

# MARION PROGRESS

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

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## STEPPE RESIGNS HEAD OF SCHOOLS

Accepts Position With Southern Desk Company — A. V. Nolan Elected as Successor.

Mr. N. F. Steppe, superintendent of the McDowell county schools for the past twelve years, tendered his resignation at a meeting of the board of education on last Monday. To succeed Mr. Steppe and fill the unexpired term, Mr. A. V. Nolan of the Old Fort school, was elected. News of Mr. Steppe's resignation was received with much regret by the school folks throughout the county. Members of the board of education in speaking of the matter said that the board was unanimous in its praise of Mr. Steppe and the work that has been accomplished in the schools during his superintendency. Resolutions were passed commending his work as county superintendent and regretting his resignation. When asked for a statement by the representative of The Progress, Mr. Steppe stated it was with great reluctance that he gave up the work, but was compelled to for business reasons. Consideration for the interest of his family was the deciding motive. The work for the coming year, however, he stated, is practically organized and everything is in excellent shape. Principals and teachers are being secured and the arrangements for the operation of the schools have practically all been made. The school budget controlling the operating expenses has been approved and there is only a few minor details of the administration to be perfected for the coming year. Mr. Steppe will remain in charge until September first, thereby completing the organization in the work of the schools for the coming year.

Mr. Steppe has been connected with the schools of McDowell county for more than twenty years. His first work was at Dysartsville where he served as principal for a period of several years. The Dysartsville school had considerable growth during this period and ranked as one of the leading schools of the county at that time. He moved from Dysartsville to Old Fort and served as superintendent of schools of that place for five years. Considerable progress was made during this period. The Old Fort school grew from a small elementary school, taking its place in the ranks as an accredited high school. A new building, modern in every respect, and well equipped, was erected at Old Fort during this time. Mr. Steppe was elected county superintendent in 1919 and since this time has been head of the school system in the county. McDowell county at this time, while ranking well with other counties in educational matters, had little to compare with what she has today. A strong school spirit, however, made it possible for the schools of the county to move forward. New and modern buildings in all respects have been built throughout the county; high schools and standard elementary schools have been established until now the county boasts of five excellent high schools where about six hundred pupils attend. There are four standard elementary schools that have the highest rating by the State department of education. More than half of the children of the county attend these elementary schools. The schools term has increased until at this time at least three-fourths of the children in the county attend schools having a term of eight months or more.

A few years ago consolidation was started. Much opposition had to be confronted in this movement, but as consolidated schools were set up and the people realized the advantages this opposition began to give away. Sentiment has worked wonders for consolidation in the rural sections and it is no longer necessary for school officials to push the idea of consolidation. The task that now confronts them is meeting the demands of the people for modern and efficient schools for all the children. They realize that the best advantages cannot be given in the small one-room school and the progress now to complete consolidation will tend to bring equal opportunities to all of them.

The schools are on a very satisfactory financial condition. When

the auditors completed their report of the school fund last year, every item of school expenditures was found to be in sound financial condition, there being no deficit in the accounts of any fund. Sound financial management has made it possible for the schools to operate on a low tax rate.

Mr. Steppe speaks in the highest praise of the fine spirit for schools on the part of the people throughout the county. He said that it had been a source of great pleasure to have had such a wonderful opportunity to work with the people and have a part in the development of one of the best school systems in the state. The people have been responsive to every move for better schools and Mr. Steppe expressed his appreciation to the people who at all times given him their co-operation and help. He said he was leaving the work with a great debt of gratitude to the people and as a friend of the children throughout the county. Mr. Steppe has accepted a position with the Southern Desk Company of Hickory. This is the leading manufacturer of school and church furniture in the south. The concern has been in business for more than twenty years and is well and favorably known throughout the southern states. Mr. Steppe will have headquarters in Raleigh and will have charge of the distribution and sales in Eastern North and South Carolina. When asked whether he expected to move his family, he stated that for the present the family would probably continue to stay here. Mrs. Steppe has been very ill following serious surgical operation and it is necessary for her to regain her health before any plans can be made to move. Eventually the family may go to Raleigh as it is the center of educational advantages where his children may attend college and live at home.

Professor Nolan, the newly elected superintendent, is a graduate of Wake Forest College and a school man of several years successful experience. He has been superintendent of the school at Old Fort for the past two years. During his administration, much progress has been made by the school at that place. He has taken great interest in community and civic affairs in the town of Old Fort and the people are unanimous in their praise of him as a public leader and school man. He has already made a strong impression on the people with whom he has come in contact and especially is this true in the school profession.

Mr. Nolan expects to spend a great deal of his time in the superintendents office becoming acquainted with the duties and responsibilities before taking charge. It is not known who will succeed Mr. Nolan as principal of the Old Fort school.

## NEW MARION THEATRE OPENS NEXT MONDAY

The Progress is glad to advise the people of Marion and McDowell county that the new theatre which has been building for some time will be open to the public on Monday, July 22nd. The theatre, which will be known as The Marion, has been constructed by the Marion Amusement Company, Inc., of which the officers are Leon A. Neal, president; W. Lester Morris, vice-president; and E. J. House, secretary-treasurer and manager. Associated with these gentlemen are some of the leading citizens of the community, and in constructing this new building it has been their purpose to give Marion and McDowell county a building of which the community can feel proud. No pains or money have been spared to make this building absolutely safe in every way, and for beauty and comfort it can well be claimed to surpass any other theatre building now built in the western part of the state. We are advised by the management that the equipment throughout is the best and most modern that could be purchased, and Marion is now assured of the best in entertainment for years to come.

The Progress joins with the citizens of Marion and McDowell county in thanking the promoters of the new theatre for this welcome addition to our community life.

A complete description of the new building will be given in our next week's paper.

Marion's new theatre, The Marion, will open on Monday, July 22nd, with a splendid program. The public is cordially invited to attend.

## S. S. CONVENTION TO MEET AT NEBO

McDowell County Association To Hold Annual Convention At Nebo, Friday, August 9.

Officers of the McDowell County Sunday School Association announce that the annual County Sunday School Convention will be held on Friday, August 9, at the Baptist Church, Nebo, N. C.

Assisting in the convention will be Miss Flora Davis, Raleigh, general superintendent of the North Carolina Sunday School Association; and Miss Daisy Magee, Raleigh, Children's Division superintendent of the North Carolina Sunday School Association.

Also helping on the program will be several of the best known Sunday School workers of the county. The convention is interdenominational, and workers from all the Sunday Schools in the county are invited to participate in the work.

In charge of the arrangements for the convention are Mr. A. V. Nolan and Miss Maggie Taylor, president and secretary of the County Sunday School Association. These officers are requesting the co-operation of all pastors, superintendents and other Sunday School leaders in the effort to make the convention a success.

The officers have announced that again this year a pennant will be presented to the Sunday School having in the convention the largest average attendance of representatives, sixteen years of age and over, according to the number of miles traveled. It is expected that there will be much friendly competition for the pennant among the Sunday Schools of the county.

## DR. HARRY B. DITMORE LOCATES IN MARION

Dr. Harry B. Ditmore of Marshall has located in Marion where he will make his future home. Dr. Ditmore is a surgeon of wide experience. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1925, and following graduation spent two years as resident physician and surgeon at Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia, Pa. In September, 1927, he located at Marshall, N. C., where he established a small general hospital which he successfully conducted for a period of twenty months. During this time his practice largely consisted of surgery, X-ray and clinical laboratory work.

Since coming to Marion Dr. Ditmore has been appointed examining surgeon for the U. S. Bureau of Pensions, Department of the Interior. Dr. Ditmore expects to continue his work at the Marion General Hospital, hoping to become connected with that institution in the capacity of visiting surgeon. He has opened an office in the Hawkins building on West Henderson street.

Dr. and Mrs. Ditmore occupy an apartment at the Morgan residence on South Main street.

Dr. Ditmore is a brother of Mrs. George Sandlin of Old Fort and has a large acquaintance throughout Western North Carolina.

## CALLS McDOWELL JAIL BEST KEPT IN STATE

Sheriff O. F. Adkins is in receipt of a letter from L. G. Whitley, chief sanitary inspector of the State Board of Health, Raleigh, which states:

"I have before me a report of inspection made of your jail by our inspector, Mr. John E. Floyd. The report in part says that the jail is the best kept and is in better sanitary condition of any jail that our inspector has inspected this year."

Sheriff Adkins is very proud of this noteworthy comment by this state official, and expresses himself as glad to be able to co-operate with state officials in meeting any demand or requirement made upon him as a county official.

## DAUGHTER BORN

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Guy, of Newland, at the Marion Hospital, on July 15th, a daughter.

Be sure and attend the opening of the new Marion Theatre on Monday, July 22nd. A treat is in store for everybody.

## JOHN P. LUCAS MAKES ADDRESS

Speaks on Industries Especially Adapted to The Development of This Section.

John P. Lucas, vice-president of the Duke Power Company and the Southern Utilities Company, spoke to a gathering of business men and interested citizens of Marion at the court house Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. Mr. Lucas came to Marion at the request of the Chamber of Commerce. The subject of his address was "Industries," and he spoke with special reference to industries adapted to this section. Mr. Lucas said: "We are in the midst of a movement which constitutes the greatest industrial shift in the history of our country—the shift of industries and large manufacturing concerns from the eastern and northeastern states to the South, and particularly to the Piedmont section of North Carolina; that in some cases industrial enterprises have bodily picked up their plants and moved from the East to locations in Southeast."

Mr. Lucas gave as the main reason for such a marked and tremendous shift in industry our resources which lend themselves to manufacturing; agricultural products such as cotton, tobacco and other products; timber for furniture and woodworking industries, and stated that North Carolina has the largest standing area of hardwood timber of any state east of the Mississippi river, and stressed the importance of conserving the growth of young timber and taking steps for reforestation. He spoke of our vast mineral resources, especially feldspar and minerals of that kind. He stated that the press brick industry had doubled in North Carolina three times within the past few years.

"We have an unusual labor supply," said Mr. Lucas; "efficient and generally worth-while labor," he continued. "I am aware of the labor troubles you are now having; but that means nothing. It is only a passing phase. The thing in which the working man is greatly interested is higher wages, and that is what most strikes are about, and those things work themselves out."

"Another advantage of this section is the unusual climate, which contributes to the lower cost of living," Mr. Lucas said. "One thing that we must watch very closely in North Carolina, if we are interested in real industrial development and progress, is our tax rate. That is a question most often asked by the capitalist: What is your tax rate? City and county officials should keep that in mind. There are counties that are cutting their own throats so far as industrial development is concerned or bringing in wealth and taxable values, because of their high tax rate," stated Mr. Lucas. "Other important factors are freight rates and coal rates."

Mr. Lucas spoke with special reference to McDowell county and this section offering proper inducements to such enterprises as are adapted to the development of this section, and spoke of seeing reports in the papers about a proposed creamery, cheese factory, or milk condensery; that later he saw an account of the Farm Demonstration Agent's services being discontinued, and then Mr. Lucas went on to say that he had since learned that the members of the Marion Chamber of Commerce and other interested business men of the town and county had taken it upon themselves to guarantee the salary of the Farm Agent and commended such action highly, stating "Marion has too great a back-country to be without the services of such a man as that."

Mr. Lucas concluded his address by giving what he called "The three P's" for securing new industries, to which can be offered the most advantages. They are Purpose, Plan and Perseverance; the purpose for getting new industries; the plan by which they may be secured; and perseverance and consistency in efforts to get them. Mr. Lucas predicted for Marion and McDowell county an industrial development that will stagger the imagination and that at no distant future.

The oldest known manuscript of the Bible is in the Vatican at Rome.

## MARION DISTRICT MEET IS HELD IN RUTHERFORD

Rutherfordton, July 11.—Several hundred delegates from the counties of McDowell, Burke, Rutherford, Polk and Yancey were in session at Pleasant Grove Methodist church, between here and Forest City, Tuesday and Wednesday for the annual meeting of the Marion district conference of the Methodist Church.

In the absence of the presiding elder, the Rev. E. O. Cole, the Rev. P. W. Tucker, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Morganton, was elected chairman, with the Rev. W. Arthur Barber of Spindale, secretary.

At the business session Tuesday morning the Rev. C. A. Wood, superintendent of the Methodist orphanage at Winston-Salem, spoke on the work of his institution and the Rev. W. A. Jenkins, president of Davenport College, Lenoir, reported that his college was in excellent condition and that it had been self-supporting the past year.

The conference passed a resolution of regret on account of the absence of Presiding Elder Cole and appreciated his splendid work during the past four years and pointed out his numerous accomplishments, especially in helping to erect six or more magnificent church buildings in the conference, and gave him a month's leave of absence.

## LARGE CROWD ATTENDS SINGING CONVENTION

Between two and three thousand people attended the singing convention which was held at the Holiness Tabernacle at East Marion last Sunday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 o'clock. Two church choirs and three quartets were on hand and took part in the singing as follows: Cross Mill Baptist Church Choir and a male quartet from Cross Mill; the East Marion Mixed Quartet, and the Holiness Church Choir and Quartet. Several duets and solo selections were rendered, also some very fine old-time congregational singing. The program of singing was well received and met with much favorable comment.

The convention was presided over by Jesse G. Price, president of the McDowell County Singing Convention, who wishes to announce that the next singing convention will be held on the second Sunday in October.

## FRANK CORNELIUS HURT IN AN AIRPLANE CRASH

Mrs. Julia C. Williams has just received a message from Birmingham, Ala., stating that her nephew, Frank Chase Cornelius, was seriously injured in that city in an airplane crash. He was fearfully burned while trying to unfasten his safety-belt and that of another passenger. The plane was taking off and while about 75 feet from the ground the tank exploded, throwing flaming gasoline over young Cornelius and his friend. Cornelius unfastened the belts and pulled off his own blazing, gasoline-saturated clothes. His goggles saved his eyes but he was badly burned about his arms, legs, to the knees, neck, ears and shoulders, but his hands were more seriously burned from coming in contact with the flames while trying to remove his blazing clothing and shoes. Doctors and nurses attending him report his condition, while serious, not necessarily hopeless.

Young Cornelius is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Cornelius, who are well known in Marion and this section of the state, Mr. Cornelius being a native of Iredell county, and Mrs. Cornelius was Miss Mary Chase before her marriage. He is a grandson of the late Mrs. Emma Chase, and the many friends and relatives in this section will be interested in learning of his adventure and almost miraculous escape from instant death.

## NEW BOX PLANT

The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce has been in touch with parties interested in establishing a box plant in the best town in Western North Carolina. These parties will be in Marion this week to make a definite announcement about placing the box plant here.

For the opening of the new Marion Theatre the Management has secured a special theatre orchestra from Asheville, and the music in itself will be a treat for Marion citizens.

## EMPLOYES MARION MILL GO ON STRIKE

Wages and Reinstatement of Discharged Employees Are Controversy Subjects.

About six hundred employees of the Marion Manufacturing Company walked out on strike Thursday afternoon and the mill has remained closed since that date. Everything is quiet and there has been no disorder about the plant nor vicinity since the walk-out, it is reported.

Strike leaders state that the strike was called in protest against the discharge of workmen because they had joined the union, though mill officials deny this statement.

R. W. Baldwin, president of the company, stated that there are two main points at issue—wages and the reinstatement of discharged employees. The employees have asked for the maintenance of the present wage scale with a reduction of working hours from 11 to 10 hours; and they have asked that the discharged men be reinstated. Both these demands have so far been refused.

The business men of the community have expressed the desire to remain entirely neutral with reference to the strike situation. They express confidence in the management and employees of the Marion Manufacturing Company and believe that they will be able to reach an adjustment of their differences without help from outside.

Mr. Baldwin left Marion last Saturday to go to New York, and upon leaving stated that the plant would remain closed for at least a month, and possibly for as long a period as six months.

The strikers have staged several parades, in which several hundred workers have taken part, carrying banners and singing, and a number of speakers have addressed the crowd. These parades have been carried on in an orderly manner and no violence is feared by the authorities.

## 5,203,139 AUTOS IN ALL MADE LAST YEAR

Washington. — World automobile production set a new high record in 1928.

The department of commerce announced today that the total production last year was 5,203,139, making an increase of 1,044,173 over the 1927 figure.

Combined output of the United States and Canada was 4,601,141, an increase of 1,020,761. Decreases were reported for England, Spain and Denmark.

"More than 55 per cent of total production was required for replacements, as compared with approximately 50 per cent in 1927, 37 per cent in 1926, and a similar percentage in 1925," the commerce department said.

## FORMER MARION, N. C., MAN WEDS IN NEW YORK

New York, July 15.—George N. Streetman, 27, an accountant, son of John and Davis Eaves Streetman of Marion, N. C., where he was born, and Shirley Beiber, 24, daughter of Bernard and Rebecca Goodman Beiber, of this city, where she was born, obtained a license to wed and announced they would be married here today.

Both gave the same local address of 116 West 72nd street.

## BIRTHS FAR GREATER THAN DEATHS IN THIS TOWNSHIP

There were thirty-one births and four deaths in Marion Township during the month of June, according to the report of A. E. Denton, registrar of vital statistics for this township.

During the six months period from January 1 to July 1 there were 151 births in the township and 59 deaths.

## B. & L. MEETING JULY 29

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the McDowell Building & Loan Association will be held at the court house in Marion on Monday, July 29, at 8:30 o'clock. Please attend in person or send proxy.

J. E. NEAL, Sec'y-Treas.

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