

## Town Board Discusses Local Problems

The Murphy Town Board discussed several local problems and projects at their regular monthly meeting Monday night.

Board members present were Cloe Moore, Mayor; Kenneth Godfrey, W. A. Singleton, Jerry Hatchett, W. T. Brown and John Carringer. Charlie Johnson, Town Clerk and Board Secretary, was also present during the three hour long meeting.

To begin the business meeting Murphy Jaycee President, Curtis Hewlett made a request to the Board for a lease on a tract of land on which the Jaycees would construct a small building to use in their "Operation Alternative", a program for distributing used furniture, clothing, and other items to needy families.

According to Hewlett the Jaycees were ready to begin construction near the Health Center that was leased to them by the County Commissioners, but a clause was found in an early statute preventing additional building from being built on that land.

The Board generally agreed that a small tract on the corner of the Fairgrounds would be agreeable with them, and a time was set for the members to measure the land at the Fairgrounds. The Board also needed to discuss this with the Fair Committee and other groups involved.

In an effort to find a way for town traffic violation warrants to be served outside the city limits the hiring of Ralph Rayfield as Town Constable was discussed by the Board. Rayfield noted that he was elected as Murphy township Constable in the last election, and as such he had the same power as any other

officer throughout the county. It was brought out, however, that the new court system did away with fee collections and that there were no funds available to pay Rayfield if he were appointed town Constable. According to the statute, those paid by the town, such as the policemen, are not allowed to serve warrants outside of the city limits.

## Rainfall Low During 1968 In Tennessee Valley, TVA Reports

In the Tennessee Valley, 1968 brought too little rainfall more often than it brought too much, TVA reports.

Valley rainfall for the year averaged only 43.4 inches - the lowest since 1943 and the seventh-lowest in the 79 years on record. This amount was more than 8 inches below normal and nearly 14 inches less than the generous rainfall total of the previous year. Low rainfall was given by the TVA in July as the reason why the area lakes were below the average mid-summer fill.

The recurring dry weather began in February, when rainfall in the upper half of the Valley (east of Chattanooga) averaged just 0.85 of an inch, the lowest on record for that month. This past year also brought the driest summer of the 1960's, with rainfall well below normal in June, July and August. There were no months of unusually heavy Valley-wide rainfall during the year to offset these dry periods.

Streamflow from the eastern half of the Valley, where TVA has its tributary storage reservoirs, dropped far below normal during the February dry spell and never fully recovered. As a result, flows from this area continued below normal for 11 months in a row.

Despite the low streamflows TVA was able to complete the annual spring filling of tributary lakes in 1968 by using water only sparingly for hydroelectric power generation at those dams. As usual, tributary lake levels were stabilized in the spring when water temperatures in each lake reached the spawning level for the nest-building fish.

As 1969 begins, the lakes are back down at typical early-January levels to make reservoir capacity available for regulating winter floods. Blue

The Board agreed that the town "needed the service if it's legal to do it," and directed Johnson to have town Attorney Herman Edwards check into the legality.

After a short discussion the Board unanimously agreed to lower the work week of the city policemen from 48 to 44 hours. Police Chief Pete Stalcup said that he had worked out a schedule so that

the policemen will now work five days each week with two ten hour shifts on the weekends to increase manpower, instead of eight hour shifts six days per week.

Stalcup said that in the event a man shortage occurred the entire force would go back to a 48 hour week without extra pay until someone could be found and trained for the job. This motion for the

decrease of hours was made by W. A. Singleton and seconded by John Carringer.

Town Clerk Charlie Johnson related that the state auditors recommended that all releases be brought before the town Board for approval. Johnson explained that when, for example, someone had a tax bill charged to them when they actually did not own property in the town, the amount had to be taken off or "released" from the books. Most of the releases occurred through error on taxes and water bills, Johnson said.

The auditors contended that all releases should be approved since there was a total of approximately \$6,000 released last year. The Board voted unanimously to hear the releases.

Johnson then read and explained the list of water and tax releases caused by error for the month of December '68, which was approved by the Board. He went on to explain that the town loses at least \$1,000 a year when people move out and don't pay their water bill due. The Board agreed that these accounts should be recorded and that they should be collected if possible at a later date. Johnson said that cooperation between the land lords and the town department would prevent most of this loss.

In the final action of the meeting the Board approved writing and pursuing warrants on all local unpaid parking tickets.

## New Grower Allotments Are Available

Cherokee County farmers may be eligible for a new grower burley tobacco allotment if they pass the following requirements, according to an announcement made by Bass U. Hyatt Jr., ASCS office manager.

- 1 You must make fifty per cent of your living from the farm on which the allotment will be produced.
  - 2 You must have produced tobacco in at least two out of the past five years.
  - 3 You must own the farm on which the allotment will be produced.
- If you pass the above requirements, stop by the Cherokee County ASCS office no later than February 15th, and we will help you fill out an application form, Hyatt said.

flood control operation was necessary along the Tennessee River. The river's flow was shut off for four days in June at Kentucky Dam, however, to help regulate a flood downstream on the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

December rainfall averaged an even 4 inches across the Tennessee Valley, only a little below the normal 4.4 inches for the month. The highest December total reported to TVA was 8.20 inches at Wallace Gap southwest of Franklin, N. C., and the lowest was 1.32 inches at Nolichucky Dam in east Tennessee. Streamflows from both the upper Tennessee Valley and the whole river basin continued below normal in December.

Ridge Lake in north Georgia was lowered earlier and faster than it is in most years, to permit inspection and repair work at the powerhouse.

The low streamflows had a severe effect on hydroelectric power production. In December a year ago, hydro generation from the TVA, Alcoa, and Cumberland River Dams on the power system had set a new one-month record, and it was nearly as high in January. Hydro production suffered during the dry weather later, however, and the September hydro output was the lowest for any month since TVA's major dam-building period in World War II.

Because of the 1968 rainfall pattern, no major regional

## Area Directors Are Chosen For Agricultural Council

C. L. Alverson of Murphy and the Reverend Harold McSwain of Hayesville have been elected as directors of the Asheville Agricultural Development Council for 1969 representing Cherokee and Clay Counties respectively. The election took place at the annual meeting of the 18 county area development association this week.

The purpose of the Agricultural Development Council, which was formed 19 years ago, is to help develop opportunities for increased income and to promote rural progress. A major activity is sponsoring the Western North Carolina Community Development Program in cooperation with the agricultural agencies and local sponsors in each county.

Frank L. Yarbrough of

Marion, manager of Duke Power Company was elected president of the organization, succeeding James F. Davis of Asheville.

In a progress report for the past year, Davis stated: "Any theory that agriculture is becoming less important and offers few opportunities for vigorous area-wide promotion has long since been completely rejected in Western North Carolina. County and area leaders have continued to recognize the growing importance of both agriculture and the agri-business sector to the area's economy."

"After 19 years, the leaders of the Agricultural Council are still convinced that agriculture and the rural economy possess great opportunity, that our rural heritage in Western North Carolina can grow steadily stronger and that we have benefitted greatly from this 'partnership for progress' between town and country."

## Upper Hiwassee Watershed Meeting Is Scheduled

The first 1969 meeting of the Upper Hiwassee Watershed Development Association will be held Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Blue Ridge Electric building at Young Harris, Georgia.

All residences of Cherokee and Clay counties and in North Carolina, Towns, Union and Fannin counties in Georgia may participate in this association which seeks to promote a better way of life in this area, John Ramsey, Chairman of the Human Resources group, said this week.

There are work groups in business and industry, human resources, agriculture, tourism and recreation, Ramsey said. "Plant employees, managers, clerks, teacher, parents, farmers, retired people and all other citizens will find they can express their views concerning the future of these counties and where they can assume responsibility for its development," he added.

A meeting is being planned for the human resources group Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Folk School in Brasstown. The two summer interns will give the results of their study of job

opportunities and the labor force in the Upper Hiwassee Watershed area.

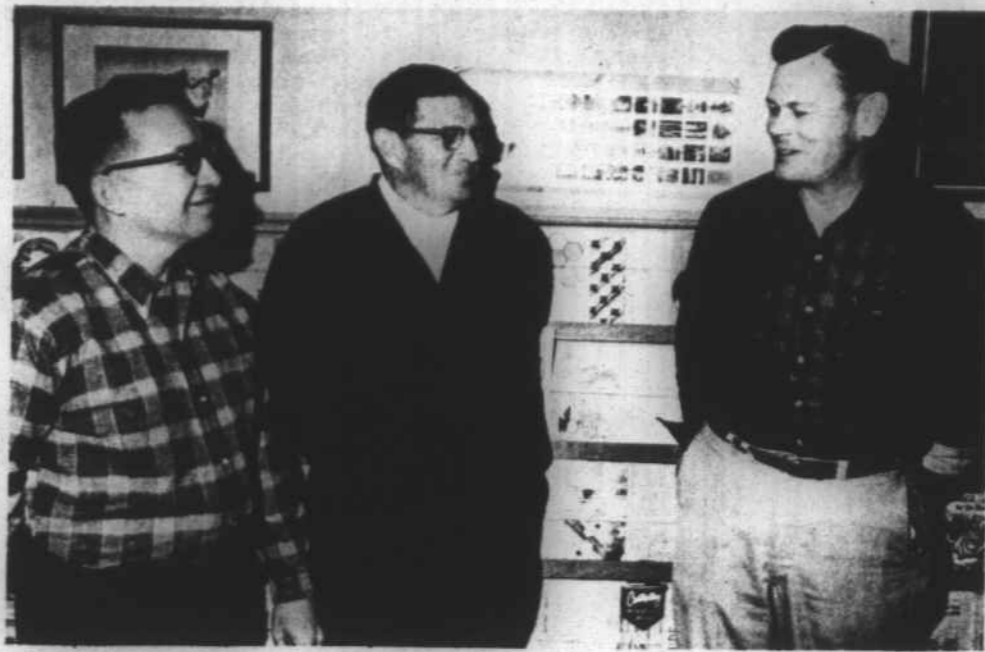
Present members of the association are anxious for more citizens to take an active part in development and encourage them to attend these two meetings, Ramsey said.

## P.O. Positions Open For Area

Applications are now being accepted to establish registers for filling vacancies at the following post offices: Andrews, Bryson City, Canton, Cherokee, Clyde, Cullowhee, Fontana Dam, Franklin, Hayesville, Hazelwood, Highlands, Lake Junaluska, Murphy, Robbinsville, Sylva, and Waynesville.

Starting salaries will be \$2.95 per hour. Anyone interested can get an application from any of the above named offices or J. C. Fisher, Examiner in charge, Post Office, Sylva, N. C.

Those who file an application will be examined in Sylva at a later date.



Mr. Way Abel, far right, the new owner of the Murphy Tomato Packing Shed, talks about the future of tomato growers in Western North Carolina with Mike Angell and Mr.

Lochaby. Angell is the Associate Agricultural Extension Agent for Cherokee County and Lochaby is vice-president of the Upper Hiwassee area Vegetable Growers Association.

## Tomato Market Changes Hands

The transferring of ownership and management of the Murphy Tomato Packing Shed to the Pigeon Valley Tomato Packing Company according to Mike Angell, Associate Agricultural Extension Agent to Cherokee County, has now been completed. The Haywood County Packing Company purchased all interest in the facilities from the Horton Produce Company of Lexington, Kentucky.

Mr. Way Abel, owner-manager of the Pigeon Valley Tomato Company, says that he and his company are "Proud to become a part of Cherokee County's expanding business and agricultural economy."

"I feel that the Murphy Tomato Market can be developed into a market second to none. Growers must have a good market for their tomatoes if they are to be successful," Abel said. He insisted that "Cherokee County has more potential for expansion in trellised tomato production than any other county in Western North Carolina."

Abel, a native of Haywood County, grows about 15 acres of tomatoes each year on his farm near Canton. Before entering into the packaging of tomatoes for retail market eight years ago, he was a full-time farmer.

Many local tomato growers and their growers association have worked hard, particularly during the last several months, to bring about changes in the local tomato market, Angell said. They believe these changes and the transfer of ownership and management will strengthen the Murphy market and make it comparable to the Haywood County Markets, both in prices and grading systems.

Angell went on to explain that the reasons the local growers wished to have this market linked to the Haywood Markets can best be explained

by economics. The combining will give the two markets more total volume - a long recognized requirement and advantage for selling to large chain stores. Transportation arrangements can be better arranged for moving the finished tomatoes to distant retail markets. Some tomatoes are shipped as far as New York City. The Packing Shed will have more flexibility in the handling of "ripe" tomatoes,

thus, returning more money to the growers pockets.

Angell added that "the Murphy Area growers have proven their ability to have tomatoes in production about two weeks earlier than growers in Counties like Madison and Buncombe. Historically, tomatoes have sold for the highest prices early in the season. This sometimes gives

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## Mayor Proclaims Jaycee Week January 19-25

Whereas, the civic bodies and service organizations of our community and the departments of the local government recognize the great service rendered to this community by the Murphy Jaycees, and

WHEREAS, The United States Jaycees and its affiliated state and local organizations have set aside the week of January 19-25, 1969 to observe the founding of the Jaycees, and

WHEREAS, this organization of young men has contributed materially to the betterment of this community throughout the year.

THEREFORE, I, Cloe Moore, Mayor of the Town of Murphy, do hereby proclaim the week of January 19-25, 1969, as JAYCEE WEEK and urge all citizens of our community to give full consideration to the future services of the Jaycees.

DATE: January 13, 1969  
SIGNED: Cloe Moore  
Mayor

## Summer Homes Are Broken Into At Hiwassee Village

Personal belongings valued at over \$1,000 were stolen from two summer homes last Friday at Hiwassee Dam Village, according to Cherokee County Sheriff Claude Anderson.

The houses, one belonging to a Dr. Headrick from Georgia and the other owned by John A. Jones from Chattanooga,

Tenn., were entered when thieves broke sliding glass doors, Anderson said.

Stolen from the houses were linens, silverware, records hunting trophies and a high powered rifle.

Anderson said that an investigation is continuing by his department and the State Bureau of Investigation.

## Milestones Part II

### Turn Of Century Finds Productive County

(Editor's note: This is the second article in a series of six on the history of Cherokee County as written by Mrs. Louise A. Bayless of Murphy)

1877 - 1911

-1877- Professor Lycurgis E. Mauney, Lawyer and Teacher, taught in the old Presbyterian Church one year. Mrs. Virginia Mauney Stewart was his assistant.

-1878- Miss Grecia Shelton came to this section to teach Subscription Schools. She taught one public term at Happytop (Andrews) after which Elisha Conley, William Cartee and S. C. Hood, taught a successive term each.

-1879- John Marshall Cobb, after finishing Junior College at the Hiwassee, Ga. school under the administration of Dr. George W. Truett, taught the Happy Top free school for two terms prior to its removal to Bellview near Murphy. The Masonic Lodge helped the citizenry to erect a building a

portion of which served as Lodge Quarters the remainder for the housing of the school. The attendance grew until the Bellview School matriculation reached 308 pupils. Patronage comprised W.N.C., North Ga. and East Tennessee. Cobb Grandfather of baseball's great Tye Cobb and father of Mrs. Nora Cobb White Spencer of Murphy.

-1881- President Garfield assassinated by a disappointed office-seeker, proved to be insane.

-1882- Mount Pleasant Academy built on the acre of land in Murphy, Cherokee County was conveyed to the County for educational purposes. This Academy was operated many years. Professor Rolan, Lawyer and Teacher, was in charge for a time. Mr. William Beal assisted him. At a later date Prof. J. C. Hicks had charge of the school. The first session opened the first Monday in August, J. D. Abbot was Secretary of Board of

Trustees, Murphy.

-1884- Prof. Wilcox taught one and a half terms. He was considered an excellent disciplinarian.

The "Drummer's Home" Nee the Dickey House - This hostelry at Murphy, presided over by Mrs. Nettie Burkett Dickey, a native of Tennessee, for many years has made a name for itself that will endure for generations. She and husband, Thomas C. Dickey, son of George W. Dickey, were popular with the Lawyers and their clients, judges, drummers and many travelers. In 1932 it was written up in Scribner's Magazine as a famous resort hotel. "Lady Dickey" as she was called, operated the Dickey Hotel from 1884 until 1937.

-1886- The Great Charleston Earthquake - This tremor, which occurred on the night of Aug. 31, 1886, Approx. 350 miles away, many residents recall as one of the strongest in this section.

## Welding And Wood Carving Classes Set

Tri-County Technical Institute will provide a 60 hour course in Arc and Oxygen-Acetylene Welding beginning Tuesday, January 21. The class will be held at Tri-County Tech. and will meet on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 9:30.

The course is designed for individuals who are presently employed and are only interested in welding as a hobby or for personal benefit. It is not intended to enable a person to seek employment as a welder.

There will be a small charge for materials used.

The class will be limited to 16 students. Therefore, anyone interested in enrolling in the class should contact Joe Morrow, Extension Director at Tri-County Tech. as soon as possible. Phone - 837-3810.

Tri-County Tech. will offer a wood carving class at John C. Campbell Folk School beginning January 23. The class will be held for a period of ten weeks, meeting three hours each Thursday night from 6:30 to 9:30.

All interested persons are urged to be present next Thursday night (January 23) at 6:30 for registration.

## Roy Taylor Is Opposed To Restrictions

WASHINGTON - Congressman Roy A. Taylor Monday introduced a bill to repeal restrictions placed on ammunition sales and purchases by the Firearms Control Act of 1968.

The 11th District Congressman said he has received numerous complaints from ammunition purchasers and sellers alike who feel that the ammunition record keeping provisions are "unwise, unnecessary and burdensome."

An opponent of the 1968 gun law, Taylor wants the 91st Congress to delete all references to ammunition for shotguns and rifles from the new control law.

As it now stands, licensed dealers for each sale must record the following information: date, ammunition manufacturer, calibre or gauge, quantity, purchaser's name, address, date of birth and mode of identification (such as driver's license, Social Security card, etc.)

Taylor observed that in some mountain areas hunters sometimes purchase only three or four shotgun shells, rather than a full box.

"Obviously, the bookkeeping and time involved for ammunition sales, large or small, is a burden and hardship on both dealers and purchasers," declared Taylor. "It is causing some rural store operators to cease selling ammunition entirely, thereby inconveniencing hunters and sportsmen," Taylor said.



## County's Newest Addition For 1969

Cherokee County's newest addition in 1969 was born to Mrs. Joann Moffitt at 1:30 a.m. January 3 at the Providence Hospital in Murphy. The six pound, nine ounce girl, named

Stacy Suzanne, is the second child born to the Moffitts, who live at Route 2, Culberson. (Scout photo by Bill Gray)

A meeting is being planned for the human resources group Wednesday, January 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Folk School in Brasstown. The two summer interns will give the results of their study of job