mrs. Cheney and protested that they were marked straight Democratic while Beavers had said, in a loud voice, "I want to vote a straight Republican ticket."

Beavers, in his affidavit, said "the only papers which Mrs. Cheney had in the voting booth" were his ballots. "I had seen the ballots at all times since she had marked them and know that the ballots Mr. Dockery had were mine", he said.

Dockery's affidavit stated: "An old lady, a Mrs. Carroll, came in to vote and asked for assistance" and that as she walked toward the booth with Mrs. Cheney, she said "I promised the Republicans that I would vote for them" Dockery said Mrs. Cheney handed him Mrs. Carroll's ballots and "as I was putting them in the box I noticed that Mrs. Carroll's ballot was marked Democratic. I made no comment at this time as I did not know what Mrs. Carroll might have said in the booth."

Dockery said that when Beavers entered the booth, he heard him say "in a loud voice, 'I want these ballots marked straight Republican'. Mrs. Cheney came out of the booth first with Mr. Beavers' ballots in her left hand, I said 'I will take those ballots Ruth' and she handed them to me. They were handed to me face up and I immediately saw that the top ballot was marked Democratic. I then opened up the rest of the ballots to see how they were marked. Each was marked Democratic and I had distinctly heard Mr. Beavers tell her to mark them Republican. At this time Mr. Beavers said again that he had requested her to mark them Republican so I tore the ballots up as being spoiled and put them in the spoiled box. I then obtained new ballots for Mr. Beavers and he voted them Republican."

Richard A. Howell, a Republican poll watcher, signed an affidavit stating the same account of the incident as Beavers and Dockery did and added that he heard Dockery say "Ruth, I have been waiting all morning to check on you."

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Owenby also signed affidavits. They stated that they and Mr. and Mrs. Luther M. Beavers came to vote together. Their statements gave a similar account of the incident.

Mrs. Cheney gave Dockery a written statement releasing him from further duty as a Republican judge after he tore the ballots she had handed him,

### 13 County Paving Projects Announced

The State Highway Commission will open bids January 24 on paving 17.88 miles in Cherokee County. A actual work is set to begin early spring, according to W. Curtis Russ, Commissioner of the 14th Division.

The Commission plans to make formal award of the contracts at their meeting in Raleigh on February 3.

The 17.88 miles of paving, much of it on secondary roads, is the result of property owners along the roads cooperating with the Commission under terms of the priority system of the Commission. The priority system was put into force by the Commission in

the summer of 1965. Several other paving projects have been proposed for this county, but could not be put under contract due to failure to get right-of-way.

The projects due to be put under contract early next month includes:

SR 1326 In Murphy, from Hiwassee River Bridge to North City Limit 0.72 mile.

SR 1408 In Murphy, from US 64 to 0.6 miles north, 0.60 mile.

SR 1326 In Murphy, from US 64 to beginning of concrete pavement 0.24 mile.

SR 1552 In Murphy, from US 64 to city limits 0.45 mile.

US 19 In Murphy, from Methodist Church to east city limits 1.00 mile.

SR 1388 In Andrews, from 1st Street to North City Limits 0.30 mile.

US 19 In Andrews, from SR 1515 to West City limits 0.72 mile.

SR 1519 from US 64 to SR 1527.

SR 1548 from US 64 to Clay County Line 1.50 mile.

SR 1544-1537 from US 64 to SR 1535 2.80 miles.

SR 1535 from SR 1519 to End of Pavement 3.00 miles.

SR 1552 from Murphy city limits to end of pavement 0.35 mile.

SR 1502 from US 19 to SR 1505 1.80 miles.

### CORRECTION

The Scout reported last week that Principal Harest King testified "I don't know where to draw the line" on short dresses worn by female students at Hiwassee Dam School. This was an error.

Mrs. Helen Hancock, the defendant in the case being tried, attributed the statement to Mr. King in her testimony. He did not make the statement on the witness stand himself.

The editors of The Scout regret the error.



"IF THEY CAN SEND MY HUSBAND TO VIETNAM, I think they could give me a bridge", says Mrs. Nadean Waters (top photo) as she shows the poor state of repair of the bridge which leads to her mobile home and the Vengeance Creek Baptist Cemetery. Harvey Failen (bottom photo) points to the large hole left in the bridge on the Roy Minor Road when an oil truck fell through the floor last fall.



### The Bridge Washed Out? It Might As Well Be!

By Dave Bruce

Country singer Warner Mack came up with a smash hit called "The Bridge Washed Out" in 1965 by bemoaning the fact that the bridge had washed out, he couldn't swim, it was his wedding day and "my baby's on the other side." The bridges aren't washed out in this case, but several families who live on the other

side of Vengeance Creek near Marble are severely handicapped by the poor condition of two bridges they must use.

One bridge is located on what is now known as the Roy Minor Road. This was originally a part of the road from Marble to Peachtree but it was abandoned when a new stretch of highway was opened several years ago. Today the bridge and road are serving four families.

Mrs. Roy Minor had written several letters requesting service on the bridge beginning in 1962. Last November an oil delivery truck went through the bridge and left a large hole in the floor. Passenger cars can cross the bridge today with some careful steering on the part of the driver but it is impossible to drive larger vehicles across.

The families living along the road complain that they can not get fuel oil delivery now since trucks can not cross the bridge. Mrs. Minor's nephew Harvey Failen, said "my boy just about has pneumonia" from living in his cold mobile home.

Both Mrs. Minor and Failen have written several letters to State officials about the matter and believe they are getting nowhere.

Gov. Dan K. Moore wrote to Mrs. Minor on December 21 and told her she would be contacted soon by a representative of the State Highway Commission. "I can assure you that your request will be given every consideration", the Governor continued. Mrs.

Minor says no one has contacted her.

Sen. Mary Faye Brumby requested Division Engineer A.J. Hughes to look into the matter and Hughes, in turn, directed R.J. Pattillo of the Bryson City office to investigate.

Pattillo, in a telephone interview with The Scout last Friday, said an investigation of the matter has been conducted and his office submitted a report to George S. Willoughby, Secondary Road Officer in Raleigh. He said Willoughby's office would be responsible for making a decision on what action the State will take.

A short distance up the creek from the Minor bridge is another bridge in a poor state of repair. This bridge leads to the Vengeance Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

Failen said the only way a body can be taken to the cemetery for burial is by jeep since wider and heavier vehicles can not cross the bridge. If a jeep is not available, the body must be carried in. The cemetery is about a quarter of a mile from the bridge.

Mrs. Nadean Waters lives in a mobile home along the creek at the bridge which leads to the cemetery. Her husband, SP5 Linwood Waters, returned from a tour of duty in Vietnam on December 29. Mrs. Waters says there is no way to remove her mobile home from its present location and she expressed a desire to move with her husband when the Army gives him a new assignment in the States.



### County GI In Life Photo

SP4 Billy G. Morrow, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Poley Morrow, Rt. 4, Murphy, is pictured in a story on Vietnam in the January 13 issue of "Life".

The picture shows Morrow and three other soldiers carrying a wounded comrade from the scene of an ambush near Rach Kien during what was supposed to be a New Year Truce period.

Morrow entered the Army in 1966 and was shipped to Vietnam on September 1. He is assigned to the 25th infantry division.

Shortly after his arrival there, Morrow wrote to his parents and said "we are here now and I don't like it" but concluded "don't worry about me, I'll be OK." He commented on the constant rain there and on the miserable living conditions of the Vietnamese. He also inquired about whether his parents read The Scout because "there is something in each hometown paper about each one of us."

The soldier showed a humorous outlook toward a run-in with a snake. "I threw a snake out of my tent the other night, it was crawling up my side", he said.

### Right-Of-Way Work Begun

Highway Commissioner W. Curtis Russ revealed on Saturday that specialists have begun work to acquire right-of-way for the Appalachian Development Highway between the Tennessee line and Murphy.

He said 16 engineers are now in the field and others will soon be added to speed-up work on the project.

This 18-mile section in Cherokee County is expected to be the first part of Appalachian highway to be put under contract in southwestern North Carolina.

### Jaycees Schedule Prayer Breakfast

The Murphy Jaycees will conclude their observance of National Jaycee Week with a Prayer Breakfast Sunday morning at 7:30 at O'Dells. The breakfast is being held to reaffirm the religious portion of the Jaycee Creed.

Rev. Thornton Hawkins, Pastor of the First Methodist Church, will speak on the first line of the Jaycee Creed.... "That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life."

Mayor Cloe Moore and the Town Board members have been invited and the public is invited to attend. It will be a Dutch Treat Breakfast at a cost of \$1. per person.

### Airport Work To Start In July

Construction work on the improvement project at the Cherokee County Airport is expected to begin in July and should be completed by October 15, according to R.J. Bell, airport engineer with the Charlotte office of the Federal Aviation Agency.

Bell made the statement following a meeting last week between FAA officials, the Cherokee County Airport Authority and the County Commissioners. He said the tentative schedule calls for bid

opening in June.

W.E. Cox of John Talbert and Associates, proposed consulting engineers for the project, emphasized the tight schedule and acquisition of the airport by the county very soon. Complete construction plans and specifications must be developed for a planned advertisement for bids in May.

The voters overwhelmingly approved county purchase of the airport property in a referendum last August.

The runway lighting system was not approved due to an extreme shortage of copper. Bell said only air-carrier airport received lighting approval and the local airport authority could re-apply for approval within the fiscal year beginning July 1. The federal grant of \$150,501 made in December allowed for deletion of lighting.

### Jaycees Announce Educator Search

Plans to select the Outstanding Young Educator of Cherokee County were announced Tuesday night by Lyle Carringer at the conclusion of the Murphy Jaycees' monthly business meeting.

"Our search is part of a nationwide Jaycee program", Carringer said, "to spot light the achievements and dedication of professional educators, both male and female, between the ages of 21 and 35."

Carringer stated that educators of the first through twelfth grade levels will be considered and that names of eligible nominees have already been obtained from school officials. Teachers eligible will be contacted by the Murphy Jaycee Outstanding Educator Committee within sufficient time to submit Evaluation Forms for judging.

Nominations will be judged locally by a panel of educators. The Cherokee County winner will be honored at a special awards banquet and presented with a \$100 cash award.

Local winner from throughout the state will be eligible for a state competition, which will determine delegates to a national Outstanding Young Educator Program, according to Carringer.



### Chamber Elects New President

Max M. Blakemore was elected president of the Murphy Chamber of Commerce at a meeting last Thursday night. He succeeds Wally Williams.

Jack T. Owens was re-elected vice-president of the group. Tommy Gentry was elected secretary and John Gill was elected treasurer.

Blakemore is the owner of Radio Station WCVB and Blake Realty in Murphy. He also operates the local Western Union Office.



THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL was awarded posthumously to PFC Donald R. Robinson of Turtletown, Tenn. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Robinson, are shown accepting the award from Maj. William H. Kelly last Friday at their home. PFC Robinson was cited for "outstanding meritorious service" in Vietnam prior to his death last September 3 from wounds received while serving with the 101st Airborne Division. He was the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Taylor of Violet, N.C. (Photo by Richard Jabaley, Bastin Photographic Studio)

**JANUARY**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	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				

**MISS JANUARY**

Miss Becky Kephart, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Kephart, Route 3, Murphy, N.C.

**WESTCO TELEPHONE COMPANY**

Murphy Business Office  
Dial 837-2101

Americans have the world's best bargain in telephone service. It's good and it's cheap. Nowhere else do people get so much service and such good and courteous service at such low cost.