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Environment Issue To Slow Road?

The environmental issue, which has affected other highway projects in Western North Carolina, may also delay the planned four-lane highway between Murphy and Andrews.

Ted Phillips, who represents this area on the North Carolina State Highway Commission, made that observation this week in commenting on major road projects.

Conservation groups have blocked construction of the Joyce Kilmer road in Graham County, hiking groups have hit the US-64 project between

Hayesville and Franklin (which crosses the Appalachian Trail) and Swain County has yet to get its long-promised road through the Great Smoky Mountain Park to Tennessee.

The four-lane from here to Andrews is planned to be built in two sections, Phillips said, the first section of the project known as the Murphy bypass. It will leave the present US-64 west of Murphy, bypass the town and end in the vicinity of Marble.

The Andrews section will begin construction at the end of the Murphy bypass section and

continue around Andrews. The next stage of construction, far in the future, will go to Topton and Phillips said highway construction in Nantahala Gorge, with all its environmental problems, will be last.

Highway engineers "are working now on environmental statements," Phillips said, for the Murphy bypass. These will be submitted to a number of state and federal agencies, he added, which will consider the road's "impact on the environment" of the Valley River valley.

Any of the agencies could hold up the project, he added, and the environmental study "all in all will delay (the bypass) some." Phillips added that no public hearing on the Murphy bypass can be scheduled until the environmental study is completed.

He said, however, that hopefully the federal Appalachian funds will be available next year to begin on the Murphy project. "I think they'll be in a position to buy right-of-way for the Murphy bypass next year." Phillips said SHC crews are

in the process of resurfacing US-19-129 between Andrews and Murphy but have not put down the final cost yet.

At the Farmers Home Administration housing project adjacent to Cherokee Hills Golf Course, SHC crews are beginning to clear right-of-way for two miles of streets to be built inside the project, he said.

This project will cost about \$75,000, Phillips explained, and construction of the streets will begin as soon as right-of-way is cleared. The FHA has constructed eight homes for sale in the project and has a number of building lots for sale there.



The Ole Swimmin' Hole

With Summer officially arriving this week, and temperatures climbing into the 80's, the Lions Club swimming pool was a popular place with the younger set. The pool is open each afternoon, seven days a week.

Pickers And Singers Ready For Jamboree

The pickers and singers and cloggers and racers are ready for action - Murphy Jaycees were busy this week trying to keep track of the entries for their planned Fourth of July events.

"We've invited more than 200 country music bands," a Jaycee spokesman said. "And only two or three have turned us down. The mailbox has been full of acceptance letters every day."

The prize money being offered at Tri-County Raceway for the Jaycee Firecracker 100 stock car race is pulling in a number of top drivers for that event and the July 11 boat race on Hiwassee Lake will be sanctioned this year for the first time by the National Outboard Association, the Jaycees said. The stock car race, complete with fireworks, will be the first event, set for Thursday night of next week. There will be a 30-lap race for the limited cars and a 20-lap race for hobby drivers before the main event, a 100-lap run for the sportsman cars.

Prize money for the evening of racing is \$2,500 with a flat \$600 going to the winner of the 100 lap sportsman event. The Jaycees say it is the biggest purse and the longest race ever run in connection with their Fourth of July celebrations. The purse, plus the fact that it is scheduled for a weekday night when other tracks are idle, is expected to bring in a number of out-of-town drivers.

On Friday night of next week, the first of four shows will be held under the big tent to be erected on the Murphy High School campus. It will be a clogging exhibition, with more than 20 clogging teams already entered, coming from North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia.

The Jaycees confided that the clogging had to be an exhibition instead of real competition because the visiting teams "didn't think they could beat the Sweethearts in their own hometown." The Carolina Sweethearts, Murphy's crack cloggers, will be out in force, all three teams expected to perform.

On Saturday, there will be two big country music shows at the tent, one in the afternoon and one that night. The Leamon Sisters, stars of their own television show in Chattanooga, will headline both shows. Gail and Janice Leamon have made several records, their latest "I'll Regret It In The Morning," is doing well.

Providing backup music for the Leamon Sisters, and other acts, will be a Jamboree staff band, led by Murphy's Henry Wilson.

Rodney and Debbie Ruggles, a brother-sister act from Marietta, Ga., is scheduled to appear on the Jamboree. They have performed in Atlanta nightclubs and also in roadshows with a number of prominent Nashville country artists.

Tim and Tony Camp, brothers of Snellville, Ga., are also to perform here. They too have performed in country music shows with nationally-known artists.

Blue grass groups expected to perform include Harold Howard and the Carolina Rebels from the Hiwassee Dam section, Bun Whitehead and the Green Valley Boys from Etowah, Tenn. and the Roanokes, from Marietta.

A gospel show will be held Sunday afternoon at the tent, but Jaycees noted that groups for that event have been slow in signing up. They said anyone who wants to perform in either the country music or gospel show can register at the tent anytime up until noon on Saturday.



Rodney and Debbie Ruggles ... from Marietta, Ga.

Wagon Train Going To Franklin

The Western North Carolina Wagon Train heads out from Andrews the weekend of the Fourth of July, bound for Franklin, 40 miles and two mountain ranges way.

Capt. Frank Swan, who was in on the founding of the wagon train in 1958, says this year's edition will pull out of Andrews on Friday, July 2 and head up the road by Junaluska Creek, across the Valley River Mountains into the community of Kyle for the night.

The caravan of horses and wagons will cross over the Nantahala Mountains at Burnington Gap on Saturday and push on to a campsite near Franklin, where it will remain in camp through Sunday night.

The wagon train will parade through Franklin on Monday morning, July 5, and thence to the camp.

Capt. Swan, 82 years old, is a retired U.S. Cavalry trooper but says he won't be riding on horseback in this year's train, as is his custom. Capt. Swan was thrown from a horse in last year's event and says this year he'll "leave the horse-breaking to the younger fellows."

President of the wagon train corporation, he said its major rules are the same as in previous years - no carrying of firearms except by authorized personnel, no ill-tempered horses, no abuse of animals. Intoxicated persons will be dismissed from the train.

The train is the original wagon train east of the Mississippi, Capt. Swan said, and its purpose still is to publicize the need for better roads in the tri-state area.



The Green Valley Boys ... from Etowah, Tenn.



Harold Howard and the Carolina Rebels ... from Hiwassee Dam.

Four Square Board Solves Policy Problem

The Board of Directors of Four-Square Community Action met Monday night at Andrews and finally made a decision on an internal problem which has concerned it for some time.

At issue was whether or not the executive director should have the power to hire and fire Four-Square employees. Some board members thought he should, others thought personnel problems should come before the board.

It was finally decided to give the power to the executive director, Milt Carlson, with a Board of Appeals a dismissed employee could go to if he was not satisfied with action taken in his case.

The vote on that decision

was eight in favor, five against and one abstaining.

"We should trust this authority to one man," Chairman Ty Burnette said. "Because only one man can devote the necessary time to the job of hiring and firing. This is what we pay him for and any unusual cases have a recourse open to them."

In other business, the board members approved Ronald Taylor to replace poor people's representative Charles Parker, who resigned after three years on the board.

Randall Shields of the New Careers program submitted a favorable report on a proposed project which would send 30 men to school to learn carpentry and then use them as labor to erect low-cost housing.

Ed Bryson, of the Mainstream program, reported that he will be applying for an additional 13 weeks financing for Mainstream soon and said he was optimistic over his prospects for getting it.

Carlson reported on a two-week course for community action directors he has just completed in Washington and said he would be going to another one in Raleigh soon.

Softball Tournament Results

Murphy Softball Tournament Results.

Monday Night June 21- Bryson City All Stars 18; Sunshine Potato Chips 7.

Texana 18; Lees Carpet 8. WCVF 15; Jones Ford 5.

Tuesday Night June 22nd- Wachovia 7; Consolidated Furn. 3.

Mac Fab 9; Ga. Boot 3. Smiths Gro. 11; Texana 6.

Schedule Thursday Night June 24th.

7:00 Martins Creek vs Mac Fab.

9:00 WCVF vs Wachovia. 9:00 - Cleveland (Tenn) vs Bryson City All Stars.

Friday Night June 25. 7:00 - Sunshine Pot. Chips vs Loser Martins Creek - Mac Fab.

8:00 Jones Ford vs Consolidated Furn.

9:00 - Lees Carpet vs Loser Wachovia - WCVF.

Monday Night Tournament continues.

Tuesday Night Tournament continues.

