

# THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

and Clay County Progress

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## Housing Nears Federal OK

"We're almost positive - it looks better this time than it ever has before." That was the word this week from Ben Palmer, executive director of the Murphy Housing Authority. The authority opened bids last week on two public housing projects for Murphy, to be financed by federal money from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

It was the fourth bid opening in the past year or so, the first three turned down by HUD officials who said the construction bids were too high in cost.

"As of now, we're talking with HUD offices in Greensboro," Palmer said Tuesday. "It looks like the contracts will be awarded to the low bidders on Oct. 1 and construction work can begin right after that."

He noted that the three low bids were submitted by Murphy

firms - Collins & Minor on the general contract, Hughes Electric on the electrical work and Wells & West on the plumbing.

At the bid opening by the housing authority last Thursday afternoon at the Murphy Power Board building, there were two bids received on the general contract. Smith & Jones put in a bid of \$640,000; Collins & Minor bid low at \$556,000.

Basic Electric Co. of Charlotte bid \$52,965 on the electrical part of the projects and Hughes had the low bid at \$52,762.

Shorty Holder, bidding in the name of Dickey Supply Co., was turned down by the authority because he had no bonafide state builder's license attached to his plumbing bid. His bid on the plumbing was opened anyway and it read \$47,861. Wells & West had the low bid on the plumbing at \$46,300.

The two projects of public housing are 10 units for the elderly, to be constructed on Hiwassee Street, and 20 units of low-rent housing near the Rimco plant.

Plans were drawn by architect Henry Whitehead, Jr. of Decatur, Ga. and the projects were first bid on in July of 1970. At that time HUD officials were planning on putting up the two projects for a total cost of about \$600,000 and they indicated that there was about a 10 percent leeway, meaning a top price of \$660,000 for the projects.

In that July 1970 bidding, Smith & Jones was low on the general contract, Hughes had the low electrical bid and Wells & West had the low plumbing bid. The total ran up to \$699,069 and HUD called for another bidding.

In September of 1970, bids were opened again, the same

three firms were low bidders but the price rose to \$729,419 and HUD called for another bidding.

In April of this year, Collins & Minor took the low bid and Basic Electric underbid Hughes. Wells & West continued to put in the low plumbing bid and the total bid on construction of the two projects came down to \$682,600.

At that time, it looked like HUD was going to approve the

program and Murphy's long-awaited public housing projects were going to get off the ground. However, the federal planners backed out at the last minute, ordered preliminary work stopped, and called for the fourth bidding.

The total figure on last week's bidding runs to \$655,062 and Murphy Housing Authority members are keeping their fingers crossed that the job will go through this time.



## Scout Wins Blue Ribbon

The Cherokee Scout and Clay County Progress has been designated a "National Blue Ribbon Newspaper" for 1972 and 1973 by the National Editorial Foundation of Washington, D.C.

It is the second time The Scout has won such a ranking, having been first named a blue ribbon newspaper by the foundation last year, for 1970-71.

In announcing the designation this week, Foundation President George Wortley III of Fayetteville, N.Y. noted that The Scout was one of only 182 newspapers in the United States to achieve blue ribbon status.

A total of 25 criteria, measuring the individual newspaper's service to its community against a national standard, were used in the judging.

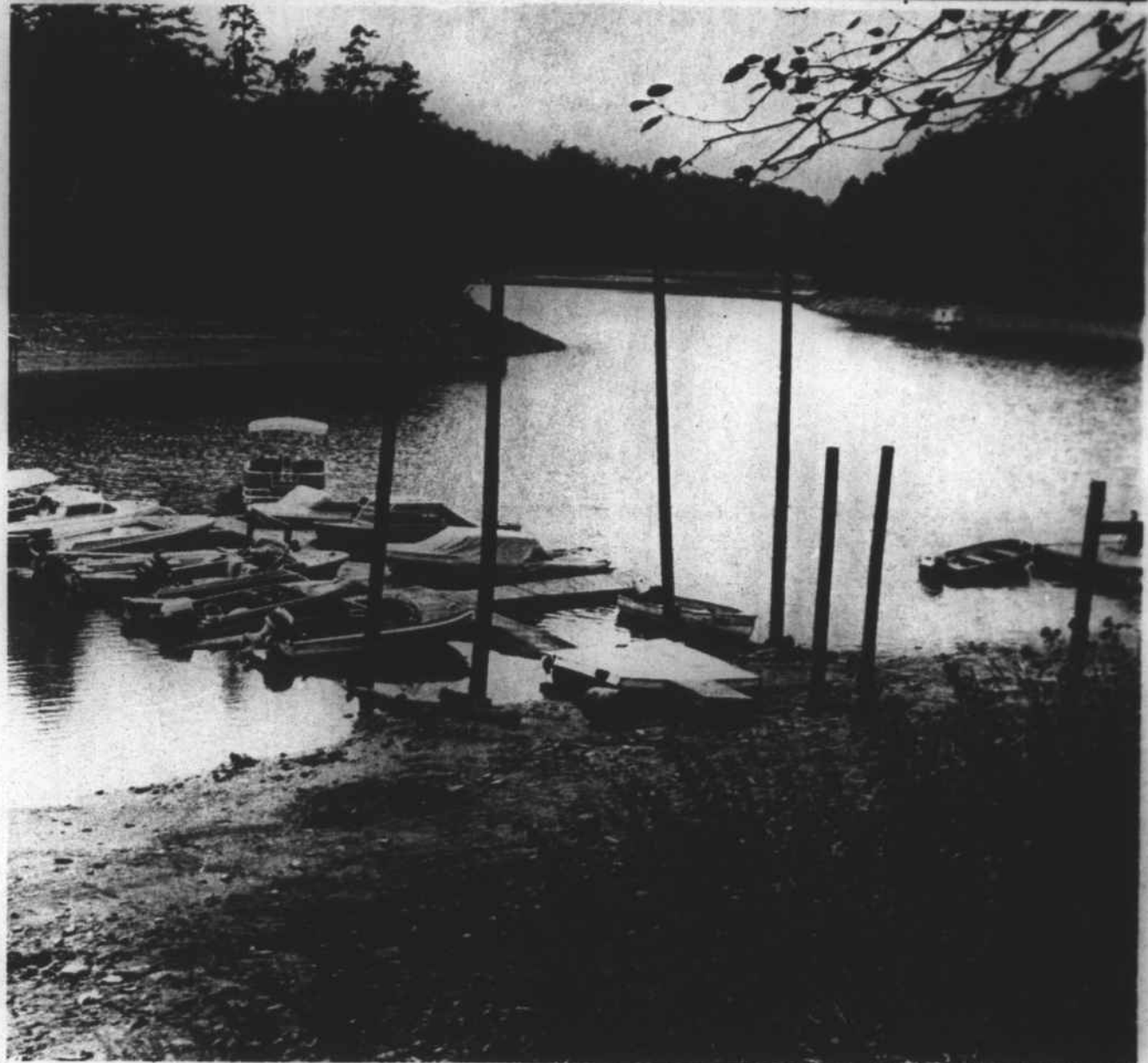
The foundation, established in 1956, is dedicated to the improvement of journalism and journalism education.

There are more than 150 non-daily newspapers in North Carolina, some true weeklies, others published twice or three times a week. With a circulation in excess of 4,600, The Scout ranks among the top 15 weeklies in size.

## Child Care Centers Planned

The State of Franklin Health Council has been granted almost \$2 million to establish 33 child development centers in the council's seven-county area, including Clay and

Cherokee counties. The catch is that the child development program must be in operation by Nov. 15 and crash effort is underway to see that the deadline is met.



## More Shore, Less Water

Fall officially came in this week, the leaves are beginning to turn and the water levels of the TVA lakes are dropping. But the lakes won't be dropping quite so far as in the past, according to TVA officials who say the lakes will be kept higher in the interests of recreation. The new minimum

level for Hiwassee Lake will be 1450 feet, up 35 feet from the old minimum of 1415 feet. This photo was made Monday of this week at Roberts Boat Dock, at a reading of 1509 so the lake still has almost 60 feet to go. (Avett Photos)

## Lakes To Be Higher

Hiwassee and Chatuge Lakes will be kept at higher water levels this winter, good news for boaters and fishermen who have long complained about the severe seasonal fluctuations of the lakes.

Reed Elliott, director of water control planning for the Tennessee Valley Authority, told The Scout this week that the normal minimum levels for both lakes have been changed upward.

"The principal reason is to improve the usefulness of the reservoirs for recreation purposes," Elliott said. "There will still be substantial fluctuations and in extreme conditions of drought or other emergencies, the lakes could be pulled down to a lower level but the overall effect will be generally higher levels throughout the whole year."

Elliott said Hiwassee's normal minimum level in year's past has been at a reading of 1415 feet. This has been raised to 1450 feet, an increase of 35 feet. At Chatuge the normal minimum was 1860 feet and the new reading will be 1905, an increase of 45 feet.

Other lakes affected by the TVA order include South Holston, Watauga, Cherokee, Fontana, Norris, and Nolichucky. "This year we had so much rain, particularly July, that we had high levels in most lakes," Elliott said. "We anticipate that the revised operations will result in lake levels more favorable for recreation use. However, the most important factor influencing levels still is rainfall. And seasonal rainfall is unpredictable."

## Black Widow Spider Bites Boy At Marble

A Marble boy was bitten by a poisonous black widow spider last week but survived the incident and went home in good shape after a couple of days in the hospital.

Dr. Walter Mauney, the attending physician, said six-year-old John Horton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Horton of Route 1, Marble, was admitted to Providence Hospital in serious condition.

Members of the family said the boy had put his foot into an old shoe with spider webs in it. They never found the black widow, a small black spider with a red hourglass mark on its abdomen, but Dr. Mauney said the boy's symptoms were the classic ones of a black widow bite.

"We found two puncture wounds on his leg and it was swollen," the doctor said. "And his breathing was very rapid. The first night he was a pretty sick child, on the critical list. After that he responded to treatment and started coming out of it."

## Bryson Resigns

The board of directors of Foursquare Community Action, Inc. met Monday night in Andrews and accepted the resignation of Ed Bryson, who had headed the agency's Operation Mainstream program.

The executive director of Foursquare, Milt Carlson, fired Bryson the last of August and the matter was heard, at Bryson's request, last week by the directors' personnel committee.

That group had decided, on a 3-2 vote, to reinstate Bryson and more than 75 people turned out Monday night at the Andrews Community Center, expecting verbal fireworks in a public hearing featuring Carlson, Bryson and the directors.

However, Bryson was not present due to the ill health of his wife, according to Murphy attorney Herman Edwards, who represented him. The lawyer presented Bryson's signed resignation to the directors and urged that it be accepted.

In his resignation, Bryson asked that it be effective Nov. 1 and he be put on annual paid leave until that date.

There was some question about how much severance or vacation pay which might be due Bryson and the directors, in their acceptance of his resignation, voted to leave that matter up to the corporation's accounting division.

## Mallonee

### Stops Told

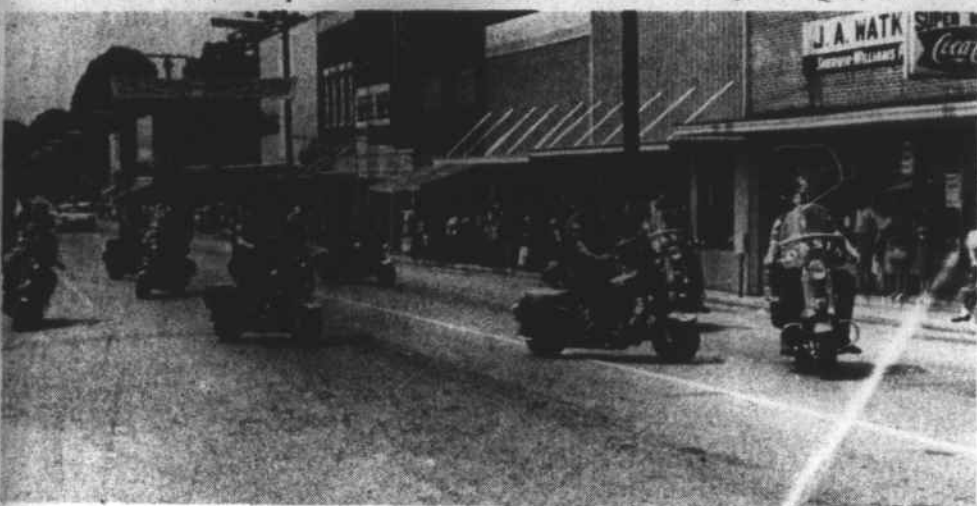
Tom L. Mallonee, 19th District assistant to Congressman Roy A. Taylor, is now making scheduled visits to county seats and other towns in the district.

On Friday he will be in the town hall in Andrews from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. He will be in the town hall in Marble from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. He will be in the town hall in Murphy from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. He will be in the town hall in Clay County from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

## Shrine Riders

The motorcycling Shriners of the Oasis Temple Motor Corps will put on a fancy trick-riding routine Friday afternoon at 2:30 on Peachtree Street in Murphy, which will be blocked off between the square and the

Courthouse in honor of the occasion. The cyclists are shown above at a 1966 appearance in Andrews. They will perform in Andrews on Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock.



## School Bond Vote Set

The Cherokee County Board of Elections received ballots this week for the countywide bond vote, set for Tuesday, Oct. 5.

Polls throughout the county will be open that day for registered voters to decide whether or not the county can issue \$300,000 in bonds to rebuild the Andrews Elementary School building destroyed by fire back in January.

This ballot does not specifically mention the Andrews Elementary School by name but Ed Hyde, Murphy attorney hired by the county commissioners to do the legal work involved in the bond issue, says "There is no doubt that it is for the Andrews school."

The ballot has boxes to mark either "for" or "against" authorizing the bonds to finance "several new buildings to be

used as school houses, school garages, physical education and vocational education buildings, teacherages and lunch rooms and other school plant facilities...and a tax therefor."

"The bonds are intended for the Andrews school," Hyde said. "But this is the best way not to tie the hands of the Board of Education and it's the wording recommended by the New York lawyers."

He explained that general terms of planned usage of bond money, rather than specific terms, are preferred by the New York bonding attorneys. These New York lawyers, Hyde said, supervise every step of a bond issue and in effect check out the credit rating of a county desiring to issue bonds. Without their okay, bond buyers will not purchase a county's bonds.

Construction of the new school at Andrews, according to plans presented by Murphy architect Eric Townson, will cost about \$450,000 not including the cost of furnishing the new plant. The Cherokee County Board of Education has about \$200,000, part of which came from insurance carried on the burned school and part as the remainder of this county's share of the 1963 North Carolina state school bond issue.

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Cherokee counties. The catch is that the child development program must be in operation by Nov. 15 and crash effort is underway to see that the deadline is met.



## Police Car Wrecked

Murphy Police Chief Pete Stalcup points to the broken axle of the town police car, which wrecked during a chase about 2 o'clock last Saturday morning in the Bealtown section. Chief Stalcup said Officers Arvil and Larry Payne were in pursuit of an

unidentified car when the right rear axle on the 1969 Dodge police cruiser broke and the wheel fell off, throwing the car out of control. It ran off of the road and overturned down an embankment. The officers escaped with minor injuries.

## Racing Charged; Cars Impounded

Law officers descended on Culberson Saturday night, breaking up what they termed an illegal drag race, impounding two automobiles and arresting two men on charges of pre-arranged racing.

The officers said the drag racing has been reported them on numerous occasions, the races usually beginning on NC-60 near the Culberson Post Office.

Saturday night there were a number of officers hidden in the general area, including N.C. Highway Patrolmen, a Georgia Highway Patrol trooper and deputies of both the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department and the Fannin County (Ga.) Sheriff's Department.

Sunday morning about 2 o'clock, the officers said they saw two cars line up and race

away from the Culberson Post Office. Officers blocked the road and stopped the two cars, arresting the drivers on charges of pre-arranged racing. They are: William David Nicholson, 18, and Harold Louis Moore, 28, both of Route 1, Culberson.

Moore's 1963 Oldsmobile and Nicholson's 1966 Ford were also impounded. Pre-arranged racing, the officers said, carries a fine of \$1,000 and the car involved, if the driver is convicted, can be seized and sold at auction.

There were about seven or eight cars parked at the starting point, officers said, containing spectators. Watching a drag race also carries a \$1,000 fine and all the spectators fled the scene before the officers could catch any of them.