



County Burley Income Could Be Increased

A bill pending in the House of Representatives would enable Cherokee County burley tobacco growers to increase their income by an estimated \$40,500 per year.

It would permit growers to lease allotments and transfer them to be grown on any farm. Small allotments could be combined into one unit, allowing the farmer to realize a significant income from the production of the combined allotments.

A rental fee could be realized by the allotment owners. Figures compiled by the Asheville Agricultural Development Council show there were 69 acres allotted for

burley tobacco in Cherokee County in 1967 but only 42 acres were harvested.

A total of 27 acres were not produced, apparently due to small individual bases, absentee landowners and incapable landowners. At \$1,500 per acre, this amounts to a loss of \$40,500 in potential income.

The bill would allow allotments to be leased and transferred for a maximum of five years. Allotments could only be transferred within counties. Not over 10 acres could be transferred to any one farm.

Agriculture Secretary Orville Freeman has endorsed the proposals.

Tomato Growers Lose Half Million Dollars

Losses due to imported plants cost tomato growers in Western North Carolina over one-half million dollars in 1967. This loss was primarily due to diseases on these shipped-in plants. According to Jack Earley, County Extension Chairman, Cherokee County, farmers can best reduce such tremendous losses by growing their own plants.

The importation of tomato transplants into Western North Carolina from more southern regions has gradually increased over the past several years. It is estimated that over five million tomato plants were shipped into the major trellised tomato producing area of Western North Carolina last year. Growers who buy imported tomato plants are taking a greater risk of having a crop failure than the growers who use home-grown plants. Quite often imported tomato plants carry early blight, bacterial canker, root-knot nematodes and other diseases. In addition, they usually have a poorer root system. Also, quite often they have been pulled for such an extended period of time that they have begun to dry out. All of these factors create problems for the entire season as well as for following seasons and lead to a general decline in yields, Early said.

Early blight causes serious losses in Western North Carolina, particularly when it is present on transplants.

When plants infected with early blight are set, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to control the disease.

The importation of nematodes is a very serious problem connected with shipped-in tomato plants. A 1967 survey definitely proved that many of the tomato plants imported in 1967 were infected with the root-knot nematode. Setting plants infected with the root-knot nematode can lead to a decrease in yield during the current growing season. However, the greatest damage is probably done in the following season, because once nematodes are established in a field, they are able to survive indefinitely. Therefore, the grower must either rotate or treat the field with a nematocide before another crop of tomatoes can be produced on that particular field. Treating for nematodes can be very expensive and in some cases the only practical thing a grower can do is to avoid growing tomatoes in the infested field.

Another very serious disease, which can be introduced into a community on imported tomato plants is bacterial canker. This is probably the most destructive tomato disease in the area, but one which is not present in all communities. If a grower is not very careful about the source of seed, or does not have the seed properly treated, he is taking a tremendous risk of introducing bacterial canker. This is probably the most destructive tomato disease in the area, but one which is not present in all communities.

Gardner To Visit Area

Congressman Jim Gardner, candidate for the Republican gubernatorial nomination, will visit the Cherokee, Clay and Graham County area on Friday, March 15.

Gardner is expected to arrive at the Cherokee County Airport around 10 a. m. Tentative plans call for visits throughout the three county area during the day.

A rally will be held at the Cherokee County Courthouse in Murphy beginning at 7:30 p. m.

Gardner supporters said a detailed plan for the day is being worked out and a complete schedule will be announced next week.

Election Board Takes Oath

Members of the Cherokee County Board of Elections, appointed by the State Board of Elections, took the oath of office Saturday.

The members are Democrats Homer Davidson and Cleve Almond and Republican Charles White.

Davidson was elected chairman and Almond was elected vice-chairman and secretary.

The next scheduled meeting of the board will be on March 16 when precinct registrars and judges are to be appointed.



BEAUTY OR BEAST? - These pictures show that last Thursday's storm was a combination of both. The winter scene in the top photo shows the beauty of the snow, while the bottom photo shows the downed power lines along US 64 southeast of Murphy. Power company crews were kept busy restoring service to many rural homes. (Photos by Weaver Carringer)



Power And Phones Out In Six-Inch Snow

The first major snow of the season struck the Murphy area last Wednesday night, bringing an accumulation of over six inches and numerous power and telephone failures caused by downed lines.

The storm began as rain Wednesday afternoon, turning to snow during the night.

TV weather observers in the Murphy area reported an accumulation of six inches of snow at 7 a. m. Thursday. There was a small additional accumulation later in the day.

Murphy Power Board crews were called out at 2 a. m. Thursday to begin work on the power failures, mainly in the rural areas.

Service had been restored to all customers by dark Thursday, but failures began to occur again Thursday night.

Some downtown Murphy customers were without electricity for a short time on Thursday.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC of Young Harris reported interruptions of service continued through Sunday in some places.

A cooperative statement said that about 75% of their

system was affected in the early hours of Thursday and for short intervals, the system was totally out.

Six contractor crews from as far away as Charlotte, Douglasville, Ga. and Marietta, Ga. were brought in to assist local crews in restoring service.

A total of 72 men and 27 pieces of equipment were used.

All main lines were back in operation by Saturday night and all service was restored

Citizens Bank Applies For Franklin Branch

Citizens Bank and Trust Company has made application to the North Carolina State Banking Commission to open a branch bank in Franklin, according to Frank Forsyth, president.

It is expected that the application will be reviewed at the March meeting of the commission, Forsyth said.

If permission is granted, this will be the eighth bank opened by this concern. Citizens Bank and Trust Company is already operating banks in Andrews, Cahsiers, Cullowhee, Hayesville, Murphy, Robbinsville, and Sylva. Starting in 1926, the firm now has resources of more than 26 million dollars.

Loans in force as of December 31, 1967 were \$12,172,122.

Forsyth stated that the add-

Lions To Sell Brooms

The Murphy Lions Club will conduct its annual broom sale Tuesday night.

Tommy Gentry, chairman of the sale, said members of the Lions Club will sell the brooms door-to-door.

The brooms are made by blind persons and sell for \$1.50 each.

Proceeds from the sale will be used for the club's work with the blind.

except in isolated areas. The full extent of damage to the cooperative lines was not known at press time, but the figure is expected to run into several thousands of dollars.

A cooperative spokesman expressed "appreciation to all members for their excellent cooperation in reporting the many cases of trouble, where the breaks were, where a line was down, and for their wonderful patience."

Cleanup work and more per-

manent repairs must now be made.

Westco Telephone Company District Manager, George Worley said the storm "seriously disrupted communications."

Circuits from Hayesville to Murphy and from Robbinsville to Murphy had to be repaired by sending company personnel from pole to pole.

Worley requested additional men, and two crews were dispatched from Weaverville with modern hydraulic trucks.

"The company regrets the inconvenience caused its customers and appreciates their cooperation and understanding during this period," Worley said.

Main highways were kept in relatively good condition.

The most troublesome problem with the roads came from icy patches that formed after the weather turned much colder on Thursday.

Schools throughout the area were closed by the storm.

Ga. Hayride Opens Friday

The first Georgia Hayride will be presented from 8 to 12 midnight Friday at the Blair Theater in Blairsville.

Producer Charles Dover said the show will be presented at the theater every Friday night.

Scheduled to appear on this week's show are Shorty and Bill and the Log Cabin Boys from Canton, N.C.; Doyle Ruff and the Meldoy Boys from Cartersville, Ga.; the Leeman Sisters from Chattanooga; Raymond Edwards of Alabama; Bobby Thomas and the Playrights from Calhoun, Ga.; Willis Guice, Ed Clayton, Julia Bowers, Don Thomas, Floyd Scott, Linda Cook, comedian Cousin Roscoe and Randy Lewis.

Lewis is an ex bass player for the Righteous Brothers and plays the instrument with his toes, teeth and nose, Dover said.

Dover said the program will consist of clean entertainment.

Unpaid '67 Taxes To Be Collected

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to turn all unpaid 1967 personal property taxes over to the County Attorney for collection.

The Board voted unanimously to take the action on a motion by Ray Sims.

Grissette and Beach Certified Public Accounts of Lenoir will be employed to audit the public records of Ch-

erokee County for the fiscal year that will end June 30.

The Board recommended to the State Highway Commission that the Rogers Chapel Cemetery Road in Notla Township be repaired.

It was requested that .9 mile be added to Old Taylor Cemetery Road in Notla Township. Property owners have agreed to donate the necessary right of way.

Murphy Red Cross Sets \$2200 Goal

The Murphy Chapter of The American Red Cross has established a quota of \$2,200 for its fund raising drive which will be conducted during March.

Gene Farmer and Reuben Moore are co-chairmen of the drive.

Much of the money will be used to continue local Red Cross projects such as the blood program, swimming classes and first aid training. Farmer added that at the

present time the Red Cross is emphasizing work on behalf of servicemen in Vietnam.

This includes, he said, locating next-of-kin for servicemen and handling telephone calls to members of their families.

Farmer said the first stage of the drive will be carried out through local businesses and industries.

A door-to-door drive will be made during the last week of the month.

District School Boards To Meet

The annual meeting of the District 18 School Boards Association will be held at Murphy Elementary School next Thursday with registration beginning at 4:15 p. m.

The theme of this year's gathering of school board members, district committeemen and school administrators is "Education Today for Tomorrow's Task". School units included in the district area are: Clay County, Cherokee County, Murphy City, Andrews City, Graham County, Jackson County, Macon County and Swain County.

Following registration, the afternoon program will consist of three Group Meetings discussing Current School Issues. Prominent lay and professional educators from the district will lead these discussions.

Dr. Lester B. Ball, Professor, University of North Carolina, will be the principal speaker for the evening session. His address will follow a banquet to be held in the Murphy Elementary Lunchroom.

These area conferences of the North Carolina State School Boards Association annually attract over 4,000 School board members, committeemen, educators, and other interested persons. An attendance of about 150 is anticipated for the District 18 meeting.

Lloyd Millsaps, a member of the Graham County Board of Education, is currently serving as District President and Kenneth S. Barker, Superintendent, is serving as District Secretary.

The State Association was

organized in 1937 and through its history has been dedicated to seeking improvements in North Carolina Public Education. From its offices in Chapel Hill, the Association works with school board members and school committeemen at the local level. Professor Guy B. Phillips, of Greensboro, the principal organizer of the Association, currently serves as its Consultant. Dr. Raleigh E. Dingman of Chapel Hill is the Association's Executive Secretary.

Persuades Man Not To Jump

Earl Watts, a former security guard at Hiwassee Dam, persuaded a despondent man out of jumping off Guntersville Dam in Alabama on his first day on the job there last Thursday.

He spent a half hour pleading with the man as the man stood leaning out over the water, his arms hooked over a railing behind him and his feet partially over the edge of a narrow concrete ledge.

The man, identified as a resident of Calhoun, Ga., finally climbed back onto the main part of the walkway.

Watts had been at Hiwassee Dam for 17 years. He was honored with a surprise birthday dinner at his home on Rt. 4 Murphy on February 24, two days before he left for his new assignment at Guntersville.

MURPHY TIRE & APPLIANCE CO.

TIRE & APPLIANCE CO.

...IN
BACK BUSINESS

MURPHY TIRE AND APPLIANCE CO. has opened a new store in the Regal Hotel Building on Hiwassee St. The firm's former quarters in the Townson Building were destroyed by fire on February 25. (Photo by Weaver Carringer)

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KITES

Jeffrey Palmer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Palmer and Jimmy McCombs son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCombs

**M & J Finance
Corp.**

Murphy, N.C.

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