

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPT. 14, 1916.

VOL. XXI—NO. 3

SERIOUS AFFAIR SUNDAY

Virgil Butt Runs Amuck With Rifle; Shoots His Wife and Four Other Persons.

Virgil Butt, a white man about thirty-five years of age, shot and wounded five people, including his wife, at the home of Thomas Morris on Morgan street last Sunday afternoon. The wounded are Roland Morris, Lawrence Morris, J. L. Biddix, Mrs. J. H. L. Miller, and Mrs. Virgil Butt, wife of the assailant. All the victims will recover with the exception of Butt's wife, who is in a critical condition and it is not thought that she will live, three bullets having lodged in her body. Lawrence Morris has three bullet wounds in his arms, Roland Morris was shot in his right shoulder and his sister, Mrs. J. H. L. Miller, was wounded in the neck. J. L. Biddix received a severe scalp wound in the center of his forehead.

Mrs. Butt was cooking at the Morris home, supposedly against the desire of Butt, and this is believed to have led to the shooting.

The shooting occurred about six o'clock when Butt appeared at the rear door of the Morris home and immediately opened fire on Mrs. Butt with a rifle. He shot his wife and then, without a word, began shooting at the other occupants of the house. After shooting at everybody in sight, Butt started to leave, and when J. L. Biddix, a neighbor, appeared on the scene with a shotgun, Butt turned the rifle on him and fired, the bullet grazing his forehead. Mr. Biddix then fired on Butt as the latter ran for the hills.

Butt succeeded in making his escape, and at this writing is still at large. Officers and bloodhounds have followed his trail as far as Linville river and are still on the trail. Butt was a heavy drinker and was supposed to have been drunk when he did the shooting. He has a criminal record and was regarded as dangerous when under the influence of whiskey.

Thomas Morris, father of Lawrence and Roland Morris and Mrs. Miller, is Clerk of the Superior Court of McDowell county. At the time of the shooting he was absent from home.

Immediately after the shooting Sheriff Laughridge called Governor Craig on long distance, asking that Butt be declared an outlaw, but the governor stated that he could not take any such action until he had received further reports on the case and had made an investigation. At the same time officers were placed at various points to watch for the fugitive while others searched the hills where he was supposed to be hiding. Bloodhounds and officers from the Pond detective agency of Asheville arrived in an automobile at 1 o'clock Monday morning and took up the trail. According to last reports Butt had been trailed by way of Nebo to Linville river. All efforts possible are being made to capture the fugitive and it is thought that he will be taken soon.

S. S. Short, with his mother and sister and two aunts, all of Statesville, have moved into the Griffin house on Fort street.

W. M. Blanton, Aged Confederate Veteran, Passes Away.

Mr. William M. Blanton, one of Marion's oldest and most prominent citizens, died at his home here Monday morning, the cause of his death being infirmities of old age. He was eighty-four years of age and had resided in McDowell County more than fifty years, having been born in Cleveland County. For the past thirty-six years his home was in Marion.

Mr. Blanton was a confederate veteran, having attained the rank of Lieutenant. Shortly after the close of the war he settled in this county and became one of the most prominent and substantial citizens in this section. He was married to Miss Josephine Setzer fifty-seven years ago and to this union were born five boys. His widow and three sons, A. Blanton, a prominent wholesale groceryman, and J. D. Blanton, a leading merchant, both of Marion, and Ceph Blanton of Shelby, survive. He is also survived by one brother and one sister, Jno. B. Blanton of Forest City, and Mrs. Margaret Doggett of Shelby.

Since the days of his boyhood Mr. Blanton had been a loyal and consistent member of the Baptist Church. For a number of years he took an active part in the public life of his county, having represented McDowell County in the General Assembly in 1889. Later he served as County Commissioner and other positions of public trust.

In his death McDowell County has lost one of her most upright and useful citizens, a man with a high sense of honor and devoted to all that made for the upbuilding of his country; he was an ideal citizen.

M. I. Curtis Dead.

Mr. M. I. Curtis died suddenly at his home five miles southwest of Marion last Thursday morning at 1 o'clock. Mr. Curtis was 75 years of age and was a veteran of the Civil war. He was born near Marion and was a resident of the county nearly all of his life. He was widely and favorably known and had many friends who will be saddened to learn of his death.

The deceased is survived by his wife and four children, T. O. Curtis, F. A. Curtis and A. P. Curtis of Marion, and Mrs. Wilda Murphy, of Rutherford county; one brother, A. W. Curtis, of Chicago, Ill., and one sister, Mrs. Cassie Noblitt, of Rutherfordton.

Funeral services were conducted Friday morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. Mr. Dry and interment made at Strouttown cemetery.

T. J. Gibbs Succeeds Carson on Board of Education.

Mr. George M. Carson, who for several years has been chairman of the Board of Education in McDowell county, has resigned on account of his leaving the State. Mr. Carson has rendered the county valuable service in this capacity, and McDowell county will feel a severe loss in his departure. Mr. T. J. Gibbs has been elected as Mr. Carson's successor and it is safe to say that Mr. Gibbs is well fitted for this work.

J. A. Good, of Little Switzerland, was in town yesterday.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Brief Mention of Some of the Happenings in McDowell County—Items About Home People.

DYSARTVILLE

Dysartville, Sept. 11.—Mrs. Will Cooper died at her home here Monday, Sept. 4. She had only been sick for a few days. She was a good woman and leaves a husband and seven children, three sons and four daughters, all of whom are married except the youngest daughter.

L. R. Cowan, J. C. Goforth and Miss Lona Goforth are all at home for two weeks, having stopped their schools that long for fodder.

Charles B. Hogan is recovering from a severe attack of typhoid fever. He has been sick over a month.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Z. V. Daves, Sept. 6th, a son.

Mrs. J. A. Laughridge of Marion is visiting her daughter, Mrs. P. D. Spratt.

Miss Irene Dysart returned to her home in Hickory today after spending some time here with relatives.

Mrs. C. E. Laughridge and Mrs. Robert Wilson of Marion are visiting relatives here.

Mrs. Murry Cooper is quite ill with typhoid fever. We hope for her an early recovery.

The Misses Sharpe of Lincolnton visited relatives here recently.

Mrs. J. L. Laughridge and children, also Miss Pearl Cooper of Marion, are visiting relatives here.

Q. A. Stephenson made a business trip to Morganton the latter part of the week.

Messrs. Smith and Andrews of Bostic were visitors here Sunday.

There will be a box supper at Macedonia Saturday, Sept. 23rd. Everybody invited.

Will Landis spent the week-end with friends near Bridgewater.

J. W. and C. E. Jarrett have purchased the farm on Hopper's creek owned by the widow Morgan.

"Uncle" William Walker died today. He was about 80 years old and leaves a wife and four children. He was a very consecrated man and was loved by everybody that knew him.

The farmers are getting along nicely pulling fodder.

We are glad to state E. B. Satterwhite is improving after a lingering illness.

OLD FORT

Old Fort, Sept. 8.—There are some 200 men still working both day and night on the mountain above here blasting out a wider roadbed and filling in the great gaps washed out in the embankments of the railroad.

Some few cases of pneumonia, but since dry weather has set in the general health of the town is much improved.

The road to Crooked Creek has been greatly improved since the big freshet.

The knitting mill has resumed operations after being closed for some time.

J. E. Patton's log railroad was greatly damaged by the recent freshet and he has decided to take up the dinky line and help on the Old Fort Catawba Falls highway, which has been admirably located upon a grade of three per cent.

In places it is near level and above the reach of high water. D. W. Adams made the survey and much credit is due him in his efforts for success in the completion of this highly commendable undertaking. Most of the rough places have been graded and over a mile of the new road is now in use. The difference in the old and new road is very apparent. In a few places the new road runs near the location of that old historic road of 1797 from Old Fort to Swannanoa. At no distant day this road may be extended two and one-half miles further across the Blue Ridge to the charming new town of Ridgecrest. The route has been surveyed. This means a highway of great scenic interest from 1,800 to 3,000 feet on top of the Blue Ridge where the air is pure and water cold enough to suit the most exacting "bach" or maid of many summers.

BRIDGEWATER

Bridgewater, Sept. 11.—Miss Lillian

Hunter has entered Nebo High School.

Mrs. Kranz of New York spent last week here with her sister, Mrs. Abner Seals.

Miss Katherine Rockett spent the week-end at Connelly Springs with homefolks.

Miss Josie Conley of Asheville is the guest of Mrs. C. D. Hemphill this week.

Miss Cecelia Ballew spent last week at Morganton and Eufola with friends.

Arthur Rust has returned to Berea College, Berea, Ky., after spending a few weeks here with homefolks. He was accompanied by his sister, Miss Julia who spent her vacation here.

Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Hilderbran and Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Bowles spent Sunday in Nebo.

Mrs. Abner Seals and Miss Nettie Hemphill spent Friday in Morganton shopping.

Mrs. Wade Hennessee of Garden City spent Sunday here with her father, M. F. Tate.

Miss Nora Ballew spent Friday in Nebo with Miss Fay Padgett.

Quite a number of Bridgewater people attended the burial of Ervin Pitts at Glen Alpine Sunday.

HARMONY GROVE

Harmony Grove, Sept. 11.—Miss Harriet Walton, who has been suffering with a broken leg, died at her home last Wednesday, Sept. 7. The remains were brought to Harmony Grove cemetery for burial.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. Ceph Pyatt, the 9th, a daughter.

Mrs. Fannie Owensby of Marion spent a few days here last week with her mother, Mrs. Alice Crawley.

Mrs. Hattie Laughridge and children of Salisbury visited relatives here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Crawley spent Sunday in Nebo with their daughter, Mrs. Cordie Pyatt.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Gibbs and baby of Nebo attended the burial of Miss Harriet Walton, here last Friday.

Clinchfield Company to Raise Capital Stock to \$1,200,000.

The Secretary of State has allowed an amendment to the charter of the Clinchfield Manufacturing Company raising the capital from \$800,000, to \$1,200,000.

The new stock issued will be used in the building of the No. 2 mill of this company, which will cost over \$600,000, and will be equipped with 26,000 spindles and 600 draper looms.

The power plant will be a steam turbine electric drive and will be built and equipped to furnish power for 40,000 spindles and 1,000 looms. It is planned that the mill building will be arranged so that an addition may be built at small expense to hold the full 40,000 spindles and 1,000 looms.

The No. 2 mill when completed and fully equipped will cost around the sum of one million dollars, and will give employment to 400 to 500 people.

Mr. D. D. Little, the president of this company, started the Marion Manufacturing Company in 1909 with 10,000 spindles and 240 looms and he has built the Marion Company up to 36,000 spindles and 840 looms and when he completes the addition to the Clinchfield mill he will have put into operation in this county over 100,000 spindles and 2,650 automatic looms, at a cost of over \$2,500,000, and in a period of less than ten years.

Mr. Little, although an adopted son of this State and county, has every interest of his mill communities at heart and also of the county and State and endeavors to join in the welfare of anything which tends to the upbuilding of the county and town of his adoption.

STATE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Items Concerning Events of Interest and Importance Throughout the State.

Governor Robert B. Glenn has consented to speak three weeks during the Democratic campaign in this State.

Charles L. Sykes of Asheville has accepted position of chairman of the Hughes Progressive organization in the Tenth congressional district.

Unofficial returns of the judicial primary give J. H. Kerr a majority over Judge Francis D. Winston of 1,700 to 1,800 in the district for judge of the Third Judicial District.

The North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton opened its twenty-third annual session Wednesday with an attendance of 250, the largest number ever present at the opening. There is expected an attendance of about 300 this session, a number remaining at home to work on farms.

Commissioner of Labor and Printing Shipman and Chairman Britton, who sought an interview with Secretary of War Baker while the latter was in Greensboro Thursday night, report that they had a very satisfactory talk with the Secretary about the immediate shipment of seed (and the exact kind of seed needed) to the flood sufferers in the western counties. Secretary of War Baker promised to give the matter his immediate personal attention on his return to Washington.

Two Trainmen Killed at Biltmore.

Engineer Ben Enloe, of Bryson City, and Flagman Irvin Pitts, of Glen Alpine, were instantly killed at Fairview crossing, near Biltmore station, Friday night when their train, backing in toward Biltmore, was struck by a runaway string of coal-cars, loaded with coal, which had broken loose at Buena Vista hill, three and a half miles further on.

Engineer Enloe was backing a work train into Biltmore and Flagman Pitts was on the engine with him when the runaway cars caught up with and smashed into their train.

Engineer Enloe's body was covered deep with coal and was not recovered for several hours. Riding on the runaway cars was Brake-man N. G. McGalliard of Old Fort, who made frantic but unsuccessful efforts to set the brakes. Seeing that the crash was inevitable, he jumped just in the nick of time, escaping with several bruises. M. W. Clement, fireman of the work train, was also scalded badly about the neck and side of the head and was somewhat bruised. He managed to jump, however, and saved his life.

German Casualties 3,375,000.

London, Sept. 10.—German casualties in the war during the month of August according to a compilation here from the German casualty lists, totaled 240,900. This brings the German total since the beginning of the war, as compiled from the same sources to 3,375,000. These figures include all the German nationalities, but do not include the naval and colonial casualties.