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Back To School

Schoolchildren are shown boarding the bus driven by Roy Horton, background, as all Cherokee County schools resumed classes this week.

Registration day was Tuesday with pupils dismissed at noon; full days began on Wednesday. (Carringer Photo)

Fair Opens On Monday

The 52nd annual Cherokee County Agricultural Fair begins here at Murphy next Monday, to continue through the following Saturday.

Sponsored by the Murphy Lions Club, the Fair will feature all sorts of exhibits of farm and home handiwork plus midway rides and games by Georgia Amusements.

Tom Gentry, in charge of the Fair for the sponsoring Lions, said Tuesday night that the horse show has been canceled. It was originally set for the Sunday after the Fair and had been re-scheduled for Thursday.

Competition is open to residents of Cherokee, Clay and Graham in North Carolina and Union, Towns and Fannin counties in Georgia.

The hog judging has also had to be canceled, due to the state quarantine on swine. However, there will be competition for dairy cattle, beef cattle and sheep.

There will also be judging with cash prizes, for the best field crops - corn, hay, tobacco. And there will be a horticulture division, for the best tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and other garden crops.

There will be a whole division for flowers, both potted plants and cut flowers, winners receiving cash prizes and overall champions to also get ribbons.

Canned fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies will also be judged in competition, as will home-baked breads

In the house furnishings division, judges will be looking at handmade quilts, afghans, spreads and fancy needlework. There will be a clothing division, cash prizes awarded for the best homemade clothing for infants, children and women.

The arts and crafts department will accept entries produced in the past 12 months. There are sections for woven and hooked rugs, wood carving, wood working, metal work, weaving, hand-decorated textiles, corn shuck and pine cone and marble objects, oil painting and pencil and charcoal drawings.

The tri-State Rock Hounders are sponsoring the rocks and minerals division, with cash prizes for the best minerals, fossils, faceted stones and silver jewelry.

One of the most spirited competitions at the Fair will be the community development exhibits, open to community clubs, Granges or other similar organizations. First prize is \$75.

There is also an exhibit competition for home demonstration clubs, the best Fair booth to win \$50 for its sponsoring club.

The youth clubs of the counties also have an exhibit contest as do the 4-H clubs. First prize will also be \$50 in these. In addition, many of the divisions listed above have separate prizes for 4-H entries, to stimulate competition among 4-H club members.

The 4-H and FFA members exhibiting their animals will hold a Fat Steer Show and Sale on Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

Thursday will be School Day, with all school students to be admitted free.



Republicans Open Headquarters

The Cherokee County Republicans opened their headquarters this week in a trailer parked on a lot across Peachtree Street from the Courthouse. Shown decorating their sign are, left to right, Charles White, GOP candidate for sheriff; Don Ramsey, seeking re-election as Clerk of Court; Mrs. White, who is

vice-chairman of the Cherokee Republicans; State Senator Herman (Bull) West, seeking re-election; his son Maurice, running for county commissioner from Andrews; Mrs. Jane Lovingood, volunteer worker. (Avett Photo)

Coming Electric Bill Increase Explained By Manager Bayless

The cost of electricity in the Murphy area is going up and the increase will be evident on power bills received in September.

John (Buster) Bayless, manager of the Murphy Electric Power Board, said this week that the increase locally will average about 20.9 in retail rates charged to customers.

The TVA, which produces the power and sells to the local power board for re-sale, is going up 26.3 per cent on the rates for the wholesale power it sells to Murphy, he said.

The raise in the local power bills will be a two-step operation, Bayless added. The raise seen in bills received in September will be a small upward step with a larger raise to be included in the November bills.

Bayless added that "A new rate adopted by the Murphy Power Board will help the small businesses." He explained that a rate increase in the past had hit small businesses in Murphy harder than residential customers and this time the power board was trying to equalize the situation.

He also noted that, as in the past, heavy users of electric power will find that "the more you use, the cheaper it gets."

A small business using 3,000 kilowatt hours of power per month will see its bill increased

from \$37.24 a month to \$42.14 when the two-step raise is complete, Bayless explained.

A small business using 6,000 kilowatt hours per month will have its bill increased from \$74.66 to \$78.38. The small business using 12,000 kilowatt hours per month will have its bill rise from \$149.32 to \$150.86.

For residential customers, he gave the following figures: for the household using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month, the old bill was \$11.60 and the two-step increase will add a total of \$2.54, the bill rising to \$14.14.

The home using 2,000 kilowatt hours per month now pays \$18.98 and the increase by November will amount to \$4.26, for a total of \$23.24.

Homes with electric heat using 4,000 kilowatt hours per month will see the bill rise from \$33.74 to \$41.44, an increase of \$7.70.

TVA says the raises in its wholesale rates to its 160

distributors are necessary mainly due to the rapidly-rising cost of coal, which it uses to generate most of its power, and the rising interest rates, which affect its financial affairs.

TVA figures show that coal for its steam-generating plants was purchased for \$4.50 and \$5 a ton three years ago. Coal this fall is priced at more than \$8 a ton.

New capital for building TVA generating facilities is raised by selling bonds on the open market and the rate of interest on a \$50 million issue in June was 9.3 per cent, according to a TVA information sheet.

TVA officials say that private power companies such as Duke and Carolina Power and Light, bordering on the TVA service area, have applied for rate increases and even after the two-step increase is made, the average TVA customer will pay less than the national average for electric power.

Tomatoes Bring Only 5¢ Per Pound

Tomato growers in Cherokee and Clay counties have been dealt a hard blow as tomato prices have dropped all across the nation.

The local growers were getting \$4 for a 20-pound case of top No. 1 tomatoes when the Murphy Packing Shed opened in late July. The farmer has to pay the shed about \$1 to pack and sell his tomatoes and at that price was making about \$3 on every 20 pounds he sold, which figures to 15 cents per pound.

This week the shed is paying the growers \$2 for the same 20-pound case and still charging the \$1 to pack and sell. The grower is taking home \$1 for 20 pounds, a scant nickel a pound for his crop.

Kyle Sellars, manager of the

packing shed and a veteran of the fruit and vegetable produce business, says the reason is simple—too many tomatoes, coming to a peak all at once, in all the tomato-growing states.

"This time last year North Carolina had a good crop and the others were slim," Sellars said. But he added that this year all the tomato-producing states, and especially California, have had bumper crops.

Many of these states, he said, grow primarily for the canneries and ordinarily would have only a few tomatoes to sell on the fresh market in competition with the Tar Heel Crop. This year their crops were so big they were able to satisfy the demand of the canneries and still dump large

quantities of tomatoes on the fresh market.

Sellars said the situation is made even worse by the weather. "In this area, North Carolina got off to a bad start—they had a bad plant situation and then bad growing conditions."

The long dry spell, he said, was followed by a period of too much rain which makes the WNC tomatoes "watery." They won't "carry," as buyers say, that is the tomatoes with too much water in them burst open and are too soft for keeping in storage.

"It definitely looks better for the rest of the season," Sellars said. He said the California growers have quit selling on the fresh market and having disposed of their surplus

will now concentrate on satisfying their canneries.

This will mean the fresh tomato prices can go back up, Sellars said, but both he and Extension Chairman Jack Earley emphasized that growers should keep spraying and fertilizing.

Sellars and Earley said if the tomato plants are kept picked clean of ripe tomatoes and are kept sprayed, the plants will continue to bear when the market prices go back up. But if the ripe fruits are allowed to hang on the vines, they say the plants will "sour" and not produce any more.

"If they quit picking, they're through," Sellars said. "Even if tomatoes would go to \$10 a case."

Clerk Disputes 'Increase' Statement

The clerk of the Cherokee County Board of Elections Monday disputed the claim made last week by Commissioner Jack Simonds that the elections board's budget is an increase over last year.

Simonds, a Republican seeking re-election to the county board of commissioners, last week said the board of elections had its budget increased this year, with \$2,000 being earmarked for registrars' pay.

Simonds said he went along with the increase only because he thought the registration

books were going to be returned to the precincts for voter registration.

Mrs. Nada Pulliam, elections board clerk, Monday displayed that department's budget for the past two years, showing both the overall budget and the registrars' pay section to be decreases from last year.

The overall budget in 1969-70 was \$14,286 with \$3,400 set aside for registrars' pay, according to Mrs. Pulliam's budget sheets. This year Simonds and the other commissioners approved a total elections budget of \$13,155, with \$2,000 for registrars' pay.

The elections board is made up of three men, two Democrats and one Republican. The Democratic chairman, Glenn Stalcup, recently announced that the books will not be returned to the precincts for registration as Simonds and some other candidates have requested. The loose-leaf system, Stalcup says, will continue to be open for registration at the Courthouse elections office on Tuesday, Thursday and until noon on Saturday each week.

Stalcup said to return the books to the precincts would strain his \$2,000 registrars' pay budget. Mrs. Pulliam said the registrars in the 17 precincts are paid \$20 a day and usually get three days pay for an election.

They are paid for two days work on voting day since they are usually on the job at the polls for long hours counting ballots after the voting is over. Then they are paid for another day when they bring in the books and the ballots to the Courthouse office, she said.

The November election here will take \$1,020, Mrs. Pulliam said, and sending the books back to the precincts would cost another \$680, for no additional days' work by the registrars.

That would practically empty the registrars' budget, she said. "What if we have a primary or some special election next Spring? We wouldn't have enough money."



Flight Of The Bomber

Murphy's Mitch Myers, weighing in at 235 pounds, displays his agility in a short flight at the high school stadium. The massive Myers, a Senior, plays tackle for the Bulldogs, last year's champions of the Smoky Mountain Conference. (Carringer Photo)



Cannery Visitors

The first visitors to the community cannery at Brasstown came last week to see the new installation, which is expected to open shortly. Terry Stapleton, left, is vice president of Dixie Canner Equipment of Athens, Ga. and Dr. Kemal Gokce, center, is a professor of agriculture at Ankara

University in Turkey. Dr. Gokce is interested in seeing how the cannery methods can be adopted in his country. At right is Fred Reeves of the Bell Corp., which is furnishing the equipment for the Brasstown cannery. (Avett Photo)