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37% Fewer Fatalities

Highway Patrol Reports Fewer Deaths In 1968

Highway deaths decreased while the total number of accidents increased during 1968 over the previous year in six far-western counties, a report showed that was released by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol early this week.

The accident report for District III, Troop F, includes Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon and Swain Counties, and gives a county-by-county breakdown of accidents and injuries as well as a 1967 comparison.

According to the report, there were 17 fatalities in the district in 1968 as compared to 27 in 1967, for a 37 percent decrease. The 1968 deaths occurred in 13 accidents, while there were 19 fatality accidents in 1967.

Graham was the only one of the six counties that did not have any automobile fatalities in 1968. Cherokee County led with six deaths, while Swain listed five. Jackson County deaths numbered three, while Macon had only two, with both of these pedestrians. Clay County had only one highway death, which occurred when a 10 year old boy was killed when he ran into the path of a car outside of Hayesville. Thirteen persons were killed in Cherokee County in 1967. The total for the year was pushed upward when three people were killed in a car-tractor-trailer accident just before the end of 1967.

According to the statistics, Jackson County is the most accident prone, recording 347 accidents for the year. In order of frequency, Cherokee County recorded 212, Macon 203, Swain 200, Graham 79, and Clay 70. Property damage ran porportinate with accidents for all counties, with Cherokee having \$134,114 and Clay only \$24,835. The total property damage for the district was \$612,871.

A total of 535 people were injured in 316 injury accidents. These were distributed as follows: Jackson, 156, Cherokee 135, Swain 97, Macon 71, Clay 45, and Graham 31. An interesting note is that there were no serious injuries in over two-thirds of all of the accidents reported.

Comparing 1968 with 1967 shows that the total number of accidents increased only four percent, while the number of fatality accidents decreased 32 percent. Persons arrested increased 17 percent, violation charges were up 18 percent, drunk and disorderly arrests increased 24 percent and 35 percent more were stopped for speeding than in 1967. The numbers in 1968 are: persons arrested, 4718; violation charges, 5236; drunk and disorderly, 462; and speeding, 2036. The total miles driven by Troop F patrolmen was 631,538 miles, a 12 percent increase over 1967.

At press time there had not been any fatal accidents in Cherokee or Clay Counties in 1969.

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ICE ON A CURVE about half way between Murphy and Andrews was the cause of three separate accidents that occurred within a few minutes of each other around 11:30 Wednesday morning. The above picture shows a head-on collision between a N. C. State Highway Patrol car and a government motor poolcar. Patrolmen Don Revis and Tom Battle were traveling toward Murphy to investigate two accidents when the patrol car slid across the center line

and into the path of the government car. The ice on the road had caused a tractor-trailer truck and a small foreign car to spin across the road just minutes before. The roadway was so slick that it was difficult to walk across the pavement where the accidents occurred. The driver of the government car was taken to the Andrews hospital complaining of chest pains. (Scout photo by Bill Gray)

'69's Are Green And White

Red & White License Plates Expire Feb. 15

Time is running out fast on the red and white license plate now on your car, truck, or other vehicle, as it expires on February 15, just a little over a month from now.

The new 1969 green and white tags went on sale last Thursday, January 2nd, at the Western Auto Store on Valley River Avenue in Murphy, where the license agency is located.

According to Harry Burgess, manager of the Store, all self-propelled vehicles that are operated on public highways must be licensed.

These include all commercial farm and private cars and trucks as well as motorcycles and small motor bikes.

Burgess stated that all of these vehicles must have liability insurance coverage, as required by state law, before a license plate can be issued. He noted that insurance is not required on trailers, such as campers and boat trailers, since they are pulled by an insured vehicle.

To obtain a tag Burgess said that the renewal card mailed to vehicle owners before the first of the year must be brought to the store. He recommends that everyone read and follow the instructions enclosed with the renewal card. The name of the Insurance Company (NOT the agency) and the policy number must be written on the back of the renewal card to obtain a tag. To speed up the procedure, Burgess advised that this be written, dated and signed before coming to the store. He also said that it is not necessary to bring the insurance card.

No personal checks can be accepted for license plates, Burgess added, and that having the correct change will save time.

Hours that tags may be purchased are from 9:00 to 4:00 Monday through Saturday, with the exception of Wednesday, when the store closed at noon.

The cost of the tags for most automobiles is \$11, which includes a \$1 Driver's Education fee. This fee is added to all tags over \$10, and goes to the N. C. Department of Education to help finance the Driver's Education program

in the amount due must be sent to Raleigh, and not to Murphy, to obtain plates through the

Several makes of cars will pay up to \$15, depending on their weight. The amount due is given on the renewal card.

The green and white tags are the same colors used in 1967, which was the first year that North Carolina used reflectorized license plates. Red and white tags have been displayed ever since February 15, 1968. Their use from December 31, when they expired, until February 15 is permissible only if the vehicle is registered by the N. C. Department of Vehicles.

License plates may also be purchased directly from the department in Raleigh in person at the Motor Vehicles Building, or by mail. The renewal card and the amount due must be sent to Raleigh, and not to Murphy, to obtain plates through the mail.

The Murphy agent serves Cherokee, Clay, Graham and parts of Swain Counties, according to Burgess. He asks everyone coming to Murphy to obtain plates not to wait until the last few days of the deadline.

County Commissioners

Public Hearing Is Called On Rural Federal Housing

A public hearing scheduled for Friday, January 24, to determine whether or not Cherokee County will pass a resolution for obtaining low rent Federal Housing projects was called for by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners at their regular monthly meeting last Monday.

The resolution if passed, would include Cherokee County in federally financed rural housing projects built under the Western North Carolina Regional Housing Authority. The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners room at the Courthouse in Murphy.

All of the six Board members were present for the day long meeting. They were W. T. Moore, Chairman, Ray Sims, Luther Dockery, Jack Simonds, Carlyle Matheson, and Andrew Barton. L. L. Mason Jr., County Attorney and Board secretary was also present.

In other business of the day the Board unanimously agreed to reject the proposed creation of a regional welfare service program to be known as the State of Franklin Department of Public Welfare and Rehabilitation Service. The proposed service would set up welfare programs in the seven WNC counties covered by the State of Franklin without regard to county lines. The

Board felt that the county was doing an adequate job and that any extra expenditure was not needed, Mason said. This motion was made by Sims and seconded by Simonds.

Cloe Moore, Mayor of Murphy was appointed as the Cherokee County representative on the Western North Carolina Regional Planning Commission to replace the late W. D. Townson. Moore's appointment was also unanimous.

Several requests were made to the Board for work to be done on county roads, which the board forwarded to the State Highway department. These were: grading and graveling the cemetery road near Hiwassee Dam; general repairs on the Maltby Cemetery Road; grading, grading and paving of the road from Old U.S. 19 on Martin's Creek to U.S. 19 known as the Gold Branch Road, and grading and paving secondary road 1550, known as Hendrix Road.

In a budget mix-up, the Board unanimously agreed to transfer \$12,000 out of the General Fund account into the General Refunding Bond account to pay off bonds maturing in January 1969 that were not accounted for in the budget for this fiscal year.

A total of ten holidays were approved by the Board for

County employees this year. These are New Year's day, Easter Monday, Confederate Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and December 24, 25, and 26, for Christmas. All of the Board members voted for the holidays except for Simonds who abstained.

A unanimous vote of the Board placed Chairman Moore as the Board's representative on the Political Action Committee of the N. C. Association of County Commissioners.

The Board also agreed to recommend to the state legislators of the General Assembly certain legislation sponsored, after approval, by the Register of Deeds Association.

Bloodmobile Visit To Be Wednesday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Murphy on Wednesday, January 15, from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce building.

Mrs. Ed Harshaw, Blood program director for Cherokee County, said that the critical shortage of blood throughout the state compounds the demands for donors in this area.

People who have colds or the flu or those that have recently taken flu shots are not able to give blood. This has cut down drastically on the usual supply. Mrs. Harshaw said that even if only 35 or 40 units could be obtained from the Murphy area, it would still be a great help.

The Red Cross has sent blood to Cherokee County a number of times in emergencies. Mrs. Harshaw stated, and the blood that is donated here could very well end up being used in this county. She emphasized that everyone who is physically able should come out and help with their donation.

Woodmen Of The World To Meet

The Woodman of the World, Unit 891, will meet at the Murphy Power Board Building Monday, January 13, at 8:00 p.m.

School Improvement Project Continues For Fifth Year

Murphy Elementary school is participating in the Comprehensive School Improvement Project (CSIP) for the fifth year, Bill Hughes, principal, announced this week.

The Comprehensive School Improvement Project is a plan jointly sponsored by the North Carolina Department of Instruction and the Ford Foundation for developing new and improved teaching methods in the primary grades, according to Hughes.

All CSIP activity has been limited to the first grades for the past two years.

The progress of this program is evidenced by the fact that first grade failures have been reduced by some 300 per cent in the school year 1967 - '68 as compared with the school year

1966 - '67.

Hughes contributed part of this success to the teachers, who have combined a number of essential elements to make the program productive for the children.

The CSIP differs from standard first grade teaching levels in that the children are divided into four groups, with each child encouraged to work as fast as individual ability will allow. These groups are flexible, never being entirely the same from one grading period to the next. This is to allow even more individual growth.

The school day is then divided into three periods. One period is lengthy, and the other two being rather short. The children have a home

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Local Volunteer Firemen Extinguish Two Fires Monday

The Murphy Volunteer Fire Department answered two fire calls Monday, pushing the total number of calls answered to three since the first of the year.

At 8:30 Monday morning the firemen were called to the Johnny Ferguson trailer located at the bottom of the Texanna Hill, just off the Joe Brown highway. A large amount of smoke was pouring out of the underneath of the trailer when the firemen arrived, although no visible flames were seen.

Someone was apparently trying to throw some water lines underneath the trailer, and the weatherboard and undere of the trailer were left smoldering. The estimated damage was placed at less than \$50.

The second alarm was sounded at 1:45 Monday afternoon. The fireman were called to the Curtis Body SHOP, which is located behind the E. C. Moore Company in downtown Murphy. An open space heater was found to be burning up to the ceiling, but the covering of the ceiling did not catch fire. Here again damage was light, estimated to be less than \$50.

by the time the truck arrived. The house and its contents were a total loss.

The cause of this fire is still undetermined.

A telephone alerting system just recently installed was used in these calls, Town Clerk Charlie Johnson said Tuesday. Johnson said that the town had been trying to get the alerting system for over a year.

Johnson described the

system as working this way: when someone at the jail picks up the Fire Department phone, the telephones of ten volunteers begin ringing automatically and continue until it is answered. Each of the ten volunteers contacts two other men assigned to them, making complete communication contact to the 29 volunteers possible within minutes.

Johnson also said that the volunteers had completed a 30 hour fireman's school, which is connected with Tri-County Tech and the Department of Community Colleges.

In the event that you need the services of the Fire Department, call 837-2212. It might pay to record this number somewhere near your telephone, or better yet, memorize it.

Babe Ruth League Is Proposed For This Area

The formation of a Babe Ruth 16-18 Baseball league to cover several Western North Carolina counties is being proposed by several Murphy baseball enthusiasts.

This league is different from the conventional Babe Ruth leagues in that the age limit is for boys 16 to 18 years of age.

emphasized, adding that this problem might be solved by beginning the league in the high schools and then continuing play after school is out in the Spring. He said that Model Walsh, president of the Smoky Mountain Conference, will be sending letters to the high schools before the meeting on the 26th.

Hopefully, McConnell said, after several years some civic organization would take over the organization of the league. Each town in the area that wants to participate could have one or more teams, depending on the number of players available.

Milestones In The History Of Cherokee County, 1820 - 1968

BY MRS. LOUISE A. BAYLESS

(Editor's note: This is the first of a six part series on the history of Cherokee County, compiled by Mrs. Louise A. Bayless of Murphy. Mrs. Bayless, who has spent several years gathering this material, said, "(this has been compiled from a variety of sources, too numerous to mention here. Of particular benefit, however, have been the books, "Wheeler's History of North Carolina" and "Our Heritage. The People of Cherokee County" by Mrs. Margaret Freeland (Millsaps), Chroniclers and Historians of the local scene. Thanks to them, and to many other well-disposed individuals, is gratefully tendered for use of their many stories of Murphy and surrounding area. However, they are in no way responsible for the compiler's sins of omission or commission.")

1820 - 1876

1820 - The Baptist Church had its beginning in the New World under Roger Williams, coming to North Carolina in 1727. The Baptist Church of Philadelphia founded a mission in the Indian nation at the Old Natchez town on the north side of the Hiwassee River, above the mouth of Peachtree Creek. It was established by Currahee Dick, a mixed blood Chief. It was placed in charge of the Rev. Evans Jones, who translated the New Testament

into the Cherokee language. His assistant was James Wafford, a mixed blood, who compiled a spelling. In 1820, the Rev. Humphrey Posey was appointed by the Mission Board of Philadelphia to take charge of this Mission. This was a combined church and school, and the section is still known as the Mission Farm, presently owned by W. Dave Townsend heirs and the Sudderth family in the Peachtree section of Cherokee County.

Bishop Francis Asbury preached the Methodist Creed from 1800 to 1813 Following him was the Rev. Ulrich Keener who preached to the Cherokee Indians.

1821 - In 1821 a survey was made to locate the line between the two states of Tennessee and North Carolina in Cherokee County. A commission including Joseph McDowell, David Vance, Robert Henry and others, was appointed by the two states to survey and locate the dividing line.

1830 - The Town of Murphy was formerly called Huntersville, for Col. Archibald R. S. Hunter, who was the town's first white settler. He established a trading post with

the Cherokees in 1830.

1835 - The first Post Office was established at the present site in Murphy under the name of Huntingdon, Macon County, on Feb. 23, 1835, with A. R. S. Hunter as Postmaster. Felix Axley was shown as the first entry in the Hunter Trading Post Account Book, now preserved in the Murphy Carnegie Library.

1836 - The N. C. Legislature provided that the Indian Lands west of Macon should remain under the jurisdiction of that County until a new County should be formed for them.

1838 - Fort Butler was established as headquarters for the Eastern District, to be commanded by General Abraham Eustas, to carry out the removal of the Cherokee Indians. Fort Butler was named for the Secretary of War, Benjamin F. Butler. General Winfield Scott was in charge of the removal, preceded by General Wool. Captain George Hayes acted as Interpreter during the Cherokee Removal. (Captain Hayes is the Grandfather of Misses Kate and Lelia Hayes of Tomotla Section). General Scott was also to round up all the Indians who had escaped after

President Andrew Jackson's famous Edit to move West. The Fort Butler site is now designated by a granite marker.

The Cherokee County Historical Society and the D.A.R. and the North Carolina Department of History and Archives have proposed plans for the restoration or rebuilding a representative Fort on the site, now owned by the Town of Murphy. Land was donated by the Tar Heel Investment Company in Sept. 1925, and by Louis Bourne and others.

1839 - Cherokee County was formed in 1839 from a portion of Macon County. Its name was derived from the tribe of Indians who once owned this county. The County Seat was called Murphy after Archibald D. Murphy, the "Father of Public Education in North Carolina". Through a clerical error the "e" was dropped in the legislative act incorporating the town in 1851. Archibald Debow Murphey was once a Superior Court Judge.

Felix Axley who was born Sept. 12, 1802 and died Aug. 12, 1858, removed from Tennessee prior to 1835 and was instrumental in the forming of Cherokee County.

He was considered "Father of the Bar" in Western North Carolina and of F. P. and J. C. Axley. He presided over the First Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions held in the main building at Fort Butler from 1836 until Jan. 11, 1841.

1840 - The family of William H. Meroney was the first white family that lived in the town proper. Mercer Fain moved to Cherokee County from Tennessee and established a general store. The Drury Weeks taught in the first school, teaching the Alphabet, in a log house above Mercer Fain's store. Other buildings in the town were the store of Johnson King and William H. Thomas, partners. It has been a mystery how the huge millstones were moved to the site.

1841 - A grist and flour mill was built by A.R.S. Hunter on Axley Creek. It was operated at one time by the Hugh Hayes family. It was purchased by the Felix Axley family who operated the mill until 1920.

The first hotel was commenced by Col. A.R.S. Hunter. He sold the hotel soon after to William Cunningham

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