

Artist's Conception of Planned First Union National Bank

Chamber Of Commerce Elects Officers At Annual Meeting

Horace Cannon, manager of the Levi Strauss plant here, was elected president of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce in the annual meeting Saturday night.

The Chamber's board of directors elected the officers in the session at Odell's Restaurant. Gene Farmer, manager of the Collins-Crain Department Store was chosen as vice president, Henry Simmons, city executive in charge of the First Union National Bank office here was voted in as treasurer and Don Hughes of Hughes Electric was selected as secretary.

The members of the Chamber attending the event voted to accept the choices of

the nominating committee and Simmons and Bill McDaniels, local Chevrolet dealer, were elected to the board of directors to serve three-year terms.

In accepting the gavel from the outgoing president, Tom Gentry, Cannon said, "I've been here four years and I wouldn't want to be anywhere else." He said a Chamber of Commerce is a necessity for this county and expressed hope for a good year in 1970, challenging members that "the Chamber can only be as good as we make it."

Gentry, who has served as president for two years, credited the Chamber with

much progress in the county in his address but also pointed out shortcomings.

"There are only 74 members and we should have at least 150 in the Chamber," Gentry said. He also mentioned that the Chamber ended the year with a \$54 loss in its budget.

Gentry mentioned the increase in mobile homes in this county as an evidence of growing prosperity, "kids staying home to work and 2,900 jobs in 20 industries, primarily through the efforts of the Chamber."

He said if the pace continues the county could well have 40 industries with

6,000 workers by 1990 but the rate of growth could be quickened and this growth would be possible in the next 10 years.

"But industry is just part of the Chamber program," Gentry added. "Homes and recreation and schools and better roads and better medical facilities are things we have to work for."

The Chamber organized a credit bureau several years ago, he said, and "out of the Chamber grew the recognition of the need for a savings and loan and the roots of the United Fund."

In closing, Gentry spoke about the need for developing tourism as another source of income for Cherokee County, a major Chamber project.

Contract To Be Let Soon On New Bank

A new First Union National Bank building for Murphy will probably be contracted to a builder early in February.

That was the word this week from Frank B. Duncan, First Union vice president in Franklin, who released an artist's conception of the new building.

The new building will be located on Peachtree Street on the Fain Lot between Murphy Tire Company and the Regal Hotel.

"Plans for the new building are progressing on schedule," Duncan said. "The contract should be let in early February and actual construction should begin soon thereafter." The bank's real estate department in Charlotte will handle the building plans and other details, he added.

Henry Simmons is city executive of the First Union office in Murphy and will be manager of the new bank operations. He and his staff are presently working under cramped conditions, he says, in trailer offices on Tennessee Street but hope to be in the new building within four or five months after construction starts.

"We appreciate the fine reception this community has given us while we are in these temporary quarters," Simmons said Tuesday, "and we're looking forward to the future when we can serve the people of this area with a full-service bank."

First Union, the third largest bank in the state, has home offices in Charlotte with total resources in excess of one billion dollars.

First Union merged with the Bank of Franklin last September. The Franklin operation, at the time of the merger, had resources of about \$12 million and about 25 employees. The First Union banking offices in North Carolina employ more than 2,000 people.

At the time of the merger, Duncan said of First Union "both employees and the local board of directors are pleased to be associated with this fine banking system."

"Many services will be available to our customers that The Bank of Franklin has been unable to offer in the past," he continued. "As Murphy and Cherokee County continue to grow, we feel that First Union National Bank of North Carolina, being a full-service banking system, will play an important role."



New Chamber Of Commerce Officers

Tom Gentry, left, immediate past president of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, is shown passing the gavel to Horace Cannon, the new president. Other new officers, L-R, are Henry

Simmons, treasurer; Don Hughes, secretary; Gene Farmer, vice President. Simmons and Bill McDaniels were also elected to the board of directors for three-year terms. (Staff Photo)

Three Injured In Wreck

Three people were injured Tuesday morning in a head-on collision on the four-lane highway just west of the town limits.

Charlie Cearley, 45, of Culberson was treated for facial injuries and released at Providence Hospital and his passenger, Patt Cearley, 57, also of Culberson, was admitted to the hospital with a broken leg.

Edna Mae Sherman, 31, of Route 1, Copperhill, Tenn., suffered leg injuries in the collision. She was taken to Providence and then transferred to a Chattanooga hospital.

Trooper Don Reavis, who investigated the accident, said the woman was driving a 1957 Ford station wagon, headed west, when she skidded on the snow-covered highway and slid across into the opposite traffic lane, colliding with the 1962 Chevrolet one-ton truck driven by the younger Cearley.

The State Highway Patrolman said no charges were made in the accident.



Construction Scene

Workmen are laboring at the new Levi Strauss plant east of Murphy to have the building ready for full use in March. Part of the Levi operation will move in mid-February with completion of the structure set for March 9.

New Plant Nears Completion

Levi Strauss & Co., will begin some operations in the new plant about the middle of February.

That was the word this week from Horace Cannon, manager of the local Levi plant.

"About Feb. 15 we'll move the cutting room and warehouse into the new plant," Cannon said. "March 9 is the date for completion of the new plant and after that we'll be able to move all operations there."

The one-story, 57,600 square foot plant is being constructed on a knoll across the Valley River from US-19

Elderly Woman Robbed At Home

Robbers broke into an old woman's house in the Grape Creek section last Friday night, seized her and robbed of her more than \$100.

Cherokee Deputy Sheriff Dude Radford and SBI agent James Maxey of Bryson City, the investigating officers, said they expect to make arrests in the case soon.

The officers said Molly Whitner, described as in her 80's, was sitting in her living room at the time of the robbery. The thieves, they said, apparently knocked the latch off the back door of the house and the woman, who is hard of hearing, did not know they were in the house.

The officers said the robbers then pulled several fuses out of the electrical switch-box, plunging the house into darkness. One of them then grabbed the woman around the neck while the other took the money, which was hidden inside her clothing.

The robbers apparently replaced the fuses before they left, officers said.

Bloodmobile Coming

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Murphy at the Power Board Building from 1 until 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 26.

"The recent bad weather has canceled stops in other communities, affecting the blood supply at the Regional Blood Center in Asheville," says Mrs. Edgar Harshaw, chairman of the blood program for the Cherokee Chapter of the Red Cross. "We'll need all the donors we can get that afternoon."

She noted that the quota for the year here is 320 pints and the Bloodmobile makes only four visits here a year. "We'll be trying to get 80 pints here next Monday," Mrs. Harshaw says.

Townlift Project Plans Presented

TVA community planners presented a plan for renewing the appearance of downtown Murphy in a meeting Monday night at the Power Board Building here.

After viewing the presentation, Peyton Ivie, chairman of the Townlift Peachtree Street Project, said "By this summer, we should have most of the work on Peachtree completed."

"All the property owners I have contacted are in agreement that something should be done," Ivie added, "and they've all already agreed

to put up canopies."

Ivie said the next step in the process will probably be a meeting of all interested merchants and community groups within two weeks to discuss the plans in detail. He also indicated that a delegation will probably appear before the Town Board to discuss the plans and ask that the town check to see if the State Highway Commission will approve the plans.

The SHC has responsibility for major streets in Murphy, including Peachtree, and the most striking section of the TVA plan calls for trees in concrete planters which would jut out into the street.

The planters, 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, would take up six to 10 parking spaces, the planners say, in the target section of Peachtree Street, from the square to the Power Board Building. Each planter would accommodate a tree and perhaps a concrete bench and garbage container.

Ivie expressed admiration for the plan but said he was afraid some merchants would

oppose the planters' taking up space which could be used for parking. The planters' pointed out that trees on each corner and three in the middle of the block would break up the long, straight curbline into four inviting parking bays.

The greenery, they say, will also serve to soften the harsh concrete and asphalt character of the present downtown section and will continue the treeline now existing on the northern section of Peachtree.

The TVA group recommended that sycamore trees, four to six inches in diameter, be planted. They said this type of shade tree grows fast and can stand repeated pruning.

Other sections of the Townlift plan call for trees in the town parking lots and formalized walkways in the existing alleys which connect the lots with Peachtree Street. The plan also indicates a general facelift, complete with repainting and canopies, of the buildings along the street.

The planners, furnished by TVA's Regional Planning Department, emphasized several times during the presentation that their plan is not binding in any way and that TVA will not finance it. The services of the planners are provided at no cost to the town, they said, but it is left up to the town and the individual businessmen and merchants as to whether any or all of the plan is implemented.

The planners said it is now up to the town as to what will be done and they consider Peachtree Street to be a guide. If the Peachtree project is carried out and improvements are made as planned, the TVA group will return in the summer to lay out plans for a Townlift project which will upgrade the appearance of all major business streets in town. If nothing is done, the TVA planners will not return.

The drawings made by the planners and presented Monday night are on display in the town office daily at the Power Board Building.



Walls Come Tumbling Down

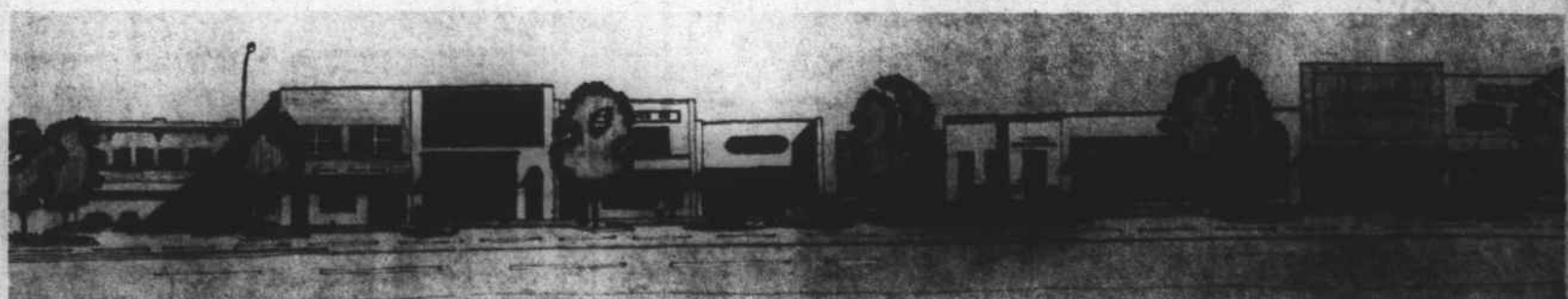
A landmark on the square in Murphy, the Davis Esso station, was torn down last week to make room for a larger station which will be built on the present lot and also on the site of the old bus station behind it. Sam

Davidson and Boyd Davis, partners in the operation, say construction of the new station will take about three months and they will continue to pump gas at the site during construction. (Staff Photo)

The plant's operations in Murphy are presently being carried on in four different locations, Cannon said. The main plant is in a building leased from C. L. (Bud) Alverson on Regal Street. The cutting room, however, is housed in a tarpaper-covered building beside the Rock Gym.

The warehouse, he added, is located on school property at the Murphy Elementary School and the parts department is functioning in the same building with Smoky Mountain Heating and Air Conditioning.

The local Levi payroll in Murphy now is 330, Cannon said, but it will expand at the new plant eventually to 600 employees. "We plan to be working about 515 to 525 by the first of 1971," Cannon said. "The climb from there to 600 will be a slower process."



Planners' View Of Peachtree Street

A TVA planner's sketch shows what Peachtree Street could look like with a general facelift and planting of trees. This and other sketches by the planners can be seen in a display at the Town Office.