

# County Commissioners Approve Master Plan For Murphy-Andrews Corridor

By Wally Avert  
Staff Writer

A four-lane highway from Murphy to Andrews, a common water system serving the two towns and the valley between them, a common sewer system for the Murphy-Andrews Corridor, 40,000 people in the county, big, modern plants and hundreds of new jobs.

These and other visions of a booming Cherokee County of the future floated above the meeting table Monday morning as the county Board of Commissioners discussed and then adopted a master plan for development of the Murphy-Andrews Corridor.

"This will be better than liquor stores or the sales tax," Chairman W. L. Moore said. "When it's all done, there will be no reason for

anybody leaving for a job to leave the county."

The plan, the result of a two-and-a-half year study by the State Planning Task Force, calls for spending about \$100 million over the next 10 years to construct the water and sewer systems.

An Appalachian Highway for the valley between Murphy and Andrews is already planned by federal agencies, it was explained, and the final result will be an area very attractive to new industry, boasting a rail line, a four-lane highway, water and sewer service.

Moore predicted that small settlements all over the county will grow and other new ones will spring up as homes are constructed to house the growing population.

Estimated cost of the water system to be about \$60,000,000, with the sewer system to cost an additional \$40,000,000. If maximum

grants are received from federal Appalachian funds and other programs, the county's share for the whole program will be about \$2,000,000 according to the state planners.

The county will pay its share by issuing bonds, leaving a special "taxon" property and charging for the water and sewer service.

The timetable in the plan by the State Planning Task Force calls for completion of the dam on Junaluska 4 years above Andrews, construction of a water purification plant there and laying of an 18-inch mainline from there to the central Andrews business by 1975.

This will cost an estimated \$1,025,000. The state planners think federal grants, in the amount of \$1,280,000 can be acquired with the county proving \$1,215,000 through a bond issue. This would be non-local money of about 50 per cent for the project, a figure the state planners think could be pushed up to 80 per

cent in the other stages of the water project.

The state planners recommend extending the 18-inch line to Marble by 1980 and to the Murphy by 1985, to town with existing water systems. The final stage of the water project would be to enlarge the purification plant at the Junaluska reservoir in the year 2000.

The plan for the sewer project would also be in stages. Andrews, Marble and Murphy together for the first stage of construction, recommended until 1980. Sewer lines from Andrews, west of first, the last down the Marble road, a temporary type sewage treatment plant would be installed there to discharge into the Valley River.

Then the lines would be laid to Murphy by 1990, where a treatment plant for the whole corridor would be built, waste flowing in mostly by gravity, treated here and then discharged into the Hiwassee River. Final stage

would be completed by the year 2000 as the Murphy treatment plant would be expanded to serve the growing population.

Two incidental points mentioned by the state planners in their report are interesting to Cherokee County officials. One was that the Junaluska reservoir would not be able to supply water for a heavy industrial user, for example, a dyeing or bleaching operation. It was recommended that any plants which are heavy users of water be located at the lower end of the corridor near Murphy where they could draw their own water from the Hiwassee River.

The other point was that the state planners predicted more growth will come in the Andrews-Marble area than in Murphy, due to the topography of the two sections.

The report reads in part "Topography in the Andrews-Marble Service Area is more suitable

to development. Industrial growth is expected primarily in the Valley River valley between Marble and Andrews. The majority of the ultimate Corridor population will probably reside within the Andrews-Marble Service Area."

The report which Chairman Moore showed other county commissioners Monday has not been printed in quantity yet and will not be distributed in Cherokee County before February or March. Much discussion and explanation of it in detail is expected before any concrete action is begun.

The commissioners emphasized that they were in favor of development of the corridor but stressed that approval of federal funds in Congress will have to be made and county voters will have to approve bond issues before any construction begins on any phase of the water or sewer projects.



## Snow Prolongs Christmas Vacation

Staff Photographer Hugh Carringer set his shutter speed at a fast 250th of a second and wasted no time in snapping this picture Tuesday of schoolboys sledding on McClelland Street hill. In addition to three sleds and a bicycle heading his way, one of the

ruffians in the rear loosed a snowball (circled) at the photographer. Schools in the county had opened Monday after the Christmas vacation only to close again Tuesday and Wednesday due to the snow.

## Water, Sewer Lines To Be Laid At No Cost To Town Of Murphy

The Murphy Town Board met Monday night and cheerfully agreed to let other organizations install water and sewer lines, ordinarily a town function, in two special cases.

The new Levi Strauss plant north of town needs water service but is about a mile beyond present town water lines. Board members were informed that the company has agreed to lay a six-inch line at its own expense if the town will agree to provide the water service.

Town Attorney Herman Edwards and Town Clerk Charlie Johnson were authorized to draw up an agreement with Levi Strauss and Co., by which the town would provide the water for the plant, which is not a heavy user of water.

However, Johnson, Mayor Cloe Moore and others suggested that an eight-inch water line would be better for the extension than the six-inch line proposed by Levi Strauss and the town attorney

expressed hope that a way may yet be found to install the larger line.

"A six-inch line could serve several plants in that area if they are built there in the future," Johnson said, but he added that an eight-inch line would be better, both for industrial and residential expansion expected north of town in the future.

Board members stipulated that the agreement contain phrases to limit the plant's use of water to "domestic" classifications. "We couldn't provide water for a washing or dyeing operation," one board member said.

The board members also agreed to the Murphy Housing Authority and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development laying a sewer line to serve a public housing project planned for Park Avenue, near the Rimco Manufacturing plant.

Johnson explained that the 30-unit housing project, which will probably be let for bids about the first of March, will be located about 1,000 feet beyond the town's present sewer lines. It was further explained that sewer service is a town function but there is no money in the town treasury for a major project such as this.

Therefore, the Murphy Housing Authority proposed that the 1,000 feet of line be laid with federal money. A public housing project pays no taxes but does make payments each year in lieu of taxes, generally lower than property taxes would have been. The Housing Authority suggested that instead of making these payments to the Town Board, it would lay the sewer line and apply its cost against what would have been paid to the Town Board each year in lieu of taxes.

The Town Board accepted the plan unanimously.

In other business, the Town Board received an application from Andrew "Bucky" Rose and Charles Odom to establish a "good, reliable" taxi operation in Murphy. Rose said the service would begin with two cars and would offer a 24-hour service. The board approved the application and wished the operation good luck.

Voted to repair sewer pumps, a \$1,500 job, and discussed at length the purchase of a street flusher, to clean the town streets. A new flusher would cost about \$4,500, Johnson said, not including the truck chassis on which it is mounted. He noted that it could also double as a piece of fire-fighting equipment.

Heard member Ken Godfrey make a motion, which was quickly and unanimously approved, that the old traffic light at the square be installed at the Courthouse intersection when new traffic lights are put up at the square.

Heard Johnson report that about 450 street signs around town need repainting but that it is cheaper to buy new ones than pay labor for repainting. He said the order for the new signs, at \$1.60 apiece, has already been mailed.

## Rain Washed Town Streets --For Free!

The heavy rain Tuesday night of last week probably saved the Town of Murphy about \$500.

The rainfall, officially measured at almost two inches, "washed the streets clean," Town Clerk Charlie Johnson says. "Most rains are not heavy enough to do it."

The streets, marked with mud and in some places covered with the salt mixture used to melt the Christmas snow, would probably have been washed down this week, Johnson added.

The job is done at night, he explains, when most cars are off the streets and it means overtime pay for town crewmen. The job usually takes about three nights, he said, and in addition to overtime pay, the firehoses used in the job are badly worn by being dragged through the streets and have to be replaced.

## New Registration Begins Next Week

There will be no more registering of voters in the precincts, the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners approved a loose leaf registration system which begins next week at the Elections office at the Courthouse.

The County Board of Elections recently approved a plan which was in turn adopted and implemented by the county commissioners in their meeting Monday.

Beginning next week a secretary will be on duty during regular office hours, 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday in the Board of Elections office. He will be on duty on Saturdays from 8 a.m. until noon for registering voters in the new, loose-leaf system.

Voters who registered in the system in 1969 will not have to register but all others will have to register before voting in the primaries this spring.

It was explained that when 6,500 voters have registered, the office will then be kept open full time, five-and-a-half days a week.

The county's proposed beer can ordinance also came up in the business session Monday, with all the commissioners joining in the discussion except Ray Sims, who was absent. Sims, recently suffered a broken leg in a horseback riding accident.

A county ordinance requires two public readings and a hearing before becoming law. The ordinance, started on its way to law last fall, the first reading was held in October and the public hearing was held about the middle of October.

It was to get a second reading in December and if it received a favorable vote then, would become law on Dec. 23. The measure, however, died when it was not given a second reading.

The ordinance, similar to one passed by the Town Board of Murphy, prohibits drinking beer or wine or possession of open containers of these beverages on any public road or parking lot in the county. It is aimed at stopping the random tossing of empty beer cans along roadways throughout the county.

Chairman W. L. Moore said Monday he didn't think the ordinance would help much but Commissioner Jack Simonds said he believed it would.

Cherokee Deputy Sheriff Dude Radford, present at the meeting, said deputies and state troopers would be able to enforce the ordinance if they saw opened cans of beer in any cars they stopped. As it stands now, he said, if such a car is stopped inside the Murphy town limits, officers can charge a violation of the town's ordinance, if a car is stopped in the county with opened cans of beer, which probably will be tossed out when emptied, the officers can do nothing.

One of the commissioners noted that a state law already on the books makes it illegal to litter the highways with any kind of garbage, including beer cans.

Simonds made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Emogene Matheson, that the ordinance

process be started again and County Attorney J. L. Mason was instructed to draw up the ordinance and have it ready for a last reading at the February meeting.

In other business, the commissioners

Heard Billy Wells' application for a new hangar at the Murphy-Andrews Airport, to be constructed by the Wells and West firm and the Robbinsville, land clearing partners, Phillips & Jordan. Wells wanted to know how the county would go about letting the two firms build the hangar and use it as a tax-free for a number of years after which it could be used as county property. A seven-year term was agreed upon but they suggested that Wells come back at a later meeting with some plans for the hangar, which would house planes at the airport, look left out in the weather.

Voted to send a deputy sheriff to Breathalyzer school, to be held sometime soon in Western North Carolina. The machine, which tests the breath of those charged with driving drunk, is kept at the Cherokee County Jail and used by the Highway Patrol but no sheriff's officer is certified to use it.

Heard a report from County Auditor Barbara Stalup that \$130 had been spent recently on repairing bunkers in the county jail, on the recommendation of the state jail inspector's office. She said the state jail inspector also recommended that locks inside the jail be repaired and prisoners be confined to cells rather than allowed to run loose inside the jail.



## License Plate Time Again

Mrs. Mesal Johnson displays one of the 1970 license plates which went on sale at the local Western Auto store last Friday. The red-on-white plates, sold

briskly, she said, but it will take some time to make a dent in the first shipment of 15,000 plates. (Staff Photo)

## Fund Drive Reaches \$5,000

The Murphy Hospital Authority's fund-raising drive has passed the \$5,000 mark but officials are somewhat disappointed at the slow pace of donations.

Bill Christy, Citizens Bank assistant vice president and MHA treasurer, reported Tuesday afternoon that 231 contributions have been made to the drive with a total now of \$5,052.10. "We're still a long way short of the \$30,000 to \$40,000 we'll need to renovate Providence Hospital," Jack Owens, MHA chairman, said Tuesday. "What's happened to the other 4,800 people who received letters for donations?"

He referred to the 5,144 appeal letters sent out by the hospital authority on Dec. 20, asking donations for the campaign to repaint, re-light lower ceilings and generally

renovate the hospital, making it more attractive to patients and to doctors the MHA is trying to recruit for Murphy.

In the first week, 121 contributed to the cause, giving an average of about \$22. Their total was \$2,728.

Since then, Christy said, an additional 110 donations have been mailed in, averaging about the same, ranging in size from \$1 to \$300. These have raised the total to the present \$5,052.10.

The total of 231 contributions, Christy noted, is less than a 5 percent response from the letters mailed out.

Those who have donated since the first report was made are:

J. B. and Iona Mulkey, Harley Jo and Ruth Kincaid, Edwin Manchester, Moonlight Savings Club, E. C. Stiles, Leila

Haves, Josephine, Highway, Bunch, A. Nugent, Marcelle Palmer, J. H. Hampton, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Johnson, Jim Hendrix, Harold Brewer, Anna Beal, Cornwell, Hattie Palmer.

Goodrich, C. C. King, Lyell G. Van Atta, Mrs. Evelyn D. Hawkins, Mrs. R. H. Foard, Lloyd A. Black, Luther Burgess, Mrs. W. D. Ragsdale, Margaret Quinn, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Robert D. Bruce.

Joe Phillips, Mrs. W. T. Cooper, Dewey B. Sanders, Bertha Kisselberg, Fred Ware, Kenneth Godfrey, Murphy Motor Court, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Funk, Mr. and Mrs. Hobbie Whitener, S. J. Gernert.

Miss Martha Parks, Miss Cassie L. Johnson, Cecil B. Day, Major Wm. G. Allen, Edith Bredlove, Buddy J. McDonald, Wm. A. Hoover, M. D., Artie Kephart, Dora L. Worley, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Suit, Gwen Cornwell, Joe Myers and wife, Edward Davis, Mrs. Pearl Woodward, Willie Lou Shields, Ida Little, Mrs. Poley Chastain, Wilbur L. Roberts, King Auto Supply, Cherokee Restaurant, Thomas Cloe Moore, W. Arthur Hayes, George W. Morrow, Hardy Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Payne, Mr. W. H. Taylor.

W. T. Gibson, E. R. and Minnie Moore, Edna Whitener, Lussie and Edna Moss, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hughes, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Kinney, Jr. Mrs. Helen Wishon, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Phillips, Jr. C. W. Barrett, Harry and Barbara Anderson, Frank H. Dickey, George E. Fuller, Ronnie S. Trantham, B. E. Dockery, Jr. and Dorothy Dockery, M. H. Palmer.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert C. Gentry, Mr. and Mrs. Will White, Mr. and Mrs. Dan White, John Mings, Martha Brooks, Lela Winkler, Marcella Smith and Dr. James F. Smith and wife, Samuel Padgug, Burke E. Moore, Mrs. Carl Deby, Mr. and Mrs. Bergan Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kilpatrick, Glen and Amy Vandiver, Murphy Hardware Co.

Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Morrow, Coward, Steve Dockery, Inez Morrow, Ernest Ledford, Rev. David Glicker, Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Hans Beerkens, R. H. Ballenger, Gay Davidson, D. C. Gentry, Roy and Pearl Dockery, Annie Lou Rogers.

## Clay County Native Murdered In Nassau

Charles Hasson Hill, Jr., 31, was murdered Saturday afternoon, Jan. 3, as he was sightseeing in Nassau, the capital city of the Bahama Islands.

The police department of Nassau reported to Hill's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hill of Route 4, Hayesville,

that according to eye witnesses, the young tourist was struck with a piece of iron by one of two teenagers who were serving as guides on a tour of the city. Upon last contact with Nassau officials, one of the youths had been apprehended and the identity of the other was known.

The apparent motive of the killing was robbery since there was a sizable amount of money found on the suspect taken into custody.

Young Hill had served three years (1964-1967) in the U.S. Navy; most of that time spent in the vicinity of Saigon, South Vietnam. After his discharge from the Navy in October, 1967, he accepted a position as assistant with Philco-Ford Corporation in their offices in Saigon, where he was employed at the time of his death.

Hill's parents in the Sweetwater section of Clay County in July of 1969.

On Dec. 17, 1969, he married Miss Wendy Chung, a Chinese girl he met four years ago in Saigon. She, together with her parents, had fled from China 20 years ago. Having taken different flights, Mrs.



C.H. Hill, Jr.

Hill was stranded in Honolulu, Hawaii, at the time her husband was killed. She was contacted and flew into Knoxville, Tenn. Tuesday.

Hill's mother said he had telephoned her on Christmas from Tokyo, Japan and again the following Saturday Dec. 27, from Hong Kong.

The body will be flown to Atlanta, Ga. where it will be picked up by Ivie Funeral directors. It is not known just when it will arrive. Funeral services will be in the Sweetwater United Methodist Church and interment will be in the church cemetery. Further arrangements will be announced later by Ivie Funeral Home.



## First Baby Of 1970

Little Miss Patricia Michelle Radford, shown above with her mother, Mrs. Virgil Radford of Marble, became the first baby of 1970 born in Cherokee County as she checked in at 3:55 a.m. New Years Day. It was the

second child for the Radfords; their new daughter weighed 7 pounds, 7 1/4 ounces at birth and is 20 inches long. Dr. Helen Wells was the attending physician at Providence Hospital. (Staff Photo)