

Happiness Blooms On A Muddy Field

...Bulldogs Beat Hendersonville In Playoff, Story Inside

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress



DEHORN THE BLUE DEVILS!!!

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Clay Opposes Two-County Jail

By Wally Avett
Staff Writer

Clay County is apparently dead-set against the idea of building a regional jail at Murphy to serve both Clay and Cherokee counties.

Leading the opposition to the regional jail idea is Clay Sheriff Hartsell Moore, who says he has been fighting against it for 18 months "and I don't know 10 people in the county who are for it."

"No more personnel than I have to maintain a lockup here and haul prisoners to Murphy would be too much of an expense on Clay County," he says.

A Superior Court judge has closed the Cherokee County Jail except for use on a six-hour basis and state jail inspectors have said the Clay jail also should be closed.

However, at the present time the small eight-bed Clay jail is in use and two prisoners sent there from Murphy last week for safekeeping promptly escaped. Earl Parker, 18, of Andrews, and Russell Jones, 21, of Robbinsville, were both charged with breaking and entering in Cherokee County.

Sheriff Moore showed this reporter a door in the second floor of the Clay jail which does not have a working lock and is secured by a padlock-and-chain arrangement. He said Parker and Jones somehow picked the padlock and escaped, stealing a car from Jones Ford in Hayesville.

They got out early Thursday morning and were recaptured in Graham County a few hours later in the Jones Ford auto. They are now back in their cells, charged with additional counts of escaping and auto theft, and a new padlock has been added to the chain on the door.

Sheriff Moore and other Clay citizens who expressed themselves as against the regional jail idea mention several aspects of the plan which they don't like, such as the difficulty of making bond in Cherokee for a man who has been arrested in Clay County.

However, their comments indicate that local pride and the vague fear that somehow Clay will be consolidated into Cherokee County are their main concerns. "People see this jail at Murphy as the first step

toward consolidation" of the two counties, Sheriff Moore said. And several others said cost was no concern, they wanted Clay County to have its own jail at Hayesville. The sheriff said Clay people simply didn't want to have to drive to Murphy to see a friend in jail.

During the past six months or so, the commissioners of both counties have met several times and discussed the regional jail idea, which would bring a 50-50 matching grant from the federal government if one jail is

built to serve both counties. Andy Padgett, chairman of the Clay commissioners, says the grant has been assured. However, Padgett is going off the board of commissioners and much pressure is being brought to bear against the three men who will take office as new county commissioners in Clay on Dec. 7.

A meeting has been called for that afternoon in Murphy, which will be attended by newly-sworn Clay and Cherokee commissioners, and also state officials, at which time a

decision is expected on the jail. W.T. Moore, chairman of the Cherokee County commissioners, said Tuesday if Clay backs out, the jail will be reduced in size and built by Cherokee County.

The proposed regional jail would cost about \$250,000, according to Padgett, with a temporary lockup in Hayesville. Cherokee voters have approved a \$100,000 bond issue for Cherokee's part and Clay's part would come from the local one-cent sales tax,

amounting to around \$30,000. Padgett pointed out that at the current rate of more than \$3,000 a month, the one-cent tax would provide all of Clay's part by next February or March.

Day in and day out through the year, Clay averages about one person a day in jail; the average at the Cherokee jail is about six or seven, according to Cherokee Sheriff Claude Anderson. To provide for this average population and also have separate facilities for women and juveniles, the state jail inspectors have advised that the regional jail should have about 32 beds.

Chairman Moore of Cherokee says if Clay turns down the regional jail approach, he believes Cherokee can build its own jail for about \$150,000. He says he has already instructed an architect to draw up a separate set of plans for a smaller jail if Cherokee has to build it alone.

The state jail inspectors, here in Murphy at a meeting earlier this month, said if Clay builds its own jail, it "will cost in the neighborhood of \$100,000."

Padgett says Clay County has cooperated with Cherokee in Tri-County Tech, in the regional library and health programs and that a regional jail is the most practical step. "It is definitely not taking a step toward merging with Cherokee County," he said.



Clay Sheriff Hartsell Moore...locks front door of jail.

Community Newspapers Buys Control Of Cherokee Scout

Community Newspapers, Inc. of Marshall, N.C. and Spartanburg, S.C. has acquired controlling interest in Scout Publishing Co., Inc. of Murphy, publishers of The Cherokee Scout and Clay County Progress.

The announcement was made jointly by Mid-South Management Co., Inc. of Spartanburg, S.C. owner of the newspaper for 15 years, and the new owners, Community Newspapers and Jack T. Owens, publisher of the Murphy newspaper.

Mid-South purchased the Scout from Mrs. Emily Armiller and the late Mrs. William V. Costello in early 1956. Prior to the Costellos, the Scout was owned by Miss Addie Mae Cooke, of Murphy. Mid-South operated the newspaper directly until 1962 when Scout Publishing Co., Inc. was formed as a subsidiary of Mid-South.

Community Newspapers is owned by N.Jerue Babb of Spartanburg, S.C. a former publisher of the Scout from 1959 to 1963. Community Newspapers was formed three years ago by Babb and Mid-South to acquire The Andrews Journal, The Smoky Mountain Times and Black Mountain News. Babb acquired full ownership of Community Newspapers in May of this year.

Community Newspapers publishes in ten communities of the two Carolinas located at

Cheraw, S.C.; Franklin, Highlands, Robbinsville, Canton, Enka-Candler, Black Mountain, Marshall, Andrews, Bryson City, N.C. and "Mountain Living" magazine at Franklin, N.C.

Under the new ownership arrangement, Community Newspapers will be the majority stockholder in Scout Publishing Co., Inc. with Jack T. Owens, Scout publisher, and Glen O. Long publisher of LaGrange (Ga.) Daily News also as stockholders.

According to the new owners, no changes will be made in personnel, management or editorial policies.

Corporate officers and directors are Jack T. Owens, president, Glen O. Long, vice-president, and N.Jerue Babb, secretary-treasurer.

"Owing the Scout is the fulfillment of a ten-year dream," Babb said. "My wife preceded me as editor of the Scout back in September 1959 when I was named publisher while still serving in the Marine Corps on Okinawa. I came to Murphy on February 11, 1960. I'll never forget the date since it was our fourth wedding anniversary and it was also my first day at my first fulltime job," Babb added.

"Phyllis and I left Murphy in 1963 so I could join the Spartanburg daily newspapers. Last spring we decided the time had come for me to devote full-time to my own business, Community Newspapers, which had grown from three papers in 1967 to 13 newspapers plus Mountain Living Magazine."

"As many of our Cherokee and Clay County friends know, the Western North Carolina mountains have always held a warm spot in our hearts. Particularly since this is where we got our start in the newspaper business. We have never forgotten our three years

in Murphy, where our oldest son, Philip, was born three days after Christmas, 1960, while I was having the paper printed down in Spartanburg. It's real fine feeling to be coming back to Murphy as a business partner and I look forward to working with you in building our community," Babb concluded.

Deer Season To Begin On Monday

The gun season for deer in Cherokee and Clay counties opens next Monday morning, traditionally the event which draws the largest number of sportsmen into the woods.

Between 400 and 500 men, carrying high-powered rifles and wearing brightly-colored clothing for safety, are expected at the Fires Creek game management area in Clay County.

"I think we're gonna have plenty of deer this year," Fires Creek Warden Harley Martin says. He noted that a total of 93 deer were killed on his refuge last year during the two-week gun season.

The week season for archers has just ended, he said, and the bowhunters at Fires Creek managed to kill only one grouse and one small buck, although they were eligible to shoot deer of either sex.

The Cherokee County warden, J.J. Jefferies, says this should be about an average year for deerhunting in this county. Deer in Cherokee are sparse, he said, except for concentrations around the Panther Top area and along the Fires Creek refuge boundary on Peachtree Mountain.

End Nearing For Channel 5 ?

The Asheville television channel, received in Murphy as Channel 5, may be taken off the air.

That was the message Tuesday from Bill Pfeiffer, a vice president of WLOS-TV in Asheville, which installed the translator on Fain Mountain and began beaming the signal into Murphy in June.

Viewers in the Hanging Dog-Unaka area and also some on US-64 West, have complained

Condemnation Cases Aired

The two-week term of Superior Court here in Murphy wound up last week hearing civil matters, Judge Frank W. Snapp Jr. of Charlotte presiding.

The two cases which went before a jury both involved the State Highway Commissioners and landowners who lost ground in the widening of US-64 to the Tennessee line.

Emory Shields and other trustees of Temple Baptist Church had contested the settlement offered by the SHC

to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington that the new signal on Channel 5 has disrupted their reception of Channel 5, Atlanta.

They have petitioned that the FCC order the Channel 5 translator taken off the air, Pfeiffer said, and that may be done shortly. He said his station has not received an order from the FCC to close down the translator but they fear such an order may be coming soon.

Bringing in the Asheville signal was a project of the Murphy Jaycees and when word of the petitions against the station spread, the Jaycees began circulating petitions in support of the Asheville signal. "So far about 600 names have been sent in to the FCC in support of Channel 5," Pfeiffer said. He suggested that another 700 or 800 names in support of the translator might influence the FCC to leave it on the air and local Jaycees indicated Tuesday that they intend to try to get that many names this weekend.

Pfeiffer said if the Channel 5 signal is ordered stopped there are several alternatives, none of them very attractive. The station could just forget about Murphy, he said, pointing out that a similar situation arose in Franklin, the signal was stopped there by petitions in 1964 and has only recently begun serving Franklin again, the return due to favorable petitions.

"Enough people there just apparently don't want us," he said. If Channel 5 is stopped, he

said WLOS could apply for another channel, which would probably be 13 and send its signal into Murphy on the high side of the band. He noted, however, that the low band numbers give wider coverage and if they are forced to go to 13, the area served will be reduced. The application would have to be made to the FCC, he added, and might take months for approval.

WLOS could also install a two-way translator on the Channel 5 frequency, he explained, which would beam a signal into Hanging Dog but this would probably have to be done with the same one-watt power which now is approved for the translator and again would result in a smaller area of coverage.

And the added that many of those who signed the petitions against Channel 5 have indicated that this would not please them anyway because they would rather have the Atlanta station.

"Enough people there just apparently don't want us," he said.

Jaycees Slate Christmas Parade

'Tis the season to be jolly - only 30 more shopping days until Christmas and the appropriate decorations are already visible on the streets of Murphy.

And the Murphy Jaycees Christmas Parade, set for Wednesday afternoon of next week, promises to be "the biggest and best ever," according to Dick Davis, Jaycee president and parade chairman.

"The parade will be held at 4:30 Wednesday afternoon, Davis said, with awards to be given to first and second places in both the commercial and non-commercial divisions. The theme for this year's parade is "The Spirit of Christmas."

At the present time there

are 14 floats entered for the parade, Davis reported, along with four bands and several beauty queens. Area Scout troops are also expected to enter.

"Horseback riders are welcome, Davis noted, "But there has not been enough attention in the past to appearance of horse and rider. The horses should be decorated in some manner and the riders should be costumed appropriately."

"Parade programs will be circulating in the streets for the benefit of spectators before the parade, Davis said, and of course the fat man in the red suit, old Santa Claus himself, will climax the event with candy for the youngsters.



Lawrence Richardson Moore...100 years old

Clay's Oldest Citizen Marks 100th Birthday

By Mrs. Neal Kitchens
Staff Writer

Over two hundred of the Moore clan, met at Hinton Rural Life Center last Sunday to honor Lawrence Richardson Moore, Clay County's oldest citizen, on his 100th birthday.

When the grand old man of the mountains entered he was met with a standing ovation and a thunderous applause. When his little great-great-granddaughter Kicia Melancon ran to give him a kiss of greeting, it brought tears to his eyes.

The tables were loaded with home-cooked food. The dinner that was scheduled for 12:30 was postponed for an hour since so many well wishers just had to greet "Uncle Lawrence" and congratulate him.

He was seated at the guest of honor table where a huge birthday cake was ready. When the 100 candles were lit the cake

looked like a small bonfire. As the group sang happy birthday, flash bulbs were popping so fast that it resembled 4th of July fireworks. Moore then rose and returned thanks asking God's blessing on this great occasion.

After the dinner he was presented with gifts and cards. The celebrity received a card of congratulations that was personally signed by Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States. He was presented with a letter of congratulations from Governor Bob Scott of North Carolina which included the following quote "My the butterfly of happiness light often on your shoulder. To commemorate this day I am sending you a Tar Heel pin, the emblem of North Carolina which I hope you will wear in the future years." He also received a telegram of congratulations from Governor Lester Maddox of Georgia.

Lawrence R. Moore was born Nov. 15th, 1870 in a log cabin, in the Tusquite section of Clay County. He was the son of Captain "Irish Bill" Moore who served in the Confederate army, and Hattie Gash Moore of Macon County. He had nine brothers and sisters. Two of the children died with typhoid fever when small. Most of the clan lived to a ripe old age. His father died at 87, his mother at 97. His sister Mrs. Maggie Moore was almost 99 when she died, another sister Mrs. Jennie Nolan of Franklin died at 91. He has one brother Bill Moore, 85, and a sister Mrs. Nannie Smith, 82, still living at Hayesville.

In 1892 Moore married the former Miss Donie Ledford. They were the parents of five children. The youngest son Fred L. Moore died in 1968. The other four present were Mrs. Ben Phillips, Mrs. Leonard Smith, Mrs. Bass Hyatt and Frank Moore all of Hayesville. Frank and family are living today in the house built by his grandfather "Captain Bill"

Moore. It is 90 years old, a large white two-story frame house, that stands just 50 feet from the log cabin where "Uncle Lawrence" was born. Mr. Moore's first wife died in 1943. He married Mrs. Lou Howard in 1945. They lived together until she died in 1965. His step-daughter Mrs. Ethel Talbot of Vienna Virginia flew down for the celebration. She said "I love this great man who has brought such a deep meaning to my life." Since the death of his last wife he has lived with his children.

The Moore home used to be the meeting place for the younger generation where he played the organ and the group sang. He believed in young people having a good time. He is a man of keen wit. His oldest daughter is now 77, and recently remarked "I wonder who will take care of me when my children are dead. Looks like I'm gonna outlive the whole bunch. He had a great ambition

to live to be 100. He has always been a good manager. He never believed in investments that would not return profits. Today as his Social Security checks come in he wants them promptly deposited in a savings account to draw interest for he is "saving up for his old age."

As a younger man he was a farmer, merchant, and odd blacksmith work. His main hobby was gold mining. He still owns an interest in the Gold Mine tract on Matlock Creek in the Tusquite Valley. He worked in the mine until it burned down. Until recent years he enjoyed panning for gold in this Gold Mine branch.

He had another hobby of collecting Indian relics. He had a large collection which he finally sold two years ago. This he has regretted since he misses these treasures. Moore is a member of the United Methodist Church where he served as Sunday School

superintendent for 40 years. He was also a teacher and steward. A lifelong Democrat, Moore has never voted an absentee. He went to the polls Nov. 3 where he marked his own ballot without the assistance of glasses.

He says he has seen many changes in his life time. He had a special interest in the space age and enjoyed seeing man land on the moon. Today he spends much of his time reading, watching television and listening to the radio. He has a large collection of pocket knives which he spends a lot of time sharpening. When a friend or neighbor stop in to visit he banter them to trade knives.

Someone asked him Sunday as the group was leaving how many more birthdays he expected to celebrate. With a twinkle in his eye he replied "Not many. I have been lucky to reach a hundred; but I sure would like to have another one just like this."