



Sam Ward, left, Joe Maxwell and the miracle machine

Andrews Partners Harvesting Another Bumper Corn Crop

With much of Cherokee county looking over their shoulders, Sam Ward and Joe Maxwell have done it again - the Andrews partners are harvesting a crop already measured in one field at a whopping 168 bushels per acre. Ward and Maxwell farm 550 acres of corn at the Murphy-Andrews airport. Their operation is watched closely throughout the season by motorists on US 19-129, which winds by the fields, and often turns up as a conversational topic around Murphy and Andrews. The partners, originally from Hendersonville, started their specialized farming 12 years ago. In 1965, they were state champions as officials from Raleigh counted 174 bushels of corn produced on one acre. State farm officials, incidentally, predict that corn grown in North Carolina this year will figure out to be a statewide average of somewhere between 75 and 77 bushels per acre. The Raleigh group this fall yielded 168 bushels on one acre. Ward and Maxwell think they may have already cut one of their corn which would have showed a higher yield. However, they are picking every day the weather permits. "I don't have much time to try about records now. They predict this year's crop will top 2000 bushels and even with the degree of mechanization, it's still a big job to harvest. The machinery, including

five tractors, planters, wagons and all, is valued at about \$100,000. The star of the show this year is a new \$18,000 Allis-Chalmers gleaner, a miracle machine which picks and shells the corn in the field. The gleaner, taking four rows at a swath, is self-propelled and travels across the field at about five miles an hour, a little faster than a man's walking pace. The operator sits high in a sealed cab, complete with an air treatment system which filters out all dust and dirt. "With this machine, you can now pick corn in a white shirt," said Ward, harvesting the crop with comfort and at a speed undreamed of by farmers years ago. The gleaner takes the corn in and the shelled-out kernels are deposited in a behind the cab; the shredded stalks, shucks and cobs are blown out the rear. The bin holds more than 100 bushels and Ward stopped at the end of each round to transfer the shelled corn to wagons. Maxwell, driving a small tractor with casual abandon, did his best to keep up with the pace, hitching up the loaded wagons and pulling them to the metal elevators down the road. The gleaner system this fall, the partners say, has enabled the two of them to pick and store 3,000 bushels of corn in eight hours! Their elevators, located on the highway near the airport, will hold 42,000 bushels but this year's crop. In addition to

storage, the elevators also serve as a curing-out place for the corn. Equipped with heaters, the elevators dry out the corn to the 15.5 per cent moisture rating desirable on the market. The land does not belong to Ward and Maxwell, it is leased from the E. A. Wood family and from C. H. Townsend. The corn-growing knowledge, however, is theirs - developed in a variety of ways, including trial-and-error. "With some farmers, we figure we've made progress if we talk them into having a soil test made," says Jack Earley, County Extension Chairman. "But these boys are so far ahead that they can teach things to the experts." Ward and Maxwell, who regularly visit corn-growing areas and champion producers in the Midwest, are concerned about the fine points, Earley says. "They think about things other people never consider - plant population, density and which way to point the rows to get prevailing winds for better pollination." This year there are six different varieties of Pioneer and DeKalb corn growing around the airport, selected to match the land they grow on for moisture and time of harvest. Rows are 30 inches apart, probably the narrowest in the county, with plants eight inches apart. The seeds are put down with an eight-row planter, Maxwell says, which also puts down a soil insecticide at the same time. This protects the seeds and later the young

plants, for six weeks against pests. The corn matures in 120 to 130 days. A chemical weed control is applied between the rows after planting, Maxwell said, which prevents weeds from growing in much of the corn. In places where heavy weed growth challenges the chemical, the corn has to be plowed once during the season. There was speculation, nothing definite, that grant monies might be available for such a new idea and the Cherokee and Clay commissioners agreed to try and set up a meeting in Andrews soon with commissioners from Graham County to discuss the possibility further. In other business, the Cherokee County commissioners Monday discussed at great length the shortage of office space in the courthouse and Murphy in general but were unable to take any action in a local crisis. The Social Services department, formerly called Welfare, has to have more office space. That order comes from the federal government which pays 80 per cent of the local budget for welfare of dependent children, the elderly, the blind and other county wards. The county, the commissioners say, must provide the extra space in the courthouse or else give the Social Services department a new building. The deadline is the first of December. If the county doesn't provide the extra space, the 80 per cent federal support for Social Services will be withdrawn. The choice is simple, but painful - the Farmers Home Administration, now occupying three rooms on the second floor of the courthouse, will have to move out so Social Services can have the space. "It's the only thing we can do," said W. T. Moore, chairman of the Cherokee County commissioners. The other commissioners grimly agreed with him. Robert Bruce, who heads the local FHA office, appeared to ask if the commissioners could furnish him office space anywhere else, either in the courthouse or in Murphy. He said his agency provided money for 214 new homes in Cherokee County in the past three years, a considerable addition to the county property tax books. Bruce, and the FHA supervisor, who appeared with him, said that their agency only asks that a county provide it with free office space. They indicated that the FHA office, which has been in Murphy for

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be difficult to promote, the generally-accepted feeling being that present jails "are good enough for those who have to go there." Williams differed with that opinion, saying that prisoners should receive humane care and adding, with emphasis, that the jail inspector considers the Cherokee County Jail, with its wooden floors, to be a fire hazard. "Prisoners shouldn't have to go to sleep at night, locked behind bars, with the fear that they might be burned up," he said. He also said that old jails are not very secure - "Some of these prisoners are geniuses at escaping" - and the community should be able to feel that when a dangerous man is locked up, he will not be able to get out. Williams and the other two jail officials said a regional jail would be more economical to operate than two or three separate facilities and would be a saving for the counties involved, in that it would eliminate needless duplication of jailors and matrons to look after prisoners.

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Sales Tax Defeated In Cherokee, Passed In Clay

The local one-cent sales tax option failed in Cherokee County in voting Tuesday. The proposal was defeated in Cherokee, 950 against it and 697 for it. In Clay, 413 voted for it, 175 against. "It was a light vote," said Homer Davidson, Elections Chairman in Cherokee. There were 1,647 ballots cast out of a total registration of 4,410, he said. The sales tax, long a revenue for state government, had been denied local governments until Mecklenburg County was granted permission by the previous legislature to impose

such a tax. Then in this year's session of the Legislature, so many counties wanted a local one-cent sales tax that a bill was passed setting up Tuesday's election in all 100 counties. The local option tax was seen by local governments as a badly-needed new source of revenue. Some state officials in Raleigh saw it as dissolving of state revenue sources. Voters in Cherokee County obviously saw it as a burdensome tax, which could be eliminated with a no vote. The option passed easily in both Hayesville precincts, 139 to 21 in No. 1 and 117 to 52 in No. 2. In Murphy's South Ward, it passed 166

to 113; in the North Ward it squeaked by, 106 to 102. In Andrews, the South Ward passed it, 93 to 84, the North Ward turned it down, 83 against and 57 voting for the option. In Cherokee County, all the precincts outside the two towns went solidly against the local sales tax idea. In Clay County, Tusquitee voted against the sales tax 25 to 8, as did Shooting Creek, 25 to 15. The other precincts voted for the option: Brasstown, 55 for and 25 against; Hiwassee, 43 for and 11 against; Sweetwater, 36 for and 16 against. In Cherokee, the other precincts voted as

follows: Brasstown, 37 against, 24 for; Burnt Meetinghouse, 34 against the option, 18 for it; Culberson, 35 against, 17 for; Grape Creek, 31 against it, 16 for it; Hanging Dog, 58 against, 17 for; Hothouse, 20 against, 10 for; Marble, 65 against, 41 for. Ogreeta voted against the proposal, 27 against, 11 for it; Peachtree voted it down, 100 against it, 65 for it; Shoal Creek, 65 against, 29 for; Topton, 22 against, 2 for; Unaka, 24 against, 8 for; Walker Schoolhouse, 50 against, 17 for.

Lake Level Meeting Set

A meeting between TVA officials, the Murphy Chamber of Commerce and the Forest Service has been arranged for 2 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Forest Service Building. According to Congressman Roy Taylor, who suggested the meeting, the main topic of discussion will be the constantly changing water level of Hiwassee Lake.



Mayor Casts Vote

A solemn Mayor Cloe Moore cast his vote Tuesday morning at the courthouse. He had pushed hard for passage of the local tax option but solid opposition

from the rural precincts defeated it in Cherokee. Looking on, left to right, were Louise Schuyler, clerk; Mrs. Robert Hardin, registrar; Sheilah Sneed, judge.

Commissioners Discuss Constructing Regional Jail

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners Monday afternoon, meeting with state jail officials and two commissioners from Clay County, discussed the possibility of building a regional jail to serve more than one county. The state jail inspector from Asheville, James Pitts, has found recently that jails in both Clay and Cherokee counties are below the minimum state standards, as passed by the Legislature in 1967. Pitts was present, as was Woodburn C. Williams, chief of the state Jail and Detention Services, and Charles Hall, his assistant. The Clay commissioners attending were Chairman Andy Padgett and Odell Shook. "These county lines, drawn maybe 200 years ago when travel was by mule or horseback, don't mean much anymore," Williams said. "Yet

we've got each county trying to maintain a courthouse and a jail and they just can't afford it." Williams said his agency was not trying to force the idea of a regional jail on anyone but wanted to see if the commissioners were interested. At the present, there is no such jail in the state, he said, although several counties in the northeastern section of North Carolina are seriously considering such a project. He said a jail to serve Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties should be built to accommodate 30 prisoners and would cost about \$210,000. He added that he did not know if Graham would be interested in the idea and left after the discussion to go to Robbinsville and discuss the matter with county officials there. "We're interested," Padgett said, adding that jail service is expensive and in Clay "we won't average much more than one prisoner a day." Padgett and others noted that a jail-building project would call for a bond vote by the people and would probably

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Attorney General Backs Simonds

Cherokee County Commissioner Jack Simonds' protest of a special meeting by commissioners which did not include him is supported by the state Attorney General. Simonds presented an opinion from Attorney General Robert Morgan's office at the meeting Monday of the Cherokee commissioners which read that "validity of such a special meeting is highly questionable." The meeting in question was called by Chairman W. T. Moore to name a member of the three-man Jury Commission. County employees charged with contacting commissioners said they could not reach Simonds by telephone and he was not notified of the meeting. The other five commissioners attended the meeting and elected Mrs. Mary Faye Brumby to replace Ben Scott on the jury board. She has not been sworn in, however. Simonds protested that he was not notified and added

that the state law requiring posting a notice of a special meeting on the courthouse bulletin board had also not been obeyed. County Attorney L. L. Mason did not attend the meeting Monday of the commissioners, being tied up all day in Superior Court. A copy of Simonds' letter from the Attorney General was entered in the minutes and will be given to Mason for study before the next meeting. Mason had interpreted an amendment to the state law, which reads that participation in a special meeting is a waiver of the posting and notification requirement, as meaning that the special meeting was legal since five of the six were there. The Attorney General's office interpreted the amendment another way, saying it is for "simply preventing any commissioners... from later trying to void the action taken at the meeting on the grounds that no written notice was given."



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Denise Ferguson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Edgar Ferguson. Paula Hyatt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hyatt. Lisa Decker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Decker.



Trick Or Treat

Mrs. Kate Evans' kindergarten class from the First Methodist Church made its annual Halloween visit to the Scout office last week, scaring the bejibbers out

of two secretaries and several printers. Behind the Emmett Kelly clown mask is Michael Townson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Townson.

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