



Miss North Carolina ??

Linda McRae, Miss Cherokee County, will leave on Sunday about noon for Charlotte, the site of the Miss North Carolina beauty pageant. Mrs. Elvia Blakemore will accompany her as chaperone. Sponsored by the Murphy Jaycees, Linda will be in the evening gown part of the contest on Wednesday night, the talent judging on Thursday night and the bathing

suit competition on Friday night. The finals of the weeklong pageant will be held on Saturday night. For her talent presentation, Linda will be singing an original folk spiritual accompanied by a guitar. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McRae of Route 3, Murphy, she is a student at Western Carolina University at Cullowhee. (Weaver Carringer Photo)

Son Shot, Father Held

Ed Rogers, 44, was fatally wounded at his home Sunday morning. His father, 71-year-old Will Rogers, is being held in Cherokee County Jail on a charge of murder.

Cherokee Sheriff Blain Stalcup, who investigated the incident, said both had served as law enforcement officers in the past, the elder Rogers both as Cherokee deputy sheriff and as a Murphy policeman, the younger man as a town officer.

Sheriff Stalcup quoted Will Rogers as saying that his son entered the room where Willand his wife, Lillie Dockery Rogers, were on Sunday morning about 10 o'clock. The Rogers home is located on Conaheeta Street.

The officers said the elder Rogers said his son began beating his mother and demanding money. "He said Ed had something in his hand but he couldn't tell what it was at first," Sheriff Stalcup said. "Will said she asked him to help her and he went into the other room and got his pistol."

The sheriff said Will Rogers told him that when he returned he saw that the object in his son's hand was a knife and that Ed was bending over his mother, who was lying on a bed. The officer said Rogers said he shot his son in the back at that instant with a .380 caliber automatic pistol.

The younger Rogers was taken to Providence Hospital, where he died about two hours later.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at Grape Creek Baptist Church, officiated by the Revs. Harvey Dockery and Howard Killian. Burial was in the church cemetery. Ivie Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Pallbearers were Tommy Dockery, Robert Whitener, Garland Dockery, Russell Hensley, Douglas and Danny Chastain.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for the elder Rogers in Cherokee District Court here in Murphy on next Tuesday.



Posthumous Awards

Marine PFC Thomas Edward Brown, killed in action in Vietnam on Nov. 25, 1968, was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Military Merit Medal and the Gallantry Cross with Palm in ceremonies conducted May 24 at the home of his brother, Melvin Brown, right, who accepted the decorations. Making the presentation was Maj. T.W. Hancock, Jr., Marine Inspector-Instructor for the Chattanooga area.

Winning Golfers Post 73

The first golf tournament of the season for men was held at Cherokee Hills Golf Course on Harshaw Road last Saturday afternoon.

It was a best-ball event, with foursomes playing as a team and the lowest score on each hole carded by a member of the team recorded as the team score for that hole.

The winning team was made up of Carlton Thompson, captain; Dr. W.R. Gossett and Elmer Kilgore, all of Murphy, and Earl Jackson of Hayesville. They set a blistering pace for the other four teams entered in the tournament, turning in a 73 for the challenging 18-hole course, one over par.

Trophies will be awarded to each member of the winning team at the covered dish supper to be held at the clubhouse on Saturday night, sponsored by the Women's Golf Association. All club members are invited and urged to bring chairs and food enough for their family.

Trophies for the bridge marathon will also be awarded at the supper.

Saturday afternoon a tournament will be held at the course for teenage boys, entry fee \$1. Tee-off time will be one o'clock and trophies will be awarded to the winners. Teen golfers should register before Saturday at the clubhouse.

Recreation Program Begins

Murphy has a recreation director, now to head up a recreation program just beginning at the Rock Gym.

The Murphy Lions Club and the New Careers program of Four Square Community Action have combined to install Roy Cagle of Marble as the town recreation director.

Randall Shields, who heads New Careers, says Cagle will work at the Rock Gym part of the time in the recreation program and will also be attending classes in recreation

technology at Tri-County Tech two days a week, enrolled in a two-year course.

Shields said there are 16 in all in the recreation program, some from each of the golf courses and also from Andrews and the Macon County Recreation Park.

In addition, Cagle will have two assistants this summer in the recreation program. John G. Bayless and Bryan Coward, working as interns in a program administered through the John C. Campbell Folk School at Brasstown.

A Lions Club spokesman said the club is providing needed equipment and the gym will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, for use by schoolchildren in Murphy.

The recreation program, he said, will be both athletics and crafts and will not just be a Summer project, but will continue year-round.

The Lions swimming pool at the Rock Gym opened last Friday for the Summer season and will be open each afternoon seven days a week.

Attorney Dies

Fred Oscar Christopher, a prominent Murphy attorney, collapsed at his law office Wednesday morning with a heart attack. He was declared dead on arrival at Providence Hospital.

Christopher was 82 years old and had practiced law in Murphy for well over 50 years. At the time of his death he was the senior partner of the law firm of Christopher & Hoover, which he formed with Lonnie Hoover in 1968.

Ivies Funeral Home is in charge of funeral arrangements, the time of the service not decided at this writing.

A native of Murphy, Christopher graduated from Murphy High School in 1912 and

then went to Chapel Hill to the University of North Carolina's law school, where he graduated and was admitted to the state bar in 1917.

A veteran of World War I, he represented Cherokee in the N.C. House in the 1921-22 Legislature. He was the attorney for the Town of Murphy in the 1930's and 40's and was Cherokee County's attorney from 1962 to 1966.

Christopher also served as solicitor for the Cherokee County Recorder's Court.

At the time of his death, Christopher was president of the Cherokee County Bar Association and president of the 30th Judicial District Bar

Continued on Page 2



Fred O. Christopher... 1960 photo

Tri-Tech Building Funded

Congressman Roy A. Taylor announced last Friday in Washington that the Appalachian Regional Commission has approved a grant of \$289,000 for a new building and renovation of old buildings at Tri-County Technical Institute.

Tech President Holland McSwain said Tuesday that the entire cost of the building program will be \$389,000, with state funds of \$75,000 and Cherokee County's \$25,000 already approved.

"We're waiting on a man from Raleigh to come up next week to work out the details of the inside of the building," McSwain said. Architect Eric Townson will then make working drawings, he said, which will have to be approved by state officials in Raleigh before the job goes up for bids.

"We hope to advertise for bids sometime the latter part of July," McSwain said, with construction to start in late August or September. Construction time will be about a year, he said.

The new building will be located in front of the old Peachtree Prison building which houses much of the school now. It will have offices, classrooms, a small auditorium, a bookstore and student center.

McSwain said as part of the project the bars on the windows of the old prison building will probably be removed. That building will be connected to the new one, he said, with a covered walkway.

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress

18

PAGES
15¢ Per Copy
2 Sections

Volume 79 - Number 43 - Murphy, North Carolina, 28906 - Second Class Postage Paid At Murphy, North Carolina - Thursday, June 10, 1971

Ferebee Leaves \$3.8 Million Estate

Percy B. Ferebee left an estate valued at \$3,846,957, according to an inventory which has been filed with the Cherokee County Clerk of Court's office.

Ferebee's wealth had been the subject of much speculation since his death last Dec. 30 at the age of 89. His will was filed soon after his death but his executor and trustee, Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, was given until Monday to file an inventory of Ferebee's estate.

According to that inventory, the bulk of Ferebee's estate is \$2.6 million worth of stock in Wachovia Corporation. It lists his real estate as valued at \$936,685 and his personal property, including the Wachovia stock, at \$2,914,272.

Ferebee, originally from Elizabeth City, N.C., came to Andrews about 1915 as a surveyor with the U.S. Forest Service. Within a few years, however, he had gone into several business ventures, including iron mining, newspapering and insurance, and bought completely the Citizens Bank.

This had grown to a sizeable banking operation, with offices in several Western North Carolina towns, before it merged with Wachovia in January, 1970.

Ferebee's will leave the sum of

\$12,500 to five relatives in his native Eastern North Carolina and the sum of \$50,000 to one, Mrs. Florence Flood, a sister-in-law.

The sum of \$10,000 is to be invested for the benefit of Rado Thomas and her daughter Hethie Thomas Moore, who were servants at the Ferebee home in Andrews.

Ferebee also left his sister, Verna Ferebee Tarkington, the use of the Andrews home for the remainder of her lifetime and \$100,000, which is to be invested for her benefit.

The rest of his estate is to be divided with half going to the Percy B. Ferebee Endowment and the other half to be divided equally among his three granddaughters, Florence Ferebee Herbert, Janet Ferebee and Susan Ferebee.

The will says the endowment shall be used for charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes. It adds that at least part of the money should go for giving scholarships and grants-in-aid to worthy and talented young people of this area who want to go to college.

Ferebee's will also leave 6,000 acres in the Nantahala Gorge to the United States of America for a park in memory of his wife and only child, James B. Ferebee, who died last year.



Percy Ferebee... at Magnavox groundbreaking ceremony, April 1965

County Manager Discussed

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners discussed the hiring of a county manager in their meeting Monday.

Gene Farmer, president of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce, brought the idea before the commissioners, who talked about it for a while and then put it aside until later.

Farmer said Macon County already has a county manager and Graham is now looking for one. "The counties which are making the most progress have a manager," he said, pointing out that such a man would insure efficiency in the operation of county departments and would make it his business to find out about all state or federal grants available to the county.

His salary would be in the \$12,000 to \$15,000, a year range, Farmer said, but one federal grant that the county would have otherwise missed would pay for his services.

The commissioners did not seem hostile to the idea but were plainly bothered by the political balance in the Cherokee Courthouse, which can swing one way or the other every four years.

Chairman Jack Simonds said if the county manager was just another political appointment, it would not be worth hiring one. "Some way would have to be found, the commissioners thought, so that the county manager, with his expensive training, would be kept even though the political make-up of the board might change.

In other matters, the commissioners discussed the county garbage disposal problems at length but took no formal action. Murphy Town Clerk Charlie Johnson met with them and said if the joint county-town landfill is to continue at Texana, a chain-link fence will probably have to be erected to satisfy health regulations at a cost of about \$5-\$6,000.

The commissioners and Johnson then talked of buying another site to use as a landfill and talked of the countywide junk car cleanup. Simonds suggested, and it was accepted, that the Soil Conservation Service be asked to make a study of possible landfill sites around Murphy.

The new fiscal year begins July 1 and the commissioners expect to hold a work session sometime later this month to hammer out the final version of the county budget and set the property tax rate.

During their meeting, they got budget requests from several organizations. Also several road petitions were accepted and forwarded to the State Highway Commission.

Commissioners voted to take bids on air-conditioning the courtroom, the job to be paid for from the legal facility money, which is made up of fees collected as part of court costs paid by defendants.

Houston Ledford of Andrews, present chairman of the Social Services Board, was reappointed to the board to serve for another three years. Commissioners voted to pay \$14,631 to Mitchell Engineering Co. for the new metal hangar erected at the county airport. The money was given by the state to the county for improvements at the airport and as Commissioner W.T. Moore said, the hangar "didn't cost the county a cent."



Bell Mountain Water Project

Jimmy Rogers of Hayesville, left, and Ernest Dowdy and Fred Rhinehart of Hiawasse, Ga. were in the office of Georgia's Gov. Jimmy Carter (right) recently as Carter signed a bill setting up the Bell Mountain Water Authority. The Bell Mountain system, to be built with a loan from the Farmers Home Administration, will serve about 500

rural homes in both Towns County, Ga. and Clay County. Tentative approval has been given for the loan but actual construction of the system will not start until adequate wells are drilled, two in Clay and three on the Georgia side. Bids were opened on the drilling May 28 and an Atlanta firm was low bidder.