

Feeling Runs Hot Against New Fees At Campground

Feelings ran hot in Cherokee County this week over the news that U.S. Forest Service officers were charging a

flat \$1 per car for entrance to the Hanging Dog Campground.

Angry telephone calls were made to Congressman Roy Taylor's office in Washington and petitions began circulating, protesting any fees for use of the boat ramp, visitors to the campground or for picnicking there.

District Ranger Harold Fisher of Murphy said the crackdown order had come from the regional Forest Service offices in Atlanta, as the result of an inspection of the local facilities last August.

"The law has been on the books since 1951 but it has never been enforced here," Fisher said. "We had an inspection here last August and they asked us about who was paying fees." He said the inspecting officers from Atlanta were told that only campers at Hanging Dog were charged a fee and they then replied that all users must pay the \$1 per day fee.

"They told us we had no choice, we had to charge the fee," Fisher added. "We started enforcing it a week ago last Friday."

The fee for use of the boat ramp, however, was short-lived. Fisher told The Scout on Tuesday that it had been dropped. He further explained that the boat ramp at the campground had been built with state Wildlife funds in addition to federal Forest Service money.

After conferring with Forest Service officials in Asheville, Fisher Tuesday night announced that "There will be no charge for use of the boat ramp area." This apparently includes the small cemetery on a point near the boat ramp.

Fisher also said that automobiles which drive through the campground but do not stop will not be charged any fees for sight-seeing. The fee, at \$1 a day or \$7 for the season, will remain in effect for those who stop to visit campers, those who actually camp or those who use the campground for a picnic.

The front gate at the campground will be closed at 10 each night, he added, and only campers will be allowed in the area after that time.

Judd Stiles of Harshaw Road said he had to pay the \$1 fee for launching a boat at the campground last week and telephoned Congressman Roy Taylor. He said the Congressman suggested that he circulate a petition on the matter.

Stiles says he has placed petitions at several places around Murphy and so far has about 300 signers. The petitions protest fees for any users except campers.

"We feel the campers should pay the fees," Stiles said. "But they shouldn't charge for use of the boat ramp or the road or for picnics."

He said he hoped to have about 500 signers by the first of next week at which time the petitions would be mailed to Congressman Taylor's office in Washington.

Vandals Hit School

Vandals broke into Hiwassee Dam School during the weekend and caused damages estimated by Principal Rex Sudderth at about \$300.

"It was Saturday night or early Sunday morning," Sudderth said. "We had 37 windows broke out, all with rocks thrown through them, and they also broke into the shop."

The principal said in addition to the broken windows, the vandals entered the building and poured glue on the floors and into the books. He said so far nothing seems to have been stolen.

Officers of the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department are investigating. Sudderth said it was the third time in the past year that the building has been entered illegally.

Week Of Rain Raising Lake

Murphy got 4.6 inches of rain last week and Hiwassee Lake is rising toward the full mark.

A TVA spokesman Wednesday morning said the lake level is now at 1509.3. The top of the spillway is actually 1526 feet above sea level, he said, but for all practical purposes a reading of 1522 is considered full and is about as high as the lake usually rises.

The TVA weather station in Murphy recorded .22 inches of rain on Monday of last week, .7 of an inch on Tuesday and 1.22 inches on Wednesday. The rains continued Thursday with .81 of an inch and 1.49 fell on Friday, .17 on Saturday and .02 on Sunday.



Hospital Money Comes In - And Goes Out

The Murphy Hospital Authority Tuesday received the largest single donation of its fund-raising drive as James Armstrong, seated, president of Westco Telephone Co., signed over a \$3,000 check to Pete McKeon, left, and Jack Owens of the authority. Looking on at right is Paul Wooten, Westco's western district commercial manager. The Westco check boosted the money collected by the MHA to \$26,000.



The money is being spent, as the photo at right shows, on renovation of Providence Hospital. Workmen this week are busy roofing the New Wing of the hospital, painting, plastering and installing new lighting and a new bathroom on the second floor. (Staff Photos)



Bob White

Death Takes Bob White

Robert Murray (Bob) White lost a long fight with cancer and died last Thursday morning at Providence Hospital here. He was 53.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at the Presbyterian Church, where he was an elder. The Revs. R.A. Potter, Frank Brown and Irvin Joslin officiated. Burial followed in Sunset Cemetery.

White was a native of Wadesboro and stayed in Murphy after coming here on a highway construction job about 1947. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the Asiatic war theatre.

He was a Town Councilman for one term, a Mason, a member of the American Legion and a member of the Lions Club. He had been chief of the Murphy Volunteer Fire Department since 1962.

Pallbearers were Elmer Kilgore, Hill Thomasson, Lillard Walker, Edward Dickey, Ben Scott and Oliver Wendell Wooten. Honorary pallbearers were the men of the Presbyterian Church and members of the Murphy Lions Club.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jean Dickey White; a daughter, Kathryn Sharon White of the home; his mother, Mrs. T.F. Royall and stepfather, T.F. Royall of Wadesboro; and a brother, John White of Wadesboro.

Town Not Ready For Meter Maid

The Town of Murphy won't have a pretty police officer in the near future - the Town Council Monday night decided against hiring a meter maid.

Police Chief Pete Stalcup reported to the council that Desk Officer Wayne Wilson has apparently quit. Chief Stalcup said he has changed other officer's shifts around and now has someone each night to answer the police telephone, the job Wilson was hired for in February.

Chief Stalcup suggested that he bring his force back up to par with a parking meter maid, a woman whose sole job would be to write tickets, freeing present meter officer Arvil Payne to perform maintenance work on the town's parking meters.

The town councilmen agreed that many of the meters are not working and need repairs but said they could not hire a lone woman because she would have no place to go in bad weather or when she was not writing tickets. They were afraid that one woman and the town's police officers and the tiny downtown police office would add up to a juicy topic for wagging tongues.

The council refused a claim by Mildred Dockery Mason of Atlanta for \$150 in damages which occurred at a house she owns on Ft. Butler Street. She said she requested that town workmen cut off the water supply to the house but it was not done and the pipes burst during a cold spell last winter when no one was living in the house.

The water flooded her basement and damaged a boat stored there, she said, in addition to bursting the pipes. Town Clerk Charlie Johnson said it was not the town's responsibility and added that each individual homeowner should have his own cutoff valve between the meter and the house, to control the supply of water without calling town crews.

The council approved Johnson's request to advertise for sale four pieces of town equipment - the police car wrecked last year, two old trucks and an old motor grader.

The council also voted approval of committees: Police & Fire - John Carringer, chairman; Kenneth Godfrey and Francis Bourne, Jr.

Streets, Parks & Cemetery - Bourne, chairman; W.A. Singleton and Joe Fowler. Finance & Revenue - Singleton, chairman; W.T. Brown and Godfrey.

Sanitary & Health - Fowler, chairman; Carringer and Brown.

Water & Sewer - Brown, chairman; Carringer and Singleton.

Planning & Recreation - Fowler, chairman; Carringer and Godfrey.

Dickie Davis, president of the Murphy Jaycees, requested approval for a fireworks display on the Fourth of July as the climax of a field day at the fairgrounds. Council approved the request, with the understanding that the town would not be liable in case of any accident.



Wendell Forrister

Forrister Announces For Board

Wendell Forrister has announced this week as a candidate for the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners from District 3, subject to nomination by the Democratic county convention, set for June 20.

Forrister is a veteran of World War II and a member of the Masonic Lodge 542. He is a Shrine and belongs to Knights Templar of Birmingham, Ala.

He is a native of Cherokee County and is married to the former Lou Golden. They have two daughters, Mrs. Jackie Arp of Smyrna, Ga. and Pat Forrister, a student at Hiwassee Dam High School.

Neighborhood Youth Corps Program Begins

The Neighborhood Youth Corps program began on Monday for the summer, Cherokee getting the lion's share of the jobs for the four-county area.

Four Square Community Action sponsors the youth program and this year received

a federal grant of \$107,920 to provide 250 Youth Corps jobs in the counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain.

The youths are between the ages of 14 and 21 and come from low-income families. Chuck McConnell is the counselor in charge of those from Murphy High School and Hiwassee Dam; Cecil Mashburn is in charge of those from Andrews High and the Marble area.

McConnell said Cherokee County took advantage of the program beginning Monday and is using about 130 Youth Corps workers at the present, "and we may get even more."

They are working at a variety of jobs, paid \$1.45 an hour from the federal grant and limited to working 6 hours a week. The boys are doing manual labor for the town, the Forest Service, at the golf course and other places; the girls are working as secretaries for the town, the hospital, in several offices in the Courthouse and as teacher's aides at the schools in the Headstart program.

The project will continue for 10 weeks, according to the director, John Summerose.

"We feel this program is very worthwhile," McConnell said. "We try to reach these kids - some of them are very reserved - and bring them out, teach them to meet the public. And at the same time we can provide them with a job and some money and teach them good work habits."

Asheville TV Station On The Air In Murphy

The Asheville television station, WLOS-TV, is now officially on the air in Murphy and Marble.

Representatives of the station hosted a luncheon Monday at Odell's Restaurant where the translator set-up was explained.

Following the luncheon, Mayor Cloe Moore and others went to the translator site on Fain Mountain where final adjustments were made to the equipment and the mayor then threw the switch to begin ABC network service for Murphy.

WLOS vice president Bill Pfeiffer and assistant chief engineer Terry Beeler explained that two translators are now beaming their station's signal into Marble and Murphy.

The Marble translator is located atop Johanna Bald near Andrews and sends out a vertical signal, which means viewers in Marble will have to mount a Channel 11 antenna vertically to receive the signal. Television servicemen in Cherokee County have been advised of the problem and can offer assistance to Marble viewers.

The Marble signal is also received at the translator site for Murphy, on Fain Mountain, and then re-broadcast into Murphy as Channel 5 in a typical horizontal signal. The WLOS representatives said either a Channel 5 or an all-channel antenna pointed toward Fain Mountain should result in a good TV picture.

The station will provide news and editorials about Western North Carolina daily on a 5:30 p.m. news show. It will also round out Murphy's television viewing with the ABC network, the town already served by CBS and NBC affiliates in Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Asheville station will carry college football games this fall with an NCAA schedule of Saturday afternoon matches including North Carolina, North Carolina State, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, LSU and the Liberty Bowl, Sugar Bowl, and Shrine games.

Professional football will be featured on Monday nights, with WLOS to telecast the games of the National Football League from Sept. 21 through Dec. 14.

Pfeiffer said the Asheville station also owns one of the largest stocks of old movies in the business, which he said has contributed to the station's now serving parts of six states with 21 translators.



Translator Turned On Officially

The group that rode a four-wheel-drive station to the Fain Mountain translator site Monday to officially turn on WLOS-TV for Murphy were, left to right, WLOS vice president Bill Pfeiffer; Murphy

Mayor Cloe Moore; Jim Hendrix and Dickie Davis of the Murphy Jaycees, who have worked for years on the project; and Terry Beeler, assistant chief engineer for WLOS. (Staff Photo)



Youth Corps Weigh-In

Chuck McConnell, right, counselor for the Youth Corps program in the Murphy area, weighs a job candidate as others await their physical examinations,

given Monday by Dr. Walter Mauney. About 130 youths being used in a variety of jobs in Cherokee County. (Staff Photo)