



Survey Recommends One School Unit For Entire County

Long-Range Plan Calls For Increased Financial Support

A survey committee of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction has recommended the adoption of a long-range plan for establishing one school system under the control of a single board of education and one administration for all the children of Cherokee County. This would replace the present three units--Cherokee County, Andrew City and Murphy City.

This proposal is the primary suggestion offered in a report entitled "Cherokee County School Survey". The committee's conclusions were reached after examining data from the superintendent's

offices of the three units and the records of the Department of Public Instruction and visiting each school in the county. The field visits were made last November.

A significant increase in financial support for the schools was another major recommendation.

Other recommendations include: Consolidation of elementary schools of less than one teacher per grade.

Discontinuance of Martin's Creek Elementary School.

More elementary classrooms in the Murphy area.

Improvement of all facilities to be retained under a long

range plan. The committee emphasized that statement made in the survey are only recommendations and it will be up to the local school units to determine if they will be followed.

Members of the three school boards have been studying the survey and discussing the proposals. The County Board of Commissioners will also take an active part in determining whether to accept the recommendations.

Murphy Superintendent John Jordan told The Scout he favors holding public meetings to determine what action is favored by the taxpayers.

"Their tax dollars support the schools and I feel they should have a voice in how the money is spent," Jordan said.

He pointed out that any changes made will be part of a long range program which can only be made effective in well-planned steps over a period of several years.

The survey committee members made these findings in their inspection of schools in the county:

Hiwassee Dam--Special secondary facilities are lacking, but it is a fair plant for the elementary program.

Martin's Creek--The 1927 building is in poor condition and should be phased out. The 1957 building should be used long range if feasible.

Peachtree--Should be properly maintained, upgraded and used long range.

Unaka--Is in fair condition and needs to be properly maintained. The committee feels, however, that its location may limit its long range use.

White Church--Should be upgraded, properly maintained and used long range.

Marble--Could be expanded as needed.

Andrews High--Should be expanded as needed.

Andrews Elementary--The 1925 classroom building with the 1947 addition should not be used long range.

Murphy Elementary--A good facility but the 1910 building should be replaced. Additional land should be acquired for expansion.

Murphy High--Could be expanded.

The survey determined that the secondary program in the county is "oriented toward the college bound students, although the majority do not continue on to college."

Roads in the county were said to be "generally a factory enough to accommodate the transportation of pupils in almost any desired direction."

An effort is expected to be made to agree upon a long range program in the next few months so that any legislation needed to make changes effective can be requested from the 1967 General Assembly which is presently in session.



Reward Offered

MAYOR CLOE MOORE has announced that the Town of Murphy is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for a fire in connection with four fires that broke out shortly after 7:00 p.m. Monday evening in downtown Murphy. Over \$700 in additional reward money is offered by the town. The first fire reported was in the basement of the Regal Hotel Building. When the firemen were answering this call, they found the house located across Peachtree St. from the fire department (located above was a fire). The vacant house is owned by Dr. William Gossett and Dr. Frank Hill. While the two fire-trucks were used in these fires, a third blaze was reported at a vacant house owned by Halley Dickey at the rear of Birch Motor Co. Meanwhile, a fourth fire in the rear of Margaret Studios burst into flames. All of the fires were brought under control in a short time. Chief of Police Pete Stalcup has evidence indicating the fires were deliberately set. He told The Scout he questioned two suspects in the case but they were not charged. The evidence includes a tarp soaked with an inflammable substance which was found at the Dickey house.

Ambulance Service For County Still Unsettled

The question of who will provide ambulance service in Cherokee County was still unsettled after the Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting Monday.

Peyton Ivie, W.D. Townson and J.C. Townson appeared at the meeting and told the Board that Ivie and Townson Funeral Homes do not intend to continue the service.

Both funeral homes had served notice that they would discontinue service at the end of March. They advised the Commissioners of their intention on March 13. A special meeting on March 13 produced no solution.

On Monday, Ivie and the Townson reiterated their previous position. They said they cannot continue the service due to the requirements of the new Federal minimum wage law. They contend that they have lost money on the service over the years and that the new requirements make the financial loss more than they can bear.

A public hearing on an ambulance bill before the General Assembly is set for today (Thursday). This bill enables counties to provide ambulance service when private enterprise does not. The Commissioners indicated they will take no action on the question until they determine what provisions will finally be included in this bill.

The Commissioners decided to seek a pay raise from the General Assembly. At present they receive \$21.80 per meeting. The feeling is that a raise is justified to cover the expenses of attending required special meetings and to cover the income that some of the Board members lose by attending the regular monthly meeting.

It is believed that they will seek a salary of \$25 a week per commissioner with the chairman to receive \$35 or \$40 weekly. They will also seek to raise the salary of the county attorney, L.L. Mason, Jr. to \$1,800 per month. At present he receives \$100 per month.

The Commissioners have the authority to raise the salary of the county attorney no more than 20%. Since a larger raise is sought, they must seek legislation.

A letter was sent to R.D. Bruce of the Farmers Home Administration endorsing FHA efforts to seek Federal funds for a community water system for Texama. Most families in the community must now carry water from open springs.

In addition to the convenience of a water system, property value is expected to rise in the community and more homes are likely to have indoor sanitary facilities.

J.H. Duncan, one of the three members of the Southwestern North Carolina Economic De-

velopment Commission from Cherokee County, appeared before the Board to urge that the Board direct the county planning commission to determine needs in the county that can be fulfilled through the Appalachia program.

Duncan told the Commissioners that Federal money is available but it must be sought and definite plans must be formulated before grants are made.

Earlier in the meeting, the Board reappointed W. Merle Davis of Murphy and Dr. Charles C. VanGorder of Andrews to the county planning board. Their terms expired this month.

A delegation from the Martins Creek area told the Commissioners they oppose any plans to close the Martins Creek School. (See related story on this page.)

The Commissioners voted to recommend several road projects to the State Highway Department. The projects include:

Improvement of Old State Road (SR150) from Shoal

Creek Church to Liberty. Improvement of a road between SR 136 and Reservoir Rd.

Improvement of Bell Hill Road (SR127).

Paving of Hendrix Road (SR133).

Deletion of 0.15 mile of SR 1370 and addition of 0.3 mile to replace deleted portion. This request was made so that Timber Products can expand its plant.

The Commissioners endorsed a proposed bill to establish uniform fees in all Register of Deeds offices in the state.

Chairman W.L. Moore, Ray Sims and Attorney Mason were scheduled to attend a meeting in Bryson City Tuesday night. The meeting was held by the State of Franklin Health Council's public health committee. The Council proposes to merge the six southwestern counties into one health district and add Haywood County to the group at an appropriate time.

The county will purchase a mist blower for the State Forest Service for \$204. One of these machines is already in use in the county, but another one is needed and state funds are not available at the present time. The machine does the work of six men fighting brush fires.

Jack Simonds passed out cigars to his fellow commissioners in observance of an addition to his family on March 24 when Mrs. Simonds gave birth to a daughter. The Simonds now have five girls and two boys.

The still located near Lovingood's home, was destroyed by the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and Alcohol and Tobacco Unit Officers. They also destroyed 100 gallons of beer found at the scene.

Lovingood was not at the still but was arrested later and taken to the Buncombe County Jail in Asheville.

Deputy Sheriff Glenn Holloway said the still was so close to the road that a tarpaulin was hung over the side of it to prevent passing motorists from seeing it.

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Dr. J.L. Bazzell in Andrews when the office was closed for lunch between 11:30 and 12:30.

In Murphy, \$40 was taken from the office of Dr. William R. Gossett between 12 and 1 o'clock.

Chief of Police Pete Stalcup said the outer door leading into the waiting room was left open when the office was closed for lunch. Someone pried open the door to the inner office and removed the money from a desk drawer and a chest-type cabinet. Stalcup said he believes a screw driver was used to open the drawers.

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Blame It On The Dogs!

Three wrecks occurred within five minutes of each other on US 19-129 between Murphy and Andrews Monday morning. No one was seriously injured. Two of the accidents happened in front of the studios of Radio Station WKRK, about three miles east of Murphy. They were caused by dogs in the road.

Mrs. Maude Radford of Murphy stopped when two dogs crossed the road in front of her. Rev. William David Hudson, 56, of Ft. Payne, Ala., stopped behind Mrs. Radford. When the dogs were out of the way, Mrs. Radford drove on without being involved in the chain of events that followed.

Mrs. Mary Stewart Gregory, 50, of Rt. 2, Calhoun came over the crest of the hill and began breaking to avoid Hudson's car. A third dog ran between the cars, and Mrs. Gregory applied the brakes harder and cut to the left to avoid the dog. She slid into WKRK's driveway and cut to the right, back on to the road, and struck Hudson's car on the left side.

The road was blocked by the Hudson and Gregory vehicles when Wayne Paul Gentry, 19, of Rt. 3, Murphy, came over the hill and stopped safely. Bobby Lee Thrasher, 20, of Rt. 5, Murphy, saw the stopped cars too late and struck the rear of the Gentry car. The front of the Thrasher car ended up in the right-hand ditch.

No one was injured in this series of accidents. Thrasher was charged with improper registration.

Hudson told Patrolman Pat Miller that he was enroute to Charlotte to hold a revival. He said when he left his home in Alabama, his wife was crying and predicted the whole side of his car would be smashed by the end of the day. The wrecks at WKRK began around 7:20 a.m.

About 7:15, Ruth Allen Murphy, 28, of Rt. 4, Murphy, crashed into a telephone pole about two miles west of Andrews near the airport.

She told Miller she reached into her pocketbook for a stick of gum and when she couldn't find it, took her eyes off the road. When she looked up, she hit the pole with the left front end of her car.

The car was a total loss. The driver received a check-up at District Memorial Hospital and was released. No charges were filed.

Monday afternoon, two Rt. 3, Murphy residents were involved in a wreck on the Hanging Dog Road, four miles north of Murphy.

Mrs. Grace Kephart James, 41, told Miller she stopped to let a passenger out of her car when she was struck from the rear by a car driven by Ab Radford, 19.

Mrs. James said she had given a right-hand signal before stopping. Radford slid 36 feet before hitting the other car.

There were no injuries and damage was minor.

Miller charged Radford with failing to slow sufficiently to avoid an accident.

WNC Baseball Fans To Honor Bristol On May 7

Cincinnati Reds Manager Dave Bristol will be honored by western North Carolina baseball fans on Sunday, May 7, at Atlanta Stadium.

Several hundred fans from this area paid tribute to the Andrews resident last August and about 300 are expected to make the forthcoming trip.

This will be the only Sunday appearance for Cincinnati in Atlanta this season.

W. Frank Forsyth said 300 ground level seats behind the Reds dugout have been reserved. The Smoky Mountain Shrine Club has purchased

some of these seats and will sit as a group at the game. The remaining seats are available at \$3.50 each.

Plans are being made now to arrange bus transportation. Forsyth said he believes bus tickets will be about \$5 each.

Bristol's Reds have stirred speculation during spring training about a strong comeback after last year's second division finish.

His decision to move Pete Rose, the All-Star second baseman, to left field appears to be paying off. This shift allows Deron Johnson to return to his best spot-third base.

Registers Of Deeds Attend Workshops

During the last two weeks the North Carolina Registers of Deeds have been engaged in a Statewide series of Regional Workshops on the Uniform Commercial Code. These regional meetings, held in Greenville, Goldsboro, Graham, Statesville and Asheville, were sponsored jointly by the Secretary of State, N.C. Registers of Deeds Association and the Institute of Government.

The Uniform Commercial Code simplifies and consolidates the law of secured transactions as it relates to personal property. The Secretary of State and the Registers of Deeds have been designated as filing officers

under the Code. After midnight June 20, 1967, the effective date of the Code, the filing of Financing Statements will replace the previous practice of recording chattel mortgages, conditional sales contracts and similar instruments.

As a result of the regional workshops and careful study of the volume of expected filings, the Secretary of State and the Registers of Deeds have agreed upon a pre-filing period beginning June 1. All filings received in the offices of the Secretary of State and the Registers of Deeds with the appropriate fee will be accepted after May 31 for processing, and will be filed as of the opening of business following the effective date of the code. All filings received prior to midnight May 31, 1967 will be returned to the sender.

Filings received during this pre-filing period do not perfect security interests arising out of transactions entered into before the effective date of the Code. Prior to the effective date, security interests can be perfected only in accordance with the established law in effect prior to July 1, 1967.

New filing statements may be prepared and filed during the pre-filing period for any transactions which will be entered into after the close of business June 30, 1967. Filings must be accompanied by the statutory filing fee. The Code or retained counsel should be consulted for the exact fee.

Rimco Opens Picnic Area

Rimco has announced the opening of a new recreation area behind their plant. It consists of a softball field, picnic area and other recreational facilities.

Bids Sought For Building

The Cherokee County Board of Education is accepting bids for the construction of a building at the Tri-County Industrial Education Center at Peachtree.

The bids will be opened in the courtroom on April 20 at 2:30 p.m.

Specifications call for a building to house a vocational shop with three small classrooms and library. The space is to be 5,500 square feet.

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