

# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress



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## License Plate Time Again

Roger Kephart, left, and Larry Burgess at the Western Auto in Murphy display the new green-on-white 1971 North Carolina license plates which go on sale Saturday. Vehicle owners have until Feb. 16 to obtain the new plates. Application cards were mailed Dec. 21 by the State Department of Motor Vehicles

and vehicle owners are urged to complete the cards before presenting them for new plates. Those who have not received an application card by Jan. 1 should contact the Department of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh, since it will take about two weeks to be issued a duplicate card. (Staff Photo)

## New Careers, Youth Corps

## Four-Square Projects Funded

Two projects of Four Square Community Action, Inc. have received word this week that they have been funded to continue their programs. New Careers, sponsored by Four Square Community Action, Inc., has received notification that it will receive a federal grant of \$201,130 from the Department of Labor, Manpower Administration, for operation from February 1, 1971, to January 22, 1972. This grant covers 47 trainees from the four-county area of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, and Swain counties to be trained in the human service fields of Police Science, X-Ray Technology, Practical Nurse Education, Day Care, Interviewer Aides, and Recreation workers. These trainees will attend school on an average of two days per week and work on the job three days per week. This grant also covers four staff members. A new staff member will be added to the present staff of three, this position being for a training coordinator. If interested in applying for a training position or for the staff position, please contact New Careers, P.O. Box K, Andrews, North Carolina. The Neighborhood Youth Corps will receive a federal grant of \$36,310 beginning January 1, 1971. The grant will provide 74 enrollees jobs for 24 weeks for the continuation of the in-school program in the four counties of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Swain. The youths are between the ages of 14 and 21 and come from low income families. John Summerous, director of NYC, says effective February 1, 1971, the wage rate for in-school enrollees will be \$1.60 per hour. The enrollees are paid a \$1.60 an hour from the federal grant and limited to working nine hours a week. The boys are doing manual labor as beautification aides and the girls are working as secretaries, office aides, teacher's and cafeteria aides.

The total Medicaid budget, divided among federal, state and county, for Cherokee County was \$263,350, Ayers said. This was for the fiscal year, July 1970 through June 1971. The county's part was \$36,640. Through December, which represents six months of the fiscal year completed, Ayers said \$29,290 of the county's part has been spent, along with corresponding amounts of the state and federal money. December saw a slight downward trend in Medicaid spending, he said, the local part to probably last another six weeks to two months. The budget had allowed for the county spending \$3,053 a month for Medicaid, Ayers explained, but spending for the first six months of the fiscal year

averaged just over \$4,000 a month. Medicaid began Jan 1, 1970, providing for those who qualified, dental work, glasses, medicine, hospital services, home nursing and paying a variety of doctor's bills. Any person is eligible, Ayers said, who is presently on welfare rolls; others who are not on welfare but need help with medical costs can also qualify. The Social Services office decides eligibility. Ayers further pointed out a critical rule in deciding who is eligible. If one parent is absent, through death, prison, desertion, etc., then a family could be eligible for both welfare and Medicaid. If both parents are present in the home and one of them is disabled, the family would still be eligible, he said. But if both parents are there, and both are able-bodied and capable of working, that family is not eligible. "Unemployment is not a factor," Ayers said. "And that's one of the weaknesses of the program in my opinion. If there are two able-bodied parents in the home, regardless of unemployment or how sick the child is, they can't be qualified for Medicaid. "There are many children in marginal families who need medical help," he added. "And we just can't reach them." The so-called "man in the house" rule is said to force able-bodied but unemployed men to desert their families in some states so that the wife and children would be eligible for welfare. Ayers said this could happen in Cherokee County but he has seen no evidence of it.

## Medicaid Strains Budget

Providing free medical services for those who cannot afford them is straining both county and state budgets to the breaking point. The program, known as Medicaid, "is running well over what is budgeted," according to V.O. Ayers, who heads the Services department in Cherokee County, formerly called the Welfare Department. But Ayers was quick to add that Cherokee County may be in a better financial position to provide its part of the Medicaid budget than the State of North Carolina. The Medicaid program is financed by county, state and federal money, the federal part being roughly 75 percent of the total, the county and the state putting up 12 1/2 percent apiece.

Ayers pointed out that while payments for medical service for the indigent in Cherokee County have run over what was expected, the county has not spent what was planned in the other usual welfare divisions—aid to the aged, the blind, to the disabled and to dependent children.

"We anticipate that by transferring funds from these underused budgets to the Medicaid budget, we'll be able to find enough money for the rest of the fiscal year," Ayers said. He added that he would not know for sure whether it will work out that well until the Medicaid report for the first six months of fiscal 1970-71 is made, probably at the January meeting of the Cherokee County Commissioners.

He indicated that the State of North Carolina may not be so lucky. Many counties have had spending go beyond what was expected, he said, and the state is finding itself in a financial bind. Ayers added that the Legislature will convene in Raleigh in January and may soon find itself with the problem of coming up with more money for Medicaid.

"Federal money is available," he said, in quantity enough to take care of the situation, even if more Medicaid money is required than was first thought necessary.

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## Ruins At Oak Grove

C.W. Hamby and his two small sons are shown viewing the ruins of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, which burned to the ground in a high wind on Sunday afternoon. The Hambys are

members of the Oak Grove Congregation, now looking for a place to hold worship services until a new building can be constructed. (Staff Photo)

## Church Is Destroyed By Fire

Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church was completely destroyed by fire Saturday afternoon.

The Murphy Volunteer firemen were called out in a sub-freezing temperature Saturday about 4:30 p.m. to the community of Oak Grove, located on NC-294 about 15 miles west of Murphy.

Upon reaching the scene the firemen found the flames reaching high in the air, fanned by a high, gusty wind.

The Murphy firemen fought the blaze for about an hour, but it was too far gone when they arrived and the wooden building was doomed. However, they contained it well enough to keep the flames from spreading into the woods which border the churchyard.

The church was of frame structure, built about 60

years ago. It was considered a community landmark, constructed first as a schoolhouse, and named "Collis School."

At this time it was used jointly as a school and the community church house. Finally in 1922 when the County Board of Education split the district it was established strictly as a church the school children going to other neighboring schools.

The church now has about 85 members. The pastor is the Rev. Gary Parris of Ducktown, Tenn.

The origin of the fire has not yet been determined, members theorize it started through an electrical shortage.

Members are presently looking for a place to assemble, with hopes of constructing a new building in the future.

## The First Six Months

## Review Of The News Events Of 1970

Below are the news highlights of the first six months of 1970, as reported in this newspaper.

Due to space limitations, the year-end roundup will be in two sections, the highlights of second half of 1970 to appear in the Scout next week.

### JANUARY

Cold weather was the biggest news last January as the thermometer dropped below zero for two days in a row, 2 below the zero mark the first day and then down to a chilly 10 below on the second day. Snow, lots of it, came and with the bitter cold, it stayed. Cherokee County schools were closed several days.

Citizens Bank merged with Wachovia Bank & Trust and First Union National began making plans to put up a new building on Peachtree Street in Murphy.

### FEBRUARY

The Cherokee County

commissioners in their regular meeting brought up the problem of county auto dealers filing a large inventory figure with the state tax people and a much smaller figure with the local office. They named names, indicating that dealers were paying less than their fair share of taxes, and ordered dealers to show up to explain their actions. Cherokee and Clay commissioners that month discussed building a regional jail, to be located at Murphy, and serve both counties. Later in the month the county and the Town of Murphy agreed to operate jointly a sanitary landfill on the Murphy town dump site. The Cherokee County Republicans held their convention, picked party officers and recessed until later

in the year, at which time would be selected for county offices. A number of candidates, both Democrats and Republicans, began announcing for office. A new county elections board, headed by Glenn Stalcup, was announced and given the oath in readiness for the elections.

### MARCH

Frank Forsyth, banker, civic leader and former state senator, was buried, his funeral attended by Gov. Bob Scott and a host of other dignitaries.

A nurse driving to work at District Memorial Hospital in Andrews, Miss Rachel Shields, was killed when her car collided with a tractor-trailer rig near Andrews.

The Cherokee

commissioners went into a secret session with two representatives of the auto dealers on the tax listing matter, ejecting Scout Editor Wally Avett from the meeting. At the end of the day no action had been taken, dealers left to confer among themselves as to what adjustment should be made. In basketball tournament action at Cullowhee, the Murphy girls team beat Hayesville by a scant two points for the Smoky Mountain Conference Championship. A popular Murphy High student, Debbie Dockery, was found dead in her smashed auto on the bank of the Hiwassee River near Murphy. The fatal wreck occurred in a rainstorm the night before; she was alone in the car at the time.

The fund-raising drive for the renovation of Providence Hospital continued, with the Sisters of Providence announcing they would refurbish each room at the hospital.

The First Baptist Church in Murphy was sold to Wachovia Bank, plans announced for a new church in West Murphy and a new bank on the site of the old church.

William Ralph Graves, Jr., 23, of Murphy, was killed in action in the Vietnam war. A few days later, Richard Herbert Wilson, 21, of Peachtree, also was killed in the Asian conflict.

Dr. Harry Miller of Murphy died suddenly while visiting at the home of a sister in Asheville.

### APRIL

Dr. Mario Seiglie of Andrews moved his family and practice to Murphy.

Levi Strauss & Co. moved into its spacious new plant east of Murphy. Both parties held nominating conventions for the May 5 town election, with more candidates announcing all along for county offices.

Neal R. Kitchens, former sheriff of Clay County, died of a rare disease. He had been sheriff longer than anyone in Clay history.

Arsonists started several forest fires along the North Carolina-Tennessee line in the Unicoi Gap section of Cherokee County, burning over 700 acres.

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## Holiday Schedule

Banks and stores in Murphy will be closed on Friday for New Year's.

The stores will be open on Saturday and the banks will Monday morning.

The Scout office will be closed on Thursday and Friday for the New Year's Holiday, reopening on Monday morning.



## Wiring Certificates

John D. Marlin, general manager of Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation, is shown presenting adequate Wiring Certificates to Tom Day, chairman of the Clay County Rural Development Authority homes in the Moorview Homesite project at Hayesville. Left to right are supervisor of the Farmers Home which financed the project, Max

Waldroup, vice president of Blue Ridge EMC, Marlin, Day, and Bob Anderson, secretary of Blue Ridge EMC. The certificates show the new homes' wiring meets national and local specifications and can be expanded with little expense. The housing project is the first subdivision in this area to be served by underground electrical service.

## No Arrests Made Yet In Counterfeit Case

No arrests have been made in the counterfeiting investigation in Cherokee County so far, according to Sheriff Blain Stalcup.

Acting on an anonymous tip, Stalcup and federal officers of the Secret Service seized more than \$50,000 in bogus \$10 bills in a Bealtown trailer last week.

The sheriff Monday said the investigation is continuing and Secret Service agents in the past few days have made several arrests for counterfeiting in Knoxville but it was not known whether the men in those cases were connected with the bills found here.

Sheriff Stalcup said only one of the bad 10's was passed in

this county but at least four counterfeit 20's have been reported and more may be in circulation.

Wachovia Bank this week began warning its tellers and local merchants about counterfeit bills, giving a number of tips on how to spot a fake bill.

Look first at the portrait on the bill, the bank advised, and especially the eyes. A counterfeit bill usually has a smudgy portrait with dull eyes.

Serial numbers on fake bills are also often badly spaced and uneven in appearance, the bank advised, and counterfeit money generally has a different feel, since only the genuine bill has silk threads imbedded in the paper.



## Tellico Boar

L.B. Ledford, left, and a hardy band of hog hunters bagged a boar Christmas Day and another Monday morning. Shown here with the second boar are, left to right, Charles

Battle, Harold Parker, Jack Davenport, Arvil Cook, J.B. Hall, Dale Earwood and John Graham. The second, and final, segment of the season runs through New Year's Day.