

Citizens Bank Merged Into Wachovia

The merger of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, N.A., and the Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Andrews became complete Saturday.

That morning Citizens Banks eight offices, in Andrews, Cashiers, Cullowhee, Franklin, Hayesville, Murphy, Robbinsville and Sylva, opened for business as Wachovia offices.

The merger was proposed in early June of last year and then approved by stockholders in both banks and the Comptroller of the Currency.

W. Frank Forsyth, formerly president of Citizens Bank, has been elected senior vice president of Wachovia and will continue to head the eight offices. These offices will be operated as a part of the Asheville region of Wachovia.

Percy B. Ferree, chairman of the board of Citizens, has been elected chairman of the Andrews regional board of Wachovia.

"The signs will be changed but the

people are the same," Forsyth said Saturday morning. "The merger has taken place without the slightest interruption in service to customers. We are pleased that we will now be able to give our customers the benefits of additional conveniences and services because of the merger."

John F. Watlington, Jr., president of Wachovia Bank and Trust, said: "We are indeed proud to welcome these offices to Wachovia Bank. The merger will allow the combined banks to continue offering the best in banking services."

Citizens Bank and Trust Co. was established in 1924. On December 31, 1969, the bank had \$30,428,570 in deposits and \$35,694,547 in assets.

Wachovia Bank and Trust, founded in 1879, had average resources of \$1.6 billion in 1969 and average deposits of \$1.25 billion during the year. Wachovia now has 132 offices in 51 North Carolina cities and towns.

Welfare Checks Restored

Families in Cherokee County receiving welfare assistance for dependent children will have their checks restored to the December levels next month.

John R. Jordan, Jr., Chairman of the State Board of Social Services, announced last week in Raleigh that state funds have been found to restore the checks, which had been cut for January, some as much as \$20 per family.

The cut was necessary because the Legislature last year had approved money for 107,000 recipients in the Aid to Families with Dependent Children category and the number has climbed sharply in the last few months with 134,000 presently on the rolls.

Some of the sharp rise has been attributed to civil rights drives in the eastern part of the state resulting in many families who had been eligible all the time suddenly signing up for assistance checks.

"We are indeed happy that this unfortunate problem lasted only one month and that North Carolina has taken this positive step to come to the aid of its less fortunate citizens. The concern and leadership of Governor Robert W. Scott have played a vital role in making it possible for these payments to be restored. Many other states have the same problem of a growing number of welfare recipients but have elected to continue reduced payments," Jordan said.

In Cherokee County, the number of AFDC recipients has increased slightly, according to V.O. Ayers, head of the county Social Services Department, formerly called the Welfare Department. He said there were 91 families, with 358 family members listed, receiving AFDC checks in July of 1969. As of December, it had risen to 96 families, including 372 family members qualifying for assistance.

In other counties, where the rise in recipients has been large, the county budget is facing the same squeeze the state faced and more money will have to be found.

In Cherokee, however, Ayers says his AFDC budget is running well within bounds "and unless we have a drastic increase in the number of recipients, we should finish the fiscal year within our budget."

The federal government pays 80 per cent of welfare costs, the state provides 10 per cent and the county pays 10 per cent. The AFDC budget for Cherokee County, included in the overall budget adopted by county commissioners last summer, provides the county's share, \$17,436.

Jordan also pointed out that not only will the payments be restored to their December level, but this will mean an increase in money to spend for basic necessities. The December allowance included up to \$10.00 for medical expenditures. The new Medicaid program now in effect will cover most of these expenses.

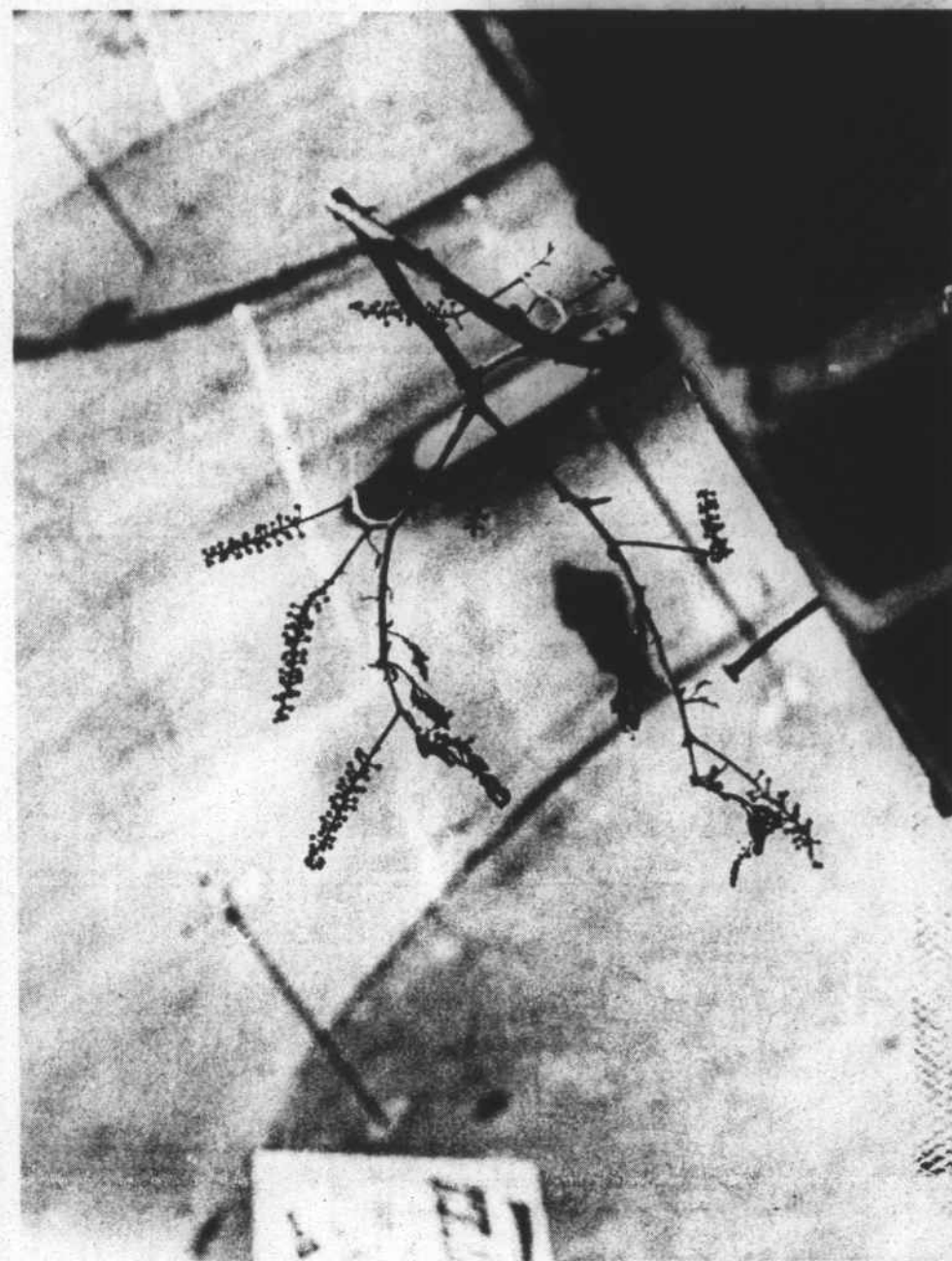
Medicaid is providing dental services for AFDC families for the first time. Recipients do not have to pay the \$1.00 for each drug prescription they had to pay in December, and physician and optometrist bills will be paid in full with the recipient not having to pay part of the bill as he had to do in many cases in December. Medicaid will provide other additional benefits such as inpatient and outpatient hospital care, and laboratory and x-ray fees, nursing home care, home health care and eyeglasses.

Extended benefits of the Federal food stamp program administered by the Department of Social Services, which will also go into effect Feb. 1, will almost double the amount of food purchase power these recipients have had in the past.

Two increased benefits that were implemented this past July have already raised the income of AFDC families who have either a part time or full time working adult member.

Prior to July, when they worked, almost dollar for dollar earned was subtracted from their public assistance check. Since that date the first \$30 and one-third of the remainder of gross earned income is disregarded. This means they have that much additional money allowed in their checks.

Since July, the Department of Social Services will also pay for the day care of the children when the mother becomes employed.



Townlift Project

Scout Photographer Hugh Carringer hung by his heels to get this picture of a hardy pokeweed, growing out of a crack in the masonry above the third-story windows of the old Regal Hotel building. That's the square in the background. The Townlift Project for

Peachtree Street, which does not include the planting of any pokeweeds, will be the subject of a special meeting Monday night at 7:30 at the Power Board Building, involving Town Board members, TVA planners and Peachtree Street merchants.

Roy Taylor Will Campaign To Keep Seat In Congress

Congressman Roy A. Taylor of Black Mountain has announced his candidacy for re-election as 11th District Representative in Congress. He has forwarded his filing fee to the State Board of Elections in Raleigh.

He will seek nomination in the May Democratic primary. The 59-year-old lawmaker has represented the 11th District in Congress since 1960.

He is a member of the House Interior Committee and chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks and

Recreation. He also serves as a member of the House Science and Astronautics Committee. Recently approved projects which he has sponsored include a 180-mile extension of the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Cradle of Forestry visitors' center in Pisgah National Forest, National Park Service acquisition of the Carl Sandburg estate for preservation as a national historical site, a ZPS roadway into the Catalochee region of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and radar at

Asheville Airport. Earlier, he was instrumental in securing a new Veterans Administration Hospital at Oteen and 24-hour weather service for the mountain counties.

Most rating organizations place Taylor among the conservatives of Congress. While voting against funds for most new domestic social programs, he has been a consistent supporter of federal aid to education, conservation and law enforcement measures.

Taylor formerly served eight years in the North Carolina House of Representatives, as attorney for Buncombe County, and District Governor of Lions Clubs in Western North Carolina. He is a Navy combat veteran of World War II; a past president of the Black Mountain Chamber of Commerce; a deacon and former Sunday School superintendent of Black Mountain First Baptist Church; and a former trustee of the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

He is a graduate of Candler High School, UNC at Asheville and Maryville (Tenn.) College. He studied law under the late N.C. Assistant Attorney General Claude L. Love of Asheville and was admitted to the bar in 1936. He is married to the former Evelyn Reeves of Leicester. They have two children.

Plant Delayed By Weather

Engineers making a topographical survey, before starting construction on the new Harriett-Henderson carpet yarn plant in Clay County, have been delayed by extreme winter weather. Tom Day, Chairman of the Clay Corporation, the local building-leasing agency says excavation should get under way by mid-February.

The initial building will be 600 feet long and located 75 feet from the paved road, locally known as Old US 64 and near the east boundary line of the 84-acre tract of land recently purchased for the manufacturing firm.

School Set Saturday

Cherokee County School Superintendent John Jordan announces that all schools in the system will operate Saturday - unless it snows again.

The buses will run and the schools will operate on a regular schedule, he said, to make up for time lost recently during bad weather. Pupils are expected to attend school as usual Saturday.

Remember Last Friday?

Another snow blanketed Western North Carolina last Friday morning, giving youngsters a long weekend as schools were closed. The TVA Hydraulic Data office here, which serves as a U.S. Weather Bureau station,

measured the snow fall at an even three inches. The view here is the old Methodist Church, no longer used for organized worship but still keeping a silent watch from one of the highest hills in town. (Staff Photo)

Herman 'Bull' West Seeks Re-election

Herman H. "Bull" West, incumbent State Senator of the 33rd District, announced Wednesday that he will seek re-election, subject to the May primary.

A Republican, he said he expects to wage a vigorous campaign in the seven-county district for re-election. The 33rd includes Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon, Swain, Jackson and Transylvania counties.

Presently West has no competition from members of his own party for the primary. A Democrat, Dr. Carl Killian, retired professor at Western Carolina University, has announced for the seat.

West, 59, served in the House in the 1961 and 1963 sessions and then last year was a member of the Senate. He served on several committees, including the Alcoholic Beverage Control Committee, Conservation and Development Committee, Highway Safety, Public Roads and Public Welfare committees and the Appropriations Committee and the Joint Appropriations Sub-Committee, considered most important since this body allots money for various state agencies.

During the coming months, West says he plans to meet and talk with the people of the



Herman H. West

district, to determine their ideas on legislative matters. He plans to emphasize his experience in both houses of the Legislature.

"It is my belief that experience and knowledge of the legislative procedure are of great importance to the people whom one is serving," West said. "It is my experience that any legislator who is serving his first term in the Legislature lacks the necessary contacts which are so vital in pushing through a legislative program."

West is a self-made success, a native of Andrews who worked for years as a laborer and then went into the land-clearing business for himself in 1940 with three crosscut saws, a few bush hooks and axes. Today he is President of his own firm, listed by Dunn and Bradstreet, and pilots his own plane to check on land-clearing projects across the country. His "Bull of the Woods" trademark is well-known in one of the roughest, most hazardous and financially risky businesses.

He is married to the former Margie Bryson of Marble and they have five sons, all involved in the family land-clearing business.

West has the reputation of being a maverick Republican who does not hesitate to follow his conscience and vote his own convictions, regardless of the party policy. In 1961 in the House, the GOP delegation was firmly opposed to then-Governor Terry Sanford's so-called "food tax" to finance a better school system. West was convinced that the state needed the tax for better schools and was the only Republican to vote for it.

"I don't represent just the Republicans in this district," he said Wednesday morning in making the announcement. "I represent everybody and no political party is going to tell me how to vote."

Two Hit By Bus

Two employees of Mundy's Lumber & Veneer Co. at Marble were injured when they were struck by a Trailways bus as they walked to work in the snow last Friday morning.

John Newton, 65, and Fred Welch, 50, were both admitted to Providence Hospital in Murphy and remain hospitalized this week. A hospital spokesman said they both are doing "very well."

Trooper B.J. Ogle of the State Highway Patrol investigated the accident, which he termed "unavoidable." He said the bus, travelling at a low speed, apparently went into a skid as the driver braked to keep from hitting them. The officer, however, did find that the bus driver had been transferred to this state from South Carolina and had not acquired a valid North Carolina chauffeur's license. He was given a citation for not having a proper license.

The state trooper said the men told him they were walking to work because the snow made the highway, US-19-129, too slippery.

Andrews Teens Facing Charges

Two Andrews teenagers were arrested and jailed Wednesday morning on charges of breaking into a vending machine at an East Murphy service station earlier in the night.

Jack Hook, 17, was charged with breaking into the machine and Mitchell Shields, 18, was charged with aiding and abetting. They were arrested by Cherokee County Special Deputy Sheriff Winston Craig and charged with opening a machine at Charles White Sinclair station.

Late Wednesday morning they had not made bond and were still in the Cherokee County Jail. Cherokee Sheriff Claude Anderson said they probably will be tried in District Court in Murphy sometime in February.



Blood Donors

Alden Coward, left, and the Rev. Woodrow Flynn both received their Seven Gallon pins as the Red Cross Bloodmobile made a visit to Murphy on Monday afternoon. Boyce McLeymore was recognized for giving two gallons of blood and Earl Ramsey reached the

one-gallon mark Monday.

There were 72 potential donors, but 18 of them were rejected because of colds or recent flu shots or other reasons and 54 pints were collected. (Staff Photo)