



FIRE DESTROYS TWO BUILDINGS, THREATENS BLOCK

Credit Association Gathers Information

The Merchants Credit Association of Murphy, Inc., is now compiling information to begin operation as a local credit bureau. It will assemble credit information for its

members and will exchange or sell credit information to other credit associations.

The Association was formed by the Murphy Chamber of Commerce. Its expenses, through July 1, are being paid by the Chamber and all members of the Chamber are automatically members of the Association until that time. Business firms that are not members of the Chamber can join the Association upon payment of a \$12.50 fee.

The immediate goal of the Association is to compile credit information from Cherokee and Clay Counties. There is a long range goal to gather information from Towns, Union and Fannin Counties in Georgia, Polk County in Tennessee and Swain County.

Further information on the Association is available by contacting Max Blakemore, president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Gray Cleared In Knife Death

DUCKTOWN--After deliberating three and one-half hours Monday night, an all-male jury returned a verdict of not guilty in the case of Tom Gray, 45, who was charged with murder in the slaying of Winston Hyde last September.

Gray plead self-defense and said he cut Hyde with a knife after finding Hyde and Gray's wife in a parked car. The defendant said Hyde got out of the car and hit him as he (Gray) approached the vehicle.

Gray said he "didn't know how many times" he cut Hyde. He testified that he was afraid of Hyde because "he was a bigger man than me." Hyde died at the Copper Basin Hospital from 17 knife wounds.

Rimco Honors Employees

Rimco Manufacturing Corp. paid tribute to its employees who have been with the firm five or more years with a dinner last Saturday at the Milton Inn in Blairsville.

Two officials from Rimco's New York Office, Bob Connors and Marcel Noe, attended the dinner and paid tribute to the employees who were honored. The two toured the Murphy plant Sunday morning and expressed pleasure with the operation here.

W.D. Townson, Merle Davis and Herman Edwards were among the local guests attending the affair. These three men are credited with playing important roles in the locating of the Rimco plant here. Edwards, in his remarks to the group, said "Rimco was the turningpoint in our economy in Cherokee County." He said the quality of work turned out by local employees of Rimco made it evident to other industries that the local labor force could adapt to training.

Employees with five years of service are E.L. Stiles, Charles Dale, Ernest Davis, Richard Mashburn, Edna Rose, Charles Bates, Carl Green, Billy Millsaps, June Kephart, Frank Pace, Lura Moore, Manervy Crowe, Frances Mason, Hazel Craig, Tommie Dietz, Mary Birchfield, Reathel Sneed, Robert Coffey, Charles Wells, Jimmie Wilson, Boyd Pullum, Horace Hembree, James Allison, Bruce Zimmerman, Howard Johnson, Wayne Palmer, Franklin Barnett, and Doris Rogers.

Plant manager Peter J. McKeon told the group he was looking forward to holding a dinner for ten-year employees in the near future. The local plant began operation in November, 1959. He presented pins and gifts to those who had not received them before.



WAYNE PALMER (left) receives a pin in recognition of five years' service at Rimco from Manager Peter J. McKeon. Looking on are Doris Rogers, Frances Mason, and Faye Radford. They also received five-year pins at a dinner Saturday night at the Milton Inn in Blairsville.



LAST FRIDAY'S FIRE BEGAN on the second floor of the Gibbs Building. This photo was made before flames spread to the adjoining Murphy Hardware Co. building.



THE TOP FLOOR of the Murphy Hardware Co. building became engulfed in flames which leaped into the pre-dawn sky. At this point the blaze had not reached the lower floors.

Two buildings on Tennessee St. were destroyed last Friday morning by a fire that threatened an entire block of the Murphy business district.

Murphy volunteer firemen were called to the scene shortly before 5 a.m. and battled for over four hours to contain the fire to the vacant Gibbs Building and the Murphy Hardware Co. building.

The fire, which started in the Gibbs Building's second floor and spread to the top floor of the Murphy Hardware building, was first noticed about 4:45 a.m. by Bill Johnson Hiwassee St., Murphy, as he was enroute to work. Johnson

turned in the alarm. Charles Hyatt saw the fire from his home at about the same time and drove uptown to determine where it was.

The Andrews firemen were called to the scene to assist the Murphy fire fighters.

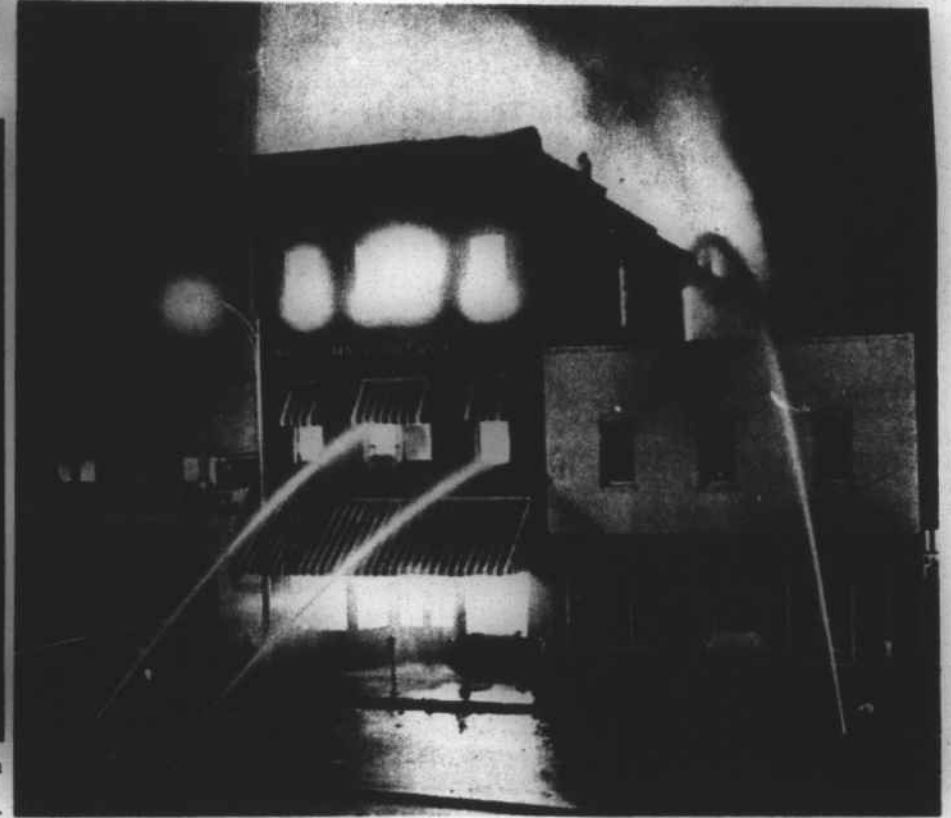
The cause of the fire is not known. It has been established there was no electricity in the Gibbs Building.

The Gibbs Building was built around 1936 and was owned by Betty Grantham of Atlanta.

The Murphy Hardware Building was built around 1906. The first and second floors were used by Murphy Hardware Co., owned by H.A.

Mattox. The third floor was owned by Cherokee Lodge 146 AF&AM. The Masons and Order of the Eastern Star used the floor for their meetings.

Mayor Cloe Moore issued a statement saying "I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the property owners of the Town of Murphy to express our appreciation and thanks to the fire chief and members of the Murphy Volunteer Fire Department for fighting the fire so vigorously. We would also like to thank the Andrews Volunteer Fire Department for coming to Murphy to assist us."



FIREMEN PLAY STREAMS OF WATER on the Murphy Hardware structure, which at this point is afire on all three floors, in an effort to save Moore's Jewellery.

SCOUT PHOTOS BY JACK OWENS

"Pea Patch Jim" Phillips Dies In Andrews At 96

(Editor's note: The Scout expresses its thanks to Bob Barker of Andrews for the historical information in the following story.)

James Wiley Phillips, better known as "Pea Patch Jim", died last Friday after a brief illness in District Memorial Hospital. The 96-year-old "Pea Patch" was believed to be either the second or third oldest resident of Cherokee County.

He acquired the name "Pea Patch" to distinguish him from three other Jim Phillips who were living in Valleytown Township. The others were "Fiddlin' Jim", "Toga Jim", and "Dancing Jim". Phillips was the first rural mail carrier to work out of the Andrews Post Office when the route was established in 1906. He held the position for two years.

One of the most colorful towns in the county until January, 1899, when he gave himself up, almost dead from galloping consumption. Another Graham County mob formed and removed him from the Murphy jail. He was hanged at the Upper Valley River covered bridge.

"Pea Patch" left Andrews around 1917 and spent 40 years at Benton, Tenn. where he worked as a watch repairman and gunsmith. After he returned to Andrews in 1957, he freely admitted that he had hid Maney out after his escape from the Murphy jail.

During his stay in Benton, he made a weekly trip to Ducktown to repair watches, clocks and guns. After repairing a clock for two women at Isabella, he was asked to dig a few potatoes. "Pea Patch" couldn't believe anyone could grow potatoes in the barren soil of the Copper Basin and was astonished to uncover Irish potatoes as big as a man's size 12 shoe. The women explained the patch was fertilized with blood from a Copperhill slaughter house.

Phillips was the oldest son of the late John Wiley and Sarah Ann Smith Phillips. He was preceded in death by two wives, Mrs. Ruth Meadows Phillips and Mrs. Cora Williams Phillips.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Ida Phillips, and several nieces and nephews; Grant and Gordon Phillips of Andrews; Quinton Phillips of Charlotte; Grant Crawford of Frankfort, Germany; Hilda P. Enslay of Andrews; Clara Bell P. Womack of Asheville; Sam, Dewey and Lewis Sharp of Robbinsville; Dee Sharp of Waynesville; Mrs. Winnie Sharp Hensley of Robbinsville and Mrs. Norma Sharp Hooper of Long Creek, Graham County.

Services were held Saturday in the chapel of Ivie Funeral Home with the Rev. Ted Ellis and the Rev. Wildon Gill officiating. Nephews served as pallbearers.

Burial was in the Phillips Family Plot in Valley River Cemetery.

The directors voted to increase the bank's annual dividend to 60¢ per share, payable 15¢ each quarter.

The directors also re-elected all the bank officers.

Citizens Ask Election Of School Board, Odd Number Of County Commissioners

Several hundred Cherokee County residents have signed petitions asking for popular election of school board members and a change in the present set-up of the county commissioners. The action was started by the Cherokee County Republican Executive Committee.

Two petitions have been drawn up and are being circulated in the county. They are

Town Accepts Wimpey Bid

The Town of Murphy has accepted the bid of Wimpey's Bulldozing and Trucking to grade and gravel the new parking lot on the former Odum property on Central St.

Wimpey submitted a bid of \$2,987.50. Charles Coleman made a bid of \$3,179.00. The bids were opened at City Hall on Tuesday morning.

Work on the lot must be completed within 30 days. The town plans to pave the lot later.

The Town Board has not made a final decision on how the lot will be used to raise revenue.

Wagon Train Meeting Set

A meeting has been set for Friday night at 7 at the Murphy Power Board Building to discuss the possibility of a 10th anniversary wagon train coming to Murphy on the Fourth of July.

It is believed that the wagon train, which would make a three-day trip from Tellico Plains, Tenn., may be tied in with the annual Jaycee Water Festival which is held the same weekend.

All persons interested in the wagon train are urged to attend Friday's meeting.

entitled "Petition for School Board Election" and "Petition for Equality". They are addressed to Sen. Mary Faye Brumby and Rep. Wiley A. McGlamery.

Mrs. Brumby and McGlamery are asked to introduce legislation changing the method of selecting members of the Board of Education of the Murphy City Unit and the Cherokee County Unit from the present method whereby the members are appointed by the legislature to a system whereby the citizens of each respective unit have the right to elect the boards.

The petition points out that the Andrews Board of Education is elected by the people and says "we...feel that it

Studio Manager Attends School

Scout Studio Manager Weaver Carringer is in Spartanburg, S.C. this week to attend a portrait photographer's school under the direction of Harry White, manager of B&B Studios.

Carringer, who served for almost four years as The Scout's compositor, has been in charge of the studio since late last summer.

Carringer is also taking short courses in commercial, aerial and press photography. He said he spent Tuesday "up in the air" receiving training in the taking of aerial photos.

Recreation Group To Meet Tuesday

The Cherokee County Recreation Commission will meet Tuesday night at 7:30 at the Andrews Community Center to elect a Director of the commission and discuss plans for the county recreation program.

is highly inconsistent that the Murphy and Cherokee County Boards are appointed by the Legislature...these Board members are always selected from one political party, often with total disregard for qualifications or ability to serve on the Board."

The petitioners note that "quality schools are the basis for the attraction of industry and progressive growth" in the county.

The "Petition For Equality" asks Mrs. Brumby and McGlamery to "institute legislation to correct the inequality in the local law dealing with the Board of County Commissioners."

The signers of this petition seeks to have the Board changed to an odd number of members to avoid the present double vote of the chairman.

The Board elected in November consists of three members of each major party and the Democrats are able to control it through the extra vote given to Chairman W. T. Moore.

A spokesman for the group circulating the petitions said they will make the papers available for citizens to sign until February 5.

Traffic Deaths

In State Down

RALEIGH--Highway fatalities in North Carolina are running slightly behind last year's pace.

The Motor Vehicles Department released figures showing 87 traffic deaths in the state through Monday morning.

For the same date in 1966, 16 deaths had been recorded on Tar Heel highways.