

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

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Spring Cleaning

The Town of Murphy is embarking soon on a cleanup of abandoned autos within the town limits and also will be keeping the streets cleaner. The Town Council last week authorized a three-year lease-purchase agreement on the used Wayne street-sweeper above.

Town Clerk Charlie Johnson, who drove the machine around for photographs, said the front broom will gather in the dirt which is dampened by a fine spray of water to keep down dust. A second broom, underneath, then sweeps the dirt into a hopper for dumping later. (Staff Photo)

8-Year-Old Headlines Benefit Talent Show

He's only eight years old—but he plays a piano like a polished adult musician.

David Ledford, an Andrews third-grader, is one of the featured attractions in a talent show coming up on Friday night at the Rock Gym here in Murphy.

The show, along with the rock music concert and dance set for Saturday night at the

same place, are being held by the Cherokee Humane Society to raise money for a planned animal shelter. Tickets are on sale through members of the group or will be available at the door.

Carl Corbin, Murphy piano and organ dealer and an accomplished organist himself, will also star in the show. He says David is the real thing, "a musical genius."

"Mozart and some of the other great composers started playing when they were very young," Corbin says. "I've read about it but I've never seen anyone like the boy. The kid's a genius—I think he's brilliant." David is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ledford of Andrews and it's probably no coincidence that his mother and father have both performed with a gospel music group.

His father says the boy had a dream one night when he was four years old and told his parents the next morning that he could play the piano. They put him on a piano bench and found that indeed he could. He's been playing ever since, much of the time at the family church, Valley River Baptist.

And his father says David prefers gospel music, although he is capable of playing any tune he hears and often plays popular and country music. His family says there have been offers of recording contracts

and tours, but they plan to keep him close to home until he finishes high school.

"He's too young to go on the road, playing around the country," Ledford says of his son. "But he likes the gospel groups, he watches them on television and says he wants to be like them, traveling around the country and making music."

Other acts scheduled for the Friday night show are the champion cloggers from Murphy, the Carolina Sweethearts; the singing Polyphonics; the Country Sounds; the Hogged Trio; and Hobbie Whitener and his band.

Four teenagers sponsored by the Campbell Folk School will also perform English, Danish and Appalachian dances on Friday night.

For the rock concert and dance on Saturday night, appearances are scheduled by the Chokin' Kind, the West Orange Express, Odessa and St. John's Wood.



College Choir To Sing Here

A concert of sacred and secular music will be presented by the Guilford College Choir at the Murphy United Methodist Church on Thursday, March 25, at 8 p.m.

This event is jointly sponsored by the United Methodist Men and the Wesleyan Service Guild. There is no admission charge; however a free-will offering will be taken to cover expenses.

The Guilford College Choir is one of the Nation's outstanding collegiate choruses. The choir is now in its 43rd concert season, and the current tour will take the choir through six eastern states. Yearly tours have been taken throughout eastern United States, and the choir has met with critical acclaim in its concert presentations.



David Ledford . . . "musical genius"

Town To Remove Abandoned Autos

The Town of Murphy will begin a cleanup of old abandoned autos very soon, using equipment provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Charlie Johnson, town clerk, said Tuesday that the cleanup will begin probably within a week or so and will continue for about three months.

The TVA equipment consists of a specially-rigged two-ton truck, he said, which can load and carry away a junked car body. It will be operated by regular town employes and also the Operation Mainstream workers assigned to the town under a federal program administered by Foursquare Community Action.

Johnson said there are about 400 abandoned cars inside the town limits and these will be collected at one point, where the upholstery will be burned out of them and a commercial wrecker will then crush the bodies and haul them away for sale as scrap.

The gathering point, Johnson said, will probably be on Forest Service land and tentative approval

has been given for use of land near the town sewage plant, at Lover's Leap where a rock-crusher was once located.

The town's cleanup of abandoned cars was discussed at length in a meeting on Monday night of county and town officials, TVA and Forest Service officers and representatives of civic clubs.

Rural mail carriers recently made a count of abandoned autos on their routes and these were then marked on a county map with colored pins. The map was shown at the meeting, Johnson said, and the possibility of a countrywide cleanup was discussed.

Johnson said the old cars will be removed both as a beautification measure and a health precaution. He said anything which harbors rats or holds water in which mosquitoes can breed is a health hazard.

A legal agreement will be signed by the car's owner before the body can be removed, he added, to keep the town out of trouble.

Clay Citizens Oppose Election Law Change

Clay County parents and teachers rose up this week in solid opposition to a bill which they say would put politics into the county education system.

State Rep. Erwin W. Patton of Franklin introduced the bill in the Legislature last week to provide for election of county school board members in Clay by partisan methods.

He did this reluctantly, calling it "a step backward" but indicating that political leaders in Clay County wanted the school board returned to partisan voting. Patton's bill, if passed, would exempt Clay from the provisions of the 1969 statewide non-partisan school board election law.

Last Friday afternoon, the Clay County unit of the NCAE met and voted unanimously to oppose the bill. It has 60 members, including all teachers and administrators of schools in Clay, led by Howard Alexander, supervisor.

The teachers' resolution reads, in part, that "partisan politics have no place in the operation of the public school system and in the election of the Board of Education..."

On Monday night, the Hayesville PTA took much the same action in voting to authorize its president, Perry Gribble, to telegram that group's opposition to Rep. Patton.

Contacted at the State House in Raleigh Tuesday by The Scout, Rep. Patton said he didn't like the bill when it was proposed but he was asked to introduce it by the executive committee of the Democratic Party in Clay County.

He said he had stopped the bill in the Education Committee of the House and added that he may allow it to die there after he hears from more people in Clay County. "I asked the chairman to hold it up for an indefinite time and if it looks like the thing to do, there's where it will stay," he said.

Rep. Patton said Cherokee County now is back under the state primary laws as well as Yancey, which he said were the last two counties in the state to be using the old county convention system. His bill to put Cherokee, which had been exempted, back under the primary law was passed in the House some time back and was passed in the Senate last week.

Patton added that he and State Sen. Carl Killian of

Callowhee have introduced a bill to provide state funds to help out many counties, including Cherokee, which are in budget trouble in their welfare departments over the Medicaid spending.

"This would be a stopgap measure to help them get through this fiscal year," he explained, and would not affect another bill, expected to be introduced soon, proposing that all Social Services functions be taken over by the state.

Cancer Drive Slated

The 1971 Cancer Crusade in West Cherokee County begins April 1, with Mrs. Everett English of Murphy as chairman.

"By stressing the urgency of periodical health checkups, the early detection of cancer and its prompt treatment can mean the difference between life and death," Mrs. English says.

"The people and the tools it takes to find the final cure for cancer are going to cost a lot of money. There are no bargains in cancer research. That's why your help is so urgently needed," she added.

Prospective volunteers for the campaign are invited to telephone Mrs. English.

Bloodmobile To Be Here On Friday

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Murphy at the Power Board Building on Friday afternoon from 1 until 5:30.

The Bloodmobile has not made a visit here since the last of October and all potential donors are urged to give blood, according to Mrs. Edgar Harshaw, who heads the project for the Cherokee Red Cross chapter.

"All who can possibly donate please do so," she says. "It is very much needed."

Puett Suffers Heart Attack

Walter Puett, Murphy business man, suffered a heart attack on Monday afternoon while driving near Morganton.

He was taken to Grace Hospital, where relatives say he is presently resting well in the intensive care section.

Golf Tournament Schedule Posted

The Tournament Committee of the Cherokee County Golf Course this week announced the tentative tournament dates for the coming season.

H.W. (Bud) Alexander, chairman of the committee, noted that the dates are tentative and are subject to possible changes.

- April 4—Scotch Foursome, for couples.
- May 2—Scotch Foursome.
- June 6—Shotgun Tournament, for men.
- July 3-5—First Annual Jaycee Open.
- August—Club Championship Playoffs.
- Sept. 6—Scotch Foursome, picnic and trophies to be awarded to club champions.



Open House

Davis, a family name prominent among Murphy retail merchants, is now applied to another store. The House of Fashion on Tennessee Street is now the Davis House of Fashion as Mr. and Mrs. Dick Davis,

shown here with their ladies ready-to-wear line, have purchased it from Avis Phillips of Robbinsville. They will be celebrating the changeover with Open House on Friday and Saturday of this week. (Staff Photo)

Rummage Sale To Pay For MHS Band Trip

The Murphy High School band has accepted an invitation to appear this year at the Azalea Festival in Wilmington and local band boosters will hold a rummage sale to finance the long trip.

A spokesman for the Band Boosters Club said the Bulldog band will represent Western North Carolina in the Azalea Festival parade, a distinct honor for the band.

The cost of the trip to Wilmington in mid-April is estimated at \$2,000 and the band boosters plan a rummage sale on the square in Murphy on Saturday, March 27 to begin at 8:30 p.m.

Persons having items to donate for the sale should bring them to the band room at Murphy High School on or before March 20.

Don Ramsey Leads Sales

Don Ramsey, former Cherokee Clerk of Court, led the Waynesville district of the Asheville branch of Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Co. in sales in February.

Defeated last Fall in his bid for re-election, Ramsey returned to his former position with Jefferson Standard the first of January. He has also led sales for the district so far in March.

Hayesville Gets Direct Dial System

The Direct Distance Dialing system goes into effect in Hayesville next Sunday, according to Westco telephone officials.

Paul Wooten, commercial manager for the western district of Westco, said Tuesday that the new dial-your-own system for long distance calls is part of a program of spending more than \$17,000 this year in upgrading service in Hayesville.

"Direct distance dialing enables the customer to dial his own long distance calls," Wooten said. "And this type of call is faster and more economical than having an operator handle the call."

There are about 1,200 telephone subscribers in the Hayesville exchange, he said.

The direct dialing system was installed in Murphy, Franklin and Sylva last Spring.



Frank J. Bulgarella

Charter Slated

One of the top Civitan officers in the nation will be the featured speaker on March 29 when the newly-organized Andrews Civitan Club holds its Charter Night festivities.

Frank J. Bulgarella of Birmingham, Ala., who is the assistant executive administrator of Civitan International, will be the speaker, according to an announcement this week from Civitan headquarters in Birmingham.

A number of other Civitan officials will be present at the Andrews School Cafeteria that night for the ceremonies, as will members of the Murphy club, which sponsored formation of the Andrews club.

Wives will be welcome also at the event and more than 200 people are expected.

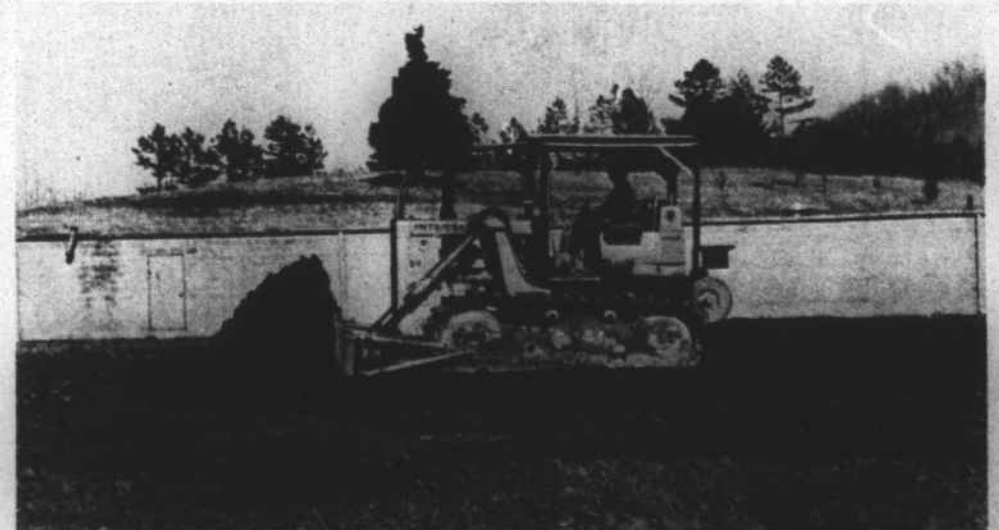
Paul Ridenhour, president of the Murphy club, noted that the Andrews club is chartering with 52 members, which will make it much larger than the majority of Civitan Clubs.

Bulgarella is a graduate of Western Michigan University and worked in radio broadcasting for 10 years before joining the professional staff of Civitan International.

Phillips Top Salesman

Bobby Phillips was recognized recently as the top salesman for the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. in its Asheville district.

Phillips, a member of the Martins Creek Bowling Club, completed his first Metropolitan Life policy in 1958.



Dress Plant Expanding

Bulldozers began site preparation last week for expansion at the Carolina Dress plant on Qualla Road near Hayesville. Walter Fuller, president of the firm, said the 15,000 square foot addition will double the

capacity of the dress plant and should be finished by late Summer. About 145 workers are presently employed at the plant, he said, and the addition will mean "a substantial increase in employment." (Staff Photo)