

# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

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## Souvenirs Ready

Levi's plant manager Horace Cannon, left, and personnel officer Frank Atchison pose with some of the

souvenirs the company will be giving away Saturday at its open house celebration at the new Murphy plant. (Staff Photo)

## Board Holds Tax Increase To 25¢

Residents of the Town of Murphy soon will be paying increased rates for all utilities and the Town Council Tuesday night refused to jack the tax rate above \$1.85.

Town Council members learned in their meeting that the town's Electric Power Board will soon be raising its power bills by 23 per cent.

This hike, it was pointed out, is controlled by the TVA which is raising the cost of the electric power it sells to the town. The rise is said to be due to a drastic increase in the cost of the coal used by TVA for generating power.

The \$1.85 town tax rate for each hundred dollars of valuation was set in the tentative budget earlier this month for 1970-71. It was a jump of 25 cents per hundred from last year's \$1.60 rate and was accompanied by the council's announced plan to also increase water and sewer service rates.

However, Tuesday night it looked for a while as if the town budget and tax rate would go even higher. Town Clerk Charlie Johnson pointed out that the increase in electric rates will cost the town at least \$5,000 more in power used for street lights and other town services.

He said a sewer system lift station near the Cherokee Ice Plant will have to be altered to accommodate the planned new public housing project on Park Avenue, at an additional cost of \$3,000.

Johnson also presented plans to buy a street washer, payments the first year to run \$4,420. These three items, he said, would mean the tax rate would have to be raised to \$2.05 per hundred.

Mayor Cloe Moore and

board members (Francis Bourne Jr. and John Carringer were not present) discussed several possible ways by which the budget of \$280,000 could be cut. They lamented the fact that the property tax is their only means of revenue and wondered about the future of the local one-cent sales tax if it is put to a vote here again.

Finally W.T. (Bud) Brown made the motion that the town tax rate be fixed at \$1.85, adding that the town will have to "make do" with a budget at that figure. His motion included the provision for raising water and sewer charges and was passed unanimously.

The feeling was that the town will have to get by as best it can with the increase in its power bill and the alterations on the sewage lift station. The street washer, Johnson was told, will just have to wait until next year.

Following the vote on the tax rate, Councilman Kenneth Godfrey moved that the town Planning Board and the state Department of Local Affairs be requested to make a joint study on the feasibility of extending town limits along the present axis of US-19-64. The other councilmen voted to authorize the study.

Henry Simmons, who heads the First Union National Bank

office here, appeared before the Town Board to ask that the sidewalk in front of the new bank under construction be replaced. He said the bank would pay half of the cost and the councilmen agreed that the town would pay the other half.

Simmons also asked that some of the town's banking business be transferred to his bank and council members indicated this would be done in

the future, after the Finance Committee meets with Johnson to decide which town accounts to transfer.

James (Red) Panther was the only bidder on a 1955 model town truck and the council voted to accept his bid of \$65 for the vehicle, in need of extensive repairs.

Doug Carlson of the Murphy Lions Club said the Rock Gym needs a new roof

and some work done on the toilets inside the building and asked that the town, along with the Lions and the county, share the expense.

Councilman W.A. (Dub) Singleton made the motion that the town pay one-third of the cost of repairs and other councilmen approved the motion, requesting that the Lions get competitive bids on the job.



## Golf Tourney Sunday

The first tournament of the new Cherokee County Golf Course will be held on Sunday afternoon for users of the course and golfers of the surrounding area.

Participants can register at the pro shop of the Harshaw Road course anytime up until 1 p.m. Sunday. The first Scotch foursome will tee off at 2 p.m. The entry fee is \$1.

There will be no handicaps for the event and "you don't have to be a seasoned golfer to participate," according to the tournament committee.

Couples will be selected by drawing names out of a hat, each foursome to be made up of two men and two women. All four golfers will hit a tee shot then each team will decide which one of its balls it will play to the cup, the man and woman taking alternate turns hitting the ball.

Prizes will be gift certificates for merchandise in the pro shop and spectators will be welcome for the tournament.

## Escapee Still Free

Cherokee County Sheriff Claude Anderson this week said there are no clues to the whereabouts of James D. Craig, who escaped from the county jail in late May and is still at large.

Craig, 23, of Route 4, Murphy, was arrested about the first of March on charge of highway robbery. An additional warrant has been taken out by county officers charging him with escaping.

Sheriff Anderson said Craig apparently had a key to the main door of the Cherokee County Jail. The man had not been locked in a cell for the night, the sheriff said, nor had the main door's night padlock been fastened.

Sheriff Anderson said he was called away from the office and when he returned, Craig was gone.

## Free Clinics For Golfers

The pro at the Cherokee County Golf Course, Milton Carlson, held the first free clinics for county golfers on Wednesday and a dozen ladies turned out for the morning session. The free clinic for men is held Wednesday afternoons and Carlson said Maggie

Valley pro Bob Smith will be on hand for the clinics next week. The clinics, free to any golfer in the county, are part of a project to attract new members between now and the first of September (Staff Photo)

## Levi's Slates Open House

Levi Strauss & Co. will hold open house for the public at its new plant just north of town Saturday.

Walter A. Haas, Jr., president of Levi Strauss & Co., will be on hand for the ribbon-cutting which will officially open the new plant and he will be the principal speaker.

Other participants in the 10 o'clock opening ceremonies Saturday morning will be Murphy Mayor Cloe Moore, plant manager Horace Cannon, A. Doug Allison of the N.C. Department of Conservation and Development, C.L. Alverson, who is president of the Cherokee County Development Corp. and Merle Davis, president of the Industrial Development Corp. of the Town of Murphy.

After the ribbon is cut, the million-dollar plant will be open to the public until 2 p.m. for guided tours and explanations of how the Levi's Sta-Prest pants are produced.

The county development corporation members and local civic leaders joined forced about 10 years in arranging for the Levi's plant to locate here. Two men now dead, Dave Townson and Frank Forsyth, were especially influential in the plant's locating here.

The local leaders met several times with officials of Levi Strauss & Co., including two breakfast meetings at Townson's home attended by Levi's production manager Paul Glasgow, before the company decided to move to Murphy.

Levi's began operations in December of 1963 in Murphy,

in the Alverson Building on Regal Street. The initial payroll was only 15 but by 1967, the number had reached a steady 225 and the operation had outgrown the building. There was a warehouse facility on the elementary school campus, a cutting room at the Fairgrounds and a parts department in the basement of Smoky Mountain Heating and Air Conditioning.

The town's industrial development corporation was formed about two years ago and authorized by the town commissioners to work with the company in connection with the construction of a new plant. Construction began last Summer on a site on Valley River off Andrews Road. This past March the complete operation was moved into the

new plant and the payroll began increasing.

The company is now working 450 at the Murphy plant, which will eventually see the payroll level off at 550.

Haas, 54, heads the company founded in San Francisco, Calif. in 1850 by his great-granduncle Levi Strauss. He has described Levi's top management as "Really my brother Peter and I as sort of a dual head of the company; I'm the president because I'm the older."

The company is one of the nation's largest privately-held companies with more than 800 stockholders, all employees or descendants of the founder. There are now 35 plants in the United States and four overseas, with a total of more than 15,000 employees.

## Grand Jury Blasts Jail

The Cherokee County Grand Jury reported to Superior Court here this week that the county jail is unfit for humans.

The handwritten report, signed by Mrs. Maude Radford as foreman, Monday was handed to presiding Judge Thad Bryson of Bryson City.

"Jail cells were found in a deplorable condition," it reads. "The cells too filthy and smelly for human occupation."

The Grand Jury also found that kitchen helpers at the jail did not have health certificates for working with food.

The report recommends "A general cleaning of entire jail with necessary repairs to floors, commodes, showers, etc." and health certificates for kitchen helpers and "county sanitarians should inspect the jail monthly."

The Grand Jury also reported that it had found true bills, indicting Wade (Dump) Adams on possession of marijuana and both Jeffrey Willard Whitener and Richard Whitener on charges of burglary, housebreaking, larceny and receiving.

The Whiteners, cousins of Route 5, Murphy, were arrested early this year and charged with robbing their grandmother, Molly Whitener.

They were given a preliminary hearing in District Court in Murphy the last of April and at that time the charge against Richard Whitener was dismissed on insufficient evidence. The Grand Jury Monday, however, indicted both Whiteners.

## Labor Charge Dismissed

The National Labor Relations Board, in an order recently received here, has dismissed all charges of unfair labor practices against the American Thread Co. plant at Marble.

John Roberts of Unaka, an employe of the company and a leader in the unsuccessful drive last year to unionize workers at the plant, was discharged by the company in October of last year.

The company said it fired Roberts because he refused to obey the orders of a superior; Roberts said this was just a pretext, that the company fired him in retaliation for his union activities.

Roberts filed the unfair labor practice against the company and an NLRB examiner was sent here about the first of April to hear the matter. Witnesses for both sides presented testimony and a record of the hearing, complete with the examiner's recommendation that it be dismissed, was given the national board.

The NLRB looked over the record of the hearing and the examiner's recommendation and in an order signed in Washington, D.C. on June 30 ordered the complaint dismissed.



Mrs. Neal Kitchens

## Clay Writer Named

Mrs. Neal Kitchens is now the Clay County correspondent for The Cherokee Scout and Clay County Progress.

Mrs. Kitchens, a native of Clay County, worked as Scout-Progress correspondent several years ago and also serves in the same capacity for the Asheville newspapers.

She is the widow of the late Neal Kitchens, Clay County sheriff and tax collector, and worked in the Clay County Courthouse in her husband's office for a number of years. She was also secretary-bookkeeper for his K-Bar Ranch and Kitchens Lumber Co. for about 20 years.

She is a graduate of Elf High School and lives on the K-Bar Ranch in the Lick Log section of Clay County. She has a daughter, Mrs. Hugh Powell of Hayesville, and two grandchildren.

Mrs. Kitchens is an active member of Ledford's Chapel United Methodist Church and is on the board of directors of the Methodist Hinton Rural Life Center.

## Day Care Looking For Users

"The response has been slow but Murphy does need a day care center and we need 30 children to start."

So spoke Mrs. William L. Owens this week, talking about the survey under way by the Murphy United Methodist Church to see if enough parents are interested in a day care center.

"If we don't get enough children, we won't be able to open," she added. She said only about 10 children have been signed up so far for the center, which tentatively would open with the beginning of school in late August.

Mrs. Owens will be director of the day care center, which for a fee will care all day for the children of working mothers.

"We will also provide a baby-sitting service at 50 cents an hour for mothers who want to drop their children off at the center while they shop," she added.

Interested parents should call Mrs. Owens or the Methodist Church.

## Judge III; Court Canceled

Judge Thad Bryson became ill this week and the term of Superior Court scheduled for next week has been canceled. Clerk of Court Don Ramsey announced Wednesday morning that jurors picked for duty next week will not have to report and cases set for trial will be continued until the November term of Superior Court.

The two-week term began here Monday with Judge Bryson of Bryson City presiding. Guilty pleas in a number of cases, mostly traffic, were heard and then court was adjourned until next week.



## Student Bricklayers' Handiwork

Johnny Corn, center, masonry instructor at Tri-County Tech, poses with two of his students who have recently finished brick veneering a Brasstown home, working on their own. Dean Hajler, left, and Dwight Moss in the past three months have bricked the exterior of the house of Mrs. Ed Rogers, gaining

valuable experience in their trade, Corn says. They did all the work, Corn added, even figuring the 12,000 bricks needed—which they over estimated by only 16. Both will graduate from the 12-month masonry course about the end of August. (Staff Photo)

## Pool Integrated

The Murphy Lions Club swimming pool was integrated without incident last week.

A Lions Club spokesman told the Town Board in its meeting Tuesday night that the first Negroes were admitted quietly late last week and the pool will continue to operate on a non-segregated basis.

The club spokesman said the pool in the past has been used only by white swimmers but said this was due to the attitudes of the pool managers and was not the desire of the Lions.