

# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress



12

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BLAST THE BEARCATS!!!

## Judge Closes Jail

By Wally Avett  
Staff Writer

The Cherokee County Jail was closed down last week by order of a Superior Court judge and all the prisoners were released.

State jail inspectors looked over the local jail Tuesday morning and returned to Raleigh to make their report to the Social Services department, which will make a ruling "in the near future" in the case.

As this writing it is not known whether the county will be allowed to keep prisoners in the jail again on a regular basis or on a six-hour maximum or whether it will be used at all.

The jail inspectors have termed the Cherokee jail "one of the sorriest in the state" and have threatened to close it in the past. The county voters approved a \$100,000 bond issue for construction of a new jail in the election on Tuesday of last week.

Sheriff Claude Anderson said a prisoner ran wild on last Wednesday, shattering several commodes and wash basins inside the jail, causing extensive water damage.

Superior Court Judge Frank W. Snapp Jr. of Charlotte, presiding over a session of court here, went to the jail to view the damage. He returned to the courtroom with all the prisoners behind him.

"Half the plumbing fixtures were broken out, some of the windows were broken out making it hard to heat and there were the remains of foods on the floor and the mattresses were filthy," the judge said.

"There were two women in cells with no privacy," he added. "The jail was not fit for occupancy by human beings for anything more than a few hours."

Judge Snapp released some of the prisoners on their own recognizance to stand trial later and for others he ruled that they had appealed to his Superior Court and that their sentences were the time they had already served in the jail, effectively freeing them.

Jerry Green, 34, was identified as the man who did the damage and was sent off for treatment. He has been in and out of the jail for the past several months, including one short-lived escape, but the judge said after looking at the jail that he himself would

probably have wrecked it if he had been in Green's place. Green has been charged with two counts of damaging public property.

Judge Snapp ordered that the jail be used, if properly repaired, for keeping prisoners only for a maximum of six hours - "either someone awaiting trial or for keeping a drunk" until he sobers up.

The judge also telephoned the state jail inspection section of the Social Services department and on Monday two officials met at the courthouse with Clay and Cherokee commissioners to discuss the situation. The two counties have tentatively planned to build a jail at Murphy to serve both and the state officials want to see the project started.

The regional inspector, James H. Pitts of Asheville, and the chief of Jail Detention Services in Raleigh, N.C. Williams, said four jails in the state have been closed down and "by all rights both Clay and Cherokee jails should be closed."

There was much discussion of jail construction and how costs could be trimmed but it soon developed that the commissioners have not heard yet from their application for a \$100,000 federal grant and do not have enough money to start the project without the federal money.

At the end of the meeting,

the commissioners agreed to check on the status of the federal grant and also to have their architect, James L. Padgett of Asheville, meet with a man from the Jail Detention

Services and design a jail for the two counties, to be constructed on the courthouse parking lot behind the present jail in Murphy.

Williams and Pitts in-

spected the Cherokee jail on Tuesday morning but said a decision will have to be made in Raleigh as to how the jail can be used until a new one is built.

## Board Of Education Applies For Tri-Tech Building Loan

The Cherokee County Board of Education applied for a low-interest loan in its meeting last week to finance a building program at Tri-County Tech.

The Cherokee County commissioners had voted at their meeting earlier in the week in favor of the \$25,000 loan, which will be paid back by the county to the state Literary Fund. The special fund charges an interest rate of 4 1/2 percent.

Holland McSwain, Tri-Tech president, explained in the county school board meeting Thursday night that the building program will see a large new building rise on the Peachtree campus and also includes remodeling present structures to do away with the "prison look," the school formerly serving as a prison camp. McSwain told the board of education that federal Ap-

palachian funds in the amount of \$300,000 have been approved for building at Tri-Tech, funds provided on a 80-20 basis.

The local 20 percent will be provided, he said, with the \$25,000 loan from the state Literary Fund and with \$50,000 gotten from the last Legislature by State Senator Herman West for Tri-Tech.

McSwain had indicated in the past that local money for the project would also be sought from Clay and Graham counties. Students from both study at Tri-Tech but the school is located in Cherokee, which has a greater population than both the other two combined, and this county has provided more money by far than the other two counties.

In other business, the board of education approved a policy of providing school lunches either free or at a reduced cost

to children unable to pay the full price.

Superintendent John Jordan said an application form for such lunches, based on a table showing family sizes and annual incomes, has been sent parents of each child in the system. Using the table, the local principals and lunchroom supervisors will decide on the eligibility for the child, he added.

If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling as to whether his child is eligible or not to receive lunch free or at a reduced cost, he may request a hearing to appeal the decision, Jordan said.

He noted that a ticket system of some sort will probably be installed so that there will be no discrimination and no way for any of the children to know who paid the full price for his lunch ticket, who paid a reduced price or who got a ticket free.

## Canvass Sets Official Vote Returns

The official canvass of the votes cast in Cherokee County in last week's general election was made on Thursday and no major changes were seen.

Candidates of both parties, winners and losers, were present in the courtroom as the Board of Elections began the long process of reviewing the vote-counting procedure and adding in a few absentee ballots and correcting errors made in the tally on Tuesday night.

The totals were approved and sent in to the state Board of Elections in Raleigh on Thursday night about 7 o'clock. The official figures are as follows:

Democratic Congressman Roy Taylor beat his GOP challenger Luke Atkinson in Cherokee by a vote of 4228 to 2905.

Erwin Patton, Democrat, beat W.P. Bradley, Republican, for state representative in this county by a vote of 3666 to 3360.

GOP State Senator Herman West Herman West beat Dr.

Carl Killian in Cherokee by only eight votes, 3623 to 3615.

The Democratic candidate for clerk of court, Jimmy Howse, beat the incumbent Don Ramsey, 3652 to 3536.

Ed Graves, the Republican incumbent Register of Deeds, beat the Democratic candidate, Mrs. Thelma Crawford, by 95 votes - 3651 to 3556.

Blain Stalcup, Democrat, was elected sheriff over Charles White, 3893 to 3344.

In the District 1 commissioners' race, the results were correct as printed last week. Democrat W.T. Moore stayed on the board of commissioners with 1165 votes to Maurice West's 982.

In the District 2 race, Republican Jack Lovinggood beat Ray Sims, 1396 to 1095.

In the District 3 race, Republican Jack Simonds saw an increase in the slim lead he had held over Democrat Fred Sneed when the votes were first counted Tuesday night. The final figure saw Simonds the winner, 1307 to 1221.

Roy Stalcup, Democrat, beat John Donley for county surveyor, 3721 to 3398. J.B. Hall, Democrat, beat Ralph Rayfield for coroner, 3896 to 3233.

The final figure for voters favoring the jail bond issue was 3805, with 2903 voting against it. In the school board voting,

Dr. Charles VanGorder with 4423 votes, Dr. W.A. Hoover with 3574 and the Rev. Robert Barker, with 3571 were the winners.

J. Doyle Burch polled 2979 votes in the school board race, Charles Aiken got 2724 and Johnny Wilson drew 2639 votes.

## Brasstown 'Record' Was Error In Tally

No, there was nothing irregular in the voting last week at Brasstown precinct - what looked like a "record" turnout of voters proved to be a counting error.

The Scout published the registration figures for the 17 county precincts last week along with the unofficial returns from the general election. Several people noticed that Brasstown has a total registration of 255 but the returns printed showed more than 270 votes counted in several races.

The Cherokee County Board of Elections checked into the figures and found that an error was made in the tally at the precinct after the election. The split ballots are counted, it was explained, and then the straight tickets are also counted. Then the number of straight tickets voted for the Democratic side is added to every Democratic candidate's total and the same is done with Republican straight tickets for the Republican side of the ballot.

The error was that the number of Democrat straight tickets voted was added, in some races, to both candidates. The returns, example, showed GOP State Senator Herman West beating Dr. Carl Killian, the Democrat, in Brasstown by a vote of 145 to 135. The actual tally, once the error was corrected, saw Dr. Killian beating West in that precinct by a vote of 135 to 92.



### Wrecked Cell

Cherokee Chief Deputy Glenn Holloway examines the debris in a wrecked cell of the Cherokee County Jail. A prisoner, officers said, ran loose in the jail on Wednesday of last week,

smashing commodes and wash basins and tearing up mattresses. Superior Court Judge Frank Snapp looked over the damage and promptly closed the jail, releasing the prisoners. (Staff Photo).

## Town Council Considers Franchise For Cable TV

The Murphy Town Council Monday night again discussed the construction of a cable television system with Harold Shook, who is seeking the franchise for Murphy.

Shook appeared at the October meeting to ask for the franchise and at that time was instructed to make a formal request in writing and include in his application the rates which would be charged subscribers to the system.

## White Church Sets Festival

The Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday night at White Church School, beginning at 6:30.

Sponsored by the PTA, the festival will include bingo, cakewalks, darts, a bowling alley, ring toss, fishing pond and all sorts of refreshments.



### Computerized Phototypesetting

Scout typesetter Betty Clay, right, feeds a perforated tape into the new Compugraphic 4961 computer put into production this week as Ruth Anderson, compositor, checks the finished photographic reproduction. The computer gives The Scout greater versatility coupled with high speed turning out printed matter in ready-to-use column widths in a variety of type faces. At

## Eye Clinic Is Here

The Lions mobile eye screening clinic is now busy in Cherokee County, testing the vision of children between the ages of three and six.

Lions say it is important to have a child's eyes tested before he starts school, some children having a slow start at school due to eye problems which had not been detected.

This week the mobile clinic will be at the square in Murphy on Wednesday and Thursday all day.

The following week, it will be at White Church School on Monday, at Unaka on Tuesday, at the A&P parking lot in Andrews on Wednesday, at the Andrews Health Center on Thursday and at the Topton Post Office on Friday.

The mobile clinic will be at each location from 9 a.m. until noon and from 1 until 4 p.m. It is sponsored in this county by the Murphy Lions, the Andrews club and the Ranger-Hiwassee Dam Lions Club.



## County Republicans

### Vote Straight...Regardless

Hundreds of Republican voters in Cherokee County proved last week in the election that they will vote a straight party ticket - even if nobody is running on the Republican side of the ballot.

This was demonstrated in the judges' ballot, on which 29 Democratic candidates were listed for Superior Court posts. No Republican candidates were listed on the right hand side of the ballot, although there were lines where write-in candidates could be entered.

There was a good bit of snickering, especially by the Democrats, when the official canvass was made on Thursday of last week. For in the returns from some precincts, a good number of Republicans had not written in any names at all but had marked a straight GOP vote for the blank right side of the ballot.

In Andrews North Ward, for example, 214 straight Republican votes were recorded for the empty side of the judges' ballot. Other precincts had witnessed the same thing, it was explained, but the precinct officials had thrown out the ballots in that

race in many cases, feeling that a vote for 29 blank lines was worthless.



THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER 1970						
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Kathy Killian - Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack D. Killian, Kenny Lovingood - Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Lovingood, Becky Haigler - Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Haigler, Michelle Helton - Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Helton, April Abernathy - Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Linford Abernathy.

QUALITY



SAVINGS



SUPER MARKET



TENNESSEE STREET