

Volume 80 — Number 26 — Murphy, North Carolina, 28906 — Second Class Postage Paid At Murphy, North Carolina — Thursday, January 15, 1970

County Hit By Snow, Temperatures Of 10 Below Zero

Bitter Weather Stops Pine Beetle Invasion

Thermometers dropped to 10 below zero in Murphy last week and the bad weather continued this week, bursting water lines, making roads hazardous and giving school pupils a prolonged holiday.

But the below-zero weather had a good side, as County Forest Ranger, Harold Hatchett reported that it apparently killed millions of pine beetles.

The Southern pine beetle invaded Cherokee County in earnest last summer and the infestation spread quickly, marked by dying trees with yellowed needles. It was feared that warm weather this Spring would cause the beetles to multiply and eat up most of the pines in the county, a stand valued at \$15 million.

But below-zero temperatures last Thursday and Friday seem to have wiped out the beetle threat. "I took 15 samples of bark from infested trees in the Owl Creek section home Tuesday and thawed them out," Hatchett reported. "All the beetles were dead."

"They may possibly be alive in some areas," he added, "but I doubt it. I checked in sheltered areas and it stands to reason that up on the mountain tops, the conditions for their survival would have been even worse."

A similar invasion by the pine beetles in 1957 was stopped by pure luck, Hatchett said, when a few days of moist weather were followed by below-zero temperatures, killing all the beetles.

He strongly urges landowners with infested trees to cut them and sell them for pulpwood while they still can. If the infested trees stand through the winter, he said, they will rot and they "won't be worth a dime."

The snow came early last week. The TVA's Hydraulic Data station here, which is an official observation station for the U. S. Weather Bureau, measured the first snow at an inch and a half. The

cold weather kept it from melting much and then on Wednesday night the temperature dropped.

The thermometer checked by TVA employes each afternoon locks in the lowest temperature recorded in 24 hours. At the reading Wednesday, it showed 8 degrees above zero. By the next morning it was colder and the reading on Thursday afternoon at 5 p.m. showed a low for the 24 hours of 2 degrees below zero.

The reading on Friday afternoon at 5 p.m. showed a low for the previous 24 hours of 10 degrees below zero.

Saturday it warmed up a little but Sunday morning the snow came again, the TVA weather-watchers marking it at another inch.

Schools opened for the first day after Christmas vacation on Monday of last week and have been closed every day since. Pupils sledded on Murphy streets and hills when the weather was not too bitter but some are already saying they're ready to return to classes, which will have to run later than the original schedule.

"We were to get out of school on May 26," Cherokee Superintendent John Jordan said. "But now it looks like we'll have to go into June and if we miss more days, we'll have to go to school on some Saturdays."

He explained that by state law, the schools have to operate on 180 days during the school year and the term cannot be extended too far into June because many teachers will begin summer school classes by about June 15. Teachers, he noted, will have to work two days beyond the date when pupils are dismissed for summer.

"What scares us," Jordan added, "is that we've already missed seven days and we're not even into February or March, when we usually are out due to snow."



School Supt. John Jordan....checking "snow" calendar

Taylor Proposes Code Of Ethics For Members Of State Legislature

Representative Charles Taylor of Brevard told a Republican gathering here Tuesday night that a bill of ethics is needed in the state

Legislature and he is personally going to start the machinery in motion toward voting on such a bill in the 1971 session. Taylor, one of the bright

young stars of the state GOP delegation, addressed about 60 at a meeting in the courthouse sponsored by the newly-formed Cherokee County Young Republicans Club.

In a question-and-answer period following his speech, he said he planned to announce for the House again in about three to four weeks. He served as the 48th District representative and was the House Minority Leader in the last session.

"Most professions have a code of ethics," Taylor said. "The Legislature should do no less."

He cited several cases of senators voting for their own special interests, dominating committees which ruled on their own businesses. One Senator X, he said, an attorney hired by a bus company, sponsored a bill to allow wider buses on state highways.

"It was improper for him to sponsor such a bill," Taylor charged and added that the man, who was also paid by a banking association, sat on a committee which deliberated on a raise in interest rates.

Taylor said the GOP delegation to the Legislature sponsored an ethics bill during the past session and Senator X spoke against it and it was defeated by Legislature, which is largely Democratic.

The young lawmaker said he is sending a letter to Rep.

Phillip P. Goodwin and Sen. Hector McGeachy, co-chairmen of the Legislative Research Commission, asking that a study be started and an ethics bill be readied for consideration by the next Legislature.

Such a bill, he said, should contain provisions for a compulsory disclosure by a legislator of how much stock he owned in a trucking line or a bank, or other business an advisory committee to check on conduct of legislators, guidelines telling legislators what is ethical and what is not, and finally a criminal section for punishing violations of the code.

He explained that the ethics bill would not be aimed at keeping qualified people off a legislative committee, for example, bankers on a banking committee.

"Bankers should not be kept off banking committees," he said. "But neither should they have a majority on the committee. There should be enough bankers on the committee for technical assistance but not enough to dominate it."

"And the code of ethics would never stop a man from voting, whether he voted for the people or for special interests," Taylor added. "It would be up to him to explain his vote to the satisfaction of his constituents."

B-rrrrr
Icicles were common decorations around Murphy the past week as the area experienced snow, freezing rain and temperatures last Friday of 10 below zero. (Staff Photo)

Exchange Students Enjoy Their First Snow

Two teenagers from the balmy Pacific coast of South America enjoyed snow for the first time here last week and before the week was out had experienced the mixed pleasures of below-zero weather.

Marcela Iparraguirre, 18, and Oscar Davila, 15, both of Lima, Peru, are here for about three months on a student exchange program. She had never seen snow; he had only seen the white stuff on a mountain top, from a distance. Both the Peruvians quickly

Chamber Meeting Scheduled

The Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual meeting Saturday night at Odell's Restaurant.

Tom Gentry, president, announced the meeting date, set by the board of directors, and expressed hope for a large turnout. He said invitations have been mailed to a number of businesses but stressed that reservations should be confirmed with the Chamber office.

The social period will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the dinner meeting to begin at 7 p.m. Officers will be elected for the 1970 Chamber year during the meeting and two directors will be selected to serve three-year terms.

"We are pleased with the Chamber's 1969 year," Gentry said. "Progress has been made on all of the Chamber's 10 major projects for 1969 and work has been accomplished in other areas for the betterment of our county."

He added that brief reports on the Chamber's projects will be made at the annual meeting Saturday night.

adapted to their winter atmosphere, displaying beautiful alpaca sweaters and hand-made wool clothing from their native country.

Oscar is staying at the Ken Godfrey home and he explained that his older brother had gone to New York state on the exchange program a year or two ago and had warned him about cold weather. In Lima, the coldest weather they have, he says, is about 58 degrees.

Both the Peruvians enjoyed sledding last week on the ice-covered hills in town with Murphy youngsters and Oscar was taken on a skiing trip to Catalochee, where he quickly mastered the beginner's slope on a pair of borrowed skis. Marcela has also been promised a skiing trip.

Oscar will attend Murphy High School as a junior, along

with his host and interpreter, the Godfrey's son, Alan, also a junior. He has had no English classes but is picking up the language quickly in the Godfrey household.

Marcela is staying at the John Carringer home with Markie Carringer, who is a junior at MHS and a part-time translator. The Peruvian girl has had about six years of classroom English instruction and understands the language although she is sometimes reluctant to speak it, preferring to speak Spanish, which can be translated either by young Godfrey or Miss Carringer.

Marcela has graduated from school as a secretarial student, with the equivalent of a two-year business course. She will sit in on a variety of classes at MHS.

The second part of the exchange will come next

summer, when the two Murphy students will go to Lima. The arrangements for the exchange are made by International Fellowship. Mrs. Lynn Gault is the district representative.

Miss Carringer would like to visit Marcela at her home in Lima and Alan Godfrey would like to visit at the Davila home, but their schedules are not fixed at this time. They are afraid that the program may send Markie Carringer to another student's home in Lima, since the Peruvian girl visiting here has already graduated from school.

"They eat rice, just plain rice," Miss Carringer said, explaining one of the adjustments the visitors have had to make. Her "sister" Marcela wrinkled up her nose in dislike as gravies and sauces were mentioned.

The typical Peruvian diet

according to the visitors, Miss Carringer said, includes a lot of pepper and spices and is therefore hotter than food they have been served here. Lima, a city of three million, is located on the coast and they are used to eating more fish and other seafood than is usually seen here.

Through their translators, the visitors also explained that household servants are cheap and easier to find in Peru than in North Carolina. Both of them are accustomed to having several servants, cooks and gardeners around their homes.

Servants or not, Marcela is skilled at making her own clothes and showed several attractive items, either sewed or knitted at home. She explained that ready-to-wear clothes in Lima stores are expensive and "they all look alike."



Visitors From Peru

Two visiting students from Peru, Oscar Davila, extreme left, and Marcela Iparraguirre, extreme right, posed last week with their Murphy hosts for the next three months, Markie Carringer, left, and Alan

Godfrey. On the table are several native-made articles the Lima teenagers brought to their American families. (Staff Photo)

Hens Valued At \$12,000 Die In Fire

More than 4,000 laying hens valued at \$3 apiece, died in a fire which damaged a chickenhouse in southern Cherokee County Thursday morning.

Emory Anderson, who owned the building, said the hens represented a loss of \$12,000 and most of the other 3,000 hens in the building were injured in the fire and may not live.

The structure is located off US-64 about 11 miles west of here and three firemen and a truck from the Murphy department are credited with saving the building from total destruction.

The blaze started, according to the firemen, from a kerosene space heater which was being used in the below-zero weather this area experienced last week. The chickens were in cages and firemen said they apparently suffocated.

Anderson said the loss was not covered by insurance.



Young Republicans

Officers of the Young Republican Club of Cherokee County, which sponsored an address Tuesday night by Rep. Charles Taylor of Brevard, posed with the speaker after the event. Left

to right are William D. Davis, chairman, Mrs. John Goodrich, vice-chairman, Nancy Speed, secretary, Rep. Taylor, and Arthur Hayes, treasurer. (Staff Photo)