

United Fund Drive Is Starting Monday

The annual fund drive of the Cherokee County United Fund, Inc. will begin Monday, according to drive chairman Horace Cannon.

The local organization, voted the best in the State of North Carolina last year based on its financial performance, is headed by H.L. McKeever, president, Lee Nichols and Horace Cannon, vice president, James T. Gentry, secretary, and John Jordan, treasurer.

The goal this year, Cannon stated, is \$32,000. Last year the group raised \$30,962.67 and gave substantial financial aid to 22 local and 14 state and national charities.

Cannon announced that James Tommy Gentry would head the Murphy retail drive, H.L. McKeever the county-wide Advance Gifts and Industrial Drive. At this writing the chairman of the Andrews area campaign had not been named.

Charities participating locally are: Murphy and Andrews Lions Club, Rescue squads, Boy and Girl Scouts, Midget-Mite Football, Recreation and Christmas Cheer programs; American Red Cross, Cherokee County 4-H Clubs, Murphy Kiddie Park, and others.

Each year the United Fund, through its Budget and Appropriations Committee headed by F.C. Bourne, Jr., of Murphy, invites requests from all local charities.

Budget requests from the various charities, accompanied by a report from each charity on its proposed charitable activities and service to the community, are screened by the Bourne committee, and the final budget figures are then developed by the committee.

Every resident of Cherokee County is given an opportunity to make one gift each year, which allows him to donate to all of the charities involved. Each person is urged to give his "fair share", which is defined as "one day's pay".

The campaign is scheduled to be completed in two weeks, Cannon said, with more than 100 volunteers participating and soliciting pledges and donations.



GOP Campaign Flight

Top state Republican leaders left Murphy-Andrews Airport early Monday morning for an across-the-state speech-making trip to Manteo. A hardy band of local Republicans braved the frost and early hour to see them off. Left to right are state Rep. Bill Bradley

of Clay County, Senator Herman (Bull) West of Murphy; State GOP Chairman Jim Holhouer of Boone, Senate Minority Leader Harry Bagnal of Winston-Salem; Clay Sheriff Hartsell Moore; and Charles White, Republican candidate for sheriff in Cherokee.

Phone Workers Strike

Westco Telephone employees in Murphy walked off their jobs Tuesday morning as part of a wildcat strike which has affected all the company's offices in Western North Carolina.

The strike began Tuesday morning in Murphy, Sylva, Franklin and Clayton, Ga. and by Wednesday employees at Marion, Weaverville and Burnsville had also joined it. A company spokesman said 75 percent of the plant force and operators were off their jobs.

Westco's contract with the Communications Workers of America does not expire until June of 1971, the spokesman added, and it contains a "no strike-no walkout-no lockout" clause.

And he pointed out that while the contract with the union covers all the employees, under North Carolina law they have a choice and are not required to join the union. The strikers, he added, include both union members and employees who are not union members.

Two meetings Tuesday between Westco management and representatives of the employees, both union and non-union, failed to produce a settlement. More meetings were expected Wednesday.

The issue which resulted in the strike is the manner by which a recent job vacancy at the Sylva office was filled. According to usual procedure, where the company has a vacancy it posts a notice so

employees can see it and they can then apply for that job, moving up if they are qualified for a better job.

On the particular job in question, the company says it posted the required notices and more of the employees who applied were qualified for the job. A person from Washington was hired. The company is also concerned because it says the union is not sticking to established grievance procedures.

Members of the union say that some of the employees who wanted the job were indeed qualified and add that the notices were not posted in all the places they should have been. Some feel that if they do not strike, the company will hire more people from outside the system and their chances for promotions will be reduced sharply.

With the operators gone, telephone management personnel are manning the switchboards and callers are urged to use the direct distance dialing method where possible.

Commissioners To Check All Tax Listings

By Wally Avett
Staff Writer

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners Monday decided to examine the inventory figure filed with the state tax office in Raleigh by every business in Cherokee County. The commissioners looked at figures in their meeting last February that showed major auto dealers filing a large inventory with the state office but a smaller figure with the county tax office.

However, the commissioners had taken no action against the dealers, giving them several months in which to make adjustments. Monday they learned only two dealers had made any adjustment at all, Burch Motors in Murphy and Reece Motor Co. of Andrews.

After much discussion the commissioners agreed that the dealers are probably not the only businessmen in the county who have been listing low inventory figures with the county tax office and decided that it would be unfair to crack down on the dealers and let other businesses go free.

The commissioners have not decided what rate they will adopt but indications were that Cherokee County business firms will be taxed by the county at some percentage, not the full amount, of what they have listed in Raleigh. And since the present board of commissioners will be going out by December, they intend to have the 1969-1970 figures in hand and make their decision on the percentage at the November meeting.

Commissioner Emogene Matheson of Andrews, in the lengthy discussion which preceded the decision to send someone to Raleigh for the inventory listings, noted that a similar arrangement is used in Clay County. She warned that such information is "privileged" and not to be printed in a newspaper.

Tri-County Tech President Holland McSwain, State Senator Herman (Bull) West and members of the Tri-Tech board of trustees appeared before the commissioners to discuss financing the local part of a building program at the school.

McSwain said that Tri-Tech has been informed that federal Appalachia money is available on an 80-20 matching basis, currently \$300,000 approved for Tri-Tech. The local 20 percent which must be raised, he said, is \$75,000.

McSwain added that there is a possibility that the federal money might reach \$400,000, in which case \$100,000 would have to be raised to match it. He pointed out that Sen. West got \$50,000 for the school from the last Legislature and this money is available.

With the state money figured in, McSwain said it boils down to raising \$25,000 locally to get \$350,000 or perhaps raising \$50,000 to bring in \$450,000. The money will be used, he said, to put up new buildings for the school at Peachtree and "do away with the prison look."

McSwain said he will also ask the commissioners in Clay and Graham counties for money for the program, although Cherokee bears the bulk of financial support for the school.

Sen West urged that the county take advantage of the federal money, saying "it is vital to the welfare of Cherokee, to help our people learn a trade and make a living. I don't see how we can pass it up."

W.T. Moore, chairman of the Cherokee commissioners, said much would depend on whether or not the counties are able to shift the welfare program to the state, thereby having more of the tax revenues available for other purposes.

McSwain suggested that money can be borrowed from a state Literary Fund for school purposes, the interest rate is reasonable and the loan is repayable over a 10-year period. The commissioners asked that he check about such a loan and report to them at their November meeting.



Featured Speakers

Dr. Alex Pow, right, president of Western Carolina University at Cullowhee, and Cary Hall, head of the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Atlanta, are

shown enjoying a light moment together at the reception which followed the dedication of the Marble Mental Health Center on Sunday afternoon. (Staff Photo)

Mental Health Center Dedicated At Marble

A mental health center was dedicated Sunday afternoon at Marble and the people who had a hand in it were commended for getting the work done themselves rather than demanding that the federal government do it for them.

The featured speaker was Cary Hall, director of the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Atlanta, Ga. The Marble health center is a joint project of the Western Carolina University Mental Health Center, the State of Franklin Health Council and the "We Care" group of Cherokee, Clay and Graham counties.

Hall commended them all for their efforts in renovating an old two-story house at Marble, which is owned by the United Methodist Church and leased at \$1 per year for use as a mental health center. The inside of the house has been replastered, painted, carpeted in some rooms and furnished with curtains and furniture.

"The federal government can help but it cannot solve your problems for you," Hall said. He congratulated the volunteer workers, pointing out that it was a local effort

and was not directed either from Atlanta or Washington. Hall said millions of dollars have been set aside for construction of mental health centers, but added that as far as he knew, only about \$500 in federal money has been spent on the Marble facility.

WCU President Dr. Alex Pow was also on the program, speaking briefly to the crowd of about 75 at the Marble school auditorium for the occasion. He noted that the project has seen an excellent display of cooperation between all agencies and groups involved.

Dr. Pow said the mental health program has been in effect for some time but patients had "to wind their way to Cullowhee for treatment." Now some of them can be treated at Marble, he said, and it will mean the difference between treatment and no treatment at all, since many could not make the trip to Cullowhee.

Psycho-therapy group sessions are being conducted once a week at the center and more mental health services are expected to go into operation there shortly.

Much of the speech-making was in thanks for the work put in by volunteer labor on getting the house ready and the donations of skilled labor or materials by area business firms. Mrs. Cloe Moore of Murphy, president of "We Care" and Father David Glockner of Andrews listed a number of people who helped on the project.

8,057 Register

The loose-leaf registration of voters in Cherokee County ended Monday, the total passing 8,000.

According to unofficial figures, the Board of Elections has registered 4,170 Democrats, 3,493 Republicans and 394 Independents to vote in the November election. That makes for a total of 8,057 registered voters.

On Monday, the last day for registration before the election, 235 voters were signed up - 113 Republicans, 79 Democrats and 43 Independents.

Festival Set At Hiwassee

The Fall Music Festival is set for the weekend at Hiwassee, on the grounds of the Georgia Mountain Fair, sponsored by the Towns County Lions Club.

The event begins on Friday night at 8 o'clock with a big country music show, featuring the best of area talent. Fiddlin' Howard Cunningham will be the master of ceremonies.

There will be two country music shows on Saturday, the first one to run from 10 in the morning until 4 in the afternoon and the second scheduled from 8 p.m. until midnight.

The festival will be climaxed on Sunday afternoon from 2 until 5 o'clock with a big gospel sing, featuring Rosie Rozell and the Searchers, the Singing Samboes and the Hiwassee Singers.

Fire Prevention Week Proclaimed

Mayor Cloe Moore has proclaimed this week as Fire Prevention Week in Murphy.

With the full support of the Murphy Volunteer Fire Department, Mayor Moore urges that all homes, businesses, hospitals, schools, churches and other buildings be checked to determine and eliminate possible fire hazards.

He says the records show that the loss of lives and property due to fire in North Carolina decreased last year but to keep the figures down this year, "we must make every effort to teach the importance of fire prevention."

Town firemen noted that Winter is the worst time for house fires as heating systems, after being idle during the warm months, are re-kindled. Overheated stoves and faulty chimneys are two of the worst culprits, they say, in causing houses to burn.



STOMP THE
YELLOWJACKETS!!!

Dollar General Store Opening

A new store will open in Murphy this weekend, the Dollar General Store on Tennessee Street.

Mrs. Barney Hensley will be the store manager and there will be about three employees. For the grand opening Friday and Saturday, the hours will be from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily.

A spokesman for the 17-state chain said the Murphy store's hours will be adjusted after the grand opening but added that the store will be open six days a week and may be open until a later hour than most Murphy businesses.

The Dollar General chain owns 246 stores, as it does the one in Murphy, and also furnishes merchandise to another 250 Dollar General stores which it does not own completely. It extends westward to Oklahoma, north to Illinois and is bounded on the south

by stores in Georgia.

One of the obvious procedures of a Dollar General store is that all prices are in even dollar figures. There are no prices of \$1.99 or \$2.95, rather everything is priced at \$1 or \$2 or two for \$4 or three items for \$5, etc.

Another hallmark of the Dollar General operation, according to Cal Turner, Sr., who heads the operation from offices in Scottsville, Ky., is to fill the needs of customers "shopping for bargains."

His stores sell a variety of clothing, shoes, toys and hardware and there are absolutely no credit arrangements, no lay-away buying. "We don't rent out money. We stick to buying and selling goods," Turner said. "We buy close and make our profit on mark-up."

Bear Paw Resort Inn Opens Friday

An Atlanta physician, Dr. Robert M. Bretches, has purchased the Hiwassee Dam Village and renamed it Bear Paw Resort, opening a renovated restaurant there for business this weekend.

Dr. Bretches says he wants to "try and involve local people" in his Bear Paw Resort Village. He says his crews will be renovating all the cottages and the "first-class restaurant" will cater to civic clubs, weddings, birthday parties, etc.

The restaurant, to be called the Bear Paw Inn, will open for business on Friday night, will serve all three meals on Saturday and will offer breakfast on Sunday and a big buffet noon meal on Sunday.



National 4-H Week

The 275 4-H members in Cherokee County are celebrating 4-H Week in a variety of ways, these two Peachtree 4-H members working for the week at Providence Hospital. Left to right are

Kathy Lunsford, Nurse Edith Lovingood, Patty Little and Sister Fidelis, photographed as they prepare supper trays in the hospital kitchen. (Staff Photo)



Fall Festival Headliners

Rosie Rozell, seated at right, sang with the famous Statesmen gospel group for 17 years and has now struck out on his own, accompanied by the Searchers. They will be headlining the gospel sing which will be the final event

on Sunday afternoon of the Fall Music Festival at Hiwassee, Ga. One of the Searchers is also a familiar face in this area, standing at left, Sandy Davenport of Blairsville, Ga.