

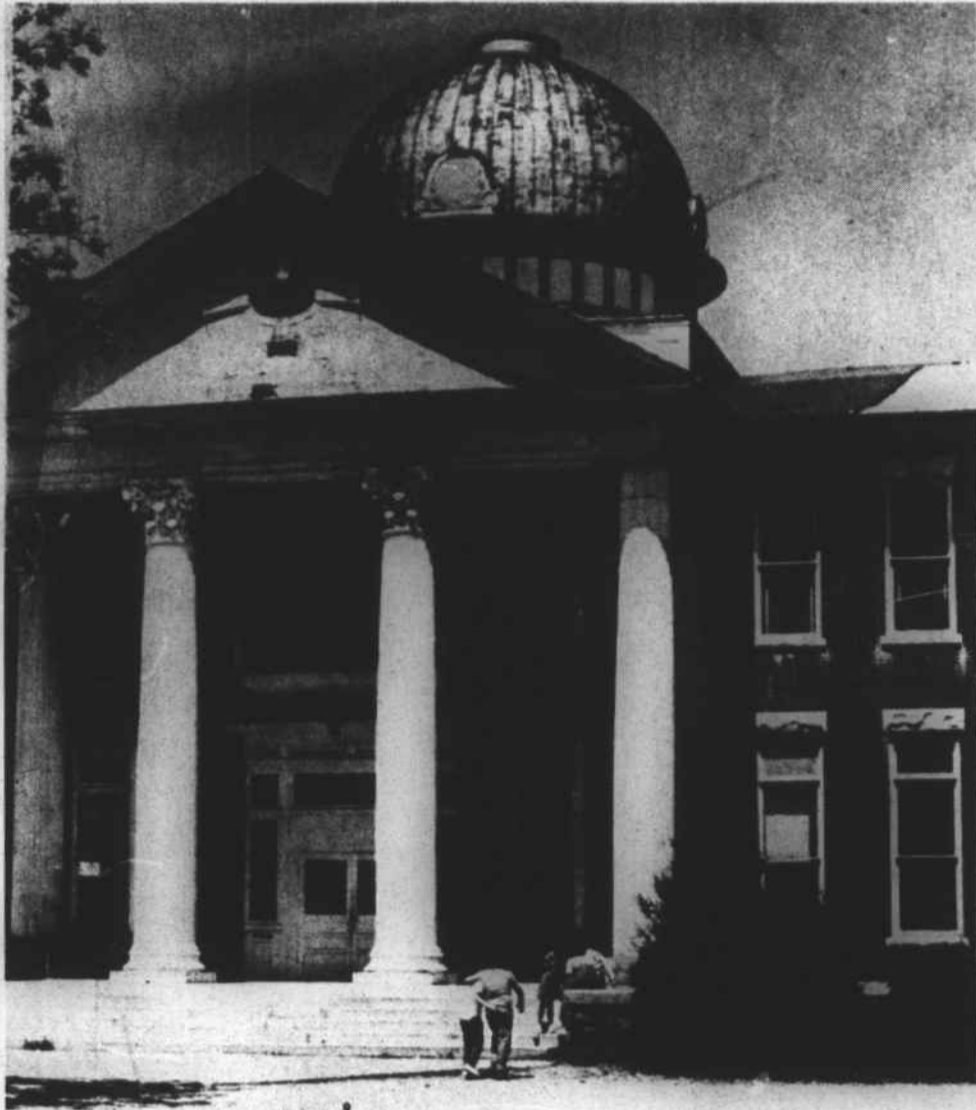
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Dome Building Doomed...school officials say it's beyond repair

The End Is Nearing For Old Dome Building

By Juanita Thomas
Staff Writer

The Old Dome Building, located on school property at Murphy Elementary School, holds many memories for former students of this beautiful old landmark.

But several school officials say they would like to see the building removed from the premises.

"We haven't come to anything definite yet about tearing it down, but sometime in the near future we feel that it must go," said John Jordan, Superintendent of Cherokee County Schools.

Two other buildings on the premises are going to be removed also. One is the lunchroom, the other is the old woodworking shop used by Levi's.

"These two buildings are just eyesores," Bill Hughes, Principal of Murphy Elementary stated.

"We are overcrowded as it is," Hughes said. "We have 7.4 acres of land and there are six buildings on it. According to school authorities, there is supposed to be 17 acres per building."

The fact was mentioned that the Dome has the only auditorium for school use. Hughes replied that the auditorium is not as much in demand today as in earlier school days.

The Dome Building has never been condemned, although the rumor started not long after construction was completed in 1910.

"If it were to be condemned," says Jordan, "the local inspector would do it. But the Board can have it condemned if it comes to that."

No one knows the exact cost of the building, it was built when labor was about twenty-five cents an hour. Hughes roughly estimated the cost of repairs today at about \$75,000.

"It would take about \$18,000 just for a new roof," Jordan added. "The only thing in the building that is good is the new heating system that was installed about two years ago."

The Dome and Greek Gothic columns are the most beautiful part of the building. But according to Hughes, these are near total ruin.

"The brick work is good, but it needs a new roof, new floors new windows, new lights, new everything," Hughes said. "Several years ago, we spent about \$5,000 to \$6,000 on the Dome and pigeon hunters came to shoot the pigeons and shot it full of holes again. The seats in the auditorium are some of the first ones ever installed. About three-fourths are in working condition, the rest are ruined."

When asked if perhaps it could someday be used for a museum, Hughes replied, "The building is not fireproof, and I wouldn't want to place anything of value in it. There is so much oil on the floors, if it caught fire it would probably go in about five minutes."

Jordan said that the building is still in use. He said there are still about six offices there, and the auditorium is being used by the band for a practice room. He added that these would all be moved out this summer.

"We're just not going to spend any more money on it. It just isn't feasible to fix," Jordan added.



Ravages Of Time

Murphy Elementary Principal Bill Hughes points to weeds and grass growing in the crumbling steps of the Dome Building. The base of a column

at right is rotting away and the floor of the porch behind Hughes is held up by supporting timbers. (Hugh Carringer Photos)



Charles White



Don Ramsey



Maurice West



Jack Lovingood



Jack Simonds

Sheriff Fails To Win Nomination

Republicans Pick County Candidates

By Wally Avett
Staff Writer

The Cherokee County Republican Party selected its candidates for county offices in a lively but orderly convention held at the Courthouse Saturday night.

Charles White beat three other men, including incumbent Claude Anderson, for the Sheriff's nomination in the hottest struggle of the convention.

Anderson is finishing his fourth consecutive four-year term and was challenged by three announced candidates - White, who had once served as his chief deputy, Herbert Graham and Ralph Rayfield.

The convention had met to elect officers in February and re-convened Saturday night with C.E. Hyde as convention chairman and Nancy Speed as convention secretary. There were about 160 attending, seated according to the gay red-and-white precinct markers.

Bill Bradley, GOP state representative from Clay County, was the keynote speaker, making a brief plea for party unity before the voting began.

Lonnie Hoover, appointed as convention parliamentarian, explained that the 17 precincts were represented by 92 delegates and therefore 47 votes would be needed for a candidate to win nomination. Then the convention went to work.

Sheriff Claude Anderson was nominated and then White, Rayfield and Graham were also nominated, in that order. There was a five-minute recess for the precinct delegations to caucus and the roll-call voting began.

When the votes were tallied, White had won with the bare 47 votes required for nomination. Anderson had 24, Graham got 20 and Rayfield had one vote.

"I want to thank everyone," White said as his nomination was announced. "I won't disappoint any of you if I'm elected."

In a statement made after the convention was over, Anderson said "I want to thank all the delegates who supported me at the convention and I also want to thank all the people in both parties for the support they have given me in the last 15½ years."

Councilmen, Mayor Sworn

The mayor and four of the six Town Council members elected last week were sworn in for four-year terms Monday night.

Magistrate Hugh Brittain administered the oath of office to Mayor Cloe Moore, re-elected for another term.

Mayor Moore then in turn read the oath of Ken Godfrey, W.T. (Bud) Brown, Joe Fowler and W.A. (Dub) Singleton. All are Democrats.

Council Francis Bourne, Jr. and John Carringer were not present due to the death Sunday of Bourne's father. They will be given their oaths at a later date.

After the oaths were given, the meeting was adjourned and Town Council members went as a group to Townsman Funeral Home to express their sympathy to the Bourne family.

Bourne Dead At 76

Francis C. Bourne, Sr., prominent Western North Carolina businessman, died Sunday night in an Atlanta hospital following a period of declining health. He was 76.

A native of Asheville, Mr. Bourne came to Murphy in 1946 as vice president and general manager of the Hitchcock Corp., which operates the talc mine here. He retired in 1968.

In Asheville he was president of M.V. Moore & Co., a mercantile firm he worked in from 1921 until he moved to Murphy in 1946. He was active in civic life in Asheville, serving as president of the merchants association in 1932 and several terms as president of the Country Club of Asheville.

Mr. Bourne was also active in Boy Scout work in Asheville and was an ardent sportsman, helping to develop outdoor sports, especially hunting and fishing, in Western North Carolina.

He was born in Asheville on March 31, 1894, son of the late Louis M. and Emily Battle Bourne. He was educated at the old Bingham School in Asheville and at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Bourne joined the Army in World War I and served with the 81st Division, 316th Field Artillery throughout that conflict, including a year in France. He attained the rank of captain.

He is survived by his wife, the former Pauline Moore of Asheville; a son, Town Councilman Francis C. Bourne Jr. of Murphy; two daughters, Mrs. Pauline Hounsom of Atlanta and Mrs. Josephine Sweeney of Guffey, Colo.; a brother, H. McKenzie Bourne of Zephyrhills, Fla.; 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.



Francis C. Bourne, Sr.

The funeral service was held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah here and burial followed in Sunset Cemetery. The Rev. Jack Watson officiated.

Palbearers were John Bayless, Henry Baker, Ben E. Warner, Ralph H. Penley, Dr. C.O. VanGorder and John Carringer.

Townsman Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

The voting, by precincts in alphabetical order, went as follows:

Andrews North Ward - Graham, 1; Anderson, 3; White, 4.

Andrews South Ward - White, 6; Anderson 1. Brasstown - Anderson, 3. Burnt Meetinghouse - White, 3.

Culberson - White, 2; Anderson, 1; Graham, 1. Hanging Dog - Anderson, 2; White, 3; Graham, 1.

Hothouse - Anderson, 1; Graham, 3; White, 1. Marble - White, 5; Anderson, 1; Graham, 1.

Murphy North Ward - White, 7; Anderson, 1; Rayfield, 1; Graham, 2. Murphy South Ward - White, 6; Anderson, 3.

Ogretta - White, 2. Peachtree - White, 4; Graham, 1; Anderson, 1. Shoal Creek - Graham, 8. Tipton - White, 2; Anderson, 2.

Unaka - Anderson, 4. Walker Schoolhouse - White, 1; Graham, 1.

For Clerk of Court, incumbent Don Ramsey was nominated without opposition to run again.

For Register of Deeds, incumbent J.E. Graves was nominated and then Jack Lovingood, who had announced he would seek the nomination, was also named. In the voting that followed, Graves won the party's nomination over Lovingood, 50-42.

Then the convention turned to naming three candidates to run from respective districts for Cherokee County Board of Commissioners.

According to a law passed in the last Legislature, the board this year will be cut from six members to three.

District 1, it was explained, consists of Andrews, Tipton and Marble. District 2 is Murphy, Hanging Dog, Grape Creek and Ogretta. District 3 includes Peachtree and the western precincts.

Maurice West, son of State Senator Herman (Bull) West, had announced he would seek the nomination and was nominated from District 1 without opposition.

In District 2, former state legislator Virgil Odell had announced for the nomination. He was nominated and then Lovingood, who had just been beaten for Register of Deeds, was also nominated from the floor.

In the voting that followed Lovingood was selected, with heavy support from both Murphy precincts, the north ward going for him over Odell 10-1, the south ward voting for Lovingood 8-1.

In District 3, incumbent commissioner Jack Simonds of Wolf Creek was opposed by former county commissioner Gay Hawkins and also by Claude Bryant, a member of the county board of education, Simonds won the nomination.

In final action, the convention nominated Rayfield as the county coroner candidate and John Donley, former clerk of court, as county surveyor.

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J.E. Graves

Army Seeks Land For Maneuvers

The Department of the Army began mailing out forms this week to landowners in Cherokee, Clay and Macon counties, asking permission for the use of private lands by the Green Berets in maneuvers.

"This area is so well suited for maneuvers that we want to broaden the area they can move in," an Army spokesman said. "So far they've been pretty much limited to Forest Service lands - we'd like to get permission for the private lands, too."

The government forms are being sent out, using tax rolls for addresses to about 9,000 landowners. The agreement is not binding and can be terminated at any time.

The government, according to an Army spokesman, will not pay anything for permission to use the land but includes in the package sent each landowner a form for reporting damages by troops to private property, which the government does agree to pay for.

The Green Berets, stationed at Ft. Bragg, propose to use this area for maneuvers four times a year, in July, September, November and March, with from 200 to 500 troops involved in each guerrilla exercise.

The seventh annual event begins on Thursday night, July 2, with a stock car race at Tri-County Raceway. Davis said, to be followed by a fireworks display at the track.

The Miss Cherokee County Beauty Pageant will be held either Friday or Saturday, he said, the schedule is not completely worked out yet. At any rate, the winner will represent this county in the Miss North Carolina beauty pageant.

"On Saturday, the Fourth of July, we'll be having an old-fashioned field day at the fairgrounds," Davis said. "There'll be softball games, swimming and diving contests, an arts and crafts show in the Rock Gym, sack races, a greased pole to climb and a greased pig to catch."

The final event of the Fourth of July celebration will be a huge fireworks show at the high school football field Saturday night.

The Water Festival ends with boat races on Sunday, July 5, on Hiwassee Lake near the Forest Service's Hanging Dog access area. Several classes of competition are offered for outboard-powered boats running a measured course, ending with the Elmer Taylor Memorial Race.

Hospital Authority Sets Door To Door Drive Sunday

The Murphy Hospital Authority, assisted by community and civic clubs, will hold a door-to-door fundraising campaign Sunday afternoon.

The hospital authority began a fund drive in late December of last year for money to renovate Providence Hospital, a job estimated at over \$40,000.

The authority also raised some money last year for a

Ted Phillips To Speak At Tomotla

Ted Phillips, district highway commissioner from Robbinsville, will speak to the Tomotla Community Development Club at its meeting Thursday night.

Phillips will bring the club members up-to-date on progress of the Appalachia Corridor project for the Murphy area.

The meeting begins with a covered dish supper at the community center, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

hospital survey that was never made. That money, \$5,695, plus the \$13,657 raised since Christmas comes to a total of \$19,352 presently in the authority's bank account.

That is not quite half of what is needed, according to Hospital Authority Chairman Jack Owens, and it is hoped that most of the remaining money needed can be raised or pledged Sunday afternoon.

The door-to-door drive is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. in Murphy and the surrounding communities. Owens, Pete McKeon, Bill Christy, Hans Beerkens, Doug Carlson and other members of the hospital authority will be at Odell's Restaurant during the afternoon, which will be serving as an informal headquarters for the drive.

In Murphy, the clubs invited to participate in the solicitation are Lions, Rotary, Civitans, Murphy Garden Club, Jaycees, Business and Professional Women, University Women.

The community clubs of Tomotla, Peachtree, Marble, Bellevue, Texana, Violet and Unaka are also being urged to conduct a campaign in each of their areas.



To Be Given Away

Murphy Jaycees Dickie Davis, left, and David Hilton pose with the rig. The rig includes a 9.8 horsepower Mercury motor and a Tennessee Trailer.