

Three Held Without Bond On Arson Charges

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I would like to point out to the people of Murphy the valuable services that the Sisters of Providence have rendered in our town. They have been good enough to furnish the physicians some excellent equipment to work with. The operating and delivery room equipment will compare very favorably with any other small hospital in the state.

The sisters have furnished some very valuable paramedical personnel that is not duplicated in any other small hospital that I am familiar with. They have a registered medical librarian, operating room supervisor, nurse anesthetist, x-ray and laboratory technician, and dietician. It would be impossible to get equally qualified personnel to come to a small town. All of the above has been furnished without one cent of state, federal, town, or county money.

We are all greatly aware of the need for a new hospital building, and I'm sure the town is going to make a tremendous effort to obtain it. The Murphy Hospital Board has done some excellent work. Sincerely,
 Helen Wells, M. D.

(Editor's note: The Scout is aware of the valuable services the Sisters of Providence render to the Murphy area. The community should be grateful for their presence here. However, we shall continue to maintain that more and better medical facilities are a vital necessity in Murphy.)

Dear Editor:

Since we have been subjected to talk regarding Cherokee County's Hospitals by people who are novices in this field, a few cold facts might light the dark a bit. Cherokee is a small, poor county with three hospitals all of which have a forty percent empty beds for any year and all three hospitals have deficits every year. How would a so called dry county like ours pay the deficit on a publicly owned hospital, much less building a facility that would be licensed?

Many counties in the state have county owned hospitals and our neighboring county of Haywood is a fair example and it requires eighteen percent of their budget just to pay the deficit of Haywood County Hospital. Wake County, a large wealthy county, pays almost one million dollars annually to keep their county hospital open.

All publicly owned hospitals are cursed with bad management by reason of politics which insures that no good business methods are used in their operation. If those tenderfoots who want five thousand dollars to just make a survey would come forward with this money and pay the hospitals for some of this charity they all bear and the county has no funds for it and forces the three hospitals to do thousands of dollars for charity or let them die in the street and when you save their lives some of them will not pay the hospital one cent. Cherokee is much better equipped than most small counties.

This county needs doctors, not buildings. There are three nice hospitals with modern laboratories, X Rays, and other adequate equipment in this county.
 F. V. Taylor

Radio Club To Be Organized

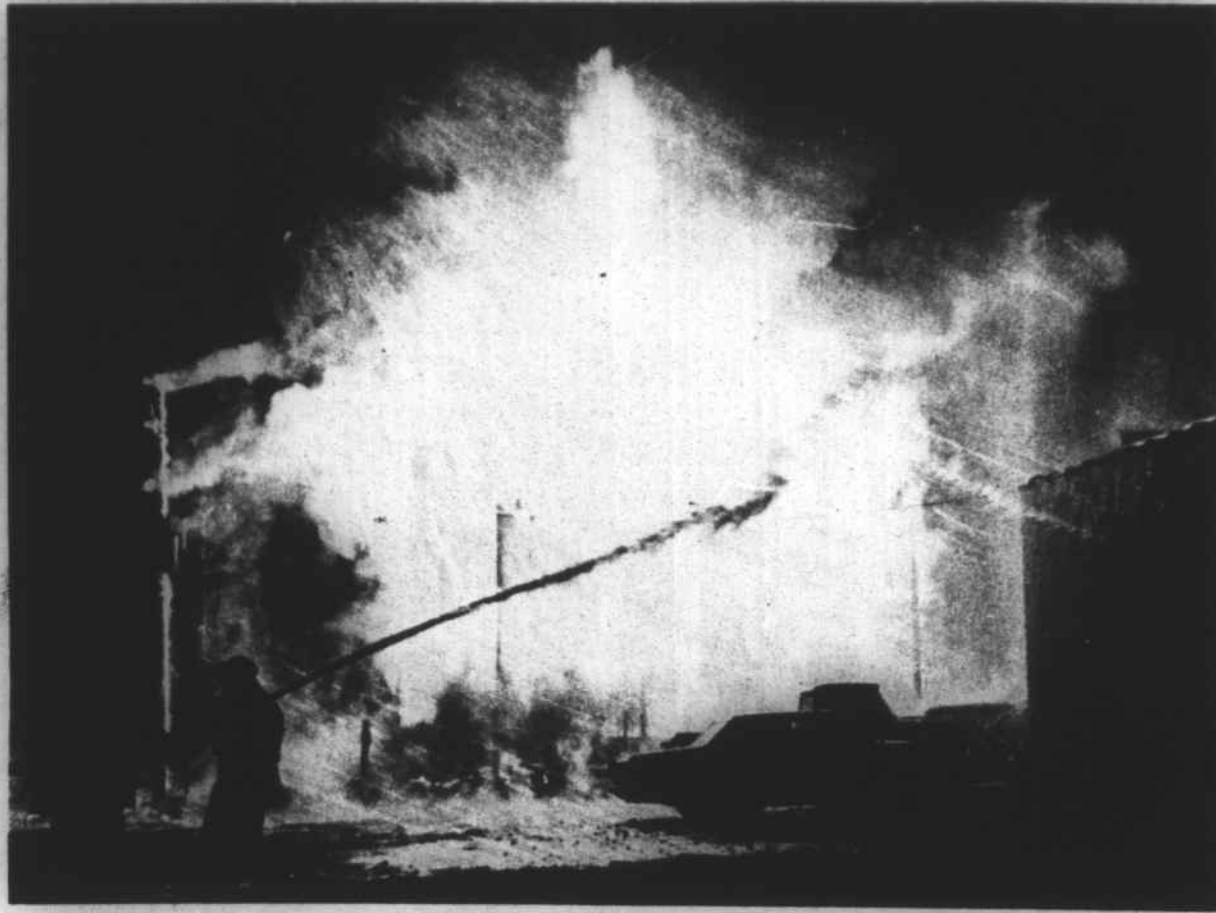
A meeting will be held tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 at the studios of Radio Station WKRK to organize an amateur radio club.

All interested persons are invited to attend.

Adult Sewing Class Planned

An adult sewing class will begin at Murphy High School next Thursday night. Classes will be held from 7:30 to 9:30.

Miss Jewell Garrett will be the instructor.



MURPHY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN spent seven hours battling a series of downtown fires early Tuesday morning in sub-freezing temperatures. In this photo, the firemen play a stream of water on an abandoned house behind City Barber Shop (right). The flames had spread to the utility pole at the left and the power lines shorted out as this photo was made. (Photo by Jack Owens)

Fire Damage Heavy In Downtown Area

Three men were charged with arson Tuesday morning in connection with a series of fires that broke out in downtown Murphy just before midnight Monday.

Chief of Police Pete Stalcup identified the trio as Steve Killian, Bobby Dockery and Don Wolfe.

He said they were arrested about 12:30 a.m. Tuesday in downtown Murphy by members of the Murphy Police Department.

The three will be held without bond at the Cherokee County Jail until a hearing is held before the District Court Judge.

Murphy Volunteer Firemen battled the fires in sub-freezing temperatures until about 7 a.m. Tuesday.

The flames, leaping high into the air, were visible for miles around the town. The fires Monday night were far more damaging than a similar series of blazes that broke out last April 3.

One of the places destroyed Monday night, a house owned by Hadley Dickey, was involved in last year's fires. Stalcup said the fire Monday was set in the same place in the house as the earlier fire.

The Dickey House blaze spread to the body shop of Burch Motors.

The Fabric Shop and apartments overhead were destroyed on Tennessee St. The Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio, next to the Fabric Shop, suffered heavy water damage but the fixtures were removed.

An abandoned house behind the Tennessee St. buildings was destroyed along with a car Stalcup said belonged to Dal Reece. It was parked behind the Fabric Shop.

The rear of Hughes Electric was damaged in the fire. Sparks from the major blazes set fire to the roof of a house owned by Addie Mae Cook on Hickory St. There was heavy water damage to an upstairs apartment in the house.

The early firefighters were called out again around 9 a.m. Tuesday when a tree caught fire, apparently from sparks that smoldered all night.

No estimate of damage was available.

Mayor Proclaims History Month

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States by Joint Resolution designated February as American History Month; and

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Legislature of February 1963 passed Resolution #11 designating February as American History Month; and

WHEREAS, law or government alone could never bind 200,000,000 Americans together as a Nation; this is the result of a rich heritage, common convictions, and the fraternity of brave men and women who carved a great nation out of the wilderness; and

Whereas, it is through study and appreciation of our American Heritage that we can preserve our freedom and independence for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Cloe Moore as Mayor of the Town of Murphy State of North Carolina do hereby proclaim the month of February 1968 as

AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

and do call upon all our citizens in the Town of Murphy to observe American History Month with appropriate ceremonies and related activities in our schools, and in our civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations, and in all suitable places.

Cloe Moore
 Mayor

Grant Approved For Marble Water System

U. S. Rep. Roy A. Taylor has announced that federal funds totaling \$201,000 are being made available to help Marble, North Carolina, build a new water system.

A grant of \$100,500 is being provided by the Economic Development Administration and a loan of \$100,500 has been approved by the Farmers Home Administration.

In their application, Marble officials stated that inadequate water supply and fire protection have hampered efforts to attract job-generating industries to the area.

Taylor said EDA approved the project because Cherokee County has organized and planned for economic development.

Lions' Bear Dinner Sunday

The annual "Mike Brown" Bear Dinner and Mid-winter Cabinet meeting of District 31-A Lions Club will be held Sunday at the Robbinsville School Cafeteria. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m.

The first "Mike Brown" Bear Dinner was held in Phillips Restaurant in 1952 with 14 Lions present. Congressman Roy A. Taylor was District Governor at that time. Since that date the dinner has become an annual event.

The dinner is named for Lion Mike Brown who was the host at the first dinner and arranged for the serving of bear meat. Lion Brown is a charter member of the Robbinsville Lions Club, which last month celebrated its 30th anniversary. He has long been noted throughout the state for his faithful service to Lionism and particularly in regard to his work with the blind.

Rural Heart Week Planned

Rural Heart Week will be observed February 19-25, according to Mrs. Miriam Moore, Heart Fund Chairman for the western portion of Cherokee County.

The week will end with Heart Sunday on the 25th.

Soliciting for the Heart Fund will be under the direction of the following community chairmen during the week: Letitia-Suit-Harry Bagley, Wehuty-Rev. Black, Violet, Mrs. Lottie Murphy, Hiwassee Dam-Mrs. Earl J. Watts, Unaka - Mrs. Alice Morley, Ebenezer-Mrs. Grace Hall, Grape Creek-Betty Haigler, Texanna-Mrs. Katherine Sudderth, Grandview, Mrs. Eugene Fair, Pleasant Valley-Mrs. Harry Moore and Mrs. John Gill, Bellview-Mrs. Frank H. Hughes, Ranger-Culberson-Charles L. Forrister, Martins Creek-Brasstown, Mrs. Don Hughes, and Peachtree.

Girl Scouts will be working on balloon and tag days, February 23-24 with Mrs. R. V. Dockery as chairman.

Boy Scouts are scheduled to solicit in Murphy on Heart Sunday.

Coffee days will be this Friday and Saturday.

Alice Brady Signs Recording Contract

Mary Alice Brady of Rt. 1, Andrews signed a recording and songwriting contract with Atco Records and Atco Music of Cincinnati last Thursday.

The contract was negotiated by Eugene Ledford of Marble.

Her first record, under the name Alice Brady, is scheduled for release on April 10. The songs, which she wrote, are "Soldier Boy" and "My Lord Cares For Me."

She is backed on the record by the Anderson Parker Singers of the Andrews-Top-ton area.

"I've been waiting 11 years to get a recording contract," she said, "I've been dreaming for 11 years."

She plays the organ and has been writing gospel songs since she was 15 years old.

Mary Alice lives in the Nantahala section with her husband, Terrell, and three children, Rickey, Jimmy and Maria.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rube Guffey of Top-ton.

Medicare Enrollment Period Ends April 1

All older people in Western North Carolina who are now covered only by the hospital insurance part of Medicare are reminded by James E. Robertson, Asheville social security district manager, that they have just a few weeks left to sign up for the voluntary medical insurance plan.

"Almost 18 million people--92 percent of those over 65--have already enrolled for the 'doctor bill insurance' to supplement their basic hospital insurance coverage under Medicare," Robertson stated. "And during its first 18 months this program helped pay over \$28 million medical bills, totaling nearly \$1.3 billion."

Robertson noted, however, that about 1.6 million people 65 and over missed out on their first chance to sign up for this supplementary medical insurance. He stated that the Social Security Administration has mailed the necessary enrollment forms "to all who have the basic hospital insurance protection but have never enrolled for the voluntary 'doctor bill insurance' plan. However, no enrollment card forms can be sent to about 1 1/2 million older Americans who have never applied even for the hospital insurance. Their current add-

resses are unknown to the Social Security Administration.

"Practically everyone now over 65 is eligible for the voluntary medical insurance," he emphasized--"whether or not he or she has ever worked under Social Security, and whether retired or still working." He urged persons 65 and over who are not signed up for this doctor bill insurance part of Medicare to "get in touch with your Social Security Office if you do not receive an enrollment card by mail in the next few days."

Robertson listed "eight important reasons" why older people who don't have this supplementary Medicare protection "should seriously consider enrolling right away, and safely before April 1 when the enrollment period ends":

1. This is an excellent insurance buy at the \$4 premium rate, which is only half of the cost of the protection. The Government pays the other half.
2. It may not be possible to get this basic coverage any other way. Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the commercial companies have, for the most part, rewritten their policies for people 65 and over so the policies will simply supplement Medicare.
3. The new changes in

the law make it easier to collect medical insurance benefits.

4. There are also a number of new improvements in medical insurance benefits--for example, the payment of full reasonable charges for X-ray or laboratory services at home or elsewhere.
5. The recently enacted increase in social security benefits will in most cases be more than enough to cover the beneficiary's half of the premium, and increase his monthly checks.
6. Beginning in April, covered outpatient hospital benefits will be paid only under the medical insurance part of Medicare. So, to have outpatient hospital coverage the older person must be signed up for this supplementary program.
7. The protection will cost more later on. The premium will be 10 percent higher for each year that has passed since the older person's first opportunity to enroll.
8. People over 65 who are still not signed up for this medical insurance by April 1 will not be able to get the protection until July 1, 1969. However, a delay of more than 3 years after the person's first opportunity to enroll will mean that he or she will not be able to get this protection at all.

School Improvements Given Green Light

John Jordan, Superintendent of Murphy City Schools announced that he had received word last Thursday, from Dr. Charles F. Carroll, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, that the long-range plans of school improvement and construction, have been approved by the State Board of Education.

Prior to the State Board's approval, it was necessary for these long-range plans to be presented to a State Review Panel. Jordan, Ben Palmer, Chairman of Murphy City Board of Education; Lloyd Hendrix, Cherokee County Superintendent of Schools, and Fred Rogers, Andrews City School Superintendent, appeared before this Panel on January 26, and presented the following long-range plans of organization of schools and the plan of expenditure of school building funds:

1. All three boards of education have agreed to merge into one single board of education by July 1, 1969. The Study Commission along with the State Department of Public Instruction will be asked for assistance with this procedure.
2. Any move toward consolidation of high schools will be projected as business of the merged board.
3. An increase in the level of financial support for current expense and capital outlay will be requested of the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.
4. Classrooms to be built immediately in the Murphy Area. It is proposed that these classrooms be built on the present high school site, moving the 7th. and 8th. grades from the elementary school site to this new addition, thus relieving the congestion on the elementary campus. Murphy Schools will operate on the 6-6 plan.
5. Phase out the old 1910
6. Classrooms to be built immediately at the Andrews High School Site. This would move the 7th. and 8th. grades into this new addition, thus relieving some of the congestion in the old elementary building. Andrews City Schools would operate on the 6-6 plan.
7. Renovation of the elementary school in the Martins Creek Area.
8. Move the Office of County Superintendent of Schools out of the Court House as soon as possible and practical. This to be done with the merger of the one school board.

Jordan states that these recommendations and long-range plans were approved by both the State Review Panel and by the State Board of Education.

At present all three school boards are in the process of hiring architects and drawing plans for a building program.

The Murphy City Board of Education met last Thursday, and employed the architectural firm of Foy and Lee of Waynesville to begin immediately on plans for the new classrooms. Eric Townson, husband of the former Miss Ida Brumby and grandson of W. D. Townson, is an Associate with this firm.

Jordan states that it will be some time before these plans can be worked out and approved by the State Department, bids to be advertised and let and the actual construction to commence, but he feels that these classrooms should be completed by the fall of this year.

Jordan says that educational opportunities for all children in Cherokee County are dependent upon the quality of the educational program to be offered and the facilities available. Only through these

Bulletin

One of the three men charged with arson in Monday night's fires in Murphy escaped from the Cherokee County Jail either late Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning.

Sheriff Claude Anderson said Donald Wolfe sawed through the door on the third floor of the jail leading to the catwalk to the courtroom. He gained freedom by breaking the glass in the door and crawling into the courtroom.

Anderson said he found a few pieces of hacksaw blades at the door.

long-range planning by all the people that the children in Murphy, Andrews, and Cherokee County Schools can be assured an adequate education he added.

A study commission was appointed and is responsible for the long-range plans. It consists of Jordan, John Gill, and J. H. Duncan, representing the Murphy School Board; Rogers, Dr. F. E. Blalock and Fred Lyles, representing the Andrews School Board; Hendrix, Noah Hembree, and Robert Q. Stiles, representing the Cherokee County Board; and Ray Sims, and Andrew Barton, representing the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.

9 Sent For Induction

Nine men were forwarded for induction into the Armed Forces Monday by the Cherokee County Draft Board.

They are Randolph Bobby Cunningham, Dale Hoyt Bryant, Gary Clifford Dockery, Ray Earl Palmer, Robert Walter Hartness, Monty Kit Nelson, James Randall Adams, Steve Randall Allen and Otis Eugene Postell.



Employees of Levi Strauss in Murphy were recognized Tuesday for working one year without a disabling injury. A total of 497,864 man-hours were involved. Holding the plaque are Horace Cannon, plant manager; Paul Burken, Loss Control Engineer for Kenner Industries; Eunice Ledford, and David Gribble, assistant manager. Looking on are, from left, Ruby Walker, Alargie Coker, Louise McDonald, Opal Nolin, Ken Gribble, Mrs. Annette Thomas, Betty Jones, E. Stalcup, Richard Patton, and the manager.