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Flag Presented To Elementary School

Murphy Elementary School Principal Bill Hughes, school students and members of the Archibald D. Murphy Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution look upward as the American flag presented

last Thursday to the school by the DAR goes up for the first time. The flag, which has flown over the Capitol, was provided through the office of Congressman Roy Taylor. (Staff photo)

Brendle Killed At Mine

A foreman at Hitchcock Mine was crushed to death in an accident Monday morning deep in the No. 4 shaft.

Paul Edward Brendle, 37, of Murphy, died instantly when a piece of talc fell on him with a warning. Cherokee Coroner C. Townson ruled accidental death due to a crushed chest.

It was an unusual accident, according to mine president F.C. Bourne. Brendle was wearing headgear of the old-hat type, he said, and had nothing to dislodge the

material which fell on him. A veteran employee of the mine, Brendle was talking with two or three other men and turned away to move a floor timber, Bourne said. Suddenly, several pieces of the talc, the largest about the size of a basketball, fell on him. No one else was hurt.

The fatal accident occurred about 250 feet underground, Bourne said, the area was not considered especially hazardous and is still being used.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Thelma Smith Brendle; three brothers, Clyde of Guam, Louis of Smyrna, Ga., and Clint Brendle of Alphretta, Ga.; one sister, Mrs. Gladys Rogers of Brasstown.

Services were held at 2 p.m. Thursday (today) in the Chapel of Townson Funeral Home. The Rev. Ernest Young and the Rev. Goldman Dockery officiated and burial was in Sunset Cemetery.

Townson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Paul E. Brendle

Simonds Requests Ruling

Cherokee County Commissioner Jack Simonds has written to the state Attorney General's office for opinion on the legality of a special meeting held by the board of commissioners the last of September.

The meeting was called by Chairman W. T. Moore and all the commissioners, except Simonds, were present and all voted to replace Ben Scott on

the Jury Commission with Mrs. Mary Faye Brumby, former state senator.

Simonds says the special meeting was illegal because he was not notified and no notice of it was posted on the courthouse bulletin board. Moore said county employees tried, but were unable to reach Simonds by phone.

Simonds says he expects to hear from the Attorney General's office shortly and

will present the written opinion at the November meeting of the commissioners.

Meanwhile, County Attorney L. L. Mason says in his opinion the meeting was legal, under terms of an amendment to state law by the 1969 legislature. Mrs. Brumby, however, has not been sworn in and indications are that she won't be until the dispute is settled.

Tax Briefing

A meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 16 at 8:30 p.m. in the Power Board Building for a briefing and discussion on the local sales tax option to be voted on Nov. 4. Property owners and merchants are urged to attend. Mayor Cloe Moore will serve as moderator.

It is aimed, Mason said, at stopping the random tossing of empty beer cans along the roads of the county. It would in no way affect buying or selling or transportation of beer and wine in unopened containers.

The first reading of the ordinance was held at the commissioners' October meeting and the second reading will be held at the December meeting. If it passes the second reading, it will become law on Dec. 22.

Town Hospital Authority Votes To Renovate Interior Of Providence

By Wally Avett
Staff Writer

The newly-organized Murphy Hospital Authority voted unanimously Monday night to renovate the interior of Providence Hospital, subject to the approval of the Sisters of the Providence, at an estimated cost of \$25,000.

The project will include new lighting, lowering of ceilings, painting and probably individual air-conditioning units for each room, a central system being too expensive.

No date or methods for raising the necessary money were announced but plans are expected to be laid shortly.

Jack Owens, publisher of The Scout and chairman of the hospital authority, presided at the meeting in the Power Board Building. Attending were members of the Town Council, who had cancelled their meeting to attend this one, interested citizens and doctors Mauney, Whitfield, Taylor, Miller and Wells and Sister Mary Rafael, who heads

the local Sisters of Providence who operate the hospital.

Engineers provided by American Thread, Rimco, Clifton Precision and Peachtree Products surveyed Providence Hospital and the Murphy General Hospital buildings recently at no cost to the authority or the Town of Murphy.

They were checking into the possibility of turning the now-vacant Murphy General building into doctors' offices and remodeling Providence, where space for patients could be enlarged if offices were

removed.

The engineers report ruled against the hospital authority making any changes at Murphy General, according to Pete McKeon, Rimco manager and ramrod for the survey.

"They said if we used the partitions we found the purposes we had in mind, it would be too costly," McKeon said. "They found the partitions there are load-bearing walls and could not be moved to make offices. Parking and waiting room facilities are also bad." McKeon said the engineers

believed it would be less expensive to build a small clinic for the doctors rather than try to remake Murphy General.

At Providence Hospital, the engineers did advise spending some money for a redecorating program to brighten up the building for patients and make it more attractive to entice physicians to come into the community," McKeon said.

In addition to the redecorating program, McKeon said the hospital authority should begin looking for a suitable piece of land and Owens said "We hope that within the next five years we can put up a new building."

In the discussion that followed, several people noted that Providence is the only hospital west of Asheville with full accreditation and Dr. Walter Mauney repeatedly said that "Accreditation isn't worth a damn to the common man" and referred to the hospital as "a dump."

Owens answered him by saying that the hospital is not a dump, but the object of the authority is to make it more attractive. Authority Vice-Chairman, Hans Beerkens also told Mauney that if accreditation means nothing to the public "It's high time we educated them."

Dr. Mauney's point, which many at the meeting thought he made rather clumsily and with a heavy hand, is that bright, fresh surroundings are recognized by medical authorities as assisting in the rapid recovery of a patient.

A cheery interior is also vital to attracting new doctors, Dr. Mauney said, "And once they see the inside of that hospital, they don't see anything else you show them or hear anything else you say." Dr. Mauney said he had shown several prospective doctors the hospital and once they saw the drab paint and the high ceilings, they paid no attention to the first class lab and the hospital's accreditation rating.

The accreditation also doesn't mean much to the patient, he added, especially when it is compared to the bright, modern new District Hospital at Andrews.

Sister Mary Raphael then rose, her face reddened with emotion, to say that she was saddened to hear Providence called a dump "by a professional man...one who has done the least to help us with accreditation."

And Dr. Bryan Whitfield, hospitalized recently, defended the local hospital saying "I get better care here than in bigger hospitals"

Dr. Mauney then clarified his statements, saying he was critical of only the physical plant, not the care received by patients at Providence.

"We are trying to do something about the hospital facilities in Murphy" Owens said at the end of the meeting. "We're saying to the doctors - give it a chance to work."

Escapee Nabbed

A convict in the Georgia prison system escaped last Thursday, was captured a few hours later in Murphy and went back behind bars, with two fresh charges against him and three against his wife.

Albert Miller, 44, escaped from a prison unit in Barrow County on Thursday morning and Georgia officers said he was assisted by his wife Bernice. They said she had furnished the car for the escape and they supplied officers, including ones in Murphy, with the license number of the car.

Shortly after the alert went out, the car was seen passing through the middle of Murphy. Cherokee Chief Deputy Sheriff Glenn Holloway and Murphy Policeman Blaine Stalcup stopped the auto on Valley River Avenue.

The Murphy officers promptly charged Mrs. Miller with driving drunk and took both the Millers to the county jail, where they would be held for Georgia officers. Then a check of old complaints showed a warrant for Miller which had never been served, charging him with check forgery in Murphy.

Cherokee Sheriff Claude Anderson said when Georgia officers came to pick up the Millers, they brought three more charges with them: escaping for Miller and aiding and abetting for his wife and an additional charge against Mrs. Miller of stealing her daughter's car, which they were riding in when they were stopped.

Sheriff Anderson said the pair will be tried in Georgia and then returned to North Carolina for trial on the two charges here.

Bloodmobile Visit Set

The Red Cross Bloodmobile is coming to Murphy - it will be at the Power Board Building from 1 until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 22.

"The employees of Clifton Precision and Rimco Manufacturing have been carrying too much of the load," says Mrs. Edgar Harshaw, chairman of the blood program for the Red Cross Cherokee Chapter.

"Remember that Wednesday afternoon and mark it down on your calendar," she says. "We need employees of other plants and individual citizens to help us."

The quota for the Red Cross Chapter in Murphy is 320 pints a year, the blood collected using sent to the blood center in Asheville. The Bloodmobile makes four trips to Murphy each year.

Donors are given credit for blood given and they or members of their families can draw blood for use, at no cost to them, in time of emergency against the amount of blood given.

If there is a need for blood and none has been given to the blood center, prices start at \$25 a pint, according to Mrs. Harshaw.

Governor Scott To Speak Here

Governor Bob Scott will speak in Murphy at the Cherokee County Courthouse on Tuesday afternoon and all citizens of Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties are urged to hear him.

The governor will be at the state Grange Convention at Fontana on Monday night and will have lunch in Murphy Tuesday at noon at Odell's Restaurant with the Rotary Clubs of Andrews and Murphy.

Former state senator Frank Forsyth, in charge of local arrangements, says the lunch is a Dutch affair and everyone who wants to attend is

welcome.

Scott will speak at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the main courtroom, with Superior Court to be adjourned for the occasion. Forsyth said the governor will speak on his report for progress, with special emphasis on roads and the Appalachian Corridor in particular.

Road Commissioner Boyd Crisp of Robbinsville will accompany Gov. Scott and the governor will go on from Murphy to Robbinsville to speak at a Democratic fund-raising affair there Tuesday night.

Soviet Capital Called Cold, 'Gray and Grim'

Elizabeth Gray Tells Of Life As Embassy Worker In Moscow

Elizabeth Gray came home to Murphy last week—where there are no secret police agents, no electronic "bugs" and where her weekly Cherokee Scout will be (we hope) on time.

Miss Gray, "my friends call me Liz," has just completed serving 20 months at the American Embassy in Moscow, where she worked as secretary to the administrative officer.

In Moscow, she says, the sensitive hidden microphone and the ever-present agent who follows Americans are accepted facts of life.

"We all had to proceed under the theory that we were being watched and learned to live with it. We had to be very guarded in our actions and conversations.

"We accepted the possibility of being under surveillance every time we left the compound," Miss Gray said. "We usually had an uninvited escort - who never picked up the tab."

The Scout reached her a little late in Moscow, usually about a month, she said, and she often received five or six issues at once. But it was news from home and "It was just great."

She added that she met a man from Virginia in Russia who had visited as a boy in the Aquone section of Macon County and was familiar with the western end of the state.

Miss Gray was born in Hayesville and the family moved to Murphy when she was about 11 years old, where her father, attorney J. B. Gray, practiced law until his death. She worked as a legal secretary in her father's office and then joined the Foreign Service division of the State Department in 1960.

She is presently staying at the home of her sister here, Mrs. Cloe Moore, and will visit another sister in Houston before going to Barcelona, Spain to begin her next Foreign Service assignment in mid-December. She has previously worked at the American Embassy in Seoul, Korea and at the consulate general's office in Tijuana, Mexico.

Moscow is "grim and gray," she says, and very cold - "I don't recall the exact temperatures but it gets colder than 20 below zero in winter. There are no blizzards but the snow is steady and there's a lot of it."

The Russians were very excited about the American astronauts' moon voyage, she said, and twice during that period small groups of about 20 gathered outside the American Embassy to shout in unison "Brav-o, Brav-o."

The Soviet television stations, in departure from usual procedure, had shown 30 minutes coverage of the moon shot, she said, including footage of the U. S. spacemen planting the American flag on the moon.

"They were so proud for us and they all wanted an Apollo 11 button - they're crazy about buttons anyway. The Cultural Affairs Office in Moscow received 20,000 of the Apollo buttons and an equal number of postcards with pictures of the three astronauts on them to give to Russian citizens. They went fast."

Miss Gray said travel was restricted to an area within 25 miles of the center of Moscow; any longer trip required correspondence with the Soviet foreign office. Embassy staff employees other than diplomats had no contact with the local Moscow citizens, she said.

"You couldn't ask questions or talk to citizens because we had no contact with them" she says. "They are warned not to talk with us and they are very wary of anyone of a diplomatic service."

There are about 100 Americans stationed at the 10-story embassy, she says, and they work there and most of them also live in apartments inside the building. They have meals at an embassy snack bar or cook their own in their apartment kitchens.

There is also a small commissary in the embassy or the Americans can purchase goods in various places in Moscow, using dollars at stores catering to the diplomatic trade or converting to rubles (\$1.10 equals one ruble) and shopping at markets or the huge GUM complex owned and operated by the Soviet government.

For entertainment, there were performances by the famed Bolshoi Ballet, concerts and operas in Moscow and "We had movies in the embassy once a week in a very small, very dreary community room."

For news, she said embassy staffers subscribe to English language newspapers from outside Russia and also do what many others behind the Iron Curtain do - listen to Voice of America broadcasts.

Having lived under these conditions, Miss Gray is very outspoken in defense of freedoms as enjoyed in the United States of America.

"Many of the kids of today have forgotten the meaning of freedom, they've forgotten the sacrifices - the lost limbs and lost lives by American soldiers, some of them the fathers of these kids."

Patriotism seems outdated, she says. "But the first morning here I woke up to a high school band playing 'My Country 'Tis of Thee' and I cried."

"The people in Russia are subject completely to the will of their government," she says. "And if the people in America don't wake up, we're

riding for a fall. If we're destroyed, it will have to come from within."

"However," she said, "I still have infinite faith in this country and its people. When the chips are down, we always rally and unite as a common enemy."



Elizabeth Gray ... home from Russia