



Cherokee County Wrecks Fatal To Four

County Highway Death Toll Leaps To 13 As Year Ends



THREE PERSONS MET A FIERY DEATH in a head-on collision between this station wagon and a truck pulling a mobile home Thursday afternoon on US 42 in Cherokee County...

County about one mile north of the Georgia line. (Photo by Weaver Carringer).



HOYT BEAVERS of Rt. 2, Murphy was killed when his car ran off the road about three miles from Unaka Saturday night or Sunday morning. (Photo by Jack Owens).

Cherokee County ended 1967 with a total of 13 alcohol-related deaths as four persons were killed in two accidents during the closing days of the year. These were in traffic deaths in the county during 1967. Three persons were killed in a fiery head-on crash involving a station wagon and a truck pulling a mobile home Thursday on US 42 about one mile north of the Georgia line and one man died late Saturday or early Sunday in another car wreck on state road 4826 in the Unaka area. The victims were: Patty Beth Bracken, 14, of Rt. 4, Hayesville, the driver of the station wagon. Her sister, Pamela Ann Bracken, 6, of Rt. 4, Hayesville, a passenger in the station wagon. Haywood Shawk, 37, of Waycross, Ga., the driver of the truck. Hoyt Beavers, 34, of Rt. 2, Murphy, the driver of the car that crashed on state road 4826.

CLIFF BLUE... People & Issues



WINNING ON PAPER... Oftentimes you can sit down and on paper figure out how to win an election but when the votes are counted, open your eyes to realize that the people are pretty independent when it comes to ballot marking. In 1964 at one time it looked like Rich Preyer couldn't lose with the support of Terry Sanford and his administration, with the support of the education leaders, with the support of the Negroes REA, and the party machinery all working for him. Preyer's defeat and Dan Moore's victory goes to prove that while the leadership of various organizations representing a great percentage of the voters may be for one candidate, the rank and file of the members may resent the efforts of the leaders to "deliver" their votes. In 1964 was about the best evidence of this that we can think of. There was a day when many, many people wanted to get on the "bandwagon" -- wanted to line up for the winner. With the people becoming better educated they are getting away from this philosophy and don't hesitate for a minute to vote for the "underdog". In fact it now seems that sometimes "underdog" is the best vantage point from which to run for public office. Harry Truman was the "underdog" in his successful 1948 campaign. Dan Moore was for many weeks the "underdog" in his successful campaign for governor in 1964. Many of the politicians still try hard to "pick the winner" before supporting a candidate but most of the voters mark the man or woman they really want and this is good. RANDOLPH DEMOCRATS... The Randolph County Democratic Executive Committee got out an unusual "Season's Greetings" brochure for Christmas. Letters from all the officials of the County Executive Committee were enclosed in the brochure along with a message from State Party Chairman Tim Valentine and from National Chairman John M. Bailey.

Moore Calls '67 A Year Of Emergence

Governor Dan K. Moore called 1967 "a year of emergence for North Carolina" in his year-end report to the people last Friday. "Long sought goals have been realized, and our sights have been shifted to greater goals," he said. The state "faced the complex problems of social and economic change, not in a haphazard manner, but with deliberation and determination," the Governor declared. He noted that the population of North Carolina passed the five million mark in the early fall and nonfarm employment reached a record high of 1.6 million in November. Moore called the year "one of special significance in the broad area of State-supported education." He said seven new institutions were added to the community college system and better than 25% of the population is now within commuting distance of one of these schools. "While developing greater employment and educational opportunities for all," Moore said, "the state has sought positive means of eliminating conditions that breed frustration and hatred." He noted that the highway program has continued at what he called "an accelerating pace." The traffic safety program has been strengthened and "progress has been made in reducing the rate of deaths on our highways, but still far too many of our citizens have been killed or maimed," the Governor said. "We are not satisfied and we must not be complacent in the year ahead," Moore concluded, because of "much that remains to be done."

Got Caught While Talking About It

"And to think it caught me while I was talking about it." A young Tar Heel motorist got acquainted quickly with the State Highway Patrol's new speed-timing device, VASCAR, on the first day the instrument was authorized for arrest purposes. Trooper D. J. Bryson of Asheville tells this story of a 17-year-old Alexander youth he arrested for speeding with VASCAR on December 1. "This is December 1," the youth was quoted as telling a friend in the car, "the day the Highway Patrol starts using that new machine. I've got to be careful and not let them catch me with that thing." His friend remarked, "You may already be caught, there's a blue light flashing behind you." Trooper Bryson says he asked the driver how fast he was traveling, and the young driver reported between 70-75 mph. "I then showed him the VASCAR with a reading of 73 mph, and all he said was 'That's right, where do I pay the ticket,'" the trooper stated. "He entered a plea of guilty and paid the fine and costs." Major Edwin Guy, who heads the Patrol's Enforcement Division, reports the initial phases of VASCAR utilization by the Patrol to curb speeders on the highways "has been highly successful." "During the first two weeks of December," the Patrol officer said, "there have been 195 speeding arrests with VASCAR. About half of these cases have been disposed of in court, and there have been no contested cases." The Patrol began using VASCAR for arrest purposes on December 1 after many months of testing and training with the new instrument. Governor Moore authorized the use of the new speed-timing device in mid-October when he called for a "no quarters" attack on the chronic and habitual traffic law violators. At that time, the governor announced the purchase of 100 VASCAR units and the doubling of Breathalyzers in use by the Patrol. Seventy of the chemical testing instruments are in the field now. VASCAR is a mechanical computer, about the size of a cigar box, which is situated in the patrol car so that it can be utilized as easily as can the trooper's radio. VASCAR automatically computes the average speed of the vehicle being timed. It can do this by timing the vehicle moving between two specific points. With time and distance in the machine, the switch and the sweep arm points to the average speed. The Patrol is now operating 75 units with the remaining 25 scheduled for delivery in early 1968. "These units are spread throughout the state and are in the hands of trained operators," Major Guy said. The troopers are trained and certified by the N. C. Department of Community Colleges. This training includes a full day in the classroom, over-the-road training with an instructor, along and 30 days use on the highways.



Patty Beth Bracken



Pamela Ann Bracken

Postal Increases Effective Sunday

Increased rates for all classes of mail except parcel post and international mail will go into effect Sunday, Postmaster Joe Ray reminded postal customers today. "Even with the new rates of six cents for first-class mail and 10-cents for air mail, postal service is still a real bargain," Postmaster Ray declared. "For six cents you can send a letter to any of the 50 states, to any United States territory or possession, to Canada or Mexico, or to an American serviceman stationed anywhere in the world." Postmaster Ray pointed out that the new rate for post cards will be five cents and for air mail post cards eight cents. He said the added cent in the letter rate is a 20 per cent increase compared to a 24 per cent boost in the rates for mailing newspapers and magazines and a 34 per cent hike for advertising circulars, "occupant" mail, and other material in the third-class category. The new rate of six cents per ounce for first-class mail applies up to 13 ounces and the new rate of 10 cents per ounce for air mail applies up to 7 ounces. Under the new rate structure all first-class mail over 13 ounces and all air mail over 7 ounces will be merged into a single category. "These heavier pieces of first-class and air mail subject to the single rate schedule will be delivered by the fastest available means of transportation. A flat rate of 80 cents will be charged for all mail in this category up to one pound. On all mail weighing more than one pound, the present air parcel post rates will continue to apply, except that the postage on matter weighing between one and five pounds will change at half-pound intervals rather than one pound intervals. Postmaster Ray said that the new rate structure will mean a reduction of postage on some parcels. Another rate change that will affect the general public is the increase from four to six cents for the first two ounces of individual pieces of third-class mail. "Sealed greeting cards may be sent at this rate," Postmaster Ray said. He emphasized that the new rate on unsealed greeting cards will not go into effect until January 7 and until then they can be mailed at the old rate of four cents. There will be no changes in the charges for special delivery, special handling, registered mail, certified mail, cash on delivery or insurance, Postmaster Ray said. "We have an ample supply of one-cent stamps on hand," Postmaster Ray said, "for those people who have five-cent stamps and need one-cent stamps to make up the postage required under the new rates." Higher rates also will go into effect January 7 for all categories of second-class mail, bulk-rate third-class mail, controlled circulation mail, and the educational materials category of fourth-class mail. Mailers using these classes who need information on the new rates should contact the local Post Office, Postmaster Ray said.

Large Safe Hauled From Grocery Store

The Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and FBI Agent James M. Nix are investigating the theft of a 1,600 pound safe Friday night from Fair Grocers in the Hanging Dog section. Sheriff Glenn Holloway said the safe contained about \$7,000, mostly in cash. A substantial amount of the money was believed to be payment on electric bills to Blue Ridge Mountain EMC in Young Harris, Ga. Fair accepts payments from customers for the electric cooperative. Holloway said the robbers broke down the back door of the building and rolled the safe to a truck. He added that the truck tire tracks were visible when officers arrived at the scene. John Marlin, manager of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, issued a statement seeking the cooperation of persons whose electric payments may have been in the safe. "Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Fair and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC have been making an effort to establish a list of all members who paid their current due electric bill through Fair Grocery. "All members who paid their bills should confirm this payment in name and amount to Fair or the cooperative. To date, only a few people have done this. Those who have paid by check should notify their bank and stop payment on the check."

Craft Classes To Be Organized

It would be appreciated by the cooperative if those people would issue a new check clearing their individual account. "All members who have paid their bill to the Fair Grocery are requested to hold their receipts and stubs as evidence of payment in case such is called for. "The rules and regulations under which the cooperative operates require that delinquent notices be mailed to all members whose payments have not yet been received in the office. "If your payment is a victim of the robbery, please notify either Mr. Fair or the cooperative in the billing name and the amount." John Marlin, manager of Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, issued a statement seeking the cooperation of persons whose electric payments may have been in the safe. "Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Fair and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC have been making an effort to establish a list of all members who paid their current due electric bill through Fair Grocery. "All members who paid their bills should confirm this payment in name and amount to Fair or the cooperative. To date, only a few people have done this. Those who have paid by check should notify their bank and stop payment on the check."

Live It One Day At A Time

I had heard the song many times before, but the line never hit me like it did on New Year's Eve. "Yesterday's dead and tomorrow is blind, I live one day at a time," says Willie Nelson in the song he wrote and recorded. Yesterday was almost dead then and tomorrow hadn't quite arrived so it was with mixed emotions that I listened and decided that one must, indeed, live just one day at a time. When 1967 arrived, who would have dared to predict that Cherokee County would record 13 traffic fatalities in the year ahead after a deathless 1966. Tomorrow is blind. The news of the four deaths in the past week stunned me when I returned to Murphy Monday from a vacation in which I drove through six states, including about 300 miles of roads covered with snow and ice in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and Kentucky. The tragic news made me more appreciative of the safe journey my family and I enjoyed. On a happier note, when 1967 arrived, who would have predicted that the most original sound on the year would be a Chickasaw County girl by the name of Bobbie Gentry. Was it a doubt, Bobbie's "Ode to Billy Joe" made her the most refreshing thing to come out of Mississippi in years. But then, Mississippi isn't exactly noted for having anything refreshing and new. Realizing that 1968 is blind, I'll venture forth with things I hope to see in the year ahead: A repeat of 1966 on Cherokee County Highways. The nomination and election of Terry Sanford to the U. S. Senate. The reelection of President Johnson. The start of construction on the Appalachian highways in our area. A reversal of Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall's veto of the transmountain road. At least a feeble start toward completing an all-weather road from Murphy to Tellico Plains, Tenn. An honorable end to the war in Vietnam. It's a big order I'm putting in for 1968 and I don't expect to have it all fulfilled. Let's live it one day at a time.