



Andrews Raceway: Only Closed Track In SWNC

By Red Schuyler
Have you ever given any thought as to how stock car racing, the number two spectator sport, in the nation was born? If the answer is yes, and you are still looking for the answer, you need to pay a visit to the only closed track in the far western part of western North Carolina. This is the only track between Asheville, North Carolina and Cleveland, Tennessee. The track is called the Andrews Motor Raceway and is located five miles east of Andrews between Andrews and Topton.

To begin with, it appears that the owner tried to hide it from the public because it is located about an eighth of a mile off the highway in the woods.

Back many years ago a few fellows got together, took some old beat up cars, incorporated a few safety features into them, took a road scraper and scraped out a small oval place and called it a racetrack and decided to have some fun and take racing off the highway and put it where it should be. To begin with it was for fun and competition. In our good old USA where you have a competitive sport going on it attracts people. The "Boys" decided that people would pay to see automobiles race. As it continued to attract more and more people, promoters realized that under better conditions, with better and faster cars and more drivers the spectator potential was unlimited.

The first Super track was built at Darlington, S.C. Then came Charlotte Motor Speedway to be followed by Atlanta Raceway, then the Super-Super track at Daytona Beach then Rockingham, N.C. These are all tracks a mile or more in length. There are other shorter tracks at Bristol, Tenn., North Wilkesboro, N.C., Martinsville Va., and Weaverville, N.C. plus many others.

Now we have the Andrews Motor Speedway. This would have to be considered an "Out-law" track because it is not sanctioned by any racing organization. Its not as nice as the above mentioned tracks and neither is it a long track. As a matter of fact it is just about the shortest closed track on record. But the main thing about it is that the competition is there, plus lots of action.

I have never seen a demolition derby race before but I came away from Andrews Motor Speedway Saturday night thinking that this is close to being a demolition derby.

Saturday night, the largest crowd ever to witness a Stock car race between Asheville, N.C. and Cleveland, Tenn., saw Rex Ledford of Hayesville win one of the heat races and the feature event. It was estimated that 350 people were on hand. You say that's not much of a crowd, but I'll bet you that when some of the super stars of NASCAR started racing, they raced for smaller crowds than that. Most of these drivers are now retired or deceased. Like most anything that grows, it has to crawl before it begins to walk, and in turn walk before it can run. If you were one of the 350 people there Saturday night, I bet you got your money's worth.

I wish it were possible for me to give you an eye witness account of what took place Saturday night at Andrews Motor Speedway. Not being able to remember all that occurred, I'll try to give you a little description of what happened in the following paragraphs:

After "irrigating" the track (that keeps the dust down) the track announcer asked the drivers to get ready for time trials. About 8:15 the first of two 12-lap heats got underway. The winner of each heat was to receive \$10. for his services. Six cars participated in each heat. Before the first heat one of the cars had to pull off the starting line and go to the pits for repairs. He re-entered the

heat after about nine laps were run. He knew he had no chance, but he came to run, and if running were possible he meant to do just that.

The first heat was won by Rex Ledford of Hayesville driving a Chevrolet. The second heat was won by W.T. "Lightning" Mauldin of Murphy in a push button Plymouth. Both boys were now in the money. No matter what happened in the feature they would leave with a profit. The entrance fee was \$5.00 so now they had a profit of \$5.00.

After about thirty minutes intermission which was not planned but necessary for some of the drivers to patch up and make necessary repairs to their cars, the grueling 50-lap feature got underway.

"Blue Sue" an off-breed car had the inside pole and got off to a fast start and built up a half lap lead with George Postell and Rex Ledford in hot pursuit at the end of four laps. Going into the fifth lap on the back straightaway Robert Cutchaw was either crowded out or lost control and went outside the track and half way down the embankment. But before doing so, he took down about three light poles and lights. The race was stopped and his car was pulled back on the track by the wrecker. After checking over his car he re-entered the race but had to fall in to the rear.

On about the 15th lap with "Blue Sue" almost a lap ahead of everyone else, "Sue" broke a drag link or tie rod and instead of negotiating the first turn kept going straight ahead instead of turning. She bounced about three feet in the air and went halfway out of the track. That was the death kiss for "Blue Sue". Had she stayed in the race, she might have won. Again after a short delay, the race was resumed under the green flag. On the 24th lap the race was again stopped. This time "Lightning" Mauldin ran off the track on the back side at just about the same place that Cutchaw took off. He too took out four more light poles and lights. At this stage of the race, the third and fourth turns were almost dark. You could see the cars going into the third turn and barely see them

coming off the fourth onto the front straightaway. "Lightning" got his car back on the track and resumed racing after falling into the rear of the pack.

After the race resumed once again, Ledford was in the lead and on the 30th lap Postell overtook Ledford and led for about five laps with Ledford right on his bumper. On the 36th lap, Postell failed to make the fourth turn and headed for the ticket office and stopped just short of it. The race was stopped for Postell to make a tire change. This would have given Ledford the lead, but he too decided to change his right front tire. This forced both boys to resume the race at the rear end, giving "Lightning" Mauldin the lead with about seven of the starting twelve cars still running. Mauldin was soon passed by Postell and Ledford with Ledford the winner, Postell second and Mauldin third. Ledford received \$100.00 for his efforts.

It was quite a race and the spectators really got their money's worth.

The A.M.R. takes you back about 18 years if you have been following stock car racing. If you are not a racing fan and you would like to see just how stock car racing was born and to see it given birth here in the western part of western N.C., then you need to see the next race at the only closed circuit between Asheville, N.C. and Cleveland, Tenn.

"Mousey" Conley, Owner, promoter, part-time flagman, and sometimes driver informs us that in spite of the beating the track took plus the light poles and lights have to be replaced plus improvements to the track, that a race will be held this Saturday night. He also announced that on Wednesday night May 31st at 8:00 p.m. a meeting will be held for the drivers, car owners and interested persons at the track. All owners, drivers and prospective owners and drivers are requested to be present.

So fellows get ready, they'll be off and running again Saturday night. Remember, at the A.M.R. you can run what you bring as long as it meets safety specifications.



JOEL MASHBURN (third from left) is this month's winner in Clifton Precision's Zero Defects Award program. Mashburn, a rotor grinder, suggested a method of improving the accuracy of the job he performs. Pictured with him are (l to r) Group leader Roger Ford, stator grinder Robert Hollon and supervisor Carl Conner.

Town Board Holds Special Session

The Murphy Town Board met in a special session Monday night to dispose of business pending from the regular May meeting. No action was taken at the regular meeting on May 8 because of a lack of a quorum.

Mayor Cloe Moore and Board members W.T. Brown, Jerry Hatchett, W.A. Singleton, Francis Bourne, Jr. and Kenneth Godfrey were present Monday night.

The Board accepted the low bid of Burch Motors for a truck on which the town's newly purchased garbage disposal unit

will be mounted. Bids were also received from E.C. Moore and Ed Townson Auto Co.

A budget request for \$2,813 for the summer recreation program was considered. One thousand dollars of this amount had already been allocated.

The Board accepted Godfrey's motion that another \$1,000 be paid in two \$500 installments on June 1 and July 1.

Dr. Paul Hill notified the Board by letter that he is resigning as a member of the Murphy Housing Authority effective June 1.

An ordinance was adopted which would make the owner responsible for payment of the water bill in a dwelling in which two or more tenants are on the same water meter.

Town Clerk C.E. Johnson had advised the Board that in some instances where two or more tenants are on the same meter, there has been difficulty in collecting the bill from one user and he felt some action was needed that would enable the Town to collect delinquent bills without penalizing other families on the same meter.

The Board refused to adopt a newly drawn ordinance which would have regulated U-turns in the business district.

Singleton made a motion that the ordinance be voted on, but there was no second to his

motion and no vote was taken.

A tax permit was granted to R.V. Dockery.

The Board discussed recommendations of the State Highway Department to improve traffic control in downtown area.

State Highway officials met with some Board members this week and made recommendations for a new traffic light arrangement at the square. The arrangement would include a left-turn arrow.

No formal action was taken on the traffic light proposal Monday night.

Injured In Wreck, Needs 40 Stitches

Herman Hayden Jones, 45, of Murphy, suffered severe head cuts last Thursday when a pick-up truck he was driving collided with a car four miles east of Murphy on US 64.

Highway Patrolman Pat Miller said Jones, travelling east, was attempting to make a left turn off the highway when his truck was hit by a car driven by Cline Hicks, 27, of Hayesville, travelling west.

Hicks was not injured. A passenger in his car, Samuel Roach of Hayesville, sustained cuts and bruises.

Forty stitches were required to treat Jones' cuts. Miller said Hicks' car was a total loss and damage to Jones' truck was estimated at \$600.

Jones was charged with failure to yield the right of way, according to Miller.

Senior Citizens From 4 Counties Attend Meeting

Members of Senior Citizen clubs from throughout Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain counties met at the Andrews Community Center last Wednesday afternoon.

The theme of the joint meeting was "Meeting The Challenge Of The Later Years" by "proving that ability has no age," according to Mrs. Lucy Laughter, Coordinator for Cherokee County Senior Citizens.

Jack Frauson, Executive Director of Four-Square Community Action, Inc., and Donald Gregory, Director of the Outreach Program, spoke to the group briefly.

Frauson expressed pleasure at the progress the Senior Citizens Groups are making. He told The Scout after the meeting that he is particularly impressed by the fact that a majority of the members of clubs in the four-county area had never belonged to any organization before.

This indicates that the Outreach Program is reaching one of its objectives by getting people to actively participate in a group, he said.

May is being observed as Senior Citizen Month.

Forty persons attended the meeting in Andrews.

mentary School, 387; White Church, 281; and Unaka, 224.

New filmstrips include 22 at Peachtree, 20 at Hiwassee Dam High School, 19 at Martins Creek, 17 at Ranger, 15 at Unaka and one at White Church.

Ranger received 126 new records. There were 37 added at Peachtree. Unaka and Martins Creek received 34 each. White Church added 24 and Hiwassee Dam Elementary School got 14.

The total circulation of books in the county schools was 78,505. Filmstrip circulation was 1,409 and 2,052 records were checked out.

It has long been my contention that libraries should be inviting and young people should be encouraged to use these facilities as much as possible.

The improvements made in the county schools under this program indicate the Federal funds invested in libraries in Cherokee County were well spent and have gone a long way toward realizing a worthy objective.

Draft Board To Close Next Week

The Cherokee County Draft Board Office will be closed next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, May 29-31, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

269 To Graduate From County High Schools

Graduation exercises were held last Friday at Hiwassee Dam High School and programs are scheduled this Friday at Andrews High School and Murphy High School.

Fifty-one graduates received their diplomas at Hiwassee Dam. The awards were made by Principal Harest King.

Salutatorian Judy Morrow issued "A Welcome To Our Friends" and Valedictorian Jeanette Farmer spoke on "The Challenge of Youth".

Rev. Exum Baker preached the Baccalaureate Sermon to the Hiwassee-Dam Seniors on May 14.

A class of 73 will receive diplomas at Andrews High School on Friday at 8 p.m. from Superintendent C.O. Frazier.

The address will be made by Dr. Douglas Reid Sasser, of Young Harris College.

Seven honor students will

speak to the class. They are Cathy Van Gorder, Jim Sur-savage, Gerald Bryson, Susan Ulm, Boyd Rogers, Howard McMahan and Joy Bristol.

The Rev. Dr. R.E. McClure Executive Secretary of the Asheville Presbytery (Retired), preached the Andrews Baccalaureate Sermon last Sunday.

The Murphy High School graduating class of 145 will receive their diplomas from Superintendent John Jordan Friday night at 8 p.m.

Salutatorian Larry Gene Hunsucker will discuss "Apathy and Education" and Valedictorian Kathryn Elizabeth Ressel will speak on "Innovations In Education".

Judy Marie Quim, president of the student body, will speak on "Looking Ahead to Responsibility".

The Baccalaureate Sermon was preached Sunday by Rev. W. Thornton Hawkins.

Golf Course Meeting Scheduled Tonight

W. Frank Forsyth, chairman of the Membership Committee for the proposed recreation complex near Murphy, said a special meeting will be held tonight (Thursday) at 8 o'clock at the Murphy Power Board in an effort to put the membership drive over the top.

The Cherokee County Rural Renewal Authority will apply to the Farmers Home Administration for a \$250,000 loan to construct the complex.

"If we can get 300 potential members signed up, I believe the loan will be approved," Forsyth told the Scout.

The Membership Committee is accepting a \$10 initial fee from potential users and the money is being put into an escrow account until the loan is closed.

If the complex is built, the user fee will be \$10 per month or \$120 per year.

Forsyth urges all persons who are interested in the project to attend tonight's meeting. He said it is hoped that the application can be submitted before the end of the current fiscal year, June 30.

He said tonight's meeting, in addition to giving interested persons an opportunity to express their support, will be used to bring the public up to date on the status of the application.

The Authority has an option to purchase a 400-acre tract

of the J. B. Mulkey property three miles east of Murphy.

Present plans call for an 18-hole golf course and a small lake at the site. A children's recreation area, hiking and riding trails, and a tennis court are also planned, according to Mack Ray, Rural Renewal Leader.

Forsyth's statement on the need for potential members follows Ray's remark last week that "approval (of the loan) will depend on the acceptance and attitude of the local people."

11 From Area Graduate At WCC

CULLOWHEE--Eleven students from the Cherokee and Clay counties area were among 320 who received degrees Sunday at Western Carolina College.

Gary Ronald Chambers, Rt. 5, Murphy; William Henry Haney, Rt. 4, Murphy; Wiley Dan McGlamery, Rt. 2, Hayesville; Carol Jean Smith, Rt. 1, Brasstown; Gay Lynn Smith, Rt. 1, Murphy and Lester Lee Stowe, Rt. 1, Murphy received Bachelor of Science degrees.

Mitchell Benton Birchfield, Rt. 1, Marble; Karen Jo Galloway, Hiwassee, Ga.; Carolyn Mae Graves, Murphy; Judy Ann Nichols, Andrews, Skyland, formerly of Murphy, received Bachelor of Science in Education degrees.

10th Anniversary Train To Retrace 58-61 Route

By Capt. Frank W. Swan (Ret.) ANDREWS, N.C.-- North Carolina's oldest and original wagon train will celebrate its 10th Anniversary trip July 2-4 by retracing the route of 1958-61 trains from Tellico Plains, Tenn., to Murphy, N.C. in a final attempt to gain approval and construction of a road connecting the two towns.

Pointing out the need for a paved road between the two mountain towns was the primary purpose for the organization of the first wagon train at Tellico Plains a decade ago. Wagon trains with upward of 100 covered wagons and 500 horseback riders made the 40 mile trek ending in Murphy on July 4 for four years, but a road was never completed over the wagon trail.

Tennessee eventually built a paved road from Tellico Plains to the North Carolina line, but the road dead-ends there.

In 1962 the wagon train followed a new route from Tellico Plains to Robbinsville, N.C., and on to Andrews, N.C. This route ran through National Forest land and the resulting publicity prompted the Federal government to agree to build a paved road from the Tennessee town to

Robbinsville. This road is now nearing completion, but there is still no direct route from North Carolina's western-most town of Murphy across the mountain to Tellico Plains.

In addition to turning the publicity spotlight on the need for more paved roads through North Carolina's mountains, the wagon train has grown into a major event of the summer for the Western tip of the state, attracting hundreds of horsemen from throughout the Southeast to join the train and thousands of vacationers who come to view the spectacle.

Following this example, a number of other wagon trains have been formed in Western North Carolina, North Georgia, and Tennessee and these events also enjoy much popularity.

The Western Carolina Riding Club and The American Legion of Andrews have been the guiding hand in the organization of the wagon train trips for the past five years.

In 1963 and 1964 the train made round trips between Andrews and Hayesville, N.C. and for the past two years the train rolled from Andrews to Franklin, N.C. Each year the trains have been planned to reach trail's end on July

4.

The organizers point out that all the wagon train trips are non-profit and each one on the train pay their own expenses and have been dedicated to showing the need for better roads in the mountain area, as well as to continue the fun and spectacle of the authentic event.

For the 10th anniversary trip, everyone agreed that it was fitting to make one more effort to secure approval of the road that prompted the train's organization. This year's main trip will require three days of riding thru the rugged East Tennessee and Western North Carolina mountains, and the train will camp two nights along the trail. Those who would like to join the trains can get complete details from W.C. Riding Club in Andrews or the Tellico Plains, Tenn. Kiwanis Club.

The Andrews section of the wagon train will assemble at the Ball Park on the afternoon of June 27, leave Andrews morning, June 28, camp Murphy first night, near N.C. Tenn. line second night, into Tellico Plains June 30 to join main train to start back to Murphy July 2, arriving 2 p.m. July 4. Plans for the 1968 train are now in progress.



Federal Funds Improve County School Libraries

By Dave Bruce

Libraries in the schools of the Cherokee County unit have shown a tremendous increase in the number of books available and the total circulation and a great improvement in library facilities in the past year.

Figures released this week by Library Supervisor, Mrs. Nancy Helms, show a total expenditure of \$23,825.38 in the school libraries. Federal funds account for over \$21,000 of the total while the State provided \$1,327 and local funds used were \$1,246.80.

Mrs. Helms said the Federal funds were provided under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The program under this act has been in operation since March 1966.

Seven full-time library aides are now employed, one for each school library. Prior to the beginning of this program, teachers worked in the library in their spare time and much of the time, the libraries were unattended, Mrs. Helms pointed out.

The library aides are: Mrs. Virginia Burgess, Ranger; Mrs. Harry Bagley, Hiwassee Dam High School; Mrs. Vesta Stiles, Hiwassee Dam Elementary School; Mrs. Helen Mason, Unaka; Mrs. Boyd Rogers, White Church; Mrs. Emalene Clontz, Peachtree; and Mrs. Alice Chastain, Martins Creek.

Before the library aides were hired, "many of the li-

braries were nothing more than junk and storage rooms" and most schools did not have a card catalog, Mrs. Helms said.

A total of 3,437 books have been added to the shelves of the libraries under the current program.

In addition to books, 94 filmstrips and 269 records have been added to the libraries.

The most impressive gain in circulation is at Ranger School. Circulation was about 3,000 there last year. This year's figure is 21,482.

Federal funds have been used to pay the total cost of tape recorders, audio-visual aids, maps, globes, and furniture. The Federal aid also pays the total salaries of the library aides.

The Story Hour for the younger students has become a regular feature at the libraries under this program. The children are shown filmstrips and play folk games with the records. The record supply includes story records.

Another improvement has been the addition of new magazine subscriptions for the libraries. Ranger, for instance, was getting no magazines a year ago and now has 21 magazine subscriptions.

The number of books added during the past year in each library is: Ranger, 873; Hiwassee Dam High School, 668; Martins Creek, 514; Peach-

tree, 490; Hiwassee Dam Ele-