



Murphy Carnegie Library  
Peachtree Street  
Murphy, N.C., 28906

## Monday Morning Firemen

In the early morning light Monday, Murphy's volunteer firemen rolled out to battle the blaze at Barney Hensley's building supply place. The fire

was too far gone to put out when they arrived but they kept it from spreading to nearby homes and businesses and also saved two other buildings



## Builders Supply Destroyed By Fire

A roaring fire which blackened the early-morning sky with heavy smoke destroyed Nelson Lumber and Supply Co. here Monday.

Nelson (Barney) Hensley, who owned the building supply and hardware business, said his losses of stock, plus the checks

and accounts burned up inside his safe, would amount to about \$75,000. He said only about a fourth of the loss was covered by insurance.

The building, constructed of metal siding over a wooden framework, was owned by Dr. Helen Wells, who

## Sheriff Pledges

### 'We'll Get Radios'

Cherokee County Sheriff Blain Stalcup pledged this week that "We'll get the radios, one way or another."

The sheriff said although Cherokee County commissioners have voted to pull out of a planned seven-county radio system, financed 65 percent with federal money, he intends for his department to get the radios built especially for it by Motorola.

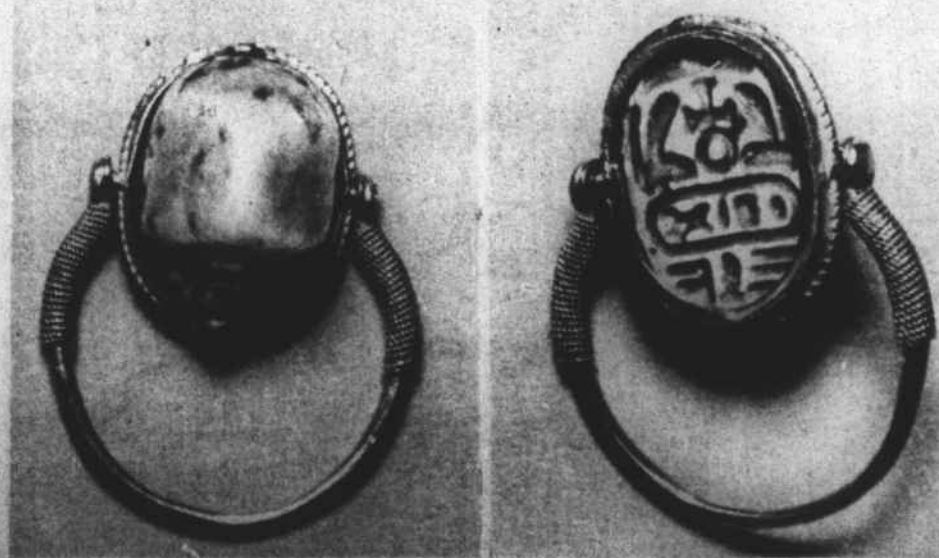
"If I have to, I'll put up the money myself," Sheriff Stalcup said. "I want to give this county the best possible law enforcement and we can't do it without the radios. I was elected to serve the people and I'm going to do the best job I can."

Earlier this year the commissioners approved joining the seven-county radio system, which would give new radios to the Cherokee sheriff's department. The cost to the county would be about \$1,000 a year for the next five years.

"I've already called the Motorola man and told him we'd take the radios," Stalcup said. He said he expected them to be installed here in about two or three weeks.

The radio payments would be made in the name of the Town of Murphy and assigned to the county sheriff's office for use, according to the officer's plan.

Sheriff Stalcup and the Town Council members of Murphy are all Democrats.



Pharaoh's scarab seal ring swivels on gold pins.

## Indiana Man Dies In Wreck

An out-of-state motorist was killed and two others were injured Tuesday in a head-on collision on US-64 at the western Murphy town limits.

Ralph Darnell, 51, of Gary, Ind., was found dead in the wreckage of his car, according to the investigating officers, Trooper Don Reavis and Murphy Policeman C. C. Howard.

The officers said Darnell's car, coming into Murphy, crossed the centerline of the four-lane road and smashed head-on into a car driven by Willie H. Westedt, 54, of Arlington Heights, Ill.

Westedt and his wife Ruth, 49, both seriously injured, were admitted to Providence Hospital for treatment. Both cars were completely demolished in the wreck, which happened about 12:50 p.m.

The officers were puzzled by Darnell's car crossing the highway into the path of the other auto. They said it left no skid marks at all and there was some speculation that the driver may have suffered a heart attack, causing him to lose control.

## It's Back To School Time Again

This week was back to school for the 1,200 pupils in the Clay County system and the 3,810 in the Cherokee schools.

Pupils in Clay registered on Tuesday and Cherokee students registered on Wednesday. Thursday was scheduled as the first full day of school for both systems, according to Superintendents Scott Beal (Clay) and John Jordan (Cherokee).

First regular football games of the Fall season begin on Friday night at 8 o'clock. Murphy's Bulldogs taking on the Andrews Wildcats at Andrews and the Hayesville Yellow Jackets journeying to the reservation to do battle with the Cherokee Braves.

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## Consolidation Aired Again

By Wally Avett  
Staff Writer

Consolidation of Cherokee County high schools cropped up again for lengthy discussion last week in a meeting of the county Board of Education.

The discussion was sparked by the appearance of a group of parents and patrons of Hiwassee Dam school, who presented a petition with 153 names, asking that their children be transferred to Murphy High.

Randall Shields was spokesman for the group, which he said represented generally the area along US-64 west to the Tennessee line.

Shields and other speakers in the group asked that the children be bussed into Murphy High for two main reasons. First they hit Hiwassee Dam as being the bare minimum of a high school, with a small faculty, offering only the state-required basic courses. They also bore down on the safety factor, critical of the narrow winding NC-294 that runs from the four-lane US-64 down to the school.

"It's eight miles down 294 to the school," one woman said. "And it's only about nine miles from the intersection on into Murphy and that nine miles is four-lane."

"It would be to the advantage of the students to come into Murphy," Shields said. "Due to the education that is available at Hiwassee Dam. It would be especially helpful to the students going onto college as Hiwassee Dam is very limited in science and math and has no foreign languages."

Doctors VanGorder and Hoover were the only absent school board members. The rest of the county school board seemed very surprised by the petitioning group's request. The consolidation issue came up several months ago and was

crushed by heavy opposition, including a very vocal Hiwassee Dam delegation.

After board members recovered from their initial confusion, they asked how many students were involved in the petitioned move. The answer was "about a busload."

The high school at Hiwassee Dam numbers about 200 students, Superintendent John Jordan said, and has eight regular teachers plus two vocational teachers. "If you let 50 or 60 come into Murphy, that will mean we'd have to pull two teachers away from Hiwassee Dam," Jordan said. "And I don't know whether it could operate as a high school with only six regular teachers."

The chairman, the Rev. Robert Barker, pointed out that school starts this week and teachers are already assigned. Jordan said a change in schoolbus routes would have to be approved by state education

officials in Raleigh.

Members of the board, with the exception of Robert Stiles who lives across the road from the Hiwassee Dam school, said they were not opposed to consolidating at Murphy but added that they would do only what the people wanted done. They advised the petitioning group to work hard within the Hiwassee Dam section to change present sentiments against consolidation.

"If it's impossible to make a decision for this year, we'd like a decision for next year as soon as possible," Shields said as the petitioning group left. It was explained to them that any of the children in question can

be brought into Murphy to school without paying any special tuition, but that it was too late this year to reassign bus routes and teachers.

On a motion by board member Fred West of Andrews, the county school board voted to postpone action on the petition until a later date.

One of the board members predicted that when, and if, the decision is made to transfer a number of Hiwassee Dam students to Murphy, "it will mean the beginning of the end for Hiwassee Dam as a high school."

The idea of consolidating all three county high schools into one unit at Murphy came up last

January as school board members discussed rebuilding the burned elementary school at Andrews, a \$300,000 project.

Consolidation was considered momentarily as an alternative, letting the Andrews elementary unit move into the high school plant there and using the money to build a Cherokee County High at Murphy.

Those for the consolidation plan say it would offer all county high school students a better education. Opponents put great local pride in their schools and cite the distances involved for students living in the extreme eastern and western ends of the county.



Skilled hands of Brasstown carvers will be featured at Cherokee County Fair.

## Fair Starts Monday

The 53rd annual Cherokee County Fair begins its six-day run next Monday, with a new emphasis on mountain crafts.

Doug Carlson, chairman of the Fair Committee for the sponsoring Murphy Lions Club, says the Fair this year will be both an agricultural and crafts fair, with more time and space being devoted to crafts as interest dwindles in some of the agricultural sections of the fair.

Craftsmen from Brasstown will be exhibiting and selling their crafts at the Rock Gym, Carlson said, and will present demonstrations of their skill there Monday through Wednesday night and again on

Thursday afternoon. Thursday to be School Day with all school students admitted free.

Scheduled to exhibit their crafts skills are the Brasstown Woodcarvers, potter Lynn Gault, woodworker Fred Smith,

a group from the Lapidary Hobby Shop and others, who will display quilt-making and weaving.

The Fat Stock Show and Sale for prize beef cattle will not be held this year because the Lions said there is not enough interest among young people in the county to raise and show cattle. "We even offered to buy the cattle for them, let them sell the animals and keep everything above the purchase price as their profit," a member of the club said. "But they weren't interested."

As usual at the Fair, the community development clubs of the county will be in competition for the best exhibit and a top prize of \$75. Cherokee County industries have a spirited ribbon competition among themselves, which can be expected to produce a number of skillfully-done exhibits.

Home Demonstration clubs, 4-H clubs and youth clubs are also scheduled to compete with their respective exhibits, with top prize money of \$50.

The fair will include a section of judging arts and crafts, including baskets, rugs, wood carving, metal work, corn shuck dolls, etc. Also there will be the familiar blue ribbon contests for the best garden and field crops, canned goods, flowers and home-baked goodies.

## New Local

### Tax Brings

### \$15,613

The new one percent local sales tax brought in more than \$15,000 for Cherokee County last month.

July figures for all the counties having the extra penny-on-the-dollar tax were released last week by the North Carolina Department of Revenue.

The Cherokee County figure, which must be shared with Andrews and Murphy, came to \$15,613.83. The county gets the lion's share of the tax money. A collection fee must be paid to the state, \$1.04 per \$100 collected, which takes in local tax along with the regular three percent state sales tax.

For comparison, the county took in \$12,500 last month with the local sales tax. The county's share of the tax money is \$11,500. The county's share of the tax money is \$11,500. The county's share of the tax money is \$11,500.

## Hayesville

### Low On Water

The Town of Hayesville is running low on water and laundromats there were closed last week to preserve water.

"We're talking to people on the telephone and telling them not to wash cars," Mayor Conrad Carroll said this week. "With school starting right away, we'll have to preserve water more than ever."

"The trouble is that we're using up what we're able to pump out of the town's two wells," Carroll continued. "One was drilled several years back, the other was drilled about two years ago."

"But since then, there have been two housing projects put up, several trailers have been hooked up to the town water lines and we've gone outside the town limits with water service."

The number of water customers has increased so much, Mayor Carroll said, that the town is preparing to begin drilling a third town well this week. State health officials will have to approve the well before it can be used, he said.

Hayesville has a population of about 460, the mayor noted, and sends bills to 420 water customers. He estimated that at least a fourth of the water users are outside the present town limits.

## Newcomers Own Pharoah's Ring

A Florida couple, now in the process of moving to Andrews, don't carry their most prized possession with them.

And no wonder - it's an authentic ring which once belonged to one of the most famous pharaohs of Egypt. It's real and they have turned down an "astronomical" bid for it. "These things have a way of increasing in value as time goes on," says Bob Roberts. "It's been in the family a long time and we'll just hold on to it."

Mrs. Roberts is the former Jo Lida of Abbeville, Ga. Her late uncle, Fred Lida, was a wealthy Georgian who bankrolled an expedition to Egypt about 1900. That group entered the Valley of the Kings in Egypt and opened the tomb of King Thutmose III.

At that time the Egyptian government had no law against the removal of historic artifacts by private explorers and Lida returned to Georgia with the ring.

"I played with it as a child," Mrs. Roberts remembers. "We just considered it as a piece of costume jewelry and I often wore it on a chain around my neck. The people at the Metropolitan Museum were very shocked when they heard about that. The stone is very loose in it."

"We didn't know what we had," her husband added, saying the ring was handed over to the Metropolitan Museum of Art last year. Experts there authenticated it as the personal

seal ring of King Thutmose III and the museum then offered Roberts an enormous sum of money for it, which he refused.

The ring itself is kept in a bank's safety deposit box in Palm Beach, Fla. but Roberts said he has shown it on occasion and would arrange for a showing in Cherokee County, if enough people wanted to see it.

The color photographs he provided show the stone in the shape of the scarab beetle, held as sacred by the ancient Egyptians. The beetle has hieroglyphic inscriptions on the bottom side, which were translated as reading "Thutmose III" and the words "The Good God Lord of the Two Lands." The stone swivels on two gold pins, as it could be

reversed and used as a seal.

Thutmose III reigned in Egypt from 1501 until 1447 B.C., which gives the ring an age of nearly 3,500 years. He was pharaoh when the children of Israel were in Egypt and it was his sister who found the baby Moses hidden in the bulrushes in the familiar Biblical story.

The Roberts family first purchased a place on Shooting Creek in Clay County, only recently buying in Andrews. They are very pleased with Cherokee County, calling it "the last frontier in the Carolinas."

Both of them said Franklin and the Highlands-Cashiers areas "are too commercialized" and expressed hope that resort-type development doesn't happen here.