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TWO SECTIONS

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress

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Editorial SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL HOSPITAL

The Murphy Hospital Authority sent out an 'imaginative appeal letter last week, complete with a shiny new penny, seeking donations for its program to upgrade Providence Hospital.

The idea was that the penny would catch the eye and the letter would be read before being thrown in the wastecan. We hope the MHA got its penny's worth in each case. At the present time, in the present situation, we think the upgrading program is the best thing Murphy can do.

The doctors here are overworked and several of them are men who have reached the time of life when they should be able to cut back and slow down. In the finest traditon of small-town physicians, they have served long and well. In matters of birth and death, they have worked daily pitting their knowledge and skill against the ravages of disease and Father Time. They also perform much of the dirty, bloody work of a community, patching up bodies broken by accident or crime. Yet at a time when their thoughts should be turning more to fishing or gardening or travel or grandchildren or a good book in a quiet corner, these Her doctors are forced to feel the weight of duty more than ever-they deserve better.

Dr. Helen Wells and Dr. Walter Mauney, both reared in Murphy, perhaps more than anyone feel the full need for more doctors. Both have worked on their own and also with the MHA in efforts to bring doctors here. . Their present workload is staggering.

In attempting to bring doctors to Murphy, the hospital authority finds itself in a very large game, with high stakes. The medical journals are full of advertisements by hospitals and communities trying to lure a doctor.

Any prospective doctor visiting Murphy, and there have been several during the past year, is interested in how many patients there will be and what type of place he will be working in. MHA members will assure him that there are plenty of patients. Then he visits Providence Hospital, clean, neat and accredited-also drab and dark.

Dr. Walter Mauney was outspoken and explicit in a hospital authority meeting in October-patients receive good care at Providence, he said, but in physical appearance it leaves much to be desired.

Trying to recruit a doctor has proved useless after he has seen the interior of the hospital Dr. Mauney says. "He doesn't hear anything else you say or see anything you show him, after he's seen the hospital."

In the November public meeting of the hospital

Culprits Tracks

The underside of a piece of bark from a stand of bettle-infested trees in the Owl Creek section shows the characteristic winding galleries where the pests tunnel and eat, killing the tree. The white spot at the point of

the knife blade is a bettle grub. (Staff Photo)

Town Board Seeks Light At Courthouse

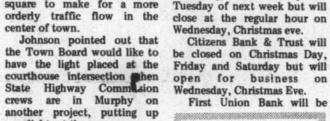
The Engineer, requests that the Town Board has light be co-ordinated with light written a letter to a state traffic which will be placed at the engineer in Raleigh, square to make for a more requesting a traffic control light at the courthouse intersection.

Town Clerk Charlie Johnson said the letter, addressed to J.O. Litchfield, State Traffic J.O.

Two Volunteer For Army Duty

The Clay County draft board on Monday, Dec. 8 sent two registrants to the **Knoxville Entrance Station for** induction into the U.S. Army. They were Jerry Madison Buckner and Merl William

Matheson, Jr., both volunteers. ne date, the Clav



new lights at the square. The new lights at the square, all nine of them, will probably be put into place sometime early in 1970, he said. They were planned several years ago but the town and the SHC engineers differed on the layout of the traffic lanes. The SHC wanted the Town

of Murphy to do away with the parking downtown and install parallel parking to allow County board sent 17 for for three lanes of traffic each physical examinations: Rex way. Johnson said the town Henry Hall, James Edward Patterson, Phillip J. Moss, fathers, facing the loss of 40 spaces if they abolished the James Charles Lowe, Donald William Whitaker, Lowell angle parking, refused. Conard Martin, Harold Scroggs, In the final approved plan, the angle parking will remain Jr., Robert Mull, Sam Edward Ashe, George Hal McClure, Frank Richard Carter, Jr., and there will be two lanes of traffic, each with two separate Andrew Phillip Blankenship, lights, on each leg of the intersection at the square. The Thomas Monroe Canup, Walter ninth light will be for motorists Morris Scroggs, Jr., Tommy coming into town on Valley Edward Moore, James Marvin River Avenue and turning left McCray and Buddy William onto Peachtree Street.

Beetles Ready To Feast On Pines Hungry little beetles, A similar invasion by the

millions of them, about the size of rice grains, will probably eat up a large part of the pine stand in Cherokee County next Spring.

This gloomy prediction was made this week by the N. C. Forest Service county ranger, Harold Hatchett. The beetles have already damaged a great deal of the pine forests, he said, and will be ready to start eating on a grand scale as soon as warm weather returns.

The villain is the Southern pine beetle, now firmly entrenched in the four westernmost counties of the state. At stake in Cherokee County alone, Hatchett notes, is pine timber valued at more than \$15 million.

Most retail stores in Murphy

will close on Christmas Day,

which is Thursday, Dec. 25,

and also will be closed on

business on the Saturday after

Christmas, according to the

merchants association

Murphy stores will be open

until 9 p.m. on Monday and

She added that most

Citizens Bank & Trust will

closed on Christmas Day,

First Union Bank will be

The Scout office

will close Wednesday,

Christmas Day and

Friday for Christmas.

It will reopen on Monday, Dec. 29 for

By Wally Avett

Staff Writer

A tribe of beavers has set up

"I don't know what I'm

going to do about them," he

admits. "We'll probably just

dynamite their dams out again

and pick that corn by hand

some morning while the mud is

frozen, before they back the

are all on one stream, built so

each one is only two feet or so

tall. The water in the biggest,

and sixth lake, therefore is

several feet above the level of

The six dams he pointed out

water up again."

housekeeping on a Cherokee

County farm, flooding out

compicking operations. That's right-beavers.

business as usual.

chairman Lena Lovingood.

Wednesday, Christmas eve.

ednesday, Christmas Eve.

They will reopen for

Friday.

Christmas Closings

Christmas.

Saturday.

Friday.

reopen on Jan. 5.

will reopen on Dec. 30.

pine beetle in 1957, he said, was stopped cold by pure luck. Cold weather in the zero range will kill some of the beetles, which spend Winter under the bark of the pine trees, but Cherokee County that 'year still usable. got a letter-perfect weather situation.

"The zero weather was eceded by several days of moist, warm weather," Hatchett recalls. "The beetles fed on those days and took the moisture-filled wood into their bodies. Then we had a real cold snap with the temperature going down to zero in a hurry and the moisture in them did it - the water froze and burst the beetles."

Hatchett and alarmed

closed on Wednesday,

Thursday and Friday but will

be open on the regular

schedule on the Saturday after

timberland owners, of course, are hoping for another lucky weather break. In the meantime, however, the forest rangers are urging landowners to cut diseased pine trees and sell them while the lumber is

Landowners To Lose \$\$\$

If the landowner waits too long, the beetle-infested wood will rot and be worthless to him. Hatchett added that the landowner should cut all trees in a radius of 75 to 100 feet from any diseased tree to make sure he gets out all the beetles. Bark and any debris should be burned to prevent re-infestation.

"They're coming out of the Smoky Mountain National Park,"Hatchett said. "They are not controlled there and the park acts as an incubator for this whole area. In Cherokee County they must be spread by the wind because we're finding them on the tops of the ridges and they apparently swept across the county on an east-to-west direction."

The Forest Service is not embarking on any spraying campaign, he said, mainly because there are no funds available. And the cut-and-salvage operation is hampered because so many landowners live in other states and cannot be reached.

landowners we can," Hatchett said. "But there will be an explosion next Spring when the warm weather comes. The woodpeckers are having a picnic, eating all the beetles they can, but there are not enough of them. They are a help but we would have to import about a billion woodpeckers to solve the problem

and an adult, eats on the inner bark. The life cycle is between 30 and 40 days and in North Carolina as many as five generations are possible during

The Murphy Carnegie Library will be closed all of state may have increased to next week for Christmas and 65,000 beetles by the end of

Literally millions of them are in the pines in Cherokee County now, their presence marked in many spots by the pine needles turning yellow and brown.

The infestation, Hatchett said, is on the east-west axis and south of this, there are no beetles. Many infested spots can be seen between Murphy and Andrews from the highway, discolored patches surrounded by healthy green

At the present, there are

which can be sold at \$20.50 per cord delivered at the lumber yard. These figures, Hatchett says, will probably be revised next year by the pine beetle. Landowners should contact

about 50,000 acres of pines in

this county. Their average

value is \$307 per acre for the

average 15 cords per acre,

Per Copy

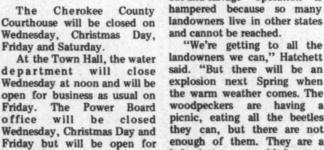
the ranger or the county extension office for additional information, cut out the

infested trees they can and hope for cold weather.



Woodpecker Patrol

Cherokee County Forest Ranger Harold Hatchett looks over the marks left by woodpeckers, who cut through the bark to eat the beetles. The birds help, he says, but the county would need "about a billion" to the season, he pointed out. control the beetle invasion. (Staff Photo)



half-a-day's business on Cherokee County schools will recess for Christmas at the The beetle, both as a grub end of the regular day on Friday, Dec. 19 and will

The Employment Security Office will be closed on Wednesday, Christmas Day and the warmer months. One pair of beetles in this

authority, a professional color consultant said the interior of the hospital needs to be painted in brighter, "pastel colors to give patients a psychological lift. The dark colors, especially in the smaller rooms, he said make the room "seem to close in on the patient."

The fixing-up program will also mean that the hospital will be in good shape for service until a new facility is built in Murphy, whether it be five or 15 years waway. A new hospital will eventually have to be built but it will take years of planning and finding money and in the meantime it will be better to have a hospital which is attractive and serviceable.

The Catholic Sisters of Providence, sent here to labor among us mountaineers, operated at a loss of \$15,000 *last year. They lost another \$6,000 in operating expenses this year. They say they will continue to operate in Murphy-if doctors can be found to staff the hospital. But the Sisters can't do it alone-they need the help of the community.

We know it's Christmas and the United Fund just finished its drive and the first of the year, license plates, acar insurance, college tuition and income taxes are just , around the corner.

Give anyway-dig deep, if you can manage a little from that last paycheck in December you can count it off as a deduction on this year's income taxes.



Penny Packers

shown who labored last week to tape 8,000 shiny new pennies to appeal

Some of the volunteer workers are letters mailed out by the Murphy Hospital Authority, seeking funds for the renovation of Providence Hospital.

Dress Plant To Re-Open

Inc., is the name of the new concern which replaces the former Hayesville Manufacturing Co., which discontinued operations here several months ago.

Murray Glassberg, owner of the new plant, says full operation will be under way by about the first of the year, with 100 or more employees at work. Glassberg is the son of

the late Abe Glassberg, who was owner of the original dress plant at this location. The new management has

purchased the plant site and building which was built by the Development Clay Corporation, a locally owned corporation which was organized for the purpose of helping attract new industries to Clay County

Adolph Seplin will be manager of the local plant and says that people wanting employment there should apply at the plant, just south of Four Points.

Cathy Originals was the brand name given products of the former Hayesville Manufacturing Co., but Glassberg says that "Cathy is dead"

The new products will carry variety of brand names, depending on who they are made for. It is understood that es will be made on contract with merchandizing firms who will specify their brand names for own

the nearby Hiawassee River but the beavers did not have to build a tall dam equal to the total drop. The dams are constructed in the night, Mauney said, with small trees gnawed down by the animals along the creek.

According to authorities, the beaver's chisel-like front teeth continue to grow throughout his life and if he doesn't keep them worn down with chewing, they will eventually grow so long he cannot eat and

The Townson Farm beavers o use corn stalks in their which is a neat trick ce they apparently like to

will starve

Defy Dynamite Dam-Building Beavers Flood Cornfield

eat the corn itself.

Their dams are rather leaky by human standards and they won't win any prizes for appearance but Mauney says they are substantial and apparently the beavers value them quite highly.

The furry engineers, once "We dynamited all their almost extinct in North dams out a few weeks ago on a Carolina, are making a Saturday, all six of them," he said. "We returned on Monday comeback and these particular beavers have built six dams on afternoon and they had been the Townson Farm in the

working at full speed, not just on one or two, but to put back the whole six."

In other states, where beavers are plentiful and trapped for their pelts, the animals live in lodges built of mud and sticks in their lakes, the lodge having an entrance which is underwater. The Townson Farm beavers have not yet built a lodge and Mauney thinks they must be

living under the creek banks

smaller ones.

He has set a number of traps for them but has caught only

one, a young animal which weighed about 20 pounds. He says according to their tracks, his particular beaver crew must be composed of two older animals, much larger than the one he caught, and a band of

"I've found a lot of toenails torn off in my traps," Mauney

says hopefully. "Maybe if enough of them get sore feet, they'll leave." Cherokee County Wildlife

Protector J.J. Jeffries reminds would-be beaver trappers that the season on the animal is open only for the month of February and a trapping license is required. Farmers, however, may protect their crops by killing pests with any method short of dynamite or poison.



Engineering Feat Surveyed

Wayne Mauney, left, manager of the Townson Farm, points out part of the beavers' dam to Ephriam Crisp, of the Mission Community. Part of the flooded

cornfield can be seen at the right. The standing on the beaver's dam made of sticks, o and mud.



By Guy Padgett **Staff Writer**

Carter.

Work will begin this week in the new dress plant on NC-69 near Hayesville.

Mountain City Fashions,

Mission Community, flooding a section of a hugh cornfield. Wayne Mauney, ma nager of the Townson Farm, sometimes uses the word "dam" in speaking of his unwelcome tenants but it isn't always in specific reference to the actual barriers which form the small

lakes