

School Merger Plan Is Adopted: Elections To Be Non-Partisan

The Murphy and Andrews City School Boards have agreed to merge with the Cherokee County Board of Education to form one school system with one superintendent to be effective this coming July 1.

This merger, which has been discussed for over a year among the different school boards in the county, came about after 75 Cherokee Countians gave an almost unanimous vote of approval for the merger at a public hearing at the Murphy Elementary School Friday night.

Both the Murphy City School Board and the Andrews City School Board had to agree to the merger before it could take place. Herman Edwards, member of the Murphy School Board and attorney for the local boards, informed the Scout that both boards had agreed to adopt the merge plan that was voted on at the hearing.

There was some concern in Andrews Monday that the Local Board would not agree to the merger. Dr. F. E. Blalock of the Andrews School Board assured the Scout Wednesday morning that the Andrews Board had definitely agreed to the merger plan adopted at the public hearing Friday night.

The plan adopted at the Friday night meeting was that the Murphy and Andrews

school systems merge with the county system to form only one system for the entire county. This would eliminate the existing Murphy and Andrews school boards and their respective superintendents.

Also included in the plan

was that the county board members be elected on a non-partisan basis and that the local school committees should act only in an advisory capacity.

The latter provision was specified very clearly because of the wording of the present

State Statute concerning school mergers. According to Edwards, who moderated the meeting, there is already legislation enacted which allows for city school systems to merge with county units. The present statute, however, states that the county board may delegate authority to the local committees as they see fit which is the one thing that the citizens at the Friday night meeting objected to.

It was agreed, however, after several minutes of discussion, that local committees were needed but that they should not have the power to hire or fire teachers, in fact should have no policy making power at all and should act in an advisory capacity only.

Edwards said that it would take special legislative action on the part of the N.C. General Assembly before the non-partisan vote and restricting the power of local committees could be included in the merger plan. He added that since this was obviously what the people wanted then those provisions would be presented to Senator Herman West.

Other parts agreed upon at the meeting were that the county school board members be elected for six-year terms, with two new members being

elected every two years; that two board members be elected from each of the county's three school districts; that members of the local school committees live in the district which they are to represent; and that there be new Local Committee appointments made every two years.

Under the present system there are three separate school systems in the county, each with its own board and superintendent. These boards have control over the schools, delegated to them by the Cherokee County School Board including serving the

function of hiring and firing teachers.

Edwards explained at the meeting that the merger involved only the consolidation of the administrative units and not consolidating the schools at the present time. "We have talked about merger for some time," the Murphy attorney said, "and state officials have urged that merger take place. "The State Department of Education feels that three superintendents in Cherokee County involves too much expense," Edwards said, "and that one superintendent can supervise all of the schools."

Edwards told the group that when the merger takes place all of the school property in the county would be deeded to the county board and that maintenance and non-teaching personnel would combine forces and facilities. "There would be definite savings and advantages in consolidating these activities," he added.

One of the main reasons Edwards gave for merging is that it is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain state funds when there are separate systems. "There are only 50 city units in the state now," County Superintendent Lloyd Hendrix told the group, "and Cherokee County is the only county west of Buncombe that has a city unit."

20 Year-Old Unaka Man Dies In Vietnam

Cherokee County's first Vietnam death in 1969 occurred March 19 when a 20 year-old Unaka soldier died in action.

Killed was Pfc. Loren C. Jones, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Jones of Unaka. Jones was killed in action while on a night patrol, according to reports given to the parents.

A 1966 graduate of Murphy High School, Jones entered the service July 8, 1968, and had been in Vietnam since December 6. He received his basic training at Fort Campbell, Ky., and completed nine weeks of infantry training at Fort Lewis, Washington.

He had been employed with Foote and Davies Printing Company in Atlanta until his induction. He was a member of the Unaka Baptist Church.

Four Cherokee County men died in action in 1968. They were James C. Bryant of Andrews, Raymond F. Trantham, William D. Morrow, and Thomas E. Brown, all of Murphy.

Surviving in addition to the parents are two sisters, Mrs. Glendle Gribble of Atlanta and Miss Denise Jones of the home; two brothers, Erwin of Atlanta and Lewis Jones of the home, the grandmother, Mrs. Lena Martin of Murphy.

4-Square Directors To Meet

The regular monthly meeting of Four-Square Community Action, Inc. Board of Directors will be held Monday, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. at the Court House in Robbinsville.

All members and the public are urged to attend.



PFC/ LOREN C. JONES



The official opening began when Mayor Cloe Moore cut the ribbon at the Murphy Tire and Appliance's new location on Peachtree Street. Helping in the event were left to right, C. W. Cranberry, store supervisor; C. A. Jennings, district manager for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. in

Knoxville; the Rev. Thornton Hawkins, Moore, Chamber of Commerce President Tommy Gentry and store manager, Pete Rumble.

Murphy Tire & Appliance

Moves Into New Building

Murphy Tire and Appliance Company realized a tremendous come-back in their business as they officially opened their new home with ribbon cutting ceremonies last Thursday morning. The Murphy Tire and Appliance store was completely destroyed by fire in February of 1968, and, after spending nine months of doing business in temporary headquarters, have rebuilt a new furnished.

The Murphy Tire and Appliance store was completely destroyed by fire in February of 1968. After spending nine months in temporary headquarters, the company has rebuilt a new and modern store furnished with the most modern equipment and facilities that can be bought.

R. R. "Pete" Rumble, manager and president of the corporation, noted that Murphy Tire and Appliance had been in Murphy for six and a half years. His company, Rumble said, is the largest Goodyear Tire and General Electric appliance dealer in the tri-county area. He also noted that he has the buying power of the world's largest Goodyear

Orderly Destruction

Strong gusts of wind played havoc Sunday night as tree limbs, garages and, as shown in the two photographs above, a chicken house collapsed. The wind did a very neat job of destroying a 40 x 100 foot chickenhouse that belonged to Claude Stiles in Peachtree.

According to Scout photographer Jim Morgan, the wind lifted the sides and roof completely off the foundations and turned it upside

down beside where it once stood. In the top picture, the frame lies to the right and the foundation are to the left. Believe it or not, the automatic feeder was picked up from the inside of the building and set down right-side-up just outside of the foundation.

The bottom photograph shows that the equipment on the inside of the building was undisturbed.

Third Bill Is Introduced For County Commissioners Election

Cherokee County's representative in the State House entered the political battlefield last week by introducing a bill which might give the present stalemate now existing in the General Assembly over the election of the County Board of Commissioners.

Rep. Bill Bradley of Asheville entered a bill "to provide for the nomination and election of the Board of County Commissioners of Cherokee County." Bradley's bill, which is the third bill presented to the General Assembly this year concerning the election of commissioners, provides for nomination of a three-member board by district and a county-wide election. This bill differs from the other two bills previously presented in that one calls for a seven-man board elected by

districts. The former bill was introduced by Senator Herman "Bull" West while the later was introduced by Rep. Ernest Messer of Canton.

The bills presented by West and Messer have been pushed back into committees since February 27.

The controversy over the

election of commissioners began in 1965 when former Senator Frank Forsyth introduced a bill which gave Cherokee County six commissioners, with the chairman having two votes in case of ties. The distribution of votes in the unequal districts resulted in a Democratic majority in the Board even

though the Republicans received the majority of votes. A suit was filed in the U. S. District Court in 1967 by two prominent Cherokee County Republicans contesting the constitutionality of the double vote of the chairman. The presiding judge has already indicated that the double vote is unconstitutional, and he is leaving it up to the General Assembly to come up with a solution during this session.

Bradley explained that under his bill each political party would pick their nominees by districts at the nominating convention, and then both parties would vote countywide and elect three of the six candidates in the general election.

Both Bradley's and Messer's bills provide for redistricting of the county so that each district would be equal.

Salary Increases

In other legislative action concerning Cherokee County, Senator West introduced a bill to raise the salaries of the Sheriff and Register of Deeds. West has asked that the sheriff's salary be increased to \$7,000 per year, while the register of deed's salary would be increased to \$6,000.

This represents an increase of \$1,500 in the Sheriff's salary and \$1,500 for the register of deeds.

Sheriff Claude Anderson and Register of Deeds J. Ed Graves were both elected by a Republican majority in the 1966 election.



Scottish Rite Masons Confer Degrees

These 32 men from Cherokee, Graham, Clay and Swain Counties took part in Masonic Ceremonies in the Lodge Hall of Andrews Lodge No. 529 A. F. & A. M. at Andrews on Saturday, May 22, 1969. They received the degrees 4th through the 14th in The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry and will complete their journey on through the 32nd degree in ceremonies at Asheville later. These men are: First row, left to right: Clyde Horace Sneed, Gerald Paul Cook, William Hubert Fuller, Robert Carlyle Moore, Jr., John Franklin Carter, Huston Lee Ledford, Robert Max Johnson, Jasper Carl Townson, Holland McSwain, Cecil Wallace Mashburn.

Second row, Left to right: Ralph Jackson Wood, Carroll Edwin Wilson, Clifford Allen Huls Jerald Fred Phillips Howard Pendergrass, Dwain Lawrence Winfrey, Vinson Dehart, Horace McKinley Hembree, Lonzo William Shields, Elonidas Shields, Peyton Grant Ivie, James Elmo Mosteller.

Third row, Left to right: Henry Hual Hylton, Bunch Amos Nugent, Glen Young Stalcup, Benjamin Harold Ross, George Wilson Bristol, Garnett Swanson, Ray Dean Morgan, George Grant Postell, Ralph Whitcomb Cook, Carl Arvil Cochran.

Murphy's First Fashion Show Cited As "Success"

The spring fashion show presented on March 21, by the women of the United Methodist Church for the benefit of the building fund lived up to its name "Fantastique!" in more ways than one.

Approximately 225 people came out to view new spring fashions provided by nine Murphy merchants and modeled by citizens of Murphy and the surrounding community. The setting was in the Frank L. Mauney Fellowship Room of the United Methodist Educational Building. The models promenaded on a stage set as a Parisian sidewalk cafe, "Pierre's."

Stores represented and models were as follows:

CATO'S - Betty Farmer, Juanita Allison, Sandra Graves, Pat Carroll, Kathy Timpon and Jackie Carroll. COLLINS-CRAIN - Markie Carringer, Debbie Farmer, Janice Roberson, Paula Farmer, Evelyn Hawkins, Joy Noble and Jimmy Farmer. COWARD'S - Rickie

Ramsey, Robert Gee and Danny Gee. THE FABRIC SHOP - Sharon Lochaby. FAYOLA REMNANT SHOP - Catherine Hawkins. HOUSE OF FASHIONS - Claudia Schuyler, Irene Warner, Boots Godfrey, Jean Wells, Ginger Abernathy, Sara Patton, Vi Akin, Rosemary Manuey. LENA'S - Tanya McConnell, Tina McKeever, Price McKeever, Karen Cathey, Joann Cathy, Nancy Sneed, Karen Watson, Janet English, Shirley Roberson, Peggy Hyde and Suzanne Coward. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Democratic Meeting Is Cancelled

The Democratic Party meeting scheduled for Thursday at the Marble Elementary School has been cancelled.