

# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress

16 Pages

15¢ Per Copy

Volume 81 - Number 2 - Murphy, North Carolina, 28906 - Second Class Postage Paid At Murphy, North Carolina - Thursday, August 6, 1970



## Pants Plant Unzipped

Horace Cannon, left, local Levi's plant manager assisted as the company's president, Walter Haas, Jr., unzipped the ceremonial ribbon officially opening the new plant here. That's right, the Levi's ribbon consisted of several bands of pants material sewed together and it was not to be cut because it had been neatly fitted with an easy-opening zipper. Cannon and Haas then led the crowd attending the opening on a tour of the plant.

## Levi Strauss Holds Gala Grand Opening

Levi Strauss & Co. officially opened its new plant in Murphy last Saturday morning. Walter A. Haas, Jr., president of the company, was present for the occasion, attended by a number of local civic leaders and industrial figures. Levi's sales this year will top \$300 million, he said, "We have the most sophisticated computer and communications system, yet we're still selling waist overalls with a button fly guaranteed to shrink and fade..." Attorney Herman Edwards was master of ceremonies and read congratulatory telegrams to Levi's from Congressman Roy Taylor and Governor Bob Scott.

## Peachtree Plant 'Not A Polluter'

Peachtree Products was listed last week by state officials as a purchaser of mercury and therefore a potential polluter. However, the plant manager, Jay Gernert, this week said the Peachtree operation has not bought any mercury, does not use it in any way and he does not know how his plant was included in the list. "We have never purchased any mercury," Gernert said. "Our operation here is one of the cleanest manufacturing operations in North Carolina from all standpoints of pollution." He added that Peachtree Products is not a "wet" operation, as most stream-polluting industries are. "We have no dye house, use no stacks, burn no coal," Gernert said. Peachtree processes and texturizes carpet yarns at its Murphy operation. Its plant is located in the drainage of the Hiwassee River. The Hiwassee reservoir was tested recently by TVA crews for mercury pollution and was given a clean bill of health.



## Meets Beauty

Miss Cherokee County 1970, Linda McRae, made her first official appearance in Murphy Tuesday night at the Civitans meeting. She is shown here talking with the Civitans visiting governor-elect, for District West, Osbourne Oakley, Jr. of Charlotte. (Staff Photo)

## Board Calling For Bond Vote

By Wally Avett  
Staff Writer  
The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners Monday set the machinery in motion for a \$100,000 bond vote in November, the money to finance construction of a new county jail.

Chairman W.T. Moore suggested the resolution, which was unanimously approved by all the other county commissioners. It instructed County Attorney L.L. Mason to begin the legal procedures of advertisements and public hearing necessary to bring the matter to a vote at the November general election.

Moore explained that if the bond vote is included in the general election it will save the county money, as a special election will not have to be called. He noted that if the bonds are approved by the voters, the commissioners will have the authority to issue up to \$100,000 in bonds but would not have to spend that much if it was not needed.

The jail will probably be a regional facility, he said, to be built in cooperation with Clay County. It will be constructed here in Murphy and will house prisoners from both counties. Moore warned that the state jail inspectors have been on the verge of condemning the Cherokee County jail for some time and predicted that "if the bond vote fails, our jail will be condemned by the state and our prisoners will have to be hauled to a jail in some other county" at great cost to Cherokee.

He said the only choice Cherokee voters have is whether they want to pay for building a new jail or pay for carrying prisoners to a jail in another county. No exact figures are available but Moore said he thought a regional jail could be built for about \$200,000.

Chairman Moore said he believes state matching funds can be arranged on a 50-50 basis, the county's \$100,000 to be matched by a like sum from the state, if the jail is built on a regional basis. Clay County, he said, could participate at a lesser figure, based on its smaller population.

The jail would be built on the Courthouse property in Murphy, commissioners learned, of a one-story reinforced concrete construction. It was suggested that the present brick jail building be left standing and remodeled to make more county office space.

The present jail is not up to state jail standards in a number of areas, including the fact that it has some interior wood construction which prevents it from being fireproof. In other business, Maude Radford foreman and Merle Davis of the Grand Jury appeared and asked that the commissioners provide some money for painting and fixing up the present jail. They also said that the jail has been cleaned up and is now cleaner than when the Grand Jury reported last week to Superior Court that it was not fit for human occupation.

The commissioners replied that keeping the jail clean is the sheriff's responsibility and said they have allotted some money for improving the floor in the entrance office at the jail.

After much discussion, the commissioners voted to return Ben Mayfield of Murphy the \$330 he paid for 33 acres of land he purchased from the county, or thought he did, in 1959. Mayfield says the Forest Service has informed him that it actually owns the land, having acquired it in back in the 1930's.

County Attorney Mason explained that the county probably acquired the land when taxes were not paid on it, in error carrying it on county tax books in the name of the owner and not learning of the Forest Service's getting the land, lying on the Cherokee-Graham County line near Tatham Gap.

He said the deed given Mayfield was not warranted, in effect the county was only selling whatever claim it had on the land. However, commissioners felt that at the time of sale both the county and Mayfield thought the deed was good so the commissioners voted to return the amount of the purchase price. They did not go along with Mayfield's request that he also be paid interest on the \$330.

After some dickering with appraisal firms, the commissioners Monday voted to give the contract to Carolina Appraisals, Inc. of Elkin, at a bid of \$37,500. The re-appraisal of all taxable

property in the county is required by state law every eight years and Cherokee has to be checked out again in 1971.

The first bids received on the countywide job were running in the neighborhood of \$50,000. Commissioners, however, suggested that some of the firms bidding take a closer look at the county and the job in store. Carolina Appraisals made an original bid of \$41,650 before cutting its bid to \$37,500.

In final action, the commissioners voted to send a telegram to the Association of County Commissioners, which will be holding a meeting in Raleigh on Aug. 12 to explore the idea of having the state take over the welfare departments, now operated by the individual counties. The Cherokee telegram will inform the meeting that this county is very much in favor of letting the state operate the welfare system.



## Scotch Winners

Milt Carlson, left, pro at the Cherokee County Golf Course, is shown presenting the winner's gift certificates to Mrs. Maxine Gossett and H.W. (Bud) Alexander for their low score in the tournament Sunday afternoon. (Staff Photo)

## First Tournament Held

The Cherokee County Golf Course held its first tournament Sunday afternoon with 24 golfers competing.

It was a Scotch foursome event, with a team consisting of one man and one woman, paired by random selection, two teams making up a foursome. At each hole, all

four players hit a tee shot, then each team elected to play only one ball, the man and woman taking alternate turns at hitting the ball.

H.W. (Bud) Alexander and Mrs. Maxine Gossett were the winners, with a score of 47 for the nine holes. They won gift certificates redeemable at the pro shop. Lonnie Hoover and Mrs. Helen Carlson were second with a 49 and Bill Christy and Mrs. Maudie B. Alexander were third, with 50 strokes for the nine holes.

Alexander also won the hole-in-one award for the tournament. Nobody got a hole-in-one but Alexander's drive on the fourth hole, a par-3, 170 yards, stopped only four feet short of the cup and was declared the winner.

Aug. 1 had been set as the official date for opening the full 18 holes for play but J.P. El-Khoury, head of the Rural Renewal Authority which constructed the course, said the back nine holes will not be opened until the full course is inspected and approved.

The inspection, by the Farmers Home Administration which loaned the money for it and by engineers and members of the Rural Renewal Authority, will be on Aug. 14. El-Khoury said. If the back nine holes are ready for play by then, he said, the full 18 will be opened shortly after the inspection.

He added that the problems have been three greens on the back nine which were not in playing shape but said he hoped they will be ready in time for the inspection.

## Runaway Log Truck Kills Ogreeta Man

A young Ogreeta man died Thursday afternoon in a logging accident in the Shuler Creek section.

Hobart Ray Kidd, 25, of Route 5, Murphy, was apparently killed instantly early Thursday afternoon when the logging truck he was loading began to roll, he jumped off and was run over.

Cherokee Deputy Sheriff Dude Radford said a witness said Kidd was operating a power loader on top of the truck which lifted each log into place. When the heavily-loaded vehicle started to roll, he jumped off it and then fell under the wheels.

The upper part of Kidd's body was crushed and the deputy said the runaway truck then continued to roll on for more than 100 yards into the woods.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kidd of Route 5, Murphy; three sisters, Marlene Kidd and Mrs. Joyce Jane Hall of the home and Mrs. Elizabeth Carter of Route 5, Murphy; three brothers, David of Marble, Junior of Joliet, Ill. and Wendell of Route 5, Murphy.

The funeral was held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Ogreeta Baptist Church with the Rev. Glenn Hafley and the Rev. Goldman Dockery officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Palbearers were Robert and Tex Whitener, Wayne, Carl and Jake Johnson and Steve Golden.

Townson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Hobart Ray Kidd

## County Seeks State Funds For Trainable Retarded

Cherokee School Superintendent John Jordan, with approval of the county commissioners, this week made application to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction for money to operate a class for trainable mentally retarded children.

Children classed as trainable, he explained, are those with an I.Q. of between 30 and 50, capable of learning simple, mechanical tasks.

The application represents about three years of effort by Jordan, members of the local association for mentally retarded children and Bill Hughes, principal of Murphy Elementary during the regular school year, and head of the Camp Butler session in summer for the retarded.

They are all keeping their fingers crossed that the application will be approved. If it is approved, Jordan says the state will pay \$75 per month for each child enrolled; finding enough children has been the problem, he said, but 10 parents have now agreed to send their children, insuring

the program \$750 a month. This will go to pay a teacher, a teacher's aide and for materials, he said, and the success of the program will hinge on the daily attendance. The class will be held at Peachtree School, Jordan said, and is being left open for students from Clay County if transportation arrangements can be worked out.

"The trainable mentally retarded can do simple jobs which by their reptitious nature would drive a normal person batty," Hughes said. "To be sure, automation is doing away with a number of these simple jobs but I can't help but think a number of them will be left for people to do."

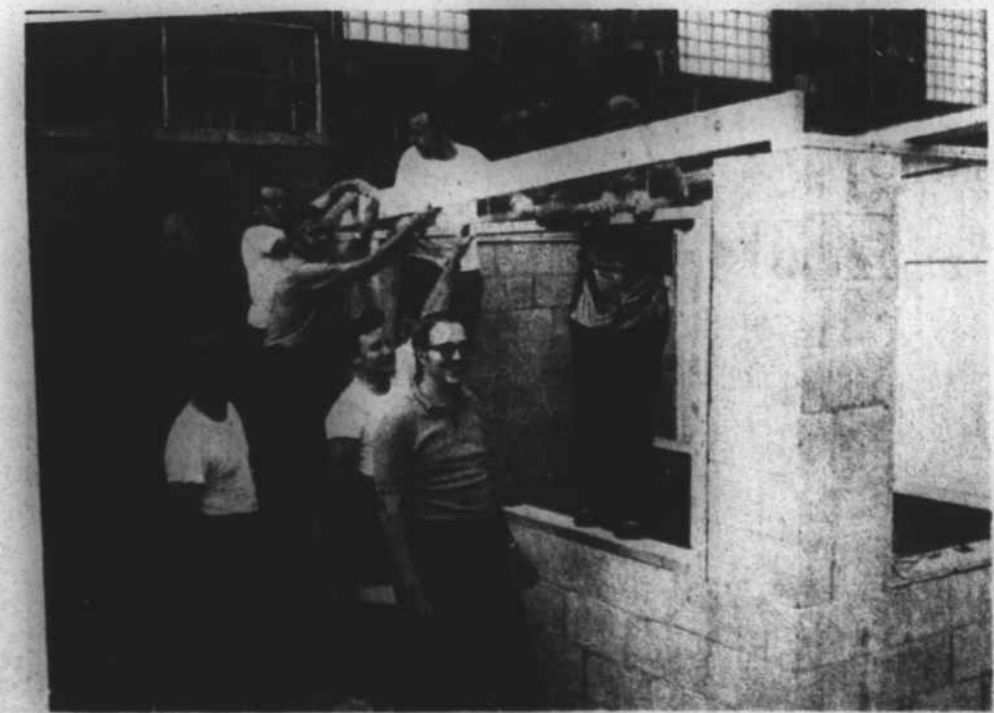
The Cherokee class will be for mentally retarded between the ages of 7 and 18, from all across the county. Recent legal judgments have cleared the way for the mentally retarded students to ride school buses, but Hughes said they would have to be under the supervision of a regular student while they were on the bus. The state-supported program

is still largely in the experimental stage, Jordan and Hughes said, and does not require a teacher with a four-year degree. Rather, if the application is approved, they will be looking for someone with two years of college, lots of patience and a talent for working with children.

Hughes said the children, who have already been checked by the Mental Health Center of Western Carolina University at Cullowhee and classified as trainable, could probably learn basic colors, a little arithmetic, social studies and some arts and crafts.

School officials say education for the retarded is a recent concern, the state's school system geared for the needs of the normal and above-average students.

Education of the trainable mentally retarded to his fullest capability, they say, is only right and fair and fulfills the pledge made in the early years of this century by Gov. Charles B. Aycock that "every child should have the right to burgeon out all there is in him."



## Snack Shack Growing

W.E. Bates, extreme right, a real carpenter, is shown instructing a group of amateurs in expanding the Murphy Penniger; behind them, left to right, are Civitans' snack shack at the Paul Ridenhour, John Jordan and Joe Fairgrounds. The Civitan members on Phillips.

## Clay Sets Tourney

The First Annual Labor Day Tournament will be held at the Chatuge Shores Country Club

on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7. This will be a 27 hole tournament with the first nine hole score used to qualify players in one of seven flights.

Each flight will be made up of players of like abilities so that every player will be competing against someone who plays comparable golf.

There is a place in this tournament for every golfer from the beginner to the semi-pro.

The entry fee will be \$10 which will include lunch, a package of three balls, and green fees. Winners will receive gift certificates in the following amounts: Championship A-\$60, Championship B-\$40, and \$20 each for first, second, third, fourth, and fifth flights. In addition, one dozen Titleist balls will be given to the player who places his tee shot closest

to the pin on the par three 16th hole.

Members and non members are invited to participate. Latest time for entering will be at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Sept. 6. Winter rules will be in effect for the tournament and the first foursome will tee off at 8:30 Monday morning. For any further information, contact any of the staff members at the course.

Chatuge Shores is one of the most picturesque courses in Western North Carolina, lying along the shores of Lake Chatuge with a panoramic view of the mountains of North Georgia and North Carolina completely encircling the valley.

Chatuge Shores is a very challenging course with the front nine being tight requiring considerable accuracy from the tee. The back nine is 500 yards longer and more open but with two water hazards to contend with.

Free classes are now being taught for the ladies on Tuesday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. and for the men on Thursday at 7 p.m. Bill Dortch is the teacher and 20 ladies have already enrolled.

## Mountain Fair Set

The Georgia Mountain Fair at Hiwassee begins its 10-day run on Friday, this year's edition promising to be bigger and better than ever.

Beginning with a country music show Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the big fair will feature a number of shows, gospel singings and clogging exhibitions. Artists signed for appearances include Mel Tillis, Bobby Johnson, Jimmy Martin and others.

In addition to the country and gospel music enjoyed by fairgoers, there will be parades and exhibitions of all kinds, from flowers and antiques to vintage autos and guns, plus an authentic mountain moccasin race.

The Towns County Lions Club sponsors the annual event and proceeds go for Lions projects.