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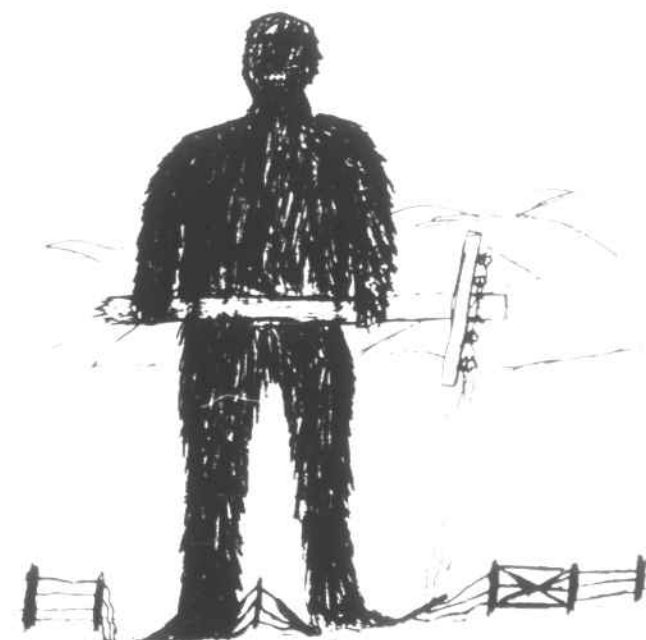
Monster Winners

Betsy Henn Hall posed with the cheeks Monday while the winners of the Snowbird Mountain Monster-Man art contest made like monsters around her. Mrs. Hall, who judged the contest for the best likeness of the April Fool

story character, gave first prize to Brenda Hughes, left, second prize to Michael Foust and third prize to Sally Curtis. Honorable mention went to Kenneth Lee Blackwell of Hawassee Dam School. (Staff Photo)



FIRST PRIZE — Brenda Hughes, 10, Peachtree



SECOND PRIZE — Michael Foust, 10, Peachtree



THIRD PRIZE — Sally Curtis, 12, Hayessville

Fires Started By Arsonists, 700 Acres Burned

Arsonists in the isolated section started fires which burned over hundreds of acres in Cherokee County and along the border in Tennessee along the New South Highway on Sunday.

U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Harold Fisher of Murphy said the firebugs apparently set fires at 10 locations along the dirt road in the western end of the county Sunday morning, eventually burning more than 700 acres in Cherokee County as the blaze merged into five major fires.

He said the fires occurred along the road in an area roughly between the Morrow Gap and Union Gap, which is the North Carolina border. There were also at least four more forest fires set on the Tennessee side, he said, along the same road between Union Gap and Coker Creek, Tenn.

There are several methods of setting a fire which will flare up some length of time after the arsonist has left, Ranger Fisher said. These include candles, slow burning ropes or cigarettes with matches inserted to ignite when the heat reaches them.

"Several places where the fires were started were discovered and quickly put out," the ranger said. "We have some special Forest Service investigators in the fire area now looking into the matter and searching for evidence."

The fires were discovered about noon on Sunday, Fisher said. The Union Gap area by Sunday afternoon were 1 1/2 miles on the left. The fire took control of the two lanes, two roadways and two billboards.

Also a water bomber, a plane dropping fire-retarding liquid was used against the fires, flying out of Knoxville, Tenn. Turbulence, however, got so bad Sunday afternoon as a thunderstorm built up over the fire that the plane had to be called off.

"We finally got a halt over it on Sunday night," Ranger Fisher said. "It didn't completely put the fire out but it did stall it."

He said the fire, although pushed by high winds, stayed on the ground and did not completely destroy all trees as some forest fires do. The pines suffered most, he said, as many of the larger hardwoods will not be affected by the fire. Of the trees that were burned too badly to survive, he said, some timber can be salvaged.

The young growth, Ranger Fisher said, was completely lost as small trees which did not burn up were killed by the heat. Included in this category was a 54-acre pine plantation, planted by Forest Service crews in 1965.

He estimated the cost of the fire, including lost timber, labor costs and the expense of operating the machines, at roughly \$20,000.



District Ranger Harold Fisher in blackened forest near Tennessee line

Hayesville Housing Project Announced

Tom Day, chairman of the Clay County Rural Development Authority, announces that a Rural Renewal loan has been made and the contract awarded for construction of a housing project at Hayesville.

The contract was for \$93,000 and was awarded to Collins and Minor Construction Co. of Murphy, Day said. The project is called Moore View Homesites and will be located on Tusquette Road, joining the Hayesville town limits on the north.

Day said the project will have eight new homes constructed and there will also be nine lots available there for construction of homes in the future.

The water for the project will come from the Town of Hayesville and necessary road construction will be provided by the N.C. State Highway Commission.

In cooperation with the Blue Ridge Mountain L.M.U. the homesite project will be constructed with all utilities underground. This is the first project of this type in the area.

The Rural Renewal project will be financed and supervised by the Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In addition to Day, other members of the authority are J.W. Stanley, Wallace Crawford, W.G. Mingus and Carroll C. McClure.

Golf Pro

Is Hired

For Course

A fulltime golf pro has been hired for the Cherokee County Golf Course set to open officially for play on May 3.

He is Jack Williams of Bryson City, who was pro for the golf course there when it was in operation.

Joe El-Khoury, chairman of the Rural Renewal Authority, made the announcement. He said Williams will be in charge of the driving range, pro shop, cart rentals and will offer a full range of individual or group lessons for golfers.

Translator Situation Explained

A television translator station for Marble will have to be built before Murphy can be served by WLOS-TV, Asheville.

That was the word this week in a letter from Morton Cohn, vice president and general manager of the Asheville television station. The letter was in response to the Scout's editorial of April 1, urging operation of a Murphy translator.

"Some time ago we applied to the Federal Communications Commission for a translator station to serve Murphy and were given permission to build the station," Cohn's letter reads. "We planned to pick up the signal from our existing translator station serving Andrews and Robbinsville and rebroadcast it on the Murphy translator."

"Unfortunately, contrary to our expectations, we found that the incoming signal was not sufficient and that it was subject to interference from other distant television stations. As a result we are not currently on the air in Murphy. In the meantime, we filed an application for another translator station for Marble. This application has been at the FCC for some time. If we get permission to establish the Marble translator, it will provide a much stronger signal for pick-up and use by the translator serving Murphy and should enable us to put an excellent quality picture into Murphy."

"We are very hopeful that we will receive permission in the near future to serve Marble which will then make it possible for us to serve Murphy. We are most anxious to bring to the people of Murphy a good quality television picture from a North Carolina station so that you will have news, sports, and public affairs programs from your home state."

Ivie Suffers Heart Attack

Peyton G. Ivie suffered a mild heart attack on Friday and is a patient at Providence Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said he is doing well and is in "good" condition.

Ivie owns Ivie Funeral Homes in Murphy, Hayesville and Andrews and also Ivie Furniture Store in Murphy and Clay County Furniture Store in Hayesville.



GOP Speaker

Luke Atkinson, GOP Congressional candidate, is shown drawing a laugh from local Republicans as he joked with them during an off-the-cuff speech Saturday night. More than 100 attended the dinner meeting at Odell's Restaurant. (Staff Photo)

Republicans Hear Atkinson

More than 100 loyal Republicans attended a dinner meeting Saturday night at Odell's Restaurant, to hear Congressional candidate Luke Atkinson and also to get in some local politicking.

The affair was sponsored by the Cherokee County Young Republicans Club and the crowd included a delegation from Clay County, led by State Representative Bill Bradley of Hayesville and Chairman Andy Padgett of the Clay County Board of Commissioners.

State Senator Herman (Hull) West of Murphy was present, seeking re-election this year, and with the county GOP nomination convention set for May 9, all the county candidates attended and were introduced to the meeting.

Atkinson said he thinks this is a good year for Republicans, "better than we probably ever believed." A first term Asheville City Councilman, he is running for the 11th District House seat now held by Democratic Congressman Roy Taylor of Black Mountain.

"I guess it's no secret that the National Republican Party has declared the 11th as a target district," Atkinson said. "That means we'll be getting a lot of national help. And that means they want a Republican Congressman in this district to take in with him all the local candidates, commissioners, sheriffs, school boards."

Atkinson said he had been a Democrat "until I found out better" and said other Democrats throughout the district are now switching and registering Republican.

"Right now it looks wonderful," he said of the election. He predicted that

Haywood County, without a Republican office-holder, will elect several Republicans this fall. "We're picking up Republicans all along."

Atkinson said Asheville's City Council, elected with a Republican majority last year, has tightened up city government procedures in that city. "This is the good business type of government of the Republican Party" - and could do the same for the nation if enough GOP candidates are elected. "The Republican Party can bring us out of the dilemma we're in."

In closing, he made a plea for party unity. "If your choice is in a primary or

No-Parking Warning Is Given

Murphy Police Chief Pete Stalcup reminds softball players and patrons of activities at the Rock Gym that Conahaeta is a no-parking street.

The Murphy Town Board passed an ordinance prohibiting any parking on Conahaeta Street in March, which became law on April 13.

"We're going to try to warn them about it first," Chief Stalcup says. "And then we're going to have to start enforcing it."

He suggested that ballplayers, fans, tennis players and dancers park their cars in the parking lots near the gym or in the field across the road from the softball field.



Ground Broken For Bank

Ground was broken officially this week for construction of a new First Union National Bank building on Peachtree Street, to cost in excess of \$115,000. Left to right are John Smith, contractor; Henry Simmonds, city executive of the bank; director John Dickey, director Doyle Burch and

demonstrating the modern method of ground-breaking on the backhoe, Alden Coward, chairman of the bank's board of directors. W. A. (Dub) Singleton, director, was not present when the picture was made. (Staff Photo)